

DA prepares for El Niño in CALABARZON



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Department of Agriculture in Region IV-A has started implementing measures to mitigate the effects of the looming El Niño phenomenon or dry spell in the region's farm production.

cause dry spells and droughts in several areas of the country. The DA identified at least 19 areas in Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Rizal that are vulnerable to drought, 10 of which are very high to high risk while nine are under moderate risk.

the national government's Masagana rice program.

"We expect more coordination with NIA to lessen the impact of El Niño on our farm outputs," she added.

NIA personnel has started inspecting irrigation sites to make sure water resources are used efficiently during periods of low rainfall.

Wilma Granados, of the NIA Cavite-Batangas Irrigation Management Office, said farmers were encouraged to adapt the alternate wetting and drying (AWD) method where water is applied a few days after the ponded water has been used up.



NIA IV-A Regional Manager Engr. Wilson Lopez presides over the joint meeting of DA RFO IV-A and NIA IV-A to strengthen the regional El Niño action plan. Photo by NIA IV-A

The DA's action plan as of May, 2023 includes preparatory activities from prepositioning of seed reserves, planting materials, crop diversification to water management.

According to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Administration (Pagasa), El Niño is characterized by unusually warmer than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. Below-normal rains are expected, which can

According to Pagasa, Quezon province is less likely to be affected by El Niño since it will experience 56% rain at the onset of the dry spell.

The DA has already collaborated with the National Irrigation Administration IV-A to strengthen the regional El Niño action plan.

Redeliza Gruezo, DA's chief of field operations for Calabarzon, said the collaboration between DA and NIA forms a critical component of the action plan which also seeks to support

klase ng panahon (gaya ng El Niño) at maaari natin itong maging normal na kagawian pagpapatubig sa ating mga palayan," Granados said.

Meanwhile, the DA Calabarzon has already provided farm implements such as seeds and planting materials, fertilizers and soil ameliorants for

dams for rice crops which benefited a total of 349 hectares in the region.

In a media briefing on June 26, Pagasa said the dry period could be felt by October which would be good for palay harvest season but could result in limited replenishment of dams.

A slight decline in production and lower



NIA personnel has started inspecting irrigation sites to make sure water resources are used efficiently during periods of low rainfall.

"Malaking tulong po itong ating AWD para magkaroon tayo ng kaalaman sa tamang paggamit ng ating tubig. Ito ay makakatulong sa atin upang maging handa sa mga ganitong

82,396 beneficiaries and with a total land area of 208,105 hectares.

The DA's Disaster and Climate Information Office said it has built canal lining, irrigation systems, and diversion

imports due to rising international prices is possible but supply in general will be stable while end-year stocks may be lower, Pagasa added. **(CH/PIA-Laguna)**



DA IV-A personnel conducts preferential analysis of different varieties of palay in Santa Maria, Laguna to prepare for the effects of El Niño. Photo by Danica Daluz, DA IV-A

Residents say "yes" to Carmona's cityhood



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The town of Carmona became Cavite's eighth component city after residents voted in favor of its conversion in a plebiscite on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

The Board of Canvassers said 30,363 residents voted "yes" for Carmona's cityhood while 1,016 voted "no."

Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola, in an interview with the Cavite Press Corps, said it was a long journey for the town's cityhood.

The municipality then was not viable for cityhood due to its small population and land area. It was, however, economically viable being home to at least 13 industrial estates.

"This town is a melting pot with a lot of industrial area traversing the South Luzon Expressway and the Governor's Drive," said Mayor Loyola.

The mayor's

husband, former Carmona Mayor-now Cavite's 5th District Representative Roy Loyola authored Republic Act No. 11938 which pushed for the conversion of the town into a city.

Mayor Loyola said being a component city,

Carmona will now have fiscal autonomy.

"You don't have to remit your share of the Real Property Taxes (RPTs), and the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) will increase. With an increased IRA, there will be more services,

projects, and programs for the welfare of the people of Carmona," Mayor Loyola added.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed R.A. 11938 last February 23 that converted Carmona town, a first class municipality, into a

component city. The law required the holding of a plebiscite to ratify Carmona's conversion.

Carmona is Cavite's eighth city along with Bacoor, Imus, Dasmariñas, General Trias, Trece Martires, Tagaytay, and Cavite

City. It was also the Philippines' richest municipality in 2021, with PHP6.212 billion in total assets based on the latest Annual Financial Report of the Commission on Audit. **(Ruel Francisco, PIA-Cavite)**

Bacoor, Comelec hold confab for merger plebiscite



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Bacoor City government and the Commission on Elections gathered key stakeholders in a joint security command conference ahead of the July 29, 2023 plebiscite that seeks to merge and reduce the number of Bacoor City's barangays.

The conference on July 4 gathered officials, experts, government organizations, and representatives from political parties to address concerns and lay down preparations for the plebiscite.

The plebiscite is pursuant to City Ordinance No. 275-2023, seeking to merge 44 barangays into 18 villages and rename five barangays.

COMELEC Chairman George Erwin Garcia discussed the plebiscite process highlighting the legal framework, voter registration procedures, and voting protocols.

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Service recognition for Cavite Child Development Workers



children. Cavite Vice Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino, Hon. Romel R. Enriquez, 1st District Board Member and Committee Chair on Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly, and Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, conveyed their support and heartfelt appreciation to all the CDWs who participated in the activity. They also commended and congratulated all the awardees who worked hard and sacrificed for the development of daycare students.

The presence of Senator Imee R. Marcos added significance to the event as she explained the much-awaited institutionalization of Magna Carta for Child Development Workers and the budget allotment of each local government unit for daycare centers across the province. The "Super Ate ng Pilipinas" was also joined by Mayor Gemma Lubigan and Vice Mayor Bobby Montehermoso. Meanwhile, representatives from

the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) introduced their new program under Universal Health Care, the KonSulTa - Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama. They shared the consultation services covered in the package and the accredited providers of the said program.

The highlights of the activity were the awarding of CDWs who rendered 10 to 45 years in service; the dance presentations of CDWS from the cities of Bacoor, General Trias, and the municipality of Noveleta which showcased their talent; and the testimonial of a child development worker that presented their valuable role in molding the pupils and their young minds.

In closing, OPSWDO head, Ms. Felipa G. Servañez, praised the incredible work and immense contribution of Child Development Workers. "Hindi basta-basta ang responsibilidad ng CDW", she stated.

Giveaways were handed as token of appreciation to CDWs at the closing of the program.

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Bacoor Mayor Strike Revilla assured the city government's commitment to a fair and successful plebiscite.

"This plebiscite is important for the city's future," said Revilla.

He urged everyone to cooperate and contribute to the city's future by exercising their right to vote.

During the conference, the Police Regional Office in Calabarzon provided briefings on safety and security and updates on assessment and threat situations in Bacoor including security preparations for the upcoming plebiscite.

BGen Carlito Gaces, Calabarzon Police Director, called on stakeholders to embrace the opportunity to demonstrate democracy and the spirit of unity in the community.

"Together, we must prioritize the safety of our citizens, protect their rights, and ensure a peaceful and successful plebiscite," he added. (Ruel B. Francisco, PIA-Cavite with reports from the City Government of Bacoor)

To honor the dedication and service of individuals who make profound impact on the lives of young Caviteños, the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO) celebrated the 2023 Provincial Child Development Workers Week dubbed as "Child Development Workers: Katuwang ng Pamayanan sa Paghubog ng Batang Maka-Diyos, Makabayan. Makatao

at Maka-Kalikasan" at the Provincial Gymnasium, Trece Martires City, on June 27, 2023.

As the Cavite child development workers (CDW) gathered in the celebration, Ms. Perla P. Reyes, National, Regional and Provincial Federation President of Child Development Workers, acknowledged their presence and thanked them for their efforts and commitment in nurturing of the

Marine Aviation Support Activity (MASA) 23 Kicks Off

MANILA, July 5, 2023—Marine Aviation Support Activity (MASA) 23, a semiannual Philippine-U.S. military exercise focused on mutual defense, strengthening relationships, and rehearsing emerging aviation concepts, is scheduled to take place in the Philippines from July 6-21.

Philippine and U.S. service members will conduct a range of interoperability training events consistent with the Mutual Defense Treaty and Visiting Forces Agreement. Scheduled training

includes live fire events, bilateral air assaults and airfield seizures, joint forward arming and refueling, and other aviation support operations. This training will enhance cooperation and interoperability between Philippine and U.S. forces, as the countries continue to reinforce their commitment to each other as friends, partners, and Allies.

"MASA 23 facilitates the collaborative development of aviation, ground, and logistics related capabilities. This

purification, health services, close air support, aviation safety, and more. Bringing Philippine and U.S. service members together for exercises like MASA develops lifelong friendships and connections that strengthen the partnership between both countries and increases regional peace and stability.

"By sharing knowledge and skills in air operations, live-fire events, and dozens of other training evolutions, we deepen our partnership and contribute to regional peace and stability, promoting a free, open and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," Brodie said.

Philippine and U.S. forces will also partner for a variety of subject matter expertise exchanges across a variety of military activities, including expeditionary refueling, aerial casualty evacuation, water



Dental Mission in Imus City. Another batch of daycare children of Imus City benefitted in the dental mission dubbed as Ngiting Chikiting: Alagaan ang Ngipin organized by the Provincial Government of Cavite in partnership with 3rd District Representative Adrian Jay Advincula, at Imus Sports Complex on June 29, 2023.

The dental mission sought to promote the importance of oral hygiene among children. It featured a comprehensive range of services, ensuring that all aspects of oral health were addressed.

A total of 292 daycare children from Cluster I, III and IV received dental check-ups and fluoride application to protect teeth from decay and promote oral health rendered by the dental team of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the City Health Office. --- OPIO

Health Consortium in NorthMin develops 5-year unified health research agenda

The Northern Mindanao Consortium for Health Research and Development (NorMinCoHRD) with Alliance for Improving Health Outcomes (AIHO) facilitates a research priority-setting workshop to address the most pressing health concerns in Region 10 in the next five years. The one-day event conducted on May in Cagayan de Oro City was comprised of diverse group of experts and stakeholders in the region, including researchers, healthcare providers, and public health officials, to develop Regional Unified Health Research Agenda (RUHRA)

Engr. Romela N. Ratilla, Chair NorMinCoHRD and DOST-X Regional Director, emphasized

that the goal is to improve the overall health status and quality of life of every Mindanaoan in the community across ages, gender, culture, and income brackets to robust economic development.

The workshop, attended by 13 members and 7 non-member institutions, involved a series of interactive sessions, discussions, and presentations of national health sector directions and regional health context. The participants identify health research topics of concern in the region based on their knowledge and experience, select criteria through which each research topic will be judged, and score to prioritize the research topics.

The outcomes will serve as a basis for funding decisions, policy development, and research programs in a five year scope, helping to ensure that resources are allocated to areas where they will have a substantial impact on public health. This workshop

can foster collaboration among researchers, stakeholders, and communities, leading to more effective and sustainable health interventions and outcomes.

The workshop is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology-

Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD) in preparation for developing the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA) 2023-2028 through the use of bottom-up prioritization from regions with top-down inputs from the

national health sector directions.

Currently, the consortium has 15 active member institutions. Its mission is to generate and use knowledge, innovation, technology, products, and services in promoting the health of every Filipino by strengthening linkages and creating and sustaining an enabling environment for health research. (Linreb Modero /DOST10)



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