

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

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Carmona, PNP launches National Police Clearance System



TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA) – The Municipal Government of Carmona in partnership with the Philippine National Police (PNP) initiated the launching of the National Police Clearance System (NPCCS), and the signing of the Deed of Usufruct on January 27.

PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, PMGEN Eliseo DC Cruz graced the event together with PRO CALABARZON Regional Director, PBGEN Jose Melencio C Nartatez Jr., and PCOL Christopher Olazo leading the launching and the Signing of Deed of Usufruct between the PNP and the Municipality of Carmona.

The deed supports the planned construction of the new Carmona Municipal Police Station which would enable the local police personnel to better serve and protect the residents and preserve the locality's peace and order.

During the activity, the new NPCCS commenced its first operation with the processing of Mayor Dahlia Loyola, and Fifth District Representative Attorney Roy Loyola's National Police Clearance Certificate.

The activity proves the dynamic cooperation and partnership between the PNP and the LGU to better serve the residents, particularly in keeping the peace and order in the locality. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from Carmona LGU)**

Medical-surgical mission benefits 9,000 Imuseños

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA) – More than 9,000 Imuseños availed of free medical-surgical services in the recent Glendale Korean Seventh-Day Adventist

(SDA) Church, and SDA Imus Medical-Surgical Mission at Imus Pilot Elementary School, and Ospital ng Imus (ONI) from January 23 – 27, 2023.

The five-day medical mission gave medical attention in chiropractic, dental, ophthalmology, general medicine, OB-Gynecology, oriental

medicine, and pediatrics, including free medicine. The medical team also performed free cataract surgery and cleft-lip surgery.

Vice Mayor Homer Saquilayan together with Councilor Enzo Asistio Ferrer – Committee Chair on Health, Nutrition, Population, and Sanitation, City Administrator Hertito Monzon, Dr. Gabriel G. Gabriel of ONI, Dr. Mary Ann Cruz of the City Health Office (CHO), and Dr. Jun Paredes of the City Tourism and Development Office (CTDO) welcomed the Korean medical team led by Elder Young Lee, Dr.

Lamber Lee, and Dr. Joseph Kang.

On behalf of the City Government of Imus, Vice Mayor Saquilayan expressed his gratitude to the SDA church for the services and concern they extended to the city residents in need of health services.

Volunteers from the Samhyook University and Korean Union Conference of SDA, Korea in collaboration with the CHO, ONI, Liga ng mga Barangays, and the CTDO of the City Government of Imus also participated in the activity. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from the City Government of Imus FB page)**



EDITORIAL

SIM registration brings safer space to PH mobile users

Before 2022 came to a close, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed into law the Republic Act 11934 or the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) Card Registration Act which mandates mobile owners to register their sim cards within a certain time frame, or face deactivation.

The new law, which was one of the first enacted measures under the administration, aims to promote responsibility in the use of SIM and provide law enforcement agencies the tools to resolve crimes involving its use. It also punishes fraudulent registration and allows law enforcement to pull up a user's data to investigate any crimes committed involving the use of phones.

Under the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the National Telecommunications Commission, registration period will be until April 26, 2023, and may be extended for 120 days.

As of this writing, NTC reported that 21 million subscribers have already registered, representing roughly 12.5 percent of the 169 million SIM cards nationwide. The agency said that despite the initial glitches, this was "on track" with their expectations.

Wireless communications provider Smart Communications Inc., a unit of PLDT Inc., said it has so far registered 10 million Smart and TNT customers across the country, the highest among all telco operators.

Smart and TNT also put forward their efforts to accelerate SIM registration across the country, with a recent online event called "Sulong SIM Registration," touted as the first ever local government cascade on SIM Registration among Philippine telcos, which drew close to a thousand LGU executives from provincial governments to barangay officials in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.



Additionally, Smart was also reported to be the first telco to set up assisted SIM Registration booths and touchpoints all over the country. This is parallel to its mission of helping Smart and TNT customers needing information on how to register their SIM, as well as provide physical assistance to customers with special circumstances—seniors, persons with disabilities and those still using basic phones.

These booths will be part of the simultaneous roll-out of SIM registration activities in geographically isolated and disadvantaged and conflict-affected areas (GIDCA) identified by the Philippine government. NTC has already identified 45 remote areas across 15 regions.

Truly a pioneering move by Smart, if I may say, on top of the continued efforts to encourage subscribers from all parts of the country to adhere to the new law, as part of its consumer protection initiatives.

Smart already came up with quite a number of programs geared towards this - some of which I was made aware of since I too, along with millions of Filipinos, have fallen prey and received text scams. The telco stated that some of their efforts include blocking SIMs that send 'smishing' messages and Uniform Resource Locators (URL) or links that lead to illegal activities, to help safeguard the public against emerging cyberthreats, vulnerabilities, and other online criminal activities. There were also numerous reminders on how we can protect ourselves from scams- posted on Smart sites and other channels.

First, is to be aware of how scammers

victimize people. This can be through SMS phishing or voice phishing- wherein attackers attempt to get OTPs or passwords via different strategies. Block numbers that send spam or call asking for personal information. This puts our mobile numbers out of attackers' range.

Never share your password or one-time pin (OTP) as a reply to a random message. Be very suspicious of calls, e-mails, SMS, or social media messages asking for this information. Moreover, only input your password or OTP in official and legitimate websites and platforms.

Also, don't click links that are suspicious. Always be wary of links that you receive via text from unknown numbers.

Once the law comes into full effect, the SIM Registration Act will enable authorities to more easily identify a mobile user engaged in online fraud in the country, thus will effectively curtail scam activities that have since been a problem in the Philippines. Efficient implementation of the law and its provisions are essential, especially as there were privacy concerns raised.

Both the government and the private telcos who have access to personal information, must guarantee security and proper use. As for us mobile users, let us do our part and ensure that we register, while remaining vigilant and hopeful that this new law brings about a safer connected space for all of us.

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 Presidential Communications Office. **(Joe Zaldarriaga)**

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ARNEL P. REYES
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

JR BEJASA
Layout Artist

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Bahay Pag-asa: A haven of second chances for child offenders

Bahay Pag-asa – Giving children hope and a brighter future.

Bahay Pag-asa, when translated into English, means House of Hope. The place serves as a short-term sanctuary for children at risk (CAR) and children in conflict with the Law (CICL) in support of a restorative justice and welfare system in a protective and enabling environment.

Rehabilitation not Imprisonment

The Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act (JJWA) of 2006 does not consider child offenders, criminals. Instead, it also sees them as victims brought about by their bleak

experiences and the negative effects of the physical environment.

These children now have hope that they may improve, change, and work toward a better future because of this law.

The Regional Juvenile Justice Welfare Council (RJJWC) acts as the policymaking body to ensure that the law is implemented effectively in the regions.

During the BPA monitoring visit of the RJJWC- National Capital Region (NCR) from January 25 - 27, 2023, CICLs shared their experiences during their stay in BPA.

A CICL from Mandaluyong City BPA

Youth Development Center, 19 years old but was caught when he was 17 due to an offense involving drugs, says that he felt sad at first because he missed his family in Cavite.

“Nung una lang [pag]pasok malungkot kasi ‘yong pamilya ko malayo pa po, sa Cavite.”

His dedication to finishing his studies and good performance granted him a privilege by the Mandaluyong City BPA to study in a nearby school outside the facility. He added that he wanted to become a police officer to serve the country, and that’s what his father also



wanted him to be.

“Gusto ko magserbisyo sa bayan at iyon po ang gusto ng tatay ko.”

He also promised himself that he wouldn’t do it again.

“Pinangako ko na sa sarili ko na hindi ko na uulitin ‘yon.”

Two CICLs, whose offense also involves drugs, from a BPA in

Muntinlupa City expressed their hopes to return home because they miss their family. Becoming more disciplined is what they learned during their stay in BPA.

“Nagkaroon po kami ng ganoong disiplina.”

They are also willing to finish their studies because they want to be

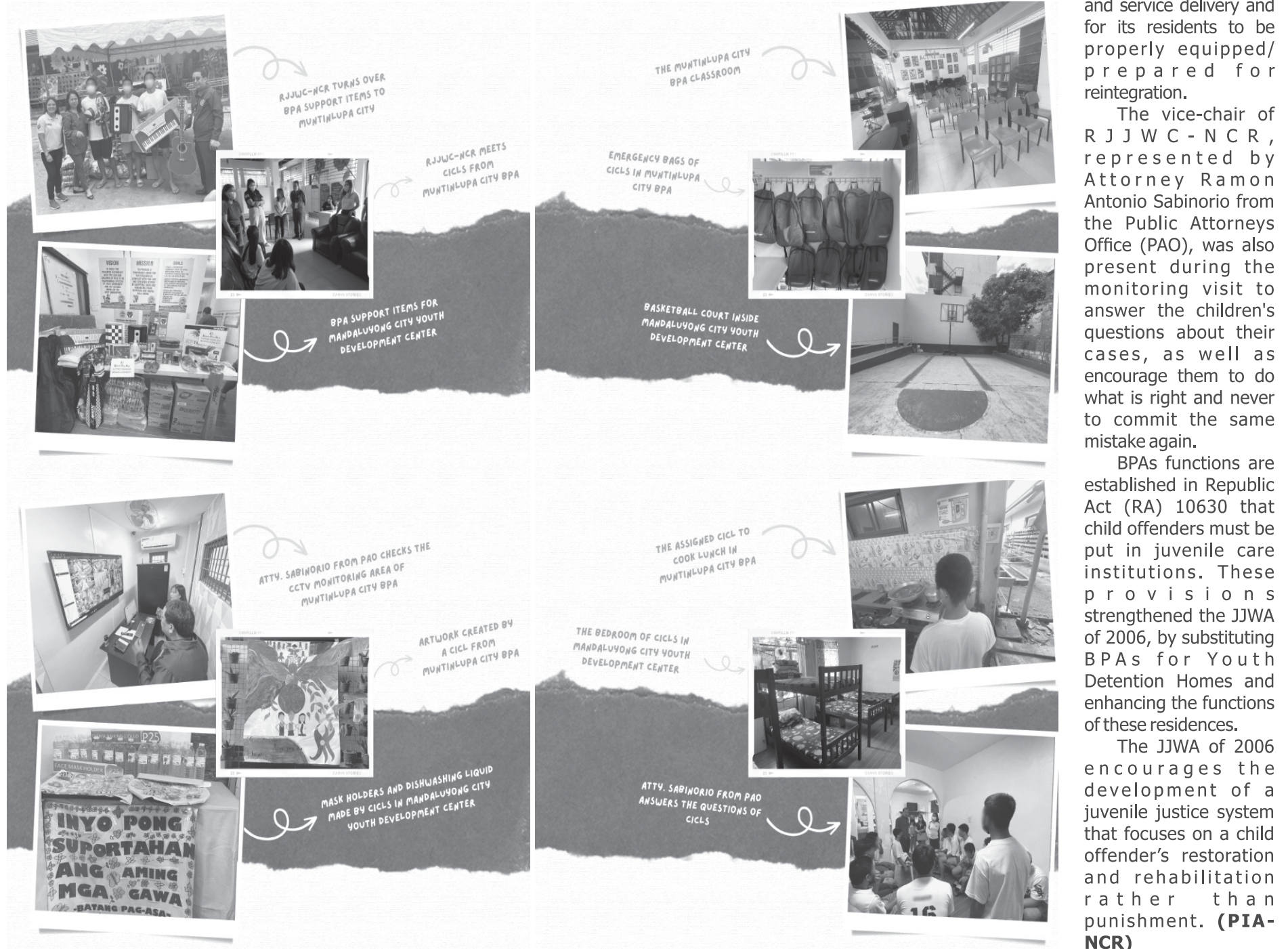
a flight attendant and a doctor.

RJJWC-NCR turned over furniture, fixtures, therapeutic materials, personal hygiene kits, COVID-19 response items, sports and recreational materials, and ICT equipment to the BPAs in NCR. This is part of the BPA Support Project that aims to improve BPA operations and service delivery and for its residents to be properly equipped/prepared for reintegration.

The vice-chair of RJJWC-NCR, represented by Attorney Ramon Antonio Sabinorio from the Public Attorneys Office (PAO), was also present during the monitoring visit to answer the children's questions about their cases, as well as encourage them to do what is right and never to commit the same mistake again.

BPAs functions are established in Republic Act (RA) 10630 that child offenders must be put in juvenile care institutions. These provisions strengthened the JJWA of 2006, by substituting BPAs for Youth Detention Homes and enhancing the functions of these residences.

The JJWA of 2006 encourages the development of a juvenile justice system that focuses on a child offender’s restoration and rehabilitation rather than punishment. (PIA-NCR)



Awardees...
from page 8

kasangga at kaagapay sa pagpapaunlad ng kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda. Ang buong DA-ATI ay kaisa ninyo sa selebrasyon na ito!" said Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, Center Director of DA-ATI CALABARZON in his speech.

This year's Loyalty Awardees and their years in service are: Arnold Venzon, Renz Rocas, Jeffrey Mapalo – Five years; Edwin Cerrado – seven years; Lovely Ravelo – eight years; Mervin Vitangcol – nine years; Renato Ferrer – ten years; Ma. Isabel Lim – twelve years; and Gregorio Flores – twenty years in service.

The agency also recognized Ms. Soledad E. Leal for the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Program, and Mr. Roy Roger Victoria for the Seed of Hope Program.

Meanwhile, three (3) Urban Agriculture (UA) Seminar Series were conducted namely: "Producing Organic Fertilizers" by Mr. Mervin B. Vitangcol; "Natural Pesticides" by Ms. Janine L. Cailo; and "Gardening Using Water" by Engr. John M. Mendoza which were broadcasted live on DA-ATI CALABARZON's official Facebook page.

As part of the celebration, KADIWA Retail Selling was conducted in collaboration with the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (DA-AMAD) led by Ms. Editha M. Salvosa with five (5) Farmers' Cooperative and Association (FCAs) from different parts of the province participating to showcase and sell their products. The said FCAs are the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Pacheco Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Yakap at Halik MPC-Cavite, Daine 1 & 2 Farmers Association Inc. and Bublod Unlad Multi-Purpose Cooperative. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite)**

DTI Rizal through Negosyo Center Angono orients Angono MSMEs and Cooperatives

The Department of Trade and Industry Rizal, through Negosyo Center Angono was invited by the Angono LGU Local Cooperative Development Office for the orientation of various programs and services to Angono Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives last January 27, 2023 at the 2nd Floor Formation Center, Diocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Clement, Angono, Rizal.

Business Counselor Roselle Galcing discussed the DTI programs which include Shared Service Facility (SSF), Kapatid Mentor Me (KMME), One Town One Product Next Generation (OTOP NG),



Collaborative Harnessing and Mentoring Programs (CHAMPS) Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa (PPG) and the Negosyo Center Services like Business Name and

Barangay Micro Business Enterprise (BMBE) Registration.

Moreover, Mr. Lan Doringo of Small Business Corporation discussed their financing program for MSMEs, the RISE UP

program.

Present too on the event were Angono Local Cooperative Development Office (MEDO) Head and Public Employment Service Officer Mr. Adonis Calimlim who also gave the opening message, Health Office Admin Ms.

Arlene Reyes, and Municipal Economic Development Office (MEDO) Head and Public Employment Service Officer (PESO) officer Mr. Angelo San Juan.



206 big ticket projects under PBBM admin under study by NEDA for approval

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said it would come up with a final list of major projects under the Marcos administration at the end of the first quarter of 2023 following the initial release of seven high-impact projects this week.

NEDA Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon said in a media forum on Saturday that the socioeconomic planning body is currently vetting a long list of projects.

"So far, mga 206 iyong nasa listahan ngayon. And that's just for iyong tinatawag nating magiging flagship. That could still be trimmed down... iyon nga tinitingnan natin iyong viability

nito," Edillon said.

"Iyong the benefits versus the cost, of course. Kasi iyong longer list, ito iyong mga 3,000 projects iyon, all the way to 2028. But, like I said, iyong listahan na iyon, we will come up with it, it will be uploaded again on the NEDA website by the end of this first quarter," the official said.

The socioeconomic planning official also said those government projects will be funded through various schemes such as public private partnership (PPP), grants and government allocation.

In implementing PPP projects, Edillon said the administration will focus on

solicited PPPs, or those well-crafted and vetted projects, which could help the government achieve its targets of economic growth, increased employment and poverty reduction.

The high-impact projects approved by the NEDA Board, chaired by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., include the establishment of a 300-bed capacity University of the Philippines (UP)-Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Cancer Center-Public Private Partnership (PPP) project, increasing the cost of the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) rehabilitation project, utilization of the Japan

International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan balance for the new Communications, Navigation, Surveillance-Air Traffic Management (CNS-ATM) system, and the construction of new Dumaguete Airport Development Project.

Other projects approved or confirmed by the NEDA board also include the Department of Agriculture's Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIDP), and the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) P20-billion first phase of the Integrated Flood Resilience and adaptation project in three major river basins in the country

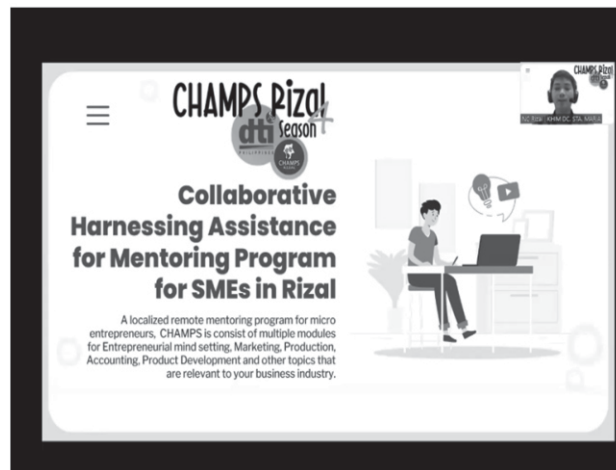
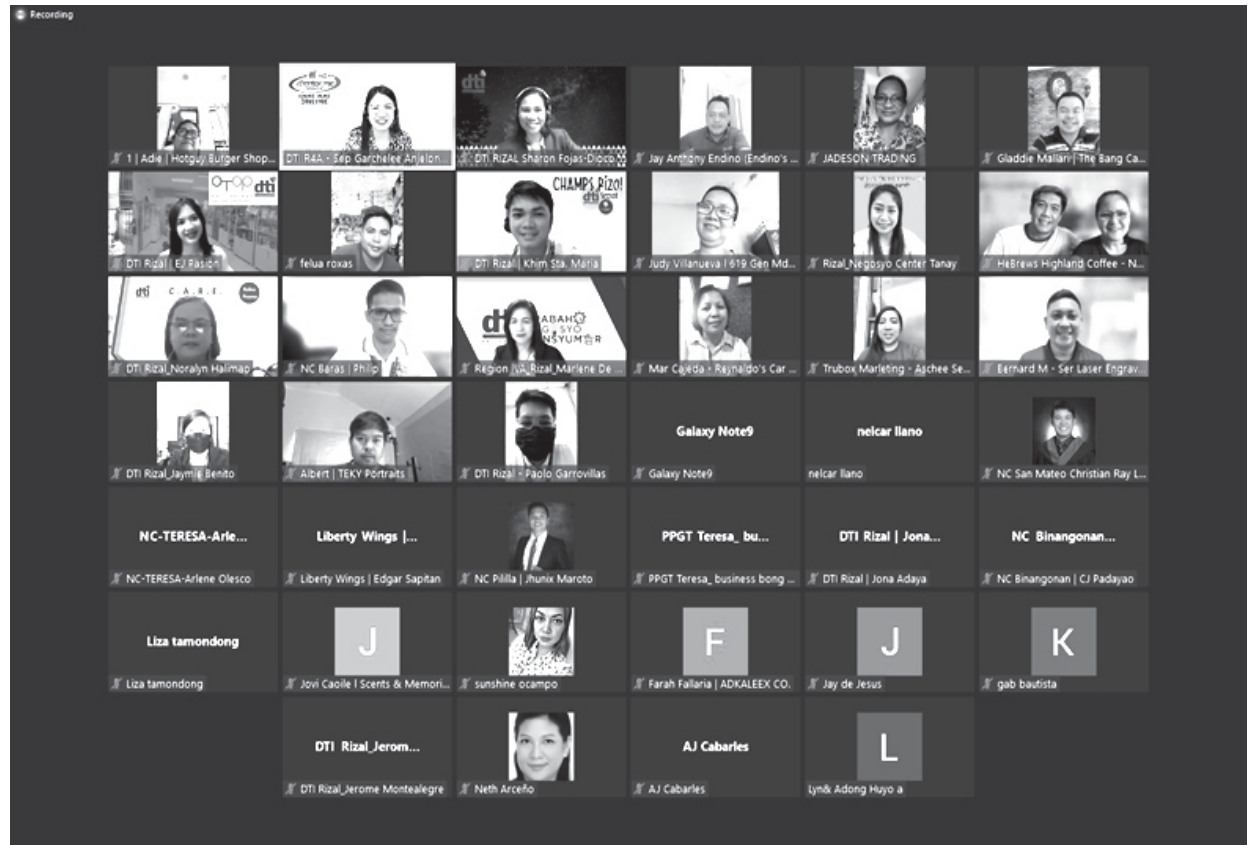
DTI Rizal starts to select 2023 CHAMPS, KMME-MME, and OTOP NG beneficiaries thru MSME Program Roadshow

ANTIPOLO CITY – To drumbeat the implementation of the three MSE development programs and the selection of its beneficiaries, the DTI Rizal Provincial Office, together with the assistance of its Negosyo Centers, conducted an online orientation attended by 40 participants consisting of potential and existing entrepreneurs in the trading, services, and manufacturing sectors, and DTI Rizal staff held on January 23, 2023.

“These online activities are the avenue to learn entrepreneurship and to grow your entrepreneurial skills,” Business Development Division Chief Sharon Fojas-Dioco said during her welcoming remarks.


The orientation revolved around two mentoring programs, Collaborative Harnessing and Mentoring Program for Rizal MSEs (CHAMPS) and Kapatid Mentor Micro Enterprise-Money & Market Encounter (KMME-MME), and a product development program, One Town One Product Next Generation (OTOP NG).

The program coordinators, Sep Laurel, Jane Eleazar Passion and Khim Sta. Maria thoroughly discussed the program content, the list of requirements, its benefits and advantages, and its timeline. DTI Rizal is set to continue the orientation until February 2023 to generate enthusiastic and qualified recipients. *



OBJECTIVE

aims to help Micro and Small Entrepreneurs (MSEs) scale up their business thru weekly coaching and mentoring by business owners and practitioners on different functional areas of entrepreneurship



OTOP NG Service & Assistance

- PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT
- DESIGN SERVICES
- TECHNOLOGY UPGRADE
- CAPACITY-BUILDING
- BRAND EQUITY & DEVELOPMENT
- INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSISTANCE
- STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT & COMPLIANCE
- ACCESS TO FINANCE
- MARKETING PLATFORMS & PROMOTION

PGC extends health services to the locals of Silang

The Provincial Government of Cavite's health services benefitted the locals of Silang in another round of medical mission held at Patio Medina, Poblacion 3 on January 24, 2023 serving a total of two hundred seventy-nine (279) patients.

Medical team from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital composed of Dr. Michael Joe Medina, John Joseph Martal, and GEAMH midwives rendered free medical consultation, assisted by the Barangay Health workers.

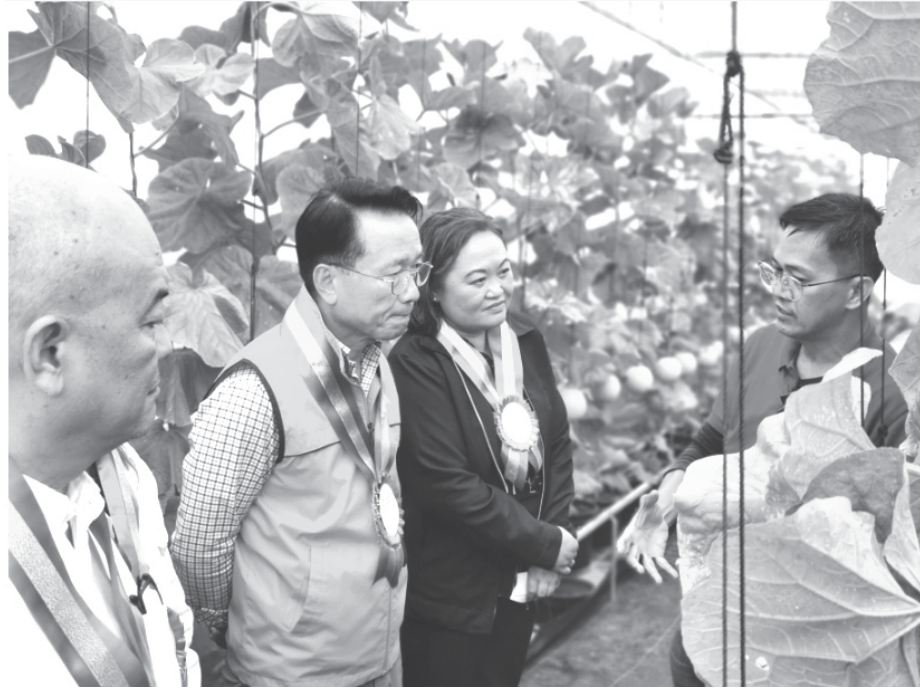
During the event, the local government of Silang under the leadership of Mayor Kevin A. Anarna, also sponsored other services such as legal consultation and reading comprehension for children.



DOST-CALABARZON strengthens smart agriculture in the region through SETUP, partners with Bukid Amara Agri Farm to launch fully automated greenhouse

To introduce smart agriculture, specifically for the production of Japanese Musk Melon and other high-value melon varieties, the Bukidamara Agri Farm launched its first fully automated greenhouse on January 30, 2023 in Lucban, Quezon. The technology was funded by the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) of DOST CALABARZON through PSTO-Quezon.

The launching ceremony was graced by the presence of Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST CALABARZON, and Mr. Mario Daga, Supervising Tourism Operations Officer of the Department of Tourism CALABARZON, who both served as the opening keynote speakers. Bukidamara Agri Farm was hailed by DOT-CALABARZON as Best Farm Tourism Experience Award 2022.



Provincial Director of TESDA, Engr. Emie Siojo, CEO of Turbulent Drip Sales Inc. and Dr. Kyu Seong Lee, Director of Korean Program for International Agriculture (KOPIA). They all gave message of support to Bukidamara Agri Farm.

In addition, Director Bagsit, also

attached agencies, are continuously supporting efforts on smart agriculture, as these are keys towards food industry competitiveness, food sustainability and food security. To our fellow farmers, agency heads, and visitors today, let us all work together towards this smarter,

colleges (SUCs), national government agencies (NGAs), and other government

were also a few agripreneurs from different provinces in the region present in the said activity including owners and representatives from Uma Verde Econature Farm, Fork and Spade Farm, and Farm Share Prime, all of whom expressed their excitement in partnering with DOST to upgrade their farming technologies and innovations.

Highlighting the part two of the program were the blessing ceremony officiated by Msgr. Melecio Verastigue, followed by the ceremonial planting, harvesting and tasting of melons.

data given illustrated the irrigation and nutrition management strategy of Bukidamara Agri Farm on daily climate fluctuations and showed the plant activity during different daily climate shifts.

"These kinds of data, including the climate data we will be generating in future production will give us better intervention strategies, like supplemental lighting, in the future, to assure we get the production right. We will be able to respond to the crop needs better if we know how the crop interacts with the climate", Mr. Caballes said.

The ceremonial



agencies to further advance smart agriculture through innovations such as the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, and so on.

Likewise, there

During the ceremonial planting and harvesting, Mr. Caballes, showed a comparative chart between the 2nd cycle of production and the current production they harvested. The

tasting of melon, on the other hand, was a prelude to Bukidamara's Agri Farm upcoming Melon Tasting Tour this April to May 2023. (Photo credits to: Lucille Javier)



Joining them were Hon. Augustin "Ten-Ten" Villaverde, Municipal Mayor of LGU-Lucban, Mr. Mat Maderazo, President/ CEO of Planters Product Inc., Mr. Erel Narida, CEO of One Renewable Energy Inc., Dr. Herminigilda A. Gaberman, Asst. Director, Bureau of Plant Industry-Los Banos, Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, Regional Director of ATI CALABARZON, Dr. Gerardo Marasigan,

underscored that DOST and its attached agencies, in collaboration with other stakeholders, are fully supporting the innovations in agriculture through various projects like the project SARAI, ATLANTIS and SPICE Program, among others. As she said during her speech, "We may not be at the forefront for the agriculture sector, but DOST, together with its

more innovative future in agriculture here in Quezon and the rest of the country."

The first part of the program was formally closed by Engr. Siojo, by thanking everyone who assisted Bukidamara Agri Farm and mentioning its future plans, in terms of smart agriculture. Engr. Siojo was looking forward to partnering with other state universities and



Fajardo, Thompson lead PBA All-Star voting

MANILA — June Mar Fajardo and Scottie Thompson are currently ahead in the PBA All-Star Game voting as the first partial results have been released.

Fajardo, San Miguel's superstar center is currently number one as of Wednesday with 37,915 votes.

"Masayang-masaya ako na makasali uli ako sa (I'm so happy that I could join again in the) All-Stars," Fajardo said when asked about his thoughts on the current balloting update after the Beermen beat the Blackwater Bossing, 105-86, later in the day at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig.

On the other hand, Thompson, Ginebra's new superstar combo guard, is in close second with 37,759.

This year's All-Star Game, the first in four years, will now have the top two players in the All-Star balloting, being the captains, forming their teams through a draft where they will

choose from the other 22 top vote-getters just like how it is being done in the National Basketball Association.

This means Fajardo and Thompson could become the skippers for their respective teams come the March 12 exhibition match in Passi City, Iloilo province if they remain in the lead.

However, when asked about the new rules for forming the All-Star teams, Fajardo thinks it could lead to a letdown between friends.

"Kung pipili ako, baka magtampo yung iba (If I draft my All-Star teammates, the ones I would skip might get disappointed)," Fajardo said, although he added that the All-Star drafting is an exciting twist for him.

The other players in the Top 24 are Ginebra's Japeth Aguilar, Jamie Malonzo, Christian Standhardinger, LA Tenorio, Stanley Pringle, and Jeremiah Gray, Magnolia's Calvin Abueva, Paul Lee, and



June Mar Fajardo is the current top vote-getter for the returning PBA All-Star Game. (Photo courtesy of PBA Images)

Mark Barroca, San Miguel's CJ Perez, Terrence Romeo, and Marcio Lassiter, Rain Or Shine's James Yap and Gabe Norwood, TNT's Jayson Castro, RR Pogyoy, Mikey Williams, and Calvin Oftana, Meralco's Chris Newsome, NorthPort's Arvin Tolentino, and NLEX's Kevin Alas.

When asked about his draft preference, Fajardo said that he would love to bring fellow Beermen Perez, Romeo, and Lassiter to his team.

On the other hand, Gin King's Tim Cone and Elasto Painter's Yeng Guiao are on track to becoming the All-Star head coaches this year.

Cone is the runaway leader in the coaching race with 51,707, while Guiao is second with 22,705.

The All-Star captains will also get to choose who they want to coach in the traditionally mid-season classic.

However, Fajardo believes the coaches

should form the teams instead of the captains.

"Dapat yung coaches na lang yung pipili ng mga players (The coaches should be the one who would draft the players instead)," Fajardo said.

In a separate balloting update, Malonzo and Gray are the top vote-getters for the Rookie-Sophomore-Junior Game.

Malonzo is number one with 41,933, while Gray is second with 35,248.

The other top vote-getters for the RSJ Game are Oftana, Tolentino, Williams, ROS's Shaun Ildefonso, Gian Mamuyac, Anton Asistio, and Mike Nieto, Phoenix's Tyler Tio and Encho Serrano, Meralco's Aaron Black, Converge's Justine Arana and Jerrick Balanza, Magnolia's Jerrick Ahanmisi, Blackwater's RK Ilagan, NLEX's Brandon Rosser and Matt Nieto, Terrafirma's Isaac Go, and NorthPort's Joshua Munzon.

PBA fans have until Feb. 15 to cast their votes online through the league's website or offline through balloting areas at the main entrance of the arenas during gameday. (PNA)

Filipina teen finishes 3rd in Indonesia chess tourney

MANILA — Woman National Master Antonella Berthe "Tonelle" Racasa finished third in the BKD Fide Rated International Open Chess Tournament

Under 21 at the Gunadarma University Karawaci in Tangerang-Indonesia on Sunday.

Racasa finished the nine-round Swiss system event with 6.0 points, creating a five-

way tie for first place. But after the tiebreaks were applied, she ranked third behind locals Angkouw Isaura Petra Maria and Lasama Ivana Maria Treopolsa.

Indonesians

Carissa Vioren and Nabila Aulia Putri finished fourth and fifth, respectively.

"I am happy, considering this is my first international tournament after two years," said the 15-year-old Racasa in an online interview on Monday.

She defeated Tedisyah Arya Muhammad, Revalina Trianastasya, Davin Belmiro Azfar, Martogi Imanuel and Maulana Ezra Faletehan. Her matches against Kevin Theofilus Andreas and Hanun Nafisah ended in draw. She also had two losses coming from Nathanael Dieudonne B Simanihuruk and Rizky Akbar Muhammad.

Last December, she won the silver medal in the blitz category at the Batang Pinoy National

Championships held in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

"I am looking forward to compete in more tournaments this year," said Racasa, a student from Victory Christian International School.

She is planning to join the World School Chess Championships set on April 13-23 in Rhodes, Greece and the World Youth Championships on Nov. 12-25 in Montesilvano, Italy.

Meanwhile, the top three winners in the boys' division were all Indonesians. Syafiuddin Raden and top seed Dziththaully Ramadhan had identical 8.0 points but Raden prevailed with a superior tiebreak. Stevanky settled for third place with 7.5 points. (PNA)



THIRD PLACE. Woman National Master Antonella Berthe "Tonelle" Racasa (right) plays with Indonesian Maulana Ezra Faletehan in the final round of the BKD Fide Rated International Open Chess Tournament Under 21 at the Gunadarma University Karawaci in Tangerang-Indonesia on Jan. 29, 2023. She finished third. (Contributed photo)

DOST, Lions Club turn over STARBOOKS, supplies to remote school in Benguet

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LA TRINIDAD, Benguet (PIA) – A far flung school in Kabayan, Benguet received a Science Digital Library and other support from the Department of Science and Technology

(DOST) and Lions International Club-Cavite.

DOST Science and Technology Information Institute Director Richard Burgos and Benguet Provincial S & T

Center Director Sheila Marie Singa-Claver and representatives of the Lions International Club - Cavite Association of Science and Mathematics Educators Philippine Private

Schools in the turn-over of the DOST-STARBOOKS and other supplies to the Ballay Integrated School in Kabayan recently.

STARBOOKS is a computer set containing hundreds of thousands of digitized science and technology resources in various formats such as text, video and audio. It is the first science digital library in the Philippines

that can be operated without internet connection.

Claver said that the hardware or the computer for the STARBOOKS was donated by the Lion's Club while DOST provided the content of the digital library.

The DOST officials with the school officials signed the memorandum of agreement for the usage of the STARBOOKS. A users training was also conducted by technical staff of the DOST for the school personnel.

Burgos encouraged the school to maximize the use of the digital library which is very helpful for easy access to learning resources especially that internet connectivity is one of the limitations in the area.

Aside from STARBOOKS, the donors also distributed other learning resources and school supplies, hygiene and eyewear kits, health supplements and some agricultural tools to the learners and parents.

School Principal Bhede Martin, in behalf of the beneficiaries, expressed gratitude to the team for providing learning materials and other supplies which benefit about 195 learners in the school to include Alternative Learning School students in the area.

The activity was part of the advocacy of the Lions International - Cavite ASMEPPS, the Baguio City Family and Friends Lions Club, and Saint Francis Assisi College. **(JDP/RMC-PIA-CAR/ DOST-Benguet photos)**

Awardees recognized at ATI's 36th Founding anniversary



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON held its 36th Founding Anniversary on January 31, 2023 at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Compound, Barangay Lapidario with officers and representatives from the Department of

Agriculture, the city government of Trece Martires, and partner agencies in attendance.

The event themed "ATI LEADS: Innovate, Transform, Empower Embracing Extension Modernization for a Progressive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries," gave tribute to the employees and staff who were

recognized by the DA-ATI Central Office for their dedication to the agency.

"Ngayong araw, hindi lamang ang pagkakatag ng DA-ATI ang ating ipinagdiriwang dahil pagkilala rin ito sa mga makukulay na tagumpay ng iba't ibang ahensya at mga private extension partners na patuloy naming

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