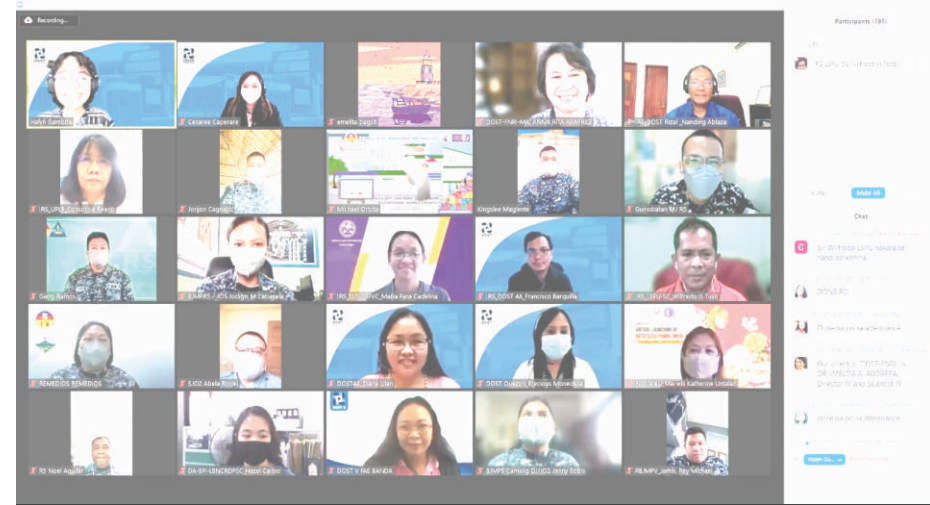


34 PDLs completed basic education thru Alternative Learning System (ALS)



DOST-CALABARZON wraps up Nutrition Month with S&T Solutions to Food Security webinar, supports NNC's call to strengthen food security and nutrition in the new normal



To conclude the celebration of the 2022 National Nutrition Month, DOST-CALABARZON conducted its Webinar on S&T Solutions to Food Security last 29 July 2022 via Zoom. Attended by 234 participants from various institutions within and outside CALABARZON, the webinar aims to highlight DOST-CALABARZON's funded and supported projects in pushing for food safety and sustainability in the new normal especially with its alignment for this year's Nutrition Month theme, "New Normal na Nutrisyon, Sama-

samang Gawan ng Solusyon!" Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, welcomed the participants and project presenters and mentioned some of DOST-CALABARZON's ongoing initiatives and partnerships in improving nutrition in the region, including its Complementary Food Program, assistance on the Enhanced Nutribun Technology adoption and Dairy processing projects, support on the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) with DSWD CALABARZON and other agencies, and the continuous

strengthening of DOST Integrated Food Safety Programs with other DOST agencies. She said, "We in DOST-CALABARZON hold that through Science, Technology, and Innovation, we can make significant changes to the lives of our fellow kababayans." Moreover, Ms. Carina Z. Santiago, Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON, also gave her message. Ms. Santiago thanked DOST-CALABARZON for its efforts and called for other agencies and institutions to join NNC's

► DOST • 6



On August 11, 2022, twenty-six persons deprived of liberty (PDL) formally completed their junior high school while 8 PDL finished their elementary education under the Alternative Learning System of the Department of Education (DepEd) in a ceremony with the theme "Gradwey ng K to 12: Masigasig sa mga Pangarap at Matatag sa mga Pagsubok" at the Cavite Provincial Jail Trece Martires City. Employees from the provincial jail headed by PCol Gil T Torralba (Ret), Provincial Warden commended the perseverance of the graduates to continue learning despite their situation and encouraged them to strive more to have meaningful participation in the community. Meanwhile, Trece Martires City Councilor Joyce Ann C. Mojica was present as the event's keynote speaker. She shared the fable of a frog who never gave up in the face of trials and encouraged PDLs to continue striving to become better persons whatever adversity they may come across. (PICAD)

PH-Japan bolster ties to push 'build better more' infra projects



Embassy of Japan in the Philippines Ambassador Kazuhiko Koshikawa paid a courtesy visit to Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan and assured the Japanese government continued support to the Philippine government's infrastructure push to 'Build Better More' under the President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. administration. The two (2) leaders talked on coordinating bilaterally and to push forward the fruition of more infrastructure projects. "Hearing about all exciting new plans, I truly value the kind visit and grateful for the time spent despite busy schedule of the Japanese Ambassador, said DPWH Secretary Bonoan, who was with Senior Undersecretary Emil K. Sadain as they welcomed the Japanese delegation at the DPWH Central Office on August 17, 2022. Economic Minister Masahiro Nakata and Second Secretary Tomohiro Matsubara of the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines; Senior Representatives Kenji Kuronuma, Masanari Yanagiuchi, and Yo Ebisawa of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Philippines Office; and Project Directors Ramon A. Arriola III and Benjamin A. Bautista of DPWH Unified Project Management Office (UPMO) Clusters are also present in the in-person meeting while JICA Chief Representative in the Philippines Takema Sakamoto participated virtually. Japan has been, and continues to be, the largest donor of Official

► PH-Japan • 3

CSC holds biggest conduct of civil service exams since start of pandemic



The Civil Service Commission (CSC) held the biggest turnout of examinees in a single day since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020. This, after the CSC held its examinations for Career Service Examination (CSE) Professional and Subprofessional levels in pen-and-paper mode and the Intermediate Competency on Local Treasury Examination (ICLTE) on Sunday, 07 August. It was the the CSE-Professional test was taken by 117,907 or 93.92% of the registered 125,541 examinees while 20,764 or 93.54% of the 22,199 expected examinees took the Subprofessional level. In addition, 379 examinees or 87.13% of the 435 registered examinees were able to take

► CSC holds • 6



CAVITEX C5 LINK FLYOVER EXTENSION OPENS AUG 14

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the grantor of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway Project (MCTEP), jointly announces with Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) and joint venture partner Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) the CAVITEX C5 Link Flyover Extension (Segment 3A2: Merville to E. Rodriguez) will be opened to the motoring public at 6AM of August 14, 2022. This new 1.6-kilometer segment of CAVITEX C5 Link connects to the

operational 2.2km flyover that provides convenient access and improved travel time for motorists bound to C5 Road in Taguig from Merville, Paranaque, and vice versa. It is a milestone achievement towards completion of the much-awaited CAVITEX C5 Link. CAVITEX C5 Link is a 7.7km segment of CAVITEX that will connect to CAVITEX R1 Paranaque toll plaza, which will help reduce travel time from CAVITEX to Makati, Taguig, and Pasay by thirty to forty-five

minutes, while helping decongest EDSA, MIA road, Roxas Boulevard, and other major thoroughfares. More than 50,000 motorists would benefit from this project upon its completion in 2023. The opening ceremony held on August 13 was graced by Metro Pacific Investments Corp. Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan, Department of Transportation Sec. Jaime Bautista, DPWH Undersecretary for Planning and PPP, Maria Catalina Cabral, together with MPTC Executives, MPTC President and CEO, Rodrigo Franco, and MPT South President and General Manager,

► CAVITEX • 6



OPA spearheads 2-day Agri Trade Fair

After 2 years of hiatus due to pandemic restrictions, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) once again spearheaded an Agri Trade Fair with the tagline "Produktong Pinagyanan sa Kanayunan, Laan sa Malusog at Maunlad na Pamayanan on August 11-12, 2022 at the OPA compound. Ms. Lolita C. Pereña, Provincial Agriculturist, acknowledged all the guests and participants and also expressed her gratitude to all the exhibitors for participating in the fair and supporting OPA programs. Also present were Ms. Nellie M. Ilas, Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council Chair, and Mr. Joselito Noceda, Agriculture Program Coordinating Officer-Cavite. Their message focused on productivity and sustainability for food security. The two-day trade fair served as venue to showcase the known agricultural produce of different cities and municipalities brought by 29 exhibitors including vegetables, fruits, botanical plants and local delicacies. (PICAD)



EDITORIAL

World supports PBBM on 'Strongest Partner'

A Yahoo! Finance news item of Aug. 11, 2022 reports that "About 78.34 percent of respondents from 22 countries believe the Chinese economy has become the engine of the world economy."

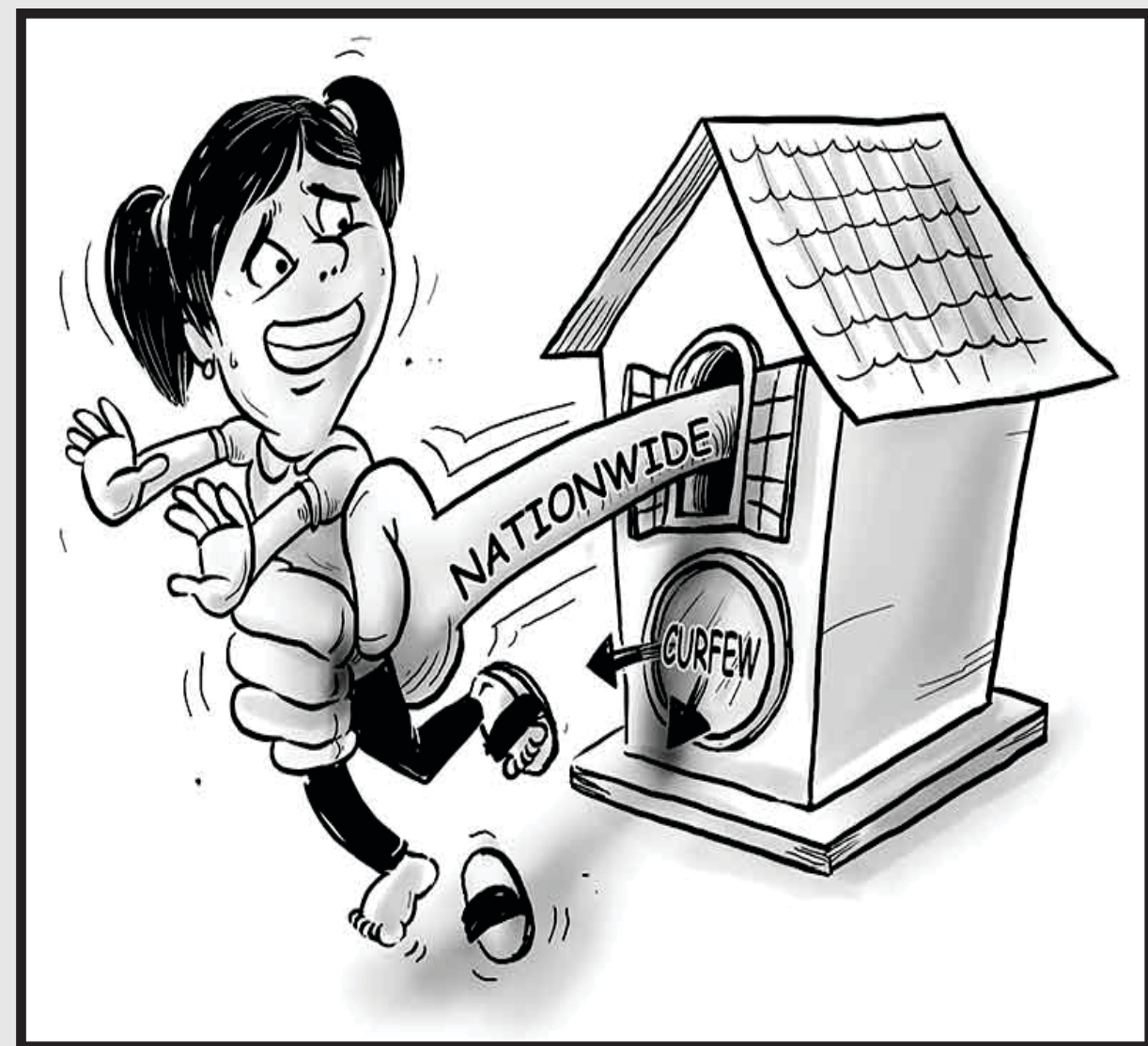
A compelling 91.46 percent of those polled from Africa extol China's economic achievements and believe China has become the world's economic engine; European respondents follow with a share of 81.6 percent and 78.09 percent; and respondents from North America rank third with 78.09 percent.

A sizeable 34.55 percent believe the world will be "multipolar" in the future, while only 6.31 percent think the world will continue to be unipolar and dominated by the US while 56 percent of respondents from all parts of the globe are certain that Western politicians are scaremongering "the China Threat" due to their dismay and alarm over China's rise.

I bring these up as some Philippine bureaucrats, defense officials and media people do not to appreciate President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.'s initiative to engage strongly with China. Instead, they are making attempts to sabotage PBBM by pushing the "China Threat" agenda of the US, promoting US-PH joint sea patrols, joint military "Balikatan" drills, and fortifying the MDT, VFA and EDCA, all of which should be scrapped to ensure a peaceful Asia.

China rail loan talks on track

This brings us to the PH-China projects where the PBBM administration has overcome the very aggressive disinformation war of the US on Chinese Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for the Philippines, including the outright lies about the "debt trap" and "high interest rates".



The DOTR Secretary said that "the two officials discussed the resumption of talks on the major China-funded railway projects, including the PNR South Long-Haul Project (North-South Commuter Railway), Subic-Clark Railway, and Mindanao Railway (Tagum-Davao-Digos)," as well as Philippines and Chinese Coast Guards Maritime cooperation, particularly communication and legal affairs cooperation.

Regarding the insistence of some politicians and other ill-informed sectors to consider Japan as the source of funding for the projects, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) through Usec. Cesar Chavez said, "Japan has already exposed itself so much..." In other words, Japan has little funds left for ODA to the Philippines.

The revival of PH and China talks on another very vital project, the Joint Oil-Gas 60/40 Deal favoring the Philippines is also in the works. Former President Rodrigo R. Duterte had appealed to his own government officials to ensure the talks fulfillment, but powerful vested interests blocked it with the inexplicable termination of the deal by Secretary Teddy Boy Locsin who has yet to show any document to back his verbal canard.

In June, PNOCC director Michael T. Macapagal noted that the PBBM is inclined to "overturn" the Locsin verbal decision given technical studies confirming rich oil and natural gas deposits the country needs for energy independence.

Focus, focus, focus

There are countless and ceaseless pressures that threaten constantly to divide the President's attention; hence it is always timely to issue a reminder to focus, focus, focus, on the imperative of the times.

The main enemy against Philippine economic recovery and progress is imperial America who continues to sabotage the Philippines' cooperation with China, the global engine for economic growth. We can see clearly the consistent pattern of information sabotage and political interference using Amboys (American boys) to waylay government and media.

Even the UN General Assembly live appearance of PBBM was encouraged by the Philippine Ambassador to Washington, who has the ulterior motive of setting up a meeting between PBBM and Biden to upstage PBBM's visit to China.

Together, the local Foreign Affairs and Armed Forces Amboys are throwing in poisoned proposals to spoil Philippine relations with Asean and China. It's good PBBM has deftly announced this first state visits to be to Asean countries Singapore and Indonesia.

We wish PBBM the best in all his efforts to subdue the challenges to the nation's recovery and pursue the path to prosperity, hence these observations for his consideration.

This information is likewise for readers to consider, propagating these messages of great urgency and import to their friends and groups on social media.

PNVF draws UAAP's commitment of support to nat'l team program

The Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) drew the commitment of the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) on the national team program which aims to establish a wide pool of young potential players for major international competitions.

The commitment was forged in a PNVF-UAAP board meeting on Tuesday at Adamson University, host of the UAAP's 85th season.

"Yes, the UAAP is very supportive of the national team program," said Adamson University

president Fr. Aldrin Suan, also the president of UAAP Season 85.

"The PNVF is thankful for the commitment of support from the UAAP," said PNVF president Ramon "Tats" Suzara, who was accompanied in the meeting by his secretary general, Don Caringal.

The commitment borders on the UAAP aligning its volleyball schedule with the International Volleyball Federation's (FIVB) program of world calendar and the league

lending its players to the national team.

The national team to the Cambodia 32nd Southeast Asian Games campaign, however, won't have UAAP players because of its proximity to the end of the UAAP volleyball season. The Cambodia games are set May 5 to 16, 2023, the same period when the UAAP is about to conclude its season.

"The Vietnam and Cambodia SEA Games were scheduled in May, not the traditional SEA Games schedule of November up to December because of



COMMITMENT. Officials of the Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) and the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) pose for photo opportunity after meeting at Adamson University in Manila on Tuesday (Aug. 16, 2022). The UAAP committed to support the volleyball national team program. (Contributed photo)

Vietnam beats Korea to stay unbeaten in Asian volley tourney

Vietnam stamped its class over Korea, 3-0 (25-13, 25-13, 25-16) in its last preliminary round match on Wednesday in the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Women at the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City.

Outside hitter Nguyen Thi Uyen displayed her awesome form throughout the 73-minute match with 10 attacks, two blocks, and a service ace.

Equally talented middle blocker Ly Thi Luyen scored 10 points, including four blocks, while outside hitter Vi Thi Nhu Quynh contributed nine points

for Vietnam, which posted its second straight victory after beating Iran, 3-0 (25-13, 25-14, 25-11), last Tuesday.

Opposite hitter Choi Hosun scored seven attacks and a service ace, while outside hitter Kim Seyul also had seven attacks for the Koreans, who dropped their third match in a row. Middle blocker Lim Hyerin and outside hitter Hwang Jimin, who is also team captain, contributed six and five points, respectively.

Vietnam now has a 3-0 (win-loss) record and is in second place behind defending

champion China in Pool A. China rolled to its third straight victory after beating the Philippines, 3-0 (25-16, 25-22, 25-20) last Tuesday. The Philippines, which has a 0-2 win-loss record, is scheduled to meet Iran late Wednesday.

Japan leads Pool B with two wins followed by Thailand and Chinese Taipei, which have identical 2-1 (win-loss) records, and Australia (0-2). Thursday's matches will pit Japan against Australia at 1 p.m., China against Iran at 4 p.m. and Korea against the Philippines at 7 p.m. (PNA)



STILL UNDEFEATED. Vietnam shows defensive prowess to beat South Korea in three straight sets in the Asian Volleyball Confederation Cup at the PhilSports arena in Pasig City on Wednesday (Aug. 24, 2022). Vietnam remained undefeated in three games while South Korea absorbed its third straight loss. (PNA photo by Jess Escaros)

the offshoot of the Covid-19 pandemic," Suzara said. "But come 2023, the SEA Games return to its traditional schedule and the UAAP players would be free for the national team by then."

The FIVB's world calendar starts in May and ends in October of each year for the so-called national team window.

Also present at the PNVF-UAAP meeting were National University's Sergio Lim and Nilo Ocampo, Ateneo's Em Fernandez,

Far Eastern University's Mark Molina, University of the East's Rod Roque, UAAP Season 85 Secretary Treasurer Fr. Andrew Bayal also of Adamson University, De La Salle's Nonong Calanog and Edwin Reyes, University of the Philippines' Dean Francisco "Kiko" Diaz, University of Santo Tomas's Gigi Kamus and UAAP Executive Director Rebo Saguisag.

"The UAAP is fully supportive of the initiatives of the PNVF, but for this immediate season, we have made

preparations for our respective calendar of events," Diaz said. "In fact, our current schedule of events fits perfectly with theirs [PNVF], so I don't see any conflict."

The major competitions that could see UAAP players on the national team include the Hangzhou 19th Asian Games in September 2023, Asian championships, Asian Volleyball Confederation Cups for Men and Women and the Asean Grand Prix. (PR)

LeBron James to extend contract with LA Lakers: NBA insider



ANKARA - LeBron James will extend his contract with the Los Angeles Lakers for two years, NBA insider Adrian Wojnarowski said Wednesday.

Wojnarowski said James will sign the extension worth

USD97.1 million with a player option for the 2024-2025 season included in the deal.

James, 37, is entering the final year of his current deal that is worth USD44.5 million.

Regarded as one of the greatest players in

NBA history, James is a four-time NBA champion, winning the title twice with the Miami Heat in 2012 and 2013, and once each with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2016 and 2020 with the Lakers. (Anadolu)

SUNDAY TRIBUNE NEWS PUBLISHING EDITORIAL BOARD ARNEL P. REYES Publisher/Editor-in-Chief JR BEJASA Layout Artist SUBSCRIPTION RATE 1 Month P40.00 6 Months P240.00 3 Months P120.00 One Year P480.00 ADVERTISING RATE Commercial - P200/col.cm NOTE: All news articles and opinions expressed by the writers are entirely their own and do not reflect the opinion of the Publisher, Management of this Publication.

DOST...

cause on mitigating hunger and food insecurity especially in the region. Before the presentations, Ms. Diane Z. Ulan, Science Research Specialist II from DOST-CALABARZON's Food Safety Team, introduced each project and their components, specifically:
• "Retrofitting and Operationalization of a GMP-Compliant Facility in Support to the Smart Food Value Chain Processing Facility of the SentrongPamilihan ng ProduktongAgrikulturas a Quezon Foundation, Inc. (SPPAQFI) at Southern Luzon State University (SLSU)-Lucena City Campus" by Dr. Maria Fara C. Cadelina (Southern Luzon State University-Lucena City Campus)
• "Fabrication of Prototype Deployable Mushroom Growing House as

from page 8

Complementary Technology to Enhance Livelihood and Food Security" by Ms. Charmayne D. Sanglay, MM (Laguna State Polytechnic University Siniloan College of Agriculture)
• "Upgrading of Seed Storage Facility in Bureau of Plant Industry - Los Baños National Crop Research, Development, and Production Support Center (BPI-LBNCRDPSC)" by Dr. Herminigilda A. Gabertan (Bureau of Plant Industry- Los Baños National Crop Research, Development and Production Support Center)
• "Enhancing the Capability of Smallhold CALABARZON Dairy Carabao Farmers through a Sustainable Forage Production System" by Dr. Consorcia E. Reaño (University of the Philippines Los Baños)

Employing Hydroponics and Vegetable Gardening Technologies to alleviate COVID-19 Threats to Food Security in Selected Municipalities in Region IV-A" by Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza (Provincial S&T Center of Rizal)
An open forum was held after the presentations where participants were able to virtually engage and discuss their queries and concerns with the project team. Following this, an awarding of certificates for the project presenters also commenced.
Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON, thanked everyone for participating in the event and encouraged everyone to support DOST-CALABARZON's similar webinars in the future. (By: Halyn Lunel Gamboa)

Cavitex...

Mr. Raul Ignacio, and Metro Pacific Investments Corporation Head of Government Relations and Public Affairs and Head of MVP Group Media Bureau, Atty. Mike Toledo. Also present in the event are Senator Mark Villar, Congressman Edwin Olivarez and Mayor Eric Olivarez of Paranaque City, Mayor Imelda Calixto-Rubiano of Pasay City, other government partners and various community stakeholders.
With the opening of the CAVITEX C5 Link Flyover extension, a new traffic scheme will be implemented for motorists entering the expressway in Merville. Vehicles from Paranaque going to Taguig shall now pass into the new C5 Link Flyover Merville entry located in front of Shell C5 Southlink, Brgy. Moonwalk, Paranaque. "More than 15,000 motorists going to Taguig from Paranaque

from page 1

and vice versa are expected to benefit with this new segment of CAVITEX C5 Link. We urge everyone to utilize Easytrip RFID to avoid the long line at cash lane and maximize the benefit of shorter travel time," said CIC President and General Manager, Raul L. Ignacio.
CIC offers motorists free Easytrip RFID installation and RFID check-up in CAVITEX C5 Link Customer Service Center. Motorists shall only pay Php 200 for the initial load of the new Easytrip account.
TRB has approved the provisional toll, for the now extended CAVITEX C5 Link: Php 37.00 for Class 1 vehicles; Php 74.00 for Class 2; and Php 112.00 for Class 3, but implementation will be deferred for September as the company's goodwill to motorists.
"We encourage motorists to use the CAVITEX C5 Link flyover extension while it still

has no additional charge, for them to enjoy the added benefit." added Raul L. Ignacio.
As for its other segments, construction for Segment 2 of CAVITEX C5 Link — which will connect other segments to CAVITEX R-1 Expressway in Paranaque, has now reached 30% completion per the latest project update. Once connected, this segment will help motorists shorten travel time from Cavite to Sucat and decongest local roads such as Sucat Road and Quirino Avenue.
MPT South's roadway networks, CALAX, CAVITEX, and CAVITEX C5 Link are strategically designed to be interconnected to help reduce congestion on major thoroughfares in NCR and Cavite. It will also help boost economic growth as it provides a convenient gateway for investment, tourism, and other socio-economic activities in the region.



Discover terrarium this August at SM City TreceMartires. SM City Trece Martires brings you Coast-to-Coast Terrarium and Aquascape display this August 19-28! Get a closer look, attend workshop, and learn hacks and tips as you start your terrarium journey!

CSC holds...

The administration of the CSE is a way to uphold and realize the principle of merit and fitness in the civil service. And with merit and fitness upheld, we could somehow hope that high performing, competent, and credible civil servants are placed in government to fulfill our public service mandate," CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles explained on the relevance of the CSE. No untoward incidents were reported among the examiners and examinees alike.
"I was able to visit three testing centers in Cavite, the General Emilio Aguinaldo School, Imus Kaagapay SPED Center, and the Paaralang Elementarya ng Palico to get a feel of the preparations and exam administration. We thank everyone for the strict observance of the health and safety protocols the CSC has put in place," the CSC Chairperson said.
"Seeing examinees adhering to the health and safety protocols to safeguard themselves, the proctors, and all the personnel in the testing centers against COVID-19 infection is a welcome development. It is a signal that we can increase testing center capacity in the coming

from page 1

administration of the CS exams to make room for more examinees who want to obtain civil service eligibility and join the public sector workforce," he added.
Nograles also cited the efforts of partners in the local government units, the Department of Education, especially the teachers who served as room examiners and proctors, and all those who assisted the CSC in the administration of the exams.
The career service examination is a general ability test designed to measure and assess an individual's general scholastic aptitude. The passing rate is 80 percent.
Passing the Professional level will result in the conferment of corresponding Career Service Professional eligibility, a second level eligibility appropriate for appointment to second and first level positions in the government.
Conversely, the Career Service Sub-Professional eligibility which results from passing the Sub-Professional exam shall be appropriate for appointment to first level (clerical) government positions. The CSC stressed, though, that both eligibilities shall not apply to positions

involving practice of profession that require an appropriate license, and those positions covered by special laws.
On the other hand, ICLTE forms part of the assessment of the Department of Finance (DOF) in the selection, appointment, designation, and promotion to higher positions in the local treasury service. As such, passing the ICLTE does not confer civil service eligibility.
The complete list of successful examinees of the 07 August career service Professional and Sub-Professional examinations may be accessed at the CSC website www.csc.gov.ph by 06 October.
Examinees, both passed and failed, can generate their individual test result or rating through OCSERGS or the Online Civil Service Examination Result Generation System by 21 October. OCSERGS can also be accessed through the CSC website.
For ICLTE, test results will be released to the DOF-Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF) by 17 September. Any concern with the ICLTE results should be coordinated directly with the DOF-BLGF, the CSC said. (CSC/PIA-NCR)

Paglulunsad ng Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, suportado ng PhilHealth



PhilHealth-Central Office Member Management Group. Kinakailangan magpatala ng mga magsasaka ng niyog sa PhilHealth upang magkaroon sila ng financial risk protection pagdating sa usaping medikal at pagpapaospital.
Kung kaya, kasabay ng programang ito ay ang paglalagay ng PRO IVA ng information booth saloob ng Quezon Convention Center, kung saan ang mga magsasaka ng niyog, maging ang ibang mga lumahok sa programa ay maaaring magparehistro sa PhilHealth Regional Office IVA (PRO IVA) sa pangunguna ni Regional Vice President Danilo M. Reynes, MD, MPA kasama si Vice President Lemuel Untalan mula sa
Nagbigay din ng

PH-Japan...

Development Assistance (ODA) in the Philippines, with grants, loans and technical assistance provided all over the country since 1966.
According to Senior Undersecretary Sadain, the Japanese government thru JICA currently supports 13 DPWH big-ticket infrastructure projects including the widening of 23-kilometer Arterial Road (Plaridel) Bypass Project Phase 3 in the Province of Bulacan under JICA Loan Agreement (L/A) No. PH-P266; improvement and maintenance of about 1,184-kilometer of arterial national roads under Road Upgrading and Preservation Project (RUPP) funded by JICA L/A No. PH-P247; 30-kilometer Central Luzon Link Expressway (CLLEX) Project from the connection of Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX) in Balingcanaway, Tarlac City and ends at the Daang Maharlika Highway in Cabanatuan City under JICA L/A No. PH-P249; and construction of a 4 lane - 45.5-kilometer Davao City Bypass Construction Project under JICA L/A Nos. PH-P261 and PH-P273;
Moreover, the Islamic City of Marawi has benefited from a 2 Billion Japanese yen or approximately P970 Million donation/grant for the design and build of 18.97-kilometer Marawi Transcentral Road Phase 1 under the Programme for the Support to Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Marawi City.
In support of the government's peace-building initiatives, JICA under L/A No. PH-F-P1 is also financing the Road Network Development Project in Conflict-affected Areas in Mindanao (RNDP-CAAM) involving the development,

from page 8

construction and improvement of about 174.50-kilometer access roads connecting Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and other regions in Mindanao including another 18.78-kilometer Marawi Transcentral Road Phase 3.
Japan has also committed to support the construction of Cebu-Mactan Bridge (4th Bridge) and Coastal Road Construction Project covered by JICA L/A No. PH-P274 which is now under detailed engineering design stage.
To protect flood prone areas and strengthen the resilience to climate change, four (4) sub-projects were completed under the Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan River, Tagoloan River and Imus River (FRIMP-CTI) financed by JICA L/A No. PH-P253.
Meanwhile, on-going flood control projects are the channel improvement works for Middle Marikina River including the construction of Manggahan Control Gate Structure and construction of Cainta Floodgate and Taytay Sluiceway at the joining sections of Cainta and Taytay rivers to Mangahan Floodway under the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project Phase IV funded by JICA L/A No. PH-P271; Flood Risk Management Project for Cagayan De Oro River (FRIMP-CDOR) under JICA L/A No. PH-P259; and Cavite Industrial Area Flood Management Project under JICA L/A No. PH-P265.
The Government of Japan also extended financing support for the construction of interchanges on major intersection in Quezon City under the Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project,

Phase VI (MMICP-VI) and the Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project to strengthen the resiliency of transport network in Metro Manila by improving the durability and safety of Guadalupe and Lambingan Bridges against large scale earthquake.
Technical assistance has also improved DPWH capacity in preparing feasibility studies and detailed engineering design of project proposals submitted for NEDA Board approval.
Pipeline projects with Feasibility Studies completed and on-going under JICA grant includes the Parañaque Skyway/Tunnel Project; Dalton Pass East Alignment Road Project (East Dalton Bypass Project); Central Mindanao Highway Project (Cagayan De Oro-Malaybaly Section); and Davao City Flood Control and Drainage Project. The proposal to conduct Feasibility Studies for Liloan Bridge and Butuan Bridge to comprise the Phase II of Urgent Bridges Construction Program for Rural Development (UBCPRD II) has also been submitted for JICA's consideration.
Senior Undersecretary Sadain said that technical cooperation is another component of Japanese ODA to the Philippines which contributed to the acquisition of technical skills through short- and long-term training for the improvement of human resources. Japan ODA project also promotes transfer of Japanese technology and expertise.
This last quarter of 2022, a workshop on construction and operation and maintenance of road tunnel will be held with the goal of providing a strong foundation for joint venture enterprises between Japanese and Philippine businesses. (DPWH)

DBM submits 2023 Budget to Congress; Education, infrastructure, health, social protection, agriculture, top budget priorities

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Ameha F. Pangandaman submitted to Congress today, 22 August 2022, the President's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2023, which according to her is "a proactive budget felt by the people with education, infrastructure, health, agriculture and social safety nets as priorities."

"Our budget for FY 2023 is proactive and resilient. It is designed to withstand future risks, challenges and shocks. Filipinos have bravely faced disasters and crises in recent years and notwithstanding the uncertainties, we have witnessed the strength of our economy and the resilience of our countrymen as seen by the country's economic expansion," Budget Secretary Pangandaman said.

The administration's economic team earlier pointed out that the goal of the Marcos Administration is to achieve 6.5 to 8.0 percent real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth annually between 2023 to 2028 in order to attain a single-digit (9.0 percent) poverty rate by 2028.

Consistent with the 8-Point Socio-Economic Agenda of the Marcos Administration, Secretary Pangandaman underscored the need to support the identified priority sectors, and to sustain the country's growth momentum to make the economy inclusive and robust in 2023.

"We have identified the priority sectors in our 2023 National Expenditure Program, which stands at Php5.268-Trillion and 4.9 percent higher than this year's budget.

These priority sectors include education, infrastructure development, health, agriculture and social safety nets," Sec. Pangandaman stressed.

Education

The education sector, which is composed of the Department of Education (DepEd), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) will receive an 8.2 percent increase next year at Php852.8-Billion and will remain as being the highest budgetary priority as mandated by the Constitution.

The budget of DepEd shall increase from Php633.3-Billion in 2022 to Php710.6-Billion in 2023.

"As the President said during his first SONA, we should not hold back on investing in education, as education is the only legacy we can leave our children that will never go to waste. This proves this administration's commitment to invest in human capital development and youth empowerment," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Infrastructure Development

A total of Php1.196-Trillion has been allocated for the government's 2023 infrastructure programs.

The Department of Public Works and Highway will receive Php718.4-B budget in 2023, while the Department of Transportation will receive Php167.1B in 2023-- an increase by 120.4 percent from its Php75.8-Billion budget in 2022, which covers the augmented funding requirements for various foreign-assisted railway projects.

"President Marcos earlier said that this administration shall continue to implement infrastructure projects and refocus to Build, Better, More. These projects-- subway, regional airports, railways and farm-to-market roads-- will surely benefit the Filipino people," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Major transportation infrastructure projects that will be implemented include the North-South Commuter Railway, the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1, the LRT-1 Cavite Extension, and the PNR South Long Haul.

Health

In a bid to ramp up vaccination efforts and the uptake of boosters for our vulnerable population while strengthening our health system through improvement of health facilities and services, the government's health sector shall receive a 10.4 percent budget increase at Php296.3-Billion in 2023, inclusive of the budgets of the Department of Health and the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation.

Sec. Pangandaman said, "Around Php29-B has been allocated to purchase drugs, medicine and vaccines while more than Php19-B has been allocated for the salary and benefits of healthcare workers."

Meanwhile, has been allocated for the Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP), which will fund the purchase of medical equipment as well as the construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of barangay health stations, rural health units, polyclinics, LGU hospitals, DOH hospital, and other various health facilities nationwide.



Agriculture

To improve the performance of the agriculture sector, the budget of the Department of Agriculture (DA), its attached corporations, and the Department of Agrarian Reform will be Php184.1-B, a 39.2 percent increase from its 2022 allocation. The figure includes Php29.5-Billion for irrigation services.

This is in line with the President's directive that top priority must be given to the agriculture sector so as to invigorate and transform this sector from being an economic laggard to one of the main drivers for growth and employment.

"In support of the mandate of our President, and in anticipation of a global food crisis and for the long-term goal of food self-sufficiency, we increased the budget of the DA by 43.9 percent, to cover the funding requirements for its programs and projects," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Social Safety Nets
To address the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable sectors of society, the Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be allocated with Php197-B budget in 2023.

The government

shall likewise continue to fully support the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, the Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens, Protective Services for Individuals and Families in Difficult Circumstances, Sustainable Livelihood Program, and the Supplementary Feeding Program.

"Our budget provides for the implementation of the projects and programs of the DSWD. The President said it himself—we must not neglect the poorest of the poor," Sec. Pangandaman said.

Meanwhile, Php18.4-B of the total Php26.2-B budget for the Department of Labor and Employment will be used to implement its Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program, to help beneficiaries recover from the economic displacement caused by the pandemic. This includes the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD), DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program, among others.

Meanwhile, Php31-B was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund. "Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency.

I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability," DBM Secretary Pangandaman ended. **(DBM)**

B for climate change expenditures, where the DBM, in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission, developed a mechanism, the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET), to track and report climate change expenditures focused on food security, water sufficiency, ecosystem and environmental stability, human security, climate smart industries and services, knowledge and capacity development and sustainable energy.

In anticipation of destructive typhoons and other natural calamities, the budget of the Department of National Defense has been increased by 9 percent in 2023 at Php240.7-B.

Meanwhile, Php31-B was allocated for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund. "Government hopes to fund these and ensure their proper delivery by pursuing the path of sound fiscal management and enhanced bureaucratic efficiency.

I am confident that the 2023 budget will help us achieve our goals for economic transformation, growth, and sustainability," DBM Secretary Pangandaman ended. **(DBM)**

DENR CALABARZON, Lucena LGU provides housing site for 600+ urban poor families



Calamba City, Laguna - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) CALABARZON officially forged partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Lucena, Quezon through the signing of Memorandum of Agreement for the declaration of certain parcels of land for the housing sites of government employees and the urban poor in Barangay Ibabang Iyam, Lucena City, Quezon.

On August 11, 2003, then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed Proclamation No. 436 for the location of housing sites. The

proclaimed land was an abandoned airfield formerly owned by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP).

A total area of 11 out of the total 17.6 hectares were allotted for the housing site for government employees and the urban poor in the area, where P50.00 per square meter fee where approved pursuant to Resolution No. 004-2004, and later reaffirmed pursuant to Resolution No. 19-019, series of 2022.

"Mula po noong nagumpisa ang proklamasyon, mula sa pormulasyon ng Certificates of Land Allocation (CELA), at

ngayon po sa pagpirmahan ng MOA, wala po kayong dapat ipag-alala dahil ang kapirmahan po ngayon ni Mayor ay naumpisahan po ang proseso ng Proclamation 436 mula po sa umpisa," DENR CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria promised the beneficiaries.

RED Tamoria was an official of the Housing and Development Council from 2001-2004, and was part of the pre-proclamation until the post-proclamation process of Proclamation No. 436.

Mrs. Donata Veloso, President of the United Landing Urban Poor Association, Inc.,



expressed her gratitude to the involved parties. "After 19 years ang nagkaroon ng katuparan ang ating mga pangarap na ang

ating tinitirahan na lupa ay mapapapunta na po sa bawatisa sa atin." The MOA aims to strengthen the partnership between

DENR CALABARZON and Lucena LGU for the effective and speedy land disposition for the identified beneficiaries for the housing sites.

Botika ng Bayan (BNB), binuksan sa Tingloy

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA)—Binuksan na ang Botika ng Bayan (BNB) sa bayan ng Tingloy noong ika-2 ng Agosto, 2022.

Pinangunahan ng Department of Health (DOH) - Center for Health Development (CHD) Calabarzon ang pagbubukas ng botika na inaasahang magbibigay ng libre at ligtas na gamot para sa mga marginalized at indigent patients sa naturang bayan.

Ayon kay CHD Calabarzon Regional Director Ariel Valencia patuloy ang pagtutulungan sa pamahalaan at pribadong sektor sa pagtataguyod ng mga community pharmacies lalo na sa malalayong lugar sa rehiyon.

"Malaki ang maitutulong ng Botika ng Bayan sa mga residente dito sa bayan ng Tingloy lalo na sa mga pasyente na malaki ang kakulangang pinansyal upang makabili ng kinakailangang gamot. Kaugnay nito, patuloy ang pakikipag-ugnayan natin at pagpapalakas ng samahan sa mga pharmaceutical companies para makapagdala sila ng mga gamot na pakikinabangan ng komunidad," ani Valencia.

Kabilang sa mga gamot na matatagpuan sa BNB ang mga sumusunod: vitamins, micronutrients, antacids, paracetamol, antibiotics, topical ointments, anti-thrombotic, anti-inflammatory, antihyperlipidemic, anthelmintic, at hypoglycemic. Maging ang mga gamot para sa asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and dyslipidemia ay mayroon dito.

Nagkakahalaga ng P 181,908.40 ang mga gamot na dinala sa Tingloy BNB. Libreng ipinamimigay ang mga gamot na matatagpuan dito kinakailangan lamang dalahin ang reseta mula sa doctor. Bukod sa Tingloy, operasyonal na din ang BNB sa Sta. Maria, Laguna; Mauban, Quezon; Magallanes, Cavite; at Trece Martires, Cavite. **(MDC/PIA-Batangas may ulat mula sa DOH Calabarzon)**



Scorched smokehouse is now open at SM City Dasmariñas: Get scorched and experience smoked beef in another level! Visit Scorched Smokehouse at the Lower Ground Level, Annex!