

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME II • NO. 30

FEB. 25 - MAR. 2, 2024

P10.00

Cavite celebrates the 2024 Provincial Oral Health Month



In ensuring healthy teeth of the children of the municipality of Ternate, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, together with the Cavite Public Health Dentists and Dental Aides Association, kicked-off the Provincial Oral Health Month Celebration, bannered the theme "Chikiting Sagipin Unang Ngipin", held on February 16, 2024 at Ternate Central Elementary School with the aim to promote the importance of good oral hygiene and proper tooth brushing practices among the children.

In the opening remarks, Mr. Leonardo Cargullo, TCES District Supervisor, and Mrs. Reby Nuestro, TCES Principal, delightfully welcomed the dental team, conveying their genuine gratitude for the time and effort they spent in extending the services to their locality.

The program commenced with the talk of Dr. Raymundo Parnala, presenting brief oral health education and demonstrating proper tooth brushing. He, then, inculcated the significance of brushing the teeth three times a day for a healthier smile.

Following was the distribution of dental kits to 40 school children by Cavite Public Health Dentists, conducting an actual tooth brushing exercise as part of the celebration.

Ms. MJ Aggabao, and some DepEd dentists graced the event and expressed their support in the activity. The initiative underscores the dedication of the provincial government in adherence to good oral hygiene and dental care for the benefit and welfare of the Caviteños. (OPIO)

Senator Bong Go lauds healthcare outreach in Cavite City

Senator Bong Go conveyed his gratitude for the effective healthcare outreach organized by Geraldine Borromeo, the ASIAN School of Advanced Technology Inc.'s class president, at Villa Porta Covered Court, Barangay San Roque in Cavite City on Sunday, 18 February.

The ASIAN School of Advanced Technology Inc., recognized under Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in Region IV-A, offers a program in Caregiving (Elderly) NC II. This program is designed to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to provide quality care for the elderly, focusing on their physical and emotional



needs. The event, which catered mostly to senior citizens, aimed to provide essential medical services
▶ SENATOR • 5

PAGASA calls on public to conserve water amid drought in Calabarzon

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has called on the public to conserve water.

This appeal follows PAGASA's declaration of drought affecting various provinces in the country including the Calabarzon region and echoes the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for Task Force El Niño to roll out measures to mitigate the adverse impact of the weather phenomenon. ▶ PAGASA • 4



Rotary Club of San Juan Supreme

SERBISYONG MEDIKAL HANDOG SA BRGY. PANAMITAN

An initiative of Councilor Armie Aguinaldo in partnership with Sto. Domingo Medical Clinic - Tabon branch and the Rotary Club of San Juan Supreme - District 3800

- February 18, 2024
- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Panamitan Elementary School



Successful po ang medical mission in partnership with LGU Kawit and BLGU Barangay Panamitan. Thank you po sa lahat ng sumuporta! #WeijinSto.Domingo



18TH D.A.H.L.I.A. "WE MADE IT HAPPEN" As part of the celebration of the 1st Cityhood Anniversary of the City of Carmona, street aerobics was successfully conducted on the 18th year of Direct Access to Healthy Lifestyle Intervention and Advocacy or D.A.H.L.I.A. with the theme "We Made It Happen!". This is in the forefront of Carmona City Health Office Many thanks to all who have united and continue to fight in the name of health. Happy 1st Cityhood Anniversary, City of Carmona! #DAHLIA18 #ArawNat1nTo #1stCityHoodAnniversary #ArawNgCarmona #CityOfCarmona #LungsodNgCarmona #LGUCarmona

DOST, OCD partners with LGU Mambajao on Incident Command System training

In line with the advocacy of strengthening disaster resilience, the Department of Science and Technology and the Office of Civil Defense partners with the Local Government of Mambajao on the conduct of the Incident Command System (ICS) Executive Course held at New Operation Center of Mambajao, Camiguin on February 6, 2024.



A total of 40 participants completed the training, receiving essential knowledge on applying general concepts and principles of the Incident Command System from a managerial perspective.

These 40 participants are department heads of LGU Mambajao, uniform personnel, and national agencies.

An Incident Command System is a standard on-scene, all-hazard incident management concept that all response groups can use. Among the participants were the department heads of LGU Mambajao and the members of the Emergency and Response Clusters of the municipality.

Municipal Mayor Yñigo Jesus D. Romualdo said during his message that he

aims to foster a resilient and adequately equipped community capable of effectively addressing and mitigating the impact of future emergencies by empowering disaster management leaders through the ICS Executive Course.

"I sincerely hope that no disasters occur in our municipality, but if one does arise, I trust that this training will be effective in responding to emergencies," he said.

He also hoped that after the training, the participants could apply the concepts they learned when a disaster arises. He added that he is very thankful for the comprehensive support from stakeholders and national agencies in completing the training mentioned.

Among the speakers were Patrick Alain Callanta from the Office of the Civil Defense, Jonathan Paolo Del Rosario of LGU Tagoloan, Niño Desierto of PGO Lanao Del Norte, and Javlin Cordova of PGO Bukidnon.

"During incidents, our primary goal is to rescue individuals. ICS training is available to ensure that responders are effective in their role. This training ensures the safety of responders and enables us to establish smart objectives

for emergency responses," Mr. Callanta said.

Topics included Introduction to ICS, ICS Organization, ICS Facilities, and Managing Planned Events and Major Incidents

Under Republic Act 10121 or the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, the Office of Civil Defense has been tasked to formulate standard operating procedures for coordination through the ICS.

The one-day crash

course highlights ICS's core principles, features, and functions. It also allows users to adopt an integrated organizational structure for a response that is advantageous in any kind of incident, facilitating the integration of diverse personnel, ensuring accountability, and providing logistical and administrative support in a cost-efficient manner.

This significant event is a component of the LGU Mambajao's recent project from DOST on

Mobile Command and Control Vehicle (MoCCoV).

Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr., the Secretary of DOST, consistently underscores the critical significance of disaster risk reduction and resilience. He emphasizes that by applying science, technology, and innovation, Filipinos can triumph over adversities and emerge victors and not victims of disasters.

(Nice Nerjay C. Delada/ DOST 10) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U

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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

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Successful Medical Mission in City of Imus. On February 16, 2024, a successful medical mission was conducted in Barangay Toclong I-C, Imus, Cavite, showcasing the power of collaboration in healthcare. spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension in partnership with the Provincial Health Officer and the city government of Imus, the mission aimed to provide essential medical services to those in need. Punong Barangay Joey R. Santos and SK Chairperson King Marius L. Rebong actively participated, demonstrating unity in addressing healthcare challenges and ensuring the mission's success with the assistance of barangay health workers. Led by Dr. Paul Armin De Luna and Dr. Remigio Camerino, alongside GEAMH staff, the medical consultation offered healthcare services, including routine check-ups and specialized examinations, to address various health concerns. A variety of medical supplies were distributed to patients, further enhancing the mission's impact. A total of 182 patients benefitted, with thirteen (13) underwent X-ray examinations and eighteen (18) ECG tests, highlighting the thorough care provided to the community. (OPIO)

DTI-CMDC Seminar Empowers Trainees as Aspiring Food Industry Professionals

Bay, Laguna — On February 13, 2024, the Calamba Manpower Development Center (CMDC) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) partnered to host their inaugural seminar of the year. The event, tailored to empower individuals in the food industry, underscores the organizations' shared commitment in fostering local entrepreneurship and driving economic development within the community.



Nestled in the heart of Calamba City, CMDC serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for those eager to enhance their skills and seize opportunities in various industries. Their dynamic approach to education blends innovation with tradition, providing a wide range of technical and vocational programs tailored to meet the evolving demands of modern industries.

The seminar on February 13th marked a

pivotal moment in CMDC's ongoing mission to empower individuals to pursue entrepreneurial endeavors. Facilitated by esteemed professionals, including DTI-Laguna Negosyo Center Business Counsellors (NCBCs) from neighboring municipalities, the seminar offered attendees practical insights and valuable skills essential for success in the competitive food industry.

NCBC Elmer Sagales from Paete kickstarted the seminar by sharing

invaluable insights into essential entrepreneurial skills tailored specifically for the food industry. His session provided a solid foundation for participants embarking on their entrepreneurial journeys.

Following Sagales's engaging session, NCBC Avegail Agojo from Bay delved into the critical topic of food safety standards, regulatory compliance, packaging, and labeling requirements. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the



measures necessary to ensure the production of safe, high-quality food products, essential for maintaining consumer trust and market competitiveness.

Next, NCBC Rica Mae Garcia, representing CMDC's Majayjay, shed light on pricing strategies and cost optimization. Through practical tools and techniques, attendees learned how to enhance profitability and maintain a competitive edge in a dynamic marketplace.

The seminar's agenda also featured NCBC Carl Eric Villanueva, an esteemed NCBC from Magdalena, who led an enlightening session on digital marketing and consumer education.

Participants explored the transformative potential of online platforms such as Google My Business in expanding reach and building lasting customer relationships.

Additionally, DTI's role in supporting CMDC's mission was highlighted throughout the seminar. With expertise in business development and regulatory compliance, DTI provides invaluable resources and guidance to aspiring entrepreneurs, contributing to the growth and prosperity of the local community.

Participants actively engaged in dynamic discussions, fostering a collaborative learning environment where knowledge exchange

thrived. As the day concluded, comprehensive feedback sessions provided valuable insights for enhancing future seminars, ensuring continuous improvement and greater value delivery.

In summary, the CMDC-DTI seminar exemplified the power of collaboration in driving positive change and empowering individuals to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. By bridging the gap between skills development and entrepreneurial know-how, CMDC and DTI reaffirmed their commitment to fostering economic growth, innovation, and prosperity within the local community (ADagojo, DTI Laguna).

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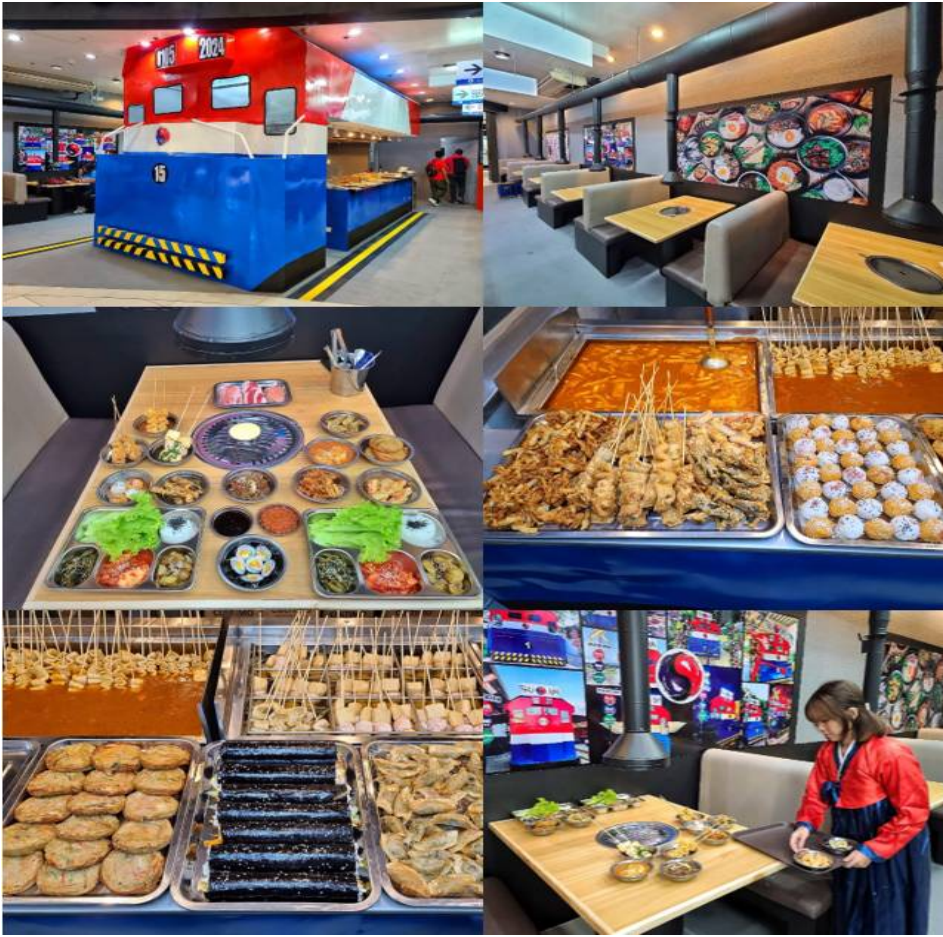
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LHIO SAN PABLO CITY | FEBRUARY 19, 2024

PHILHEALTH KONSULTA ORIENTATION FOR THE SENIOR CITIZEN PRESIDENTS AND 4PS PARENT LEADERS OF FAMY, LAGUNA



Busan PH at SM City Rosario is now open! Unique Samgyupsal vibe is now set to be experienced at SM City Rosario with the recent opening of BUSAN PH. They offer variety of Korean noodles and stew, samgyup and Korean street food for a very reasonable price. Aside from the Korean food experience, you can also enjoy the restaurant's Busan Train centerpiece that brings you to a complete Korean experience. Visit BUSAN PH at the first floor of SM City Rosario. (Photos by Lakwatsero Caviteño Travels)

PTFoMS...

(FROM PAGE 8)

PTFoMS under AO1 and has been regularly attending its inter-agency meetings so this statement comes as quite a surprise," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez added that aside from recognizing AO1, Khan made several recommendations to further strengthen its 'institutional capacity' that, he said, would be useful in guiding the agency "towards creating a media that is safe and free from fear as envisioned by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in partnership with relevant government agencies including the CHR.

Gutierrez also said the CHR's plan to create a separate media alert mechanism to be called, 'Alert system for media human rights violations (ALISTO) as proposed by the National Union of Journalists of the

Philippines (NUJP), should align with the current alert mechanisms of AO1 and that of AO35 to ensure its effectiveness in quickly addressing and validating all reported cases of alleged attacks against the members of the press.

"Looking back, we note that the NUJP made a presentation as regards ALISTO last October 27, 2023, where two assistant secretaries from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) and the AO1 staff were unfortunately not allowed to participate in the discussion despite being invited.

"Had this not been the case, the PCO and AO1 could have provided their inputs leading to a synergy of effort towards our common goal of protecting the members of the press," Gutierrez said.

"There is really no need

to 'reinvent the wheel,' so to speak. But there is really a need to strengthen further the existing mechanisms that we have," he added.

"Of course, as a critical and reliable partner, we look forward to strengthening our working relationship with the CHR, relevant government agencies and all the stakeholders in the media profession.

"For the nth time, we again call on the NUJP and other media groups to re-engage with the PTFoMS so we can validate and address all these alleged violations of the rights of the members of the press and the perpetrators unmasked and punished as the case may be," Gutierrez said.

The NUJP, along with the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) decided to leave the PTFoMS in the second quarter of 2019 citing "institutional differences."

Ika-152...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Liwasang Paco, Maynila na pangungunahan ni Rev. Fr. Joel Rescober, C.M.?

Maaalala na ang tatlong pari ay nahatulan ng parusang kamatayan sa pamamagitan ng garote nang idawit sila sa pag-aalsa sa Cavite noong Enero 1872. Napag-itan sila dahil sa pakikibahagi sa kampanya laban sa mga prayleng Kastila.

Naniniwala sila sa sekularisasyon ng bansa at sa pagkakaroon ng parehas na karapatan ng mga Pilipino at Kastila bilang mamamayan ng bansa.??

Inialay ni Jose Rizal ang pangalawa niyang nobelang El Filibusterismo sa Gomburza. Ginunita rin ng Katipunan, sa pangunguna ni Andres Bonifacio, ang kanilang

kabayanihan at mababasa ito sa ilang dokumento ng Katipunan.??

Ang NHCP ang pambansang sangay ng pamahalaan na naatasan sa pagtataguyod at pagpapanatili ng mga pambansang pamana sa pamamagitan ng saliksik, lathala, heraldiko, konserbasyon, pagtatakda sa mga makasaysayang pook at istruktura at pangangasiwa ng mga pambansang dambana at museo. (NHCP)

PAGASA...

(FROM PAGE 1)

As of January 2024, Cavite is experiencing drought, Rizal is under a dry spell, and Batangas and Laguna are under dry conditions with sustained effects until May.

"We always advise the public to conserve water because our challenges may persist until May of 2024. Follow all precautionary measures including staying hydrated. For our farmers, consider stocking up seedlings or any necessary augmentation for your crops due to shortage in rainfall," Bernadette T. Lucillo, chief meteorological officer of the National Agrometeorological Station, said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency's Sulong Calabarzon program.

Lucillo explained that a dry condition is declared after experiencing two consecutive months of below-normal rainfall, while a dry spell is declared with three consecutive months of below-normal rainfall, both indicating a 21-60

percent reduction from average rainfall.

However, a severe state is classified as drought when there is a consistent experience of way below normal rainfall for three consecutive months, indicating a substantial 60 percent reduction from average rainfall.

Because of this, PAGASA highly encourages the public to cooperate and evaluate their use of water and make plans to cut its unnecessary use.

The state weather bureau actively coordinates with various concerned agencies to help them strategize their interagency efforts in minimizing the impacts of El Niño, particularly in the agricultural sector, which is identified as the most vulnerable sector.

She added: "Coordination begins six months prior, involving agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), and the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council

(RDRRMC).

They conduct meetings and form task forces or technical working groups to receive advice from PAGASA and determine adaptive measures".

Based on the recent data presented by the National Irrigation Administration Region IV-A in January 2024 in a meeting with DA, there are a total of 3,222 hectares of vulnerable agricultural lands identified to be affected by the El Niño phenomenon nationwide.

NIA IV-A Regional Manager engineer Roberto Dela Cruz, in response, affirmed NIA's commitment to fully support DA Calabarzon's agricultural programs to mitigate the effects of El Niño on the region's agricultural sector.

As a support, PAGASA remains open to provide timely and updated advisories to notify frontline agencies and also give Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to further raise public awareness regarding the potential adverse effects of El Niño. (CO/PIA-4A)

DOST turns...

(FROM PAGE 8)

to-recycle wastes through sorting, curating, and formulation to meet chemical limits.

It serves as an alternative to solid fossil fuels like coal, fueling cement kilns and industrial boilers in paper manufacturing and power plants.

This approach has proven effective in controlling landfilled waste in Japan, offering a second life for waste as productive fuels and creating opportunities for waste pickers to become formal waste sorters in these facilities.

"Fluff fuel" is one of the various solutions to control waste buildup in Japan. The partnership between SM Prime and GUUN will explore further implementation of recovery or reduction techniques, ensuring that waste is no longer wasted.

SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, emphasizing a commitment to a positive impact on local communities, shared, "It is exciting for SM Prime to partner with GUUN Japan with a joint mission to bridge the gap between society and

the environment in the Philippines through investing in their pioneering solid waste management technology, which will eventually benefit all the communities that SM Prime serves."

Underscoring their dedication to making a positive impact on the Philippines, GUUN Co. Ltd. CEO Shinji Fujieda stated, "At GUUN, we are ready to make every effort to contribute significantly to the Philippines and evolve the resource circulation system. The partnership with SM Prime leaves us with no doubt that we can succeed."

Department of

Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Toni Yulo-Loyzaga emphasized the importance of such partnerships in advancing sustainable waste management practices. She said, "The DENR continues to collaborate with development partners and the private sector in tackling the challenge of solid waste management. Implementing industrial-scale, appropriate transition technologies for segregation and processing is a crucial step toward achieving a circular economy.

Partnerships like the one between SM Prime and GUUN play a vital role in shaping a sustainable future."



Temporary halt on PhilHealth premiums for minimum wage earners sought

Marikina Rep. Stella Quimbo has filed a resolution urging the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to temporarily suspend premium contributions for all minimum wage earners pending review of benefits expansion and contributions reduction.

House Resolution 1595, which was filed Monday afternoon, seeks to use the unspent appropriations allocated to PhilHealth for premium subsidies, providing immediate financial relief to the country's economically vulnerable workers.

In a statement Tuesday, Quimbo noted that in 2022, Congress appropriated PHP80 billion to subsidize premiums of indigent families, senior citizens, and persons with disability to PhilHealth.

However, PhilHealth reported that it failed to spend PHP24 billion of the said amount.

In 2023, Congress again provided an appropriation amounting to PHP79 billion as premiums subsidy but

PhilHealth left PHP39 billion unspent.

"The unspent premium of PhilHealth can very well cover the premium contributions of minimum wage earners for at least a year since in 2022 their premium contribution only amounted to PHP19.6 billion," Quimbo pointed out.

She also noted that PhilHealth's financial reserves are expected to reach PHP463 billion in 2023, marking a 68-percent increase from the previous year.

This surplus has accumulated from premiums collected from members, as well as subsidies from Congress that have remained unspent.

Quimbo said this surplus

suggests that PhilHealth can afford to suspend premium contributions for minimum wage earners without compromising its financial stability.

"The unspent funds, originally designated for the health coverage of senior citizens and the poorest segments of the population, highlight an opportunity to redirect resources temporarily to alleviate the financial burden on minimum wage earners," she said.

She said the temporary suspension of premium contributions of minimum wage earners increases disposable income, offering an average monthly wage boost of about PHP400 in the NCR for non-agricultural workers.



Quimbo's resolution also seeks to reassess PhilHealth's benefit packages and the premium contribution rates as provided by the Universal Health Care Law.

"This temporary suspension is not just about providing short-term economic relief but also about initiating a comprehensive review of PhilHealth's benefits and contribution structure. The goal is to expand health benefits for all members

and potentially reform the contribution structure, or even to possibly eliminate premiums for minimum wage earners and self-employed individuals earning the equivalent of minimum wages," she said.

Aligned with Speaker Martin Romualdez's advocacy for PhilHealth to offer Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)-like benefits, Quimbo's resolution seeks to design benefit packages focused

on illness prevention and improved hospitalization support, making healthcare spending more efficient and rational.

"In the long run, it is cheaper to prevent than to cure. In the end, we can have a more rational spending on healthcare. This will boil down to a more rational amount of PhilHealth contributions by our workers, as well as annual appropriations from Congress," Quimbo said. (PNA)

PhilHealth empowers LGBTQIA+ members in Batangas through orientation on benefits, services

by Dr. Mary Arlene Calalo-Villena, PRO IV-B, Chief Social Insurance Officer

PhilHealth Regional Office (PRO) IV-B, through its Membership Section's Marketing Team, recently provided a virtual orientation on the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law and Konsulta for Wagayway Equality, Inc. – a non-government group located in Alangilan, Batangas City.

The group is actively working to promote gender equality, HIV prevention, mental health awareness, and youth and LGBTQIA+ rights. The activity was attended by its officers, led by the group's Acting President, Edward Camasis, and volunteers.

Cognizant of PhilHealth's role as the administrator of the National Health Insurance Program, Wagayway Equality, Inc. requested for a detailed orientation on UHC, Konsulta, and other programs and services of the state health insurer.

The discussions also touched on member registration procedures, premium contributions, and the PhilHealth Member Portal. PRO IV-B also reiterated members' responsibilities, as well as various PhilHealth benefit such as primary care benefits under Konsulta, Out-patient/HIV-AIDs package (including data on provincial claims in the province), TB-DOTS package (as Tuberculosis is the most common complication among HIV-positive patients in the Philippines), and other developments in the Corporation.

After the discussions, queries raised were related to PhilHealth information and education campaigns, and membership. The participants also gave inputs on frontline services. Wagayway Equality, Inc. informed PhilHealth that it had launched the Equality Desk in Batangas City through the support of the Local Government



PRO IV-B Membership Marketing Representatives with Wagayway Equality Inc. Volunteers headed by its Executive Director Aivan Alvarez.



Snapshot with attendees from Wagayway Equality Inc., Batangas Medical Center Wellness Representative and PRO IV-B, LHIO Heads and Representatives

Unit under the leadership of Mayor Beverly Rose Dimacuja-Mariño.

The group was given an office space where member population like Men Having Sex with Men (MSM), Transgender Women, People Living with HIV, young key population, LGBTQIA+ can receive vital services. Through future collaboration, information about UHC and PhilHealth benefits, which most participants admitted to learn only during the virtual orientation, will be available there. As such, the possibility of a partnership between the two parties is not far behind. **END**

GSIS Pasay head office, QC branch open on Feb 17

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) - Good news! The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) advises its members and pensioners that its head office in Pasay City and Quezon City branch office located along Elliptical Road is open this weekend.

In an advisory, said GSIS offices will be open this Saturday, February 17, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The following services will be available:

- * eCARD enrollment
- * eCARD releasing

- * Loan applications (over-the-counter)
- * Cheque releasing (social insurance claim cheques only)

The state insurance fund encourages its active members and EC

pensioners who reside or work in Metro Manila, Cavite, Rizal, and nearby areas who have not yet registered for their GSIS eCARD to take advantage of this opportunity. (GSIS/PIA-NCR)

Senator...

(FROM PAGE 1)

to those in need, reflecting the school's dedication to nurturing future caregivers equipped with compassion and competence.

Go's Malasakit Team also attended and provided grocery packs, shirts, vitamins, and balls for basketball and volleyball to select medical mission beneficiaries.

As a proponent of improving healthcare access, Go, who chairs the Senate Committee on Health and Demography, highlighted the availability of medical aid programs at the Malasakit Centers in General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital in Imus City and Southern Tagalog Regional Hospital in Bacoor City.

The Malasakit Centers program celebrates its 6th year this year. It was institutionalized under Republic Act No. 11463, which Senator Go principally sponsored and authored in 2019. The program has assisted around ten million indigent patients according to DOH with 159 Malasakit Centers operational nationwide.

Senator Go also advocated for 12 Super Health Centers in the province to make certain that primary care is within reach of Filipinos, especially those in far-flung areas. Through the collective efforts of the Department of Health, led by Dr. Teodoro "Ted" Herbosa, local government units, and fellow

lawmakers, sufficient funds have been allocated under the DOH for the construction of more than 700 Super Health Centers. Go, the vice chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, has also backed multiple road upgrades in Cavite, Dasmariñas, General Trias, Imus, and Tagaytay. Furthermore, support has been extended for the rehabilitation and enhancement of the municipal fire station in Noveleta, as well as the refurbishment of covered courts in various barangays in General Trias City. Additionally, there is support for acquiring ambulance units for the local governments of Indang and Trece Martires City, and for enhancing a sports facility at Cavite State University in Indang.

Asia Pacific University 3x3 cagefest qualifier set March 15-17

One Dream Sportsman, headed by basketball coach Dr. Norman Afable, on Monday announced the staging of the Asia Pacific University 3x3 tournament from March 15 to 17 at Marikina City Sports Gymnasium and Bulacan Center in Malolos.

The top four teams will qualify for the Asia Pacific University Games 3x3 Championship which the Philippines will host this May.

Under the auspices of the Federation of School Sports Association of the Philippines (FESSAP), the league is open to students 25 years and under, and are currently enrolled.

The league aims to help propagate the development of basketball at the grassroots level and provide more opportunities for Filipinos to hone their skills and reach their potential, which would enable them to play in pro leagues here

and abroad.

"It's an honor and great privilege, that's why I am thankful to FESSAP for trusting me to run this league and to help our young players reach their full potential so they will be ready for opportunities that come in their careers," said Afable, the league's chairman who is also in charge of sports marketing and operation.

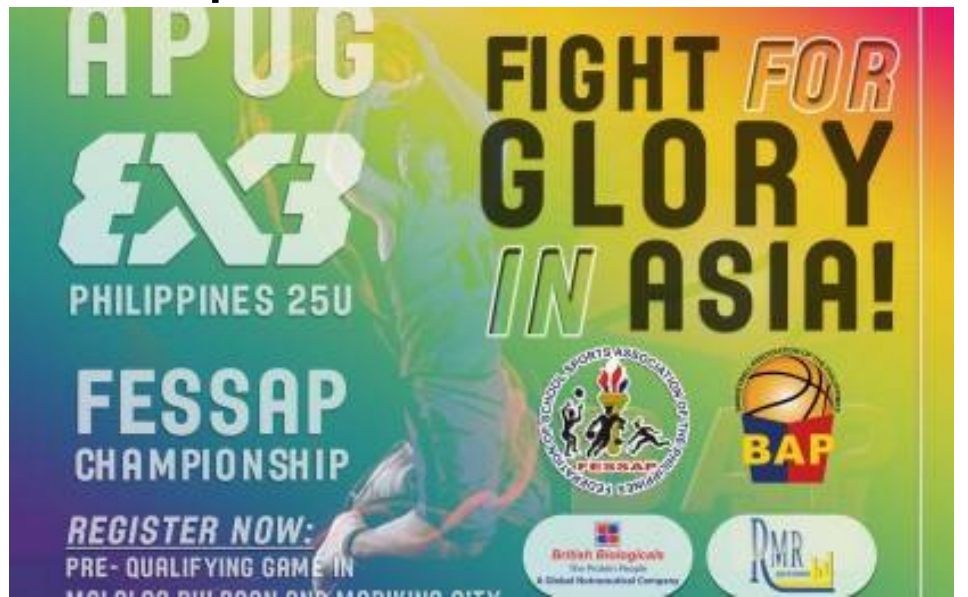
"There's a lot of opportunity now with many pro leagues in different continents. Our players are in demand in Korea, Japan, and China as well as in the Middle East," the former collegiate standout said. "The

exposure that our players will get is a big help so that they will be better prepared if they take their career abroad."

Afable is expecting 20 schools -- non-member and FESSAP-affiliated -- to join the league. The deadline of entry is on Feb. 28.

"Schools are allowed to form two teams. We are targeting 20, but if there are more teams, we will divide them into three groups. The format is single-round elimination," he said.

Veteran coach Jojo Castillo is the league's tournament director. (PNA)



IOC thumbs down Pacquiao's Paris Games bid

Boxing icon Manny Pacquiao won't be showcasing his legendary ring savvy to the Paris Olympics primarily because the former eight-division world professional champion is overaged.



Boxing legend Manny Pacquiao (File photo)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC), in response to a letter from the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) late last year appealing for the former senator's stint in Paris, stressed on the 40-year-old age limit for athletes participating in the Olympics.

Pacquiao is already 45 years old.

In the same breath, had Pacquiao met the age regulation, his possible qualification for the Olympics is to go through qualifiers, one of them last year's Asian Games where Eumir Felix Marcial earned a light heavyweight clinching silver in Hangzhou.

"Too bad our beloved boxing icon is disqualified because of his age and that everyone needs to go

through qualifiers, in all sports, to be able to participate in Paris," POC president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino said in a news release on Sunday.

James McLeod, IOC Director for National Olympic Committee Relations, wrote the POC on its request for Pacquiao to be able to box in Paris.

"The only valid boxing qualification system for Paris 2024 is the one approved by the IOC Executive Board in September 2022 published and distributed to NOCs and boxing national federations on 6 December 2022," McLeod said in his letter.

"This includes the age limit of 40," McLeod said.

Pacquiao, too, couldn't make Paris under the Universality rule.

"The Universality places for the Olympic Games will not be allocated to NOCs with an average of more than eight [08] athletes in individual sports/disciplines at the last two editions of the Olympic Games [Rio and Tokyo]," McLeod added.

The Philippines had 17 athletes in Tokyo—all in individual sports—with Hidilyn Diaz Naranjo winning the country's first Olympic gold medal and Carlo Paalam and Nesthy Petecio clinching silver medals and Marcial bagging bronze in boxing.

So far, the four Filipinos have qualified for Paris—world No. 2 pole vaulter Ernest John "EJ" Obiena, Marcial and artistic gymnasts Carlos Yulo and Aleah Finnegan. (PNA)

Sipalay City showcases 'beauty of open waters' in int'l swim fest

The staging of the International Open Water Swim Circuit in Sipalay City will showcase the beauty of the open waters in the top beach destination of Negros Occidental this weekend.



SWIM ROUTE. The final reconnaissance swim on the route of the International Open Water Swim Circuit in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental. The southern Negros city will host the first leg of the sports event organized by the Department of Tourism-Western Visayas together with the Zamboanga Open Water Swimming Club Inc. on Feb. 17 and 18, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Sipalay City Tourism Office)

On Feb. 17 and 18, the southern Negros city will host the first leg of the water sports event organized by the Department of Tourism (DOT)-Western Visayas (Region 6) together with the Zamboanga Open Water Swimming Club Inc.

At least 138 swimming enthusiasts will see action in the three categories.

"Experience Western Visayas in Sipalay City. Join us in promoting our advocacy for marine conservation and protection through sports tourism and ecotourism," Mayor Maria Gina Lizares said in a video message.

Stakeholders from the city government and concerned government agencies met on Friday for final coordination.

Based on the start lists, there will be 48 participants in the 1.5-kilometer swim

category, while the 3-kilometer and the 5-kilometer categories will have 44 and 46 participants, respectively.

They will compete in five age categories between 12 and over 50 years old.

All swim routes will start and end at the Bugana Beach and Dive Resort, with the swimmers traversing along the coast off Campomanes-Ballo Marine Reserve and Sanctuary.

On Saturday, the welcome program and the race briefing will be held at Punta Ballo Beach, featuring green advocacy talks, cultural performances and a tourism and cultural fair.

During the swim day on Sunday, participants will gather at Campomanes Beach for the registration and safety briefing before the start of the competition at 6 a.m.

The second leg will be held on Sicogon Island in

Carles, Iloilo, on April 14; the third leg, Taklong Island in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras, on June 30; and the final leg, Boracay Island in Malay, Aklan, Sept. 22.

Earlier, DOT-6 Regional Director Crisanta Marlene Rodriguez said that through the International Open Water Swim Circuit, they aim to establish Western Visayas as a leading destination for sports and ecotourism, particularly for open water swimming.

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, she added. (PNA)

DepEd sets start of SY 2024-2025 on July 29 in 'gradual' revert to old calendar

The Department of Education has scheduled the start of classes for the school year 2024-2025 on July 29 and set an earlier end to the current school year as part of its gradual revert to the old academic calendar.



Students of Malanday Elementary School walk back to their respective classrooms after an Intensity 3 earthquake was recorded in Marikina City on June 15, 2023.

DepEd Order No. 003 s. 2024, dated February 19, sets the start and end of classes for SY 2024-2025 on July 29, 2024 and May 16, 2025.

The DepEd order also pushes back the end of classes for the current school year (SY 2023-2024) by two weeks, scheduling it on May 31 instead of June 14.

This directive from the department follows its earlier confirmation that the return to the old June-March academic calendar will be "gradual" or implemented in phases to avoid major disruptions to students' and education personnel's vacation days.

The DepEd order scheduled this year's

school break from June 1 to July 26.

End-of-school-year rites will be conducted from May 29 to 31, and only schools with exceptional circumstances can hold these on June 1 upon consultations with teachers and students.

DepEd Spokesperson and Undersecretary Michael Poa told reporters on Tuesday that the gradual shift to the old academic calendar aims to have a June school opening by School Year 2026-2027 to align more closely with the traditional April-May school break.

DepEd's revert to the old school calendar comes after it held consultations with parents, teachers and other

education groups where they indicated a preference for a June school opening to avoid holding classes during the dry season from April to May.

Poa added that only around seven to eight days were trimmed after adjustments to the current school calendar.

Private schools will also be given flexibility in following DepEd's adjusted calendar, but they are bound by laws that do not allow them to open before the first Monday of June or later than the last day of August, Poa added.

DepEd has also shortened the timeframe for this year's implementation of the National Learning Camp

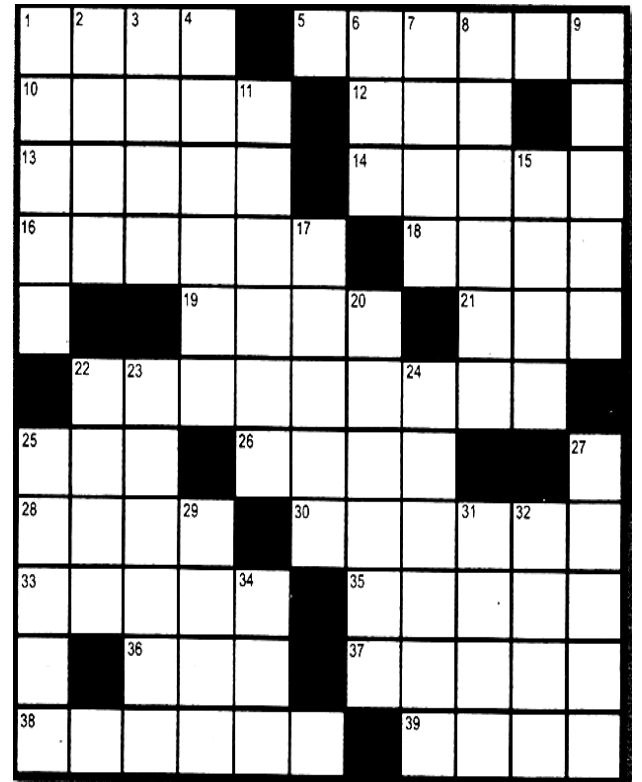
from five weeks to three weeks or from July 1 to 19.

This year's Brigada Eskwela will be held from July 22 to July 27.

For years, DepEd refused to synchronize its calendar with the new academic calendar in higher education, which the Commission on Higher Education recommended for state universities in 2019 to cover the same period as the government's fiscal year.

However, DepEd had to delay its class opening in 2020 from June to October when it transitioned to blended learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, it has scheduled class openings in August.

PALAI SIPAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Putol
- 5 Ibitin
- 10 Banas
- 12 Solo
- 13 Kapa
- 14 Ubos
- 16 lakma
- 18. Durog na durog
- 19 Mithi
- 21 Tunog ng relos
- 22 Hindi makuntento sa lisa
- 25 Sasakyan sa Edsa
- 26 de coco
- 28 Pagluluto sa baga
- 30 Dukha
- 33 Putik mula sa Pinatubo
- 35 Abiso
- 36 Rangya
- 37 Ms. Linda
- 38 Bago
- 39 Mando

PABABA

- 1 Braso
- 2 Leksiyon
- 3 Biyuleta
- 4 Ipatse
- 6 Silver: daglat
- 7 Usok
- 8 Ulat
- 9 Tarak
- 11 Bigyan ng direl
- 15 Palayaw ni Nir
- 17 Diskuwento
- 20 Malusog
- 22 Pomelo
- 23 Bulaklak sa ulo ng ikakasal
- 24 Bighani
- 25 Asawa ng hipag o bayaw
- 27 Ibulong
- 29 Tila
- 31 Imbargo
- 32 Tiyahin
- 34 Diumano

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Team GenTri is united, we celebrated Valentine's Day with some of our Gentriseño Senior Citizens to show our love and appreciation to the elderly. Let's Join Forces in Spreading Love! Photos by Robert Sarayba #LetsJoinForces #AlagangFerrerAlagangGenTri

Dagdag Kaalaman

Ang unang mechanical heart ay ginawa noong 1952 ng General Motors, isang kompanyang gumagawa ng sasakyan.

PTFoMS: NO NEED FOR ADD'L MECHANISM FOR MEDIA'S PROTECTION

THE Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFoMS) reminded the public and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) that there are already existing and functioning mechanisms to protect the members of the press from any violation of their right to life, liberty, and security.

"May I remind our good partners at the CHR that even UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression (UNSR-FOE) Irene Khan recognized that the PTFoMS created in 2016 thru Administrative Order No. 1 (AO1) is the 'main mechanism for the safety of journalists' as stated in her preliminary report after the conclusion of her visit last February 2," said Usec. Paul M. Gutierrez, AO1 executive director.

"In fact, her opening statement was profuse in thanking the PTFoMS for its valuable assistance that led to the successful conclusion of her visit that include her consultation with the CHR," Gutierrez added.

The official made the remarks after the CHR



over the weekend issued a statement urging the Executive Branch to "provide sufficient mechanisms" to ensure a safer environment for

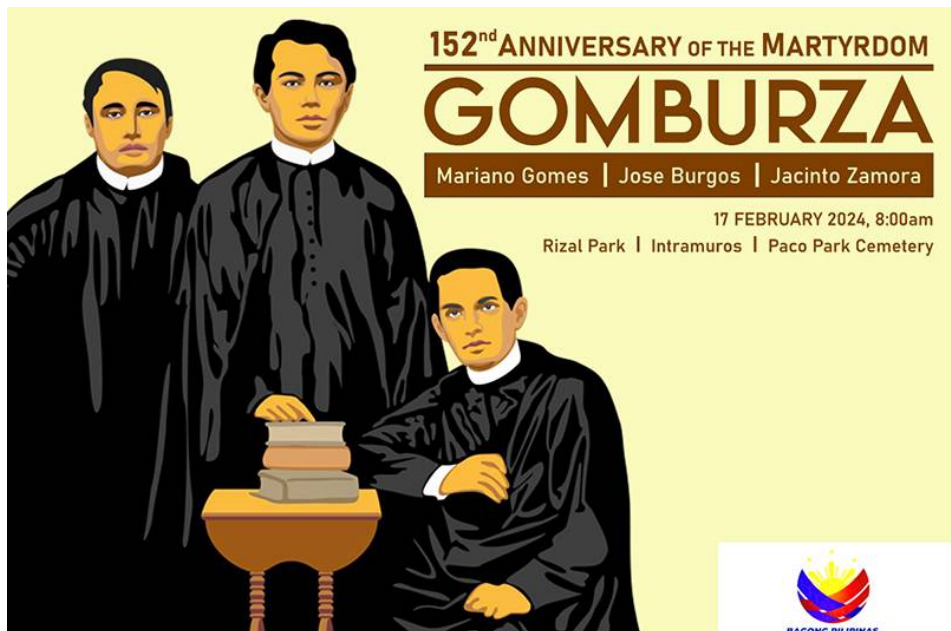
media workers.

"May I also remind the public and our media colleagues that the CHR is, in fact, a member of the

► PTFoMS • 4

Ika-152 Anibersaryo ng kabayanihan ng GomBurZa

LIWASANG RIZAL LUNETA, Maynila — Ang National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) sa pamumuno ng kanilang Tagapangulo Dr. Emmanuel Franco Calairo, ay pangungunahan ang paggunita sa araw ng kabayanihan ng tatlong martir na sina Padre Mariano Gomes, Padre Jose Burgos at Padre Jacinto Zamora, mas kilala bilang GOMBURZA, sa 17 Pebrero 2024, Sabado, 8:00 ng umaga sa Gomburza Execution Site, Liwasang Rizal Luneta, Maynila.



Pangungunahan ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas ang unang bahagi ng programa sa pagtugtog ng pambansang awit. Susundan ito ng mga pag-aalay ng bulaklak mula sa mga sumusunod: Office of the President; Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Manila; Manila City Government; NHCP; National Museum of the Philippines; National Parks Development Committee; Department of Education-Division of City Schools Manila,

Intramuros Administration, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Girl Scouts of the Philippines, Salute to a Clean Flag Movement at Cediastans PH.??

Magsisimula ang susunod na bahagi ng programa sa bating pambungad mula kay P a t n u g o t Tagapagpaganap Cecille Lorenzana-Romero ng NPDC, kasunod ng

Pansigligwang Pananalita ni Tagapangulo Calairo at mensahe mula sa Pangalawang Punong Lungsod John Marvin 'Yul Servo' Nieto ng Maynila. Sa pagsasara ng bahaging ito, mapapakinggan ang isang mensahe mula sa Arsobispo ng Maynila Jose G. Cardinal Advincula.??

Mag-aalay din ng bulaklak sa GOMBURZA National Monument, P. Burgos St. Maynila at babasbasan ang puntod ng GOMBURZA sa loob ng

► IKA-152 • 4

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME II • NO. 30 • FEB. 25 - MAR. 2, 2024 • P10.00

DOST turns over high-speed sewing machine for IP weavers in Bukidnon



SM Prime has entered a joint venture with GUUN Co. Ltd (GUUN), with SM Prime holding 70% of the equity of the Philippine joint venture company.

GUUN Co. Ltd is headquartered in Yokohama City, Japan, and operates material recovery and recycling facilities, along with environmental solution services. Invited by the government of Cebu in 2014, GUUN initiated the production of fossil alternative fuels called "fluff fuel" from non-recyclable waste materials, aligning with its mission to "maintain harmony between the earth and society by creating a happy environment for the future."

United in this mission, SM Prime partnered with GUUN to actively participate in developing infrastructure for systematic waste management and resource recovery, following the best practices of Japan. The joint venture aims to reduce the landfill impact from both SM Prime and non-SM Prime managed properties, complementing the material recovery facility operations of the Local Government Units (LGUs).

GUUN's "fluff fuel" is produced from non-recyclable and hard- ► DOST TURNS • 4



TULOY-TULOY NA TULONG PARA SA PULVORISTA: Sa pangunguna po ng ating MSWD kahapon, namahagi po tayo ng karagdagang tulong para sa ating mga kababayan sa Brgy. Pulvorista na naging biktima ng sunog kamakailan. Kinumusta rin po natin sila para maayos ang ating evacuation plan at para ibalita na rin ang ating pinaplanong paglalagay ng community kitchen. Naniniwala po ako na sa ating pagtutulongan, unti-unting tayong makakaahon. #AlagangAngeloAguineldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo