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## MPT South Prepares for Increased Traffic Ahead of Holy Week 2024

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), is gearing up for the anticipated surge in motorists during the upcoming Holy Week observance in 2024.



The toll road operator foresees an 8% to 10% rise in vehicle traffic on its toll roads, including the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), as well as its C5 Link segment. This increase is expected from Monday, March 25, to Sunday, March 31, from the usual 43,000 daily traffic on CALAX, 170,000 on CAVITEX, and 12,300 on C5 Link.



MPT South is reactivating its "Safe Trip Mo, Sagot Ko" motorist assistance program and elevating operational readiness to cater to motorists' needs to address this surge. Additional manpower will be deployed for services including traffic management, toll collection, standby emergency medical services, and incident response teams. Motorist assistance remains accessible through 24/7 Customer Service Centers, a 24/7 Customer Care Hotline at 1-35000, and 24/7 social media channels (Facebook: fb.com/cavitexpressway, fb.com/OfficialCALAX, Twitter: twitter.com/cavitexpressway, twitter.com/OfficialCALAX) to ensure a hassle-free

► MPT SOUTH • 5

## 2 SENATORS PUSH FOR 'MARIJUANA' LEGALIZATION WITH SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE

QUALIFIED patients may soon receive therapeutic and palliative benefits from medical cannabis or marijuana under Senator Robinhood Padilla's proposal while Sen. Ronald 'Bato' Dela Rosa said safeguards are already in place in the measures allowing the use of the plant.



Sen. Padilla sponsored Senate Bill No. 2572 or the proposed Cannabis Medicalization Act of the Philippines. On the other hand, Sen. Dela Rosa assured that safeguards are in place in the proposed law allowing the use of cannabis for medical purposes. As a co-sponsor of Senate Bill No. 2573, he said the measure, among others, contains comprehensive standards for the medicalization of cannabis, from cultivation to distribution, as well as stringent licensing requirements for physicians, pharmacies, and industry players and establishment of a monitoring system. "Moreover, this act includes provisions against misuse and abuse, such as the prohibition of

► 2 SENATORS • 4



Congratulations, Brgy. Pulvorista, para sa inyong bagong Covered Court! Sa pamamagitan ng pakikipagtulungan natin kay Cong. Jolo Revilla, mayroon nang maayos na covered court na magagamit ang ating mga kababayan lalo na ang mga kabataan sa Pulvorista. Maraming salamat, Cong. Jolo Revilla para sa Puso at Malasakit sa aming mga kababayan. Makakaasa ang ating mga kapwa Kawiteño na patuloy tayong makikipagtulungan kay Cong. Jolo para upang mas marami pa ang maabot ng ating serbisyong may #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit. #RatedTripleA #MayorAguinaldo

# DOST-1, partner agencies, ink MOU for 2024 HANDA Pilipinas Luzon Leg

In a significant step towards enhancing disaster resilience and preparedness in the Philippines, the Department of Science and Technology Office Regional Office I (DOST-1) held the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Project Implementers of the 2024 HANDA Pilipinas Luzon Leg on March 7, 2024, at the DOST-1 Multi-Purpose Hall, City of San Fernando, La Union. The event brought together regional heads with the shared vision of creating safer and more resilient communities in the nation.

Dr. Teresita A. Tabaog, DOST 1 Regional Director, welcomed the participants with a message highlighting the significance of collaboration and partnership between DOST1 and different agencies. She also underscored the shared goal of enhancing community resilience, echoing the call of the President of the Republic of the Philippines Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. to harness science, technology, and innovation (STI) for preparedness against all hazards. 2024 Handa Pilipinas Luzon Leg is set to take place on June 19-21, 2024, at the Plaza del Norte, Paoay, Ilocos Norte reinforcing the commitment to disaster readiness and resilience.

The overview of the 2024 HANDA Pilipinas Luzon Leg was presented by Mr. Michael John C. Maquiling, Supervising SRS and the DRRM Head of DOST 1, where he emphasized the role of the event to showcase and adapt different DRRM technologies that will strengthen disaster risk reduction management efforts. Subsequently, the MOU Presentation was led by DOST 1 Assistant Regional Director for Finance and Administrative Services (FAS), Atty. Jasmin C. Banez.

Representatives from various departments and organizations, including the Department of Science and Technology Region 1, the Office of Civil Defense Region 1 (OCD-1), the Department of Interior and Local Government Region 1 (DILG-1), the Department of Information and Communications Technology Region 1 (DICT-1), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau Region 1 (DENR-MGB 1), the Commission on Higher Education Region 1 (CHED-1), the Department of Education Region 1 (DepEd-1), the Philippine Information Agency Region 1 (PIA-1), and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Region 1 (PCCI-1), expressed their commitment to the Handa Pilipinas initiative. Agency heads and representatives expressed their full commitment to the goals of Handa Pilipinas. They pledged not only to participate in the event but also to support DOST's objectives through their respective mandates, contributing to a brighter and more resilient Philippines.

With the display of camaraderie and synergy, DOST 1 and its partner agencies reaffirm their commitment to enhancing disaster resilience and preparedness in the nation. *(Christian Dominic I. Casimiro)*



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SM Mall of Asia Official, SM City North Edsa, SM MEGAMALL, SM Aura, SM Seaside City Cebu (Official), and SM Lanang all turn purple to kick off National Women's Month and supporting United Nations Philippines, Philippine Commission on Women, and WIN DRR Philippines, together with SM Cares in creating #SafeSpacesAtSM and building a future where every woman can reach her full potential!

# China further facilitates exit-and-entry services for better mobility of personnel

Every day when the land port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge opens, a vibrant and bustling scene is on - tourists from the Chinese mainland conversing in different local dialects and Hong Kong and Macao families embarking on trips to the mainland are coming and going. Such lively atmosphere can be observed at various other ports across China, too.



Foreign exhibits visit the technology equipment exhibition area at the sixth China International Import Expo. (Photo by Cong Jun/People's Daily Online)

According to statistics, around 424 million trips were made in and out of border ports in China in 2023, an increase of 266.5 percent compared to the previous year.

Among them, 206 million trips were made by mainland residents and 183 million by residents of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan, up 218.7 percent and 292.8 percent year on year, respectively.

The number of trips made by foreigners in and out of these border ports soared by 693.1 percent year on year to nearly 35.48 million.

The convenient and efficient personnel exchanges are attributed to various policies facilitating entry and exit. Since 2023, a series of innovative measures in immigration management have been implemented to adapt to the fast-paced and high-frequency international exchanges, greatly promoting the flow of people between China and foreign countries.

Starting from May 15, 2023, the National Immigration Administration (NIA) of China has further adjusted and optimized the policies and measures for entry and exit management, intending to facilitate the vitality of people's mobility across borders.

The Beijing General Station of Exit and Entry Frontier Inspection has carried out systematic refurbishment and technological upgrades on its fast channel, including facial and fingerprint detection, automatic front-

facing image capture, and video anti-tailgating. These measures ensure that the implementation of relevant policies results in faster and safer customs clearance.

"It's just easy to follow the instructions," said a woman surnamed Li, added that the fast channel of customs clearance is very tech-ish, providing a better experience and avoiding long queues.

It is reported that more than 11,500 passengers used the fast channel on the first day of the full resumption of fast customs clearance at Beijing ports.

"The transit this time was at least 30 minutes shorter than the last time," said a Russian traveler named Andre, commenting the visa-free transit policy of China.

On Jan. 11, 21 foreign travelers subject to 24-hour visa-free transit were exempt from border inspection procedures at Chengdu Tianfu International Airport, southwest China's Sichuan province. They were the first batch of international travelers to enjoy the new policy.

These passengers from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, who were transiting to a third country, received their boarding passes for the next flight at the check-in counter in the transit area of the airport. After completing the security check, they directly boarded the plane for departure.

With this policy, foreign nationals holding international connecting

flights within 24 hours are exempt from immigration inspection procedures and can transit directly to a third country or region via nine airports, including Beijing Capital International Airport, Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, and Chengdu Tianfu International Airport.

This is one of the five measures introduced by the NIA to facilitate foreign nationals coming to China.

"It was convenient and efficient. The entire process was quick," said Oliver from Germany who recently arrived at Beijing Capital International Airport and experienced port visa application.

Since the relaxation of port visa application requirements, the immigration inspection at Beijing Capital International Airport has been well-organized, with a simple and fast clearance process, ensuring efficient passage for inbound and outbound travelers.

Since 2023, the NIA has been providing convenience for foreign nationals through port visas and multiple-entry visas issued within the country. It has gradually restored passenger clearance at waterway ports, fully resumed exit and entry of international cruise passengers, reinstated visa-free transit policies and expanded their application to more countries, and provided convenient services for talent attraction. These



South Korean tourists go through border inspection in Yantai, east China's Shandong province. (Photo by Tang Ke/People's Daily Online)

measures have achieved solid results, ensuring a continuous and smooth flow of foreign nationals coming to China.

A new version of the Foreign Permanent Resident ID Card of the People's Republic of China was put into use on Dec. 1, 2023. With five-starred elements symbolizing the Chinese national flag on it, the card is safer, more good looking and more practical.

"The card will better facilitate my life and travel in China," said the technical manager of a production base of Sweden cable

manufacturer in Changzhou, east China's Jiangsu province, who was the first to receive the new ID card in Jiangsu province.

An NIA official noted that the issuance of the new ID card is an important measure to ensure high-level opening up and improve the level of information services for foreign nationals in China. It is conducive to better serving overseas talents in their investment, innovation, work, and life in China, and making more contributions to the high-quality development of the Chinese economy and society.

"As China continues to expand its opening-up, more and more Chinese people are going abroad, while an increasing number of foreigners are coming to China for business, tourism, work, study, and living. The immigration management authorities will continue to deepen reforms and innovations in immigration management, introduce more convenient policies and measures, and accelerate institutional opening up in immigration management service," said another official from the NIA. (By Zhang Tianpei, People's Daily)

The Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU) and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of the Philippines have jointly announce the call for nominations for Awards for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APCCU) 2024. APCU is the pioneer and the leading non-government organization (NGO) in the Philippines in promoting people-to-people diplomacy, bilateral understanding, and friendship between the Philippines and China. According to APCU Chairman Raul Lambino the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APCCU) 2024 is given to "Filipino citizens with praise-worthy work in fostering amity, friendship, and mutual understanding between the Philippines and China." The APCCU recognizes individuals whose work has significantly contributed to the cross-cultural dialogue and collaborative ventures and strengthened friendships between the two nations. Nominees should be distinguished by their achievements in enhancing bilateral relations, mutual understanding, and friendship between the Philippines through cultural, educational, economic, or other collaborative initiatives. Nominations may come from all sectors—academia, business, arts, media, government and beyond. The selection criteria will focus on the nominee's work's impact on bridging the people-to-people, cultural, and understanding gap between the Filipino and Chinese communities. APCU will be accepting Nominations until April 15, 2024. Disqualified are current officials of APCU and incumbent public officials. Nomination forms and guidelines are available at APCCU's official website at <https://www.apcu.org.ph/programs-projects/award-for-promoting-philippines-china-understanding-apccu/>, or you can email us to request the forms, relevant information related to the nomination process or if you have inquiries at [apccu@apcu.org.ph](mailto:apccu@apcu.org.ph). The winners will be recognized and celebrated in a ceremony that highlights their contributions to deepening Philippine-China relations and friendship. APCU President and Award Committee Chair Sixto Benedicto said "Let us honor the bridges of understanding that have brought our two nations closer." For more information on the nomination process and guidelines, please visit [www.apcu.org.ph/apccu](http://www.apcu.org.ph/apccu). For inquiry, contact the APCCU Secretariat at [apccu@apcu.org.ph](mailto:apccu@apcu.org.ph).

# DTI Cavite launches BISITALAKAYAN – its newest consumer advocacy initiative

15 March 2024 | In celebration of World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD), the DTI Cavite – Consumer Protection Division (CPD-Cavite), in close coordination with Acienda Designer Outlet, conceptualized a project dubbed "BISITALAKAYAN" – a project led by the CPD-Cavite that covers actual site visit (BISITA) and face-to-face discussion (TALAKAYAN) on matters related to consumerism.



## Lagdaan...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Layunin nitong mabigyan ng kakayahan at kapangyarihan ang katutubong mamamayan o indigenous peoples (IPs) sa pamamagitan ng kanilang pakikisangkot sa pagbuo ng mga patakaran, programa, at pananaliksik

para sa pangangalaga ng kanilang wika. Kinikilala ng ICLE 2024 ang angking kakayahan at kakanyahan ng mga IPs sa pangangalaga ng kanilang sariling wika at kultura. Sa International Decade of Indigenous Language

(IDIL) 2022-2032 Global Action Plan (GAP), tinukoy ang mga IP bilang isa mga key target na pangkat na mahalagang maisangkot sa mga gawaing pangwika. Bilang IPs, sila ang mangunguna sa pagbabago, sila ang may karapatan at tungkulin na magsalin o magtransmit

ng kanilang wika sa susunod na henerasyon. Ngunit hindi nila ito magagawang mag-isa kung walang tulong mula sa mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan, institusyon, organisasyon, eksperto, mananaliksik, at iba pang entidad.

Kayâ, sa ICLE 2024, itatampok ang mga pag-aaral na nakatuon sa mga nabuo/binubong patakarang pangwika, pagdodokumento ng wika, pagpapasigla ng wika, IP education, community-based program, at iba pang paksaing makatutugon sa pangangalaga ng katutubong wika.

Nakatakda itong idaos sa 9–11 Oktubre 2024 sa PNU Main Building Auditorium. Abangan ang mga pabatid para sa panawagan sa papel-pananaliksik at pagtanggap ng mga kalahok.

The BISITALAKAYAN is a two-day activity wherein the DTI-Cavite Team visited the Acienda Designer Outlet Mall, Lalaan I, Silang, Cavite to verify its compliance with existing Fair Trade Laws (FTLs).

Alongside the monitoring, CPD-Cavite spearheaded an information dissemination campaign to orient mall tenants of different FTLs. A total of 44 establishments were monitored and oriented on 11 March 2024.

On the 2nd day of the

BISITALAKAYAN project, conducted on 13 March 2024, DTI-Cavite facilitated a face-to-face seminar attended by mall tenants. Aside from the orientation on different FTLs, the result of monitoring and corresponding improvement actions were highlighted and discussed during the activity. The FTL seminar was attended by 75 participants.

With the success of the activity, the CPD Team plans to coordinate with other malls in the Province for the BISITALAKAYAN project.



## 2 Senators...

(FROM PAGE 1)

recreational use," the former police chief added.

Under Padilla's proposal, a Philippine Medical Cannabis Authority would be established under the Department of Health. This Authority would be responsible for crafting a Comprehensive Cannabis Medicalization Plan, establishing regulations for the medical use of cannabis, implementing a monitoring and regulating system for medical cannabis and issuing licenses for registered

entities within the medical cannabis industry.

"Ang inihahain pong batas ng inyong lingkod ay hango sa pag-aaral, pagsasaliksik, testimonya ng mga doktor at eksperto mula sa iba't-ibang panig ng daigdig na may sapat na kaalaman at best practices sa pagpapatupad nito," Padilla said in his sponsorship speech last Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Meanwhile, Dela Rosa said SBN 2573 is in "full consonance" with the

provisions of Republic Act No. 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Padilla and Dela Rosa's measures are now in the Plenary for discussion. Inventor, scientist and general manager of Bauertek Corporation, Richard Nixon Gomez was also present at the Plenary.

Gomez said that many illnesses are covered for treatment by medical cannabis like anxiety, sleep disorder, Parkinson's diseases, cancer, and others.

He further explained that enactment of a law legalizing the use of

medical marijuana would mean revenues and taxes for the government while generating job or employment for the people.

This also means that other pharmaceutical companies can lower medicine prices.

Recreational cannabis is not included in the proposed measures.

Bauertek Corporation is the country's premier manufacturer of food supplements. It exceeds the country's manufacturing standards, raising the bar for others to follow, it said in its website.

### EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF BANK DEPOSIT OF THE LATE GERARDO DELFIN IGOT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT This Deed made and executed by and among: 1. DORINA P. IGOT, widow; 2. GLENN P. IGOT, single; and; 3. GRETHIL P. IGOT, single; all of legal ages, all Filipino citizens and all residents of Black 6, Lot 19, Phase 2, Ciudad Nuevo, Brgy. Timalan Balsahan, Naic, Cavite, hereby: DECLARE AND MAKE MANIFEST: 1. THAT, we are the only legitimate heirs being the wife and children of the deceased, **GERARDO DELFIN IGOT**, who died on July 6, 2020 at Santa Rita, Samar (Western Samar); 2. THAT, at the time of his death, the deceased was a resident of Naic. Cavite and died without any obligation to any person or persons and died without any will; 3. THAT, the deceased, GERARDO DELFIN IGOT left a Bank Deposit in Land Bank of the Philippines, Mandaluyong City branch a peso savings account under **Account No. 0556-1425-21** amounting to **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 150,500.00)**; 4. THAT WE, hereby divide and adjudicate as we have hereby divided and adjudicated among ourselves the above-described Bank Deposit including all our interests and participation, equally, Pursuant to Sec. 1 Rule 74 of the Revised Rules of Court. This has been the subject of EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF BANK DEPOSIT OF THE LATE GERARDO DELFIN IGOT duly executed on the 7th day of March 2024 at Naic, Cavite by the Heirs before Notary Public **Atty. Jose A. Mendoza**, as per Doc. No. 160, Page No. 33, Book No. XXIII, Series of 2024.

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# Tote-ally Awesome Deal Alert! Score a Free TOTE Bag with Your Coca-Cola Feast at SM Foodcourts!

Listen up, foodies and Coca-Cola fanatics! This is not a drill. We repeat, this is NOT a drill! SM Foodcourts are serving up a promo so good, you'll be cartwheeling (or maybe just waddling happily) to your nearest branch.



Choose green, get a reusable tote today! For every P499 single-receipt food purchase, you'll score a FREE tote bag – just by adding a 1.5L bottle of Coca-Cola or grabbing three of those refreshing 16oz cans. Yes, you read that right. Free. Tote. Bags. Be sure to tag along your friends and family for this tote-tastic feast.

This epic collab is happening at ALL SM Foodcourt locations nationwide, plus select Food Hall branches. Treat yourself to your favorite food court fare – think sizzling steak, overflowing halo-halo, or that perfect plate of Bibimbop – and walk away with a stylish tote that's #OOTD-worthy.

Here's the Tea on This Tote-ally Awesome Promo:

- What you gotta grab: P499 single-receipt food



purchase from your favorite SM Foodcourt or select Food Hall branch, PLUS a 1.5L bottle of Coca-Cola OR three (3) 16oz Coca-Cola cans.

- What you get: A FREE tote bag!
- #SustainableQueens
- #SustainableKings
- Where to find the TOTE: ALL SM Foodcourt

locations and select Food Hall branches.

- When to snag this deal: From March 15th to April 28th, 2024. That's six weeks of tote-tastic feasting!

So, grab your squad and family, and hit up your nearest SM Foodcourt. Fill your belly with delicious food, quench your thirst with

refreshing Coke, and walk away with a stylish new tote. This promo is guaranteed to be a total VIBE and make you say, "Tote-ally Worth It!" See you there!

Per DTI Fair Trade Permit No. FTEB-188619, series of 2024

Check SM Foodcourt socials for the complete promo details.

## Further Forward 2024: DOST-TAPI opens funding programs for local inventors, entrepreneurs

The Technology Application and Promotion Institute (DOST-TAPI) launched the Call for Abstracts for its Invention and Innovation programs, which offer a range of funding opportunities to propel tech-driven ventures to success.

Dubbed as the Further Forward campaign, DOST-TAPI's Call for Abstracts invites eligible proponents to submit their abstracts in applying for its current program offerings, including the Technology Innovation for Commercialization (TECHNiCOM), Venture Financing Program (VFP), and I-Tech Lending Program.

Submission of abstracts is open until March 31, 2024 at 5 PM.

Only proponents with approved abstracts will have the opportunity to develop their submissions into full-blown proposals through the proposal enhancement activities to be held during the face-to-face regional writeshops.

This year's call puts premium on the following priority sectors for TECHNiCOM and VFP: Smart Electronics, IoT and Automation in Industrial Settings, Software/platform-as-a-service, Robotics/Mechatronics, Transport System Technologies, Machining and Fabrication Innovation, Water Resource Management Technologies, Renewable/Sustainable Energy Technologies, Nutraceuticals, New Farming Technologies,

Farm Mechanization and Digital Integration, and Disaster Risk Reduction Technologies. These sectors were identified based on the DOST-Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. They also contribute to the economic growth of our country, promising readiness for pre-commercialization and commercialization.

Recognized as one of DOST-TAPI's flagship programs, TECHNiCOM provides multimillion grants to pre-commercialization projects and targets to fast-track the market readiness of locally-developed technologies.

The program is open to tech-based startup companies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), private higher education institutions (HEIs), and research and development institutions (RDIs).

In addition, VFP offers a soft loan of up to P2 million to tech-based MSMEs in the hopes of boosting their commercialization efforts and capacitating them to satisfy growing consumer demands. Eligible applicants for VFP include MSMEs with 60 percent

Filipino ownership in operation for at least three years.

Beneficiaries of TECHNiCOM and VFP were recognized in DOST-TAPI's culminating activity, Lunduyan, held last September 2023. More than a celebration of Filipino ingenuity, Lunduyan served as an avenue to connect the beneficiaries with potential investors to further their technological endeavors.

Meanwhile, the I-TECH Lending Program, in collaboration with the LANDBANK of the Philippines (LBP), offers a specialized lending window featuring low-interest financing for the commercialization of patented inventions.

This program is geared towards aiding Filipino inventors in securing funding, specifically for the acquisition of capital and labor required for expanded production. I-TECH is open to individual inventors and enterprises with a deed of assignment.

This call for proposals represents an opportunity for aspiring technopreneurs to access crucial support and resources to advance their projects and contribute to the country's innovation ecosystem.

## MPT South... (FROM PAGE 1)

journey.

During the period, free towing will be provided for CLASS 1 vehicles up to the nearest exit, available from 6AM on March 22 to 6AM of March 25, 2024; 6AM of March 27 to 6AM of March 29, 2024; and 6AM of March 30 until 6AM of April 1, 2024. Construction and lane closures along the carriageway will also be suspended unless safety repairs are necessary.

Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of MPT South, emphasized the importance of RFID for toll transactions to streamline motorists' journeys. "Utilizing Easytrip RFID at

MPTC Toll Plazas significantly reduces travel time compared to waiting in long cash lanes,". Motorists were also encouraged to download the MPT DriveHub app to efficiently manage their Easytrip RFID account and receive real-time traffic updates across various MPTC toll roads.

"Furthermore," Mr. Ignacio added, "Poor vehicle maintenance remains a leading cause of breakdowns on expressways, causing inconvenience to motorists.

With an anticipated increase in holiday travel during Holy Week, we

advise motorists to conduct a thorough BLOWBAGETS check on their vehicles before hitting the road for a smoother travel experience."

BLOWBAGETS, an acronym for battery, lights, oil, water, brake, air, gas, engine, tire, and self, serves as a comprehensive checklist for vehicle maintenance.

MPTC, the largest toll road developer and operator in the country, manages a vast network of toll roads including CALAX, CAVITEX, North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.



# PSC chief cites role of women athletes in sports development

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chairperson Richard Bachmann cited the important role of women athletes in sports development during the inaugural Women in Sports (WIS) Awards ceremony at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila on Wednesday night.

"Your contribution to the country is seen and felt by everybody. The community of champions you have established is what we need in advancing our agenda and platforms for all athletes," Bachmann told the women awardees. "May this be an inspiration in performing your best in every battle in the spirit of dedication and commitment to the sporting community as we all together take steps in achieving a more successful Philippine sport," he added.

The PSC chief commended Commissioner Olivia "Bong" Co, the bowling great who is among the seven WIS Lifetime Achievement awardees, for conceptualizing the event in coordination with the Philippine Council on Women in celebration of International Women's Month.

Coo is a four-time world champion and a World

Bowling Hall of Fame and Philippine Sports Hall of Fame member.

Guest of honor Senator Bong Go, chairperson of the Senate Sports committee, said the event is "a testament to the strength, dedication and passion of Filipino women."

"You have not only excelled in your respective sports but have also contributed to uplifting the spirit and prestige of our nation in both the local and international stage. We recognize that the journey of our Filipina athletes is one of relentless perseverance and pain. These qualities not only define their paths to excellence but also inspire us all," he said.

Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz, who delivered the country's first Olympic gold medal in Tokyo in 2021, received the Flame Award, while Seoul Olympics gold medalist Arianne Cerdeña of bowling flew from the

United States to receive her Lifetime Achievement Award.

Reigning world women's world 10-ball champion Chezka Centeno and Asian Championships silver medalist Vanessa Sarno of weightlifting were among the major awardees.

Meanwhile, multi-Grand Slam champion Alex Eala of tennis and Sarina Bolden of the national Athletes of the Year and received PHP100,000 each.

The cash incentive came from Senator Pia Cayetano, who was unable to attend the awarding rites because she is in Switzerland as part of the delegation that successfully won the country's hosting bid for the 2025 FIVB Men's World Championships.

Cayetano was a former national volleyball player and an active triathlete. (PNA)



**BOWLING LEGEND.** Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Commissioner Olivia "Bong" Coo (left) with PSC Chairperson Richard Bachmann during the inaugural Women in Sports (WIS) Awards ceremony at Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Manila on Wednesday (March 20, 2024). Coo was among the Lifetime Achievement awardees. (PSC photo)

## DepEd to establish learner protection desk during sports meet

**SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Antique will establish a learner rights and protection desk (LRPD) to promote safe interaction and fun sports for the estimated 2,000 learner-athletes who will compete during the Antique Provincial Athletic Association Meet (APAAM).**



**PROTECTION DESK.** Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division of Antique learner-athletes during the 2023 Antique Provincial Athletic Association Meet (APAAM) opening parade in San Jose de Buenavista on March 31, 2023. Christine Marie Tamon, DepEd-Antique learner rights and protection desk (LRPD) focal person, said during an interview Wednesday (March 20, 2024) that they would establish an LRPD to promote safe interaction and fun sports for the estimated 2,000 learner-athletes who will be competing during the 2024 APAAM on April 2-5. (Photo courtesy of Province of Antique)

DepEd-Antique LRPD focal person Christine Marie Tamon said in an interview Wednesday that they would establish desks at the billeting area and playing venues.

"We will be establishing more visible desks, manned by at least two DepEd personnel or school officials at the billeting area at the Antique National School (ANS) and at the more than 10 playing venues in the

province to ensure a safe interaction among the athletes," she said.

The LRPD is mandated under DepEd Memorandum Order 2024-05-00946, emphasizing DepEd's zero-tolerance policy for any act of learner abuse, exploitation, violence, discrimination, bullying, and other forms of abuse during the sports event.

The LRPD will also assist athletes needing help in

tandem with medical teams the division will deploy during the sports event set on April 2-5.

"We really hope that there will be no bullying or other incidents even if the sports competition becomes tough," she said.

She appealed to learner-athletes not to get carried by their high emotions and for the parents to help promote sportsmanship among their children. (PNA)

## Teen table tennis player Cruz hopes to qualify for Paris Olympics

**Table tennis player Kheith Rhyne Cruz is ready to face the challenge in her bid to compete in the Olympics.**

The 17-year-old will join the Europe Open in Czechia (April) and the Asian Championships in Thailand (May), both qualifiers for the Paris Games set July 26 to Aug. 11.

"I will be playing mixed doubles with John Nayre at the Europe Open. We need to perform well because only the top four will get slots for Paris. In the Asian Championships, I will play in the singles and I must win the tournament to get an Olympic berth," shared Cruz during the Usapang Sports forum of the Tabloids Organization in Philippine Sports, Inc. (TOPS) at the Philippine Sports Commission Conference Room inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila on Thursday.

Cruz is currently world No. 66 in the Under-17 category.

She won the World Table Tennis Youth Challenge U19 title in Puerto Princesa, Palawan last December.

"The challenge is tough, but I am ready. I want to repay the trust and support of my countrymen and my sponsors, who continue to believe in my ability," the Grade 12 student from Paco Citizen Academy Foundation said during the weekly session. "That's why I focus on training and I benefit from the opportunities playing abroad."

Cruz is determined to



follow the footsteps of her idol, the late Ian Lariba who saw action at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"If I get lucky this year, it will be a blessing. But if not, I'll target the next Olympics. My dream is to follow the success of Ate Yan-Yan (Lariba)," she said.

Lariba was only 23 when she died on Sept. 2, 2018 following a year-long battle with acute myeloid leukemia.

Cruz went to the United States in January this year, winning the Open singles and mixed doubles with Kenneth Pinili at the Sacramento Winter Open Table Tennis in California.

In February, she bagged four medals at the Silicon Valley Table Tennis tournament in San Francisco, winning the U19 singles, Open singles, U19 mixed doubles with American Bosman Botha, and the Open women's doubles with Korean Dongheon Lee.

"I'm super proud to compete in a world-class tournament. I'm so inspired with to play. I just hope the support will continue so that I can continue training in the

US," Cruz said.

She will soon return to California to train at the Triple 8 Club Center, managed by Filipino migrant Ivy Spencer.

"It's better to train in the US than in China. First is the communication. Secondly, it's harder to play in a higher-level tournament in China. In the US, there's no problem if you want to play against world-ranked players," said Cruz.

The top five women tennis players in the world are Chinese, led by Sun Yingsha.

In the men's division, Chinese players occupy the top four.

Japanese Miwa Harimoto, 15, is the No. 1 youth player in the world and No. 12 overall.

Cruz also thanked her supporters, led by the Table Tennis Association for National Development and Joola and Xiom, a Korean company that produces a wide range of high quality and professional table tennis equipment. (PNA)

# DOST promotes smart education in Lanao del Norte through 21st CLEM

The Department of Science and Technology in Region X promotes smart education through the turnover of the 21st Century Learning Environment Model (21st CLEM) in Lanao del Norte National Comprehensive High School (LNNCHS) on recently.

The 21st Century Learning Environment Model (CLEM) is developed by the DOST Science Education Institute (SEI). It aims to create a learning environment equipped with the integration of technology into the learning process to enhance student engagement and promote innovative teaching methods.

The Lanao del Norte National Comprehensive High School (LNNCHS), is the largest public secondary school in the province. Recognized for its history of promoting innovation in education, LNNCHS was notably one of the first 112 Engineering and Science Education Program (ESEP) node schools established in the Philippines.

This project aims to support the need for a 21st-century education in the context of K12 Curriculum and STEM Education and KITE Education Reform Agenda through mastery of 21st-century skills common core and use of appropriate and accessible education technology and other innovative information technologies in teaching.

During the turnover, LNNCHS Principal Anisal A. Sinal expressed her gratitude. "I am incredibly grateful for the generous support from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Governor Dimaporo in realizing our vision of tech-driven classrooms. We, as a public school, understand the challenges presented by limited resources. However, the integration of technology goes beyond simply acquiring gadgets; it's about empowering our students to become active and knowledge-driven in their learning journey. We are fully committed to utilizing this support effectively and efficiently. Thank you very much, DOST!"

Previously, over 38 public schools in the province benefited from the DOST's Science and Technology Academic and Research-based Openly Operated Kiosks (STARBOOKS). STARBOOKS is a digitized library which provides S&T information even without the use of the Internet.



Official Turnover of 21st CLEM to LNNCHS photo op.

## 3D MODELLING & PRINTING



Science Education Institute  
Department of Science and Technology

3D Modelling & Printing that will be available in the 21st CLEM Facility

## LAPTOPS, WIRELESS PRINTER, WI-FI



Science Education Institute  
Department of Science and Technology

Laptops, Wireless Printer, & Wi-Fi that will be available in the 21st CLEM facility

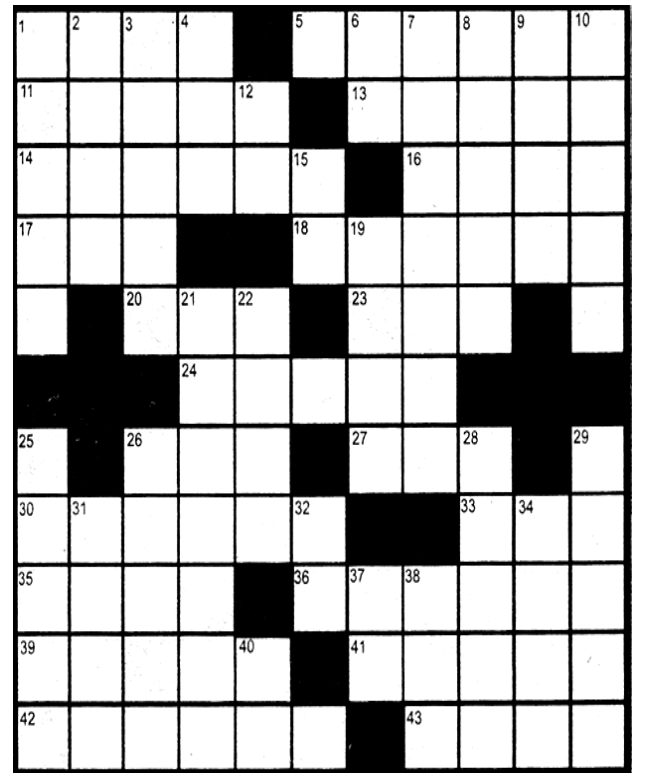
The 21st CLEM collaborative project of DOST and PLGU Lanao del Norte is envisioned to enhance the educational landscape of the province by fostering 21st-century skills, enhancing science, technology, engineering

(STEM) education, and providing essential resources for effective teaching and learning.

This initiative is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal no. 4, ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education

and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. It is also aligned in the DOST Strategic Pillar of Human well-being promoted. (Sameeha A. Ali/DOST Lanao del Norte) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U

# PALAI SIPAN



### PAHALANG

- 1 Biyuleta
- 5 Palaging umuulan
- 11 Naghintay
- 13 Bukang liwayway
- 14 Namasyal
- 16 Aborsyon
- 17 Usok
- 18 Sabong
- 20 Taksi
- 23 Kapatid ni bro
- 24 Sariling atin
- 26 Patrolman: daglat
- 27 Lugar tuklasan
- 30 Itakas ang kasintahan
- 33 Anak ng anak
- 35 \_\_\_ Nam
- 36 Walang silbi
- 39 Sayaw
- 41 Bukod-tangi
- 42 Maigi
- 43 Inis

### PABABA

- 1 Lagas
- 2 Bayan sa Cavite
- 3 Sanhi ng dengue
- 4 Mithi
- 6 Simbolo ng ginto
- 7 Naghabol sa korte
- 8 Pigtal
- 9 Dagli
- 10 Tanong ng naghahanap
- 12 Angel Locsin
- 15 Pangatnig
- 19 Sambit
- 21 Hindi akma
- 22 Sapatos pangbaha
- 25 Karimlan
- 26 Bayan sa Bulacan
- 28 Sapa
- 29 Kulay
- 31 Ms. Paner
- 32 Simbolo ng nickel
- 34 Asar
- 37 National University
- 38 Pinakamaaga

## SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Dagdag  
Kaalaman



Ang linga (sesame seeds) ay magandang source ng calcium.

# PGC Supports Peace and Order with Distribution of New Vehicles

The Provincial Government of Cavite led by Governor Jonvic Remulla bolstered its commitment to ensure peace and order in the province with the distribution of new vehicles to support law enforcement efforts. A total of two hundred (200) NMAX motorcycles, ten (10) Wigo patrol vehicles, and ten (10) Lite Ace patrol vehicles were distributed to the police force in the province through a simple turnover ceremony on March 20, 2024 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds in Trece Martires City.



As part of its continuing initiative to enhance public safety and security, the Provincial Government has allocated resources to provide vehicles to support the invaluable effort of the PNP. The move affirms the shared dedication of the PGC and Cavite police force to safeguarding and serving the community.

The newly acquired vehicles will serve as important assets in the province to maintain peace and order effectively. With enhanced mobility and operational capacity, law enforcement officers will

be more equipped to respond promptly to emergencies, conduct patrols, and engage in the community policing activities.

"Cavite is the most mobile police force in the entire country. We have settled over 700 four-wheeled vehicles, we now have 200 two-wheeled vehicles, and in the next two years, we're gonna invest some more and make it up to 600 two-wheeled vehicles para sa lahat ng pulis ng Cavite", stated Gov. Remulla.

In turn, the Cavite Police

Provincial Office through PCOL Eleuterio M. Ricardo, Provincial Director, extended gratitude to the Provincial Government of Cavite for the support and commitment to have a more peaceful and progressive province. In his message, PCOL Ricardo said, "All chiefs of police, I would like to reiterate that you are responsible for monitoring a patrol mobile. As I conclude let us look forward and instill in our minds our primary duty to maintain peace and order in the province of Cavite." (OPIO)



The municipality marched in unison with the local government's Sulong Kababaihan Women's Walk 2024 held this March 15. In its second year, women and civic organizations, supporters of Reyna ng Tahanan 2024 representatives, and local government staff paraded from Brgy. Panamitan to Aguinaldo Shrine. #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #WeCanBeEquALL #SulongKababaihan2024 #ReynaNgTahanan2024 #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit

# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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## Lagdaan ng Kasunduan ng KWF, PNU-LSC, UP-Lingg, at DLSU-Filipino para sa idaraos na Pandaigdigang Kumperensiya sa Nanganganib na Wika



Idinaos ang lagdaan ng Memorandum ng Kasunduan ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF), Language Study Center ng Philippine Normal University (LSC-PNU), Departamento ng Linggwistiks ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas Diliman (UP-Lingg), at Departamento ng Filipino ng De La Salle University (DLSU-Filipino) para sa isasagawang Ikalawang Pandaigdigang Kumperensiya sa Nanganganib na Wika o International Conference on Language Endangerment (ICLE). Ginanap ito noong 15 Marso 2024 sa opisina ng KWF sa Malacanang Complex, San Miguel, Maynila.

Dinaluhan ito ng mga opisyal at empleado ng KWF sa pangunguna ni Tagapangulong Arthur P. Casanova, at mga kinatawan ng PNU na sina Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services at Dr. Joel C. Malabanan, Puno, PNU-LSC; kinatawan ng DLSU na sina Dr. Rhoderick V. Nuncio, Dekano ng Kolehiyo ng Malayang Sining, Dr. Rowell Madula, Tagapangulo ng DLSU-Filipino, at mga propesor na sina Dr. Deborrah Sadile Anastacio at Dr. David Michael San Juan; at kinatawan ng UP-Lingg na sina Dr. Maria Kristina S. Gallego, Tagapangulo, UP-Lingg at Bb. Jurekah Chene Abrigo.

Ang ICLE ay tatlong araw na in person na kumperensiya na magsisilbing venue para sa mga eksperto, iskolar ng wika, mananaliksik-wika, mga miyembro ng katutubong pamayanang kultural upang maibahagi ang mga pag-aaral, karanasan, at magpalitan ng idea sa pagtugon sa mga isyung may kaugnayan sa panganganib ng wika.

► LAGDAAN • 4

SM CITY BACOOR

2024

## Holy Week

Mall Hours

For inquiries, please contact (046) 454-5246

SM CITY BACOOR

Mall Hours

**March 25 to 27**

Holy Monday to Holy Wednesday

**10am to 9pm**

SM Supermarket

**9am to 9pm**

SM CITY BACOOR

Mall Hours

**March 28 to 29**

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

**CLOSED**

SM Supermarket

**9am to 6pm**

SM CITY BACOOR

Mall Hours

**March 30 to 31**

Black Saturday and Easter Sunday

**10am - 10pm**

SM Supermarket

**March 30**

9am - 10pm

SM Supermarket

**March 31**

9am - 9pm