

# PhilHealth to study doubling coverage for hemodialysis to P5,200

The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) will study the proposal to double its coverage amount for hemodialysis from the current PHP2,600 per session to PHP5,200, an official

said on Tuesday.

In a press conference at the Batasang Pambansa Complex, PhilHealth Executive Vice President Eli Santos said the goal of this proposed increase is to remove out-of-pocket costs of hemodialysis

patients.

"Ang PhilHealth po ay pag-aaralan yung pag-increase po nito to PHP5,200... binigyan po kami ng one month po na pag-aaralan po ito (The PhilHealth will study the increase [of the coverage]

to PHP5,200... we are given one month to study this)," Santos said.

Santos said erythropoietin, which is used by people on dialysis, is usually purchased outside of dialysis facilities, which increases

patient costs.

House Deputy Majority Leader and ACT-CIS party-list lawmaker Erwin Tulfo expressed optimism that increasing the coverage amount to PHP5,200 is "doable" following his meeting with PhilHealth

officials.

"Base sa meeting namin kanina is doable naman. Base doon sa funding at pondo, every year naman nagbibigay ng pondo ang Congress sa PhilHealth, so maaring doon ho

► **PHILHEALTH • 4**

# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

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## Orientation on New Assessment Tool for Child Development Centers

Child development workers and teachers from across the province gathered at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol in Trece Martires City for an orientation on the new assessment tool for registration and granting permits to public and private child development centers and learning centers spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare Development Officer on May 23-24, 2024.

The two-day event aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to enhance the quality of early childhood education in the province. The program commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks, setting the stage for an engaging and informative session.

Ms. Melody Ronquillo, Regional ACDEV Secretary, kicked off the first day with a comprehensive discussion on the Competency Standards for Child Development Workers and Child Development Teachers. She emphasized the importance of adhering to these standards to ensure the delivery of high-quality education and care for young children.

Following Ms. Ronquillo's session, Ms. Perla Reyes, National CDW President took the floor to delve into Developmentally Appropriate Practice. Her presentation focused on the principles and practices that support the optimal development and learning of young children, stressing the need for educators to be attuned to the developmental stages and individual needs of their students.

The second day of the orientation continued with an insightful session led by Ms. ► **ORIENTATION • 4**



### Cavitex Infrastructure Corp. Inks Deal with EEI Corp. for CAVITEX-CALAX Link Construction

The CAVITEX-CALAX Link (CCLink) segment is now set in motion as Cavitex Infrastructure Corporation (CIC), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), signed a P1.79-billion construction contract with EEI Corporation.



The contract was formalized on Tuesday, May 21, with the official signing conducted by Mr. Rogelio Singson, President and Chief Executive Officer of MPTC, Mr. Raul L. Ignacio, President and General Manager of CIC, Ms. Elnora D. Rumawak, Vice President for Finance of CIC, and Ms. Anna ► **CAVITEX • 4**

### DOST Region 02 Awards P42M iFund to Empower Over 38 MSMEs in the Region



Acknowledging the vital role of MSMEs in the Philippine economy, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 2, under the leadership of Dir. Virginia G. Bilgera, awarded a total of P42 million in innovation fund (iFund) assistance to 38 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across the region with the batch name PRIMERO, which stands for Primary Entrepreneurs Offering Business Opportunities. The ceremony was held at Pulsar Hotel Cagayan today, May 24, 2024. ► **DOST REGION • 4**

# Placido T. Amo SHS in Laurel, Batangas receive STARBOOKS

Students of Placido T. Amo Senior High School (SHS) now have access to thousands of science and technology resources even without an internet connection through the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) STARBOOKS short for the Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks.



DOST-Batangas deployed the STARBOOKS unit to Placido T. Amo SHS on May 21, 2024. An orientation and training session was held to equip teachers with the skills needed to navigate and utilize STARBOOKS resources for academic and research purposes. This session included an overview of STARBOOKS' features and content, demonstrating how these resources can enhance STEM education by supplementing learning materials.

A site admin training session was also conducted to ensure efficient management and maintenance of the STARBOOKS system in the schools. The training covered tasks such as data registration, navigating various articles, and

exploring interactive math and science games. Teachers and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) coordinator were also oriented on the admin module, which involves user assistance, submission of transmittal files, reviewing user feedback and comments, updating STARBOOKS content, and managing the kiosk. The deployment and orientation-training were facilitated by Mr. Cedric L. Rodriguez, the DOST-Batangas STARBOOKS coordinator.

Developed by the Science and Technology Information Institute (DOST-STII), STARBOOKS offers thousands of digitized science and technology resources to supplement classroom

learning and boost research capabilities. It provides access to information even without an internet connection. (By John Maico Hernandez)



Medical and Dental Mission Brings Vital Services to Buroi Main, Dasmariñas City: The bustling community of Barangay Buroi Main in the City of Dasmariñas witnessed a remarkable day of health and wellness spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Governor's (OPG) medical and dental mission team, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) conducted on May 22, 2024 with more than 500 beneficiaries. The event was a significant step towards promoting accessible health care in the province. Residents flocked to the event, where a range of essential medical and dental services were provided. These included comprehensive medical and dental check-ups, tooth extractions, random blood sugar testing, ECG and X-ray services. The mission also ensured that prescription medicines and vitamins were available to beneficiaries at no cost. The event was further bolstered by the dedicated volunteers from the Kiwanis Club Hiyas ng Cavite and Parokya ng San Lorenzo Ruiz, whose commitment to community service played a crucial role in the day's success. (OPIO)

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# DOST Bicol's Dual Celebration, unites RSTIW and Abacanobasyon

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region V commences the celebration of its Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTIW) on May 22 to 24, 2024, at the Catanduanes State University Auditorium in Virac, Catanduanes. This year's event, themed "Siyensya, Teknolohiya at Inobasyon Kabalik sa Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Kinabukasan," aims to promote science, technology, and innovation (STI) for the Green Economy, the Blue Economy, and the establishment of smart and sustainable communities across the Philippines.



Coinciding with the RSTW celebration is the Abaca Festival, which includes the 2nd Abacanobasyon. This event honors the efforts and contributions of abaca farmers and manufacturers to the local and regional economy. Abaca-nobasyon will spotlight the crucial role of STI in every phase of the abaca value chain, from production to finished products, using both traditional and innovative approaches. Catanduanes, as the leading contributor to the abaca industry among abaca-producing regions, has significantly benefited from DOST's technology interventions to assist the industry.

The opening ceremony

featured welcome remarks by Mr. Rommel R. Serrano, CESO III, Regional Director of DOST-V, followed by a message from Engr. Sancho A. Maborang, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations, emphasizing the inclusivity and empowerment fostered by science, technology, and innovation within the abaca system, highlighting how these elements bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and innovation. Usec. Maborang discussed how this creates a collaborative space where stakeholders from diverse backgrounds can work together to find solutions, share ideas, and cultivate sustainable growth, thus going beyond

merely making processes run smoother.

DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum Jr. delivered the keynote address, highlighting the importance of science, technology, and innovation in improving quality of life, creating wealth, protecting lives and livelihoods, and sustaining natural resources. He emphasizes how these elements promote the quality of life, create wealth, protect lives and livelihoods, and sustain natural resources.

Throughout the festival, DOST will showcase various projects and programs designed to strengthen the abaca industry. These initiatives include training to enhance abaca processing



and production and critical dialogues to address the concerns of abaca stakeholders. One of the standout programs is the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), which has provided technical assistance and funding to boost small enterprises in the abaca weaving industry. This support has enabled these enterprises to acquire higher-capacity technologies, thereby

enhancing their weaving capabilities. The annual RSTW celebration in the Bicol Region aims to make significant contributions beyond improving operational efficiencies. Through research and development, technology commercialization and deployment, and the provision of scientific and technical services, DOST ensures that STI remains a constant and reliable

partner for Catandunganons and Bicolanos in creating opportunities and providing solutions.

A series of sessions promoting the potential of science, technology, and innovation across the region will be held throughout the event, highlighting DOST's commitment to fostering a resilient and sustainable future through STI. **(Nelson Santos)**

## Budget Sec. Pangandaman OKs creation of 5,000 non-teaching DepEd positions

**MANILA, Philippines** – In order to help relieve teachers from the burden of performing administrative tasks due to the lack or absence of non-teaching personnel in schools, Budget and Management Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman has approved the request of the Department of Education (DepEd) for the creation of 5,000 non-teaching positions for fiscal year (FY) 2024.

To concretize this commitment, DepEd Order No. 002, s. 2024 was issued, mandating the removal of administrative tasks from the workload of teachers, enabling them to focus and maximize their time on the teaching and learning process.

Pangandaman expressed her support to the said endeavor, saying that the creation of thousands of non-teaching positions reflects President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s commitment to uphold the overall welfare of both teachers and learners.

"Our educators already have their plates full. By approving the creation of 5,000 non-teaching positions, we aim to relieve teachers of administrative tasks and allow them to focus on quality instruction. This move will significantly benefit our educators and enhance the country's education system," Pangandaman said.



"Patunay po ito na tinutupad ni Pangulong BBM ang mga pangako niya. This is his campaign promise, and now, his administration is making it happen. Sa Bagong Pilipinas, patuloy po nating bibigyang prayoridad ang kapakanan ng ating mga guro at mag-aaral. After all, they are at the heart of our national development goals," she added.

The 5,000 non-teaching positions within DepEd are Administrative Officer (AO) II positions with Salary Grade (SG) 11 for FY 2024 will be deployed in various School Division Offices and schools in the

Cordillera Administrative Region, National Capital Region (NCR), Regions I, II, III, IV-A, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, and CARAGA.

Moreover, the appropriate funding requirements for the filled positions shall be charged against the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund in the FY (Fiscal Year) 2024 General Appropriations Act, while the Retirement and Life Insurance Premium is chargeable against Automatic Appropriations.



Isang karangalan po sa akin ang maging bahagi ng seremonya at pagsasagawa ng panunumpa para sa ating mga bagong halal na opisyal ng Camella Springville South 1 at Summer Hills Subdivision. Ang araw na ito ay hindi lamang tungkol sa pagsasanib ng mga responsibilidad kundi pati na rin sa pagpapahalaga sa inyong dedikasyon sa paglilingkod sa ating komunidad. Lubos po akong nagpapasalamat sa bawat isa sa inyo, lalo na sa mga bagong opisyal na nagpasya na makiisa sa pamamahala at pagpapalakas ng ating mga subdivisyon. Ang inyong pagtanggap ng panunumpa, kasama nina HOA President Marivic M. Garan ng Camella Springville South 1 at HOA President Gregorio C. Amoma Jr. ng Summer Hills Subdivision, ay nagpapakita ng inyong tapang at determinasyon na maglingkod at tumulong sa ating mga kababayan. Maraming salamat din po kay Kap Jeffrey Campaña ng Barangay Molino 4 sa pagiging saksi sa mahalagang okasyon na ito. Sa inyong lahat, maraming salamat sa dedikasyon at pagmamahal sa ating lungsod. Mabuhay po kayong lahat!

Cavitex...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Figuera, Senior Vice President for Contracts and Commercial Division and Mr. Christopher F. Esguerra, Vice President for Commercial Division of EEI Corporation.

"This collaboration will provide the vital link connecting CAVITEX and CALAX road network. CIC is committed to ensuring the best road quality for its infrastructure, adhering to the highest standards for the safety of motorists. This project will enhance economic activities in Cavite, Laguna and the National Capital Region," remarked Mr. Singson.

EEI Corp will construct the 1.2-kilometer, 2x2 lane CCLink (Segment 4 Extension), extending from the CAVITEX Kawit Toll Plaza to the upcoming CALAX Kawit Interchange. Construction of the link is targeted to commence next month and is set to be operational by mid-2025.

At present, operational segments of CAVITEX stretch 14 kilometers, from R1 Expressway (formerly Coastal Road) up to R1 Extension (Zapote to Kawit).

EEI Corp holds a quadruple-A rating as a

General Engineering Contractor, the highest rating for contractors issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) under the Department of Trade and Industry. It offers a broad range of construction and engineering services, with expertise in infrastructure, buildings, and industrial and electromechanical facilities.

MPTC is the leading mobility infrastructure and solutions provider in the Philippines. As the toll road development arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), MPTC oversees a comprehensive portfolio, including CALAX, CAVITEX, North Luzon

CCLink PROJECT OVERVIEW



PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

CAVITEX-CALAX Link (Segment 4 Extension) is a 1.30 km, dual 2-lane expressway road beginning at about 295.0m south of Kawit Toll Plaza, runs south crossing Tirona Highway, continue along Centennial Road and terminates at the proposed Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX). The extension will consist of ramp, Road No.1 (Underpass), Road No. 2, Road No. 3 and Improvement of Binakayan Diversion Road.

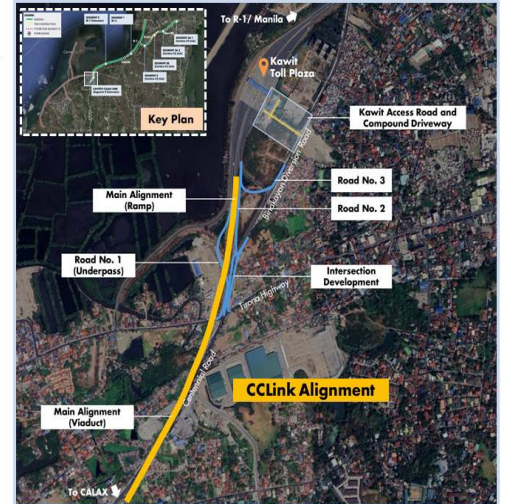
CONTRACTOR: EEI Corporation

CONTRACT AMOUNT: Php 1.79B

TARGET PROJECT START: June 2024

PROJECT DURATION: 450 calendar days

TARGET PROJECT FINISH: Aug 2025



Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-

Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu, in addition to the toll road projects in Indonesia.

For questions about this press release, please email us at corpcomm@mptsouth.com.

DOST Region...

(FROM PAGE 1)

DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrade Program (SETUP), serves as one of the initiatives of the government to support the business sector by providing them with assistance such as financial aid, regulatory reforms, skills development, and market access.

The program began with Engr. Rocela Angelica Gorospe, Provincial Director of PSTC Quirino, who delivered the welcome message on behalf of Dir. Bilgera, emphasized the importance of DOST's SETUP in strengthening MSMEs to continue to serve as one of the backbones of the Philippine economy.

"I believe that through the collaborative efforts of DOST Region 02, and other government agencies, we can extend more help to micro, small, and medium enterprises, enabling them to thrive in a global competitive market," PD Gorospe added in her message.

The highlight of the event was the awarding ceremony, where Engr. Sylvia Lacambra, Assistant Regional Director for Field Operations Services (FOS)

and PSTO Quirino PD Engr. Rocela Angelica Gorospe handed over the iFund assistance to the deserving 38 SETUP beneficiaries.

Moreover, to hear valuable insights into the impacts of the program on their firms, 6 SETUP beneficiaries led by Mr. Arthur Tabbu, manager of Lighthouse Cooperative, took the stage to share their inspiring experiences with the audience.

Additionally, Engr. Jude Michael Magora, Project Assistant II, provided a comprehensive orientation on SETUP guidelines and the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure a proper understanding of the roles and obligations of both parties.

For the afternoon session, Ms. Desiree S. Angolluan, OIC-Division Chief of DTI Region 2, briefly presented the MSME Development Plan 2017-2022 framework and valuable information on Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) programs and services available to MSMEs. She highlighted the resources for trade promotion, product development, and market access, empowering

businesses to reach new heights.

Meanwhile, to provide valuable knowledge to help businesses improve their operations and achieve higher standards, Engr. Rocela Angelica Gorospe, PD of PSTO-Quirino, delivered a presentation on the concept of the Philippine Quality Award (PQA) process. This process improves MSMEs' performance and competitiveness based on Total Quality Management (TQM) principles. Her insights provided valuable knowledge to help businesses improve their operations and achieve higher standards.

Lastly, ARD Engr. Sylvia Lacambra, reiterated in her closing remarks the importance of the program in making firms competitive in their respective industries and raising the caliber of their goods and services.

"Let's address problems and challenges together... Nawa'y ipagpatuloy natin ang inobasyon sa ating mga negosyo," ARD Lacambra further added in her closing message.

Along with the awardees, DOST R02 staffs and PSTO representatives were also present at the event. #OneDOST4U #DOSTRegion02

Orientation...

(FROM PAGE 1)

Precyl Ramos, OIC-OPSWDO. She provided an Overview on the National Early Learning Curriculum and the National Early Learning Framework, highlighting the curriculum's goals, structure, and implementation strategies. Her session aimed to align the educators' teaching practices with national standards and expectations.

In the latter part of the day, Mr. Aries Panganiban, PECCD Focal Person, presented the New Standards and Guidelines,

along with the Guidelines on the Registration and Granting of Permit and Recognition to Public and Private Child Development Centers and Learning Centers. His detailed discussion outlined the procedures, requirements, and criteria for registration and recognition, ensuring that all attendees were well-informed and prepared to comply with the new regulations.

The orientation concluded with an open forum where participants had the opportunity to ask

questions and seek clarifications from the speakers. The interactive session allowed for the exchange of ideas and best practices, fostering a collaborative spirit among the child development workers and teachers.

The activity marks a significant step forward in the province's commitment to providing high-quality early childhood education. By equipping educators with the necessary tools and knowledge, the Provincial Government of Cavite ensures that its youngest citizens receive the best possible start in life. (OPIO)

PhilHealth...

(FROM PAGE 1)

huhugutin (Based on our meeting earlier, I think it's doable. Congress allocates funds for PhilHealth each year based on available budget, so that could be a source)," he said.

Tulfo said the current hemodialysis cost of PHP2,600 per session does not typically cover the vials to be injected to the patients.

"The good news is hopefully by next month, wala na talagang ica-cash out yung mga nagpapadialysis lalo na yung mga three time a week. Kasi ngayon kailangan nila bumili ng mga vials sa botika. Dadalhin nila doon sa dialysis center para i-injection sa kanila (The good news is hopefully by next month, patients undergoing dialysis, especially those who go three times a week, would no longer need to cash out. Currently, they have to buy vials at a pharmacy. They would bring it to the dialysis center so that it would be injected to them)," Tulfo said.

Santos, meanwhile, said PhilHealth's assets amount to PHP589.5 billion, including PHP463.7 billion worth of reserve funds.

Tulfo also reported that mammograms and ultrasound have already been included in PhilHealth's Konsulta Packages nationwide since May 15.

Santos said the capitation rate for the Konsulta program has been increased to PHP1,700 per patient for both government and private Konsulta package providers.

Basic dental services The PhilHealth is also looking into the inclusion of basic dental services in its packages under the Universal Health Care (UHC) law, following Senator Raffy Tulfo's observation that procedures are limited to tooth extraction and cleft palate surgeries.

"We are currently exploring it, studying it, looking closely to doing (a) study," PhilHealth president and chief executive officer Emmanuel Ledesma said in at a media forum in

Pasig City.

He added that the PhilHealth has enough funds for such services.

Meantime, PhilHealth Benefits Development and Research Development senior manager Melanie Santillan said the Philippine Dental Association (PDA) still needs to come up with the guidelines for dental practice.

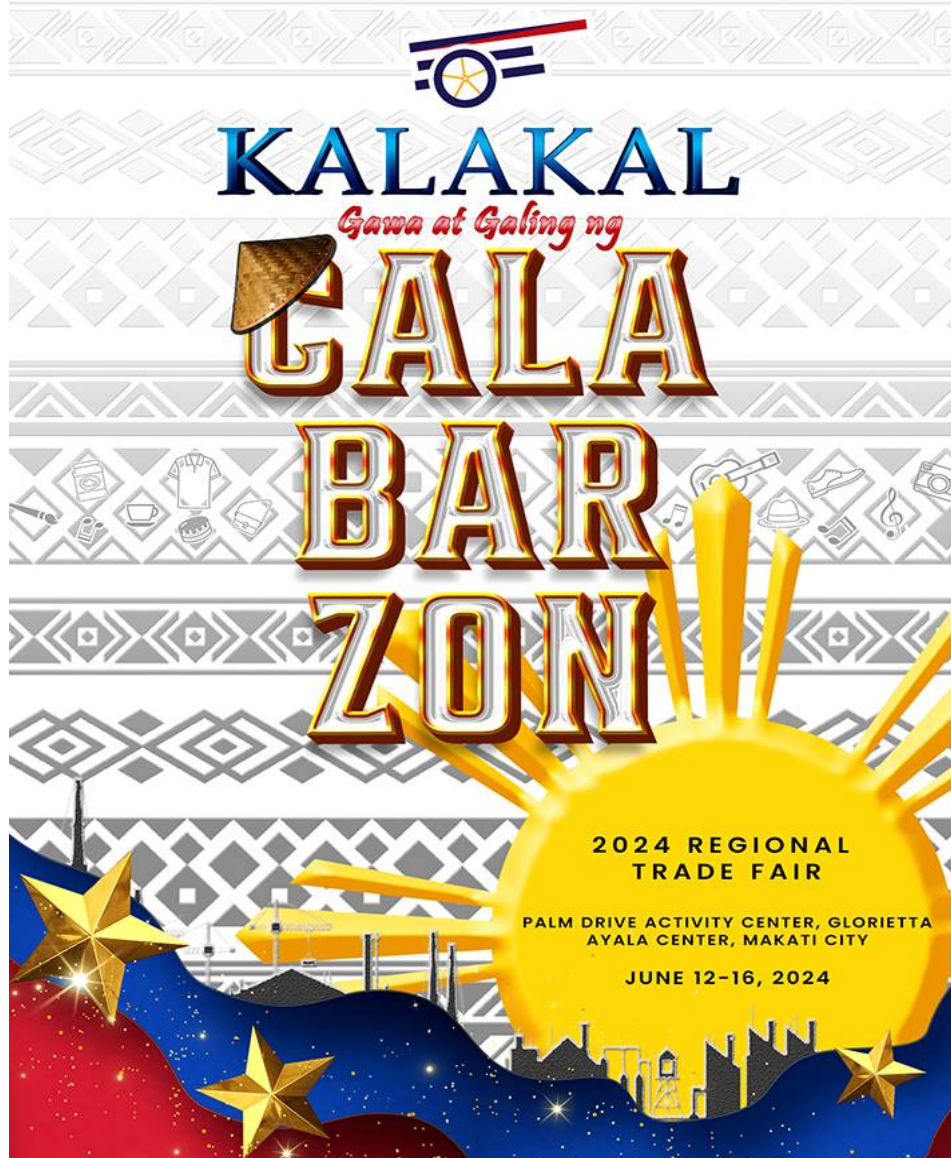
"Sa kanila kase ngayon palang nila ini-i-standardize 'yung dental services. Kunwari, ano ang gingawa during oral prophylaxis. Baka iba iba sila ng practice (They are standardizing the dental services just now. For example, what do they do during prophylaxis. They might have different practices)," she said. "We do not want patient safety to be compromised."

Senators are considering amendments on the UHC law so it can cover basic dental services like checkups and cleaning since 73 million Filipinos suffer from tooth decay, based on a National Health Survey in 2018.

The PDA reported in February that 72 percent of the population have cavities. (PNA)



# DTI 4-A to mount its 11th Kalakal Calabarzon in Glorietta 2, Makati City



The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A, in cooperation with the DTI Provincial Offices of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon, will be mounting its 11th Kalakal CALABARZON: Gawa at Galing ng CALABARZON at the Palm Drive Activity Center, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City on 12-16 June 2024.

An annual regional trade fair that started in 2014, Kalakal will once again serve as a venue for the 50 CALABARZON micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to showcase and sell their products through sponsored mall arrangements and partnerships. These MSMEs have been beneficiaries of the DTI programs under the SME Development Division such as One Town, One Product

(OTOP) NextGen, Shared Service Facilities (SSF), Kapatid Mentor ME (KMME), and Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). The said programs helped them in improving the quality, design, and packaging of their products, which include organic produce, green and eco-friendly products, Halal-certified goods, condiments, gifts, housewares and decor, fashion wearables, health

and wellness products, and processed food and beverages.

“Through this collaborative effort with our MSMEs, we want to showcase what the CALABARZON region can offer in terms of delicious food and quality non-food products. We encourage the public to come and visit our fair. Let us support our local businesses. Buy local; love local,” said DTI Regional Director Marissa C. Argente.

## DOST, AIEC...

(FROM PAGE 8)

who can not only maintain and operate the SCADA system but also serve as champions for STI in their respective communities.

With our collaborative efforts with AIEC and NEA, DOST will be able to leverage our collective expertise and resources to develop a system that not only improves the reliability and efficiency of power delivery but also takes into

account the unique geographical, social, and economic contexts of the areas we serve.

This, in turn, will create a ripple effect of positive change, inspiring future generations to embrace the transformative power of science and technology.

The activity was attended by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., together with

the Representative of the APEC Party list Sergio C. Dagooc, NEA Administrator Antonio Mariano C. Almeda, and AIEC President Rene M. Fajilagutan.

Also present in the activity were DOE Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara, DOE Assistant Secretary Mario Marasigan, DOST-ASTI Director Franz de Leon, and DOST Caraga Regional Director Noel Ajoc, among others. **(Dave Masirag)**

## MPT South...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Turismo candidates. Program partners also expressed their support for the initiative:

“With the development of the “Biyaheng South Tourism Passport,” we have revolutionized local tourism.

Travelers can feel even more motivated to discover and engage with Cavite’s beautiful landscapes, and diverse selection of products and services, which also provides opportunities for our local businesses to flourish,” said Mr. Ariel Iglesia, Regional Director of DILG IV-A.

“As the Regional Director of the DILG IV-A, I offer our continued support. Know that we are equally as dedicated to reach greater heights, and provide meaningful experiences not just to travelers and tourists, but also to the local communities whose livelihoods are impacted by these initiatives,” he added.

“The Provincial Government of Cavite and the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer extend

its gratitude to all stakeholders and partners who are working with us to further boost the tourism industry of the province.

Together with MPT South, the Biyaheng South Cavite Tourism Passport is projected to increase travels to Cavite and contribute to our local economic development,” said Ms. Elinia Rozelle Sangalang, Provincial Tourism Officer of Cavite Tourism.

“This passport symbolizes our collective commitment to promoting tourism in Cavite,” said Ms. Arlette Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management “Through the Biyaheng South campaign, we are highlighting our toll roads and the rich cultural and natural attractions of the South.

We hope this initiative inspires more people to explore and appreciate the beauty of Cavite.”

This program is part of the Biyaheng South campaign of MPT South, an award-winning

tourism advocacy program active on social media platforms like Facebook, TikTok, and Instagram.

It promotes the toll road network CAVITEX, CAVITEX C5 Link, and CALAX as gateways to the sensational sites and attractions in the South. With over 30,000 combined followers on digital platforms, Biyaheng South has generated more than two million views on TikTok, increasing vehicle traffic along its expressways and helping boost the economic growth of Cavite and Laguna provinces.

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). Aside from the CAVITEX and CALAX network of toll roads, MPTC also holds the concession for the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For questions about this press release, please contact corpcomm@mptsouth.com.

PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A  
**ADVISORY**  
No. 2024-013



## Work Suspension in PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A and Local Health Insurance Offices in Quezon on May 27, 2024

Governor Angelina “Doktora Helen” Tan has suspended work in government offices in Quezon on May 27, 2024 per PDRRC Memorandum Circular No. DHT-03.

Thus, work in PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A and its Local Health Insurance Offices (LHIOs) in Lucena City and Gumaca, Quezon are closed on the said date to give ample time for affected employees to address the damages in their homes caused by STS “Aghon”.

Regular operations shall resume on May 28, 2024 (Tuesday).

For your information and guidance.

**DANILO M. REYNES, MD, MPA**  
Regional Vice President

Date signed: May 26, 2024

# ROTC Games fosters unity, discipline, loyalty

Almost 2,000 student-athletes are competing in the Philippine Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) Games 2024 Visayas Regional Qualifying Leg that kicked off at Panaad Park and Stadium here Sunday.

Hosted by Bacolod, together with the neighboring cities of Talisay and Victorias, the weeklong sports competition, themed "Husay ng ROTC, Husay ng Kabataan" gathers participants from Western Visayas (Region 6), Central Visayas (Region 7) and Eastern Visayas (Region 8).

In his speech, Senator Francis Tolentino, honorary chairperson of the Games' Executive Organizing Committee, underscored the importance of the ROTC Games in fostering a sense of unity, discipline and loyalty to the nation.

The ROTC Games is "a modern manifestation of the essence" of revolutionary leader Andres Bonifacio's message to the youth as the founder of the Katipunan.

"Through this, our cadets are not only honing their physical abilities but also fostering a sense of unity, discipline and loyalty to the nation – values that Bonifacio held dearly," he said.

Student-athletes will see action in 14 events -- arnis, athletics, boxing, chess, e-sports, sepak takraw, taekwondo, table tennis, volleyball,

basketball, target shooting, raiders competition, swimming and Miss ROTC pageant -- in the Games organized by the Department of National Defense, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for the second year.

Of the 1,938 total participants, 1,374 are from Western Visayas; 402, from Central Visayas; and 162 from Eastern Visayas.

In the ROTC Games' maiden edition last year, the Visayas leg, hosted by Iloilo City, gathered about 700 student-athletes only.

Defense Undersecretary Pablo Lorenzo told the athletes to look beyond medals and victories and not lose sight of the true objectives of the Games, which are to promote the ROTC program, discover new talents, and instill a deeper sense of nationalism and sportsmanship.

"This year's ROTC Games are made more exciting by the doubling of events, from seven to 14. We now have more participants and a broader platform for our talented

cadets to shine," he said. PSC Chair Richard Bachmann, whose message was delivered by Commissioner Bong Co, said he is "excited to see more legacies of ROTC Games being contributed to the success of Philippine sports."

"An inspired youth is a vital force for continuing the accomplishment of the Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines) governance. The ROTC Games helps instill discipline and commitment on the youth, in and out of the sporting venue," he added.

Norberto Mangulabnan, president of host CHED institution Carlos Hilado Memorial State University, said the ROTC Games "serves as a platform to highlight the ROTC program, not just as a military training but as a pathway to patriotism and holistic youth development."

"The Games emphasizes sportsmanship, discipline, teamwork and excellence, instilling values that go beyond the athletic field and contribute to the overall growth of the participants," he said. (PNA)



ROTC GAMES IN BACOLOD. The lighting of the cauldron during the opening ceremony of the Philippine Reserve Officers' Training Corps Games 2024 Visayas Regional Qualifying Leg at Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City on Sunday (May 26, 2024). A total of 1,938 student-athletes will compete in 14 sports events and Miss ROTC pageant in the week-long competition. (Photo courtesy of Bacolod City-PIO)

## Antipolo school opens girls' volleyball title-retention bid May 29

California Academy of Antipolo begins its title defense against Chiang Kai Shek High School when the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League unfolds Wednesday at Adamson University gym in Manila.



FOR GIRLS ONLY. The Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League aims to discover future national athletes, according to Shakey's Pizza Asia Ventures, Inc. president Vic Gregorio (4th from left) during a press conference at Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City on Monday (May 27, 2024). The second edition of the tournament will kick off Wednesday (May 29) at Adamson University gym in Manila. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

California Academy, which defeated Naga College Foundation last year, and Chiang Kai Shek face off at noontime.

Also playing on opening day are Adamson against University of the Philippines Integrated School at 8 a.m.; De La Salle-Lipa against Bethel Academy at 10 a.m.; University of Santo Tomas against Bacolod Tay Tung High School at 2 p.m.; and

Naga College against De La Salle-Zobel 4 p.m.

A total of 18 teams are competing in the tournament organized by Athletics Events and Sports Management, Inc. (ACES).

Aside from the Adamson gym, games will also be held at San Andres gym.

Pools A and B will have five teams each, while Pool C and D will have four each. The top two teams in each pool will advance to the

quarterfinals.

The preliminary round matches will be played in best-of-three sets, while the quarterfinal, semifinal and final rounds will be played in best-of-five sets.

"Expect another exciting competition because all the teams are eager to win the title," ACES president Ian Laurel said during Monday's press conference in Quezon City. (PNA)

## Cebu City speeds up sports center rehab in time for Palaro 2024

Acting Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia on Monday vowed to make the Palarong Pambansa 2024 memorable for the athletes who will be competing in various sporting events in July.



TRACK OVAL REHAB. Cebu City acting Mayor Raymond Alvin Garcia (left) checks the track oval at the Cebu City Sports Center during his visit on May 14, 2024. In a press conference, Garcia said on Monday (May 27, 2024) he wants a memorable Palarong Pambansa 2024 in Cebu City on July 6-17, 2024, as he pressed contractors to finish the sports center rehabilitation efforts on time. (PNA file photo)

At a press conference, Garcia said he already pressed the contractors to finish the track oval rehabilitation at the Cebu City Sports Center on time or else they would face the consequences.

"We are facing the importance of meeting the deadline, particularly in preparation for the upcoming Palarong Pambansa," he said.

Garcia hinted at possible challenges the contractors

would face on their licenses should they fail to complete the work on time.

Garcia visited the track oval upon his assumption on May 13 and found several works that needed the attention of the city

government.

Among the major works found to have been delayed is the rubberizing of the track oval. The contractor explained the delay and vowed to finish it on time.

He cited the contractor's

explanation which said that the installation of the rubber at the eight-lane 400-meter racetrack oval should be done last so as not to be destroyed by heavy equipment used to repair the other

components of the sports center.

Garcia said he is also meeting other people involved in the preparations for the Palaro that will be held from July 6 to 17. (PNA)

# Two Lucky Motorists Win Brand New SUV From MPTC Happy Holidеals Raffle Promo

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and Chevrolet Philippines turned the heat up as it marked the successful conclusion of the 'MPTC Happy Holidеals' promo and brought joy to the luckiest motorists across the nation.



During the awarding ceremony held on Monday, May 20, at Chevrolet San Fernando Pampanga, the spotlight shone on two lucky raffle winners all the way from Cebu and Manila, who each drove home a brand-new Chevrolet Tracker LS. The celebration extended further with 10 motorists winning P100,000 each, while 40 additional winners rejoiced with P50,000 each.

The winners shared their heartfelt gratitude and emphasized their use of the MPT DriveHub app to join the raffle promo.

"We're thankful for the blessing na nabigay. We are thankful to MPTC for giving us this brand-new car and making travel really easy for us. The EASYTRIP RFID is a big help as it makes trip more convenient," said Mr. Jonathan Paroli, one of the

two winners of the promo. "Nagpapasalamat po ako sa MPTC at Chevrolet for this wonderful opportunity and prize. Thank you to CCLEX for making this happen," added raffle winner Mr. Rommel Tejeno, who flew all the way from Cebu.

Qualifying for the promo was effortless for participants. By simply linking their Easytrip RFID to the MPT DriveHub app, reloading through the app, and making at least four transactions on any MPTC expressway, motorists secured their chance to win these fantastic prizes. This marks the second year that MPTC has run this promotional campaign, aimed at giving back to its valued motorists during the festive holiday season.

"The timing couldn't be more perfect," remarked the President and CEO of

MPTC, Mr. Rogelio 'Babes' Singon.

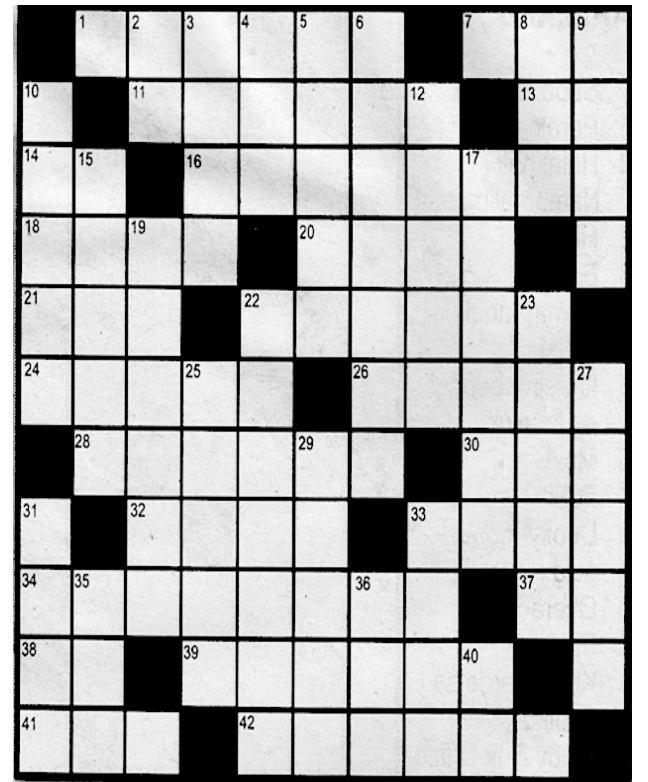
"As we dive into the summer season, these SUVs offer our winners the perfect companions for exploring exciting summer destinations. Also, the cash prizes serve as bonuses to enhance their summer experiences. We hope this promo has added an extra layer of joy and excitement to our motorists' journeys and inspired them to create unforgettable memories along the way. Plus, we encourage them to use the MPT DriveHub app and discover its conveniences."

MPTC, the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investment Corporation (MPIC), stands as the largest toll road developer and operator in the Philippines, overseeing key projects such as the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-

Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), NLEX Connector Road, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For the latest updates and more details, please visit [www.mptdrivehub.com.ph](http://www.mptdrivehub.com.ph), or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/metropacificollways>, <https://www.facebook.com/MPTDriveHubPH>, <https://www.facebook.com/easytripPH>, <https://www.facebook.com/NLEXexpressways>, <https://www.facebook.com/cavitexpressway>, <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialCALAX>, <https://www.facebook.com/CCLEXexpressway>.

## PALAI SIPAN



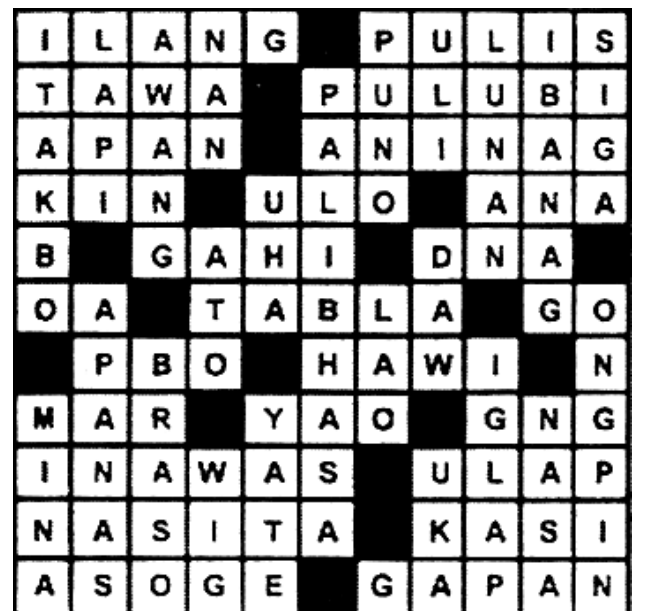
### PAHALANG

- 1 Rentahan
- 7 Men In Black
- 11 Isapi
- 13 Kaye Abad
- 14 47
- 16 Ibinaba
- 18 Higaang malambot
- 20 Pangkulay ng buhok
- 21 Animo
- 22 Dalhin pataas
- 24 Saklob
- 26 Laruan ng bata
- 28 Malubha
- 30 Suyo
- 32 Pag-unday sa itak
- 33 Kubo
- 34 Tinanggih
- 37 Simbolo ng nick
- 38 Magalang na tugon
- 39 Kantahan
- 41 Solo
- 42 Manduhan

### PABABA

- 2 RP na ngayon
- 3 Isang kontinent
- 4 Isang Dynasty
- 5 Ms. Linda
- 6 Niyari
- 8 Ikod
- 9 Siga
- 10 Hakab
- 12 Paliguan
- 15 Paghapdi ng tiyan
- 17 Pahimakas
- 19 Manunula
- 22 Ipaayos
- 23 Dating PBA player na Mark
- 25 Loob ng kabayanan
- 27 Tatak ng cellphone
- 29 Bitin
- 31 Kopya
- 33 Bulong
- 35 Numbers: daglat
- 36 Marahil
- 40 Simbolo ng sodium

## SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Matagumpay po nating idinaos ngayong araw ang pagdiriwang ng Pambansang Araw ng Watawat at ika-126 Anibersaryo ng Labanan sa Alapan sa Dambana ng Pambansang Watawat dito sa lungsod ng Imus. Lubos naman po akong nagpapasalamat sa presensya nina NHCP Chairperson Lisa Guerrero Nakpil, NHCP Executive Director Carminda Arevalo, kinatawan ni Gov. Jonvic Remulla na si Bb. Elinia Imelda Rozelle Sangalang mula sa Office of the Provincial Tourism, DILG Provincial Director Danilo Nobleza, Cong. Adrian Jay "AJ" Advincula, mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlungsod sa pangunguna ni Vice Mayor Homer Saquilayan, Philippine Navy LCDR TED CEREZO, JR., Cavite PNP PCOL ELEUTERIO RICARDO JR., SK Federation, Liga ng mga Barangay, DepEd Imus at mga guro ng Araling Panlipunan, Cavite Historical Society, Imus Historical Society, Republica ng Filipinas Reenactors Group, Veterans Federation of the Philippines-Cavite, at ang inapo ng mga unang nag-organisa ng Banderada sa Alapan. Nawa'y himukin natin ang bawat Pilipino na magkaroon ng kamalayan at maging mulat sa mga pangyayari sa ating bansa. Sa ganitong paraan, ating mapoprotektahan ang kasarinlan at ipinaglabang demokrasya ng ating mga ninuno. Kasama ang buong Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus, buong puso po akong nakasumikap sa mga plano at proyekto para sa pangalalaga ng ating kasaysayan. Patuloy po tayong magsumikap na protektahan ito para sa Pilipino at para sa bansang Pilipinas! #Watawat2024 #NationalFlagDay #LabanSaAlapan #AangatAngImus #AlagangAdvincula

Dagdag Kaalaman

Mas marami ng 60 ang buto ng sanggol kaysa magulang niya.

# MPT South Partners with Cavite Tourism to Launch the First-Ever Cavite Tourism Passport

May 23, 2024 – Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), in collaboration with Cavite Tourism and supported by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) CALABARZON, has launched the first-ever Cavite Tourism Passport.



Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), in collaboration with Cavite Tourism and supported by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) CALABARZON, has launched the first-ever Cavite Tourism Passport. The launch event was graced by Amadeo Mayor Redel John Dionisio, tourism officers of Cavite, and various lifestyle content creators and media partners.



(from L-R) MPT South Manager for CSM Integrated Communications Joan Miranda, Provincial Tourism Officer of Cavite Tourism Elinia Rozelle Sangalang, DILG IV-A Regional Director Ariel Iglesia, and Municipality of Amadeo, Cavite Mayor Redel John Dionisio lead the unveiling of the Biyaheng South Cavite Tourism Passport last May 23, 2024.

The launch event was graced by Amadeo Mayor Redel John Dionisio, tourism officers of Cavite, and various lifestyle content creators and media partners.

The Cavite Tourism Passport aims to encourage tourists to explore the rich heritage, culture, and diverse destinations within Cavite.

Through this innovative passport program, participants can collect stamps from various attractions and tourism categories for a chance to win exciting tokens from MPT South and its partners. The program will run from May 24, 2024 to December 31, 2024.

The passports may be redeemed at partner establishments, tourism offices in Cavite, and the CALAX Customer Service Center.

During the launch event, guests received their own copies of the passport and enjoyed a modern cultural dance performance by the Reyna ng **MPT SOUTH • 5**



Sa pangunguna ng Kawit MDRRMO, isinailalim natin ang mga Barangay Chairman at kanilang mga konseho sa Incident Command System Executive Course. Dahil nagsisimula na rin ang pag-uulan sa atin at pagkakaroon ng mga bagyo, aktibo nating pinagbubuti ang kahandaan mula sa ating pamahalaang bayan hanggang sa mga barangay. Maraming salamat sa lahat ng mga nakatuwag natin sa ating inisiyatibo upang mapanatiling **#RatedTripleA ang kakayahan nating maprotektahan ang kaligtasan ng ating Kawit! #AksyongAngeloAguinaldo #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo**

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### Cavite Career Caravan in SM City Rosario



The Cavite Career Caravan, held on May 23, 2024, at SM City Rosario, showcased a significant collaborative effort led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) under Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, in partnership with SM City Rosario's management and supported by the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) - Rosario. The event was designed to provide extensive support to job seekers in Cavite, with SK President Honorable Maric Solis attending to show solidarity with the participants.

The event featured 55 employers offering a variety of job opportunities, drawing a total of 347 applicants, with 18 individuals being hired on the spot. Additionally, representatives from several national government agencies, including SSS, Pag-ibig, PhilHealth, TESDA, PSA, BIR, DMW, OWWA, and NBI, were present to provide crucial information and assistance on employment and social welfare programs.

The success of the Cavite Career Caravan was a result of the steadfast support and collaboration of the participating companies and government agencies. The Provincial Government of Cavite expressed its gratitude to all contributors for their commitment to empowering job seekers and promoting economic growth and prosperity in the region. **(OPIO)**

### DOST, AIEC and NEA ink MoU to promote Energy Security in PH

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), together with the Association of Isolated Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and the National Electrification Administration (NEA), sealed today a collaboration through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that will harness the transformative potential of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) to drive progress and improve the lives of Filipinos.



This initiative embarks on a project that aligns with this commitment to the development of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for isolated electric cooperatives. The SCADA project presents an opportunity for the regional offices to foster collaboration, knowledge sharing, and capacity building among local partners.

DOST, through DOST-CARAGA and DOST-ASTI, will provide technical expertise, consultancy services, and software development support. AIEC, with its understanding of the needs of electric cooperatives, will facilitate the necessary clearances and permits. NEA, in its oversight role, will ensure compatibility with its monitoring infrastructure and provide technical assistance.

The goal is to improve power delivery in these underserved communities and lay the groundwork for future improvements, such as efficiency in power restoration, operational cost reduction for electric cooperatives, and potential integration of renewable energy sources.

By providing training and technical assistance to IECs and other stakeholders, these agencies will be able to build a network of local experts **► DOST, AIEC • 5**