

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

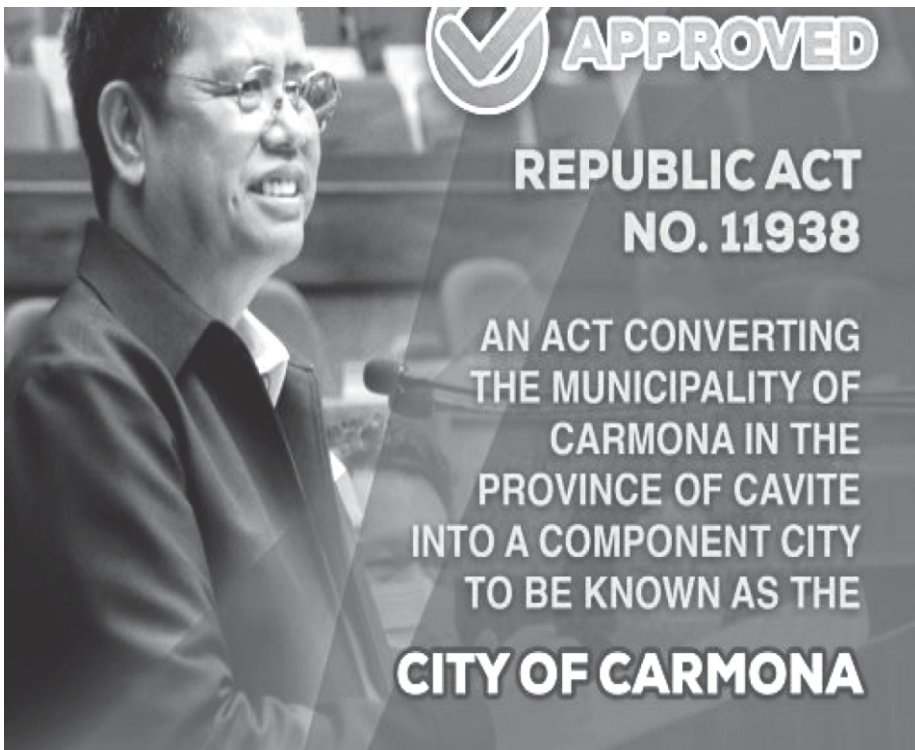
NEWS PUBLISHING

VOLUME I • NO. 30

FEB. 26 - MARCH 4, 2023

10.00

Carmona, now a component city



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. signed into law Republic Act No. 11938 converting the Municipality of Carmona into a component city of the Province of Cavite on Friday, February 24, 2023.

According to Cavite 5th District Representative Attorney Roy Loyola, it has been twelve (12) long years since they started the journey to cityhood. He originally authored Carmona's proposed city charter.

On January 30, 2023, the Senate

approved House Bill No. 3968 or the Charter of the City of Carmona with 19 affirmative votes. Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito was the bill's principal sponsor in the Senate and chair of the Upper Chamber's local government panel.

"Carmona has all the characteristics of a city but does not enjoy such privilege despite being one of the most prosperous municipalities in the entire country. This bill embodies the hard work, dreams, and aspirations of the people of Carmona," Ejercito

said in support of the bill.

The cityhood will provide more opportunities for its people and more investments for its local government, Sen. JV Ejercito added.

The town of Carmona is the first municipality to be converted into a city under Republic Act No. 11683, which amended the Local Government Code of 1991 and made it easier for towns to apply for cityhood. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from the Municipality of Carmona)**

Ordinance for annual financial aid to seniors, PWDs signed

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – A municipal ordinance providing annual financial assistance to all Senior Citizens, and Persons with

Disabilities (PWDs) was approved and signed by the municipal council of Silang on February 17, 2023.

Chairman of the Senior Citizen Affairs

Committee, Councilor Ivan Amutan, and author of the ordinance personally signed the ordinance with the support of former councilor Ferdie Amutan, OSCA Head Carlito Talay, and PDAO

OIC Head Joel Bonilla.

The ordinance states that the financial assistance will be delivered personally to each beneficiary's house for their safety and convenience.

Mayor Kevin

Anarna stated that "If during the election we could go from house to house for votes, we should go from house to house to provide services to our Senior Citizens and PWDs."

He added further that the seniors and elderlies have served their families, and the locality for a long time and it is appropriate that they are given convenient access to

whatever benefit they are eligible to receive from the government.

The ordinance is set for approval by the Provincial Council including the implementing rules and regulations to ensure that some people will not abuse the financial assistance. **(RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from Office of the Mayor of Silang)**

Karagdagang 24,000 ektarya para sa organic farming, target ng DA IV-A ngayong 2023

LUNGSOD NG CALAMBA (PIA) – Nais ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA IV-A) na madagdagan karagdagang 24, 883.45 ha. ang kasalukuyang 22,927.94 ha. taniman para sa organikong pagsasaka sa rehiyon.

Ito ang isinusulong ng DA IV-A Organic Agriculture Program (OAP) sa isinagawa nitong Information Caravan on Organic Agriculture sa mga lalawigan ng Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, at Rizal noong Pebrero 14 at 17.

Upang makamit ito, patuloy na hinihikayat ng DA ang mga lalawigan na bumuo ng mga

► **KARAGDAGANG 24,000 • 3**



DA-PRDP, LGU-Tanauan inaugurate mango, calamansi processing facility for Batangas City farmer coop

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON together with the Department of Agriculture-Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) and the Local Government Unit of Tanauan (LGU-Tanauan) inaugurated the mango and calamansi processing facility for Magsasakang Tanauño Agricultural Marketing Cooperative (MTAMC) located at Brgy. Janopol Oriental, Tanauan City, Batangas, Feb. 21.

The facility was intended for the production of mango and calamansi-based ready-to-drink juice drink, concentrate, and puree. The processing equipment needed during production, such as double-jacketed kettle, semi-automatic filling and capping machines, and stainless steel tables, was funded by DOST-CALABARZON under the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) program. The product formulation and processes, on the other hand, were technologies developed by the DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI).

DA-PRDP and LGU-Tanauan funded the construction of the

processing facility, including the provision of key infrastructure, facilities, technology, and information to raise the income, productivity, and competitiveness of MTAMC and its members.

As an agricultural cooperative, MTAMC has long been engaged in mango and calamansi production since its formation. They ventured into post-harvest processing as a value addition to their produce and to utilize their supply surplus during peak season. In 2020, members of the cooperative were capacitated on mango and calamansi-based products processing through a training provided by DOST-Batangas and DOST-ITDI. The following year, the cooperative received a GIA project entitled "Science and Technology-Based Support Intervention for the Establishment of the Mango and Calamansi-based Products Processing Enterprise of Magsasakang Tanauño Agricultural Marketing Cooperative in Tanauan City, Batangas." The project provided MTAMC with S&T-based support interventions that



helped them establish their mango and calamansi-based products processing enterprise.

DOST-Batangas has also conducted a technical consultation with an expert from the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) last October 25-26, 2022, to improve the production mechanism of the cooperative using DOST-provided processing equipment. Assistance on packaging and labelling design development was also provided by DOST.

To ensure the sustainability of their enterprise, all 75 farmer-members of the cooperative from the different barangays in Tanauan City have already planted mango and calamansi trees, which are expected to

give them a 50% increase in production compared to their existing harvest rate. Meanwhile, Yazaki Torres Manufacturing Inc. (YTMI) has already committed to market a portion of the cooperative's processed products in their canteen and commissary.

Present during the inauguration ceremony were DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director, Ms. Emelita P.

Bagsit, DA-CALABARZON Deputy Project Director, Engr. Redelliza A. Gruezo, Chief of Staff of Cong. Maria Theresa V. Collantes, Atty. King Collantes, Tanauan City Mayor, Hon. Nelson "Sonny" P. Collantes, Tanauan City Vice Mayor Herminigildo G. Trinidad, Jr. representative, Ms. Lhissa Malabanan, Tanauan City Administrator, Mr. Wilfredo P. Ablao,

Sangguniang Panglunsod Members, DOST-Batangas Provincial Director, Ms. Felina C. Malabanan, representatives from DOST-ITDI, and MTAMC Chairperson, Hon. Maricar E. Maranan.

A technology clinic with Ms. Michelle Evaristo of DOST-ITDI was also conducted after the inauguration ceremony to check the cooperative's compliance with standards.

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.



SUNDAY TRIBUNE
NEWS PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL BOARD
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Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
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Sunday Tribune News Publishing is a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite with Editorial and Business address at 155 Brgy. Panamitan Kawit, Cavite 4104 CP No. 0917-109-1919
E-Mail Add: sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATE
1 Month P40.00 6 Months P240.00
3 Months P120.00 One Year P480.00

ADVERTISING RATE
Commercial — P200/col.cm

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DOST-I empowers Pangasinan... from page 4

(cGMP) to two salt manufacturers at Barangay Amansabina, Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

The training aimed to give awareness on basic food hygiene and cGMP, to identify different food hazards and causes of food contamination, and to assess the sanitary condition and practices of each firm in conformity

with GMP, basic food hygiene, and food safety requirements.

Nine participants from B.S. Cuison Enterprises and Libring Salt Refinery attended the training.

Hero D. Galamgam, Project Technical Specialist I, DOST-I Regional Standards and Testing Laboratory (RSTL), discussed the importance of food

safety and cGMP. He highlighted that every food handler must undergo food safety training for them to produce clean and safe food products. Afterwards, Mr. Galamgam checked how effective each participant was, through simulation of hand washing.

To ensure food safety in the region,

DOST-I committed to continue to collaborate with micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and consumers by providing lectures and assessment to businesses as part of their application in obtaining a license to operate requirement and to raise awareness for the benefit of the general public.

FRIMP-CDOR, walling against 'climate change'

What good things come after calamities?

After the devastating flood caused by Tropical Storm Sendong on December 17, 2011, people who lived near the Cagayan de Oro River were afraid to see it rise during heavy rains. The rumbling floodwaters, which killed hundreds of people who were trapped in their homes, still haunted those who had seen how the houses along the riverbanks were washed down to the shores, leaving P12,086,284,028 in total estimated damage across sectors and P1,239,837,773 in total FRIMP-CDOR

Although Northern Mindanao has major rivers, the area was not considered a typhoon belt. Nonetheless, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had included the Cagayan de Oro River in its River Basin Master Plan for a Flood Risk Management Project (FRIMP), similar to the flood control projects funded under

the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) loan facility for the Cagayan River in Cagayan Valley, the Tagoloan River in Misamis Oriental, and the Imus River in Cavite.

Engr. Gil Iturralde, project manager of the DPWH's Unified Project Management Office (UPMO)-Flood Control Management Cluster, said in an interview that the Cagayan de Oro River was not a priority before Tropical Storm Sendong hit the city.

It was only after Sendong that FRIMP-Cagayan de Oro River (CDOR) was fully considered, as JICA made its preparatory survey for the project in 2013-2014.

In March 2014, priority work was identified, followed by the signing of the JICA loan agreement in March 2015. The project's contract package 1 started in December 2018, contract package 3 in March 2019, and contract package 2 in May 2019.

In December 2022, contract packages 1 and

2 were substantially finished, while contract package 3 is ongoing.

Project objectives FRIMP-CDOR was made to protect people and property from the bad effects of climate change. It is made up of dikes or flood control structures like road dikes, floodwalls, and bridges. The goal of the project is to make the areas along the Cagayan de Oro River, from Macajalar Bay to the Pelaez Bridge, less likely to flood.

This will help the people who live there be more resilient. It involves the implementation of structural and non-structural measures.

The basic considerations in the design and implementation of the flood risk management works are the topographic, social, and development conditions in the area, as well as the flood damage caused by Typhoon Sendong.

Once completed, this project will protect 614 hectares of commercial and residential areas with some 21,700 buildings and 60,900 people against Sendong-like floodwaters.

Project Cost Building enormous flood control projects requires billions of



pesos. Iturralde estimated that the total cost of the three FRIMP-CDOR packages would be around P8.549 billion for the 12-kilometer stretch of flood control project along the Cagayan de Oro River.

Part of the project is right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and the construction of a resettlement site for affected landowners and residents living near the river. "DPWH spent some P1.448 billion to compensate the affected landowners and residents," Iturralde said.

Promoting interconnectivity and green spaces

FRIMP-CDOR is not only building floodwalls. It has road and bridge components to promote interconnectivity and decongest traffic in the

city. For instance, a road dike has been constructed from Barangay Nazareth to Kauswagan and in Barangay Carmen as well.

The vacated lots along the river will be converted into parks and recreation areas, as these are classified as "no building zones." Greening along the riverbanks will also be intensified to protect the structures against soil erosion.

Complementing "Project Lunhaw"

While the DPWH is working on FRIMP-CDOR, the city leaders of Cagayan de Oro have started "Project Lunhaw." This project aims to make the city more resistant to climate change by taking a "ridge-to-reef" and "ecosystem-based"

approach.

Eileen San Juan of Project Lunhaw said in an interview that "the green strategy component focuses on nature-based solutions, which emphasize the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of natural ecosystems and increase their resilience against the impacts of climate change."

As soon as FRIMP-CDOR is finished, the city government plans to put up a boulevard, commercial spaces, and parks inside the river wall.

Lunhaw, which is a Visayan term for green, is being adopted to promote public open green spaces in the city to make it more livable from now on. (FPG/PIA-10)

Karagdagang... mula sa p.1

ordinansa na layuning patatagin at palawigin ang organic farming sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan.

Ayon sa DA IV-A OAP, nilalaman ng nasabing ordinansa ang tungkulin ng pamahalaan ng panlalawigan upang mapangalagaan ang kalikasakan sa pamamagitan ng organikong pagsasaka at ang kanilang suporta na makapag-ani ng ligtas, masustansya, at sariwang pagkain para sa mga mamamayan.

Ayon naman kay DA-4A Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations at OAP Coordinator Eda Dimapilis, sa kasalukuyan ay mayroong 12,179



organikong magsasaka magsasaka sa rehiyon. Mayroon namang 373 samahan para sa Organic Agriculture, 66 learnings sites, 17 na third party certified farms, at pitong Participatory Guarantee System certified farms sa rehiyon.

Nasa tatlong porsyento ang niaambag ng sektor ng organic farming para sa produksyon ng pagkain sa rehiyon. (PB/DA IV-A)



QUEZON CITY, (PIA)

— The substitute bill on the Magna Carta for Filipino Seafarers, which was approved by the House of Representatives Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, includes a provision establishing Seafarer Welfare Centers, under the management of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

The Committee Chair KABAYAN Partylist Rep. Ron Salo explained that the Seafarer Welfare Centers will offer services which promote the welfare of and cater to the recreational, cultural, religious, and communication needs of seafarers. "It will be akin to a tambayan where our seafarers have access to services

for their holistic growth," Salo said.

"For so long, the programs of the OWWA prioritized our land-based OFWs. Let us now cater to the needs of our seafarers whose concerns have been often overlooked," Salo said.

"As mentioned by OWWA Admin Arnell Ignacio in our last committee hearing, seafarers along the streets of Kalaw, under the heat of the sun, have a hard time processing their documents, as well as their money claims. As such, they become vulnerable to ambulance chasers," Salo explained.

"These Welfare Centers will also house One-Stop Shop Centers for Seafarers to facilitate their government transactions, specifically

in processing their licenses, permits, clearances and other documents they need," Salo said.

"These centers will go a long way in alleviating our seafarers' hardships by providing facilities for them to contact their families, socialize with other seafarers, and provide recreational and cultural facilities," Salo

Seafarer Welfare Centers to be established pursuant to Magna Carta

added.

The Magna Carta specifies the following as priority areas for the establishment of the Seafarer Welfare Centers: NCR, Pangasinan, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, Iloilo, Cebu, Davao and other areas where there are high concentration of seafarers.

Included also in the Magna Carta is the provision of free legal assistance to the seafarers by the Public Attorney's Office.

"These enhancements in the Magna Carta will also help address concerns of manning agencies and shipowners on ambulance chasers, which have



tarnished the reputation of the country's maritime industry," Salo concluded. (owwa/pia-ncr)

DOST-I empowers Pangasinan salt manufacturer with cGMP and Food Safety Training

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST-I), through the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) - Pangasinan Field Office, conducted recently the Awareness Seminar on Food Safety (FS) and current Good Manufacturing Practices

► DOST-I • 2



DOST-I Head visits projects in Pangasinan

Dr. Teresita A. Tabaog, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Regional Director of the Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST-I) visited the agency's projects and provincial offices in Pangasinan on 9 February 2023 to fully assess the needs on the ground and provide better support to implement programs better.

The visit in Pangasinan by OIC-RD Tabaog led to the meeting with former DOST-I Regional Director Armando Q. Ganal and a visit to the PSTO-Pangasinan field office located at PSU Urdaneta. Jennifer Fernandez, Science Research Specialist II exhibited some of the products of assisted-SETUP firms in Districts 4, 5, and 6 and shortly discussed how the program helped

improve their products, production processes, and businesses.

In PSU-Urdaneta, OIC-RD Tabaog and Dr. Ganal dropped by the soon-to-be-opened Solid Freeform Fabrication Research Laboratory (SoFFReL), a 3D printing facility. Also, they provided novel ideas and suggestions

to improve the Sea Salt Center proposal research and development projects.

PSU President Elbert Galas welcomed DOST officials as a courtesy to the DOST-I OIC over lunch with representatives from PSU and DOST-I. The two passionate leaders exchanged fruitful ideas

to further magnify the strong partnership of DOST-I and PSU to bring science closer to the youth and the people of Pangasinan.

Thereafter, a tour of the PSTO-Pangasinan enabled OIC-RD Tabaog to meet and interact with the PSTO-Pangasinan staff where she expressed her

gratitude for the good job they are doing in the province.

On the other hand, the PSU Bayambang staff and Food Innovation Center (FIC) team, headed by Campus Executive Director Ian D. Evangelista, were pleased to welcome OIC-RD Tabaog. After a brief tour of the facility, Meryl A. Bernardino

provided an outline of the center's activities for better appreciation of the DOST officials.

OIC-RD Tabaog praised them for their efforts and continued support. She also pledged that DOST-I would, in turn, continue to directly support and collaborate with all of the university's research and development initiatives.

