

Naic LGU kicks off Bio Remediation Project



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The local government of Naic thru the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) Naic held the Bokashi or better known as Mabuhay Balls which are made of fermented clay soil and minerals that contain millions of micro-organisms.

This innovative method uses Bokashi or better known as Mabuhay Balls which are made of fermented clay soil and minerals that contain millions of micro-organisms that will revive rivers to make them conducive for all kinds of fish and marine life. It also helps to multiply plankton which is a natural food of fish as well as to remove the unpleasant smell of the water.

On his official FB page, Mayor Dualan was quoted as saying that the purpose of this program is "to revive and beautify the rivers and creeks in the locality with the help of innovative methods to address problems concerning the environment."

The LGU officials and other concerned agency representatives are optimistic about the success of the program and appeal to the residents to be heroic, disciplined, and an environmentalist. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from the Municipality of Naic)**

Imus LGU launches month-long activities for National Arts Month

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The City Government of Imus thru its City Tourism and Development Office (CTDO) headed by Dr. Emmanuel R. Paredes together with Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office, Ms. Rozelle Sangalang led the kick-off ceremony for the celebration of this year's National Arts Month on February 3.

The CTDO has lined up month-long activities for the 'Love ARTfair' that will showcase the talents, artworks, and crafts of Imus City's local artists including a food bazaar and performances.

"This is the first time that the City celebrated National Arts Month since its

declaration in 1991," said Supervising Administrative Officer of the Sangguniang Panglungsod, Mr. Jose Rafael C. Alarcon. He added that the Art Fair will give opportunities for local artists to gain recognition not only in Imus but also across the province.

Meanwhile, Ms. Sangalang addressed the Imus CTDO for its efforts and initiatives to preserve, promote, and develop culture and arts in the communities.

"Arts and culture are something unique in a locality, in a city or municipality, in a community, in a province," said Sangalang. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from PICAD)**



EDITORIAL

Unsung battle at Novaliches bridge in 1945 liberation of Manila

Starting the first week of this month, several cities or local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila will be celebrating the 78th anniversary of their liberation from Japanese rule in 1945.

As the former town of Novaliches was erased from the country's map in 1903 or 120 years ago, very little is known -- and few people are aware -- of the fact that Novaliches also played a very important role in the campaign to regain the country's freedom from the 1941-1945 Japanese occupation.

This column narrates how the Tuliahan bridge in Novaliches -- one of the gateways to Manila from Bulacan towns and the rest of Central and Northern Luzon -- served as a vital link in the march of allied forces of American Gen. Douglas MacArthur from Lingayen, Pangasinan from Jan. 9 to Feb. 3, 1945 to liberate Manila and nearby areas.

According to the book "Ang Kasaysayan ng Novaliches" (History of Novaliches), written jointly by former University of the Philippines-Los Baños Prof. Rosalina M. Franco-Calairo and her son, Commissioner Emmanuel Franco Calairo of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the liberating MacArthur forces chose to pass through Novaliches instead of the old Manila North Road in Polo, Bulacan on their way to Manila.

Coming through the old Ipo (Norzagaray)-Novaliches road, now Quirino Highway, the MacArthur men, aided by Filipino guerrillas, were engaged in a fierce and crucial battle with a big group of Japanese soldiers at the Novaliches-Tuliahan bridge on Feb. 3, 1945.

To prevent the passage of the MacArthur troops, the Japanese soldiers tried to blow the bridge, but they failed, fortunately for the prisoners of war awaiting rescue in Manila.

Following is a condensed story of the battle



for the Novaliches bridge as excerpted from the 1986 book "Retaking the Philippines -- America's Return to Corregidor, Manila and Bataan: October 1944-March 1945" by American author-historian William B. Breuer:

"At dawn on February 3, 1945, several thousand emaciated American civilians and military prisoners in Manila awoke with an intense mixture of hope and fear. There was ample evidence that General MacArthur's troops were just outside the city. Deliverance after three years behind barbed wire might be at hand. But would the Japanese command, facing defeat, massacre them?"

"In the University of Santo Tomás camp this morning, prisoners were scrambling for garbage, roots, cats (they had found that cats taste like rabbit) --anything to eat that they could get their hands on. Long gone were the diamond rings and watches the inmates had bartered for condensed milk and rice. Some food had been smuggled in the previous day by solemn-faced Filipino morticians coming for bodies. About a mile to the south, a few of the fourteen hundred bony Americans held at Old Bilibid prison had a delicacy for breakfast: worms and a few frogs caught hopping from outdoor latrines.

"Long before dawn, Lieutenant Colonel Haskett Conner's column had renewed its dash for Manila. This might be "The Day"--the return of armed Americans to the sprawling capital from which General MacArthur and his bedraggled soldiers had been driven ignominiously at Christmastime in 1941. In the minds of the men in the flying column was the image of a tall, rawboned, haggard soldier. None of these bronzed fighting men had ever seen this man, but General Jonathan Wainwright would be with them in spirit--he was one of them, having once been a brigade commander in the 1st Cavalry Division.

"Nearly an hour before daylight, pilots of the 24th and 32nd Marine Air Groups lifted off from a hastily built strip on top of a paddy field near Mangaldan (Pangasinan), fifteen miles east of Lingayen Gulf. All during the 1st Cavalry's sixty-mile dash to Manila, the Leatherneck flyers had provided dawn-to-dusk air cover, and now they were reconnoitering the key Novaliches bridge eight miles north of the capital.

"General William Chase was worried about this bridge, which afforded a crossing over a stream that had banks too high and too steep to permit fording. If the span was blown, it could hold up Chase's columns indefinitely. But word came back from the

Marine pilots: Novaliches bridge was still standing. Chase, greatly relieved, sent a signal to Lieutenant Colonel Conner: grab the bridge.

"Just as Conner's leading tanks approached the bridge, the American column was raked by fire from in front and both sides of the approach. Tank hatches snapped shut, brakes squealed, and cavalymen leaped out and scattered for cover. Foot soldiers tangled with clusters of Japanese on both sides of the road, up front the tanks fired their 75s into likely hiding places.

"Navy Lieutenant James P. Sutton, a bomb-disposal officer from Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, attached to the 1st Cavalry Division, was lying in a ditch, blasting away with a carbine. Major James C. Gerhart of Santa Fe, New Mexico, executive officer of the squadron, rushed up to Sutton and shouted, "Come with me quick, the bridge is mined and the fuse is burning!" The Navy officer jumped to his feet and ran after Gerhart.

"Reaching the head of the span, Lieutenant Sutton quickly sized up the situation. Indeed, the fuse was burning briskly. With Japanese machine-gun bullets zipping past him, the bomb-disposal officer raced onto the bridge and cut the flaming fuse just before it reached the explosives. The gateway to Manila had been narrowly saved. Later, Sutton would find that there had been enough explosives to have blown him halfway to Tokyo: four hundred pounds of TNT and three thousand pounds of picric acid.

"Conner's cavalymen scrambled back onto their vehicles and the column started across the Novaliches bridge. Major Gerhart's jeep was moving when he hurled himself into it, having just spotted a Japanese soldier running at full speed fifty yards away. As the jeep kept rolling, Gerhart put the stock of his carbine against his stomach and squeezed the trigger. The running man toppled over. Pleased with his marksmanship, the major turned to a GI and said, "Hell, I've been teaching my boys to shoot from the waist for three years. Now I had to show them that I could do it myself."

"Conner's mechanized column pushed past burning houses and dead Japanese on the far side of Novaliches bridge. At 6:35 P.M., with dusk settling over the Philippines, troopers wearing the oversized shoulder patch of the 1st Cavalry Division crossed the city limits of Manila, the first armed Americans to reach the capital. But it was a precarious toe-hold, for the division was strung out to the rear for nearly forty miles. (By Severino C. Samonte)

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DOST SETUP BENEFICIARY UPSCALES WITH NEWLY ACQUIRED FDA-LICENSE TO OPERATE

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY - With the newly acquired License to Operate (LTO) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), SG Business Ventures Inc., a woman-led enterprise, is now eyeing more business opportunities, including expansion of their e-nutribun production in more parts of Cagayan de Oro City and in neighboring cities and provinces.

The firm received the License to Operate, through the consultancy services of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). This support included a writeshop on documentation for current Good

Manufacturing Practices (cGMP), and quality Standard Sanitation Operating policies, plans and procedures (SSOPs). These documents are among the major requirements of the FDA.

In order to track its progress in putting its GMP and SOP guidelines into practice, the firm was also enrolled in the Manufacturing Productivity Extension (MPEx) Program on which the firm received consultancy services from experts in having a standardized production process. DOST also helped the firm in obtaining its approved Trademark for the Bake O'Clock logo. SGBVInc is also a recipient of the

UV Light Germicidal Sterilizer from DOST to ensure the quality of products and a safe place for workers.

SG Business Ventures Inc. was also one of the finalists of the DOST-FIC Mind to Market Program on Banana Flour concept as a substitute for wheat flour on select pastry products. Its Utility Model Application is also currently being processed. The firm is a beneficiary of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program of DOST in 2020. Through the program, the firm was able to acquire numerous food-grade equipment for their pastries and for the adoption of DOST Food



and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI)'s technology, the enhanced nutribun.

The firm has supplied ENutribun to the National Nutrition Council (NNC) on their Tutok Kainan Feeding

Program for Pregnant Women for the select municipalities in the province of Bukidnon. It also supplied ENutribun to the Province of Misamis Oriental for the Feeding Program of Pregnant Women in all the municipalities as well as supplying the demand of the Department of Education. SGBVInc. is now reaping the benefits of various DOST's technical assistance and as a technology licensee in terms of increase in gross sales.

In a message, expressed her thanks to the SETUP program that sustained their business even with the pandemic. "I believe that we have grown from our humble beginning of just one

store to now four stores including a separate area for our Enhanced nutribun production site. Sales and productivity have significantly increased, thereby creating more jobs for the community in Barangays Indahag, Macasandig and Carmen areas. Thank you so much DOST, you have helped us sustain our business. We are forever grateful", she said.

The FDA LTO is a license which must be secured in order for an establishment to manufacture, import, export, sell, and distribute food, medicines, cosmetics, health items, and other medical equipment. **(Raziel Antoniette Bayagna/DOST10)**



RCEF trainers undergo enhancement training

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON conducted an enhancement training for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Farmer Field School (RCEF-FFS) trainers last February 1 to 5 at the ATI Training Center in Trece Martires City

Around twenty-five (25) trainers from the provinces of Laguna and Quezon participated in

the five-day enhancement training entitled "Refresher Course on Rice Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management for RCEF-FFS Implementers."

Mr. Darren B. Bayna, Project Officer of the training explained that the training aimed to further develop the skills and give additional knowledge in Pest Management and Rice Nutrients of the participants.

Experts from the

Provincial Agriculture Office of Cavite, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) IV and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) served as speakers to training with discussion on topics such as Key check 5 or Nutrient Management, and Key check 7 or Pest Management.

In addition, there was also a discussion on the Balance Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program.

Ms. Agatha Cristie

Gonzales from Sweet Nature Farms in Sta. Maria, Laguna said, "This training is a great help to someone like me as a trainer because I have gained a lot of knowledge that will help our fellow farmers more. My heartfelt thanks to DA-ATI Calabarzon under the leadership of our Center Director, Dr. Rolando Maningas, and the whole group for being a part of this program. I promise to share all of this as much as

possible."

In closing, DA-ATI CALABARZON Center Director, Dr. Rolando V. Maningas expressed his gratitude to the

participants, and to the implementing agencies of the RCEF program. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from DA-ATI Calabarzon)**

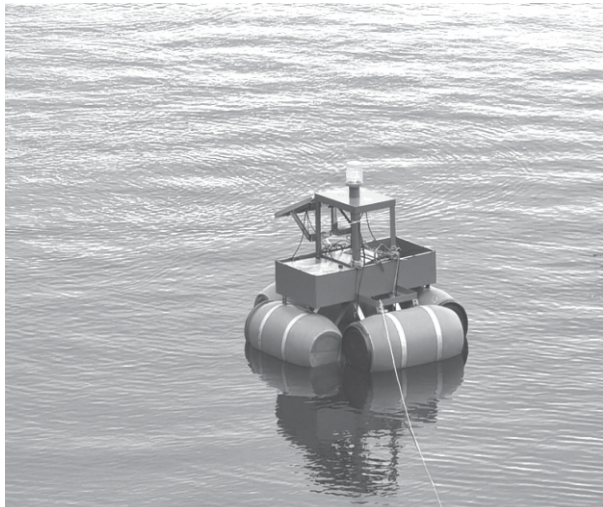


DOST-CALABARZON, LSPU-LB launch AI system to boost lakewater monitoring in Laguna

Taking off from the last deployment of the Sensing Environmental Parameters through Telemetry (SENTRY) project last 2015, DOST-CALABARZON has partnered with the Laguna State Polytechnic University of Los Baños (LSPU-LB) to launch a leveled up version of this system now called the Enhanced Sensing Environmental Parameters through Telemetry (e-SENTRY). The launch of the e-SENTRY was conducted

Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON; Dr. Bobby Agatep, Vice President for Research and Development to represent Dr. Mario R. Briones, University President of the LSPU System; Engr. Manuel Luis R. Alvares, Campus Director of LSPU-LB; and Mr. Jonardo R. Asor, Project Leader of e-SENTRY.

A ribbon cutting was conducted after each message. Hon. Ambito L. Meneses also gave their Closing Remarks.



last 30 January 2023 at the Alligator Lake in Barangay Tadlac, Los Baños, Laguna.

The activity aimed to deploy e-SENTRY to aid in the monitoring of lakewater quality for the people of Tadlac. Through DOST-CALABARZON's support, the said system will now be led and implemented by the LSPU College of Computer Science under the project, "Integration of Predictive Environmental Models Using Deep Learning Analytics in the Systems Implementation-Design" and is set to be further deployed in other areas.

Key officials were present to give their messages of support including Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON; Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional

In his message, Hon. Meneses expressed the need to look for alternative sources of drinking water for the community of Tadlac. The e-SENTRY, through its various water quality parameters and meteorological datasets, is built to estimate the ecological carrying capacity (ECC) of lakes which can help in strategizing approaches in lake management, aquaculture development, and ecotourism.

For 2023, the e-SENTRY project targets to gather water quality (through the SENTRY stations) and meteorological datasets (from DOST-PAGASA) to construct robust predictive simulation models based on deep learning algorithms to estimate ECC of lakes. The project is also



developing an application software for end-users, such as water monitoring and regulatory agencies, including Local Government Units, to monitor the data gathered by SENTRY stations.

To date, the project has already developed an information

system prototype, and has been slowly building an online lake database. The project is anticipated to be completed in August 2023.

Note to editors: DOST-CALABARZON is one of the regional offices of the Department of Science and

Technology and is located at Jamboree Road, Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna. For more information, you may visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/dostcalabarzon or website www.region4a.dost.gov.ph. You may also reach us at parcu@ro4a.dost.gov.ph.

59th death anniversary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo



General Emilio Aguinaldo's 59th death anniversary was commemorated through a holy mass and wreath laying ceremony at his tomb on February 6, 2023 at the Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite.

The ceremony was led by 1st District Representative Jolo Revilla, Board Member Davey Chua on behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Mr. Alvin Alcid, Deputy Executive Director of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, local officials of the municipality of Kawit, and kin of Gen. Aguinaldo headed by Ms. Emilie A. Pulido.---PICAD

BatStateU Alangilan Canteen Concessionaires gear up for pilot use of DOST-CALABARZON's mobile food safety app



establishment (design of facilities and equipment), training and competence, establishment maintenance, cleaning and disinfection, pest control, personal hygiene, control of operation, product information and consumer awareness, and the special provisions of P.D. 856.

Meanwhile, training on FSH touched on the types of food hazards

FSSAT mobile application was also demonstrated to the participants. Diagnostic examinations were also conducted to assess the knowledge gained by the participants. The DOST-CALABARZON Food Safety Team (FST) members, Mr. John Maico M. Hernandez, Ms. Anna Marie M. Marasigan, Dr. Marielli Katherine C. Untalan from BatStateU, and Ms. Ezra Ryza R. Noel,



Canteen concessionaires at Batangas State University (BatStateU) – Alangilan underwent a training on Basic Food Hygiene (BFH) and Food Safety Hazards (FSH) as preparation in the pilot use of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON's mobile food safety self-assessment tool (FSSAT) conducted at the campus' audio-visual room, Alangilan, Batangas City, January 30-31.

FSSAT, first launched in November 2020 as a web application, was developed by DOST-

CALABARZON to assist persons engaged in the food industry track their compliance with basic food hygiene. Its development was anchored on the growing number of "career shifters" or individuals that shifted into home-based and online food selling during the pandemic. Generally, it ensures that food safety is practiced by local food entrepreneurs. Hence, in a move to expand its scope and make it more accessible and convenient to use by members of the food industry, a mobile version was developed.

At present, FSSAT provides a 68-item self-assessment checklist under 15 categories based on Presidential Decree No. 856 (P.D. 856) or the Code on Sanitation of the Philippines that covers the minimum requirements of food safety. After answering the questions, the app will automatically provide a business operator's "rating" for the day. A rating log per month can also be generated in the application. Through this, business operators could monitor their progress and identify

opportunities for improvement.

The pilot testing of the mobile app was designed and coordinated with BatStateU canteen concessionaires as users. To provide them with the basic principles of food safety and a deeper appreciation of the purpose of conducting a regular self-check or internal audit, a training on BFH and FSH was conducted.

The training on BFH covered topics on sanitary permits, health certificates, quality and protection of food, primary production,



(physical, biological, and chemical) and their implications to food processing, as well as the control measures for the food safety hazards.

Navigating the

served as resource speakers of the training.

Participating concessionaires are expected to improve food handling practices and maximize the use of the mobile app. The pilot testing will run for three months with regular monitoring of DOST-CALABARZON in partnership with BatStateU and Batangas City Health Office.

Note to editors: DOST-CALABARZON is one of the regional offices of the Department of Science and Technology and is located at Jamboree Road, Brgy. Timugan, Los Baños, Laguna. For more information, you may visit us on Facebook at facebook.com/dostcalabarzon or website www.region4a.dost.gov.ph. You may also reach us at parcu@ro4a.dost.gov.ph.



P1-M cash prize awaits the winner of 2023 BCYF Innovation Award

To further encourage innovators in the country, the Benita and Catalino Yap Foundation (BCYF) once again leads the conduct of its Innovation Award this year to recognize individuals, teams or organizations who have initiated or developed an innovation that have measurable and tangible results improving their operations or their areas of concern.

Through the Shell LiveWIRE Program, the global flagship enterprise program of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation that promotes entrepreneurship, innovation and meaningful employment, the awardee shall receive the P1,000,000 cash prize to be used for business upgrades, additions, expansion, or any other steps in order to elevate the innovation.

The Award is part of BCYF's Comprehensive Social Development Program, which consists

of - Research, Education, Events, and Developmental Social Enterprise. It was conceived as a result of meeting various organizations and young people who have implemented innovative initiatives that improved their operations and their areas of concern.

Among the criteria of the award is that the innovation must have been implemented in a viable, functioning and registered organization and/or business for at least the last five years with two years of profitable operations both on Profit & Loss and Cash basis and must have material impact on the bottom line of the company. Also, there must be better-than-sufficient technical facilities, laboratory equipment and technology investment support over the past five years, including training of appropriate and adequate personnel and that there must be proven commitment to sharing the innovation

with others.

Nominations may be submitted under the five categories: government service, small-medium enterprises (SMEs), education, technology, and industry. Anyone may submit an entry with no cost involved and self-nomination is encouraged.

Shared advocacy

During the virtual launch of the BCYF Innovation Awards 2023 on 15 December 2022, with assistance from the Science and Technology Information Institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-STII), Science Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., expressed support to the 2023 BCYF Innovation Awards and other shared initiatives of BCYF.

"With the launch of the BCYF Innovation Awards 2023, I firmly believe that innovation in the country will soar to greater heights. This form of recognition will surely inspire our scientists and

researchers, especially the young, to walk the extra mile, to think out of the box, to deep dive in science, and aim to come up with new ideas and innovations that will solve the many problems hounding us, particularly in this time where we are now living in the so-called "new normal". Rest assured that the Department of Science and Technology will always be by your side to make innovation a driver of positive change, an enabler of ideation, and a beacon of hope for every Filipino to show them that their

dreams can become a reality," he said.

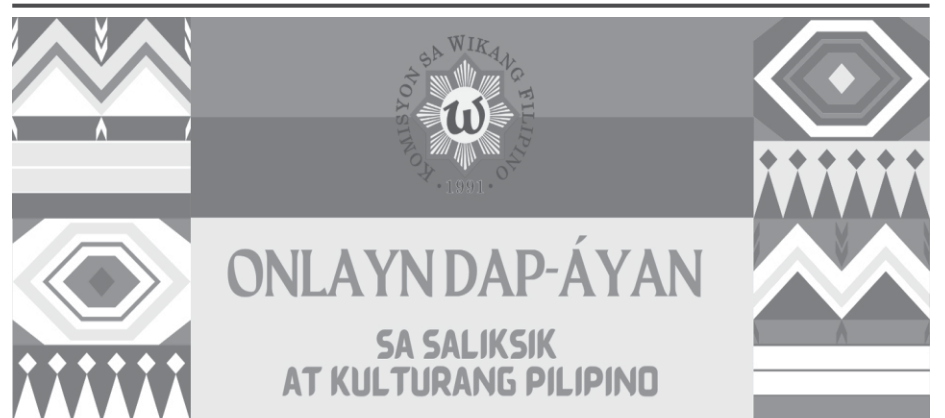
The BCYF Innovation Awards is among the activities organized by the BCYF in celebration of the Philippine Innovation Month (PIM) which aims to highlight the role of Innovation in Social Development. It was launched in Malacañang under Presidential Proclamation No. 172, s. 2017, declaring the 3rd week of February as "Philippine Innovation Week".

Other activities lined up are the Innovation Forum, CEO

Breakfast, Philippine Game Changers Conference (ChangeCon), and Ideas Conference.

Nominations with complete requirements must be emailed to bcyf.innovationawards2023@gmail.com while original copies of the requirements must be mailed to BCYF-SABRE, Saint Mutien College, Don Cornelio Subd., McArthur Highway Dau, Mabalacat City, Pampanga 2010.

Deadline of submission of nominations is February 15, 2023.



KWF Onlayn Dap-áyan, magsisimula na ngayong Pebrero 2023 tampok ang mga salawikain

Magsisimula na sa 24 Pebrero 2023 ang Onlayn Dap-áyan sa mga Babasahín sa Saliksik at Kulturang Pilipino ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) tampok ang mga salawikain.

Ang proyektong ito ay seryeng mga pagbása at talakayan sa iba't ibang panitikang-bayan ng bansa kabilang ang salawikain, bugtong, alamat, awiting-bayan, at epiko.

Kumukuha itong inspirasyon sa dap-áyan ng mga taga-Kordilyera na may kinalaman sa

mga ritwal at paraan upang malutas ang mga isyung komunidad.

Sa bawat sesyon, magbibigay ang KWF ng babasahín at gabay sa pagbása ng mga panitikang-bayan para sa isasagawang talakayan sa onlayn na platform.

Bukás na ang pagpapatalâ para sa unang sesyon tampok ang salawikain sa 24 Pebrero 2023. May hiwalay na pagpapatalâ para sa iba pang sesyon: 28 Abril (bugtong), 28 Hunyo (alamat), 31 Agosto (awiting-bayan),

at 27 Oktubre (epiko).

Libre at bukás ito sa sinumang interesado. Kinakailangan lámang magpatalâ sa link na ito: <https://forms.gle/idhnr7N4rrikpcN6>. Pipiliang KWF ng 30 kalahok na pagkakalooban ng sertipikong partisipasyon. Magbibigay rin ng mga aklat ng KWF Publikasyon sa piling mga kalahok.

Para sa mga detalye, maaaring magpadala ng email kay Roy Rene S. Cagalingan sa rrcagalingan@kwf.gov.ph.

PAKSA

PETSA

Salawikain	24 Pebrero 2023
Bugtong	28 Abril 2023
Alamat	28 Hunyo 2023
Awiting-bayan	31 Agosto 2023
Epiko	27 Oktubre 2023



LeBron becomes new NBA all-time scorer, but Lakers fall to OKC



MANILA — LeBron James broke the National Basketball Association's (NBA) all-time regular season scoring record on Wednesday (Philippine Time), matching the needed points for him to surpass Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in just three quarters of the game between the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Los Angeles Lakers at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

Entering the game

needing 36 points to set the new record, James converted a stepback jumper against the tough defense of Kenrich Williams with 10.9 seconds left in the third quarter for his 38,388th career point, which made him the new NBA scoring king.

However, the Lakers still dropped a close 130-133 win at home to the Thunder in a battle between teams still chasing a place in at least

the play-in games.

The Thunder were red-hot from long-range, going 17-of-34 from the field to open a lead as high as 13 points, 129-116, with 2:32 left.

Russell Westbrook tried to bring his team back to the game, but Williams had the last laugh after getting scored upon by James for the scoring record by converting a wide-open slam dunk to ice the game.

James ended up with 38 points, still scoring a layup in the fourth quarter, moving his career total to 38,390, seven rebounds, three assists and three steals before sitting the rest of the way after feeling some pain in his right foot.

Westbrook added 27 points, four rebounds, eight assists, two steals and one block for the Lakers, who dropped to 25-30 for the year but are just two games behind the Utah Jazz for 10th place in the Western Conference.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led the Thunder, who are now at 26-28, just within a half-game of the Jazz, with 30 points, two rebounds, eight assists and two steals, while Jalen Williams added 25 points, seven rebounds, two assists, six steals

and one block even as Josh Giddey chipped in 20 points, five rebounds and six assists.

In the other NBA results, New York edged Orlando, 102-98,

Phoenix clawed Brooklyn 116-112, New Orleans pipped Atlanta, 116-107, Memphis stifled Chicago, 104-89, and Denver whipped Minnesota, 146-112. **(PNA)**

Army beats Vanguard in Spikers' Turf Open Conference

MANILA — Philippine Army pulled off a 25-19, 25-22, 22-25, 25-18 win over Vanguard in the Spikers' Turf Open Conference at the Paco Arena in Manila on Wednesday.

Outside hitter Patrick John Rojas scored 16 points, including 15 kills, for the Troopers, who joined idle Imus at 2-1. Mark Christian Enciso had 13 points and eight excellent digs.

Benjaylo Labide added nine points to go with 11 excellent receptions and eight digs, while Kevin Liberato chipped in seven points as the Army bounced back from its 15-25, 25-23, 22-25, 24-26 loss to Cotabato last Feb. 1.

"Wala kaming na-block nung third set. Sabi ko kapag pinabayaan nila na paluan nang paluan, wala talaga kaming maiscore. Pero kung sa blocking pa lang sisimulan na natin, doon na tayo pupuntos (We have no block in third set. I told them if we allow

their spikers to dominate, we cannot score. But if we improve blocking, then we can score)," Army head coach Melvin Carolino said.

"Yun ang maganda sa team namin kasi sundalo sila lahat, so isang sabi mo lang, susunod kaagad kaya solid 'yung team namin ngayon (The advantage we have is my players are soldiers. They follow orders and that's made our team solid)," he said.

After the Volley Hitters claimed the third set behind Ruvince Abrot and Razzel Palisoc, the Troopers got their act together in the next frame to wrap up the match.

Abrot delivered 10 attacks and five service aces aside from making 10 excellent receptions for the Vanguard, which suffered its second defeat in three outings. Palisoc contributed 13 points while Joven Camaganakan scored 10 points. **(PNA)**

Madis vs. Milliam in Rina Cañiza Women's Open final

MANILA — Unseeded Tennielle Madis stayed on track with her title bid after marching to the final round of the Rina Cañiza Women's Open Tennis Championships to be held on Friday at the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) outdoor courts in Paco, Manila.

Madis, who hails from M'lang, North Cotabato, pulled off a 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 14 Nichole Dela Rita to arrange a championship duel with top seed Alexa Joy Milliam in the tournament co-sponsored by the Palawan Pawnshop-Palawan Express Pera Padala (PPS-PEPP).

"This is my first Open tournament. I hope to perform well in the final," said the 15-year-old Madis, who was leading 7-6 (2), 4-0 when Rachel Patricia Velez, a gold medalist at the 2015 and 2017 Palarong Pambansa, retired due to leg

cramps during their quarterfinal encounter.

Meanwhile, Milliam of La Carlota town in Negros Occidental province downed No. 16 Shaira Hope Rivera of Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, 6-1, 6-2, to reach her first Open final.

"I am happy with the way I played today," said the 17-year-old Milliam, who relied on her solid forehand to beat the SEA Games veteran, who incidentally is still recovering from a knee injury.

"This is my first Open final so I'm excited. I hope to perform well and win," added Milliam, who lost in the opening round of her first Open tournament in 2018.

Last year, she reached the PCA Open semifinal but lost to national player Marian Capadocia, 2-6, 2-6. She also bagged four 18-Undertitles.

Milliam and teammates Jenaila Rose Prulla and Alexandra Eala won the World Junior Tennis Championships Asia-Oceania Final Qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on April 13, 2019.

In the doubles, top seeds Rivera and Allyssa Mae Bornia defeated Dela Rita and Debbie Gom-Os, 6-2, 6-1, to forge a title showdown with Maria Divinagracia and Joanna Tao Yee Tan.

Divinagracia and Tan ousted second seeds Nina Angeline Alcala and Aileen Rogan, 7-5, 6-4, in the semifinal.

Cash prizes at stake are PHP50,000 (singles champion), PHP25,000 (runner-up), PHP10,000 (semifinalists) and PHP5,000 (quarterfinalists). The Top 16 will get PHP2,500 each while the qualifiers will receive PHP1,500.

The doubles champions will share

the PHP50,000 top prize while the runners-up will split the PHP25,000 cash prize. The semifinalists and quarterfinalists will earn PHP10,000 and PHP5,000, respectively.

Meanwhile, the National Collegiate Tennis Championships will begin on Feb. 13. Players may contact tournament organizer Bobby Mangunay at 0915-404-6464. **(PNA)**



TITLE SHOWDOWN. Unseeded Tennielle Madis (right) and top seed Alexa Joy Milliam will dispute the singles title in the Rina Cañiza Women's Open Tennis Championships at the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) outdoor courts in Paco, Manila on Friday (Feb. 11, 2023). (Contributed photo)

PH solidifies bilateral ties with Japan through several agreements

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President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Prime Minister Fumio Kishida commit to continuing the good relationship between the Philippines and Japan.

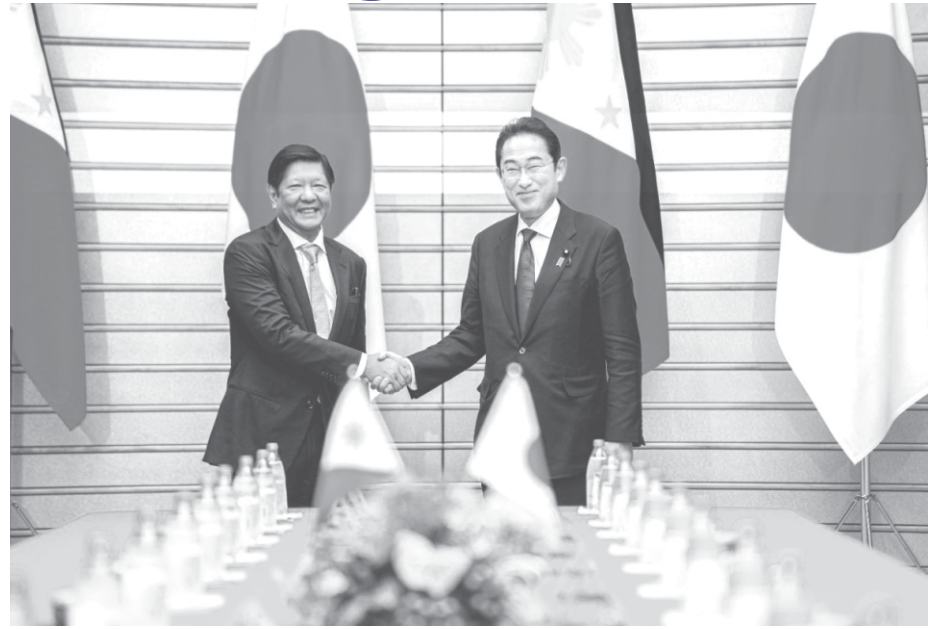
The two leaders witness the signing of agreements focused on the developments in infrastructure, disaster relief, agriculture, and digitalization, all are expected to be

International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The NSCR – Malolos to Tutuban Project (II) will run from Malolos, Bulacan to Tutuban Center, Manila. Construction of this railway began in 2019 and as of January 2022, it is more than 50% complete. This breakthrough project uses Japanese technology and is

progress of these projects. After the exchange of notes, both projects were also granted loan agreements.

Japan has a long history of assisting the Philippines' railway sector. Aside from NSCR projects the foreign nation also proposed for Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 extension to Cavite. It also supported the recently completed



Department of National Defense OIC Senior Undersecretary Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. presented the TOR during the visit.

Both the Philippines

Philippines. The Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Capacity Enhancement Project Phase II (DRRM-CEPII) was participated by personnel from OCD and local government units (LGUs).

Agriculture and Communication

As part of his role as the head of the Department of Agriculture, a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) on Agriculture was signed together with Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries.

Japan is one of the best partners when it comes to technology and its advancements, a MOC in the Field of Information and Communications Technology was also signed.

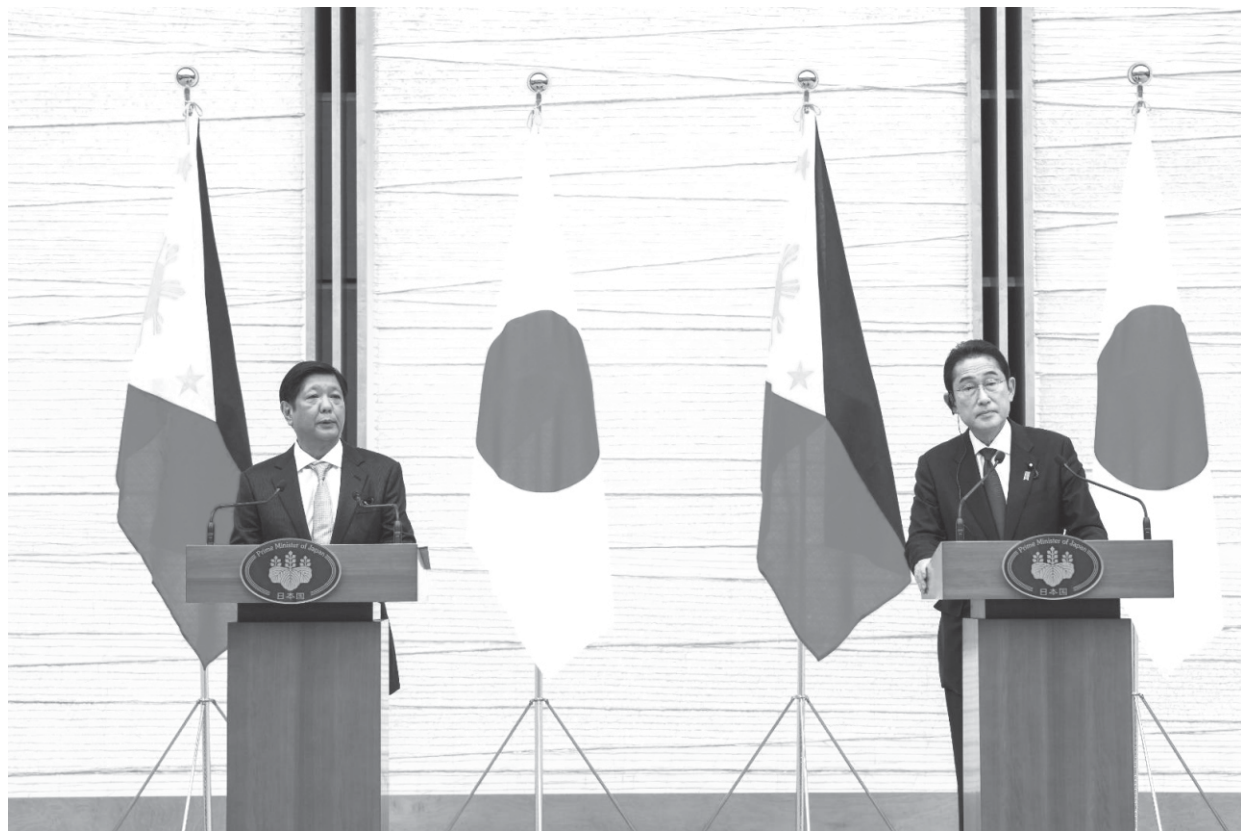
Aside from these government-to-government

agreements, there were also government-to-business partnerships with leading Japanese firms also signing Letters of Intent (LOI) on investments and agreements.

For his part, the President says this move is vital and game-changing for the local business environment.

President Marcos is optimistic about the continuous partnership between the Philippines and Japan. He looks forward to celebrating milestones with this Asian neighbor. Aside from existing projects, the administration also sees the expansion of mutual interest.

Marcos intends to maintain strong ties with Japan to provide projects and programs that are designed to better the lives of the Filipino people. (MVV, PIA-CPSD)



Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida

beneficial to the country. Infrastructure

Listed under the continuing projects between the Philippines and Japan are the Japanese Official Development Project: NSCR – Malolos to Tutuban Project (II) and the North-South Commuter Railway Extension (NSCR) Project (II). These projects are financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Japan through the Japan

expected to be completed by 2024.

Providing more access to the Filipino people, ADB and Japan also funded the NSCR-Extension project which is a 51-km North extension that will run from Malolos in Bulacan to Clark International Airport in Pampanga, while the 55-km South extension will run from Solis, Manila to Calamba, Laguna.

During the visit, the two leaders also shared their notes about the

extension of LRT Line 2 to Masinag, Antipolo under the Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project, Metro Rail Transit (MRT) Line 3 Rehabilitation projects, in addition to the Metro Manila Subway.

Disaster Relief

Umbrella Terms of Reference (TOR) on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Cooperation is one of the agreements made by Marcos and Kishida.

and Japan are prone to typhoons and earthquakes thus, the main objective of this agreement is the exchange of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF) on the groups' best practices in responding to natural disasters.

Similar to infrastructure assistance, Japan through JICA also had a prior program implemented in the

