

Orientation Seminar Empowers Senior Citizens in Drug Abuse Prevention Education

A significant milestone in the ongoing battle against drug abuse was achieved as more than 100 participants consisting of senior citizen leaders in Cavite gathered at the Bayleaf Hotel in the City of General Trias on March 1, 2024 for an Orientation Seminar on Drug Abuse Prevention Education for Senior Citizens. Organized by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), the seminar aimed to raise awareness of the dangers of drugs and substance use, and to encourage the active participation and support of the senior



citizens in the prevention of anti-illegal drugs.

This event was graced by esteemed personalities including Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, who delivered the message that the seminar is not just about imparting knowledge but also empowering senior citizens to be agents of change by harnessing the influential role of the elderly in disseminating crucial information on drug prevention within their families and communities. Assistant Secretary Maria Belen Angelita V. Matibag, Deputy Executive Director for Operations at DDB, shared a powerful

► **ORIENTATION • 4**



Bilang pagkakaisa sa ating laban kontra sunog, nagkaisa ang ating pamahalaang bayan para sa isinagawang Motorcade and Kick-off Ceremony ng BFP Kawit ngayong Fire Prevention Month. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng mga nakatuwang natin na lingkod bayan sa araw na ito kabilang na ang ating mga barangay council. Tuloy-tuloy ang pagpapabuti natin sa ating kakayahan na hindi lang tumugon kung hindi pumigil sa mga sunog para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan. #AksyongAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

WORLD CLASS BUSINESS LEADERS MEET IN BANGKOK TO DISCUSS 'CANNABIS'

WORLD-CLASS business leaders met in Bangkok for a two-day conference about the benefits of cannabis or marijuana, particularly in the medical world.

The conference held on February 29-March 1 is the 3rd Annual Conference and the leading event on the development of the Asian medical cannabis and hemp market. It's known as Cannabis Business Asia Conference.

"I felt Cannabis Business Asia was the right platform at the right time to inform those wanting to do Cannabis-related business in Thailand of King Bhumibol's National Plan based on his New Theory of Sustainability," according to Don Land, ► **WORLD • 4**



DOH certifies over 100 community-based drug rehab



The Department of Health Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) IV-A announced that it has certified a total of 111 Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Programs (CBDRP) from different local government units throughout the Calabarzon region.

Theresa Malubag, Regional Outcome Manager for the Substance Abuse Prevention Program of DOH IV-A said during a meeting of the Inter- ► **DOH • 4**

MPTC HOLIDEALS 2024: MORE THAN 100,000 MOTORISTS QUALIFY TO WIN

MPTC is thrilled to announce that the excitement for MPTC Holidetails 2024 has reached new heights, with over 100,000 participants now qualified to win extraordinary prizes. In their extended holiday promotion, MPTC gives its motorists another reason to enjoy the drive as they stand to experience the joy of winning a brand-new car or amazing cash prizes.

In partnership with Chevrolet Philippines, two lucky winners will get to drive away with a brand-new Chevrolet Tracker LS. In addition to these sleek rides, MPTC is also giving away more than P3 Million worth of cash prizes, with 10 winners walking away with P100,000 each, while 40 winners take home P50,000 each.

Joining the promo is a breeze, as all the motorists have to do is use the MPT DriveHub app, link their Easytrip RFID account, reload and pass at least four times through any MPTC tollways: CCLEX, NLEX, NLEX Connector, CALAX, SCTEX, CAVITEX, and CAVITEX C5 LINK during the promo period. For each reload of P200 denomination via the MPT DriveHub App, users earn an additional 1 point (non-cumulative). The accumulated points act as golden tickets, increasing the chances of winning in the grand raffle draw.

New users may simply download the MPT DriveHub app and link an Easytrip or CCLEX RFID, to instantly receive 2 points. MPT DriveHub app is available via the App Store (<https://apple.co/3mBkwb6>) or Google Play Store (<https://bit.ly/MPTDriveHubPlayStore>).

"We're gearing up to raffle off cash prizes and two brand-new cars! Don't miss your shot at winning; simply download the MPT DriveHub app and link your Easytrip RFID account. With DriveHub, you can easily monitor your balance, reload, access the 24/7 hotline, receive advisories, and stay updated with other useful information while using our tollways. Given that most of our motorists use smartphones, having the DriveHub app is our way of enhancing customer support through a digital platform that's readily available for tollroad users," stated Mr. Rogelio L. Singson, President, and CEO of MPTC.

Don't miss out on this longest holiday celebration ever. Promo runs from December 8, 2023, to March 7, 2024. Per DTI Fair Trade Permit No. FTEB-179965 Series of 2023.

For the latest updates and more details, please visit website, www.mptdrivehub.com.ph, or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/metropacifictollways>, <https://www.facebook.com/MPTDriveHubPH>,

<https://www.facebook.com/easytripPH>, <https://www.facebook.com/NLEXexpressways>, <https://www.facebook.com/cavitexpressway>, <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialCALAX>,

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- 2 WINNERS OF CHEVROLET TRACKER LS SUV
- 10 WINNERS OF P100,000 EACH
- 40 WINNERS OF P50,000 EACH

HOW TO JOIN?
1 POINT = 1 RAFFLE ENTRY

- 2 POINTS**: Download the MPT DriveHub app & link your Easytrip or CCLEX RFID account
- 1 POINT FOR EVERY P200 load**: Reload Easytrip or CCLEX RFID account using MPT DriveHub app

Maximum points/raffle entries are earned each month. Visit the MPT DriveHub website to see the full promo mechanics. Promo runs from December 8, 2023 to March 7, 2024. Per DTI Fair Trade Permit No. FTEB-179965 Series of 2023.

Empowering Rizalenyos: 10 Business Owners Pave the Way for Entrepreneurial Growth

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Rizal Provincial Office proudly announces the successful signing of contracts with 10 deserving individuals who have been chosen for the prestigious Kapatid Mentor ME-Money & Market Program 2024. This milestone marks the beginning of their journey towards entrepreneurial success and financial independence.

After a rigorous selection process, which included attending orientation sessions, submitting comprehensive documentary requirements, and excelling in face-to-face

interviews with the DTI Rizal team, these individuals emerged as the cream of the crop. Their determination and passion for entrepreneurship have earned them this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The heart of the program lies in the free mentoring sessions conducted by certified Go Negosyo mentors. Covering essential areas such as marketing, accounting and finance, HR, operations management, supply and value chain, good governance, and ethics, these sessions promise to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in the competitive business landscape.

Moreover, participants will receive guidance on crafting a robust business plan and presenting it to a panel of esteemed judges, including government representatives, financing bodies, Go Negosyo mentors, and private institutions. This invaluable experience will not only refine their entrepreneurial acumen but also open doors to potential investors and partners.

The benefits of participating in this program extend far beyond the classroom. Entrepreneurs will have the



opportunity to showcase their ventures through media exposures and trade fairs, with minimal to no fees. Additionally, they will receive endorsements to advanced seminars and gain access to a vast network of connections, paving the way for future collaborations and

expansion opportunities. The official launch of these aspiring entrepreneurs is scheduled for March 12, 2024, in the presence of the executive team of Go Negosyo and DTI Region IV-A. This event will serve as a celebration of their commitment to excellence and a testament to the

power of entrepreneurship in driving economic growth and prosperity. For more information about the Kapatid Mentor Me-Money & Market Program, please contact the DTI Rizal office at r04a.rizal@dti.gov.ph or (02) 7744-1391. (By: **Sep Garchelee Anjelon G. Laurel**)

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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 Year P500.00

ADVERTISING RATE
Commercial — P200/col.cm

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DOST-CALABARZON holds first face-to-face YES Awarding after 5 years, recognizes 203 YES awardees in CALABARZON through its PSTOs

The DOST-CALABARZON will be conducting this year's Youth Excellence in Science (YES) Awarding for the 203 awardees in CALABARZON from March 7-22, 2024 in the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Rizal. Following its last face-to-face awarding in 2019, this year's awardings will be led by each Provincial S&T Office (PSTO) in the region.



Due to the pandemic health protocols in the years 2020-2022, the face-to-face ceremonial distribution of the YES medals was put to a halt. This year, the awarding of the 2023 YES medals in CALABARZON will be led by the following PSTOs with their respective schedules and venues:

- * PSTO-Cavite (49 awardees) - March 13 at SM City Dasmariñas (Main Event Center)
- * PSTO-Laguna (66

awardees) - March 22 at the EO Tan Hall, DOST-PCAARRD

- * PSTO-Batangas (69 awardees) - March 7 at the De La Salle Lipa and March 8 at the Batangas State University Alangilan Campus
- * PSTO-Rizal (19 awardees) - March 15 at the Pilgrim Hall, University of Rizal System Antipolo Campus

The Youth Excellence in Science (YES), as bestowed by the DOST

Science Education Institute (SEI), is DOST's institutional award that recognizes exceptional elementary and high school students who won gold, silver, and bronze medals in international science and mathematics competitions in the year prior the awarding date. From the astounding 2,114 awardees in the country, CALABARZON came in second to the NCR (1,012 awardees) in terms of the region with the most

awardees. Tune in for updates regarding the awarding of the 2024 YES Medals. For more information, you may visit the DOST-SEI website at sei.dost.gov.ph or their Facebook page

facebook.com/DOST.SEI. Note: If you have not yet claimed your 2020, 2021, and 2022 YES Medals, you may visit our nearest PSTO in your province. Bring your valid ID for verification and

documentation purposes. For representatives, kindly bring an authorization letter and 1 valid ID. Thank you very much for your continued support. (Halyn Lunel Gamboa)

Climate, finance watchdogs sue Standard Chartered for irresponsible business, rights violations related to coal funding

Quezon City, Philippines—Climate and civil society organizations sued the UK-based financier Standard Chartered (SC) for its contribution to adverse impacts arising from its financing of four coal-fired power plants in the Philippines.

The complaint was filed by the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PM CJ), Inclusive Development International (IDI), Recourse, and BankTrack. The case was handled by the National Contact Point for Responsible Business Conduct (NCP), a UK-based government office charged with investigations on irresponsible business practices.

These violations are direct breaches of the responsible business guidelines set by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for multinational corporations. According to the complaint, SC failed to contribute to sustainable development and respect human rights, properly consult communities, and conduct due diligence.

"Standard Chartered, which professes to adhere to core human rights and business principles, must live up to its commitment," said Atty. Aaron Pedrosa, lead counsel and head of PM CJ's legal team. "Where a higher degree of care is expected for high-risk investments, SC must not be allowed to get away with murder by funding polluting and environmentally destructive coal plants without being held to account for harms caused

to lives, livelihoods, environment, climate and human rights."

Environmental and social impact assessments were held at the locations hosting the four power plants: Masinloc (Zambales), Malita (Davao Occidental), and in Limay and Mariveles (Bataan). Three of these power plants are subsidiaries of San Miguel Corporation (SMC).

Dr. Ben Molino, Chair of Zambales Lingap sa Kalikasan (ZALIKA), explained the extent of the damages on people and the environment in Zambales: "Air, soil and water quality in Masinloc and neighboring towns worsened. The bad air quality caused the increased cases of respiratory, cardiovascular, and skin diseases. The bad water quality resulted in less catch for fisherfolks, and the poor soil and air quality resulted in less farm produce."

Molino added that some residents were evicted from their homes to make way for the expansion. "This displaced them from their community and made their life harder."

This is not the first time the coal plant projects were embroiled in litigation. In 2017, PM CJ, together with Recourse and IDI, lodged a climate

suit against the World Bank for privately funding 19 coal plants in violation of its Performance Standards. Standard Chartered co-financed four of the 19 coal plants.

PM CJ National Coordinator Ian Rivera doubled down on SC's failure to comply with global agreements to phase out coal by 2025. "Standard Chartered must have stopped funding coal five years ago and divested its coal portfolio during the time that European banks, central banks, and IFIs have started greening their bank policies. The reason for the shift is obvious as it is not just the overriding climate crisis but the risk that these investments carry."

Rivera added: "However, Standard Chartered prefers to continue being rogue, as it wanted to profit more on the death and destruction of climate vulnerable sectors and communities. The bank should be held accountable as calls for justice by affected communities have now reached their main hallways."

The complainants have requested assistance from the NCP to resolve the dispute with SC and deliver remediations to the affected communities. Standard Chartered has yet to issue a response to the complaint.

Increase...

(FROM PAGE 8)

that the 30 percent increase in most case rate packages of PhilHealth had already been implemented last February 14, 2024. This will help restore substantial coverage that is affected by health inflation.

Under the Z Benefits Package, the coverage for breast cancer increased from P100,000 to P1.4 million.

Meanwhile, in 2023, the coverage of hemodialysis also expanded from 90 sessions to 156 sessions per year. This paved the way for the increased annual benefit coverage of patients with chronic kidney disease (stage 5) from P234,000 to P405,600.

PhilHealth similarly increased coverage for high burden diseases such as acute ischemic stroke (P28,000 to P76,000) and acute hemorrhagic stroke (P38,000 to P80,000). Other increases in coverage include the benefit packages for high-risk pneumonia from P32,000 to P90,100.

In October 2023, the corporation successfully launched the Outpatient Mental Health Package to cater to more than 3 million

Filipinos who are suffering from different mental health conditions. This package provides coverage for general and specialty mental health outpatient services amounting to P9,000 and P16,000 per patient annually.

For 2024, PhilHealth is expected to rationalize case rates for bronchial asthma and bacterial sepsis in the inpatient benefits of newborns and COVID-19 patients.

Members can also look forward to the enhancement of peritoneal dialysis under the Z benefits package.

The guidelines for the outpatient therapeutic benefits package will also be released this year. This will cater to children aged 5 years old and below who have severe acute malnutrition.

"This is where the importance of adjusting our contribution rates comes into play. It will generate funds necessary for us to complete our benefit plans, and more importantly to sustain the reforms in the benefit packages," Ledesma highlighted.

It can be recalled that the scheduled adjustment

in contribution rate from 4 percent to 4.5 percent was suspended in 2023. However, this did not halt the corporation from implementing necessary enhancements to the benefit packages for members.

In February 2024, PhilHealth released P257 million funding to strengthen the implementation of the Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta) program or primary care benefit package. This will be allocated for the first tranche of capitation payments to Primary Care Provider Networks (PCPNs).

In total, P30 billion has been earmarked for the rollout of the Konsulta program out of the P243 billion budget allocation of PhilHealth for the coverage of benefits packages this 2024.

The coverage of the said program will further expand to the treatment of tuberculosis, animal bite, malaria, and HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)/AIDS. This adds to the expansion of coverage and access points of Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT) of PhilHealth. (PhilHealth/PIA-NCR)

TULONG PINANSYAL PARA SA MGA IMUSEÑO!
 Kasama po ang Team AJAA, tayo po ay nagsagawa muli ng payout para sa ating mga kababayan na nangangailangan ng medical, financial at burial assistance. Sa ating pakikipagtulungan sa Pamahalaang Lungsod at DSWD, tayo po ay nakapagbigay ng tulong pinansyal sa mahigit 1,000 nating mga kababayan. Ang inyo pong lingkod ay instrumento lamang po ng pagtulong para sa bawat Imuseño. Asahan po ninyo na pagsusumikapan ko pong maibigay ang mga proyekto at programa para mas maramdaman po ninyo ang pondo na nakalaan para sa ating distrito. Ito po ang aking CONGkretong AJenda para sa pag-angat ng bawat Imuseño. #AAngatAngImus #AlagangAdvincula



World...

(FROM PAGE 1)

administrator and executive chairman of Thai Cannabis Corporation, Thailand.

Dr. Richard Nixon Gomez, a scientist, inventor and chairman of Bauertek Corporation in the Philippines, was the event's moderator. The company is the country's premier manufacturer of food supplements. It exceeds the country's manufacturing standards, raising the bar for others to follow. Strategic partnerships with various government agencies and academic institutions allow Bauertek to source the highest quality materials needed to create world-class products.

Bauertek's team of scientists, researchers, and associates are dedicated to providing unparalleled service to its

clients.

Gomez discussed on the status of cannabis in the Philippines which use is still illegal. The country now gears for the global cannabis industry.

At the Philippine Congress, thirteen (13) senators have signed the committee report on the measure that seeks to legalize the use of medical marijuana or cannabis.

The bill seeks the creation of the Philippine Medical Cannabis Authority (PMCA) under the Department of Health (DOH), and will be the principal agency that will be in charge of the implementation of the proposed law, and access and use of medical cannabis.

The PMCA, in turn, shall be assisted by the inter-agency Medical Cannabis

Advisory Committee. The PMCA shall also be in charge of identifying the specific areas allowable for the cultivation of marijuana.

Under the proposed law, the cultivation shall only be permitted in a closed, locked and controlled facility and that the cultivation shall not be located within one kilometer of the property line of pre-existing public or private school, college or university, daycare center, child care facility or an area zoned for residential use, according to published reports.

It has been over 10 years when supporters of the medical marijuana have been seeking its use legalization. "We hope that cannabis will be legalized in the Philippines before the end of this year," Gomez optimistically announced.

Frank Minitello, founder

and COO of FYR Genetics, also in Thailand, talked on "Legacy Market: Where It All Began." He said cannabis saved his life, adding that the industry (cannabis) and "genetics today is really an incredibly important part that we're starting to find out." He further said that cannabis assist in the treatment of "back pain, anxiety, nausea, sleep deprivation, cancer or with no appetite."

Luke Johnson, the president and CEO of NuNature Labs in USA and Brazil, had a presentation on "Prescription Cannabis and Its Evolution," with the continuous growth of the global cannabis market. As to usage, cannabis is 46% recreational; 28% therapeutic; 26% medical, Johnson said.

Somai Pharmaceuticals and the Golden Standard of Medicinal Cannabis' CEO and founder in Portugal, Michael Sassano said they have a full-blown recreational market in Portugal and have 86 cannabis products and 20 more just for this quarter. Somai... is into manufacturing cannabis.

On the other hand, Dr. Attachai Homhuan, director of Regulatory Affairs, Tilleke & Gibbins in Thailand, talked about Legal Due Diligence and Thailand Cannabis

Industry. He said that Thailand strictly follows regulations before but in 2019, cannabis was lifted from the list of narcotics and no longer in the control of narcotics law. He also talked about the past, present and future of cannabis in the country.

Paul Crosio, a partner of Silk Legal in Thailand, discussed on "Cannabis in Thailand: Psychotropic to Cannabis now Highly Regulated," said the decriminalization of the use of cannabis has released prisoners, who were jailed for using or possessing the plant or hemp.

"Creating A Meaningful Cannabis Brand" was expounded by David Paleschuck, Consultant & Author from Branding Bud Consulting Group, USA. "A brand is really a promise and its ability to deliver on that promise consistently," said Paleschuck.

Meanwhile, Lisa Varley, managing director of MiDispensary, Australia talked on "Medicinal Cannabis Australia: The Evolving Landscape." Other speakers were Tom Forrest, who discussed on "Cultivating World Class Cannabis in Asia-Pacific: Insights and Lessons on Cannabis Agriculture," Fernando Worner, "Cannabis in New Zealand and Brazil: Finding Synergies and Overcoming

Challenges Together," Angelo Desiante, "Crafting a Robust Brand in the CBD Sector."

Others were Pornchai Padmintra, president of Thai Industrial Hemp Trade Association, Thailand who discussed on "Asia Cannabis Operating Model - Combining Beauty of East & West," Kohei Yamada, founder and CEO of Kiseki Group, Japan talked about "Japanese Medical Legalization and its Opportunity," Jordan Herring, CEO & founder of Hidden Valley Genetics

Thailand for "The Importance of Genetics When It Comes To Investment," Stefan Rohrl, CEO & Co-Founder of Hemp Group Germany, who talked on "Creating a Cannabis Brand with Lasting Power."

Some reasons given in attending the conference, according to officials were: to understand the market, the competition and opportunities for cannabis, CBD and hemp product or service; to learn from the brightest minds and apply best practices toward entrepreneurial endeavor in the Asian region and gain insight into how well one can best position his business in front of a target market ready to engage.

DOH...

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Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs (ICAD) Advocacy Cluster that out of the total of 142 LGUs in the region, the province of Cavite with 23 CDBRPs has 100 percent certification rate after the rigorous validation process by the agency.

CDBRP is an integrated model for drug users with moderate risk for drug dependence and/or mild substance use disorder. Individuals who are under the program were provided with care from outreach and low-threshold services through coordination with health, social, and other non-specialist services needed to meet their needs.

Local governments were given the mandate to implement CDBRPs, depending on available resources and the number of clients they accept.

The health department,

however, sets guidelines to which LGUs must adhere to have an effective CDBRP, such as adequate promotion of anti-drug use; and establishing prevention guidelines by having a health service provider and screening tools for drug screening tests.

DOH also requires setting up treatment centers, forming a referral system between local governments and health service providers that will conduct drug dependence examinations, and having functional recovery clinics, psycho-social and spiritual services, and specialty service providers.

According to the latest DOH IV-A data dated Feb. 20, 2024, only 31 LGUs remain uncertified in the region. The majority are from the province of Quezon with 15 uncertified CDRPs, 10 from Batangas, and 3 in Laguna and Rizal,

respectively. They target certifying all CDRPs by the end of March.

Malubag assured that they will continue to assist barangays in the region to attain a drug-cleared and drug-free declaration within their communities.

"Validation and certification are required for all applicants in the government's drug clearing program. [Our] training on screening, providing interventions, and referral to treatment will continue for the validation of barangays to be declared drug-free," she explained.

The DOH said that the drug-clearing program in the Calabarzon region will be further intensified through the promotion of a campaign for a drug-free workplace, disseminating information for advocacy and policies, providing technical assistance, and distributing drug test kits to local government units. (CCM,CH/PIA-4A)



One of the services provided in Community-Based Drug Rehabilitation Programs is the facilitation of psycho-social and spiritual services to individuals with moderate risk for drug dependence and/or mild substance use disorder. (Municipality of Naic/FB)



DUNE PART TWO ARRIVES AT SM CINEMA: Explore the mythic journey of Paul Atreides as he unites with Chani and the Fremen while on a warpath of revenge against the conspirators who destroyed his family. Facing a choice between the love of his life and the fate of the known universe, he endeavors to prevent a terrible future only he can foresee. Enjoy this breathtaking action adventure film with a crystal-clear and wide view with SM Cinema's huge screens and Laser projection, accompanied by the most immersive audio experience as you indulge in plush seats and delectable treats from Snack Time. BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW at SM Cinema Ticket booths, app, or via <https://bit.ly/DunePartTwoAtSMCinema>.

Orientation...

(FROM PAGE 1)

message emphasizing the importance of collective action in combating drug abuse among senior citizens.

Throughout the seminar, participants delved into critical topics such as the Effects of Drugs on the Human Body, Treatment, and Rehabilitation Programs, presented by Dr. Jose Bienvenido M. Leabres from the Department of Health-Las Pinas Treatment and

Rehabilitation Center. Asec. Matibag shed light on the National Household Survey's findings on drug abuse patterns and trends, while Atty. Ferdaussi B. Masnar elaborated on the provisions and penalties outlined in RA 9165, also known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

The seminar also featured a comprehensive presentation on the Philippine Anti-illegal Drugs

Strategy (PADS) and the current drug situation in the country. Asec. Matibag led discussions on overcoming the social stigma associated with drug abuse prevention, underlining the importance of empathy and support in rehabilitation efforts.

The event concluded with a post-test and evaluation, followed by the distribution of certificates of participation to acknowledge the commitment of attendees towards promoting a drug-free community. (OPIO)

Riverpark...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Trias, Cavite local government officials Hon. Congressman Antonio Ferrer, Representative of the 6th District of Cavite, Hon. Mayor Luis 'Jon-Jon' Ferrer IV of General Trias, Hon. Vice Mayor Jonas Glyn P. Labuguen of General Trias, and Councilor Martin Ferrer.

Federal Land also inaugurated the Riverpark Trails—a 1.8km bike trail designed to unite residents and guests. The reopening of these trails, curated with insights from Bans Mendoza, a professional cyclist and conditioning specialist, ensures not only a warm community ambiance but also a safe and enjoyable experience. Hosted by Bubbles Paraiso, the launch witnessed the presence of esteemed guests including Nikko Huelgas, Vanessa Agdon, and Victor Basa, who tried out the newly launched 1.8km bike trail alongside other Federal Land and Federal Land NRE Global Inc. executives. The vibrant atmosphere drew families of all ages, creating memorable moments and initiating the dynamic, inclusive community space that enriches lives and fosters partnerships.

Vision of Federal Land Communities

The cornerstone of Federal Land Communities (FLC) lies in its vision of versatility and purposeful design, aiming to transcend traditional residential concepts into holistic living experiences. President and COO, Thomas F. Mirasol, emphasizes the fusion of 51 years of local real estate expertise with global and local partnerships to redefine client lifestyles. Unlike conventional mixed-use townships, Federal Land prioritizes adaptable open spaces, promoting vibrancy and flexibility in community usage. Key components of Federal

Land include multifunctional properties designed to evolve with changing trends while fostering dynamic communities built to withstand time's test. With forthcoming redevelopments like Grand Central Park in BGC, Met Park in Pasay City Bay Area, and initiatives expanding into regions such as Nivel Hills, Cebu, Federal Land remains committed to creating enduring, world-class communities. Positioned as growth drivers alongside LGU stakeholders and partners, Federal Land aims to create dynamic environments that enrich lives, fortify partnerships, and stimulate investments for generations to come.

What's next for Riverpark?

Beyond the newly launched bike trail, Riverpark's expansive 600-hectare township earmarks 70 hectares for parks and greenways. Serving as a verdant thoroughfare, Central Park seamlessly links the development's north and south, offering residents ample space for relaxation, socializing, and fostering lasting connections. Its notable features include trekking paths, jogging trails, lush Japanese gardens, and a bamboo forest reminiscent of Kyoto's famous Arashiyama Bamboo Grove.

In the upcoming years, Yume at Riverpark will take center stage as a distinctive embodiment of Japanese-inspired living, seamlessly integrated into the visionary community. Crafted by Federal Land NRE Global Inc. (FNG), Yume offers 296 lots that blend Filipino creativity with Japanese expertise, enhancing Riverpark's master-planned vision. The future roadmap spans the completion of the CALAX Cavite Segment,

positioning Riverpark as a highly accessible next-gen city. Ongoing developments include the establishment of SM City General Trias and plans for an Adventure Park, a partner school, and a church.

Riverpark stands as a next-generation city, setting new standards for urban living. It integrates smart-living features to enhance the quality of life for residents. Nature is woven into the masterplan, with rivers and natural waterways forming multi-functional corridors. Its strategic location ensures convenience, connecting residents to major infrastructure projects like the Daang-Hari Extension and CALAX for shorter commutes. More than a residential community, Riverpark serves as an economic hub, fostering growth and offering diverse business opportunities.

"As Federal Land looks back on its solid legacy spanning more than half a century, it stands at the forefront of a new chapter in the Philippine real estate industry. Federal Land Communities represents a commitment to adaptability, versatility, and innovation — a commitment to creating communities that reflect the evolving needs and aspirations of the modern Filipino," concluded Mirasol.

Riverpark, "The Next Gen City of the South," embodies this commitment. Its extensive scope, thoughtful planning, and strategic positioning promise not only an enhanced quality of life for its residents but also economic growth for the region. It's a testament to Federal Land's enduring dedication to transforming the landscape of possibilities into a landscape of reality.

Visit www.federalland.ph to know more about Riverpark and Federal Land Communities' future-ready developments.

The launch of Riverpark Trails was also graced by bikers who were the first ones to experience the 1.8km bike trail. Designed to bring residents and guests alike together, Riverpark Trails is highly accessible via major thoroughfares, promises families the joy of cycling and the great outdoors, all within 40 minutes from Metro Manila via SLEX, MCX, or CAVITEX.



DOST trains...

(FROM PAGE 8)

The training covered the topics of correct calibration and verification procedures for specific industrial measuring equipment such as electronic balances, thermometers, height boards, dispensing pumps, and volumetric wares.

Each training highlighted a practical evaluation through hands-on exercises for the participants. The participants were also engaged in a pre-test and post-test to assess learning further.

"With correct measurement, we establish confidence that promotes and ensures fair trade and consumer protection for the public," Mr. Ronald Pangan, one of the speakers, said.

Over 117 training participants were recorded in 2023, which

include professors and technicians in the academe, market inspectors, license inspectors, city and municipal treasurers, administrative personnel in the local government units, technicians, quality analysts, and engineers in both the public and private sectors in Northern Mindanao.

Mellie G. Galagala, Alubijid Municipal Treasurer, expressed her thanks to DOST. "This is not just the first and last but the beginning of collaboration between the DOST 10 and MTO-Alubijid to ensure fair trade and law enforcement in the municipality through science and technology," she said.

An overall 97% participant satisfaction rating was given to all the training conducted in 2023.

All the training emphasized the importance of calibration and verification, especially for consumer protection, fair trade, and public health and safety.

DOST-10, through its Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL), offers training in metrology in different parts of the region. Interested companies and LGUs can send a letter to DOST 10 Regional Director, Engr. Romela N. Ratilla, through the RSTL manager, Engr. Frumencio B. Quiblat, Jr. The LOIs may be forwarded to ord@region10.dost.gov.ph.

RSTL also offers calibration services, chemical and microbiological testing of water, food, swab samples, and shelf-life studies. **(Delwin M. Balanay Jr./DOST 10) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U**



BURIAL OF BEN DAYANG, 87; SET ON MARCH 4

The burial of Ben Lachica Punzalan Dayang, 87 years old, who died on February 22, 2024, of cardiac arrest in Kalibo, Aklan is set on Monday, March 4 at the Kalibo Municipal Cemetery.



Prior to the interment, a Requiem Mass will be held at 3pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

On Sunday, March 3, the Northwestern Visayan Colleges (NVC) will hold a Necrological Mass for Ben Dayang. The deceased was NVC ROTC Corps commander during his student days.

In government service, Ben Dayang was an Official of the Department of Tourism (DOT) before joining his family in the United States.

A younger brother of former UNESCO Commissioner and former Kalibo Mayor Johnny Dayang was also a student leader.

He is survived by Dr. Ester Jacob Dayang, wife; Bien Dayang, son; Engr. Dennis Martin, son-in-law; Deena Martin, Emma Martin, Maggie Martin, grandchildren. Marison, the eldest child of Ben is deceased.

Son of the late Buenaventura Delfin Dayang and the late Jovita Lachica Punzalan. Betty Dayang Villa and Emerita Dayang Inगत are his younger sisters.

A sportsman and native of Kalibo, Aklan, Ben Dayang has also served as military officer:

Ateneo routs Adamson, stays 2nd in UAAP men's tennis

MANILA – Ateneo de Manila University blanked Adamson University, 5-0, in the second round of the UAAP Season 86 men's tennis tournament at the Felicisimo Ampon Tennis Center of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila Sunday night.

The Blue Eagles improved to 6-1 for second place behind unbeaten University of Santo Tomas (UST) Tennisters (6-0).

The Falcons remained winless in seven matches.

Axl Gonzaga won the first singles over Micos Candelasa, 6-2, 6-4, while JJ Llavore and Stef Gurria rallied past Reymoses Amba and Tristan Correos, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the first doubles match to give Ateneo a 2-0 lead.

JD Velez made it 3-0 after beating Ramon Benthillo, 6-4, 4-1 (ret.) in the second singles.

Cebuano Jan Godfrey Seno and Austin Delos Santos then outplayed Nikko Lumahang and Lawrence Sombreo, 7-5, 6-3, in the second doubles; match while Nio Tria clobbered Jerald Delos Santos, 6-0, 6-1, in the third singles.

"We need to keep on improving to be able to really play well in the second round. I know that all schools will be better and stronger so my team

should be really ready. We don't take each school for granted," coach Gee Abacan said in an interview on Monday.

"Ateneo's best finish was way back in 2001 when I was a player. We won," he recalled. "It's only recently that the men's team became a contender. We have been to three straight finals already but we lost all."

Abacan and former national player Patrick John Tiaro began coaching the team in 2015. Tiaro left for the United States two years ago.

"Even now, we help each other even if he's already abroad," Abacan said. "This will be my last year as coach so I just cherish the time I have with my players."

The Blue Eagles are determined to improve on their runner-up finish last season.

"Of course, the target is to win the title. But I know it takes so much work to achieve this. It's still a long way to go as we just started

the second round," the 42-year-old Abacan said.

Ateneo's only loss was inflicted by UST, 1-4.

"Their lineup is really, really solid and they are undefeated so far. Tough team to beat but we will do our best," added Abacan.

Meanwhile, University of the East (UE) defeated University of the Philippines (UP), 4-1, while National University (NU) downed De La Salle University with the same score.

The UE Red Warriors claimed their fifth win against two losses for third place while the NU Bulldogs are fourth at 4-3.

The UP Fighting Maroons are fifth at 2-5, followed by the Green Tennisters at 1-6.

In the women's division, NU is on top at 4-0 followed by UST (4-1), UP (3-2), La Salle (1-4) and Ateneo (0-5).

Meanwhile, UST faces UE, Adamson battles NU and La Salle meets UP in Wednesday men's division matches. (PNA)



TENNIS ACTION. Ateneo de Manila's Stef Gurria prepares to serve during their match against Adamson in the second round of the UAAP Season 86 men's tennis tournament at the Felicisimo Ampon Tennis Center- Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila on Sunday (March 3, 2024). The Blue Eagles swept the tie, 5-0. (UAAP photo)

Joshua Pacio reclaims ONE strawweight title controversially

Joshua Pacio reclaimed the ONE strawweight title controversially as American fighter Jarred Brooks was disqualified just 56 seconds into their championship rematch at ONE 166 at the Lusail Sports Arena in Qatar on Friday night.



Brooks thought he knocked out Pacio to keep his belt when referee Herb Dean stopped the fight after a ground-and-pound action right after a takedown.

However, Dean ruled it otherwise as Brooks appeared to have slammed Pacio down to the canvas head first during the takedown attempt, considered by ONE Championship as an "illegal spike."

With the disqualification also having an impact on the title change, Pacio, who was still receiving treatment as of posting, is once again the ONE strawweight champion, his sixth reign as the top guy in the 125-pound division.

"The latest prognosis is that he's a hundred percent fine. I think his neck is sprained," ONE Championship chief executive officer Chatri Sityodtong said during the post-fight press conference.

"He's doing a battery of tests right now in a Lusail hospital overnight."

Pacio's longtime training partner Eduard Folayang confirmed the development in a Facebook statement, saying, "Joshua is conscious. He can move his hand and leg, and he is here in the hospital for necessary procedures to undergo."

Protest denied
Sityodtong also said that he was disappointed at the outcome of the Brooks-Pacio fight, especially when Brooks did the spike. "We've had thousands of fights, and to have an illegal spike like that, I was very upset," he said.

Sityodtong immediately thumbed down a potential protest from Brooks' camp, which claimed that Pacio was just trying to get out of a Kimura submission when he took him down.

"That was a dump on the head. Hundred percent illegal," Sityodtong insisted.

With that said, Brooks' disqualification will be

upheld and Pacio will stay as the ONE strawweight champion.

However, with the way their second meeting ended, a third showdown between the two fighters could be on the way to finally settle who's the better champ at 125 pounds.

Despite that, Sityodtong said a trilogy fight is not yet on his mind right now.

"I haven't thought that far, to be honest. What I care about most right now is that Joshua recovers 100 percent," Sityodtong said.

Folayang, who now leads Lions Nation MMA, has sought prayers that any major injury in Pacio's neck and spine that could derail his stellar career, be ruled out.

Earlier in the night, Pacio's fellow Filipino strawweight contender Jeremy Miado suffered a first-round submission defeat to Japanese opponent Keito Yamakita. (PNA)

Antique allocates P14.79-M for regional athletic meet

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Antique provincial government has allocated PHP14.79 million for its athletes to the Western Visayas Regional Athletic Association (WVRAA) meet that will be held in Negros Occidental on May 2 to 7.



ATHLETIC MEET. Opening of the Western Visayas Regional Athletic Association in Aklan province in April 2023. The Antique provincial government has allocated PHP14.79 million for its participation in the Negros Occidental edition on May 2 to 7, 2024. (Photo courtesy of Vice Gov. Edgar Denosta)

Department of Education School Division of Antique chief of school governance and operations, Dr. Evelyn Remo, said in an interview Friday that the provincial government allocated an initial budget of PHP13,099,000.

Remo said they requested an additional PHP1.7 million during the recent provincial board meeting presided by Governor Rhodora Cadio to cover the transportation

expenses. Around 400 athletes from elementary and secondary levels and 200 officials and members of the working committee will represent Antique at the WVRAA, she added.

In last year's meet in Aklan, the province bagged 20 gold, 34 silver and 102 bronze medals.

The gold medals were from archery, kyurugi, taekwondo, pencak silat, billiards and basketball 3x3.

Gold medalists for individual sports received PHP5,000 each while silver and bronze medalists got PHP4,000 and PHP3,000 each, respectively.

For the group events, a gold was worth PHP15,000; silver, PHP10,000; and bronze, PHP8,000.

"I hope that the support being given by the provincial government could serve as motivation for our athletes to excel in sports," Remo said. (PNA)

SMC opens NAIAX Tramo access ramp to improve traffic headed to airport

San Miguel Corporation's (SMC) infrastructure arm officially opened the new access ramp of the NAIA Expressway (NAIAX) at Tramo in Pasay City. This is expected to ease traffic in the area and provide seamless access to the country's main international gateway and other areas.



DPWH Secretary Manny Bonoan and SMC President and CEO Ramon S. Ang officially opened the Tramo access ramp of the NAIA Expressway Friday, March 1, in Pasay City. The new access ramp enhances the accessibility of the country's main international gateway, and will help to ease traffic congestion in nearby areas, amid rising traffic volume due to increasing demand.

Speaking at its ceremonial opening on March 1, 2024, SMC President and CEO Ramon S. Ang explained the importance of the 800-meter access ramp for motorists, particularly for those using EDSA southbound coming from Makati, or northbound, coming from the Entertainment City.

"This Tramo access ramp provides another option for motorists heading to the airport, and other areas in Paranaque City and Cavite province. We believe it can help relieve overall traffic congestion in the area, and improve traffic flow within the vicinity of the airport," Ang said.

Public Works Secretary Manuel Bonoan led the inauguration of the new access ramp and credited the company for supporting the government's efforts to build vital infrastructure to sustain the country's economic growth.

"The Tramo access ramp has been in San Miguel's drawing board for a long, long time because they knew it would enhance the efficiency of NAIA expressway, and improve the mobility of motorists going to the airport," Bonoan said.

Bonoan said further improvements on NAIAX are being studied by their agency, as grantor of the concession, in partnership

with SMC, to improve the flow of traffic to airport terminals, given growing demand.

"The Department of Public Works and Highways will always be there to support and implement these projects to improve traffic flow especially here in Metro Manila," he added.

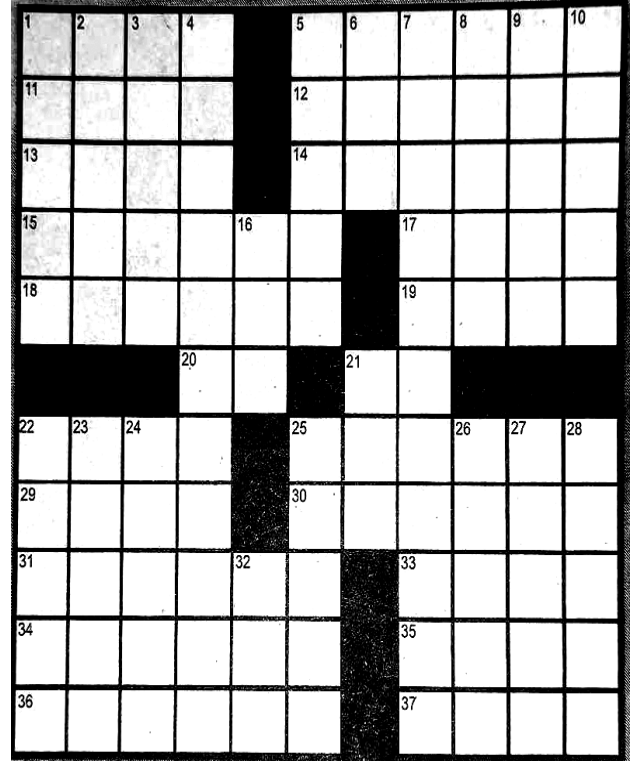
For his part, Ang remained firm in the company's commitment to work closely with the government, as it pursues infrastructure projects that benefit Filipinos.

"San Miguel will continue to pursue these vital infrastructure projects, in close coordination with our government, because of

their benefits to our people and economy. Through these projects, we also create jobs, improve the mobility of goods and services, and make our cities and regions more primed for growth. All these serve to support and sustain our growing economy," Ang said.

The NAIA expressway is an 11-kilometer elevated toll road that connects the Skyway System to the three passengers terminals of NAIA, the country's main international gateway, as well as to Pasay's Entertainment City, Macapagal Boulevard, Sucat Road in Paranaque City, and the road network to Cavite province.

PALAI SIPAN



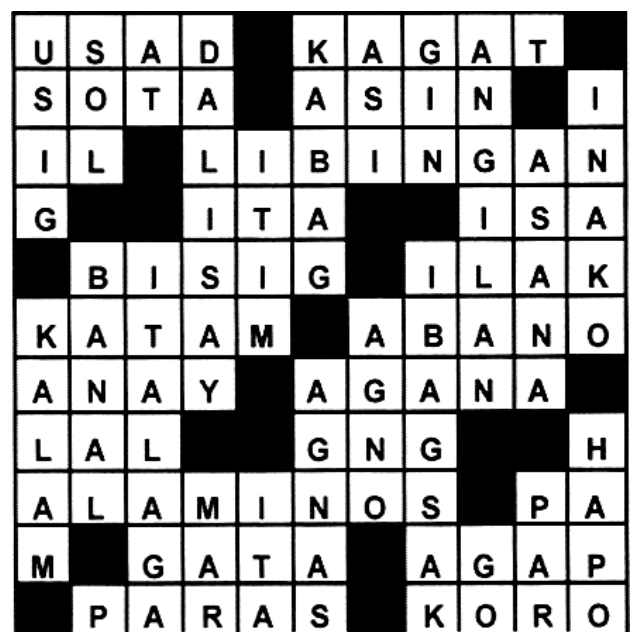
PAHALANG

- 1 Puting buhok
- 5 Nahanap
- 11 Pinid
- 12 Baguhin
- 13 Sinta
- 14 Lupaypay
- 15 Umpisa
- 17 Tanong sa pumipili
- 18 Tauhan
- 19 Impo
- 20 Parmantasan sa Diliman
- 21 RP noon
- 22 Uri ng punongkahoy
- 25 Babaing Tagalog
- 29 Sambit ng nagulat
- 30 Modelo
- 31 Bulaklak sa kasal
- 33 Batong hiyas na kulay pula
- 34 Pagbiyahe ng jeep
- 35 Ms. Isidro
- 36 Imano
- 37 Kahoy sa unang grupo

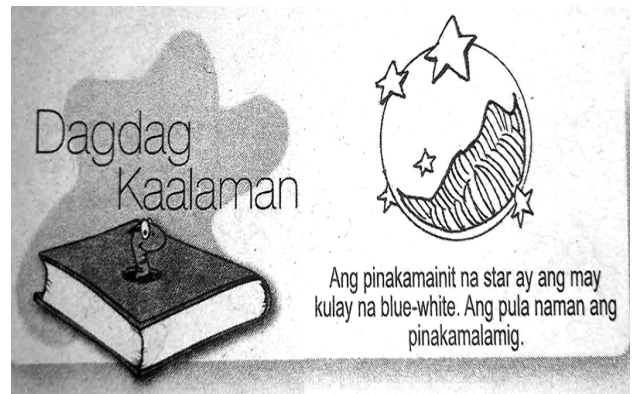
PABABA

- 1 Imbestiga
- 2 Boga
- 3 Bango ng kape
- 4 Nalilito
- 5 Anyil
- 6 Sayyaf
- 7 Palibot
- 8 Isama
- 9 Hinto
- 10 Lilim
- 16 Yugto ng karera
- 21 Kompanya ng eroplano
- 22 Kinawawa
- 23 Takip
- 24 Ihanda ng baril
- 25 Sambit
- 26 Kalinga
- 27 L sa DOLE
- 28 Ms. Linda
- 32 Nimpa

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



GILAS PARANGAL: PAGKILALA SA MGA NATATANGING KABATAANG ATLETA AT MUSIKERO NG LUNGSOD NG CARMONA: Atin pong binigyang pagkilala ang mga natatanging kabataang atleta at musikero sa City of Carmona na nagwagi sa kakatapos lamang na Cavite Patriots Sports Competition at Mus1Kaunlaran Drum and Lyre Competition sa ating pinakaunang Gilas Parangal 2024. Congratulations sa mga kabataang atleta na nagwagi sa larangan ng baseball, badminton, taekwondo, football, gymnastics, table tennis, lawn tennis, tennis, billiards, swimming, SPED, at sa mga drum & lyre bands ng Lungsod na nagwagi sa ating Mus1kaunlaran noong ating 1st Cityhood Anniversary! Asahan niyo po ang aming patuloy na suporta para sa ikauunlad ng sports and development sa ating Lungsod. #CityOfCarmona #LungsodNgCarmona #LGUCarmona #BayanMunaLagi #DapatAngatLahat



LRT-1 Cavite Extension Phase 1, 97% nang kumpleto ayon sa DOST

Inanunsyo ng Transportation Department na 97% nang kumpleto ang LRT-1 Cavite Extension Phase 1.



Ayon sa Department of Transportation (DOTr), bunga nito, tiyak aniyang mabubuksan ang operasyon nito sa fourth quarter ng 2024. Ang LRT-1 Cavite Extension Phase 1 ay binubuo ng 5 stations. Kabilang dito ang mga sumusunod:

- Redemptorist Station = 93.3%
- MIA Station = 93.5%
- Asia World Station = 83%
- Ninoy Aquino Station = 88%

• Dr. Santos Station = 94.1%

Sinimulan na rin ng Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) ang test runs sa iba't ibang LRT-1 trains sa extension line nito.

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME II • NO. 32 • MARCH 10 - 16, 2024 • P10.00

DOST trains LGUs and universities on metrology calibration



The Department of Science and Technology trains local government units, universities, and private companies with metrology calibration to capacitate the workforce in industries, businesses, and the academe. For 2023, 9 trainings were conducted to various parts of Northern Mindanao.

The training sessions provided substantial benefits to various agencies and institutes, including the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines – CDO, Jasaan, and Claveria campuses, Farmind Asia Banana Corporation, Opol LGU Municipal Treasurers Office, National Nutrition Council – CDO Office, Cagayan de Oro - City Health Office, Alubijid LGU Municipal Treasurers Office, and several local government units (LGUs) in Bukidnon.

The speakers of these trainings were Mr. Ronald A. Pangan, Engr. Delwin M. Balanay Jr., Engr. Shane Marie S. Clavano, Mr. Nazrodin B. Saripada, and Mr. Jefferson Lumor.

► **DOST TRAINS • 5**

Increase in contribution rate means more benefits for members - PhilHealth

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) reiterated its commitment to provide more responsive health benefit packages for members nationwide following the increase in premium contribution rate from 4 percent to 5 percent this 2024.

"Our commitment to continuously provide Filipinos with responsive benefit packages remains, as guided by our thrust of 'Pinalawak at mga Bagong Benepisyo para sa Mamamayang Filipino,'" said PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr.

Ledesma earlier announced

► **INCREASE • 3**



PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr. explains the importance of adjusting contribution rates in terms of expanding the coverage of health benefits for Filipinos. (Photo Courtesy: PhilHealth)

Riverpark: Federal Land Communities' new massive estate in Cavite sets the stage for economic growth

Nestled in the vibrant locale of General Trias, Cavite, Federal Land, Inc. introduces Riverpark—an exquisite master-planned city that artfully merges urban sophistication with a commitment to harmonious living, placing nature at its very core.



Stephen S. Comia (Federal Land Inc. Project Development Group Head), Francisco H. Suarez (GT Capital Holdings Executive Vice President & Chief Finance Officer), Hon. Congressman Antonio Ferrer of the 6th District of Cavite, Yusuke Hirano (Federal Land NRE Global Inc. Vice Chairman), Hon. Mayor Luis 'Jon-Jon' Ferrer IV of General Trias, Thomas F. Mirasol (Federal Land President and Chief Operating Officer), Hon. Vice Mayor Jonas Glyn P. Labuguen of General Trias, and Councilor Martin Ferrer

A shining beacon within the Federal Land Communities initiative, Riverpark emerges as a pioneering masterpiece, epitomizing versatility and purposeful design. The recent revelation of Riverpark's distinctive entry signage, poised facing the Open Canal Interchange, signifies a noteworthy milestone in

this transformative journey.

Unveiling of Riverpark

Last January 20, the entry way was inaugurated and the introduction of its family-friendly bike trail. The official ribbon cutting of the signage was led by Federal Land, Inc. and Federal Land NRE Global Inc. (FNG) executives including Federal NRE

Global, Inc. Vice Chairman Yusuke Hirano, Federal Land President and Chief Operating Officer Thomas F. Mirasol, GT Capital Holdings Executive Vice President and Chief Finance Officer Francisco H. Suarez, and FLI Project Development Group Head Stephen S. Comia together with the General

► **RIVERPARK • 5**



We visited the ongoing construction of Centennial Rd.-Batong Dalig-Panamitan-Magdiwang Highway Road with Cong. Jolo Revilla and representative from DPWH Engr. Jose Leinor Pasco. We greet the status of this that will also serve as an easy access road so that our countrymen can quickly go to the municipality. #AksyongAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo