

BSP optimistic on digital payment growth, benefits to small businesses

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) is bullish that the sustained rise of digital payment technologies will continue to facilitate the efficient delivery of financial services to the unbanked and micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises

(MSMEs).

BSP Deputy Governor Mamerto Tangonan credits the significant strides in digital payments to the implementation of the BSP's 2020-2023 Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap (DPTR) with the support of

its public and private sector partners.

Citing the exponential growth of the sector, he added, "In 2013, we started with a mere one percent share of digital to total retail payments. Fast forward to 2022, and we saw a whopping 42.1

percent share in digital retail payments transactions."

"I believe we reached our 50-percent target by the end of 2023," he said.

The impact of this continuing digital transformation is evident at the grassroots level.

Lorna Ortiz and Gloria Santiago, merchants at Carmona Public Market in Cavite, vouched for the tangible benefits on their business from the digital platforms under the Paleng-QR Ph Plus.

Ortiz said, "Nearly all vendors here in Carmona

are using QR Ph codes. It is seamless, cashless, and directly credits my online transactions to my bank or e-wallet account." She further noted the added advantage of easily tracking sales and overseeing transactions.

► **BSP • 4**

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

VOLUME II • NO. 28

FEBRUARY 11 - 17, 2024

P10.00

Commemorating the 60th Death Anniversary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo



On the solemn occasion of the 60th Death Anniversary of General Emilio Aguinaldo, the people of Kawit, Cavite, along with esteemed guests and representatives from various sectors, gather on February 6, 2024, at the historic Aguinaldo Shrine to pay tribute to the memory of one of the Philippines' most illustrious leaders.

The commemorative program commenced at 8:00 in the morning with a Holy Mass, officiated by Reverend Father Efren Bugayong, parish priest of St. Mary Magdalene Church, highlighting the spiritual aspect of this significant occasion.

Following the mass, the Philippine Navy, accompanied by the Naval Base Cavite Band and the Kawit Police Force/Cavite Tourist Police Unit, orchestrate the hoisting of the Philippine Flag - a symbol of unity and patriotism.

As part of the ceremony, wreaths and flowers were laid and flowers were offered at the tomb of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, marking a gesture of respect and remembrance for his invaluable contributions to the nation.

The program culminated with the blessing of the tomb by Reverend Father Efren Bugayong, symbolizing the eternal honor bestowed upon Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo's legacy.

In attendance were Ms. Rozelle Sangalang, ► **COMMEMORATING • 4**

DOST-CALABARZON leads conduct of LBSCFI Strategic Planning Workshop, revisits its 40 years of milestones with fellow member-agencies

The Los Baños Science Community Foundation (LBSCFI) conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop at the RD Guerrero III Hall, DPITC, DOST PCAARRD last 18-19 January to develop the direction-setting, Five-Year Strategic Plan of the Foundation. A Pre-Workshop Meeting was conducted last 12 January 2024 via Zoom.

The workshop aims to gather LBSCFI member-agencies' heads and representatives to help develop a comprehensive strategic plan that aligns with the organization's mission, vision, and goals for the years 2024-2028.

Dr. Melinda Bandalaria, President of the LBSCFI and the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU) emphasized the crucial role of the foundation in offering S&T solutions to the Los Baños community and its nearby

areas.

"We believe that Science and Technology are essential for solving the challenges of our time and creating a better future for all, kaya nga tayo ay Science Foundation," she said, "Very timely itong pagpupursigi nila Director Emy na magkaroon talaga tayo ng Strategic Planning because it's also time for us to review ano na ang nagawa natin vis-a-vis our vision and what we hope to accomplish because this is our 40th year."

The LBSCFI was formed



in 1984 and was officially registered as a science foundation at the Securities Exchange Commission in 2001.

Currently, the foundation has 25 active member-agencies.

Meanwhile, Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, echoed Dr.

Bandalaria's sentiments. She mentioned, "It is imperative that we recognize the significance of having a better

harmonized vision, mission, and goals for our foundation. After all, the strategic planning process

► **DOST • 4**

EDITORIAL

Senior booklets a waste of time for seniors and govt

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has said it supports the call of two lawmakers to abolish the senior citizen's purchase slip booklet following numerous complaints from the elderly.

Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian said his department would take the lead in reaching out to the Department of Health (DoH) and other agencies concerned on the proposal of ACT-CIS party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo and Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo.

DSWD Assistant Secretary for Strategic Communications Romel Lopez said the department, in previous years, had received various concerns and complaints through multiple means of communication relative to the senior citizen discounts.

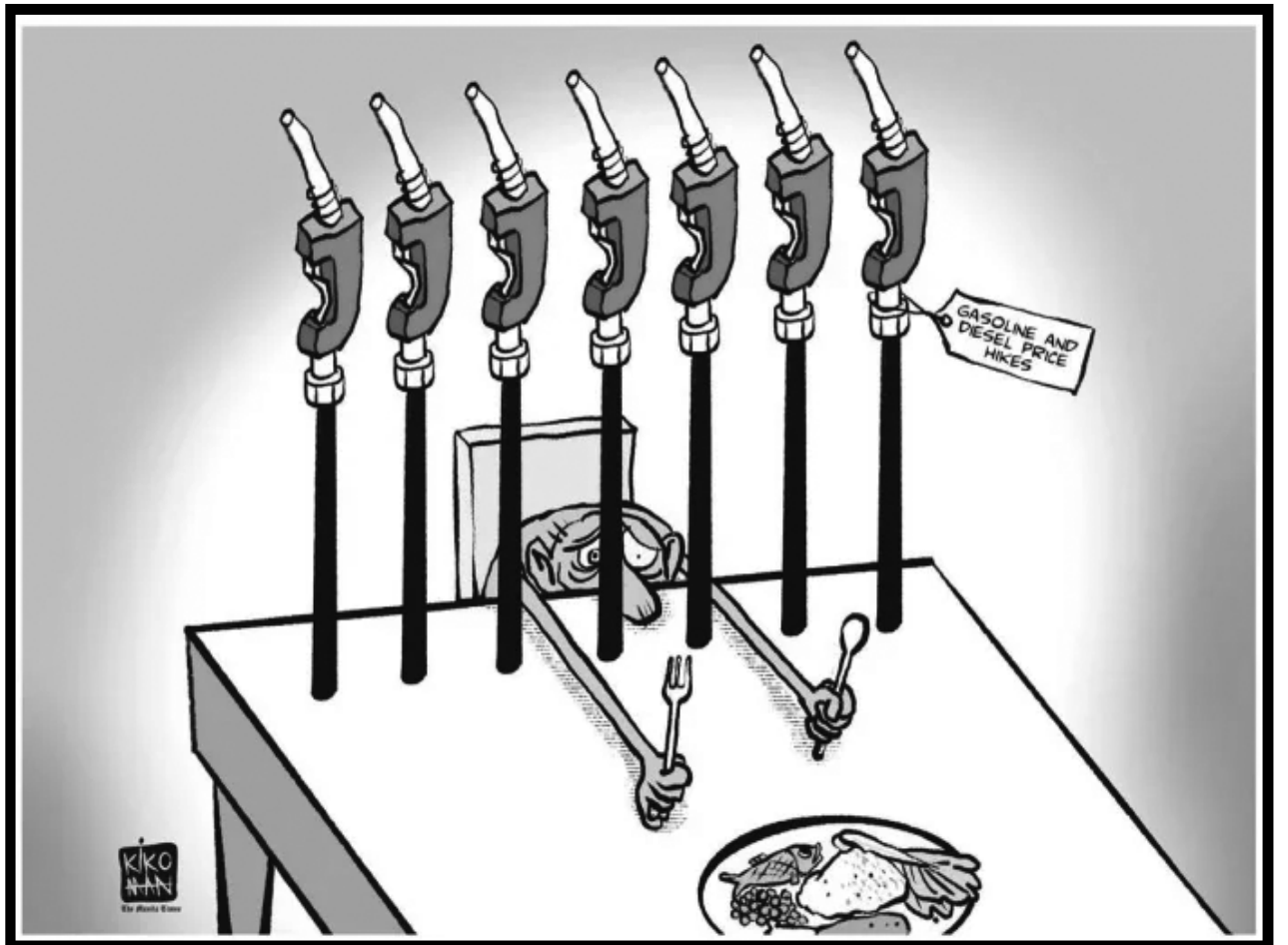
Gatchalian directed the agency's Program Management Bureau (PMB) to study the issue, which has been the subject of a congressional inquiry.

DSWD-PMB's position paper dated Feb. 1, 2024, recommended to Gatchalian the abolition of the purchase slip booklet as a requirement for the purchase of medicines by senior citizens. Instead, the DSWD-PMB recommended the adoption of digitized records for senior citizens, "considering the mobility and tendency to forget to bring their booklets and even read their content, it is no longer convenient on the part of senior citizens to use purchase slip booklets."

The seniors' "forgetfulness" is not the only reason we should do away with these booklets. They are also often out of print or not available when the senior citizens take the time to go to their senior citizens' offices in the cities and towns.

"With the fast-paced technology and innovations, it is recommended that we adopt an established system for monitoring, storing and reporting data toward an efficient, consistent and uniform implementation of the law and provisions to avail of medicines, basic necessities and prime commodities, among others," the PMB said in its position paper.

The PMB maintained that in this digitalization, agencies such as the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC), Department of Information and Communication Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Health, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Department of Justice, and representatives from nongovernment organizations should partner



with the private sector offering services to senior citizens. The creation of the National Commission of Senior Citizens in 2019 by Republic Act 11350 abolished the National Coordinating and Monitoring Board (NCMB), which was formerly chaired by the DSWD with member agencies tasked to monitor the uniform implementation of RA 9994 or the "Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010."

"The NCSC must conduct an immediate policy review accompanied by the issuance of guidelines that outline the benefits of abolishing the use of a physical booklet system, data sharing mechanisms of pharmacies and/or other relevant stakeholders nationwide, and the integration of the PhilSys ID system. The call for policy review will ensure the government's commitment to delivering improved services to our senior citizens, embracing new technological advancements, and fostering more integrated and efficient government services," the DSWD-PMB said.

The Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 (RA 9994) provides for the grant of privileges to senior citizens, including a 20-percent discount and exemption from the value-added tax in the sale of specific goods and services from all establishments. This privilege is only for the exclusive use and enjoyment of the senior citizens and not the people with them.

Although RA 9994 did not have a provision mandating the use of purchase slip booklets, the Department of Health (DoH) came out with two administrative orders that required senior citizens to present a purchase slip booklet to all hospitals and drug retail outlets.

The DoH directed that "all hospitals and drug retail outlets shall require senior citizens or their representative to present the purchase slip booklets to record the kind of over-the-counter medicine purchased, how many, when and where it was purchased." The purpose of the purchase slip booklets is to help drugstores monitor the last purchase made by senior citizens for a certain medicine.

In September 2023, Rep. Mark Go of Baguio City's lone district filed a House resolution urging the DoH to discontinue the implementation of the booklet for senior citizens when buying medicines. On Oct. 24, 2023, the DSWD wrote the DoH expressing its support for the removal of the purchase slip booklet and welcomed any potential modification that would streamline the requirements, provided that the monitoring of purchases is ensured pending digitalization.

Digitizing seniors' medical records will save time, energy and resources and will certainly bring the country to the 21st century.

ARGYLLE ARRIVES AT SM CINEMA



Embark on an exhilarating cinematic journey as SM Cinema invites you to witness the pulse-pounding spy thriller, "Argylle." Starring Henry Cavill, Sam Rockwell, and Bryce Dallas Howard, and hollywood's biggest stars such as Dua Lipa, Samuel Jackson, Brayn Cranston, Ariana DeBose and John Cena. Experience espionage, suspense, and unexpected twists as you settle into the plush, comfortable seats at SM Cinema, where cutting-edge technology ensures an immersive and visually stunning viewing experience. Dive in and follow the high-stakes adventures of the world's greatest spies as they navigate a web of danger and deception. Don't miss your chance to be part of the ultimate cinematic thrill this February. Buy Your Tickets Now!

SUNDAY TRIBUNE NEWS PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL BOARD

ARNEL P. REYES
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

IRENE SOLIS
Circulation Manager

JR BEJASA
Layout Artist

Sunday Tribune News Publishing is a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite with Editorial and Business address at 155 Brgy. Panamitan Kawit, Cavite 4104. CP No. 0917-109-9191
E-mail Add: sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

6 Months P250.00 One YearP500.00

ADVERTISING RATE

Commercial — P200/col.cm

NOTE: All news articles and opinions expressed by the writers are entirely their own and do not reflect the opinion of the Publisher, Management of this Publication.

PDIC sets public e-bidding for 55 properties on Feb 28-29

Promoting transparency and accessibility, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) continues to dispose corporate and closed banks' assets through public electronic bidding, the latest scheduled for February 28-29, 2024 for 55 properties.

The PDIC will accept bids for these properties on its public e-bidding portal at <http://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph> starting at 9:00 am on February 28, 2024 until 1:00 pm on February 29, 2024. Bids shall be opened at 2:00 pm on February 29, 2024.

The diverse range of properties provides potential buyers with a variety of options for ownership, investment or development. Up for bid on "as is, where is" basis are 23 vacant agricultural lots, 17 agricultural lots, eight mixed residential/agricultural lots with improvements, four agricultural lots with improvement, two mixed vacant residential/agricultural lots, and one mixed residential/agricultural, for an aggregate minimum disposal price of P115.1 million.

These properties are located in Aklan, Antique, Batangas, Bohol, Camarines Sur, Cavite, Isabela, La Union, Laguna, Marinduque, Misamis

Oriental, Negros Occidental, Pangasinan, Quezon and South Cotabato. Property sizes range from 305 square meters to 78,917 square meters with minimum disposal prices ranging from P36,600 and P20 million.

The funds generated from the sale of these properties shall augment the PDIC's and closed banks' financial portfolios to settle the insurance claims of depositors, and of closed bank creditors, respectively.

The electronic bidding process aims to streamline and democratize the acquisition of these properties, fostering a competitive and fair environment. This innovative approach for asset disposal aligns with the ongoing efforts to modernize and enhance government processes for the benefit of the public and enables a wider audience to participate in the bidding process.

Interested parties can join the e-bidding from the

convenience of their homes or offices through a one-time registration on the portal at <http://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph/Account/Register>. Once registered, interested buyers may submit their bids online and observe the e-bidding proceedings by clicking the "Assets for Sale" icon on the PDIC website's homepage at www.pdic.gov.ph.

As the public e-bidding schedule approaches, prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the terms and conditions outlined by the PDIC. The complete list and description of the properties, requirements, e-bidding process, and Conditions of Bid are posted on the PDIC e-bidding portal. Bidders are reminded of their responsibility to determine the actual condition, status, ownership, and other circumstances of the properties they wish to acquire.

For agricultural lot buyers, bidders must submit a Certification issued by the Provincial



Bank deposit mo, protektado!

(02) 8841-4141
 1-800-1-888-7342
 or 1-800-1-888-P
 (for those outside Metro Manila)
www.pdic.gov.ph

Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) of the Department of Agrarian Reform where the property is located that the agricultural lot subject of the bid is not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), and that no Emancipation Patent or Certificate of Land Ownership Awards has been issued for the said property. Bidders of agricultural lots are also required to submit an Affidavit of Aggregate Landholdings, which states that the person's collective landholdings - including the property/ies to be acquired during the bidding - do not exceed the five-hectare limit set by law. The prescribed format for the Certification and Affidavit can be obtained from Download Center of the e-bidding

portal, <https://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph>. For participants bidding on behalf of another individual or an organization, a Pro-forma Special Power of Attorney and Secretary's Certificate, respectively, can likewise be downloaded from the e-bidding portal.

As the statutory receiver, the PDIC sells closed bank-owned assets through public bidding and negotiated sales. Proceeds from the liquidation of closed banks' properties are added to the pool of liquid assets of these banks for distribution to uninsured depositors and other creditors based on legal priority. The disposal of these assets increases the chances of recovery of uninsured depositors and creditors of their trapped funds in the

closed banks. Meanwhile, proceeds from the sale of corporate assets are added to the Deposit Insurance Fund, PDIC's main fund source for payment of valid deposit insurance claims.

For more information on the e-bidding, interested buyers within Metro Manila may call the PDIC Public Assistance Department at (02) 8841-4141 during office hours. Those outside Metro Manila may call the PDIC toll-free hotline at 1-800-1-888-PDIC or 1-800-1-888-

7342, also during office hours. Inquiries may also be sent via e-mail at pad@pdic.gov.ph, or private message on PDIC's Assets for Sale Facebook page (@PDICAssetsforSale) or PDIC's official Facebook page (@OfficialPDIC). (PDIC)

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT This Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate, made and entered into on this 30th day of July, 2020 by and among: FLOR R. RUSIA, of legal age, widow, Filipino and with residence address at No. 20, Odonnell St., Veterans Village, Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City, JANICE FLOR R. RUSIA, of legal age, Filipino, single and with residence address at 131 W. Ellis Avenue Apt. 23 Libertyville, Illinois, 60048, USA; VLADIMIR R. RUSIA married to MARY CAROLYN T. RUSIA of legal ages, Filipinos, and with residence address at 803, E. Hawley St., Mundelein, Illinois, 60060, USA; and FLORANHEL R. RUSIA married to SHERYLL DELA CRUZ RUSIA, of legal ages, Filipinos and with residence address at 841, Westmoreland Drive Apt. 7 Vernon Hills, Illinois, 60061, USA; all of them represented herein by their mother, FLOR R. RUSIA through a Special Power of Attorney. WITNESSETH: THAT- WHEREAS, on April 7, 2007, NELSON B. RUSIA, died intestate in PNP General Hospital, Camp Crame, Quezon City, leaving behind the following conjugal real property covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-643695 situated in the Brgy. of Sabang, Mun. of Naic, Prov. of Cavite, Island of Luzon, containing an area of FIFTY SIX SQUARE METERS AND FORTY SQ. DECIMETERS (56.40); WHEREAS, the parties hereto are the sole and only heirs of the decedent entitled to succeed to his estate, they being his wife, daughter and sons, respectively; WHEREAS, there are no known debts or obligations due against the estate of said decedent; and WHEREAS, it is to the best interest of the parties hereto to divide, partition and adjudicate among themselves the entire estate of the decedent particularly the real property above-described including the improvements existing thereon extrajudicially in the manner and form hereinafter set forth; NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the foregoing premises, and invoking the provision of Section 1, Rule 74 of the Rules of Court, the parties hereto have agreed as they hereby do so agree to divide, partition and adjudicate the above estate among themselves in pro indiviso one-fourth (1/4) of equal shares of one-half (1/2) of the afore-described property subject, however, to contingent liabilities to creditors, heirs or other persons who might have been deprived of lawful participation in the estate of the decedent for a period of two (2) years from and after the settlement and distribution thereof, in accordance with the provision of Section 4, Rule 74 of the Rules of Court; and That in the remote event that any other property of the decedent should ever be found which is not included herein above, the parties hereto further agree as they do so agree, to settle and distribute the same in like manner and proportion as herein established and disposed. THAT WE, JANICE FLOR R. RUSIA, VLADIMIR R. RUSIA and FLORANHEL R. RUSIA do hereby waive, quitclaim, and renounce all our rights, interests, participations and liabilities over the afore-described conjugal real property in favor of our mother, FLOR R. RUSIA. This has been the subject of Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate With Waiver of Rights duly executed on 30th day of July 2020 by the Heirs before Notary Public Atty. Tito F. Sese, as per Doc. No. 340, Page No. 67, Book No. 1, Series of 2020.

Publication: Sunday Tribune News Publishing
 Dates: February 11, 18 & 25, 2024



SM CITY BACOOR, SM CITY MOLINO, AND SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE - SM City Bacoor, SM City Molino, and SM Center Imus are ushering in the Chinese New Year with a captivating celebration, embracing the Year of the Dragon with a dazzling display at their event centers. Shoppers are treated to a spectacular scene featuring a breathing dragon and a grand prosperity tree, symbolizing good fortune and abundance. SM City Bacoor stands out with its golden prosperity tree, adding an extra touch of lavishness to the festivities. The vibrant atmosphere and intricate decorations create a joyous ambiance, providing a delightful experience for visitors as they immerse themselves in the spirit of the Lunar New Year at these SM malls in Cavite.

Full completion of 500kV Bataan line stalled by SC TRO

The full completion of NGCP's Hermosa-San Jose 500-kiloVolt (kV) Transmission Line is stalled due to a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) issued by the Supreme Court.

A TRO was issued against the expropriation and construction on a portion of the Hermosa-San Jose 500kV Line (HSJ) owned by Phirst Park Homes, Inc. (PPHI). Upon receipt on 06 July 2023, NGCP immediately stopped project-related activities along Towers 170-178 of the said line, stalling the ongoing stringing of the line's remaining circuit.

The HSJ was already energized last 27 May 2023 to accommodate power generation from Bataan. However, the court prohibition will affect the remaining works for its full completion. It currently has a transfer capacity of 2,000MW, only a quarter of

the full 8,000MW capacity of Lines 1 and 2 which cannot be accomplished due to the work stoppage following the TRO.

"Regrettably, it appears that the petition filed by PPHI is merely one of its tactics to obstruct NGCP from finalizing the project, despite numerous rounds of negotiations and proposed out-of-court settlements between the involved parties," said NGCP.

NGCP has repeatedly reached out to PPHI to settle the issue amicably. As early as February this year, negotiations with PPHI have been ongoing. NGCP had to seek the assistance of the Department of Interior and

Local Government to proceed with construction activities, which PPHI continually tried to block despite the valid permits and Writs of Possession under NGCP's favor.

"NGCP made it clear to PPHI that the HSJ is an Energy Project of National Significance (EPNS), and its completion and energization are critical to prevent Luzon-wide power interruptions. NGCP has repeatedly expressed its willingness to negotiate further. Still, we assert that the project's activities can no longer be delayed given the greater national interest in the project's immediate completion," the company said.

of its benefit packages in 2024 to help lower Filipinos' hospitalization expenses.

"It is about time that PhilHealth adjusts its rates in order for our members to cope with the increasing cost of medical care. We want our members to feel the value of their benefits," Ledesma had said.

While PhilHealth maintained that its fiscal position remained "strong and robust," it implemented an increase in the contribution of its members from 4 percent to 5 percent this year.

Health Secretary Ted Herbosa, who serves as the ex officio chair of PhilHealth, appealed to President Marcos to suspend again the implementation this year of the increase in premiums.

Mr. Marcos, however, has yet to decide on the appeal.

Under Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Healthcare Act, PhilHealth is mandated to raise members' premiums by 0.5 percent every year starting in 2019. The scheduled increases will end in 2025 when it reaches the second year of the 5-percent limit.

responsibilities of each committee.

The new LBSCFI strategic plan aims to align the Foundation's Programs, Projects, and Activities (PPAs) with the Los Baños community's needs and concerns to make a more meaningful impact to its citizens. For more information about the Foundation, visit <https://lbscfi.org/>. **(By Halyn Lunel Gamboa)**

Unlocking...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Forecast" showcasing Chinese zodiac predictions. Uncover what the stars have in store for your love life as you step into the year of the Dragon.

Lucky Dance

Be mesmerized by the vibrant Lion and Dragon Dancers parading through the mall, bringing good luck and positive energy to all. Join in the festivities and dance your way into a prosperous year ahead.

Fireworks Display

Prepare to be dazzled by a fireworks display in select SM malls, lighting up the night sky and adding an extra touch of enchantment to your celebrations.

Free Feng Shui Consultation

Curious about what the future holds? Participate in a free Feng Shui

consultation in select malls. Register via the SM Malls Online app to unlock insights into the energy flow of your space and make positive changes for the year ahead.

But of course, what's February without some Valentine's Day festivities? SM Supermalls will be sprinkling the love dust all over with these activities:

Love Thrills

Embark on a variety of bonding activities tailored for every couple. From movie dates and ice skating to Game Park and Sky Ranch adventures, find the perfect thrill to elevate your love story.

Love Playlist

Let the mall resonate with the sweet melodies of love. Enjoy couple serenades and performances that will fill the air with romance,

turning your shopping experience into a musical love affair.

Pets-in-Love

Even our furry friends deserve a chance at love! Super Pets Club members can participate in a Twinning Costume Contest, pet blessings, and more. Share the love with your pets and celebrate their unique charm.

February at SM Supermalls is not just a month but an experience, a journey through love, luck, and laughter. See what's in store for you this month and unlock the fortune of love together and make this February one to remember. Gather your loved ones and don't miss the "Luck in Love" festivities at your favorite SM mall!

Stay in the loop about all things SM. Visit www.smsupermalls.com or follow @SMSupermalls on social media.

Philhealth...

(FROM PAGE 8)

disease patients to 156 sessions from 90 sessions a year—or from P234,000 to P405,600 at P2,600 per session, which was equivalent to a 74-percent increase.

In October last year, PhilHealth also raised the coverage for ischemic stroke to P76,000 from P28,000 (up by 171 percent), and hemorrhagic stroke to P80,000 from P38,000 (an increase of 111 percent).

The coverage for high-risk pneumonia was also raised to P90,100 from P32,000 (up by 182 percent).

Also excluded in the inflation-adjusted rates were the benefit packages being recomputed and scheduled for adjustment within the year such as the following:

Z Benefits package which covers 20 listed catastrophic illnesses and health conditions requiring expensive treatments and hospitalizations)

benefit packages that have been developed in the past five years (such as the Outpatient Mental Health Package)

cases that are identified

to have a high risk for moral hazard or adverse incentives (such as cataract procedure)

benefit packages paid through other provider payment mechanisms (such as the Konsultasyong Sulit Tama or Konsulta)

More increases coming PhilHealth has yet to upload the complete list of adjusted case rates on its website.

According to the circular, PhilHealth would use a two-tier approach in adjusting its benefit packages, micro-costing for some prioritized cases, and an inflation adjustment factor for the remaining case rates.

The inflation-adjusted case rates would depend on the volume of claims and the "contribution to catastrophic expenditure" on the finances of the patient.

Baleña said that PhilHealth management was also looking to increase the coverage "beyond 30 percent" for six more conditions this year.

In December last year, PhilHealth committed to adjusting the rates of most

DOST upskills...

(FROM PAGE 8)

compliant plant layout and organizational structure. These technical interventions are stepping stones in the cooperative's goal of acquiring license to operate and Product Registration to the Food and Drug Administration.

DAMAUDARC has first received the assistance of the agency through the program, Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) on 2018. Through the support and partnership with LGU Malaybalay, DAMAUDARC

has availed an automatic liquid packaging machine, ultraviolet sterilizer, thermal batch/code printer, tubular heater, holding tank, batch pasteurizer, and many more.

The dairy farmers successfully conducted their first dairy production on October 25, 2023, producing a total of 485 liters of milk from October to November.

Currently, their fresh milk and chocolate milk are now on display in their processing plant and ready for sale and will soon be

available at the Malaybalay City Agri Food Display.

The 1-liter fresh milk and choco milk are priced at Php 100.00 to Php 110.00. Ongoing product development and innovation are being conducted and a product launching event will introduce the dairy milk products formally.

DOST remains committed to supporting the project through additional consultancy services, like packaging and labeling, acquisition of FDA License to Operate and the Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program.



Commemorating...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Provincial Tourism Officer and representative of Cavite Provincial Governor Jonvic Remulla, along with local leaders from the Municipal

Government of Kawit. Also present were members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Navy,

Department of Education, Kawit Association of Barangay Captains and SK Federation, and the esteemed family of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo headed by Ms. Emilie A. Pulido. **(OPIO)**

DOST...

(FROM PAGE 1)

serves as the compass that guides science foundations or any other organization towards success and impact."

During the two-day workshop, faculty and staff of the UPLB Department of Community and Environmental Resource Planning (UPLB DCERP) facilitated the discussion.

Representatives and heads from the LBSCFI's eight committees (i.e. Education, Membership, Environment, R&D Awards, Information, Tourism, Livelihood, and the Ways and Means) identified the Foundation's mission, vision, and core values; SWOC Strategies and its Roadmapping; and examined the

BSP...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Santiago echoed the benefits of using the QR Ph code. She said, "My past challenges in handling payments and transactions have been addressed with the adoption of this digital technology."

The Paleng-QR Ph Plus program is just one of several digital payment initiatives by the BSP.

The Bills Pay Ph has also been launched to unify the country's fragmented bills payment system and allow users to pay their bills whether or not they have an account with their billers' payment service provider.

This initiative has two objectives: to streamline financial processes and to

bridge the gap between those with and without access to financial services. Through these digital payment facilities, an even greater portion of the population can now actively participate in the formal economy.

The BSP is charting the next phase of the country's digital journey under the 2024-2026 Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap. **(BSP)**

VP Sara attributes DepEd success to teachers, personnel on BER 2024

Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Z. Duterte cited the teachers and personnel of the Department of Education (DepEd) and their efforts to what the agency has accomplished so far during her Basic Education Report (BER) 2024 held on Thursday at Sofitel Plaza Hotel in Pasay City.

"All we have done so far was made possible by the collective efforts of the approximately 900,000-strong DepEd Team," Duterte said.

"There are no big or small roles sa ating mga guro, personnel sa central office, regional offices, school division offices, at sa ating mga paaralan. Daghang salamat kaninyong tanan (for our teachers, personnel in central office, regional offices, school division offices, and in our schools. Thank you very much to all of you)," she added.

With this, Duterte assured that Professional Development Programs for educators and school leaders, as well as training for teaching reading

across grade levels will be strengthened.

She said strategic guidance to vital councils, including the Early Childhood Care and Development Council, Literacy Coordinating Council, and Teacher Education Council will be provided to foster a comprehensive approach to education governance.

To further empower educators, she said school-based training packages and session guides will also be developed to ensure that field personnel are equipped for effective curriculum implementation.

Duterte revealed that DepEd will soon issue guidelines for the

Employee Welfare and Well-being Policy and establish as well a Calamity Fund that will provide immediate financial assistance to our teachers and personnel in times of disaster.

"We will also propose and fervently move for the amendment of an Administrative Order that will allow us to finally provide Health Insurance for our teachers and non-teaching personnel," Duterte said.

"We will also issue a policy on Teaching Overload Pay. We want to ensure that our teachers are rightfully compensated for hours of actual classroom teaching beyond the 6-hour limit provided under the Magna

Carta for teachers," she added.

Aside from Overload Pay, DepEd will also propose to provide overtime pay to teachers and increase the cap for service credits from the current 15 days to at least 30 days.

Concerns regarding Continuing Professional Development are also being addressed with the Professional Regulation Commission so teachers will not have to absorb additional financial burdens.

After holding several consultations, Duterte announced that the department order on the Removal of Administrative Tasks for Teachers will be released on January 26 and the corresponding strand memorandum will be released a week later.

Last year, DepEd



provided additional staffing complement in schools through the creation of 9,659 new teaching positions; 3,500 Administrative Officer II positions; and 1,500 Project Development Officer I positions.

The agency also purchased Personal Accident Insurance from the Government Service Insurance System for all DepEd teachers and personnel and registered

them to avail of the PhilHealth Konsulta package.

The Hardship Index cut-off for the Special Hardship Allowance was also lowered to make 16,532 more teachers from 1,812 schools eligible to receive the Special Hardship Allowance.

The World Bank is also currently studying the teachers' salaries in the Philippines which will be submitted to DepEd. (PNA)



FEBRUARY (SCHEDULE OF APPLICATION)

ROSARIO

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> LIGTONG 1, 2, 3 & 4	<u>2</u> LIGTONG 1, 2, 3 & 4	<u>3</u> BAGBAG 1 & 2, SILANGAN 1 & 2
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> BAGBAG 1 & 2, SILANGAN 1 & 2	<u>6</u> MUZON 1 & 2, POBLACION, KANLURAN	<u>7</u> MUZON 1 & 2, POBLACION, KANLURAN	<u>8</u> SAPA 1, 2, 3 & 4	<u>9</u> SAPA 1, 2, 3 & 4	<u>10</u> WAWA 1, 2 & 3
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> WAWA 1, 2 & 3	<u>13</u> WAWA 1, 2 & 3	<u>14</u> TEJEROS CONVENTION	<u>15</u> TEJEROS CONVENTION	<u>16</u> TEJEROS CONVENTION	



FEBRUARY (SCHEDULE OF APPLICATION)

NOVELETA

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> SAN RAFAEL 4	<u>2</u> SAN RAFAEL 3	<u>3</u> SAN RAFAEL 3
<u>4</u> SALCEDO 2	<u>5</u> SALCEDO 2	<u>6</u> SALCEDO 1, SAN RAFAEL 1	<u>7</u> SAN RAFAEL 2	<u>8</u> SAN RAFAEL 2	<u>9</u> STA. ROSA 1, STA. ROSA 2	<u>10</u> STA. ROSA 1
<u>11</u> POBLACION, SAN ANTONIO 2	<u>12</u> JORDAN SAN ANTONIO 1, SAN JOSE 1 & 2	<u>13</u> JORDAN SAN ANTONIO 1, SAN JOSE 1 & 2	<u>14</u> MAGDIWANG, SAN JUAN 1&2	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	



FEBRUARY (SCHEDULE OF APPLICATION)

KAWIT

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> SAMALA MARQUEZ, APLAYA	<u>2</u> CONGBALAY, BALSAHAN, MANGGAHAN	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> PULVORISTA, KANLURAN	<u>6</u> TRAMO BANTAYAN, GAHAK	<u>7</u> BATONG DALIG, MAGDALO POTOL	<u>8</u> PANAMITAN, WAKAS 1, TABON 3	<u>9</u> MARULAS, STA. ISABEL	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> KAINGEN, POBLACION, WAKAS 2	<u>13</u> TABON 1 & 2	<u>14</u> SAN SEBASTIAN, TOCLONG	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	



FEBRUARY (SCHEDULE OF APPLICATION)

CAVITE CITY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> BRGY 8	<u>2</u> BRGY 8	<u>3</u> BRGY 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7
<u>4</u> BRGY 9, 12, 10M & 10A BRGY 10B & 2B	<u>5</u> BRGY 11, 13 & 14 BRGY 29M & 29A BRGY 15, 16, 17 & 18	<u>6</u> BRGY 19, 20, 21 & 23 BRGY 22M, 22A & 26 BRGY 24, 25, 27	<u>7</u> BRGY 30 & 36M BRGY 36A, 37M & 37A BRGY 34 & 35	<u>8</u> BRGY 31, 32, 33, 38M, 38A, 41, 47M, 47A & 47B BRGY 39 & 40	<u>9</u> BAGONG POOK	<u>10</u> BRGY 46, 51, 50 & 49A BRGY 45M & 45A BRGY 44 & 55
<u>11</u> BRGY 54M, 54A & 56 BRGY 42B & 43 BRGY 42M, 42C & 42A	<u>12</u> BRGY 58M & 58A BRGY 53A & 53B BRGY 52 & 53M	<u>13</u> BRGY 57, 59, 60, 61M, 61A, 62M, 62A & 62B	<u>14</u> BRGY 57, 59, 60, 61M, 61A, 62M, 62A & 62B	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	

SCHEDULE NG APPLICATION PARA SA ISKOLAR NG BAYAN EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR GRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 1-12): Naging taunang tradisyon na po natin sa Unang Distrito ng Cavite ang pamimigay ng educational assistance sa lahat ng Grades 1-12 students na nag-aaral sa mga pampublikong paaralan, at sa pag-arangkada ng ating Iskolar ng Bayan sa Unang Distrito program ngayong taon, narito na po ang araw-araw na schedule ng application period ayon sa kung saang barangay at bayan kayo naninirahan. Mangyari po lamang na magtungo kayo sa mga itatalagang Jolo Cares Application Booths sa inyong mga Barangay hall o covered court sa mga nakatakdang petsa upang ma-interview at makapagsagot sa ating Iskolar ng Bayan Application Form. Ang kinakailangan ninyo lamang dalhin upang makapag-apply ay photocopy ng kahit na anong government-issued valid ID. Tumutok lamang po kayo lagi sa ating FB page para sa mga announcements tungkol sa Iskolar ng Bayan. Maaari rin po kayong makipag-ugnayan sa inyong mga Barangay officials para sa inyong mga katanungan. #Rosario #Noveleta #Kawit #CaviteCity #CaviteFirstDistrict #Cavite #JoloCares #IskolarNgBayan

Saint Benilde survives Army in PNVF Champions League

The College of Saint Benilde (CSB) kicked off its campaign in the Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) Champions League women's tournament with a 16-25, 25-16, 25-27, 25-14, 15-9 victory over the Philippine Army at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum on Monday.

Wielyn Estoque, Jhasmin Gayl Pascual and Zamantha Nolasco finished with 17 points each for the Blazers, who won the last two sets to wrap up the match in two hours and 11 minutes.

Honey Royse Tubino had 16 attacks and one service ace, while Audrey Kathryn Paran, Nerissa Bautista and Lutgarda Malaluan chipped in 11 points for the Army Lady Troopers who absorbed their second straight loss.

Philippine Army bowed to Petro Gazz, 11-25, 19-25, 19-25, last Sunday.

Meanwhile, Cignal HD banked on Vanessa Gandler and Frances Xinia Molina to prevail over Cherry Tiggo, 28-26, 25-19, 27-26.

Gandler had 12 attacks and three service aces while Molina contributed 10 attacks and two aces for the HD Spikers while Mylene Paat paced the Cherry Tiggo Crossovers with 16 points.

Hostilities continue on

Wednesday with CSB taking on Cherry Tiggo at 3:30 p.m. and Army battling Cignal HD at 6 p.m.

The PNVF Champions League, which is supported by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, is aired live on One Sports and One Sports+ and livestreamed on Pilipinas Live and on delayed basis on Cignal. (PNA)



GOOD START. College of Saint Benilde's Jhasmin Gayl Pascual against Philippine Army's Audrey Kathryn Paran during the PNVF Champions League at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Monday (Feb. 5, 2024). Saint Benilde escaped a 16-25, 25-16, 25-27, 25-14, 15-9 victory to kick off its campaign on the right note. (PNVF photo)

Pangasinan to join Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League's next season

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan – The province of Pangasinan will be part of the next season of the Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL), which aims to hone homegrown basketball players and give them opportunity to play in professional league.



CONTRACT SIGNING. Members of Pangasinan Heat with Maharlika Pilipinas Basketball League (MPBL) legal counsel lawyer Glenn Gacal (seated from left to right), MPBL commissioner Kenneth Duremdes, Pangasinan Heat franchise owner Cezar Quiambao, Pangasinan Governor Ramon Guico III, Pangasinan Heat team manager and Alaminos City Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste, and Pangasinan 1st District Rep. Arthur Celeste pose for a photo after the contract signing at the Urduja House in Lingayen town, Pangasinan on Wednesday (Feb. 7, 2024). The team will join the next season of the MPBL that aims to hone homegrown basketball players. (Photo courtesy of Liwayway Yparraguirre)

The team will be called Pangasinan Heat, the 29th team in the MPBL, to signify the province's rich solar resource, team franchise owner Cezar Quiambao said during a press conference at the Urduja House in Lingayen town, Pangasinan on Wednesday.

"I support all the projects of the governor that would help the youth. This could also be the tool to market the province of Pangasinan aside from the youth development," Quiambao, the former mayor of the province's Bayambang town, said.

Alaminos City Mayor Arth Bryan Celeste, who is the team manager, said majority of the players are homegrown, mostly coming from the cities of Urdaneta and Alaminos and Sual town, but they will also import from outside the province.

"Ten to 12 players are homegrown but we will import five to seven from outside of Pangasinan to be

a formidable team," he said.

The team's coaching staff are composed of former pro-basketball players Jun Marzan Jr., Cris Calaguio, Lordy Tugade and collegiate basketball coach Sonny de Jesus; while former pro-basketball players Marlou Aquino and Danny Idefonso are among the team's consultants.

Since the team is a franchise, its funding will come from the franchise owner.

"No government fund (will be used) but whatever support in our own capacity as Pangasinenses, we will give to the team," Pangasinan Governor Ramon Guico III said during the same briefing.

Guico said it took a while for the province to join the league due to prioritization of the province's affairs but added that "since it's almost stable already, it's high time to look into governing and promoting social responsibility in

sports."

Among the well-known Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) players who hail from Pangasinan are Marlou Aquino, Danny Idefonso, Lordy Tugade, and Mark Pingris.

"I am glad of the composition of team Pangasinan and their plans as it is aligned in the vision of the league which is to develop homegrown players and give more opportunities and exposure to shine in the professional basketball league," MPBL Commissioner Kenneth Duremdes said.

The opening of the next season is on March 16 and it will be held in Calasiao town, Pangasinan which is expected to bring economic activity in the province.

MPBL was founded by Senator Manny Pacquiao in 2017 and the league's previous champions are San Juan, Davao, Nueva Ecija and Pampanga. (PNA)

W. Visayas int'l swim circuit kicks off Feb. 18

The Department of Tourism-Western Visayas (DOT-6) is gearing up for the staging of the four-leg International Open Water Swim Circuit, which kicks off in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental on Feb. 18.



INTERNATIONAL SWIM MEET. The Department of Tourism-Western Visayas (DOT-6) is readying for the four-leg International Open Water Swim Circuit, which kicks off in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental on Feb. 18, 2024 where some 150 swimmers are expected to join. The second to fourth legs will be held in Sicogon Island in Carles, Iloilo on April 14; Taklong Island in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras on June 30; and Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan on Sept. 22, respectively. (PNA)

The event, which is expected to draw some 150 swimmers for the first leg, was launched in a press conference led by Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson, Mayor Maria Gina Lizares, and DOT-6 Regional Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez at the Capitol Provincial Social Hall on Monday.

"So far, we're getting good reception. We are excited to be part of this. We will do everything possible to make it successful," Lacson said.

Participants will include local and international outdoor sports enthusiasts, open water swimmers and triathletes.

"We aim to establish Western Visayas as a leading destination for sports and ecotourism, particularly for open water swimming," Rodriguez said.

She added that through the event, the DOT-6 seeks to enhance the human-nature connection through sustainable tourism practices and community-based initiatives, as well as advocate the conversation

and management of natural habitats to preserve the region's ecological integrity.

In Sipalay City, the race venue will be at Campomanes-Ballo Marine Reserve and Sanctuary, a marine protected area.

The second leg will be held in Sicogon Island in Carles, Iloilo on April 14; the third leg in Taklong Island in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras on June 30; and the last will be in Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan on Sept. 22. (PNA)

DTI-Laguna Awards Livelihood Packages to Former Rebels thru the PPG Program

Santa Rosa City — The Department of Trade and Industry – Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna), in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the City Government Unit of Santa Rosa, conducted the awarding of livelihood packages to former rebels as part of the Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa (PPG) Program Implementation held at the Covered Court of Berkeley Heights Subdivision, Brgy. Pulong Sta. Cruz, Santa Rosa City, Laguna, on January 31, 2024.



Through the help of DTI and other government units, the PPG Program primarily provides small businesses a source on how to start their own businesses. This program seeks to ensure the economic growth and help the beneficiaries to start again from the scratch. Provision of entrepreneurial training is also included in the package, covering topics

on entrepreneurial mindset, consumer education, business registration, and simplified action planning. The following officials graced the event and showed support to this initiative: Laguna Trade and Industry Director Christian Ted Tungohan, DTI-4A Assistant Regional Director Revelyn Cortez, Vice Governor Karen Agapay (Province of

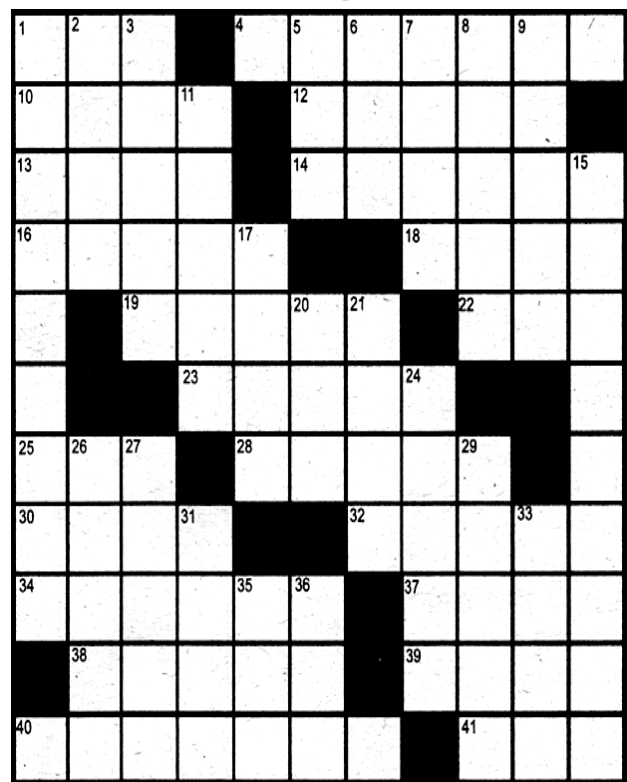
Laguna), Hon. Danzel Rafter Y. Fernandez (Board Member, First District of Laguna), Col. Ronald Jess S. Alcudia (Commanding Officer, Task Force Army), Police Senior Master Sergeant Rex Mendoza, Pat Christopher Retutal (Santa Rosa City PNP), Nelson Barlaog (DILG representative), Hon. Josel Bondoc (Brgy. Councilor of Pulong Sta. Cruz, Santa Rosa City, Laguna), and

Jonathan A. Irinco (President, Sun Logistic Workers Union Independent). The program started with preliminaries and opening remarks afterwards. Then, the above-mentioned officials delivered their individual messages of support to a total of 40 participants who were present on the said activity (*NJAtayde, DTI-Laguna*).



The Office of the Provincial Governor's Medical Mission Team, in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, organized a Medical and Dental Mission Program on February 2, 2024, in Barangay Bukal, Mendez. A total of 319 people were greeted with hospitality, each receiving free check-ups and medications, ensuring that healthcare reaches those who need it most. Simultaneously, 50 people availed dental treatment and had free tooth extractions. This beneficial initiative demonstrates the Provincial Government's commitment to prioritizing the health and well-being of its residents. The Medical and Dental Mission Program not only addressed health concerns, but also had a long-term influence on individuals who benefited, stressing the necessity of having access to healthcare in the heart of Barangay Bukal. (OPIO)

PALAIPIAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Doktora: daglat
- 4 Iwawasto
- 10 Hindi gusto
- 12 Inapi
- 13 Look
- 14 Katulad
- 16 Sinasamba ng katutubo
- 18 Pag-aari ko
- 19 Marka
- 22 Langgam: Ingles
- 23 Tallis
- 25 Asam
- 28 Darang
- 30 Pangkulay ng buhok
- 32 Halamang medisinal
- 34 Isabog
- 37 Inis
- 38 Sapantaha
- 39 Dagit
- 40 Sigabo
- 41 Tinda sa Petron

PABABA

- 1 Hinagpis
- 2 Mr. Agoncillo
- 3 Kakanta
- 5 Tunog ng relos
- 6 Ms. Capri
- 7 Pinatuyong karne
- 8 Matibay na hibla
- 9 Ms. Ana
- 11 Batid
- 15 Salamin sa mata
- 17 Lugar sa Pandacan
- 20 Hamak
- 21 Maliit na sambalilo
- 24 Limit
- 26 PamoSO
- 27 Animo
- 29. Braso
- 31 Gin
- 33 Punglo
- 35 Animo
- 36 Tablet: daglat

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Dagdag Kaalaman

Si Martin Cooper na siyang nag-imbento ng cellphone ay nakakuha ng inspirasyon sa gadgets na ginamit sa TV-series na *Star Trek*.

DOST upskills dairy coop in Bukidnon



THE Dept. of Science and Technology (DOST) upskills employees of a dairy cooperative in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

This is with Food Safety Training and various science and technology interventions. Members of the Dalwangan Malaybalay United Dairy Agrarian Reform Cooperative (DAMAUDARC) now adopt the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) in the daily production of cow's milk.

The two-day training aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the 64 cooperative members in terms of basic food handling, food safety hazards, and GMP. Further, it also aims to improve the plant efficiency through improved processes incorporated in the production.

Guest speakers for the

training were Lesli N. Uy, DOST-X in-house food safety expert and Geli Foods owner and GMP speaker, Erwin M. Geli. The latter emphasized the importance of the implementation of control measures, and strict documentation and record-keeping practices.

The training, conducted on November 9-10, 2023, was actively participated by 26 dairy farmers directly involved in the production. It was conducted in collaboration with the city government of Malaybalay through the City Agriculture Office.

Richard B. Leono, Officer-in-Charge of City Agriculture Office,

expressed gratitude to DOST for turning the project a reality. "Mapasalamaton mi sa DOST for their assistance and support. Naa najud atong dugay nga gipangandoy ug kani nga food safety training ang first step para ma realize nato atong goal nga naa njud tay dairy processing diri sa Malaybalay City," he said. (We are thankful to DOST for their assistance and support. This food safety training is the first step towards realizing our goal of having a dairy processing facility here in Malaybalay City.)

DOST has assisted the coop to follow a GMP-
► DOST UPSKILLS • 4

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

VOLUME II • NO. 28 • FEBRUARY 11 - 17, 2024 • P10.00

Unlocking Love's Fortune: SM celebrates Luck in Love this February

Love is in the air, and SM Supermalls is turning February into a magical journey like no other! Experience the convergence of Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day at Luck in Love— a spectacular blend of traditions, festivities, and romantic moments that will sweep you off your feet with activities happening from February 1 to 29, 2024.

Luck in Love Feast

Indulge in the magic of togetherness as SM malls host the Luck in Love Feast. This event will bring people together over special food and dining deals because what better way to celebrate the Love Month and Chinese New Year than over a delicious meal?

Luck in Love Fair

SM malls will be transformed into a sea of red and lucky charms, creating a unique atmosphere that you won't want to miss. From traditional trinkets to modern interpretations, discover the perfect token for your special someone in these bazaars.

Spot Love at the Lucky Dragon

Capture Instagrammable and TikTok-worthy moments with SM's enchanting dragon installations adorned with hearts. It's the perfect backdrop to share your love story with the world.

As February also marks the Chinese New Year, welcome prosperity and success at SM with these special activities:

Lucky Forecast

Explore the mysteries of the future with our "Lucky
► UNLOCKING • 4



PhilHealth to give higher benefit packages effective Feb. 14

Here's some good news from the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) amid the increase in premiums paid by its members.

According to the state health insurer, the 30-percent increase in the coverage rate of most of its benefit packages would take effect on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, and also the 29th anniversary of PhilHealth.

Under PhilHealth Circular No. 2024-001, signed on Jan. 29 by its president and CEO Emmanuel Ledesma Jr., PhilHealth adopted an inflation adjustment factor of 30 percent for existing case rates to account for price changes over the past decade.

"The aim of the adjustment in our benefit packages is to lessen the balance or completely eliminate the out-of-pocket expenses for Filipinos availing [themselves] of health services in hospitals and other medical facilities after being covered by PhilHealth," PhilHealth spokesperson Rey Baleña said in an interview on dzBB on Saturday.

Since 2013 when the state insurer first implemented the case-

based payment system—wherein PhilHealth reimbursed accredited health-care providers a fixed amount for a specific medical condition or surgical case—most case rates have not been adjusted.

"We are catching up with the inflation of health-care costs that's why we are implementing these adjustments. We have not increased the case rate packages in the past years," Baleña explained.

Cases not covered The PhilHealth official, however, said not all case rate packages would be adjusted to inflation since these were recently increased, some by more than 30 percent.

According to the circular, excluded in the inflation-based adjustment are benefit packages that have been adjusted in the past five years.

For example, PhilHealth expanded in June last year the hemodialysis sessions covered in its package for Stage 5 chronic kidney

► PHILHEALTH • 4

KAWIT BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Date: February 16, 2024 Time: 8 am to 12 nn

Venue: Tanguan Arena,
Brgy. Batong Dalig, Kawit Cavite

**BE A HERO!
SAVE LIVES**

KAWIT RURAL HEALTH UNIT

Event partners:

The Kawiteño blood, a true hero! Let's go and save lives again! Join the first Voluntary Mass Blood Donation Drive of Kawit RHU this year! Let's show our Hearts and Concerns this Heart's Month on February 16 for our fellow countrymen in need. For registration just contact Kawit RHU. Thank you so much Kawiteño hero! #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo