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Makabagong imprastraktura, tungo sa bagong Pilipinas

LUNGSOD NG QUEZON (PIA) – Inaprubahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang 194 programang pang-imprastraktura na nagkakahalaga ng humigit kumulang P9 na trilyon bilang bahagi ng Build Better More Program ng administrasyon.

Ayon sa pangulo, layunin nitong mabigyan ng mas maginhawa at mas maunlad na buhay ang iba't ibang sektor ng ating lipunan. Dagdag pa niya, "Ito ang landas na ating tatahakin tungo sa isang bagong Pilipinas."

Nilinaw ni Pangulong Marcos na sa 194 proyekto na nasa listahan ng NEDA, 123 ang inisyatibo ng kanyang administrasyon samantalang ang ibang mga proyekto naman ay nasimulan na noong patapos na ang termino ni dating pangulong Rodrigo Duterte. Aniya, ang isang proyekto ay dapat ituloy kung ito ay maganda, kapaki-pakinabang at dumaan sa masusing pag-aaral.

"Ang imprastraktura ay kaunlaran lalo na't kasama nito ay masusing pag-aaral. Sa ganitong paraan, walang masasayang na pondo dahil ang bawat proyekto ay mapapakinabangan ng mamamayan," saad ni Pangulong Marcos.

Ang mga proyektong ito ay may kinalaman sa digital connectivity, flood control, irigasyon, suplay ng tubig, kalusugan, at enerhiya. Bukod pa ito sa mga tren, highway, at tulay na gagawin.

Sa isang press briefing na ginaganap noong ika-14 ng Marso, inilatag ni DPWH Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan ang estado ng ilan sa mga proyekto ng administrasyon. katulad ng unang segment ng NLEX-SLEX connecter na malapit nang maging handa para sa inagurasyon.

Nakalinya na rin para sa inagurasyon ang flood mitigation projects sa Cagayan de Oro, at ilang road projects sa Mindanao.

Kabilang naman sa mga proyektong naipatupad ng Department of Public Works and Highways mula July hanggang December 2022 ang 1,500 kilometrong national roads at local roads sa bansa.

Ayon kay Secretary Bonoan, may listahan din sila ng mga tulay na handa na para sa groundbreaking at naipresenta na nila ito kay Pangulong Marcos.

Mayroon namang mga proyektong magiging handa na para sa groundbreaking bago dumating ang SONA ngayong taon. Kabilang dito ang mga gusali para sa National Kidney and Transplant Institute; ang pediatric and adult's specialty center ng Philippine General Hospital; Philippine Children's Medical Center; at Philippine Cancer Center.

Nabibilang naman sa listahan ng mga kasalukuyang ginagawa ang isang tulay na magkokonekta sa Cavite at Bataan. Ayon kay Bonoan, ang tulay ay may habang 32 kilometro

Ayon kay Pangulong Marcos, ang pinakaunang benepisyo na matatamo ng bansa mula sa mga proyektong ito ay pagkakaroon ng trabaho. Aniya, ang mga ito ay magbibigay ng mas maraming hanapbuhay para sa ating manggagawa, laborer, at skilled workers.

"Noong pandemic ay higit 1.4 million jobs ang naibigay ng infrastructure projects sa atin. Ito ay karagdagang 1.4 milyon na pamilyang Pilipino na may pagkain sa mesa kaya't ang pag-a-apruba ng 194 projects na ito sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa ay may dala dala ring milyon-milyong trabaho para sa ating mga kababayan," paliwanag ng pangulo.

Sinabi rin ni Pangulong Marcos na ang mga proyektong ito ay makakatulong na masulosyunan ang problema sa trapiko. Ayon umano sa pag-aaral ng Japan International Cooperation Agency, mahigit P3 bilyon ang nawawala sa Pilipinas kada araw dahil sa naaksayang oras sa trapiko.

"Sa pagpapaganda ng ating mga railway system, hangad nating hikayatin ang mas maraming tao na gumamit nito at mabawasan ang mga pribadong sasakyan sa kalsada. Sa pagpapalawak ng ating mga high-way, pagtatayo ng mga

▶ MAKABAGONG • 2

Onion Harvest in Cavite

The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist led by its Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Lorna Aviñante with Asst. Provincial Agriculturist, Ms. Ana Pamela Nova, spearheaded the first Onion Harvest Festival at the Techno-Demo farm for Onion Production located in Brgy. Biga, Tanza, Cavite owned by farmer cooperator, Mr. Edwin Ferrer.

OPA team conducted a crop cut activity to gather data which will provide information on the growth and yield performance of the two varieties planted in the area – the Chia Tai Red Thunder and the East West Super Pinoy.

A short program was participated by the local farmers from Tanza and farmers' organizations from nearby municipalities. They were joined by guests from the Department of Agriculture Region IV-A headed by Engr. Redeliza Grueso, Regional HVCDP Focal Person, Mr. Domingo

▶ ONION HARVEST • 2

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Makabagong... *mula sa P1*

bagong tulay at kalsada, magkakaroon ng bagong daluyan ang ating trapiko," paglilinaws ng pangulo.

Ang ikatlo naman aniyang benepisyo ay para sa food security at pagbaba ng presyo ng pagkain. Sinabi ni Pangulong Marcos na "sa pamamagitan ng mga infrastructure project para sa ating irrigation system, masisigurong may maasahang sistemang patubig ang ating mga sakahan. Ang patuloy ring pagpaparami ng farm-to-market road ay magbibigay ng mas maraming oportunidad para sa ating magsasaka. Ito ay mga bagay na maaring makapagbaba ng presyo ng bilihin mula sa ating mga bukid."

Ikaapat na benepisyo ay para naman sa pagtugon sa climate change. Paliwanag ng pangulo, "Mas inihahanda tayo ng makabagong infrastructure sa mga epekto ng climate change. Lagi naming ipinapaalala sa mga magtatayo ng mga bagong infrastructure na isipin lagi ang climate change. Mayroon tayong mga flood management project na nailatag. May mga infrastructure na gagawin para patibayin ang ating water supply system."

Makakatulong din umano sa digitalization ng ating bansa ang mga proyektong ito. Naniniwala ang pangulo na ang internet ay mahalagang bahagi ng araw-araw na pamumuhay. Ito aniya ay lalong magbibigay ng kabuhayan at oportunidad sa bansa at magiging tulay na magbubuklod sa ating sambayan.

"It should connect markets and involve more people in the digital economy. Hindi lang pang local kundi sa global market din," dagdag pa ni Pangulong Marcos.

Ikaanim na benepisyo ay sa ukol naman sa energy sector. Sinabi ng pangulo na "upang magkaroon ng mura, sapat at maasahang supply ng kuryente, sa pagtatayo ng iba't ibang energy infrastructure gaya ng powerplant, magkakaroon tayo ng mas maraming pagkukuhan ng kuryente. Layon ding maraming ang mga lugar na wala pang ilaw, bilang ating patuloy na misyon na makamit ang 100% electrification ng buong Pilipinas."

Pampitong sektor naman aniya na makikinabang ay ang turismo. Ayon kay Pangulong Marcos, napakaraming magagandang lugar sa Pilipinas na kailangan lang gawing accessible upang dayuhin ng mas marami pang mga turista. Ito aniya ang magdadala ng mas maraming kabuhayan sa mga lalawigan ng bansa.

Para sa ika-walo at huling benepisyo, naniniwala ang pangulo na ang moderno at mas matibay na infrastructure ay maghihikayat ng mas maraming investor sa bansa.

"Magandang mga daungan ng barko para sa mga cargo ship, maasahang energy supply saang dako man ng bansa, connectivity sa pamamagitan ng mga communication towers at magandang mga kalye at paliparan upang maging accessible ang mga bawat lugar. Iyan ang mga hinahanap ng mga investor na nais magsimula ng negosyo sa ating bansa," paliwanag pa niya.

Karamihan aniya ng mga proyektong ito ay maari lamang sa Public Private Partnership. "Marami rin dito ay magkakaroon ng sapat na pondo bunga ng ating mainit na pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba't ibang bansa. Kung kaya't kasama ng NEDA, minabuti rin nating i-adjust ang guidelines ng ating joint venture para naman mas maging kaakit-akit ang investment dito sa Pilipinas," paglilinaw ni Pangulong Marcos.

Dagdag pa niya, "Ang infrastructure ay kaunlaran, dala-dala ay mga benepisyong magpapaganda, 'di lang ng ekonomiya kundi ang antas ng kalidad ng pamumuhay ng bawat Pilipino. Ipagbubuklod ang sambayanan, pisikal man o digital, gagawa ng paraan. Ang matitibay, moderno at de-kalidad na infrastructure ay daan tungo sa isang bagong Pilipinas." **(ARB, PIA-CPSD)**

Onion Harvest... *from P1*

Austria, OIC-Tanza Municipal Agriculturist, Councilor Emilio Torres, Chairperson-Committee on Agriculture and Fishries, and Mr. Felix Joselito H. Noceda,of Agricultural Program Coordinating Office – Cavite.

The techno-demo for onion production was a collaboration project among the farmer-cooperator, the Cavite Farmers' Association, OPA, and the private companies that provided the seeds and fertilizer. CFA purchased the Red Thunder seeds from Chia Tai Corp. while the Super Pinoy variety was purchased by Mr. Edwin Ferrer. OPA provided technical assistance and vermicast while Gemini Agri-Farm Solutions Corp. company provided free foliar fertilizer. These partner private companies likewise provided technical assistance in monitoring the growth of the onions.

Other techno-demo farms for onion production in Cavite are located in the municipalities of Silang, General Mariano Alvarez and Maragondon.--- **PICAD**

PDEA destroys P20B worth of illegal drugs

MANILA, (PIA) – The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) on Thursday destroyed illegal drugs valued around P20 billion.

According to PDEA, this is the most number of dangerous drugs, controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs) they have destroyed, so far.

The agency said the illegal drugs are made up of evidence confiscated from various anti-drug operations conducted by PDEA, in collaboration with their counterpart law enforcement and military units.

PDEA conducted the destruction of the 3.7-tons (3,746,081.07 grams) of illegal drugs worth P19,965,441, 929.59, at its Integrated Waste Management, Inc. (IWMI), in Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Pieces of drug evidence are destroyed by thermal decomposition or thermolysis which involves breaking down chemical compounds using extreme heat.

The event is witnessed by key officials of PDEA, and representatives from the Department of

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Free health services in Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias City, Cavite

On March 17, 2023, the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension provided free health services to three hundred eighty-four (384) adults and children in Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias City, Cavite. Services include medical consultations and provision of maintenance medicines, multivitamins and vitamin C supplement.

Medical team from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital composed of Dr. Mat Roderno, Dr. Ma. Theresa Y. De Rama, and Dr. Rieynna O. Guerra rendered the free consultations and check-up.

The outreach event was successfully accomplished with the assistance of Barangay Kagawad Edna Reyes, SK Kagawad Joemar Martinez, Barangay Health Workers and organizations including Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Kappa Rho and CFCGI. They were led by Barangay Chairman Walter Tey Martines who also sponsored a feeding program.

PDEA... from P2

Justice (DOJ), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), local officials of Barangay Aguado, Trece Martires City, representatives from the Philippine National Police (PNP), and other law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media partners, who some also aided in the destruction of the contrabands. **(PIA-NCR)**

'Performatura' returns to CCP

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) – Performance literature festival "Performatura" goes back to live and on-site activities happening at Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) from March 31 to April 2, from 10:30 a.m. onwards, at the Tanghalang Ignacio B. Gimenez (CCP Black Box Theater).

With the theme "Performatura Goes Pop," the three-day event presents performances, poetry readings, multi-arts workshops, literary talks, spoken word sessions, poetry contest, film screening, book launches, book and art fair, and interviews with renowned writers.

Led by its festival director Dr. Vim Nadera Jr., the first day of festival – dubbed Unbox@Blackbox – focuses on literature on social media in its morning session while afternoon session celebrates the National Women's Month.

There will be a special screening of "Brutal," a film directed by National Artist for Film Marilou Diaz Abaya and written by National Artist for Film and Broadcast Arts Ricky Lee, who will do a talk back session after the screening. Moderated by Patricia Holgado, this film event is co-presented by the CCP Film, Broadcast and New Media Division and the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

The second day of the festival centers on the art of spoken word, headlined by the Ampalaya Monologues, Philippines' premier spoken word collective headed by its founder Mark Ghosn.

Dubbed Araw ni Balagtas, Performatura pays tribute and celebrates the 149th birth anniversary of Francisco Baltazar on the last day of the festival.

National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario speaks about the significance of Bataan in the life of Balagtas; followed by performances by teachers and students of Bataan High School for the Arts, and multi-arts workshops at 2pm.

Capping the festival will be the KamPerformatura's offering of poetry and performances by the youth participants, which will kickstart the Tanghal Makata 2023, the Performatura-born competition.

The closing segment is presented by GSIS Museum, LIRA, and Unyon ng mga Manunulat sa Pilipinas (UMPIL).

Multitalented artist Mimi Tecson will hold a mini-exhibit at the lobby of the CCP Tanghalang Ignacio Gimenez. Her art materials include book pages.

Thirty artists, writers, and publishers, organized by Pia Perez of The Indie Publishers Collab PH and Mark Ghosn, will sell their works at the venue on Days 1 and 2. Artists and entrepreneurs from the Unbox team will sell their works at the venue on Day 3.

Remote Performatura events will also take place on April 8. The Pinoy Reads Pinoy Books Book Club will discuss the life and works of Lualhati Bautista. Venue is to be announced soon. It is free and open to public, interested individuals may get in touch with Facebook page of the PRPB.

An online book discussion will happen on April 15 via Zoom app. The members of the book club Flips Flippin' Pages will share their insights on "The Reddest Rose Unfolds" comics with the help of Milflores Publishing.

Poesia poetry reading will be held face-to-face on April 26, 3pm, at the Zaguan of Museo de La Salle in Dasmariñas, Cavite. MDSL, led by Mary Ann Jimenez Salvador, aims to promote the museum as a space for creativity and self-expression. The basis of the poetry reading is the works that can be read in the CCP Literary Journal Ani 41st issue.

While Performatura is open to the public, everyone is encouraged to donate a book, which will serve as an admission ticket to each segment. Collected books will go to CCP's partner libraries.

For queries on the events, e-mail ccpintertextualdivision @gmail.com, call 8832-1125 local 1706 or 0919-3175708. Follow the official CCP and CCP Intertextual Division Facebook pages for latest updates. **(CCP/PIA-NCR)**

55 years of Jabidah Massacre: Time for justice, unity, reconciliation

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MANILA (PIA)— More than five decades have passed, but the story of a significant event that is considered the major flashpoint that ignited the Moro insurgency in the Philippines—the Jabidah Massacre—is never forgotten.

During its 55th year on Saturday, March 18, the Bangsamoro Government, led by the Ministry of Public Order and Safety (MPOS), honored the Tausug and Sama men who were unceremoniously killed at Corregidor Island in Cavite in 1968.

MPOS Minister Hussien Muñoz underscored that this commemoration is not meant to ignite emotions of the past, but rather an initiative towards healing, reconciliation, and unity of all the people in the country.

"The story of the Jabidah Massacre alone would entail the seeds of the modern Bangsamoro struggle. It is in this cause that we need to honor the lives lost on that fateful day, along with countless Moro lives, in order to establish the Bangsamoro region," he added.

Muñoz disclosed some of the significant impacts of the annual event, saying that it is a form of moving forward for a peaceful and systematic approach toward the transformation of our political systems, conflicts, and other conditions that may have been at the root of the abuses.

The BARMM leadership recognizes the memories of Bangsamoro history, including the Jabidah Massacre, that laid and strengthened the foundations for peace and strong solidarity.

Chief Minister Ahod Balawag Ebrahim honored the young Tausug and Sama brothers who died that day, emphasizing: "We remember the inhumane acts committed to them, and it is our duty to continue remembering their valor and attribute this freedom we are all enjoying today to them. Their sacrifices paved the way for the realization of our dreams of a united and self-governing Bangsamoro."

He also urged the Bangsamoro officials and employees to continue supporting the building of a stronger government that demonstrates just, peaceful, and progressive Bangsamoro communities all across their homeland.

"Let this painful part of our history be a reminder that the Moro people stood up against oppression and marginalization. It may have been five decades ago, but we will always remember," the Chief Minister reminded. **(BIO/PIA-10/Lanao del Sur)**

28 Cordillerans, nagtapos sa PNPA

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) – Dalawampu't walo (28) na Cordillerans ang kabilang sa 208 miyembro ng Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) MASIDTALAK Class of 2023 na nagtapos ngayong araw (March 10) sa Camp General Mariano Castañeda, Silang, Cavite.

Iginawad ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang diploma ng mga nagtapos na miyembro ng MASIDTALAK o Maaasahang Tagapagsilbi ng Inang Bayan na may Dangal at Katapatan na ang Layunin ay Kapayapaan.

Anim ang mula sa lalawigan ng Benguet, tatlo mula sa Baguio City, tatlo sa Ifugao, anim sa Kalinga, pito ang mula sa Mountain Province, dalawa ang mula sa Abra at isa sa Apayao.

Tinanggap ni Norman Asing Luis mula sa Kapangan, Benguet ang NAPOLCOM Kampilan Award dahil sa pagpapakita nito ng "superior qualities in major responsibilities as class president". Iginawad ni NAPOLCOM Vice Chairperson at Executive Officer Atty. Alberto Bernardo ang naturang pagkilala.

Una nang inihayag ni Luis na iniaalay nito ang kanyang pagtatapos at ang natanggap na pagkilala sa kanyang mga magulang na kapwa magsasaka.

"This success of mine is a simple gesture of honouring the hardship of my parents," aniya.

Samantala, number 11 sa final order of merit si Brett Dales Maslang mula sa Lagawe, Ifugao. Una na rin itong kinilala bilang isa sa mga Dean's and Commandant's Lister. Napabilang din sa Dean's and Commandant's List sina Jeneva Rose Bucalen ng Kalinga, Kenneth Jay Tul-ing ng Luba, Abra, at si Justin Paul Ducay ng Bauko, Mountain Province.

Nagtapos din sa akademya ang anak ni dating Bureau of Corrections Director General Gerald Bantag na si Seal Bantag mula Baguio City. Sinamahan ng dating opisyal ang kanyang anak sa pagtanggap nito ng diploma.

Ang iba pang nagtapos na anak ng Cordillera ay sina Revy Dean Basalan, Calvin Mondero, Prinzel Donguis, Jounard Alapang, at Javier Asiong ng Benguet; Maverick Allan Canlas at Haison Piggangay mula Baguio City; Yuri Limbawan at Jeric Balallo mula Ifugao; Ashley Nick Edduba, Tekson Liddawa, Eriq Omawis, Stephen Palicas, at Job Angli mula Kalinga; Kyle Lumiwes, Edgar Lagget, Jr., Ulysses Loy-od, Andrei Juhne Guimte, Keith Bolinget, at Mark Dominick Astudillo mula Mountain Province; Kenneth Jay Tul-ing at Junalyn Ordoñez mula sa Abra, at si Adrian Tapiru mula sa Apayao.

Mula sa 208 na nagsipagtapos, 186 ang pupunta sa Philippine National Police, 11 ang maninilbihan sa ilalim ng Bureau of Fire Protection, at 11 sa ilalim ng Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. **(JDP/DEG-PIA CAR)**