

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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Four candidates vie for Cavite 7th Congressional District seat

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA) – Four Caviteño candidates filed their Certificate of Candidacy (CoC) with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) last Monday and Tuesday, December 5 & 6, 2022 for the 7th Congressional District of Cavite per COMELEC Resolution 10848.

This is to fill up the vacated seat of Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin

Remulla in a "special election" slated on February 25, 2023.

C O M E L E C Spokesman Rex Laudiangco revealed that the candidates running for the said position are: Jose Angelito Domingo Aguinaldo (Independent); Melencio Loyola De Sagun, Jr. (Independent); Michael Angelo Bautista Santos

(Independent); and Crispin Diego Diaz Remulla (National Unity Party).

"This is on account of the appointment and assumption to office of former Representative Jesus Crispin C. Remulla as Secretary of Justice, subsequent to his election thereto in the recently concluded May 9, 2022, National and Local Elections," stated Laudiangco.

The COMELEC official said that all registered voters from the municipalities of Amadeo, Indang, and Tanza, and the City of Trece Martires will be participating in this electoral exercise. The voting, counting, and canvassing of the votes will be done with the use of the automated elections system, the Vote-Counting Machine (VCM), and the Consolidation and



Canvassing System (CCS).

Meanwhile, the voters' registration in the 7th District of Cavite

is suspended from November 25, 2022 until February 24, 2023 while the official campaign period will

start on January 26, 2023 until February 23, 2023. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from COMELEC)**

PGC holds Children's Month celebration

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE (PIA) –

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) thru the Cavite Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO) in partnership with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC) celebrated Children's Month on November 29, 2022 at Brgy. De Ocampo Covered Court here.

Child representatives from various organizations and institutions in Cavite including Pangarap Foundation, Kanlungan Sa Erma, Gems Heart, Children's Village, Mother Caterina Roncali, Shoreline Kabalik, Christian Mission Service Philippines, Saint Anthony Boys Village, Bukid Kabataan, Missionaries of Charity, Rescue Operations Incorporated, and Bahay Parola, together with representatives from the 23 Local Government Units in the province participated in the said activity.

On behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Vice Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino delivered the

► **PGC HOLDS CHILDREN'S • 3**



CHILDREN'S MONTH CELEBRATION
NOVEMBER 29, 2022 | TRECE MARTIRE
WWW.CAVITEGOV.PH | WWW.JONVICREMU

Cavite recognizes tourism stakeholders' excellence in 2022 Tourism Summit

TRECE MARTIRES, CAVITE (PIA) –

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) in collaboration with the Department of Tourism Region IV-A, the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office successfully held the 2022 Tourism Summit – Cavite Tourism Excellence Awards on December 15, 2022 at Microtel by Wyndham, Eagle Ridge in General Trias City.

Opening the

► **CAVITE RECOGNIZES • 3**



EDITORIAL

Empowering folks who fish

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.” - Dr. Seuss

Fish is one of the staple food sources of our countrymen. Small scale capture fisherfolk (people who fish in the open) or aquaculture groups produce a large portion of local fish sources. Unfortunately, many of them face a constant struggle to sustain their livelihood. It is therefore an existential imperative that they be empowered to ensure their survival. Yet, very few people know of the plight of the folks who fish for a living.

Recently, former Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Nestor Domenden who now heads the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), invited me to a meeting with some groups of fisherfolk and officials of Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (MFARMC).

FARMCs in every city, municipality and barangays abutting municipal waters, bays, lakes, rivers and dams were created by law to encourage participation by small fisherfolk and small-scale fisheries owner associations in plans and actual project implementation affecting their industry. Standard protocol in government is that projects that assist the small fisherfolk be coursed through member associations of the FARMCs.

The problem with the aforesaid standard protocol is that generally, associations who are recipients of government projects for livelihood are not able to sustain the projects after the infusion of funds or assets. After the initial phase, the project often lapses into a coma till the next infusion. This occurs because associations unaided are not trained to run the project and make it profitable.

Associations are by their very nature non-stock and non-profit organizations. Without



proper training and without tweaking the organization, the projects experience difficulty in making it sustainable. In addition, the implementing government agencies are run by government people who have often never run a business in their lives. As such, the protocol as it is, needs additional elements to give these government projects a chance to become sustainable.

During the meeting with this particular groups of FARMCs, however, I was able to meet a FARMC with a success story. In the municipality of Bolinao in the province of Pangasinan, there is a cove filled with fish cages. Many of these fish cages are owned by entrepreneurs or businessmen. Some of these fish cages, however, are owned by a fisherfolk association assisted by the FARMC here.

Initially they were given a few pieces of fish cages and given seven fishing cycles to turn a profit and return the cost of the fish cages. The fisherfolk were able to turn a profit and pay for the fish cages in just one cycle. Encouraged by their success, the fisherfolk association was able to partner with a private corporation who angel invested in the association’s additional fish cage project under a joint venture.

The relative success story of the fisherfolk of Bolinao shows how proper empowerment of the folks of fish can both help improve the lot of the ordinary fisherfolk and improve food production capability.

How can we replicate the Bolinao experience?

First, citizens must support the right people in key government positions in middle management who have the ability to properly utilize government assets, can work with both the stakeholders and private entities and see the big picture. Ordinary citizens must go out of their way and find ways to support these capable officials. Officials like PFAC director Domenden must be harnessed and placed

in the right positions

Second, local and national government units must work hand in hand with the FARMC in their areas to provide the proper opportunities for these associations. Areas must be set aside exclusively for these associations to set up their projects and incentives must be granted. The associations must be protected from preying middlemen and predatory big businesses and allowed to grow.

Third, professionals and private individuals must go out, capacitate and help these associations. The Bolinao fisherfolk were taught by private individuals how to run the project like a business cooperative with an eye for profit. A private corporation provided them with capital and assets and inputs for additional fish cage projects and only asked for 20 percent of the net profits. If more social enterprises are set up and partner with these small-scale food producing associations, this story can be replicated. Perhaps, professionals of a certain age who are winding down their careers can go out and pitch in and help with their core competencies. These associations need entrepreneurs, marketing experts, finance people, and of course, aggressive lawyers to protect them.

Finally, the ordinary citizens can help make the plight of the fisherfolk and others like them be known by setting aside some of their social media time and supporting these stories. Perhaps, if their stories are told over and over again, enough people can come together to truly empower them.

This is just my oblique observation.

Editor’s note: The opinions expressed in the foregoing article are solely the author’s and do not reflect the opinions and beliefs of the Philippine News Agency (PNA) or any other office under the Office of the Press Secretary. **(By Atty. Gilberto Lauengco, J.D.)**

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DA-ATI 4A holds Year-End Review & Consultation in Silang

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA) – The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON held its Year-End Review on Regional Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) Activities cum “RCEF Farm School Owners Cluster Meeting and Consultation” at the Teofely Nature Farm, Silang on December 14 to 16, 2022.

The three-day program aimed to have a discussion between RCEF-RESP Implementing Agencies (IAs) and RCEF Farm School (FS) owners, and to share the status and achievements of RCEF-RESP implementers in the CALABARZON region.

OIC Training Center Superintendent II / Center Director Dr. Roland V. Maningas led the opening of the event as he acknowledged all the program participants.

Around twenty-five (25) farm school representatives, and Provincial Agriculture Officers from the provinces of Cavite, Laguna, and Quezon attended and participated in said activity.

Agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Los Baños, DA Regional Field Office IV-A, Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), and ATI presented updates and accomplishments for the current year.

Chair Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food Senator Cynthia A. Villar showed support for the activity while PhilRice Los Baños Director Remelyn Sevilla-Relado and TESDA Provincial Director of Quezon province, Dr. Gerardo Marasigan sent their message of



encouragement and inspiration thru Scholarship Focal-TESDA Provincial Office Ms. Myla Canzana.

Meanwhile,

Owner/Operator, and Farm School Director of Sweet Nature Farm Ms. Suzette Sales expressed her appreciation for DA-ATI's support.

“Maraming salamat sa ATI. Palagi kaming nai-inspire sa inyong mga gawain. Kami ay laging magsusumikap dahil sa inyong mga

pinapakita sa amin na kasipagan at commitment,” Sales said. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from DA-ATI 4A)**

PDIC to bid...

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between P25,000 and P54.8 million.

For interested buyers, a one-time registration on the PDIC e-bidding portal at <http://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph/Account/Register> is required before submitting bids.

Once registered, they may observe the e-bidding proceedings on the website by clicking the “Assets for Sale” icon on the PDIC website's homepage at www.pdic.gov.ph.

The complete list and description of the properties, requirements, e-bidding process, and Conditions of Bid are posted on the same portal. Bidders are reminded of their responsibility to determine the actual condition, status, ownership, and other circumstances of the properties they wish to acquire.

For participants bidding on behalf of another individual or an organization, a Pro-forma Special Power of Attorney and Secretary's Certificate, respectively, can likewise be downloaded from the e-bidding portal.

For more information on the e-bidding, interested buyers may call the PDIC Public Assistance

Department at (02) 8841-4141 during office hours. Those outside Metro Manila may call the PDIC toll-free hotline at 1-800-1-888- PDIC or 1-800-1-888-7342, also during office hours. Inquiries may also be sent via e-mail at pad@pdic.gov.ph or private message on PDIC's Assets for Sale Facebook page (@PDICAssetsforSale) or PDIC's official Facebook page (@OfficialPDIC).

As the statutory receiver, the PDIC sells closed bank-owned assets through public bidding and negotiated sales. Proceeds from the liquidation of closed banks' properties are added to the pool of liquid assets of these banks for distribution to uninsured depositors and other creditors subject to the rules on concurrence and preference of credits. The disposal of these assets increases the chances of recovery of uninsured depositors and creditors of their trapped funds in the closed banks. Meanwhile, proceeds from the sale of corporate assets are added to the Deposit Insurance Fund, PDIC's main fund source for payment of valid deposit insurance claims. (PDIC)

PGC holds... from page 1

State of the Children's Address while 1st District Board member and Committee Chairperson on Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly, Romel Enriquez, conveyed the PGC's continuous support to the programs and services for children and families in Cavite.

During the program, several LGUs were awarded recognition for Child-Friendly Cities and Municipalities from 2019 to 2022 including the cities of Bacoor, Tagaytay and Imus, and the municipalities of Carmona, Mendez,

Naic, Maragondon, Rosario, and Magallanes.

The activity also gave way for the election of the next child representatives with Jusper Velasco and Leanna Canaga, both from the Municipality of Carmona, being elected.

The program was a success because of the informative lectures, discussions, and fun-filled activities that celebrated the rights and welfare of the children and the youth as a whole. **(Ruel Francisco with reports from PICAD)**

Cavite... from page 1

program, City Administrator Attorney Donna Mae Tiongson-Jordan welcomed the guests and awardees while Provincial Tourism Officer Rozelle Sangalang delivered a congratulatory message on behalf of Cavite Governor Juanito Victor C. Remulla.

In her video message, Department of Tourism Secretary Attorney Christina Garcia-Frasco signified a more vibrant tourism in the coming years with programs focused on connectivity and equality among tourism stakeholders.

Tourism stakeholders such as LGUs, Cavite Tourism Officers, Travel and Tours Association, and Cultural Arts Performing Groups were recognized for their invaluable contributions to the development of tourism and culture in the province.

Governor Remulla believes and remains steadfast in acknowledging the endeavors, excellence, and resilience of the tourism industry partners that highly contributed in the growth of the province's economy.

Meanwhile, DOT Regional Director Marites T. Castro showed support by providing additional tokens to awardees and sent a message through the Tourism Industry Skills Program Division Head Keneth Degracia to honor the attendees. **(Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from Provincial Tourism Office)**

PEZA engages Japanese SMEs to attract more investors in PH

OSAKA, Japan -- "In partnership with the Okayama International Business Association (OIBA), Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) and the Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Osaka engaged around 30,000 Japanese SMEs to invest in the Philippines that will be vital in boosting the Philippines' manufacturing supply chain and industrial ecosystem," stated PEZA OIC Director General Tereso O. Panga following the successful conduct of the investment mission in Osaka and Okayama, Japan last 07-09 December 2022.

PEZA delegation headed by OIC Director General Panga, together with the Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC) in Osaka led by Commercial Counsellor Michael Ignacio, have recently concluded a three-day mission in Osaka & Okayama in hopes to attract more Japanese investors to the Philippines.

With the goal to contribute to achieving the upper middle-income status as the year 2022 comes to an end, PEZA continues its efforts to aggressively



[From left to right] PTIC Osaka Commercial Counsellor Michael Ignacio, Showa Spring Co. Ltd. President Masahiro Kitamura, Okayama International Business Association (OIBA) International Business Coordinator Shigeru Ando, OIBA Secretary General Tsushiyo Aihara, PEZA OIC Director General Theo Panga, OIC Deputy Director General Vivian Santos, PTIC Osaka Sr. Trade and Investment Officer Yasuko Kuniyoshi, and Trade and Investment Officer Keigo Teraji

engage the Japanese SMEs, attract investments in the country, and promote the Philippines as the smart investment choice for investors worldwide.

This mission is in preparation also for PBBM's state visit to Japan in February 2023, which will coincide with the celebration of Japan+ASEAN 50th year of partnership. Meanwhile, a group of Okayama business delegation will visit the Philippines by first quarter next year to

explore investment opportunities in the ecozones.

OIC Panga noted, "With Japan's SMEs as the lifeblood of this country's massive economy, comprising 99.7% of all businesses, we can take advantage of these SMEs by putting up operations in the Philippines, help complete the supply chain, empower our own SMEs, and boost the country's industrial ecosystem."

Expansion plans and investments from

emerging sectors

Aside from this, PEZA also engaged in several business-to-business and government-to-government meetings during the mission to strengthen its investment promotion initiatives and promote the Philippines as the best choice for investors especially in Southeast Asia.

PEZA and PTIC Osaka met with the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI), Osaka Business Development Agency (OBDA), Osaka Prefectural Government (OPG), and the Okayama International Business Association (OIBA) to explore areas for investment promotion collaborations and in strengthening the Philippine-Japan partnership in various areas such as the World Expo 2025 to be held in Kansai, Osaka, Japan.

PEZA met with Junca Holdings to discuss their upcoming bio-technology activity to be registered with PEZA. Likewise, partner

companies of Junca Holdings such as Synergy and Global Network Japan are also exploring the possibility of putting up a tourism economic zone and an anaerobic / waste-to-energy water treatment plant in the Philippines through PEZA.

Moreover, Shibutani Shoten Corporation, a manufacturer of car seat, arm rest, and headrest covers for big car companies such as Mitsubishi and Mazda, met with PEZA to discuss its plans of putting up a company in the Philippines to support its employment and training program for Filipino workers and expand its brand to the international market.

In terms of expansion, Marukame Trading Co., Ltd. seeks to hire 100 additional employees to their Philippine company, Marukame Fashion Cebu Inc., a 100% export-manufacturer of high-end and global apparel brands located in Mactan Economic Zone.

VALTES Co., Ltd. is also looking at

expanding the operations of VALTES Advanced Technology Inc., a PEZA-registered IT company into software design and development, to cater to their plans of employing additional 100 software engineers.

Meanwhile, Nakashima Propeller Co., Ltd., a global industry leader in the manufacture of marine equipment such as sea vessel propellers, rudders, and shafts, is planning to bring in new technology and incorporating innovation to its plants worldwide, particularly in its facility in the Cavite Economic Zone.

Moreover, Inabata Philippines Inc., a leading ecozone logistics provider, is looking at expand its warehouse footprint in the next 2 years to cater to its client ecozone locators nationwide.

Showa Spring Co. Ltd., with a PEZA-registered export manufacturing enterprise in Mactan Economic Zone, is also scouting a separate location in the CALABARZON area for the expansion project of its operations in the Philippines.

Positive outlook to increase Japanese investments

With the successful mission, PEZA expects to increase number of Japanese locator companies within its ecozones and create stronger partnerships to promote the Philippines as the smart choice for strategic and big-ticket investments.

"We echo the call of the government and our investors that the Philippines is the smart investment choice in the region. This is the best time to invest in the Philippines," expressed the PEZA Interim Chief.

To date, there are a total of 891 Japanese enterprises registered in PEZA and located in various PEZA ecozones nationwide. These

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PEZA OIC DG Panga delivering his keynote speech at the Philippine Investment Forum co-organized by PTIC Osaka and the Okayama International Business Association (OIBA) last 08 December 2022

Outstanding LGUs in Manila Bay rehabilitation get recognition

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has conferred the MANILA BAYani Awards and Incentives (MBAI) to outstanding LGUs for their contribution in the rehabilitation and protection of the Manila Bay watershed.

DILG Secretary Benjamin 'Benhur' Abalos, Jr. said the eight LGUs receiving the prestigious MBAI Award are testaments to local governments' efforts to

protect the country's body of water and natural resources "but there's more to be done, especially in the face of climate change."

"Congratulations to all the winners of MBAI. Your contribution and outstanding efforts for the protection of our aquatic resources are truly remarkable. Kami ay natutuwa at katuwang namin kayo sa pangangalaga ng ating likas na yaman," Abalos said during the recent awarding

ceremony in Quezon City.

"As we face the threat of climate change, we need more LGUs to step up and hold hands with us in this advocacy. This pandemic has really given us a silver lining. If there is one thing I would say, it is the importance of making peace with nature. While we have made strides in this development, what is important is we have this goal of balancing

development with ecology," he added.

The MBAI Award aims to incentivize LGUs and recognize their exemplary performance in advancing effective waste management, uplifting the welfare, safety, and living conditions of informal settler families and the general public, promoting the protection of coastal and marine resources, and strengthening their institutional mechanisms, all of which contribute to the rehabilitation and protection of Manila Bay.

Among the MBAI awardees for 2018 to 2020 are Baliuag (Bulacan), Kalayaan (Laguna), and Magallanes (Cavite) for the Municipal category, while Balanga (Bataan), Biñan (Laguna), Imus (Cavite), Makati City, and City of Navotas bagged the award for the City category.

For the year 2021, the LGUs of Biñan and Kalayaan (Laguna), Baliuag (Bulacan), and Balanga (Bataan) were recognized anew for the MBAI Award.

Abalos said the significant gains in

improving the water quality of Manila Bay, particularly the fecal coliform level indicating its level of contamination from sewage.

manifestation of what unity could do. If we're all just united in our goal and our ways. Let's rid our jurisdictions of bad practices, injustices, inequality and heedless dominion over our planet and its resources. Let's have a dream which is to recover not just in terms of economy, but to recover better as one in the



Congratulations to all the winners of MANILA BAYani Awards and Incentives (MBAI) and Fisheries Compliance Audit (FishCA). Your contribution and outstanding efforts for the protection of our aquatic resources are truly remarkable. Kami ay natutuwa at katuwang namin kayo sa pangangalaga ng ating likas na yaman.

DILG SECRETARY BENJAMIN ABALOS JR. on urging local government units to continue protecting the coastal areas and aquatic resources as it conferred the MANILA

PEZA engages...

from page 4



companies contribute PhP 746.093 Billion of investments from 1995 to November 2022. The Japanese remain the top investors in PEZA comprising 27.52% of its total investments.

For January to November 2022, PEZA has generated a total of PhP 57.048 Billion investments from 181 projects and is expected to bring about 33,308 direct jobs. Investments from Japan accounted for PhP 17.755 Billion or 31.12% percent of the total investments for the period with the top big-ticket projects coming from Shin-etsu Magnetics Philippines

Inc., Cebu Mitsumi Inc., TDK Philippines Corporation, Tamiya (Philippines) Inc., and PIMES Corp. (Philippine International Manufacturing and Engineering Services Corp).

OIC Panga noted that, "PEZA will continue to perform its best and attract the much-needed strategic and big-ticket investments to the country and contribute to PBBM's goal for the country's transition to upper middle-income economy within his term. Let us continue to make it happen in the Philippines!" (PEZA)



PEZA OIC DG Panga providing updates on the cost of doing business in the Philippines and the new tax regime under the CREATE Law during the meeting with Nakashima Propeller Co., Ltd. last 09 December 2022

He said that from 92 million most probable number per 100 millimeters (mpn/100ml) fecal coliform level in the Manila Bay waters in 2019, it decreased to only 1.8 million mpn/100ml as of June 2022.

He also reported the 10.6 million kilograms of waste collected during the rehabilitation and clean-up operations from January to March 2022, in which 6,022 barangays and 187 cities and municipalities participated.

"This is a clear

preservation of our Mother Earth for the good not only of ourselves but for our children and their children," he urged the LGUs.

The MBAI awardees shall receive cash incentives of up to P1.5-million which can be used for financing programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) serving to increase the compliance of the LGUs with the Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MBCRPP) and for service payments. (dilg/pia-ncr)

Christmas 2022 brings message of hope says Gov. Cua

CABARROGUIS, Quirino (PIA) – The Provincial Government here at exactly 5:30 in the afternoon on December 9, 2022, officially opened the Christmas Lights of the 2022 Paskuhan sa Quirino at the Capitol Sports Complex.

In her opening message, Representative Midy N. Cua expressed excitement for the annual Paskuhan sa Quirino event saying that this is the first time that Quirinians have face-to-face celebration due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite the many challenges, we have many blessings that we

are most thankful to God for," the lady Solon said.

On the other hand, Governor Dax Cua said in his message that the 2022 Paskuhan brings hope for all as shown by the moon which shone brightly in the sky during the opening.

"I think it's a sign of hope, it's a sign of a brighter future for the Philippines and for the Province of Quirino," Cua said.

As he reflected on the past years, Governor Cua shared that the calamities had brought not just challenges but also inspirations as well as opportunities for the Filipino people.

Citing the Taal

Volcano eruption, the governor said he has witnessed how people from the different parts of the country poured their support to the Caviteños and Batangueños.

"And then came the Covid-19 pandemic that caused fear and danger to our health, to our livelihood, economy, tourism and to our life. We saw how the human spirit worked together, how the frontliners - doctors, nurses, uniformed personnel - police, military; DRRM officers rise up to the challenge," Cua said he lauded the residents who voluntarily helped in putting up of community pantry in different areas.

Governor Cua said that in those days, everyone seemed to lose hope and could not help but think what the future holds for them but through the united action against Covid, every people can now see a bright future for the country.

The governor likewise reminded everyone of what the Christmas should mean - that by the majesty of the Creator, everyone can now see that tomorrow will be brighter than yesterdays.

"This Christmas brings a message of hope from our Savior



Jesus Christ whose birthday we celebrate tonight. Let me read you a verse from Genesis 1, verse 1. It says, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless

and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God simply said. 'Let there be light,' Cua read.

As soon as the

governor ended reading the verse, Christmas lights brightened the Christmas Village and spectators were entertained with fireworks display. (OTB/TCB/PIA Quirino)



In his message, Governor Dax Cua reflects on the past year's experiences and challenges in the province and the whole nation. (Photo by Quirino Province FB Page)



The 'Paskuhan sa Quirino' will be open until New Year - January 1, 2023. (Photo by Quirino Province FB Page)

PBBM leaves tonight to participate in ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit in Belgium

CALOOCAN CITY, (PIA) --President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is set to leave the country tonight to participate in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-European Union (EU) Commemorative Summit in Brussels, Belgium.

In a pre-departure briefing on Friday, Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary Daniel Espiritu said, the President will meet with the business community and have one-on-one meetings

with corporations looking to expand their presence in the Philippines.

Espiritu said, apart from one-on-one meetings, there will also be a meeting with the business sector within the framework of the ASEAN-EU dialogue partnership relations.

The President is expected to participate at the C-Suite or CEO Suite Luncheon for the EU-ASEAN Business Summit and at the 10th ASEAN-EU Business Summit during his trip to Belgium where he is

expected to deliver his remarks at these two events.

"This will be a very busy trip for the President, and we hope that this will redound to a lot of benefits for the Filipino people, not only for ASEAN," Espiritu said.

He said business meetings on the sidelines of the ASEAN)-EU Commemorative Summit will yield more investments and jobs for Filipinos as the President will have the opportunity to expand on trade and investment policies during the business

roundtable with the EU and European corporations.

Espiritu said there would also be networking among Filipino and European businessmen.

"Hopefully, for this networking, the Filipino businessmen will be able to come up with deals with their European counterparts," he said.

On the President's meeting with multinational consumer goods company, Unilever, the DFA official described it as vital since the firm intends to establish a new state-of-the-art

manufacturing facility for personal care products in Cavite province.

"So expansion of investments ito 'no to the tune of P4.7 billion. Now it is expected to generate at least 130 projected employment for the Philippines," Espiritu said.

The chief executive is also expected to meet with a shipbuilding and navigation and logistics company that seeks to develop a shipyard with an investment of P1.5 billion, which will create 500 to 600 direct and indirect jobs.

An infrastructure and

renewable energy company, which intends to invest in the renewable energy sector in the Philippines, would also meet one-on-one with the President.

The chief executive is also expected to meet with a wholesale market and international logistics hub management company which intends to establish agrologistics at the New Clark City that will build and operate a wholesale market for fresh products with an organized and efficient food supply and value chain. (pia-ncr)

Letran claims NCAA 3-peat

MANILA — San Juan De Letran won its third NCAA men's basketball title after drubbing College of St. Benilde (CSB), 81-67, in the rubber match of their best-of-three finals on Sunday night at the sold-out Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

The Knights broke loose in the second quarter, outscoring the

Blazers, 27-12, to open a 51-33 halftime lead before holding their opponents off in the second half.

King Caralipio led Letran, which last tasted a three-peat in 1984 when a Larry Albano-coached squad led by Samboy Lim capped its own three-championship run that began in 1982, with 20

points, 10 rebounds, and two assists.

Caralipio would go on to win the Finals Most Valuable Player award after averaging 15.0 points, 8.0 rebounds, and 2.0 assists for the entire series.

Fellow graduating student Brent Paraiso added 16 points, three rebounds, two assists, one steal, and two

blocks as he stepped up in the absence of graduating star Fran Yu, who served his one-game suspension in the decider.

Miggy Corteza led CSB, which missed out on bringing the NCAA title back to Taft Avenue after 22 years, with 14 points, seven rebounds, one block, and two steals in a game where

main men Will Gozum and Migs Oczon went cold.

Saddled by early foul trouble, Gozum only had 10 points, two rebounds, one block, and one steal while committing three turnovers.

Worse, Gozum was

sent off after a late headbutt to rival big man Pao Javillonar while going for a rebound off Oczon's missed three.

Oczon only went 2-for-11 from beyond the arc and only had nine points with seven rebounds, one assist, and two steals. **(PNA)**



NCAA 3-PEAT. San Juan De Letran Knights rejoice over their NCAA men's basketball title after beating College St. Benilde, 81-67, in their match Sunday (Dec. 18, 2022) at Ynares Center in Antipolo City. (Screen grab from GMA)

UP, FEU dispute Women's Cup football title

MANILA — University of the Philippines (UP) and Far Eastern University (FEU) will dispute the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) Women's Cup title at the PFF National Training Center in Carmona town, Cavite province on Saturday night.

The title showdown is set at 7 p.m. while the battle for third place between Kaya FC-Iloilo and Tuloy FC will be at 4 p.m.

UP and FEU marched into the championship after posting upset victories over their higher-ranked opponents on Dec. 11.

UP downed Kaya FC-Iloilo, 5-4, in a penalty shootout, as Jazinda Borra hammered home the winning spot kick while Jennifer Baroin and Frances Aceo provided

the defensive stops.

FEU, on the other hand, scored a 3-0 win over Tuloy FC, with goals from Katrina Magbitang, Lylhanie Cayabyab, and Dionesa Tolentin.

FEU blanked UP, 2-0, in the elimination stage, courtesy of goals from Regine Rebosura and Tolentin.

"The girls accepted

their capabilities on what to do to contain the strengths of their opponents. and the awareness and willingness to sacrifice and work for the team. We're appreciative of the efforts of our players and all the more that we have to work together as a team," UP head coach Andres Gonzales

said in an interview.

FEU coach Marnelli Dimzon said her players are in high spirits and are prepared individually, physically and mentally for the finals.

"The players have good characters and the more they are challenged, they show their fighting spirit," Dimzon said in another interview. **(PNA)**



Cainta swimmer wins 3rd gold in PSC-Batang Pinoy

BANTAY, Ilocos Sur — Aubrey Tom of Rizal province clocked 5:31.10 to rule the 400-meter Individual Medley event in the girls' 13-15 years old category and emerged as the first triple-gold winner in the Philippine Sports Commission-Batang Pinoy National Championships at the Quirino Stadium here on Sunday.



Swimmer Aubrey Tom of Cainta, Rizal (Photo courtesy of PSC)

The 15-year-old swimmer from Cainta town also dominated the 100-meter freestyles and the 200-meter individual medley (IM) last Saturday.

"I'm happy to win three gold medals despite my limited preparation," said Tom, who won two gold medals (50m freestyle and 200m butterfly) and two silver medals (200m and 400m Individual Medley) in the UAAP last month.

She took a one-week break after the UAAP and resumed training for the Batang Pinoy only two weeks ago.

Tom, a Grade 10 student from the University of the Philippines Integrated School in Quezon City, debuted at the 2019 Batang Pinoy in Palawan where she pocketed five gold medals coming from the 50m and 100m freestyle, 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke and 200m Individual Medley. In the same year, she became a member of the national junior team which saw action at the 43rd Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Championships in Cambodia.

Tom has been a member of the Cainta Alpha Dragons team since she was five years old. She started training under Marichi Gandionco, the head coach of the Rising Atlantis Swim Club last Dec. 1.

Meanwhile, Kristian Yugo Cabana of Lucena and Kyla Louise Bulaga of La Union pocketed their second gold medals, respectively.

Cabana, a seventh grader from International School for Better Beginnings, registered 1:5.40 topped the boys' 12 and under 100m butterfly event in 1:5.40 to claim his second gold medal after winning the 200m IM on Saturday.

Bulaga grabbed her second gold medal in the girls' 12 and under category after clocking 1:12.70 in the 100m butterfly event. She had earlier won the 200m IM event.

In athletics, Sophia Angela Mae Dela Vega of San Jose City (Nueva Ecija) won the girls long jump in 4.77 meters. Jesalyn Materdan of Masbate (4.52) took the silver medal and Angelica Jane Balason of Quezon City (4.37) settled for the bronze medal.

In the boys' discus throw event, Prince Charles Branzuela of Masbate copped the gold medal in 31.95 meters, beating Cyrihl Teves of Davao del Norte (30.69) and Yul Tristan Tumamak of Maasin City (Leyte), who submitted 29.41 meters. **(PNA)**

Los Baños-based Science Foundation successfully conducted 14th SyenSaya

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The Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. (LBSCFI) concluded its three-day celebration of the National Science and Technology Week (NSTW), the SyenSaya Science Festival, last 7 December 2022. The SyenSaya is an annual fair of the LBSCFI, a non-profit organization composed of 25-member institutions based in Los Baños, the Special Science and Nature City of the Philippines. For this year's celebration, the Foundation organized hybrid (in-person and online) Opening, Awarding and Closing Ceremonies, the Wonderama (virtual exhibit), and Technology Forum (webinar).

LBSCFI member-

agencies Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) respectively hosted the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the SyenSaya.

In a recorded message, DOST Secretary Renato Solidum, Jr. extended his support to the said celebration during the Opening Ceremonies. Sec. Solidum commended, "Over the years, especially throughout the pandemic, we have seen

and felt your unrelenting support to bring scientific solutions to our communities through your active participation in our efforts."

The University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), another LBSCFI member-agency, led the Wonderama, accessible at <https://lbscfi.org>. The Wonderama, conducted in-person pre-pandemic, has been transformed into an online exhibit featuring multimedia displays of the member-agencies constituting the Foundation since 2020.

The Technology Forum, on the other hand, conducted on the second day of the SyenSaya, delved into

the 2022 NSTW theme "Agham at Teknolohiya: KabalikatsaMaunlad at MatatagnaKinabukasan" and opened discussion on the importance of science and technology in building a resilient and sustainable economy. LBSCFI member Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB) organized the Forum, and invited DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director Emelita P. Bagsit and OIC-Director of the Policy and Planning Group on Innovation, National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Ms. Diane Gail L. Maharjan. The Technology Forum can be rewatched at https://fb.watch/hitPn-4I_E/.

Furthermore, the last day of the celebration was conducted at the SEARCA Auditorium in the University of the Philippines Los Baños and highlighted the R&D Awards and the Youth Science Awards. The R&D Awards is given to outstanding research and researchers among the LBSCFI member agencies, while the Youth Science Awards is given to outstanding research projects of senior high school students in the whole of CALABARZON.

Dr. Melina dP. Bandalaria, Chancellor of the UPOU and President of the LBSCFI, in her closing remarks reiterated the NSTW theme "Agham at Teknolohiya: KabalikatsaMaunlad at MatatagnaKinabukasan," and called the Foundation to action: "[to] move that statement from being a theme of the celebration to a framework for programs and activities, and ultimately to action. ... This way, we can make and create a bigger impact to the Los Baños community through our combined efforts." Ending her speech, she thanked the persons behind the Foundation and guests to the event, "Maraming salamat sa pakiki-SyenSaya."

The livestream of these SyenSaya events can be replayed at <https://fb.watch/hitLDPpM8u/> (Opening Ceremony) and <https://fb.watch/hitJDPIfen/> (Closing Ceremony).

Ugnayan sa Barangay brought happiness to Indangeños

Governor Jonvic Remulla brought happiness to thousands of Indang residents as PGC's Ugnayan sa Barangay program continues on December 08, 2022 at the Municipal Covered Court of Indang.

During the program Governor Jonvic Remulla got the chance to mingle and communicate with the Indangeños, and shared blessings through Pamaskong Handog. Also present during the event were Vice Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino, 7th District Board Member Ping Remulla, and locals of Indang led by Mayor Perfecto Fidel together with some Sangguniang Bayan members.

Board Member Ping Remulla conveyed his appreciation for the support entrusted to him and expressed his commitment for the

continuous progress and development of the town. Meanwhile,

Governor Jonvic Remulla reported plans and various programs

that will help uplift the lives of Caviteños.---
PICAD



PDIC to bid out Luzon, Visayas residential and commercial lots on January 19-20

MAKATI CITY – The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will accept bids for 45 residential and commercial lots located in various provinces of Luzon and Visayas on its e-bidding portal at <https://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph> starting at 9:00 am on January 19, 2023 until 1:00 pm on January 20, 2023, and shall be opened at 2:00 pm on January 20, 2023.

To be sold on an "as-is, where-is" basis and with a total minimum disposal price of P121.2 million, these properties are

owned by PDIC or closed banks under liquidation by PDIC and located in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Iloilo, Laguna, Leyte, Marinduque, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Pangasinan, Quezon, and Rizal. These include 28 residential lots, 12 residential lots with improvements, three commercial lots with improvements, and two subdivision/residential lots. Property sizes range from 25 to 27,398 square meters with minimum disposal prices

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