

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME II • NO. 51

JULY 21 - 27, 2024

P10.00

Prime Group launches Cavite solar project

Prime Infra and unit Prime Solar Solutions Corp., inaugurated on 17 July their 64-megawatt solar power plant in Maragondon, Cavite.

Present at the event were Department of Energy Renewable Energy Management Bureau (DoE-REMB) director Marissa Cerezo, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) chairperson and CEO Monalisa Dimalanta, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, Maragondon Mayor Lawrence "Umbe" Arca, Prime Infra president and CEO Guillaume Lucci, and Prime Solar president and CEO Cheryll Len Mendoza.

"The completion of the Maragondon solar power plant is a significant milestone for the Prime Infra's energy portfolio. We have reached this point of course thanks to likeminded partners who not only envision a more sustainable future but actively work towards achieving it. The plant inaugurated today is certainly a part of Prime Infra's wider sustainable strategy and continue to be very much aligned to our purpose of building better lives and resilient economies through critical infrastructure," Lucci said.

The Maragondon, Cavite power plant is one of two power plants under Prime Solar's first project, supplying up to 128 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. The other plant is in Tanauan, Batangas. **PRIME GROUP • 4**



Cavite City declares State of Calamity after devastating fire

Cavite City has declared a state of calamity following a destructive fire that razed homes in Barangays 5 and 7, affecting numerous families.

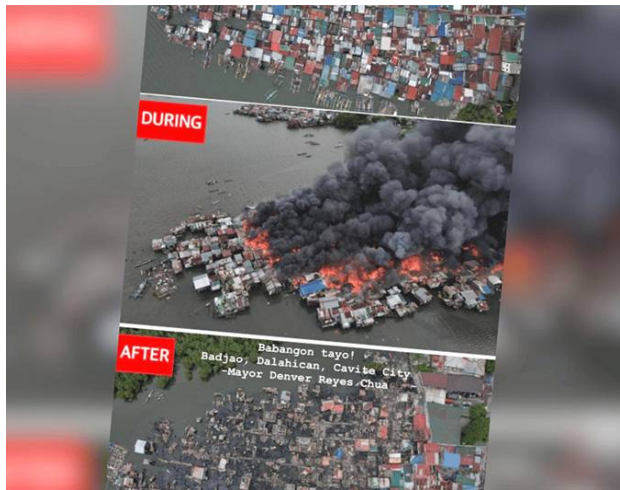
Mayor Denver Reyes Chua and the Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (LDRRMC) endorsed and recommended this action, which was ratified during the 29th Regular Session of the Sangguniang Panlungsod led by Vice Mayor Raleigh Grepo Rusit and city councilors.

The resolution, numbered 2024-094, acknowledges the urgent need to assist the affected families who lost their homes in the recent blaze.

The fire affected over 900 families in Badjao, Dalahican.

"Bagamat halos walang natira sa mga kabahayan sa lugar na ito ay naniniwala ako na sa ating pag tutulongan ay muli silang makakabangon," Chua said in a Facebook post.

The declaration of a state of calamity enables the local government to access emergency funds swiftly and implement relief operations to aid the displaced residents.



Pi Network Poised for Growth: Grand GCV Ambassador Calls for Community to Build Real Ecosystem

Manila, Philippines - July 18, 2024 - In exciting news for Pioneers, Grand Global GCV Ambassador Ms. Doris Yin has outlined key developments as the network enters a crucial stage of building a robust ecosystem. This marks a significant shift for Pi, aiming to transition from a speculative asset to a functional global currency.



MS. DORIS YIN
Grand Global GCV Ambassador



MS. LUMARI
Global GCV Ambassador
Philippines



Strong Foundation, New Focus The initial phase successfully established Pi as a reliable unit of value, with Pioneers generating over a million data recorded on the blockchain (\$314,159 GCV) across 120 countries. However, merchant adoption remains a hurdle. To address this, Pi is now prioritizing the **PI NETWORK • 4**

DOST supports Cagayan de Oro food enterprise thru SETUP

In its commitment to increasing its productivity and serving quality dim sum menus, Backyard Food Corporation signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Science and Technology—10 (DOST 10) on July 19, 2024, to secure assistance for technology upgrading through its Small Enterprise Technology Upgrade Program (SETUP).

SETUP is a flagship program of DOST that assists micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing a wide range of science, technology, and innovative solutions to improve their products, services, and operations and increase their productivity and competitiveness.

Backyard Food Corporation, a local Cagayan de Oro City food industry operator, operates under Backyard Barbecue and Dimsum Express. Established in 2019 by Mr. John Ernesto A. Chaves, Backyard Barbecue quickly gained popularity due to its affordable prices and **DOST • 4**



Miru Systems' 18 Billion Peso Contract for Philippine Elections Sparks Major Concerns

Manila, Philippines — On July 9, 2024, Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta, Party List – SAGIP, addressed the media regarding troubling reports on Miru Systems, which COMELEC has chosen to supply voting technology for the 2025 national elections. Marcoleta expressed serious reservations about whether Miru's technology aligns with the stringent specifications mandated by the Automated Election Law. This law requires that election technologies demonstrate proven capability and successful use in prior elections, both domestically and internationally.



Marcoleta emphasized the fundamental importance of conducting fair and transparent elections, echoing the concerns of many Filipinos. He stressed the urgency for COMELEC to provide clear responses to allegations raised about Miru's technologies, given their implications for the credibility and integrity of future elections in the Philippines. COMELEC is set to spend 18 billion pesos on machines and technologies for the 2025 elections, heightening the need for scrutiny and accountability.

The concerns raised by Marcoleta coincide with an investigative report by Politico, a prominent US-based journal, which has scrutinized Miru Systems'

track record. The report questioned the reliability of Miru's voting technology in Iraq and Congo, nations supported by US election funding but marred by significant technical issues. Politico's investigation also highlighted sanctions imposed by the US Treasury Department on the president of the Congo Election Commission due to corruption allegations involving Miru's machines.

Miru Systems

Locally, Miru Systems secured a sole-bidder contract with COMELEC for the 2025 elections, despite calls from various quarters for greater scrutiny. COMELEC's response that "winners in Congo and Iraq are satisfied with Miru's performance" has raised further doubts about the

suitability of Miru's technology for the Philippines' electoral process.

Furthermore, concerns extend to Miru's association with Russian elections, where it has ties with Bauman Moscow State Technical University. This affiliation played a role in developing election

scanners used in Russia's controversial 2018 presidential election and subsequently in Iraq, raising questions about the technology's impartiality and reliability.

The issue has broader implications as the Philippines navigates geopolitical tensions.

Surveys by Pulse Asia underscore Filipinos' preference for Western-led democratic principles over concerns about Russian and Chinese influences. This sentiment underscores the need for COMELEC to carefully consider the ramifications of partnering with a company linked to Russia, especially amidst efforts to strengthen ties with the United States and other

Western democracies. The ongoing controversy prompts critical questions about COMELEC's procurement practices and its commitment to upholding electoral integrity. Marcoleta's call for transparency reflects widespread public concern over safeguarding the sanctity of Philippine elections against potential external influences.

Bridging the Language Barriers: Translation Workshop ng Translation & Interpretation Division (BTA-BARMM), Matagumpay!

Matagumpay ang Bridging the Language Barriers: Translation Workshop ng Translation & Interpretation Division (BTA-BARMM) na ginanap noong 8-10 Hulyo 2024 sa Lungsod Davao sa pamumuno ni Engr. Abdulgani L. Manalocon, MBA, JD, Direktor II at Bai Fairuz B. Candao, Punò, Translation and Interpretation Division ng LTAIS.



Pinasalamatan ni Engr. Manalocon si Tagapangulong Arthur P. Casanova sa suporta ng KWF sa kanilang programa kabilang sa capacity building na kanilang ginagawa at sa pagkakasakatuparan ng Lagdaan ng Memorandum ng Unawaan (MOU).

Umaasa rin si Engr. Manalocon na mapagayabong pa ang relasyon ng Translation & Interpretation Division (BTA-BARMM) at KWF.

"Ako po'y taos pusong nagpapasalamat para sa patuloy na gabay at inspirasyon na kusa ninyong ibinigay sa amin. Makakaasa po kayo na ang mga aral at teknik na aming natutunan mula sa naging pagsasanay na inyong pinangunahan bilang resource speaker, ay siya naming gagamitin sa pang araw-araw naming tungkulin," pagbabahagi ni Bai Fairuz B. Candao. Ipinahayag naman ni

Nor-ain I. Lambitan, Legislative Staff Officer II ng LTAIS, Translation & Interpretation Division na isang malaking suporta sa kanilang dibisyon ang pagbibigay ng pagsasanay ng KWF sa Paghahanda ng Korespondensiya Opisyal (KO), Ortograpiyang Pambansa (OP), at Introduksiyon sa Pagsalin para sa mga Empleado ng Pamahalaan. Dumalo sa pagsasanay ang iba't ibang tagasalin ng iba't ibang wika kabilang

ang wikang Maguindanaon, Filipino, Arabico, Yakan, Tausug, Meranaw. Ang matagumpay na Panlalawigang Seminar sa Korespondensiya Opisyal (PSKO) ay naisagawa sa puspusang pakikipag-ugnayan ni Gng. Pinky Jane Tan Santelices-Tenmatay, Senior Language Researcher at sa pamumuno ni G. Jomar I. Cañega, Punò, Sangay ng Impormasyon at Publikasyon (SIP).

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Sunday Tribune News Publishing is a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite with Editorial and Business address at 155 Brgy. Panamitan Kawit, Cavite 4104. CP No. 0917-109-9191 Telephone No.: (046) 484-7556 E-mailAdd: sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com

MEMBER: **PAPI** Publishers Association of the Philippines, Inc.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

6 Months P250.00 One YearP500.00

ADVERTISING RATE

Commercial — P200/col.cm

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Turning Risk into Readiness: DOST 7 Brings Handa Pilipinas to Cebu City

Cebu City, Philippines – The recent eruption of Mt. Canlaon in Negros Oriental and the disasters experienced in the Visayas has underscored the urgent need for effective disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) strategies. This makes the upcoming Handa Pilipinas Visayas Leg a timely and critical event. Local Government Units (LGUs) and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to voice their specific needs, discuss new innovations in DRRM, and explore strategies for climate resilience during this event.

The DOST 7 will be hosting the Visayas Leg of Handa Pilipinas in Cebu City for the first time. This event, set to take place at Waterfront Hotel on July 24-26, 2024, aims to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience across the Visayas region.

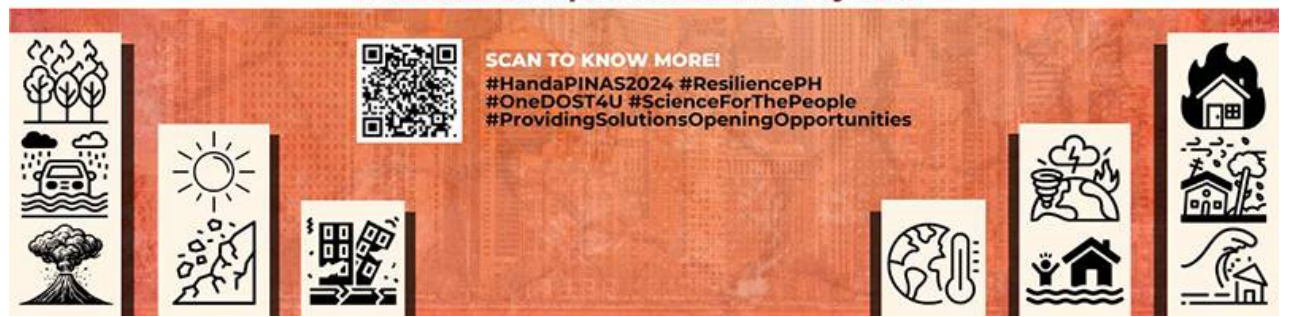
Handa Pilipinas, conceptualized by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum and started in 2023, is a national initiative designed to promote GeoriskPH. Led by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS), GeoriskPH provides protocols and platforms to share hazard, exposure, and risk information. This initiative is crucial in helping individuals, communities, local governments, and national agencies prepare and plan to mitigate the risks posed by natural hazards.

GeoriskPH offers a comprehensive range of tools and information, including hazard maps, risk assessments, early

warning systems, and decision support tools. These resources enable stakeholders to identify areas of vulnerability, assess risks, and make informed decisions to reduce the impact of disasters.

Since its inception, Handa Pilipinas has become an annual event celebrated across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. This year, the Visayas Leg in Cebu City will feature a series of forums addressing various aspects of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). Topics will include innovative technologies for DRRM, reliable sources of information, combating social media misinformation, key lessons from past disasters in Visayas, DRRM needs of the LGUs and effective communication of hazards, risks, and warnings.

A highlight of the event is the exhibit of DRRM-related technologies of PAGASA, PHIVOLCS, DOST Research and Development



Institutes, DOST Councils, and partners from the private sector.

A special segment of the program will be dedicated to media personnel, information officers, and student journalists. This session aims to enhance their understanding of disaster warnings, ensuring accurate reporting and effective dissemination of critical information, which is especially vital in the age of social media.

The DOST 7 invites all stakeholders to participate in this event to enhance disaster preparedness and resilience in the Visayas region.

Climate Justice Groups Slam Senate's Fast-Tracking of Gas Bills, Threatening of Lives, Livelihood

Pasay City, Philippines – The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), together with other organizations, raised banners against the circus of a public hearing held today, July 18, at the Senate of the Philippines, Pasay City.

Pushing for the Philippine Downstream Natural Gas Industry (PDNGI), the Senate conducted the public hearing of the five gas bills (four from the upper house, and one from the lower house), ironically, without the presence and perspective of the public. As Senator Pia Cayetano sits as the Senate Committee on Energy Chair, and Senator Chiz Escudero as the Senate President, groups such as PMCJ, were taken off the opportunity to participate at the said hearing.

"The Filipino people will not be fooled. The abrupt passing of proposed laws that are pushing for the continued use of toxic and deadly liquified natural gas (LNG) will keep on fueling the people's rage. These sneaky tactics of politicians are pathetic and just passé," PMCJ National Coordinator Ian Rivera said.

The country's biggest energy companies, such as the Razon-led Prime Energy, Ang-led San Miguel Corporation Global Power, Lopez-led First Gen Corp., Aboitiz Power, and the Ayala-led ACEN Corp., expressed their commitment to the government's push for developing the Philippine LNG industry. These companies are clearly being favored by the government, over the people's demand for a clean, affordable, equitable and just energy system, Rivera added.

Senate Bill (SB) No. 152, SB No. 1944, SB No.

1991, SB No. 2247, and House Bill No. 8456, all supporting the PDNGI exudes incongruity with President Bongbong Marcos' Executive Order No. 21 which pushes for the use of renewable energy (RE) and policy and administrative framework for offshore wind development.

Senator Escudero has come under fire for spreading false information about LNG and RE. "It is the Senate, nailing the coffin, for the Gas Law of the Philippines. Under the leadership of Senator Escudero, who ascended to [his post] through a fossil fuel support for his political career, while knowing fully well with all the senators the implications of this law," Rivera said.

"The science is clear and it stated that the energy efficiency of RE is steadily increasing compared to coal and LNG. Also, the country has the second highest cost of electricity in Asia due to import dependency of fossil fuels. Moreover, negative health impacts of these fossil gas plants are constantly endangering the communities," PMCJ Senior Energy Officer Larry Pascua stressed.

Residents from Batangas, for example, are suffering from inhaling chemicals given off by LNG power plants, being displaced for the construction of these, and being pulled out of their livelihood.

"Pinapakinggan nila ang sinasabi ng mga malalaking kompanya na

nagtatayo ng mga planta sa aming lugar pero bingi sila pagdating sa aming mga nagkakasakit at napipinsala," said Joseph Vargas from Clean and Healthy Air for All Batangueños (CABATANG).

Despite their petition to the Department of Health, seeking investigation, last January 2023, five barangays in Batangas City continue to suffer from diseases brought by local fossil gas plants. Aside from health impacts, the residents' means of living are being affected. More recently, large quantities of dead fish were discovered on the shores of Brgy. Delapaz in Batangas, where a nearby fossil gas power plant regularly expels heated water into the sea.

"[This fast-tracking of gas bills] will hasten and drive the construction and development of fossil gas in the country and bind the Filipino electric consumers to dirty, deadly and expensive sources of electricity. It will dampen the ambition of the country's drive to clean affordable renewables and negate all the climate action commitments of the Philippine Government. This is hypocrisy and double faced climate leadership of the government who has just been proclaimed as host of the Loss and Damage fund, yet continues to undermine the survival of the vulnerable countries," Rivera said.

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation
ADVISORY
No. 2024 - 0033

System Downtime

Please be informed that PhilHealth will undergo network maintenance activity starting 6:00 PM of July 16, 2024 (Tuesday) to July 17, 2024 (Wednesday) 6:00 AM to improve the network infrastructure performance.

The following application systems are not accessible during the said period:

- HCI Portal
- PhilHealth eClaims Web Services
- Member Portal
- ACR Search
- Point of Service (POS)
- EPRS
- EPAR
- ECRS
- eGroup
- ePOAF
- iCARES
- HCP Portal
- My PhilHealth Portal
- Membership API
- PHIC DICT Façade
- Konsulta API

For your information and guidance.

(Sgd.) EMMANUEL R. LEDESMA, JR.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Prime Group... (FROM PAGE 1)

Lucci said total capacity is expected to power about 84,000 households and displace over 100,000 tons of coal per year.

"Trust that we will continue to support the national government's agenda transition to clean energy sources, and we will proactively explore opportunities within the renewable space while

capitalizing on innovative solutions to achieve energy security, dependability and affordability," he said.

Prime Solar also has a 50-megawatt, 20-year power supply agreement with Meralco and will supply the rest of its output to the grid.

DoE-REMB director Marissa Cerezo said Prime

Infra's solar power plants will contribute to the national government's efforts in fostering clean and sustainable energy sources.

Sustainable, secure energy

"The DoE recognizes that the green energy that will be generated from this project will...ensure sustainable and secure energy. Moreover, this project to bring opportunities to the local

community, in the potential to create jobs, stimulate economic growth, and attract investments. It is not just a facility. It is a catalyst for change," Cerezo said.

ERC chairperson Monalisa Dimalanta meanwhile cited the hard work required in completing solar power projects, commending Prime Infra and Prime Solar's support in providing reliable power through renewable energy sources.

"Definitely it takes more than a village to build a solar power project. Transitioning to a cleaner energy system requires hard work from all of us. We will have to do this effort, this partnership between public and private sector participants several times over for us to make sure that electricity keeps flowing to light our homes and power our economy in a clean and sustainable manner," she said.

"This project will supply

clean energy to Meralco consumers at a fixed price for the next 20 years without risk of global oil or coal market or foreign currency fluctuation.

As hosts to this project, the people of Batangas and Cavite will enjoy the additional financial benefits from each kilowatt-hour sold by the project. The team in Prime Solar will continue to take pride in supplying clean energy to our systems," Dimalanta added.

Pi Network... (FROM PAGE 1)

development of a thriving business ecosystem.

Building Together: A Call to Action As Pi embarks on this new chapter, Yin emphasizes the importance of community involvement. She encourages Pioneers to not only complete KYC and migration processes but also actively participate in building the ecosystem. The goal is to drive widespread Pi adoption in everyday transactions, solidifying its position as a global currency.

A Pragmatic Approach to Merchant Adoption To incentivize merchant participation, Yin proposes a practical solution: allowing partial payments

in Pi alongside traditional currencies. This strategy offers businesses a competitive edge and lowers entry barriers. By enabling merchants to accept a blend of Pi and fiat (at a favorable rate), the network fosters a sustainable and diverse marketplace.

Community Optimistic, Future Bright Pi Network's focus on real-world utility and widespread acceptance has been met with enthusiasm from the community.

This strategic shift strengthens the network's foundation and mitigates risks associated with speculative trading post-Open Mainnet (OM).

Looking Ahead: A Global Currency Takes Shape

With a clear roadmap for the second stage, Pi Network anticipates a surge in merchant engagement and active community participation. The ultimate goal remains constant: to establish Pi as a trusted currency with global utility, paving the way for future advancements in storage, payments, and international settlements.

The call to action is clear: togetherness and active participation are paramount. By embracing utility and inclusivity, Pi Network aims to redefine the standards of digital currencies worldwide.

Together, we build the future of currency. (Lumari)

DOST... (FROM PAGE 1)

delicious menu, mainly its homemade burgers and chicken wings.

In 2023, the company expanded by incorporating Dimsum Express, initially founded in 2014 as a Siomai Stall in front of Xavier University. Despite temporary closures during the pandemic, Dimsum Express reopened in October 2022 with a new menu and business model. The first branch reopened in Nazareth, followed by its inaugural mall location at Ayala Centrio Mall in August 2023, marking it as Cagayan de Oro's first local dim sum restaurant. Most notable for its unique bacon siomai, Dimsum Express also offers a variety of dim sum dishes.

With DOST's support, Mr. John Ernesto A. Chaves and Atty. Kristine Rosary Yuzon-Chaves, owners of the Backyard Food Corporation, hopes to enhance their productivity and production volume by

incorporating advanced technological interventions, such as a semi-automatic siomai machine and blast freezer.

"The Department of Science and Technology has provided effective solutions to our problems and opened new horizons for our business. They have made substantial financial support available with terms existing financial institutions cannot match. We now have access to technologies that were previously unattainable due to financial constraints, as well as opportunities for the necessary training and information to scale up our business and better equip us to meet the demands of this highly competitive market", said John Ernesto Chaves, Chief Executive Officer of Backyard Food Corporation.

DOST Misamis Oriental is committed to helping the company through its

consultancy services for food safety training and good manufacturing practices, which are prerequisites for securing a License to Operate (LTO) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum underscores the Department's dedication to offering solutions and creating opportunities for MSMEs. He famously states, "Sa siyensiya at teknolohiya, negosyo tiyak kikita. Sa siyensiya at teknolohiya, industriya aarangkada," highlighting the pivotal role of science and technology in driving business profitability and industrial progress.

To learn more about DOST SETUP, message or call the DOST SETUP hotline at 0917-857-9285 or our official Facebook page, DOST 10. (Julia Jaylo/DOST Misamis Oriental) #ProvidingSolutions #OpeningOpportunities #ScienceForThePeople #OneDOST4U



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PCG...

(FROM PAGE 8)

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) reiterated its commitment to upholding the landmark ruling, saying it is a testament to Manila's "unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes."

"The Award is a reaffirmation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and protects our rights as a coastal state and a seafaring people. Every effort to secure our legitimate interests in our maritime domain is a testament to the courage and determination of the Filipino people while showcasing the Philippines' vision of peace and stability that inspires and resonates beyond the waters of the South China Sea," the DFA stressed in a statement.

"With our national interest and sovereign rights in mind, the Philippines will move forward to chart a course anchored on peace, security, and prosperity in our region," it added.

The DFA said this commitment to peace is demonstrated even in the face of "unlawful actions" that have caused serious incidents in the West Philippine Sea, an apparent reference to the

numerous incidents of Chinese Coast Guard harassing Filipino resupply missions while en route to the BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal.

Amid these actions, the DFA said, Manila's resolve to protect its interest and the "full and responsible enjoyment of our legally settled maritime entitlements and its accompanying rights and jurisdictions" in the area were never diminished.

"This determination has only been strengthened by the broadening affirmation of the legal value of the Award as a positive and legitimate source of international law," it said. Several countries have openly expressed support for the ruling, confirming the "final and binding status of the Award."

The Group of Seven (G7) has also consistently reaffirmed it as a significant milestone and a useful basis for the peaceful management and resolution of differences at sea.

Further, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) Advisory Opinion on Climate Change has recently cited the award as authoritative in key parts of the ruling, with multiple states or groups of states referencing the ruling as

legal authority in their respective oral and written statements.

For the DFA, this underscored the ruling's "unassailable status as part of the corpus of international law."

On July 12, 2016, the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention dismissed China's expansive claims under its so-called nine-dash-line as illegal. To this day, Beijing continues to reject the ruling.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the United States recognizes the award as "final and legally binding."

"Over the past year, the People's Republic of China's (PRC) use of water cannons, dangerous maneuvers, and destructive tactics – including ramming, forcible towing, and boarding that have resulted in damage to Philippine vessels and injury to Philippine service members – have routinely interfered with the lawful exercise of high seas freedoms in areas where the Arbitral Tribunal determined the PRC has no lawful territorial or maritime claims," he said.

"The PRC's actions reflect a blatant disregard for international law, as well as the safety and livelihoods of Filipinos. The US is deeply concerned

about China's assertion of 'territorial sovereignty' over areas that are within the maritime jurisdiction of Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Brunei, and where high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight apply under international law," he noted.

"Upholding the international law of the sea, as reflected in the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention, is in the interest of the entire international community and remains vital to the

peace, security, and prosperity of all nations," Blinken pointed out.

"We continue to call on the PRC to abide by the 2016 arbitral ruling, to cease its dangerous and destabilizing conduct, and to comport its conduct, as well as its territorial and maritime claims in the South China Sea to the international law of the sea as reflected in the Convention," he added.

At a forum commemorating the 8th anniversary of the award in Makati City, Stratbase

ADR Institute president Victor Andres Manhit praised the government's pronouncements to boost external defense capabilities while citing the support of like-minded states on the country's position in the West Philippine Sea.

"We are one with the rest of the world in ensuring that the rule of law prevails. Every nation, regardless of size, or military power, must respect the rights of others and adhere to international law," he said. (With PNA)

After...

(FROM PAGE 8)

groundbreaking was held on February 21, 2013. The actual commencement of civil works, however, started on April 10, 2019, more than 40 years after the completion of its first stage in 1982.

In his speech, President Marcos said the JRMP II has three key components: irrigation development, environmental and watershed management, and institutional development. The project costs almost PhP 20 billion.

"This should boost further development in the agricultural sector as well as the local economy of the entire region," President Marcos said.

"In fact, it is estimated to help increase annual rice production in Region 6 by 160,000 metric tons, which is almost 20 percent of the region's annual rice requirement," he added.

President Marcos said a portion of the water from the high dam's reservoir will be utilized to supply the commercial and industrial bulk water requirements of Iloilo City and nearby municipalities.

He said the project is

also expected to generate 6.6 megawatts of hydroelectric power, which will help supplement the power supply on the Island of Panay.

"Additionally, it is also proposed to develop inland fishery, floating solar energy systems, and eco-cultural tourism in the near future," the President said.

Considering all the benefits that the project can deliver to residents, President Marcos said the project "truly deserves its label: Katuwang sa Kauswagan or Partner in Progress."

He said the project is only the beginning of what the government has in store for the development of the country's water resources.

"In Bagong Pilipinas, we are strategically harnessing our finite resources, especially water. We are also wisely investing our limited funds in projects that would bring optimal development for the most number of beneficiaries in the most efficient manner," President Marcos said.

"Our water development

projects would not just bring irrigation or potable water to our people but will also help address flooding, produce food, generate electricity, and develop tourism activities," he added.

President Marcos thanked South Korea for the realization of the project through its Official Development Assistance-Economic Development Cooperation Fund.

"Indeed, this venture is not only a symbol of our strong friendship and our long-standing ties but also a reminder of our shared desire for growth and development," the President said.

President Marcos also extended his gratitude to NIA employees "who labored tirelessly to turn our plans into reality" and the farmers for their unwavering service to the country.

As of June 2024, the JRMP II has an overall accomplishment rate of 75.51 percent, with three dams fully completed and 49.05 kilometers of line canal constructed.

The project is targeted to be completed and operational by the end of 2025. **PND**

VP Sara...

(FROM PAGE 8)

aming isusulong (Your works will serve as our strong foundation for the programs and projects we plan to push). We will build from what you have already started," he said in a speech during the turnover ceremony.

"We want to hit the ground running and we want to learn from all of you here as we go along," he added.

Besides the curriculum review and ADM institutionalization, Duterte urged Angara to focus on other programs that remain undelivered including the "overtime pay of teachers, a universal school-based feeding program for Kindergarten learners, calamity fund for teaching and non-teaching personnel, HMO or health insurance for teaching and non-teaching personnel, and other key areas of MATATAG curriculum launching including MATATAG Center and portal."

The MATATAG Curriculum, which was piloted in September 2023, targets to decongest the curriculum and resolve

misplaced learning competencies from Kinder to Grade 10.

MATATAG stands for "Make the curriculum relevant to produce job-ready, Active and responsible citizens; Take steps to accelerate the delivery of basic education services and provision facilities; Take good care of learners by promoting learner well-being, inclusiveness learning, and positive learning environment; and, Give support for teachers to teach better."

2 - y e a r accomplishments

Duterte, meanwhile, cited DepEd's accomplishments for the last two years under her leadership including the MATATAG Agenda rollout, the pilot launch of the K-10 MATATAG curriculum, the start of SHS curriculum review, and the return of in-person classes for the post-Covid-19 pandemic, benefiting around 27 million learners.

The DepEd also entered into an agreement with the Technical Education and Skills Development

Authority, Commission on Higher Education, and Department of Labor and Employment for the free national certification assessments of SHS graduates, as well as pushed for procurement reforms resulting in textbooks and e-learning cart purchases for public schools nationwide.

For teachers and non-teaching personnel, Duterte said the DepEd has issued a policy to provide mechanism for their workload and overtime pay, removed their administrative tasks, institutionalized a 30-day break, entered into a pact with the Commission on Elections and the Public Attorney's Office to give legal aid to teachers during elections, as well as the Government Service and Insurance System for DepEd special lanes and premium contributions, and cooperated with the World Bank to conduct a study for teachers' salary.

Other key projects include the DepEd Mental Health Program, the Learner Rights and Protection Office, and the Telesafe hotline for abuses in schools, among others. **(PNA)**

Hapag...

(FROM PAGE 8)

Project is here, not only to raise the awareness of Filipinos about our indigenous Filipinos, but to give us the opportunity to use indigenous habits, customs and culture in planting, and raise your standard of living," she said.

The NCIP, together with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the local government of Tanay, Rizal, launched the project on Tuesday in Brgy. Laiban, Tanay.

The NCIP said the "Hapag Katutubo Project" is anchored in the principles of inclusive development.

The project, themed "Katutubo, Katuwang sa pag-unlad para sa Masaganang Bagong

Pilipinas", is a step towards the realization and institutionalization of the convergence between various stakeholders from national government agencies (NGAs), civil society organizations (CSOs), academe, and private institutions.

"The goal of the project is to holistically support the indigenous cultural communities/indigenous peoples by increasing their agricultural productivity and the creation of sustainable opportunities for income generation and self-sufficiency," the NCIP said.

Sibug-las said the project is in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s 8-point Socio-economic Agenda, and promotes Open

Government Partnerships as stipulated in Executive Order No. 31 s. 2023.

Meanwhile, DILG Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. expressed full support for the project, which he said would support the welfare and well-being of IPs and the IP communities nationwide.

"Ang sabi po ng ating Pangulo ay dapat ibigay ang ating (mga) programa at proyekto sa lahat, lalong-lalo na sa pinaka nangangailangan, at iyon po ang dahilan kung bakit ang NCIP at ang iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno ay narito ngayon (Our President said that our program(s) and projects should be given to everyone, especially to the most needy, and that is the reason why the NCIP and the various government agencies are here now)," Abalos said. **(PNA)**

DepEd lauds E. Visayas athletes for improved 'Palaro' ranking

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Education (DepEd) regional office has lauded Eastern Visayas athletes for rising to the 7th rank in the recent Palarong Pambansa, surpassing previous records.

The DepEd regional office reported the Eastern Visayas Regional Athletic Association (EVRAA) delegation accumulated 54 medals, including 18 gold, 14 silver, and 22 bronze medals - the highest total number of medals the EVRAA had won.

In the history of the Palarong Pambansa, the highest number of gold medals achieved by the EVRAA delegates was 11 back in 2015 in Tagum City. In 2023, EVRAA ranked 14th out of 17 delegations.

Jan Dwayne Malpas, a 12-year-old athlete from Tacloban City, achieved a

significant milestone, garnering four gold medals in swimming. He also garnered a bronze medal in the 50-meter freestyle during the Palarong Pambansa in Cebu City held July 9 to 16.

"His outstanding performance exemplifies the talent and determination of our athletes and serves as an inspiration to the entire EVRAA delegation," the DepEd said in a statement issued late Tuesday.

The DepEd regional office also takes pride in the achievements of the athletes in the para games (1 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze medals) and demo

sports (1 gold and 1 bronze medal).

"DepEd Region 8 extends its heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders, including local government officials, coaches, parents, athletes, supporters, and those who have been instrumental in reaching this milestone," the statement added.

The education department said it remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting physical education and sports, developing youth values such as teamwork and sportsmanship, and fostering peace through sports. (PNA)



WINNER. Jan Dwayne Malpas, a 12-year-old athlete from Tacloban City, has achieved a significant milestone, garnering four gold medals in swimming during the recent 2024 Palarong Pambansa. The Department of Education (DepEd) regional office has lauded Eastern Visayas athletes for rising to the 7th rank in the recent Palarong Pambansa, surpassing previous records. (Photo courtesy of DepEd Eastern Visayas)

Ilocos Norte starts Palarong Pambansa 2025 preps

LAOAG CITY – The provincial government of Ilocos Norte has begun its massive preparation to make the Palarong Pambansa 2025 hosting memorable for all student-athletes.



GAME ON. The Ferdinand E. Marcos Sports Stadium in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte awaits athletes as the province prepares to host the Palarong Pambansa 2025. A local official said Wednesday (July 17, 2024) that a technical working team has begun discussing details of the preparations for the hosting of the annual multi-sport event for the country's student-athletes. (Photo courtesy of William Ti)

Even before Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc accepted the challenge of hosting the Palarong Pambansa 2025, a technical working team that will work on all aspects of the preparations had already converged to discuss the details, Gervy James Gumarit, head of the communications and media office of the provincial government, said in an interview on Wednesday.

"There (is) ongoing construction of additional playing venues for lawn tennis, as well as the construction of a warm-up pool at the swimming pool of the renovated Ferdinand E. Marcos Sports Stadium to comply with international sports standards," he said.

Gumarit was with the governor and his sports team for the ceremonial turn-over of the Palarong Pambansa 2025 hosting.

The group also took the time to observe Cebu's best practices in hosting the biggest basic education sporting event, which they plan to adopt in the province next year.

Manotoc said Ilocos Norte may not be as big as Cebu but he counts on the solid support of the Ilocanos in nearby cities to help in the preparation, as well as the strong collaboration with the Department of Education and private stakeholders.

"We take on the challenge to host the greatest athletes, coaches, and most engaging spectators from around the Philippines,

showcasing our commitment to sports and youth development," he said in a statement.

Ilocos Norte sports development officer, Helen Domingo, said in a separate interview that as part of the initial preparations, the provincial government has teamed up with various local government units and schools to ensure the availability of sports venues.

Ilocos Norte has hosted other big sports events this year, among them the Region 1 Athletic Association Meet, a national beach volleyball tournament, the Tinman triathlon, and international rowing and surfing competitions in preparation for bigger events. (PNA)

Cu, Tabernilla keep title hopes alive in Eastern Asian chess

MANILA – Filipinos Ivan Travis Cu and Tyrhone James Tabernilla won their respective matches on Thursday to boost their title campaigns after six rounds of the Eastern Asian Youth Chess Championships at the Cititel Hotel in Penang, Malaysia.



Ivan Travis Cu (Contributed photo)

Cu, a 15-year-old FIDE Master, defeated Mongolian FM Battulga Tenuunbold to join Vietnamese Dang Anh Minh and Malaysian Poh Yu Tian on top of the premier Open Under-18 category with five points each.

The match between Dang and Poh, who earned his FIDE Master title when he was 13, ended in a draw.

Indonesia Reynard Kristopher, who prevailed over Filipino Oscar Joseph Cantela, is in second place with 4.5 points.

Cu, a runner-up in an

International Master tournament in Hanoi, Vietnam last May, has the best performance so far among the five Filipinos in the Under-18 division.

Frank Loyd Andes is tied for third with Battulga and compatriot AIM Soninbayar Tuguldur, and Vietnamese Tran Vo Quoc Bao with four points each.

Cantela and John Dave Lavandero each both have 3.5 points, while FM Christian Gian Karlo Arca has three points.

Meanwhile, Tabernilla defeated compatriot Io Aristotle Nikolai Calica to take solo lead with five points in the Under-16

category.

Hong Kong's Chan Wang Ip Boris and Vietnam's Huynh Le Minh Hoang are tied for second with 4.5 points each followed by Calica, Chinese Li Dianqi, Mongolian Burentegsh, Malaysians Yong Je Pin Ian and Lim Feng Wei Ferris, Japanese Daniel Haruma Rolston and Filipino Keith Andrei Ilar.

The national team is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, National Chess Federation of the Philippines and the Philippine Olympic Committee. (PNA)

DOH-CAR cautions vs eating wild mushrooms after poisoning cases

The Department of Health (DOH) on Thursday reiterated its call against eating wild mushrooms after 24 people in Mountain Province and Benguet were hospitalized for unknowingly consuming poisonous mushrooms.

"Mas maganda po na iwasan na lang natin ang pagkuha ng wild mushrooms sa paligid lalo kung di naman tayo sigurado na hindi poisonous (It is better to avoid picking wild mushrooms especially if we are not sure if they are not poisonous)," Karen Lonogan, Development Management Officer (DMO) IV and chief of the Regional Epidemiology and Services Unit (RESU) of the Department of Health-Cordillera Administrative Region (DOH-CAR), told the Philippine News Agency.

Lonogan said there are 11 cases of poisoning involving 34 people from four municipalities in Benguet and five in Mountain Province recorded from May 21 to June 27.


Of the 34 victims, 25 were admitted in different hospitals while others were sent home after receiving immediate treatment.

"Fortunately, wala pong binawian ng buhay dahil nadala sila agad sa medical facility at nalapatan ng agarang lunas (fortunately there was no casualty because the victims were immediately brought to medical facilities where they received immediate treatment)," Lonogan said.

Earlier, both the DOH and the Department of Agriculture (DA) Cordillera offices cautioned the public against harvesting wild mushrooms due to


PUBLIC ADVISORY: WILD POISONOUS MUSHROOMS

Most Common Poisonous Mushrooms




Amanita Muscaria "Toadstools"

- Usually mistaken as an edible mushroom
- Symptoms are felt within 30-120 minutes from consumption
- May cause hypertension, dryness of skin and mouth, confusion, dizziness, etc.




Psilocybe Spp. "Magic Mushroom"

- Affects neurological or central nervous system
- Onset of symptoms is after 30-60 minutes
- May cause nausea, vomiting, hallucinations, etc.
- Used by some recreationally



Chlorophyllum Molybdites "False Parasol"

- Affects neurological or central nervous system
- Onset of symptoms is after 30-60 minutes
- May cause nausea, vomiting, hallucinations, etc.
- Used by some recreationally.



DOH WARNING. The Department of Health in Cordillera reminded anew the public to continue to avoid eating wild mushrooms especially when unsure whether they are poisonous or not. This, as the Department recorded 11 cases of poisoning, involving 34 people from four municipalities in Benguet and five in Mountain Province from May 21 to June 27, 2024. (Photo courtesy of DA-CAR)

records of food poisoning.

Both agencies urged the public to buy directly from those who culture mushrooms or from shops that sell the cultured ones.

Mushrooms abound in fields and forests during the rainy season.

The DOH-CAR in its earlier public advisory said mushrooms that are not edible contain toxins that target the gastrointestinal system and nervous system with symptoms ranging from allergic reactions to abdominal

pains, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, hallucinations and behavioral changes.

The symptoms occur 30 to 60 minutes after eating the so-called magic mushrooms while ingestion of the toadstool mushroom will have symptoms within 30 to 120 minutes.

The DOH said severity of the symptoms may depend on the species, toxins and the amount ingested, thus the treatment varies on the symptoms.

"Not all poisonous species are brightly-colored. Most if not all parts of the poisonous mushrooms are toxic. Poisonous mushrooms may grow on land or wood, some poisonous mushrooms have toxins that can be tolerated by certain animals or insects. Boiling, drying, salting, or removing certain parts of a poisonous mushroom will not detoxify it and not all mushrooms smell or taste horrible," the DOH advisory said. (PNA)

PALAI SIPAN

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PAHALANG

- 1 Lapay
- 4 Disipulo
- 10 Api
- 11 Intindi
- 12 Lista
- 14 Ina ng sisiw
- 15 May pakpak
- 17 Maliit na sapa
- 18 Pamoso
- 20 First Lady ni Erap
- 22 Paratang
- 25 Santa: daglat
- 28 Kuweba
- 31 Lait
- 34 Ngalngal
- 35 Tuyong dahon ng mais
- 37 Supling
- 38 Pagtantiya
- 39 ___carte
- 40 Buskahan
- 41 Hilig

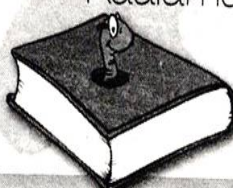
PABABA

- 1 Sangkap ng menudo
- 2 Istorbo
- 3 Pagkain ng kanin lang
- 4 Mr. Taulava
- 5 Dating Senador Joey
- 6 Guho
- 7 Kapos sa panahon
- 8 Likidong nakakasunog
- 9 Mayamang lalaki
- 13 Tulong
- 16 Klase ng puno : Ingles
- 19 Kapartner ni Pip
- 21 Tinggalan
- 23 Kalaban ng Globe
- 24 Hangal
- 26 Talim ng dulo
- 27 Tulay sa Maynila
- 29 Lubos
- 30 Iwaglit
- 32 Yamot
- 33 Pangingin
- 35 Alyas
- 36 Cardinal na Jaime


SAGOT SA NAKARAAN

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Dagdag Kaalaman



Mayroong 7,641 isla sa Pilipinas ayon sa National Mapping and Resource Information Authority.





JOB FAIR

CARAVAN

AUGUST 1, 2024

LIWASANG AGUINALDO, FREEDOM PARK

KAWIT DAY JOB FAIR CARAVAN: Para po sa ating mga kababayang naghahanap ng trabaho, magkakaroon po tayo ng Job Fair Caravan kasabay ng ating celebration ng Kawit Day. Magtungo lamang po sa ating Aguineldo Freedom Park sa August 1 simula alas-8 ng umaga. Magdala lang din po ng inyong resume at ihanda ang sarili para sa job interview. Kitakits! #KumikitangKawiteño #AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo

After over 40 years, PBBM inaugurates PH's biggest dam outside Luzon



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday inaugurated the largest water reservoir project in Iloilo.

The inauguration of the water reservoir project, the largest outside Luzon, took place more than 40 years after the completion of its first stage in 1982, during the time of the President's father, the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr.

The dams of the Jalaur River Multipurpose Project Stage II (JRMP II) span over 80 kilometers with a service area of 31,840 hectares. Around 25,000 farmers are expected to benefit from the project of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA). **▶ AFTER • 5**

'Hapag Katutubo' to help IPs boost agricultural productivity

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) has intensified efforts to help indigenous peoples and their communities to become more sufficient through "Hapag Katutubo" (indigenous table) Project.

In a news release on Wednesday, NCIP Chairperson Bo-i Jennifer Pia Sibug-las said the project would also help promote IP culture, especially in agriculture.

"Nandito po ang Hapag Katutubo Project, hindi lamang para itaas ang kamalayan ng mga Pilipino patungkol sa mga katutubong Pilipino, bagkus binibigyan tayo ng pagkakataon para gamitin ang mga katutubong gawi, kaugalian at kultura sa pagtanim para itataas ang antas ng inyong pamumuhay (We are here, the Hapag Katutubo



PERFORMING ART. Elders of the Dumagat-Remontado Indigenous Cultural Community (ICC) of Rizal perform rites during the launch of the "Hapag Katutubo" Project on Tuesday (July 16, 2024) in Tanay, Rizal. National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Chairperson Bo-i Jennifer Pia Sibug-las said the project would help IPs and their communities to be self-sufficient. (Photo courtesy of NCIP)

▶ HAPAG • 5

PCG marks Arbitral Award; PH vows to pursue peace in WPS

The Philippines has vowed to pursue a course of action "anchored on peace" as it secures its rights over the West Philippine Sea as it marks the 8th anniversary of the Arbitral Award victory over China on the contested area.



▶ PCG • 5

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME II • NO. 51 • JULY 21 - 27, 2024 • P10.00

VP Sara turns over DepEd helm to Angara

Vice President Sara Duterte on Thursday formally turned over the helm of the Department of Education (DepEd) to new Secretary, Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara.

The transition ceremony was held at the DepEd Central Office in Pasig City, a day before Duterte's resignation takes effect on Friday.

Undersecretary and spokesperson Michael Poa, Undersecretary for Administration Nolasco Mempin, Assistant Secretary Sunshine Fajarda, Assistant Secretary for Procurement Reynold Munsayac, and Assistant Secretary for Administration Noel Baluyan also resigned their posts.

In a media interview, Duterte hoped that Angara would continue the curriculum review and the institutionalization of alternative delivery modes (ADM), among other priority agenda for the education sector.

"Alam ko naiintindihan niya ang importansya nito iyong pag-review ng Senior High School (SHS) curriculum, iyong Grades 11 and 12 at pag-implement ng bagong curriculum to make sure na pag-graduate ng mga bata



NO CABINET POST. Outgoing Education Secretary, Vice President Sara Duterte (left), presents the DepEd logo to incoming Secretary Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara during the turnover of the Department of Education's leadership held at its central office in Pasig City on Thursday (July 18, 2024). Duterte said she would no longer hold any cabinet post after resigning as education chief. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

sa Grade 12 ay pwede na silang dumiretso sa trabaho (I know he understands the importance of the SHS curriculum review, the Grades 11 and 12 and the implementation of a new curriculum to make sure that once the Grade 12 learners graduate, they can be immediately

hired)," she said.

Angara, meanwhile, vowed to uphold the welfare of learners and teachers while sustaining critical programs launched by his predecessor.

"Ang trabaho niyo ang magsisilbing matatag na pundasyon sa mga programa at proyekto na

▶ VP SARA • 5

MARISCOS FESTIVAL

JULY 20, 2024

PUSO AT MALASAKIT PARA SA ATING KAWIT

MAYOR AGUINALDO

AGUINALDO @mayoraguinaldo

TARA NA'T MAKISAYA SA MARISCOS FESTIVAL: Para sa ating first anniversary celebration ng Mariscos Festival, sama-sama po tayong makiindak sa saliw ng Karakol at samahan ang ating mahal na patrona, Sta. Maria Magdalena, sa darating na Sabado, July 20 sa ganap na ala-7:30 ng umaga. Ang Mariscos Festival o ang ating Kawit Seafood Festival ay ating magiging taunang pagdiriwang bilang pasasalamat sa masaganang huli sa ating karagatan at sa patuloy na biyaya para sa kaunlaran ng ating Kawit. #MariscosFestival #TaraSaKawit #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo