

# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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## OPPO facilitates Responsible Parenting and Family Planning in the Workplace seminar

In observance of Family Planning Month, the Office of the Provincial Population Officer (OPPO) facilitated a seminar on Responsible Parenting and Family Planning in the Workplace at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol Building in Trece Martires City on August 30, 2023.

The program was graced by participants from different offices of the Provincial Government, demonstrating a collective effort to address the significance of responsible parenthood and family planning in the workplace.

Cavite Vice Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino expressed her support for the initiative through Board Member Romel R. Enriquez.

The seminar commenced with discussions surrounding responsible parenthood, emphasizing different forms of love and effective communication within families by Ms. Christle T. Panganiban. Following the insightful session, Ms. Clarissa Matienzo, tackled topics on reproductive system, human fertility, and family planning methods.

Additionally, Mr. Dominic Carl G. Macalalag, introduced the FP Cavite Konek Facebook page, an online platform in partnership with the Department of Health (DOH), and Office of the Provincial Population Officer, which offer valuable information, resources, and support related to family planning methods, reproductive health, contraception, pregnancy, and related topics. The platform aims to empower individuals and families with the knowledge and tools to plan their families according to their preferences and circumstances.

Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin S. Mojica and DOLE representative, Ms. Angelique Yaun were also present at the event. (OPIO)



## PAGPATUPAD SA LEGAL NA PAGGAMIT NG 'MARIJUANA' BILANG GAMOT, HALOS PLANTSADO NA SA KONGRESO

ITO ay magandang balita sa mga nagsusulong na gawing legal ang paggamit ng medical cannabis o marijuana bilang gamot sa maraming karamdaman. Nasa huling yugto na ito sa Kongreso para maaprubahan.

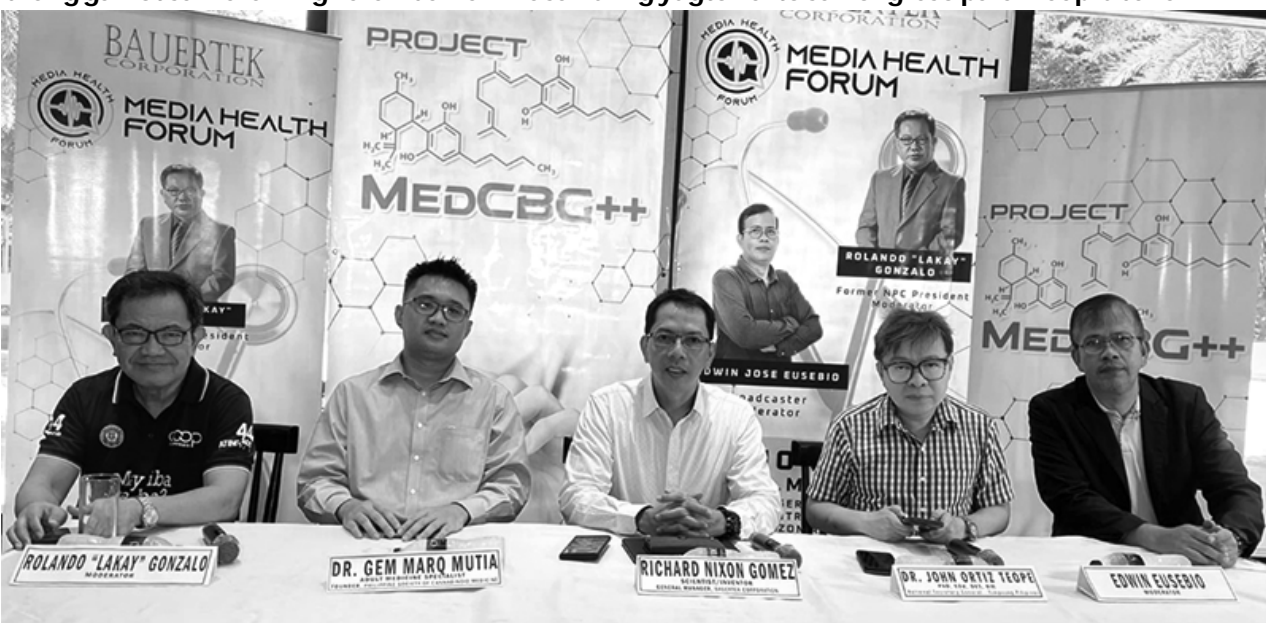
## PBBM URGES FILIPINOS TO UNLEASH THEIR HEROISM FOR A NEW PHILIPPINES

As the Philippines commemorates National Heroes Day, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged all Filipinos on Monday to unleash their heroism and let it ignite their dedication toward a progressive new Philippines.



President Bongbong Marcos

In his National Heroes Day message, President Marcos recognized the efforts not only of the most known heroes who fought for the honor and dignity that every Filipino enjoys today but also of the unsung heroes who played pivotal **►PBBM • 4**



Ito ang magandang balitang dala ni Dr. Richard Nixon Gomez sa lingguhang Media Health Forum ng Bauertek Corporation. Ang pagsusulong nito ay nasa technical working group na at ang susunod ay ang pagsalang sa plenaryo at pagkatapos ay lalagdaan na ng Pangulo.

Si Gomez ay isang inventor, scientist at general manager ng Bauertek Corporation -- isang research, medical manufacturing at development company sa Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Ang iba pang panelist sa forum ay sina Dr. John Ortiz Teope, isang researcher, critic, political

analyst, media practitioner at secretary general ng TIMPUYOG Philippines at Dr. Gem Marq Mutia, adult medicine specialist at founder ng Philippine Society for Cannabinoid Medicine.

Ang tatlong mga medical expert ay naniniwalang mas marami ngayon angg naliliwanan

at naliliwanagan hinggil sa benepisyo ng medical cannabis bilang gamot at ang paggamit nito ay legal na sa may 60 bansa sa buong mundo at patuloy na nararagdagan ang bilang.

Sinabi ni Dr. Teope na marami umano sa kumukontra ay yaong mga **►PAGPATUPAD • 4**

**EDITORIAL**

**Soil silence**

Every flood has a silver lining- for that strip of land wedged between a natural rainwater catchment basin (we've taken to calling it "nabao") and a river flowing from the Sierra Madre, skewering through a portion of Pambuan in Gapan, Nueva Ecija. For that land, every flood brings another layer of nutrient-rich silt (banlik) that feeds food crops raised on that strip.

A palisade of kirisol or tubang bakod, *Jatropha curcas*, that failed source of biodiesel fences the tapestry of crops grown there, within the five-meter zone off the river's water line.

Unlike urban tracts of public domain as law provides, not a single hovel nor ramshackle shanty stands on that land. There's just a semblance of an open shed for tools to turn the ground. Why, tickle the ground with plow or hoe- and it laughs in foliage, flowers and fruits.

On that spread came a lesson that distinguished the Tagalog concepts of "owner" (may-ari) and "creator" (may gawa). The owner has a title to the plot but it is the non-owner creator who works, creates something from the land. And in the monsoon seasons, that nameless creator grew rows and rows of corn, eggplants, finger chilis and peanuts.

It was a romping ground of sorts for children who took to taking corn ears, grilled them onsite, a practice called pugera. There were also eggplants and chilis for the taking. The old man didn't seem to mind such petty thievery. We minded that we were not caught. And we didn't mind the ground-grazing peanut bushes.

If the feng shui belief about rhyme and reason holds true, mani is also money- and it was growing vigorously in patches, an all-around crop that withstands floods and droughts. Sure, peanut oil goes into the making of nitroglycerin, prime ingredient in the manufacture of dynamite. All we saw was an explosion of green and growth.

Peanuts are legumes. They're next of kin to sigarilyas, sitaw, batao, patani- strange that their pods grow underground. That quaint quality tells you something of their function in restoring soil nutrients-aside from turning up as an ingredient in over 300 products, including motley industrial uses, including use as components in cosmetics and paints. And gourmets will tell you peanut oil tastes better than virgin olive oil in salads.

When the bushes are abloom with yellow flowers that looks a tad like wee butterflies, the peanuts are ready for harvest. Plow between the rows, then, uproot the bushes with their pods grown full and fat. Some of the pods are gathered, some plowed back into the ground for soil nourishment. Some of those pods are left jutting out into the sun. Sun-roasted,



those stray pods yield what we call maning sungung- usually available in Chinatown delis.

A portion of the harvest is set aside, dried, then, roasted, toasted- not to be used as ingredient for kare-kare, no sir. The slightly burnt roasted nuts go into something more delicious: ersatz chocolate!

If you're a fan of Choc-Nut (which is largely peanut butter sans the oily moisture), peanut chocolate is a must-try. It's the slightly burnt nuts that give peanut chocolate its exquisite slightly bittersweet flavor so different from dark chocolate. It is always served thick, not unlike chocolate espeso stirred to creamy silken

smoothness with a batirol.

Maybe, there's some truth to that feng shui belief that growing mani is akin to growing money. Last time I checked, that strip of land of our fond boyhood memories had been ripped to shreds, the silt cover carted away to be sold as garden soil. The layer of pebbles and fine sand beneath the silt had been similarly hacked out by earth-moving equipment, dumped into trucks, carried off to some lumber and hardware outfits for sale as gravel and sand.

That erstwhile stretch of green is now a quarry site. **(By Dong Delos Reyes)**

**A step towards inclusive society for children with disabilities in Mendez**

**In a pioneering endeavor towards inclusivity and active support for children with disabilities, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disability Affairs Officer (OPDAO) and the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC), in partnership with Mendez Federation of Persons with Disability, embarked on Organizing of Parents Support Group for Children with Disabilities at FTM People's Center in Mendez, Cavite on August 17-19, 2023.**

With the tagline "Inclusion of Parent Groups in the Local Disability Affairs", the three-day event aspired to capacitate parents of children with disabilities, enabling them to actively participate and strengthen their voices in the planning of programs and services that will help shape the future for their children.

Mr. Ronald Perey, Mendez Municipal Chief of Staff, represented Mayor Francisco Mendoza and conveyed his message of inclusivity for all sectors, ensuring that no one will be neglected in the growing Municipality of Mendez.

Likewise, Hon. Irene Bencito, 8th District Board Member and Committee Chair on Human Rights, emphasized the mindset of not viewing the "dis" in disability, but instead, emphasizing the "ability", thus, allowing PWDs to see their potential rather than their limitations.

Ms. Marife Bautista, representative of 1st District Board Member Romel Enriquez, then wished a fruitful activity for all attendees.

During the kick off, esteemed speakers explored on key topics, including the Mandates of the Law for Persons with Disabilities discussed by Ms. Marie Shiela Haloc; the Child's Rights presented by Ms. Precyl Ramos; and Understanding Disabilities tackled by Ms. Adela Villa. Additionally, Mr. Denmark Dimapilis of ELAD School of Potentials gave a lecture on Early Intervention among Children with Disabilities, while Ms. Maria Heidi Alaine Tahir, Education Program Supervisor of SNEd General Trias City, talked about the Children with Disability and Education. Through these



interactive discussions, parents were equipped with necessary knowledge and skills that will help them navigate and calibrate initiatives for children with disabilities.

A consultative dialogue was also facilitated with stakeholders from PGC offices, non-government agencies and the local government of Mendez, wherein current situations of children with disabilities and development of potential actions and solutions for their improved governance were discussed. Also, some of the parents shared their emotional stories, which served as a beacon of hope for others to not give up and continue to strive harder for the welfare of their children.

On the last day, culminating activity and socialization were organized, allowing the children with disabilities to enjoy the jam-packed activities, including art workshop, talent showcase, magic show, face painting, photo booth and bubble show.

The event marked a milestone for the Municipality of Mendez, as the first parent support group for children with disabilities funded by PCPC was organized and witnessed by around 100 participants. **(OPIO)**

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# Eastern Communications partners with ePLDT to reinforce its Hyperscale Data Center Services providing connectivity solutions in soon to rise facility in Laguna

In a significant move to bolster its hyperscale initiatives, Philippine premiere telecommunications company Eastern Communications has forged a strategic partnership with ePLDT, the ICT subsidiary of PLDT. With this, Eastern establishes a point of presence in ePLDT's VITRO Data Center soon to rise in Sta. Rosa, Laguna to provide connectivity solutions to enterprises and hyperscalers who will soon colocate in the facility.



This partnership also steps up Eastern Communications' operational capacity in disaster recovery by adding a redundancy system for its data services. By acquiring colocation slots with



Photo of soon-to-rise ePLDT VITRO Data Center

state-of-the-art data center facilities like VITRO Data Centers, Eastern becomes more capable of catering to the requirements of hyperscalers venturing into the country.

"ePLDT and Eastern Communications are aligned in a shared goal to advance the Philippines as a regional hyperscaler hub. Through this partnership, we continue to foster hyper-collaboration within the telecommunications industry through VITRO Sta. Rosa," said ePLDT President & CEO Victor S. Genuino.

Recognizing the country's edge in digital transformation, the Philippine government has embarked on initiatives including the Philippine Digital Roadmap, aimed at positioning the country as a frontrunner in digital transformation in Southeast Asia. One of the driving forces behind the country's digitalization is its progressive data center industry which has shown steady growth in recent years due to the rising demand for digital services and the government's efforts to attract business process outsourcing (BPO) and IT services.

According to a 2022 report by Quisumbing Torres, the Philippine data center industry is projected to reach \$535 million by 2026, with a compound annual growth rate of 11.4% between 2021 and 2026. Along with this, the Philippines boasts of the second-largest subscriber base in the Asia-Pacific region and has emerged as a promising data center market, alongside Malaysia and Thailand, encouraging the tech-

savvy nature of Filipinos.

With 89 million active social media users in 2021 and 74 million internet users spending an average of 10.5 hours online, the Philippines' high level of digital consumption has attracted data center operators and spurred technology development by hyperscalers nationwide. With this, more and more businesses are expected to embrace cloud and data technology provided by world-class ICT solutions companies like Eastern Communications and ePLDT.

"This collaboration allows Eastern Communications to provide greater value to our customers by offering solutions for data redundancy addressing their disaster recovery needs. We have full confidence in ePLDT's capabilities, as we drive technological innovation and empower businesses in their digital transformation journey," said Eastern Communications Co-Coordinator Atty. Aileen Regio.

Aligned with the government's call for robust digitalization in the Philippines, Eastern Communications enables business growth and empowers organizations to accommodate large-scale applications and utilize flexible and secure storage through its cloud and data services. With this new development, we are ready to embark on a journey towards a digitally empowered nation," said Eastern Communications Co-Coordinator Vince Tempongko.

As the country's first and largest data center

provider, ePLDT has 10 state-of-the-art VITRO Data Centers strategically located across the country with more in the pipeline. Up next is the 11th facility in Sta. Rosa where Eastern Communications will colocate. Through this partnership, ePLDT expands its portfolio of carriers operating at VITRO Sta. Rosa while Eastern Communications gains the opportunity to augment its data center platforms and strengthen its cloud and data services across the nation.

Once launched in early 2024, VITRO Sta. Rosa will be the largest, most advanced, and first true hyperscale data center in the Philippines, with a five-hectare property and a total facility capacity of 50MW. It meets Rated-3 certification and Rated-4 readiness standards, making it ideal for hosting the most critical and power-intensive IT infrastructure needs of hyperscalers and enterprises. ePLDT's power capacity will increase to around 200MW once both sites are activated.

Through the years, Eastern Communications has constantly embraced collaboration as the driving force for evolving its ICT offerings. By leveraging these strategic partnerships, the company further solidifies its position as a key player in the country's evolving ICT solutions landscape.

To learn more about Eastern Communications' world-class connectivity and ICT solutions, visit [www.eastern.com.ph](http://www.eastern.com.ph) or follow @easterncommph on Facebook.

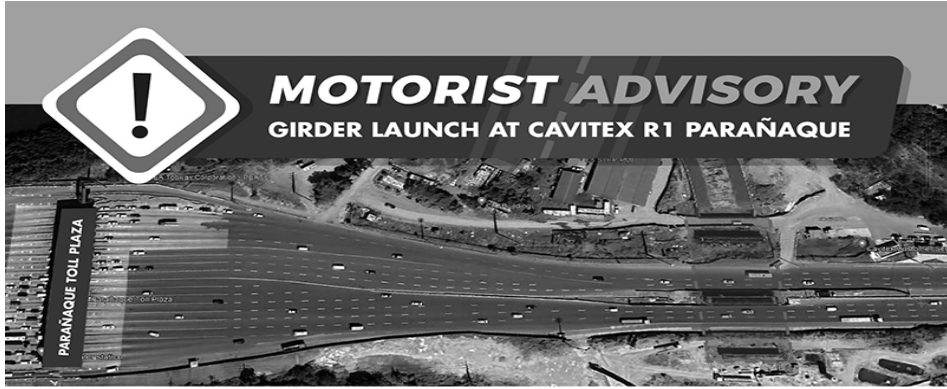
For more on ePLDT VITRO Data Centers, visit [www.epldt.com/data-center/](http://www.epldt.com/data-center/).



**WOMENPRENEUR MARKET AT SM MALLS CAVITE IS UP AND PROUD!** Great finds that women love is on sale at the #WomenpreneurMarket in all SM Malls Cavite, a gathering of small and medium business endeavors for women and BY WOMEN! From comfort drinks to beauty cosmetics to active lifestyle and more, gather your squad and visit #WomenpreneurMarket.

# CIC Prepares for Girder Launching Activity in CAVITEX

Parañaque City, Philippines – Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC), the concessionaire of the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), is set to commence the girder launching activity for the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2 R1 Interchange.



**FROM 10PM TO 4AM ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**  
**MANILA BOUND – SEPTEMBER 15 to 19, 2023**  
**CAVITE BOUND – SEPTEMBER 19 to 25, 2023**

Counterflow lane will be activated during girder launch.

**DRIVE SAFELY!** **HOTLINE: 1-35000**

Scheduled from September 15 to September 25, 2023, between 10 PM to 4 AM, CIC will implement counterflow schemes at the Parañaque Toll Plaza. The scheme will be in effect from September 15 to 19, 2023, for Manila-bound traffic, and from September 19 to 25, 2023, for Cavite-bound traffic. To alleviate congestion during the activity, CIC will activate counterflow lanes as needed.

CIC President and General Manager, Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, emphasized, "CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2 once completed by the first quarter of 2024 will help cut travel time to Sucat

Road from CAVITEX (Coastal Road) and vice versa by 10 minutes, making daily commutes more efficient and seamless for our motorists."

The R-1 Interchange is a vital 1.9-kilometer segment (Segment 2) of the CAVITEX C5 Link project, a 7.7-kilometer, 2x3 lane expressway set to connect CAVITEX R1 to C5 Road in Taguig. Once CAVITEX C5 Link is fully completed, it is anticipated to serve over 50,000 vehicles per day, significantly reducing travel times to and from Makati and Taguig from Parañaque City, Las Piñas City, and Cavite Province, ultimately easing traffic

congestion within Metro Manila.

CIC is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) - the leading mobility infrastructure and solutions provider in the Philippines. It is the toll road development arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from CAVITEX and CAVITEX C5 Link, MPTC also holds concession rights for the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), the NLEX Connector Road, and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.



**What to Expect:**  
 ■ 7.7 KM expressway from CAVITEX to Taguig  
 ■ Reduce travel time by 30 minutes  
 ■ Help decongest EDSA traffic and Sales Road

**CAVITEX INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION**



Actual photo of girder launching activity for CAVITEX C5 Link last 2018 over SLEX. Similar activity will be done at CAVITEX Parañaque (near Toll Plaza) for CAVITEX C5 Link R1 Interchange construction. During the girder launching activity starting September 15 to 24, 2023, counterflow lane will be activated for all vehicle classes.

## Pagpatupad (FROM PAGE 1)

nasa industriya ng pharmaceutical dahil sila'y maapektuhan oras na payagan na ng Kongreso na gawing legal ang paggamit ng marijuana bilang gamot.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Mutia, kabilang sa benepisyo ng medical cannabis ay bilang gamot sa mga sakit tulad ng Parkinson's disease,

Alzheimer's disease, chronic pain, chemotherapy associated with nausea and vomiting, multiple sclerosis at intractable epilepsy.

Binanggit din ni Gomez na isang survey ang isinagawa ng kanilang kompanya at lumilitaw na halos "unanimous" o iisa ang sagot ng mga respondent na sila'y pabor

sa paggamit ng medical cannabis bilang gamot. Kabilang sa mga sumagot sa survey ay mga doktor, mag-aaral, OFWs, mga guro, mga naglilingkod sa pamahalaan at marami pang iba.

Ayon sa tatlong eksperto, wala ng dahilan para magpatumpik-tumpik pa ang mga Pinoy na suportahan ang pagiging legal na gawing gamot ang marijuana. **(Nelson Santos-PAPI)**

## DepEd (FROM PAGE 8)

school facilities.

"Sa mga pasilidad na nasira nitong mga nakaraan ay minimal lamang. Iyon ay kayang daanin sa Brigadahan. Pero 'yung mga nakaraan na [na maapektuhan noong bagyong] Paeng, Rolly, and Quinta, iyon naman ay nagawan ng paraan para mapondohan. Sa ngayon ay sinisimulan na silang i-

repair para maibalik na kung paano siyang dapat ay nagagamit," Ulpindo said.

The DepEd Calabarzon also launched the national learning camp (NLC) to address the learning gaps during the Covid-19 pandemic and foster learner interests, socio-emotional skills, personal growth, and character

development.

"Ito po ang isa sa mga bagong programa ng DepEd. [Kung] dati ay may tinatawag tayong summer classes at enrichment classes, ngayon ang tawag na natin dito ay national learning camp. Hindi lamang ito sa mga struggling readers, kundi maging sa iba pang asignatura gaya ng Mathematics, English, at marami pang iba," said Azuelo.

## PBBM... (FROM PAGE 1)

roles in shaping the Philippines.

"If all of this means anything, it is that each of us has the capacity to be a hero of our nation. Hence, on this year's 'National Heroes Day,' I enjoin every Filipino across the globe to celebrate with a renewed understanding and sense of pride for the fortitude that is naturally abundant in our hearts as a people," President Marcos said.

"As we recognize our forebears whose uncelebrated legacies our society is built on, let us also realize our own power to become heroes for our families and communities. May this consciousness then ignite us to be dedicated in our agenda of creating a new Philippines that is strong, prosperous, resilient, and secure for present and

future generations," he added.

President Marcos said that the Filipino people should never forget the many heroes and heroines who dedicated their lives to all the liberties that everyone enjoys today including the many lesser-known and unnamed Filipinos who played important roles in shaping the country.

The President said that the unsung heroes have proven that heroism is not limited to the Herculean as it also includes the honest, earnest, and compassionate living that people do every day.

The commemoration of National Heroes Day began during the American Colonial Period, which was first enacted into law on Oct. 28, 1931, through Act No. 3827, declaring the last Sunday of August of every

year an official national holiday.

Before the Second World War in the Pacific, the last National Heroes Day commemoration happened on Nov. 30, 1941.

On March 20, 1942, former President Jose P. Laurel signed Executive Order No. 20, which set the National Heroes Day on Nov. 30. After the war, former President Elpidio Quirino reverted the date of the commemoration back to the last Sunday of August.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, however, signed into law Republic Act No. 9492, placing the National Heroes Day observance on the last Monday of August as part of her "Holiday Economics" program in a bid to reduce work disruptions by moving holidays to the nearest Monday or Friday of the week. | PND

# MPT South Supports 2023 Brigada Eskwela

Nakiisa ang Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), isang subsidiary ng Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), sa taunang Brigada Eskwela ngayong nalalapit na ang pagbubukas ng mga pampublikong paaralan.

Batid ang kahalagahan ng malinis at maayos na mga silid-aralan at pasilidad, layun ng MPT South na suportahan ang ilan sa mga public schools sa paligid ng expressways nito na Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) at Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX). Katuwang ang mga volunteer employees ng toll road operator, tumulong ang mga ito sa paglinis at pagpinta ng mga silid aralan at hallways ng Gahak-Marulas Elementary School sa Kawit, Cavite; Tibig Elementary School sa

Silang, Cavite; at Cecilio M. Saliba Elementary School sa General Trias, Cavite.

Bukod dito, naglaan din ang toll road operator ng tulong sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng mga essential school supplies tulad ng bag, notebook, lapis, krayola, pad paper, at mga kagamitang pang-pinta at pang-linis. Dumayo rin ang MPT South sa iba pang mga public schools tulad ng Col. E. De Leon Elementary School at Southville Elementary School sa Paranaque, at maging sa Longos

Elementary School sa Bacoor, para magbigay rin ng donasyon na makatutulong sa learning experience ng mga estudyante.

"MPT South reaffirms its commitment to the local communities and the welfare of students. These initiatives are a testament to MPT South's dedication to providing quality education and fostering a conducive learning environment for the youth," ani Ms. Arlette Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and



Students of Col. E. De Leon Elementary School in Paranaque received free school supplies to kick off this year's Brigada Eskwela.



MPT South Volunteers pose with school officials and other community volunteers during Brigada Eskwela at Tibig Elementary School, Silang, Cavite (L) and Gahak-Marulas Elementary School, Kawit, Cavite (r).

leading mobility infrastructure at solution provider sa bansa. Ito ang toll road development arm ng Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

Bukod sa CAVITEX at CALAX, hawak rin ng MPTC ang concession para sa CAVITEX C5 Link, North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX),

NLEX Connector Road, at Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) sa Cebu. (For inquiries about this press release please email us at: [corpcomm@mptsouth.com](mailto:corpcomm@mptsouth.com))



Stakeholder Management. Inilunsad ng Department of Education (DepEd) nitong buwan ng Agosto ang 2023 Brigada Eskwela na may temang

"Bayanihan Para sa Matatag na Paaralan". Umaapela ito sa bayanihan spirit ng bawat Pilipino sa pagtulong sa preparasyon ng pagbabalik eskwela.

Layun din nito na palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga paaralan na maging handa para sa pagbubukas ng klase sa Agosto 29. Ang MPTC ay ang

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# DOST-SEI, DOST-Rizal conduct 2023 JLSS Examination in Antipolo

ANTIPOLO CITY, Rizal – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Science Education Institute (SEI), in coordination with DOST-Rizal, administered the nationwide Junior Level Science Scholarship (JLSS) examination held in the Graduate Studies-College of Engineering Building, University of Rizal (URS)-Antipolo Campus in San Roque, Antipolo City, Rizal last August 27.



A total of two hundred nine (209) examinees out of two hundred sixteen (216) applicants were able to take the exam on the above-mentioned date. Three testing rooms were utilized by the Rizal Province Team and were used for two batches of examinations; one for the morning and another in the afternoon. Thirty-six (36) examinees were

allocated to take the test at each testing room, which lasted for about two hours and thirty minutes per session. Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial S&T Director of DOST Rizal, visited the examination site to monitor the situation.

Qualifiers for the 2023 JLSS Examination are expected to get the benefits of subsidized

tuition and school fees, monthly stipends, and other school-related allowances. Potential qualifiers will be notified through their registered email address if they meet the cut-off scores. They are also advised to check DOST-SEI's website: <https://sei.dost.gov.ph> and other national newspapers and tabloids for the announcement of the



scholarship qualifiers, sometime in November 2023.

The Junior Level Science Scholarship (JLSS) Program aims to provide scholarships that will

finance the education of talented and deserving students in their third year of college who are pursuing degree programs in the areas of science and technology (S&T) and

ensure a steady, adequate supply of qualified S&T human resources who can steer the country towards national progress. **(By: Arthea Marie M. Genova and Trinidad R. Sager)**

## Meet this SM partner who is now giving opportunities to handicraft makers in the countryside

Kea International owner Eloisa Bautista-Flores' journey with Conrad Manila started by consistently doing good work.

Conrad Manila is one of the hotels under SM Hotels and Conventions Corp.

Backed by years of experience in supplying handicrafts in the hotel industry, Bautista-Flores understood what needed to be done to supply products to SM Hotels. It is to showcase the excellence of their handicrafts.

She shared, "Being one of SM's suppliers for many years, we were referred by buyers of baskets to Conrad Manila. From there, we presented our production capacity." It was a decision that paved the way for more success not only for Kea International but for the handicraft communities in the countryside.

Established in 2010, Kea creates handmade products including baskets, storages, gift boxes, furniture, woodcrafts, and other home accessories.

"I supply Conrad Manila with leather-made guest amenities. This includes holders of notepads, TV remotes, and directories. These are being produced in our main warehouse in Batangas. We have in-house production that creates 100% handmade accessories. Everything is hand-sewn, hand-wrapped by skilled box makers in our province," Bautista-Flores further shared.

Going beyond guest amenities, Kea also



supplies Conrad Manila's kitchen with pantry trays and wood boards. "For woodcraft like boards and trays, we have satellite factories in Tarlac where these are being produced," she shared.

Her products' presence at Conrad Manila also led to better and brighter things for her company: "While I was supplying Conrad Manila, I met one of the executives and he asked me to approach SM Store. We presented our Buri Hamper Set. This was the first item we sold to SM Store."

Bautista-Flores further shared that from usually selling 100 sets, it grew to about 1,000 a year. In her journey with SM, she shared that there were a lot of learnings along the way.

"One thing I admire about SM is that they truly treasure the partnership, and I am proud to be one of their suppliers. They are

with me every step of the way. I am just amazed at how systematic their operations are attending to thousands of suppliers.

Being in the handicraft industry where low-income workers are thousands, orders from SM have brought good livelihood to the countryside," she said. For Bautista-Flores, the growth of her company is also the growth of the people who work with her.

Just this year, Conrad Manila was named a verified luxury hotel by Forbes Travel Guide 2023 Star Awards, the world-renowned authority on excellence in hospitality, and amid the elegance at Conrad Manila are beautifully made handicrafts created by workers who take pride in what they do.

## P10-M halaga ng pasilidad, interbensyon, pinagkaloob ng DA-4A sa magbababoy ng Bauan

Aabot sa sampung milyong pisong halaga ng pasilidad at iba pang suporta ang ipinagkaloob ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa Gulayamanan Agriculture Cooperative sa Brgy. Durungao, Bauan, Batangas noong Agosto 25, 2023.

Nakapaloob sa naturang suporta ang Biosecured and Climate-Controlled Finisher Operation Facility, 300 bags ng starter feeds, 371 bags ng grower feeds, 300 ulo ng biik, at 53 gallons ng disinfectant na bahagi ng Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) ng Livestock Program para sa patuloy na pagpapaunlad ng mga pagbababuyan sa rehiyon.

Sa ilalim ng INSPIRE, makakatanggap ng mga interbensyon ang mga rehistrado at kwalipikadong organisasyon o kooperatiba ng mga magbababoy na nakapagpasa ng mga legal na dokumento at isang Civil Society Organization (CSO) Accredited, may lupang pagtatayuan na di bababa sa 2,000 sq.m., mayroon 30 hog raisers na miyembro at nasa isang Agro-Industrial area.

Taos pusong pasasalamat ang ipinaabot ni Dr. Anastacio Alvarez, pangulo ng Gulayamanan



Agriculture Cooperative. Aniya napakalaking tulong ito sa mga magbababoy sa kanilang pamayanan na muling makabawi at makabangon sa pagkakalugmok sanhi ng

African Swine Fever (ASF).

Para sa mga kwalipikadong Samahan, maaring makipag-ugnayan sa DA-4A Livestock

# Pacquiao wants to compete in 2024 Paris Olympics – POC chief

Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao is interested to compete in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Pacquiao's camp has reached out to the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino, asking how the former eighth-division world champion could qualify in the prestigious quadrennial meet.

"Senator Pacquiao's camp reached out saying our Filipino ring idol wants to fight in Paris," Tolentino said in a statement on Wednesday.

He said the POC is already discussing the matter with the Association of Boxing Alliances in the Philippines (ABAP) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) which is supervising Olympic boxing while the International Boxing Association is suspended.

"But the Senator can no longer vie for qualification in the Asian Games in

Hangzhou next month," Tolentino said.

The Asian Games, which serves as a qualifier for Paris, has an age limit for athletes at 40 years old in all sports.

Tolentino said Pacquiao, 44, could qualify for Paris through two Olympic qualifying tournaments set in the first and second quarters of 2024.

The POC chief added that Pacquiao may secure a berth under the Universality rule, which the IOC would grant. But there are only nine places under Universality at the Paris Games, five for women and four for men.

A close aide of Pacquiao has confirmed the former senator's intention to compete in the Olympics.

The ABAP, through its chairman Ricky Vargas, will welcome Pacquiao to the national team and will assist in his qualification.

Pacquiao, who currently

weighs 66kgs, must choose between 63.50kgs or 71kgs which are both featured at the Paris Olympics.

Professional boxers have been allowed to compete at the Olympics and in Tokyo, 43 of the 186 competitors were professionals, including middleweight bronze medalist Eumir Felix Marcial, who beat fellow professional, Armenian Arman Darchinyan, in the quarterfinals.

Marcial won by unanimous decision over American Andrew Whitfield in his first professional fight held on Dec. 16, 2020 in Los Angeles.

Marcial has decided to delay his fifth professional bout scheduled in September so he can join the Hangzhou Asian Games where he will fight in the light heavyweight.

(PNA)



Former eight-division world champion Manny Pacquiao (Contributed photo)

## 16 teams locked in for FIBA World Cup 2nd round

A total of 16 teams advance to the second round of the FIBA Basketball World Cup after the final day of first round action Wednesday night.



**DENIED.** Jordan Clarkson scores a dunk but his 23 points were not enough to help Gilas Pilipinas get the important win against Italy, which advanced to the next round of the 2023 FIBA World Cup at Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Tuesday night (Aug. 29, 2023). The Philippines still has a shot at making it to the Paris Olympic Games if it ends up being the best team in Asia in the classification round. (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

Moving on to the next phase are Brazil, Georgia, Greece, Puerto Rico, Serbia, Slovenia, Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Spain and the United States.

Here are the groups for the second round:

Group I: Serbia, Dominican Republic, Italy and Puerto Rico

Group J: USA, Lithuania, Greece and Montenegro

Group K: Slovenia, Germany, Australia and Georgia

Group L: Canada, Spain, Brazil and Latvia

Teams carry their first round records into the second round where they will compete for quarterfinals berths. Two top teams of the four groups qualify for the final phase.

No team from Asia or Africa regions made it to the next phase but they still have chances to book a ticket to the Paris

Olympics.

The 16 teams that did not make it past the first round will continue their campaigns in the Classification Round 17-32, with direct qualification for the Olympics and the Olympic Qualifying Tournaments on the line.

Race to Paris 2024  
The World Cup directly qualifies seven teams for the Olympic Games, with host France receiving an automatic qualification.

The seven spots include two teams from the Americas, two teams from Europe, one team from Africa, one team from Asia and one team from Oceania.

The teams that advanced to the second round are already assured of an Olympic Qualifying Tournament spot but these are also well within reach for the teams in the lower half of the standings.

Eight teams are set to earn qualification through the classification round 17-32.

This includes the

highest-placed team from each region of Africa, Americas and Asia/Oceania, after those directly qualified for the Olympics, regardless of the final position.

For Asia, Japan (1-2) has a slight edge over the other five Asian teams after winning against Finland.

However, their place is far from assured, despite all other teams being winless so far.

The Philippines and China will play each other in the newly-formed Group M, while Iran and Lebanon cross paths in Group P.

Jordan, who got close to beating New Zealand in the first round before falling in overtime, is bunched under Group N.

The FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 will conclude on Sept. 10 with the champions being crowned at the Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City. (PNA/FIBA)

## Army's Ursabia wins kickboxing gold at PH ROTC Games

**ZAMBOANGA CITY -** Mark Christian Ursabia of University of Mindanao-Davao won the men's 60kgs low kick gold medal in the Philippine Army (PA) category of the 1st Philippine Reserve Officers' Training Corps Games Mindanao leg kickboxing competition at the Western Mindanao State University gym here on Thursday.

The BS Criminology sophomore needed less than three minutes in the first round to beat Renz Pejana of Zamboanga del Sur Provincial College.

"I am very overwhelmed by this win. I never thought of it this way. This is my first gold, I hope I can maintain my energy in the National Championships," the 21-year-old Ursabia said.

Jayford Ramos of the 12th Regional Community Defense Group and Joy Opon of Surigao del Norte State University shared the bronze medals.

Sharing the limelight with Ursabia were Ghen-Yan Berdon from Nuevo Zamboanga College, and Andrei Garcia of Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences, who won in the same weight class for the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and Philippine Navy (PN) categories, respectively.

In the women's division, Grace Sheila Toledo of Surigao del Norte State University-Main Campus defeated Jonabelle Mondejan of Zamboanga del Sur Provincial Government College, 2-1, to rule the 66kgs event in the PA category.

Champions in the men's 57kgs were Prince Alfred Remolado of Jose Rizal Memorial State University (PA), John Michael Etac of



Nuevo Zamboanga College (PAF) and Jerome Negapatan of Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences (PN).

Shariff Alkhamar of Dr. Aurelio Mendoza Memorial College (PA), John Gabriel Gonzales of Western Mindanao State University (PAF) and Adburahaman Abbas of Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences (PN) topped the men's 63.5kgs event.

Other winners were Alessa Ibo Araque (PA), Camille Joy Sanchez (PAF) and RJ Lyn Tumindog (PN) in the women's 52kgs. event while Angelie Musa pocketed the women's 56kgs gold medal in the Army category.

In PA boxing bouts, Jade Cabaya of Agusan del Sur College of Agriculture and Technology (48-

51kgs), Mark Paul Fernandez of ST-CAST-Santo Tomas in Davao (52-54kgs) and Bryl Bayogos of 12th RCDG

(54-57kgs) won their final bouts at the Zamboanga Peninsula Polytechnic State University.

Meanwhile, Edezza Lyne Laja (women's 52-54kgs) and Kristine Grace Marquez (women's 54-57kgs) of Army were the lone competitors in their respective events to earn outright berths in the national finals along with James Kert Valdez (men's 48-51kgs) and Ralph Lorenz Valdez (men's 51-54kgs) of Air Force.

The Philippine ROTC Games is a collaboration of the Philippine Sports Commission, Commission on Higher Education and Department of National Defense.

The next leg will be the Luzon regional qualifying scheduled from September 17 to 23 at the Cavite State University main campus in Indang, Cavite, to be followed by the National Capital Region leg and the National Championships. (PNA)

# Strengthening Chemical Safety: DOST PCIEERD, ADMU Launch 7-Day Training for PNP Personnel on the Fundamentals of Chemical Safety and Safety Data Sheets

Marks the beginning of the 7-day Basic Training Course for Philippine National Police (PNP) Personnel on the Fundamentals of Chemical Safety and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). This project is implemented by Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) headed by Dr. Fabian M. Dayrit, Project Leader, and funded by the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development (DOST-PCIEERD) in partnership with the Integrated Chemists of the Philippines (ICP) and the Philippine National Police.



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## DepEd Calabarzon expects to log bigger enrollment for SY 2023-2024

The Department of Education (DepEd) in Calabarzon expects to log more enrollees this year higher than its previous record of 4.05 million last year.



The Education department said around 4,102,945 enrollees are expected in Calabarzon for the incoming school year, including those registered under the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

In its August 22 update, enrollment in Calabarzon has already reached 2,915,796, which is the highest in the country. Region IV-A also posted the highest number of enrollees in the country last year with 4,052,158 students.

DepEd IV-A Regional Director Atty. Alberto Escobarte expects the enrollment rate to surpass the record last school year, as the resumption of classes draws near.

"For the coming school

year, sa enrollment update namin, we have so far enrolled almost 2.9 million students that is equivalent to 72% of the total official enrollment count comparing[sic] to last school year."

Escobarte adds, "The momentum is increasing and we expect that our total enrollment last year would be breached by 4 million plus and we expect about 50,000 new enrollees to be added this school year."

The DepEd Calabarzon assured that it has enough teaching personnel to ensure the continuous delivery of education despite the high enrollment turn out.

"Bago pa matapos ang School Year 2022-2023 ay

pinag-uusapan na sa Regional Office [at] sa National rin po, pinag-uusapan ng ma fill-up na dapat ang lahat ng vacant teaching positions dahil inaasahan na ang pagdagsa ng malaking numero ng mga mag-aaral sa pasukan. Mas maraming guro rin ang kakailanganin para tugunan ang pangangailangan ng ating mga mag-aaral," said Regional Information Officer Ariel Azuelo.

Meanwhile, Wilbert Ulpindo, Project Development Officer II, said the six-day school maintenance week beginning August 14 was enough time to refurbish classrooms and other

► **DEPED • 4**

The hybrid training is being delivered both face-to-face at Camp Crame and online via Zoom to participating PNP units, held at DOST Regional Offices.

The main objective of the 7-day training is to enhance the knowledge of PNP personnel regarding chemical safety and the SDS, with a focus on controlled chemicals. It also aims to improve the management of controlled chemicals to fulfill security

and safety needs, as well as the needs of stakeholders.

This weeklong training holds significant benefits for the community, as the PNP will gain insight into hazardous chemicals, learn how to prevent accidents involving explosive chemicals, and minimize health risks for both individuals and the larger community.

Overall, nearly 200 individuals from across all regions will attend this

nationwide seven-day training.

In Region 02, the seminar was attended by ten (10) individuals: seven (7) PNP personnel led by Police Major Rexer Louie C. Malingan, and three (3) DOST 02-Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory Analysts led by the Regional Director (RD) Virginia G. Bilgera through Ms. Freedom Faye Verzola Bulauan, a registered Chemist. **#OneDOST4U #ScienceForThePeople**



**OATH TAKING OF FISMPC OFFICERS:** The oath taking of the Directors and Officers of the Filipino Inventors Society Multi-Purpose Cooperative (FISMPC) was held at Causeway Restaurant in Quezon City on Aug. 25 and administered by Dept. of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr. The event was witnessed by DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations, Sancho Maborang, Regional Directors Julius Caesar Scat, Virginia Bilgera. Sworn into office were FISMPC Chairman Francisco "Popoy" Pagayon, Vice-Chairman Nelson Santos, BOD Mike Hortaleza, Dennis Abella, Eulalio "Doc Ayong" Lorenzo, Miko Abella, Reynaldo Sanchez, Rolando "Lakay" Gonzalo, Jimson Uranza, Diosdado Valeroso, Kristopher Peralta, Eduardo Arellano, Rizalino Espino, Joven Parsram and Rommel Dela Cruz. Officers Raymond "Bimbo" Duran, Vic Ocon, Amiel Uy, Davis Pagayon, Jun Espino, Eduardo Evangelista, Rae Briones. Others in photo: Edgardo Vasquez, Ronald Pagsanghan of FIS, Former DOST Secretary Fortunato Dela Pena and Director Cezar Pedraza.