

House Speaker unveils 'transformative' healthcare agenda for all

The House of Representatives will undertake a "transformative journey" to uplift health services and primary care for all Filipinos.

Addressing fellow graduates from Cornell

University during the Spring Brunch and Education Forum in Tagaytay City on Saturday, Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said on top of their initiatives is the comprehensive review of the charter of the Philippine

Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the country's premier health insurance provider.

"We are not just lawmakers. We are collaborators, working closely with executive agencies to uplift the living

conditions under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration," he said in a news release.

He said PhilHealth must mirror the efficiency of health maintenance organizations.

"This shift is about more

than expanding coverage. It's about ensuring PhilHealth evolves into a pillar of our Universal Health Care System, providing a safety net that is robust, compassionate and equitable," he pointed out.

During the National Women's Month in March, Romualdez commended PhilHealth for its swift response to the House advocacy by raising the benefit package for breast cancer patients to an

► **HOUSE SPEAKER • 4**

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World Malaria Day: Cavite's commitment to sustained Malaria-free status

With its commitment towards a healthier and Malaria-free province, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) marked the Provincial Celebration of World Malaria Day on April 25, 2024 at the Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health, Trece Martires City. The event, with the theme "Advancing Health Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights in the Fight Against Malaria", was attended by representatives from different health



units in Cavite.

The short program commenced with Dr. Armand Dotollo, Infectious Diseases head, welcoming the participants and instilling in their minds the importance of collective responsibility and action in safeguarding human health and eliminating Malaria disease and its life-threatening impacts. More so, Dr. Dotollo stated that the celebration was an opportunity to see the progress in addressing this global burden.

Likewise, talks of Ms. Michelle Malawig from

► **WORLD • 4**



Ngayong Araw ng Manggagawa, tuloy-tuloy din ang pagsasagawa natin ng makabuluhang programa para sa mga mag-aaral ng Kawit! Muli nating nakasama ang Team Puso at Malasakit, si Mommy Armie Aguinaldo, at si Cong. Jolo Revilla para sa Iskolar ng Bayan educational assistance program ng kanyang tanggapan. Kasama si Cong. Jolo Revilla, mas magpupursige pa tayo na mapabuti ang ating serbisyo sa mga mag-aaral ng Kawit at sa lahat ng sektor ng ating bayan! #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

Calabarzon remains lone industrial-based economy in PH – report

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) -- The Calabarzon region remains the only predominantly industrial regional economy in the Philippines, a phenomenon attributed to various government construction projects and location of vital manufacturing sectors in the region.



According to the 2023 Regional Accounts of CALABARZON produced by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the region recorded a 49.6 percent share for Industry, valued at P1.53 trillion, driven by the vast number of industrial zones and manufacturing facilities located in the five provinces of the Calabarzon region, as well as priority government construction projects in different sectors.

Other major industries such as Services had a 46 percent share totaling P1.42 trillion in value, while Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing recorded a 4.5 percent share or a total value of P0.14 trillion.

National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) IV-A Regional Director Agnes Tolentino attributed the significant share to the region's proximity to Metro Manila and its accessibility through new roads, highways, expressways, and seaports, which foster productivity and facilitate ease for investors.

► **CALABARZON • 4**

QFUC, DA-PRDP, LGU Quezon launch the VCO Processing Plant in Pagbilao; DOST Quezon offers support

Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (QFUC) together with the Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and Provincial Government of Quezon, officially launched the Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Processing Plant at Brgy. Binahaan Pagbilao, Quezon, April 26.

It aimed to produce high quality VCO to uplift the economic well-being of the cooperatives, stakeholders of QFUC, and coconut farmers. DOST Quezon, through its Provincial Director, Ms. Maria Esperanza E. Jawili gave her regards and commits to QFUC in giving guidance for the Food Safety Standard.

Director Paz L. Bobadilla, QFUC Chairperson, thanked all present agencies and cooperatives that have been part of the plant journey. She also encouraged everyone to invest in the growing opportunity for coconut products.

Further, Engr. Redeliza Gruezo, Assistant Regional Technical Director of DA Region IV-A, congratulates everyone who works from the business plan drafting up to the successful launching. It was followed by coconut farmers and cooperatives signing agreements. The project was conceptualized and funded through The World Bank. *(By Unice Faith Cataquiz)*



CALABARZON RDP 2023-2028 Roadshow kicks off in Cavite

The province of Cavite played host to the first provincial roadshow of the CALABARZON Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 on April 23, 2024 at the International Convention Center of Cavite State University (CvSU) - Indang Campus. Spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office IV-A in partnership with the Provincial Government of Cavite and CVSU, the event gathered various stakeholders in the aim to improve public awareness, support and participation in the regional and provincial level development plans.

The CALABARZON RDP 2023-2028 is the regional counterpart of the Philippine Development Plan and serves as CALABARZON's blueprint for development until 2028. Ms. Revy Ann Grace Jolongbayan, OIC Chief Economic Development

Specialist, NEDA IV-A, further explained that the RDP is a six-year investment programming document which contains priority programs and projects for the region. It also serves as an instrument to monitor targets and commitments,



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and a reference document to channel resources.

For the provincial level, Cavite has its Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP). These plans assessed the socio-economic performance of key sectors in the economy as well as the development challenges, and identified the targets, strategies and legislative agenda to attain economic and social transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and resilient region and province.

Governor Jonvic Remulla noted Cavite as one the

fast-developing provinces in the country with its vibrant economy and strategic location. Nevertheless, the governor pointed out that geography alone does not spell the province's success adding that its strength lies in its people. He describes the integration of people coming in from the different parts of the country as high breed vigor which propels the development in the province. He also shared the current and upcoming development projects that will further bolster the

province's economy including the major road infrastructures, heightened peace and order, better education and other innovations.

NEDA Regional Director Agnes Tolentino emphasized that the RDP is not the plan of NEDA alone but is a product of a multi-stakeholder assessment and target-setting; and encouraged the participants to take part in ensuring that the programs are implemented, and strategies are carried out to see the realization of the shared vision for

progress.

A short but insightful talk show during the program elicited ideas and recommendations from the participants and the panelists composed of Board Members Shernan Jaro and Irene Bencito, and Engr. Lorna Leyran from the PGC, Ms. Agnes Nuestro and Engr. Orlando Delos Reyes from CvSU, Ternate Mayor Lamberto Bambao, and RD Agnes Tolentino for NEDA IV-A. Among the areas tackled were agriculture and food security, education and employment, to name a few.

C5 extension Quirino flyover in Las Piñas opens

LAS PIÑAS CITY (PIA) -- Good news! The Department of Public Works and Highways – National Capital Region (DPWH-NCR) opened the new C5 Extension Quirino Flyover to ease the flow of traffic.



Located in Las Piñas City, the Quirino flyover is a 680 linear-meter long bridge, with a 390 linear meters bridge approach.

In his message, Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel Bonoan said that the newly-opened bridge aims to ease the traffic in the area to better serve motorists and commuters.

Senators Cynthia Villar and Mark Villar graced the

inauguration, together with DPWH Assistant Secretary Nerie D. Bueno, Regional Director Loreta M. Malaluan, District Engineer Isabelo C. Baleros, and Assistant Regional Director Joel F. Limpengco.

It is expected that the traffic flow in the area will be eased due to the opening of the two-lane bridge, which will serve as an alternative route.

Likewise, the flyover will

decongest the roads to Zapote, Sucat, Paranaque, Coastal Road, and Cavite.

DPWH-NCR Regional Director Malaluan said that the C5 Quirino Flyover is just one of the projects being done by the department that will improve the road and bridge network in the National Capital Region, to make it safer and more accessible to commuters. (DPWH-NCR/PIA-NCR)



DepEd proposes 'aggressive option' for quick school calendar shift

The Department of Education (DepEd) said Tuesday it submitted a "more aggressive option" to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. following calls for a swift shift to the old academic calendar.

The move came amid mounting calls for the department to bring back the April-May school break as scorching heat takes a toll on learners and teachers, prompting the suspension of in-person classes and the shift to alternative delivery modes (ADMs).

"The department has already submitted a letter to the Office of the President presenting other options, including a more aggressive alternative of ending the School Year 2024-2025 in March 2025," DepEd Assistant Secretary Francis Bringas said during a Senate Education hearing.

Bringas, however, said these options would mean a shorter school year and squeezed breaks, which might affect the rest period for learners and teachers.

In terms of number of days, he said, the DepEd may need to resort to ADMs or Saturday classes.

"Our option could be to count some days as alternative delivery modes, which are not necessarily in-person classes... We have to look for some days to cover ADM," Bringas said.

Under this option, the actual in-person classes would only be 165 days, less than the minimum required 180 days for each school year.

Besides this, it would also compromise more days for proportional vacation pay (PVP) for public school teachers.

"We all know that

teachers are entitled to proportional vacation pay, that is two months after each school year. And they are paid, the PVP is computed based on the number of school days in a given year," Bringas said.

The DepEd earlier maintained its stance on a "gradual reversion" to the old school calendar, considering the effects of sudden shifts to learners and teachers.

In February, it ordered a series of adjustments, including the scheduled end of School Year (SY) 2023-2024 on May 31, intending to implement the school break from June 1 to July 26; with the succeeding SY set from July 29, 2024 to May 16, 2025, according to Department Order 3, series of 2024.

Heat index arbitrariness

Bringas, meanwhile, raised current challenges of schools in terms of arbitrariness when identifying the radius or scope of heat index forecast from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Local government units and school heads currently implement ADMs based on heat index forecasts and other natural calamities.

"We are hoping that PAGASA could help us with this... In comparison, typhoons, we can see typhoons, but for heat, we can only feel it. It becomes more subjective for something that we just feel than something that we see," he said.

Bringas also requested a comprehensive guide to

ensure appropriate actions for teachers and learners.

"While they have heat index also, it may be possible that the heat index is not within the danger zone. But with the existing conditions within the classroom that may contribute to the amount of heat that you feel at that particular time, like congestion, limited ventilation, and so on, it may also contribute," he said.

"We hope we could be more guided scientifically like what we do in typhoons."

Bringas, meanwhile, lauded school heads and LGUs for implementing flexible learning setups alongside balancing learning recovery.

"We acknowledge in the department that there's still no substitute for in-person classes, but we cannot do otherwise at this point," he said.

To date, he added, some schools avoid peak hot temperatures from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by moving in-person shifts to 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Based on the DepEd's trend of suspension of face-to-face classes, the peak record happened on April 19, with 9,421 schools implementing ADM affecting about seven million learners nationwide.

From April 8 to 26, the most used ADM was blended learning equivalent to 59.4 percent, followed by modular at 38 percent, and online at 2.6 percent.

(PNA)

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Medical and Dental Mission in Brgy. Javalera serves hundreds of constituents. Another round of free health services was conducted by the provincial government led by the office of the Provincial Governor, in collaboration with medical and dental practitioners from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO). The efforts of local officials and staff headed by Punong Barangay Teddy Romero together with barangay health workers brought essential healthcare services to the doorstep of Brgy. Javalera, Gen. Trias City, on April 25, 2024. Despite the scorching heat, the medical and dental mission witnessed an overwhelming response from the community, with 309 constituents availing themselves of the services offered. Among the beneficiaries, 259 received medical consultations, addressing a range of health concerns, while 50 individuals underwent dental extractions, improving their oral health. Additionally, free eye check-ups, prescription medicines, and mosquito repellent lotion were provided to the community. The event's success highlights the dedication and commitment of all parties involved in serving the community's basic health needs. Through collaborative endeavor, vital healthcare services, were made accessible, contributing to the overall well-being of the residents of Brgy. Javalera. (OPIO)

Calabarzon... (FROM PAGE 1)

"With this performance, there is a need to continue promoting growth in the industry sector by putting in more investments in construction, manufacturing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water to further strengthen the economy and create a multiplier effect on the economy. This will allow the region to continue being the lone industrial region in the country," Tolentino explained.

Tolentino stressed that Calabarzon reaps the benefits of significant construction projects in housing through the implementation of the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program by the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), transportation and flood control projects including the LRT Line 1 Cavite Extension, North-South

Commuter Railway, Cavite-Laguna Expressway, South Luzon Expressway TR4, Taal Lake Circumferential Road, Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project.

Despite recording a single-digit share in the regional economy, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing remain important in the daily lives of Filipinos as they drive household consumption and industrial usage and could still be developed for exports.

NEDA recommends that the sector become more modernized and promote agriculture as a viable career path for students.

"To further enhance the sector's competitiveness, we must invest in research and development, adopt cutting-edge technology, upgrade post-production facilities, and make value-adding investments, among other measures."

Tolentino adds: "Several state universities considered centers of excellence in agriculture and other-related fields located in the region, we must vigorously promote enrollment in agriculture-related programs to develop a new generation of farmers, agriculturists, scientists, and agri-entrepreneurs."

In the same report, PSA states that CALABARZON achieved a 5.2 percent growth rate in regional domestic product in 2023. This was slower than the 7.8 percent growth recorded in 2022. In terms of levels, the size of CALABARZON'S economy continued to increase to 3.10 trillion pesos in 2023.

Moreover, PSA said that CALABARZON contributed 0.8 percentage points to the 5.5 percent growth in the Philippines' GDP in 2023, the second highest next to the National Capital Region among the 17 regions, accounting for 14.7 percent of the total GDP. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

World... (FROM PAGE 1)

DOH - Regional Office IV-A and Mr. Raffy Macdonald from Cavite OPHO underscored the strategies, preventive measures, and prompt response to Malaria.

The Online Malaria Information System (OLMIS II) and 1-3-5

Strategy are the practices implemented for the surveillance of, and guidelines in Malaria elimination.

Event's highlights were the Pledge of Commitment, through which the participants dedicated themselves to meaningful

contribution in mitigating the threat of the disease; and the awarding of certificate for the efforts, hard work, and support of the agencies to malaria control.

The province of Cavite was declared Malaria-free in 2005, and continues to take action in sustaining its status until the future generations. (OPIO)

DOST and LGU... (FROM PAGE 8)

The funding, provided under DOST's Community Empowerment through Science & Technology (CEST) Program, underscores the government's commitment to providing innovative solutions for community development.

The project aims to increase income of fisherfolk by minimizing post-harvest losses and getting a better price of their produce. The steady supply of fish is assured and tourism will be supported.

With a potential impact on over 239 local

fishermen, the initiative seeks to equip them with reliable storage facilities, ensuring the freshness and quality of their catch. Mayor Palarca expressed gratitude to DOST-X for its support in advancing the welfare of the local fisherfolk.

"I am immensely grateful to DOST and its collaborative spirit with our municipality. This facility will revolutionize our local fishery sector, enabling our fishermen to preserve their harvest efficiently. Beyond ensuring quality, this initiative opens

avenues for expanded market access, driving economic growth and enhancing food security," Mayor Palarca remarked.

The partnership between DOST and LGU-Catarman underscores a shared commitment to community development and sustainable practices.

Through concerted efforts, the project aims to foster resilience and prosperity within the municipality's fishing communities, setting a precedent for inclusive growth and innovation in the island. (Nice Nerjay Delada/DOST 10) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U

House Speaker... (FROM PAGE 1)

unprecedented PHP1.4 million, a remarkable increase from the previous coverage of PHP100,000.

He also lauded the PhilHealth initiative to provide free annual mammogram and ultrasound services, slated to commence in July.

He said it is a clear testament to the administration's commitment to preventive care, ensuring that every woman has access to essential diagnostic services.

Another symbol of the government's dedication, Romualdez said, was the recent establishment of the Philippine Cancer Center in Quezon City.

Set to be constructed on a 5,000-square-meter lot within the Philippine Blood Center complex in Diliman, it will also be a modern teaching and research hospital.

Each of the 20 floors will be dedicated to different types of cancers, ranging from hepatic, renal, and gastrointestinal to lung, breast, reproductive organs of women, skin, and rare cancers.

The center aims to provide comprehensive services encompassing diagnosis, treatment, research, and patient support.

"Through these infrastructures, we aim to encapsulate the very essence of care and prevention taught to us at Cornell -- knowledge in service of society," he said.

Romualdez also highlighted several legislative achievements that underscore the House's dedication to healthcare reform and accessibility.

Among these are the amendment to the Universal Health Care Act, Magna Carta of Barangay

Health Workers, and establishment of the Virology Institute of the Philippines.

He also emphasized the House's active oversight role, particularly in monitoring the implementation of health-related laws, which includes the conduct of inquiries into gaps in the execution of laws for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, leading to recommendations aimed at harmonizing benefits and improving services.

"As a result of these inquiries, senior citizens and persons with disabilities will soon be able to enjoy an increase to PHP500 per month in discounts on groceries and other prime commodities," he added.

Romualdez pursued his undergraduate studies at Cornell University in New York, United States from 1981 to 1985, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Government. (PNA)

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SM Prime...

(FROM PAGE 8)

PHP71.9 billion in 2023. This growth was bolstered by a 24% increase in mall rental income, amounting to PHP61.3 billion. Moreover, the opening of four new malls in 2023 expanded SM's retail presence to 85 malls in the Philippines and 8 malls in China.

Meanwhile, SM Prime's residential business group, led by SM Development Corporation (SMDC), recorded an 8% growth in revenues to PHP43.1 billion in 2023. The residential group's gross profit rose by 15% to PHP25.4 billion, with reservation sales standing at PHP102 billion.

In addition to its mall and residential businesses, SM Prime's other key segments, comprising offices, hotels, and convention centers, contributed 10% of consolidated revenues, reported PHP13.1 billion in revenues in 2023, marking a remarkable 26% increase from the previous year.

Commitment to Shared Growth

At the core of SM Prime's success is its unwavering commitment to shared prosperity in every city where they are present. With a strategic ₱100 billion investment capital expenditure in 2024, SM Prime aims to reinvest in its partners, stakeholders, and communities.

SM Prime aims to

continuously expand and develop new places for every Filipino to enjoy. 60% will be dedicated to enhancing its malls, development of new residential properties under SMDC, and construction of new hotels and convention centers. 40% will be directed towards acquiring new properties and coastal developments to pave the way for modern, eco-friendly urbanization.

Commitment to Environmental Sustainability and Disaster Resilience

SM Prime has always been committed towards creating a sustainable future. SM Prime continues to work towards its goal of achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2040, aligning with the Department of Energy's target of reaching a 35% renewable energy share by 2030. Through partnerships with renewable energy suppliers and organizations like the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), SM Prime endeavors to reduce its environmental footprint and advocate for sustainable practices in all areas of its operations.

SM Supermalls' SM Cares and SMDC's The Good Guys also remain actively engaged in various community initiatives,

such as conducting community disaster preparedness programs, providing support programs for senior citizens and persons with disabilities, and promoting job generation and entrepreneurship through nationwide job fairs and MSME programs. Other initiatives include coastal clean-ups, the donation of school buildings and fire trucks, and the organization of eco-camps for youth.

Jeffrey C. Lim, President of SM Prime Holdings shared, "At SM Prime, we're not just building spaces; we're cultivating lifetimes of progress and shared growth. Our commitment lies in empowering Filipinos to thrive within their neighborhoods, whether through convenient shopping experiences at SM Supermalls, quality living in SMDC homes, or fulfilling work environments in our office properties. We believe that individual success fuels community prosperity, creating opportunities, and driving the nation's growth for many years to come."

SM Prime remains committed to its role as a catalyst for economic growth, delivering innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities, thereby enriching the quality of life of millions of people. For more information, visit www.smprime.com.

APCU calls for more people-to-people exchanges for peaceful ties in Asia

The Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU) calls for more people-to-people exchanges to bolster friendly ties among countries in Asia.

APCU Chairman Raul Lambino made the call during the visit of a delegation from Leshan City in Sichuan Province in China.

He said people-to-people relations are part of the pillars for stronger diplomatic relations among nations.

Personally escorting the visitors in their tour in Metro Manila, Pangasinan and Subic Freeport April 24-26, Lambino said the Chinese were impressed by the friendliness of the Filipino people.

They also admired the care for the environment noting the many green spaces in areas they visited, he added.

Lambino said the Leshan City delegation were here to establish

cultural, educational and business ties in spite of heightened Sinophobia prevailing in the country.

That is the correct attitude, Lambino noted, setting aside the noise and continuing with the more vital factor of firming up our friendly relations.

He said from here the Leshan City delegation will visit Thailand.

He said APCU is at the forefront of building bridges of friendship and cooperation between the two countries as well as among members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations or ASEAN.

He said APCU will send next month a delegation to the China-ASEAN Young Leaders Exchange Festival in Nanning, Guangxi

Autonomous Region.

He said this annual event highlights China's and ASEAN's common commitment in developing friendship and cooperation in the region not only among young people but every facet of society.

Lambino said APCU is also involved in forging ties among schools, between local governments, chambers of commerce and cultural and civic organizations.

On June 7, APCU will hold the ceremonies of the 2024 Awards for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU), recognizing outstanding Filipinos helping build friendship between the two countries.

APCU Lauds...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Senator Escudero was reacting to the statements made by leading Filipino-Chinese civic leader Teresita Ang-See condemning allegations that Chinese students in Tuguegarao, Cagayan are "spies" and "threats to national security."

Ang-See is a recipient

of APCU's project - the Awards for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU) in 2021 for her outstanding work in building bridges of understanding between the peoples of the Philippines and China.

APCU would like to reiterate that we are neither pro-China nor

against any other country. We are pro-Filipino and working for the best interest of our country and people.

For now, what is best for the country is to continue our good relations and friendship with China, to resolve whatever differences through peaceful dialogue and cooperation, and to stop Sinophobia.



From Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Lanson Place, SM Development Corporation (SMDC) Turf Residences, SM City Yangzhou in China, SM Mega Tower, SM Mall of Asia Complex, and SM City North EDSA

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF SHARES OF STOCKS OF THE LATE RUDY BELEN AGSALUD WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC THAT This Deed made and executed by and among: 1. SHEILA HINAY AGSALUD, widow; 2. VANESSA SHERY HINAY AGSALUD, single; and 3. RASHED HINAY AGSALUD, single, all of legal ages, all Filipino citizens and all residents of Brgy. Timalan Concepcion, Naic. Cavite, hereby: DECLARE AND MAKE MANIFEST: 1. THAT, we are the only legitimate heirs being the wife and children of the deceased, RUDY BELEN AGSALUD, who died on January 15, 2024 at Urdaneta City, Pangasinan; 2. THAT, at the time of his death, the deceased was a resident of Urdaneta City, Pangasinan and died without any obligation to any person or persons and died without any will; 3. THAT, the deceased, RUDY BELEN AGSALUD left an 82 non - par value Shares issued on January 22, 2001, with Account No. 12453173, under Sun Life Financial (SLF); 4. THAT WE, hereby divide and adjudicate as we have hereby divided and adjudicated among ourselves the above-mentioned 82 non - par value Shares including all our interests and participation, equally. Pursuant to Sec. 1 Rule 74 of the Revised Rules of Court: 5. THAT WE, SHEILA HINAY AGSALUD and RASHED HINAY AGSALUD, hereby agreed as we hereby agree to waive our rights, interests and participations over the above-mentioned 82 non par value Shares in favor of VANESSA SHERY HINAY AGSALUD. This has been the subject of EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF SHARES OF STOCKS OF THE LATE RUDY BELEN AGSALUD WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS duly executed on 15th day of April 2024 at Naic, Cavite by the Heirs before Notary Public Atty. Jose A. Mendoza as per Doc. No. 444, Page No. 90, Book No. XXIII, Series of 2024.

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FL vows support to PH hosting of 2025 world men's volley tilt

The Philippines' solo hosting of 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship has gotten a major boost after First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos vowed her support during the organizational meeting held at the PMS Building in Malacañang on Tuesday.

"The First Lady readily gave her full support to the country's solo hosting of the world championship. She's so enthusiastic about the event and showed everyone in the room her love for sports," said Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) president Ramon "Tats" Suzara in a statement released to the media on Wednesday.

Presidential son William Vincent Araneta Marcos also joined the meeting which set the foundation of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the tournament scheduled from Sept. 12 to 28, 2025 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum and SM Mall of Asia Arena.

Also present were Senator Alan Peter Cayetano and Department of Tourism Secretary

Christina Garcia Frasco, who gave a general briefing on the 32-nation competition which will be hosted by an Asian country for the second time after Japan in 1998 and 2006.

"For the first time in several years, we'll host the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Philippines 2025. All systems are now off and running and we're bound to become the best host ever for the world championship," said Cayetano, also the PNVF chairman.

Citing the successful hosting of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games and the 2023 FIBA Championship, Cayetano said hosting the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship will give the Philippines another chance to shine on the global stage.

"We are still known worldwide as the most hospitable people. I'm talking about how we, as a nation, welcome the rest of the world," he said.

Meanwhile, Frasco has assured the DOT's comprehensive and encompassing support to the event.

"The DOT will form a consortium for attractive packages for fans -- foreign and local -- with all efforts bordering on our "Love The Philippines" campaign," she said.

Philippine Sports Commission chairman Richard Bachmann, Volleyball World CEO Finn Taylor, PNVF Vice President Ricky Palou, and Secretary General Donaldo Caringal, and national team member Bryan Bagunas also attended the meeting. (PNA)



FL SUPPORT. First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos (4th from right) has vowed to fully support the country's hosting of the 2025 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship during the organizational meeting in Malacañang on April 30, 2024. With the First Lady are presidential son William Vincent Araneta Marcos (5th from right) and (from left) Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) vice president Ricky Palou and secretary-general Donaldo Caringal; Philippine Sports Commission chairman Richard Bachmann, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Volleyball World CEO Finn Taylor, PNVF president Ramon "Tats" Suzara and national player Bryan Bagunas. (PNVF photo)

Over P50-M artificial grass football pitch to rise in Victorias City

BACOLOD CITY – The City of Victorias in Negros Occidental is constructing a more than PHP50-million artificial grass football pitch in the Victorias National High School campus, the first ever in Western Visayas.



FOOTBALL PITCH. A design perspective of the artificial-grass football field that will soon rise at the Victorias National High School campus in Victorias City, Negros Occidental. It will be the first 11-a-side synthetic turf soccer pitch to rise in Western Visayas. (Screenshot from Victorias City government video)

The international-sized and FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) standard 11-a-side synthetic turf pitch is expected to be completed in five months after the groundbreaking was held on April 27.

Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez said on Tuesday the artificial turf is imported and can last for

more than 20 years with good maintenance.

"In the Philippines, it is best to do an artificial turf than natural grass for football because of extreme weather conditions and relatively low budget for maintenance," he said.

"This field is better than the field I used to play in Manila. The football

community understands how impactful this project is. It will be a defining project of Victorias City," the mayor added.

Benitez said he aims to make Victorias City a sports tourism hub in Negros Occidental and elevate its status as a premier destination for football enthusiasts in Western Visayas. (PNA)

12K C. Visayas athletic meet delegates' safety assured amid heat index

CEBU CITY – Vice Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia on Tuesday assured the 12,000 delegates for the Central Visayas Regional Athletic Association (CVRAA) 2024 of their health and safety amid the intensifying heat brought by the El Niño phenomenon.



Cebu City Vice Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia. (PNA file photo)

Garcia said the regional athletic meet will officially start on May 4, where 8,500 athletes will vie for 1,362 gold medals in different sporting events.

CVRAA organizers led by the Cebu City Sports Commission assured the athletes, their coaches and delegation officials that measures will be in place to prevent heat stroke or heat stress due to extreme temperatures.

"There will be no sports events between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. according to the Cebu City Sports Commission. This is a measure that assures athletes and their coaches will not be

exposed to extreme heat," Garcia said.

About 70 percent of the games will also be held indoors like in malls, sports facilities and university facilities lent for the regional athletic meet.

"We are trying to encourage outdoor sports games to be held as early as possible, as early as 6 o'clock, and if amenable, they can have them earlier so that we lessen exposure to heat," Cebu City Sports Commission chair John Pages said.

Athletic competitions could be held from afternoon to evening, he added.

Garcia said there are 20 public schools used as billeting quarters equipped

with standby medical teams, ambulances, fire trucks and water tankers to ensure the health and sanitary needs of delegates.

The city-managed Cebu City Medical Center will give athletes, coaches, trainers and delegation officials special lanes in case of CVRAA-related injuries or health problems.

The Cebu City Youth Commission is also tapping the help of nearby barangays to assist the delegates with their water sources.

Around 500 police officers from the Cebu City Police Office will also secure sports event venues and quarters. (PNA)

MSU-IIT, DOST empower researchers through Research Writeshop

The Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) and the Department of Science and Technology in region 10 empowered 70 researchers through a two-day writeshop at the university campus, Iligan City recently.



The training was designed to further enhance the proposal writing skills of the participants. Researchers learn to identify key gaps in research and outline effective plans to fill them through interactive sessions.

Among the training speakers and facilitators is Mr. Jesse Nicavera from the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP).

The DOST Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research & Development (PCIEERD) was also represented by Engr. Jayson Nuval, Engr. Bianca Marie Domingo, Engr. Julius Mayorga, and Engr. Christian Alec Managa, who discussed the priority areas of PCIEERD and shared tips on the preparation of an effective workplan and line-item budget.

Ms. Melissa Bulao, from the DOST Philippine Council for Health



Research & Development (PCHRD), also discussed the R&D priority areas of PCHRD and shared some strategies for good proposal preparation.

As a result of the workshop, several research proposals were crafted for submission to the 2024 DOST Grants-in-Aid Call for Proposals. These proposals are expected to enhance MSU-IIT's research output and contribute to the region's socio-economic development.

Dr. Ephrime B. Metillo,

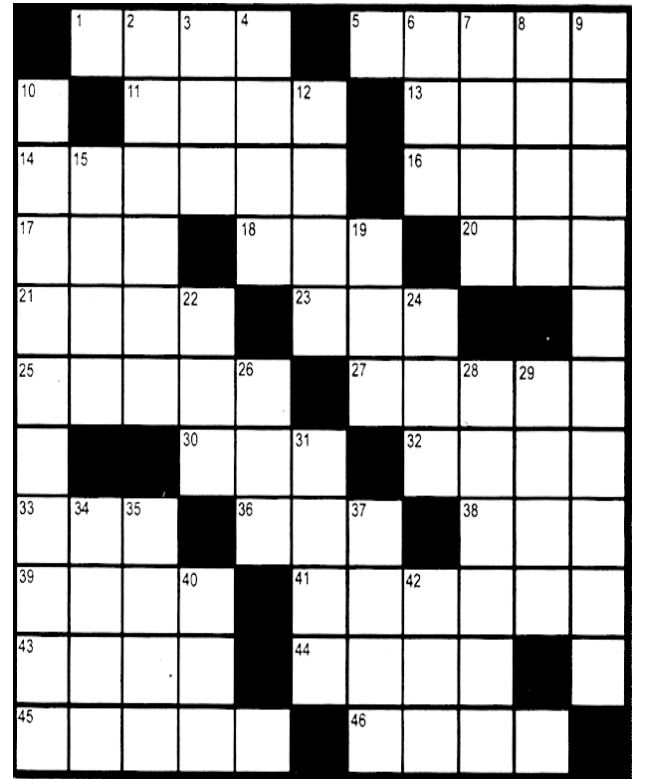
Vice Chancellor for Research & Enterprise at MSU-IIT, expressed deep appreciation for DOST's unwavering support and assistance throughout the workshop. Dr. Metillo emphasized the importance of such initiatives in elevating the quality of research proposals and increasing their chances of success in subsequent evaluation processes.

"Our partnership with DOST is a reflection to MSU-IIT's unending commitment in cultivating

a vibrant culture of research that enriches teaching-learning process, enhances the university's reputation, and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration that is responsive to the pressing needs of the community," he added.

The initiative to upskill local researchers is anchored in the DOST strategic pillar on promotion of human well-being. (Rubie Mae D. Fernandez/DOST-X) #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U

PALAI SIPAN



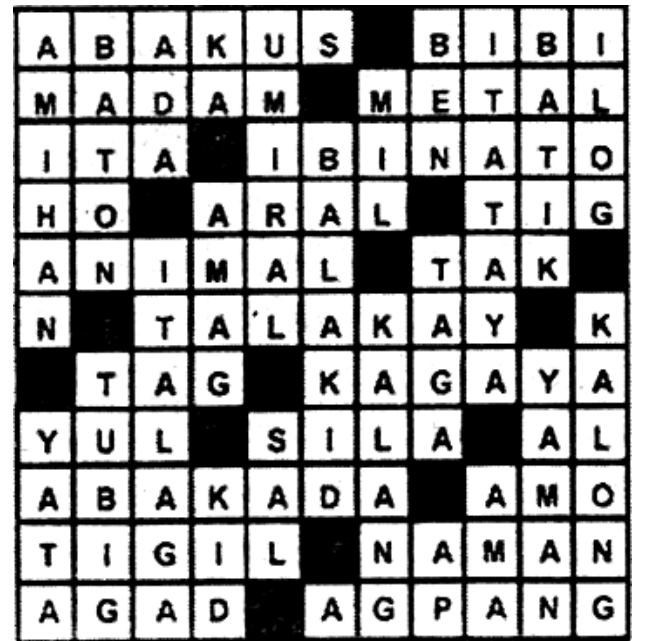
PAHALANG

- 1 Hepe
- 5 Bitak
- 11 Ilag
- 13 Nguso ng ibon
- 14 Kinakain ng kabayo
- 16 Guho
- 17 Unang Ginang ni Erap
- 18 Kakatwa
- 20 _ Dhabi
- 21 Song for _
- 23 Ms. Mina
- 25 _ cum laude
- 27 Senyas ng pag- ayaw
- 30 Ms. Villania
- 32 Iwas
- 33 Primera
- 36 Mr. Taulava
- 38 Mr. Agustin
- 39 Bayani: Ingles
- 41 Uri ng isda
- 43 Kustilyas
- 44 Isang kontinente
- 45 Tunog ng paghakbang

46 Angat PABABA

- 2 Niig
- 3 Ms. Moto
- 4 Pagsusumamo
- 6 Marahil
- 7 Maasim na likido
- 8 Pagbebensosa
- 9 Uri ng isda
- 10 Biyograpiya
- 12 Uri ng saging
- 15 Tolda
- 19 Angkin
- 22 Gapas
- 24 Mall
- 26 Aliwalas
- 28 Iltaw
- 29 _ de coco
- 34 _ O-Mart
- 31 Pustura
- 35 A sa UAE
- 37. Idepende
- 40 Uri ng tula
- 42 Libo

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Breaking barriers to healthcare. The Office of the Provincial Governor - Medical Mission Team, joined by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, spearheaded a transformative medical mission program on April 24, 2024, in Barangay Poblacion V, Silang, Cavite. Offering free medical check-ups and vital medicines, the health outreach event proudly served 280 patients, ensuring no one is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier, happier community. (OPIO)

Dagdag Kaalaman

Ang ibig sabihin ng pangalang Samsung ay "tatlong bituin."

Passport on Wheels: Bringing Convenience to Caviteños

In a move to make passport application more accessible and convenient for Caviteños, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), launched the Passport on Wheels event on April 26, 2024, at SM City Trece Martires. The initiative aimed to streamline the passport application process and cater to the needs of over 400 eager applicants.



The event provided a one-stop-shop for individuals seeking to obtain or renew their passports. It eliminated the need for residents to travel long distances to DFA offices, saving them time and effort in the application process. The Passport on Wheels brought the services directly to the community, ensuring that more people could avail themselves of this essential document without inconvenience.

Applicants were able to complete the necessary requirements on-site, including document verification, data encoding, and biometric capturing. The presence of DFA personnel and OPPESM staff facilitated a smooth and efficient processing experience.

The partnership between OPPESM and DFA exemplifies a collaborative effort to improve public service delivery. By bringing government services closer to the people, initiatives like Passport on Wheels contribute significantly to enhancing accessibility and convenience. The approach aligns with the government's goal of promoting efficiency and responsiveness in serving the needs of the people. (OPIO)

APCU Lauds Senator Escudero on Rising Sinophobia

The Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU) extends its gratitude to the comments issued by Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero on rising Sinophobia in the country.

His statement are true of a statesman who stands for truth and warns us of the folly of racial discrimination.

APCU as a people-to-people friendship association fully agrees with the good Senator from Sorsogon, Bicol that the territorial dispute between China, the Philippines and other ASEAN countries "should not deter nor affect economic, cultural, educational, and other forms of exchanges" amongst our peoples.

APCU further agrees with Senator Escudero that these issues do not "justify the racial slurs against Chinese students" in Tuguegarao, Cagayan or to any other foreign students and foreign nationals in the country.



► **APCU LAUDS • 5**



A Monday full of heart and concern for our countrymen. Our office doors are now open to deliver and let you feel our #RatedTripleA service. #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

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DOST and LGU Catarman support fisherfolk with cold storage facility

To enhance local livelihoods and promote food security, the Local Government Unit of Catarman, in collaboration with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) has initiated a project to construct a post-harvest facility equipped with cold storage technology.



LGU Catarman, under the leadership of Catarman Municipal Mayor, Hon. Kiterio Antonio U. Palarca II, submitted a project proposal to DOST. The proposal justified the need for this facility and the viability of this project. Thus, DOST had approved and allocated funding support with counterparts from the municipality. The start of the project is marked by a ceremonial turnover activity held on March 13, 2024.

During the turnover, Mayor Palarca and key municipal officials, including Municipal Planning Development Officer Mr. Mac Steven RJ T. Dela Riarte, Municipal Agriculturist Mr. Joseph F. Navales, and Municipal Accountant Ms. Joan J. Razo, witnessed the event.

► **DOST AND LGU • 4**

SM Prime marks 30th anniversary with record-breaking income, PHP 100 billion investment for 2024

Manila, Philippines - SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPH), the leading integrated property developer in the Philippines, marks its 30th anniversary as a publicly listed company with the announcement of its highest-ever recorded income and a ?100 billion investment for its partners, stakeholders, and communities they operate in. With eyes set on the future, SM Prime reaffirms its position as a catalyst for economic development and community advancement.



SM Prime's (L-R): Assistant Corporate Secretary Arthur Sy, Corporate Secretary Atty. Elmer Serrano, Chief Finance Officer and Chief Compliance Officer John Nai Peng Ong, President Jeffrey Lim, Independent Director Atty. Darlene Marie Berberabe, Chairman of the Board Henry Sy Jr., Vice Chairman and Lead Independent Director Amando Tetangco Jr., Non-Executive Director Herbert Sy, Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, and Non-Executive Director Jorge Mendiola

Record-Breaking Performance

During the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on April 23, 2024, SM Prime announced its highest-ever recorded income, reaching PHP40 billion in consolidated net

income, marking a 33% increase from 2022. Additionally, the company's revenues surged by 21%, soaring to PHP128.1 billion, a notable growth from the previous year. The consolidated operating income also saw

significant growth, rising by 24% to PHP61.3 billion. The outstanding performance can be attributed to SM Prime's mall business, driving 56% of consolidated revenues and a 30% growth to

► **SM PRIME • 5**