

Inauguration of the 4th Generation Light Rail Vehicles for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) - Line 1



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday, July 19, 2023, leads the inauguration of the 4th Generation Light Rail Vehicles for the Light Rail Transit (LRT) - Line 1 in Pasay City.

With assistance from the Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the country welcomed its first batch of 4th generation LRVs in 2021, with Mitsubishi Corporation as the implementing contractor. These will be used for the LRT-1 train system, as well as for the LRT-1 Cavite expansion which is expected to be fully operational by 2027.

The said undertaking forms part of the 'Capacity Enhancement of Mass Transit Systems in Metro Manila Project' which supports the expansion of both the LRT-1 and LRT-2, with the aim to improve the capacity of LRT lines in delivering safer, more reliable, and punctual railway system to commuters in the National Capital Region (NCR). (Photos: Alfred Frias/ NIB-PNA)

U.S.-Sponsored Program Supports Green Startups in the Philippines

Manila—The United States government recently supported the development of twenty startups that offer sustainable solutions to environmental issues in Cagayan de Oro, Dumaguete, and Manila.

On July 21, the U.S. Embassy's American Spaces Philippines and The Spark Project concluded the Green Impact Accelerator (GIA) bootcamp, a five-

month program that supported the growth and commercial viability of green startups through mentorship, networking, and crowdfunding matching.

Of the 20 solutions presented, three startups were selected to receive seed funding to develop, implement, and scale up their projects: Cagayan de Oro's Kids Who Farm, which established Food Loop, a circular food

system concept and technology that helps households convert edible material waste into organic components for growing food; Dumaguete's Plantsville Health, which developed Green LiveS, an artificial intelligence-powered system that can record and monitor Philippine cinnamon production; and Manila's Dewaste Solutions, which created MARE!, a modular and

portable materials recycling facility that promotes environmental sustainability through education and provides employment for women in waste management.

"We are very excited to finally run an accelerator program that caters to enterprises that positively impact the environment," The Spark Project CEO and founder Patch Dulay said. "I believe that programs

like these not only level-up entrepreneurs and their businesses, but also connect them to a like-minded community that is eager to support their work."

"This program is part of the United States' commitment to support environmental resilience and promote inclusive economic growth," said U.S. Embassy Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer Pauline Anderson. "The

projects we saw in this program showcase the Philippine startup community and how their talents can build sustainable ecosystems and help achieve prosperity."

GIA teams will reconvene in October for the American Spaces Angel Investing Seminar where they will be matched with potential investors and benefit from seed funding opportunities.

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Cavite celebrates the talents of persons with disabilities

The Office of Provincial Persons with Disability Affairs Officer (OPDAO) facilitated the celebration of 45th National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week at SM City Dasmariñas, on July 14, 2023.

With this year's theme "Persons with Disabilities Accessibility and Rights: Towards a Sustainable Future where No One is Left Behind", the event aimed to promote inclusivity and uphold the rights of Cavite differently-abled individuals through a Singing Contest.

Ms. Richelle Valdez signaled the start of the program with her opening prayer song.

In her welcome remark, Ms. Editha Tayko, SM City Dasmariñas Mall Manager, gave encouraging words to the attendees, emphasizing that their disabilities should never hinder from accessing their rights and pursuing their goals for a sustainable future.

Likewise, Ms. Arlene Clemente, OPDAO Disability Program Coordinator, acknowledged the stakeholders who made efforts for the success of the celebration.

Aside from that, Ms. Beth Go and Ms. Sarah Sta. Ana were also present as sign language interpreters.

Ms. Shiela Marie Haloc, Provincial Disability Affairs Officer, ensured the fairness and



transparency of the competition by reading the contest mechanics for the information and benefit of everyone. Additionally, she introduced the esteemed board of judges comprised of Mr. Armin Arañas from the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer, Mr. Ral Foz Rodriguez from the Office of the Provincial Information Officer, Ms. Jay Ann-Sabalo from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, and Ms. Ellen Callalero, Surplus Store Manager.

Fifteen (15) representatives from various local government units took part in the competition, showcasing their talents and enchanting the audience with their euphonious voices. Their performances

transcended limitation and amplified the extraordinary abilities of persons with disabilities.

Afterwards, the Tanza Persons with Disability Affairs Federation was recognized for being the first registered federation in the Province under OPDAO.

In closing, Mr. Florian Deborja, Federation Vice

President of Persons with Disability Cavite Inc., expressed his utmost gratitude to everyone who joined in the celebration that empowers the PWD sector.

The event's highlight was the announcement of the Top 10 finalists who will advance to the Grand Finals on July 25, 2023. However, contestants

who failed to move on to the final round were given a consolation prize for their courage in showcasing their musical abilities.

Cavite Councilors League President Francis "Kiko" Barzaga, attended the event and extended his congratulations for the successful event.

As the program ended, everyone was

reminded to uplift one another and work together towards a sustainable future where no one is left behind.

The National Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation Week Celebration is an annual festivity to commemorate the birthdate of Apolinario Mabini, known as the Sublime Paralytic.

Sovereign Wealth Fund must be insulated from politics to ensure success, says PBBM

Politics should not intervene in the implementation of the newly signed Maharlika Investment Fund law to ensure its success, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said on Tuesday.

"Ang importante sa akin, 'yung aking nabanggit... ay napakasimple lang. Dapat ang mga desisyon na ginagawa ng mga namumuno ng Maharlika Fund ay hindi dahil sa politika, hindi

pang ibang konsiderasyon, kung hindi kung ano 'yung pinakamaganda para sa fund," President Marcos said in a media interview during the launching of the DSWD's food stamps

program in Tondo, Manila.

"Kung ano'ng magpapatibay nung fund, ano 'yung magpapalaki ng fund, ano 'yung mga investment na

EDITORIAL

The importance of infrastructure in PH's economic development

Anticipating the importance that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. was expected to give to infrastructure development in the country in his second State of the Nation Address (SONA), I retrieved from my filing cabinet two weeks ago an old book containing some of the speeches of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., better known by his initials FM.

My primary purpose was to read again a 1971 speech by FM, the 10th president of the Philippines, about the country's economic problems, including the lack of vital infrastructure facilities he encountered in his first term in Malacañang from Dec. 30, 1965 to 1969.

Another purpose I wanted to reread the book was to find out how the elder Marcos considered the importance of infrastructure such as roads, bridges, ports, irrigation and drinking water systems, schools, hospitals, transportation and other public facilities in the economic development of the country which suffered heavy destruction during World War II.

Although my files were quite disarranged, I did not have difficulty in locating the book, which was published in 1978 and represented the third volume of the presidential speeches prepared and compiled by the former Malacañang Press Office from 1965 to early 1972 and then by the Department of Public Information (DPI) since the last half of that year.

The texts of the presidential speeches were based on official transcripts, including those delivered extemporaneously. Volume III comprised the Chief Executive's speeches from Feb. 15, 1970 to Dec. 21, 1971.

More or less, I found what I wanted to know on pages 368-380 of the book, in a speech delivered by FM before the officers and members of the Rotary Club of Manila on June 10, 1971.

Following are quotations and excerpts from the highlights of the speech titled "The Republic Stands" as it was delivered just two days before the celebration of the June 12

Philippine Independence Day anniversary:

"Let me remind you that in 1965, in December, as soon as I knew that I was elected, and after I was proclaimed President, I called on the assistance of experts from all over the world. We called in the sociologists, the scientists, everyone who had anything to do with development, economic, social and political, and they all came here quietly.

"I organized a group and from the 1st of December up to the 30th of December, we did nothing but sit down and find out what could be done to improve the country. I asked: What is the difference between a progressive country and a non-progressive country? What are the things lacking and what are the deficiencies in a developing country which can be remedied, and which are within the control of the government and a private sector bound together in unity?"

"Surprisingly, the first answer was a road system. There is no progressive country, according to these experts, without a good road system because roads are the arteries of the country.

"And second, they said: There is no progressive country, there is no developed country without a good educational system, which starts from the primary grades, a system which must prepare not only the succeeding generation but the other generations to come."

FM narrated in the book that his discussions with the foreign experts also covered slow industrial development and inadequate housing and agricultural production, including rice.

Guided by the results of such consultation, he said he decided to undertake a massive infrastructure building of roads, bridges, ports,

airports, schools, hospitals, irrigation and water systems, and power plants in the country during his term.

Among the most significant infrastructure projects undertaken were the Philippines-Japan Friendship Highway, the San Juanico Bridge across Samar and Leyte, the Pantabangan Irrigation Dam in Nueva Ecija and the Magat Dam in Isabela.

The first Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) line was also inaugurated between Baclaran in Parañaque and Bonifacio Monument in Grace Park, Caloocan City during FM's term.

In Quezon City, the construction of the Batasang Pambansa was completed and the Commonwealth Avenue leading to it was widened and extended to Novaliches. It was also during the elder Marcos' time that water service was enjoyed by the people of Novaliches from the La Mesa Dam located right in the area.

Also built in Quezon City were the Philippine Heart Center, National Kidney and Transplant Institute, and Philippine Children's Medical Center, among others.

The Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) in Manila or Pasay City were also born during FM's incumbency.

After listening to President Marcos Jr.'s second SONA last July 24, I was very glad that he gave ample attention to the construction and development of more infrastructure facilities across the country as part of the "Build Better More" (BBM) Program currently in progress and vigorously implemented with the emergence of the "Bagong Pilipinas" or New Philippines. (By Severino C. Samonte)

Tagaytay combat sports center inaugurated

MANILA — Tagaytay City is known as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the Philippines and soon, it will become a national sports hub with world-class facilities.

On Thursday, Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino led the inauguration ceremony for the Tagaytay Combat Sports Center.

The former Tagaytay City multipurpose arena was fully rehabilitated into a combat sports center for martial arts including taekwondo, karate, jiu-jitsu, kickboxing, vovinam, boxing, arnis, wrestling and muay, among others.

The dome-shaped center on Crisanto M. de los Reyes Avenue is adjacent to the Tagaytay City BMX Park, which hosted the Asian BMX Racing and Freestyle Championships only two weeks ago, and the Skateboard Park.

"I am happy to announce that, I think, we're the first LGU

[local government unit] to have a facility like this one," Tolentino said.

During the inauguration, national combat sports athletes who won medals at the Cambodia Southeast Asian Games performed their respective sports before an enthusiastic crowd.

Tagaytay City has played host to various national and international chess tournaments and cycling competitions, including the 2019 Southeast Asian Games.

"Tagaytay will not only be known as the country's cycling hub, but also the country's combat sports capital," said Tolentino, the city mayor who is also cycling federation president.

Tolentino said the country's first indoor and wooden velodrome would rise very soon next to the combat center, while an athletes dormitory and hotel will be constructed in the same area known



COMBAT SPORTS CENTER. Philippine Olympic Committee President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (front, third from left) and Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Commissioner Edward Hayco (front, second from left) lead the ribbon-cutting ceremony during the inauguration of the Tagaytay Combat Sports Center in Cavite on July 27, 2023. Also present were Cavite Vice Governor Athena Tolentino (front from left) and Tagaytay City Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, and combat sports officials (back from left) Alvin Aguilar (president, wrestling), Jose Malonzo (secretary-general, Vovinam), Alexander Sulit (president, judo), Tongson Rene (secretary-general, arnis), Ferdie Agustin (president, jiu-jitsu) and lawyer Wharton Chan (secretary-general, kickboxing). (Contributed photo)

locally as the Tagaytay City Atrium.

He also encouraged the combat sports officials to bid for international competitions because Tagaytay City has facilities, including hotels and restaurants,

needed for major events.

Meanwhile, Tolentino was joined by Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Commissioner Edward Hayco, representing chairman Richard "Dickie" Bachmann, in

the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Also present were Cavite Vice Governor Athena Tolentino, Tagaytay City Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, Alvin Aguilar (president, wrestling), Jose Malonzo (secretary-general, Vovinam), Alexander Sulit (president, judo), Tongson Rene (secretary-general, arnis), Ferdie Agustin (president, jiu-jitsu) and lawyer Wharton Chan (secretary-general, kickboxing). (PNA)

general, Vovinam), Alexander Sulit (president, judo), Tongson Rene (secretary-general, arnis), Ferdie Agustin (president, jiu-jitsu) and lawyer Wharton Chan (secretary-general, kickboxing). (PNA)

'Puso' pushes Filipinas past Ferns to epic 1st win in World Cup

WELLINGTON — Goalkeeper Olivia McDaniel and midfielder Tahnai Annis were both asked what Filipino word came to mind in describing the Filipinas' FIFA Women's World Cup monumental 1-0 upset of the Ferns in front of a packed hometown crowd at the Wellington Stadium here Tuesday night.

"Puso (heart)" both

cherished. We fought hard with heart," said Annis, who came off the bench in the second half after sitting out the first game.

McDaniel, who took Player of the Match honors, echoed her teammate's sentiments of the collective big fighting heart they displayed not only against their rivals but also in the face of a jammed arena of over 30,000 animated local fans who rooted for the hosts to win.



It was a huge privilege for me to finally get to play in the World Cup. A moment to remember and to be cherished. We fought hard with heart," said Annis, who came off the bench in the second half after sitting out the first game.

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It was left to Australian coach Alen Stajcic to elaborate and explain what both players said. "Of heart and spirit, this team has got it in spades. In all those factors, they are 10 of 10," said Stajcic, who

tried to hold back his own emotions during the post-match conference, while relishing their huge achievement.

"They (the Filipinas) are one of the best teams in the world for unity, collective effort and playing above themselves as a unit. When you see that and you know what you have, that is what makes it really special," the two-time World Cup veteran mentor said.

He amplified the significance of the win in just the squad's second game of the World Cup, comparing the feat to what other countries had to go through in attaining one.

"For New Zealand I think it was their 15th or 16th match or five or six

World Cups," he recalled of the hosts' record of futility until they scored a breakthrough 1-0 triumph over Norway at Eden Park in Auckland last week.

"While watching Colombia and (South) Korea before our game, the commentator said they have one win each. Korea has been at least in five or six world cups and Colombia three or four," he pointed out.

"To think that we have done it in our second match in our first World Cup. You can't really appreciate how far we've come back in the pack compared to where those countries were in terms of their football history, their culture and investment," the Australian tactician said.

The Filipinas, ranked No. 53 in the world, needed to upset 1995 world champions Norway on Sunday for a chance to advance in the round of 16. (PNA)

Likening the New Zealand game to a boxing match, Stajcic said: "that there was no doubt if this was a boxing match, they (the Ferns) were the better team but we earned that win with other qualities."

It was irrepressible striker Sarina Bolden who became the hosts' tormentor, taking a nifty cross from Sarah Eggesvik in scoring a scorching header in the 24th minute that goalkeeper Victoria Esson could not contain, the ball fumbling out of her hand and flipping into the net.

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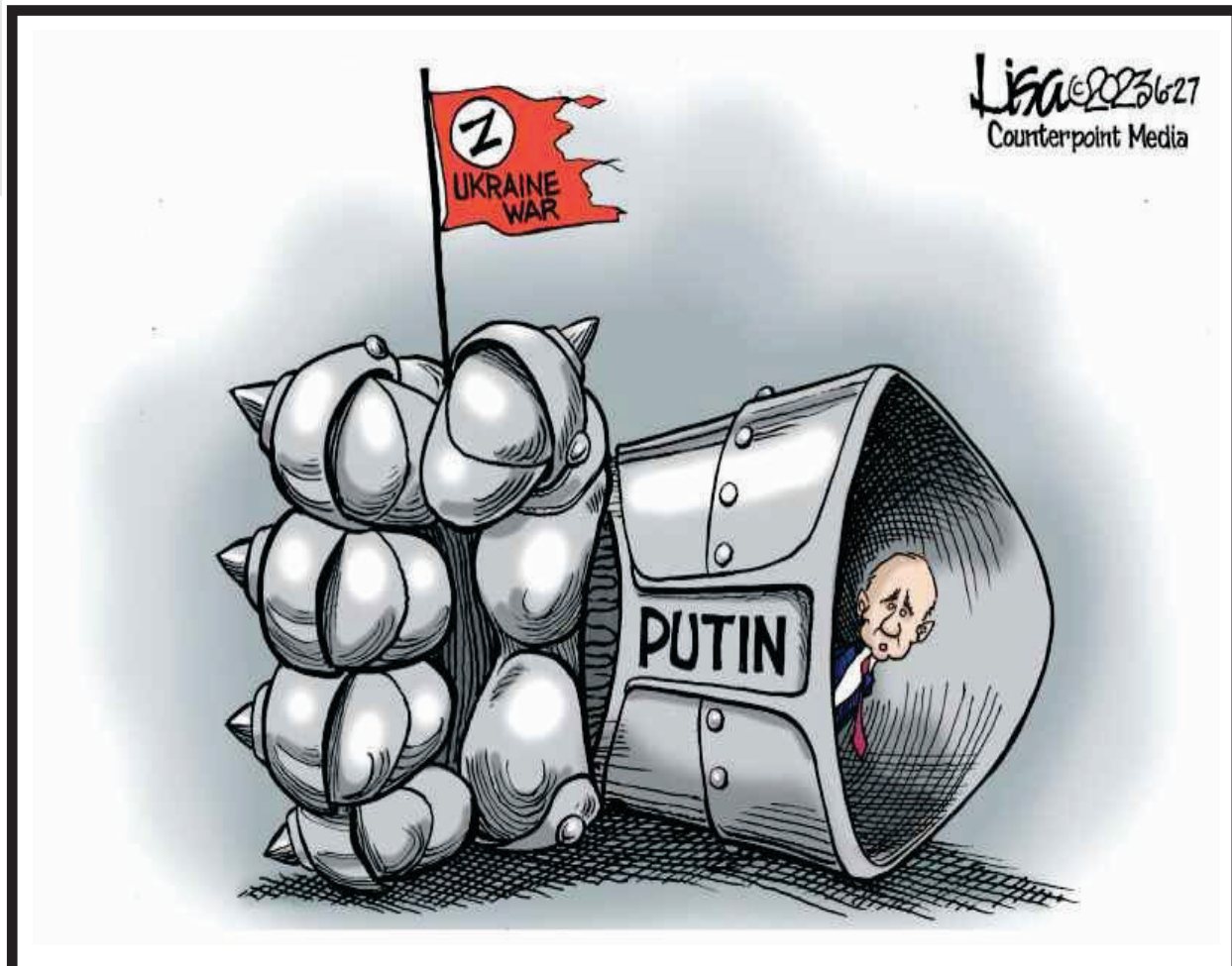
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DOST hosts forum on geological hazards in Region 1

THE Department of Science and Technology (DOST) hosted a seminar, dubbed "Alerto! Rehiyon Uno: Forum on Geological Hazards in Region 1."

The event was held at the Provincial Training and Development Center in Lingayen, Pangasinan last Thursday, July 20, with the goal of preparing for any hazards and disasters the country would face.

DOST Secretary Dr. Renato U. Solidum, the event's keynote speaker and introduced by Dr. Teresita U. Tabaog, OIC director of the DOST Region 1, Office, said that disaster resilience is the key from science, technology and innovation, in facing major disasters or calamities.

"Through science, we can prevent further losses in lives and damages to properties," the DOST chief stressed, adding

that technology and innovations must be used to safeguard economic gains and "most importantly to save lives."

In anticipation of "The Big One" that will possibly hit Manila, Solidum said they don't expect significant damage in Region 1 but it still depends on the place's distance to Manila.

Based on the study of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), released in 2004, at least 34,000 persons will die while 114,000 will be injured, and 40 percent of residential buildings in Metro Manila will be affected—170,000 houses will collapse while another 340,000 will be partly damaged—and about 500 fire incidents will occur within the first hour of the earthquake.

According to Solidum, "resilience is the ability of a community exposed to hazards to resist,



absorb, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects if a hazard in a timely and efficient manner."

Jeffrey S. Perez, supervising science research specialist of DOST and Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHILVOCS), presented images and history of past earthquake occurrences in Pangasinan. Although the epicenters were not in the province, the province suffered

significant damages. He explained that earthquake epicenter is the point on the surface of the earth directly above the focus. When an earthquake is felt by everyone, it is intensity V.

Meanwhile, DOST-PHILVOCS science research specialist, Robelyn Mangahas, explained about tsunami hazards and facts, differentiating tsunami from storm surge.

To generate a

tsunami, the earthquake generator where the earthquake occurs must be underneath or near the ocean; cause vertical movement of the seafloor; over a large area and shallow focus earthquakes.

Height of tsunamis can be as high as 12 meters. It is actually a series of waves. The first wave may not be the biggest. Some of the impacts of tsunami include flashfloods. One effect

of post-tsunami is destruction of agricultural lands and causing mud thus bringing dirty water.

Ms. Ma. Mylene Martinez Villegas, chief of science research specialist for DOST-PHILVOCS, presented an overview of Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM).

Another science research specialist II, John Harold Tabuzo, talked about georisk.

Welcoming the guests to the event was Von Mark Mendoza, special assistant to the Pangasinan governor while Dr. Gregory M. Cayetano, Region 1 director of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) acknowledged the speakers, guests and participants.

Dr. Teodoro M. Gatchalian, DOST undersecretary, delivered the opening message.

Transistor radio as vital source of information

In the event of disasters, loss of power or signal for internet, disconnection of telephone lines, a transistor radio becomes a vital source of information

Region 1 is composed of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Pangasinan.



Operation Tuli in Imus City. The Office of the Provincial Governor – medical mission team in partnership with the City Government of Imus and Congressman AJ Advincula, conducted a successful Operation Tuli for the young males of the city held at Imus Sports Complex on July 18, 2023.

A total of 206 beneficiaries availed the free circumcision rendered by the medical professionals from the City Health Office and Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Mayor Alex Advincula and some Sangguniang Panglungsod members were also present and expressed their support for the healthcare initiative. ---OPIO

DOST-ASTI, ARTA partner on human resource management project

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) – The Department of Science and Technology - Advance Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI) and the Anti-Red Tape Authority signed a memorandum of agreement on a human resource management project.

DOST-ASTI Director Franz De Leon and Anti-Red Tape Authority Director General Ernesto Perez, represented by ARTA North Luzon Regional

and B2B (Business to Business) Meeting at Orchard Hotel here on July 13.

Designed and developed by ASTI, HR Lite is a re-engineered version of Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) that is highly adaptive to the human resource context, structure and processes of many government agencies. It helps facilitate human resource-related processes online.

It features the

Perez, in a message read by Del Rosario, expressed ARTA's gratitude to DOST-ASTI for the partnership that is anchored on the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to improve bureaucratic efficiency under the Administration's 8-point socio economic agenda.

The DOST-ASTI has also partnered with Philippine Space Agency, Philippine Statistics Authority, EC Solutions Enterprise and



Meeting, the DOST-ASTI also signed MOA for partnerships on its other technology transfer initiatives such as "The Resilient Education and Information Infrastructure for the

Dissemination", and "KOOHA." Cordillera stakeholders were also provided with technology pitching of DOST-ASTI's emerging technologies for validation and partnership.

De Leon, in his keynote message, outlined that the regional gathering with the theme, "Breaking Barriers Between Scientific Knowledge, Emerging Technologies, and the People" marks a significant milestone in their agency's journey towards, innovation, collaboration and technology transfer which are relevant to the people.

"Today, as we focus our attention on technology transfer by establishing partnerships, and collaboration not only in urban areas but also in rural communities, we recognize the significance of building alliances with the Filipino owned Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises to create employment opportunities for our people," he said.

This regional event serves as a platform for fostering key partnerships that will drive economic growth and improve the lives of our citizens, De Leon stressed. (JDP/CCD-PIA CAR)



ARTA North Luzon Regional Director Rodolfo Del Rosario Jr (2nd from left) and DOST-ASTI officials headed by Director Franz De Leon (2nd from right) in a photo opt after the MOA signing. (CCD/PIA CAR)

Director Rodolfo Del Rosario Jr, led the MOA signing during the DOST-ASTI's 5th Regional Stakeholders' Forum

combination of integrating science and technology with the law, to transforming the way the government serves its citizens.

the local government units of Cavite and Antipolo City for the utilization of HR Lite.

During the Regional Stakeholders

New Normal", "Quantum Circuit Simulation", "Meteorological Data Acquisitions Stations for Information

Sovereign... from page 1

magpapaganda doon sa fund. Iyon ang kanilang dapat iniisip. Hindi ang dapat iniisip may eleksyon bukas, may eleksyon in one year."

Marcos told reporters that the initial proposal was that the President will be the Fund's chair, which he thinks is not proper because he is a politician.

He also disagreed on putting the Finance secretary as its chair.

But Marcos said that since the government has interest in the Maharlika Fund it should have a representative.

"Kaya't ang nangyari kung titingnan mo 'yung batas, ang DOF as the ex-officio member. Kasi ang pera galing sa gobyerno. Kailangan mayroon tayong

representative sa board but hindi sila ang magpapatakbo," he pointed out.

Finance Secretary Benjamin Diokno said the Secretary of Finance will only serve in an ex officio capacity and will not run the fund and instead will be managed by the independent Chairperson of the 9-member Maharlika Investment Corp.

The President signed on Tuesday RA 11954 or the Act Establishing the MIF, the Philippines' first-ever sovereign wealth fund.

The Fund will be invested in a wide range of assets, including foreign currencies, fixed-income instruments, domestic and foreign corporate bonds, joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and high-impact infrastructure projects, and projects related to sustainable development. | PND



DOST-ASTI Director Franz De Leon shares that their agency, with the Technology Licensing Office and the strong support of the DOST regional offices, remain committed to their mission of innovation commercialization and technology transfer for the benefit of all. (CCD/PIA CAR)

PH El Niño team ready for severe drought

MANILA, (PIA) — The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Thursday announced that 17 government agencies have met to fully prepare for the expected severe effects of El Niño in the country. NDRRMC Executive

Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), the onset of the El Niño phenomenon has been felt as soon as June 2023, and there is a possibility of its intensity escalating towards the initial months of 2024, as

currently encountering significantly below-normal levels of rainfall.

It can be recalled that the formation of the El Niño team was established following a meeting held on April 18, led by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., in which he convened officials from different government agencies. The objective of the meeting was to coordinate essential preparations using a comprehensive, all-encompassing approach involving the entire government and nation in addressing the challenges posed by the impending drought.

El Niño is a phenomenon which increases the likelihood of below-normal rainfall conditions which could bring negative impacts such as dry spells and droughts.



Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno (PIA-NCR file)

Director and Civil Defense Administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said various mitigating measures against the expected drought were discussed in the meeting.

Nepomuceno added that the main concern is the water resource, especially since it is still possible that the water in Angat dam, which supplies 90 percent of Metro Manila's water source, is still viable.

Also discussed are long-term plans for food security, water security, energy security, health, public safety and other cross-cutting approaches.

According to the

disclosed during an earlier interagency meeting.

PAGASA's El Niño forecast indicates that multiple regions are at risk of encountering below-normal rainfall conditions. These areas include Abra, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, Metro Manila, Apayao, Mountain Province, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Spratly Islands, Batanes, Cagayan, Isabela, Quirino, Nueva Ecija, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales, Laguna, Rizal, Quezon, Spratly Islands, Albay, and Guimaras.

In the meantime, Ilocos Norte, Bataan, and Cavite provinces are



Effects of drought to affected farming areas (Photo courtesy of PTV)

Nepomuceno said the El Niño team is being led by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Its members are composed of the OCD, Department of Agriculture, Department of the Environment and Natural Resources,

Department of Energy, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, National Irrigation Administration and Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System.

A support team was also established comprising the Presidential Communications Office, Department of Trade and Industry, National Water Resource Board and Armed Forces of the Philippines. **(PIA-NCR)**



A typical scene in rice-producing areas where farmers use a portion of roads as rice dryers. (Photo courtesy of PTV)

Agri, residential lots up for PDIC public e-bidding on August 23 to 24

MAKATI CITY — The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will accept bids for agricultural and residential lots of closed banks on its public e-bidding portal at <https://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph> starting at 9:00 am on August 23,

2023 until 1:00 pm on August 24, 2023, which shall be opened at 2:00 pm on August 24, 2023.

With a total minimum disposal price of P115.0 million, 50 agricultural lots, six agricultural lots with improvements, five mixed residential/

agricultural lots, and two mixed residential/agricultural lots with improvements will be up for sale on "as is, where is" basis.

These properties are located in Antique, Bataan, Batangas, Benguet, Cagayan, Camarines Sur, Cavite,

Isabela, Lanao del Norte, Leyte, Negros Oriental, North Cotabato, Pangasinan, and Quezon. Property sizes range from 160 to 95,255 square meters with minimum disposal prices between P31,171 and P11 million.

The complete list

and description of the properties, requirements, e-bidding process, and Conditions of Bid are posted on the PDIC e-bidding portal. Bidders are reminded of their responsibility to determine the actual condition, status, ownership, and other

circumstances of the properties they wish to acquire.

A one-time registration in the PDIC e-bidding portal at <http://assetsforsale.pdic.gov.ph/Account/Register> is required for interested buyers. Once

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Blue alert raised in Calabarzon as Egay intensifies

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (RDRRMC) in Calabarzon has maintained a blue alert status as typhoon Egay intensified bringing continuous rains in Luzon and the Visayas over the weekend.

In its 11 a.m. bulletin on Monday, July 24, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has raised Tropical Cyclone Wind Signal No. 1 in Quezon including Polillo Islands, Cavite, Rizal, Laguna, and the northern and central portion of Batangas (Calaca City, Cuenca, Taysan, Lian, Tuy, Balayan, Talisay, Padre Garcia, Agoncillo, Santo Tomas, San Jose, Lemery, Lipa City, Ibaan, City of Tanauan, Mataasnakahoy,

Alitagtag, Balete, Nasugbu, San Juan, San Nicolas, Rosario, Laurel, Santa Teresita, Taal, and Malvar).

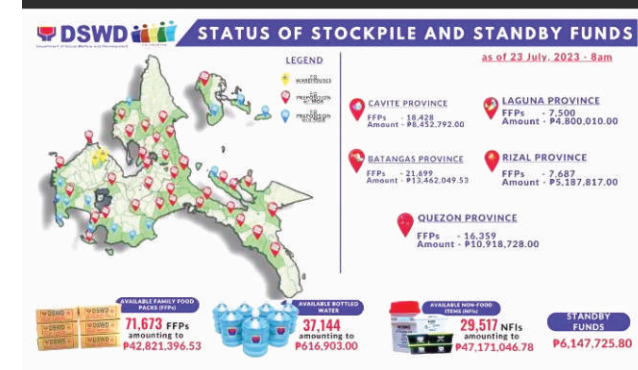
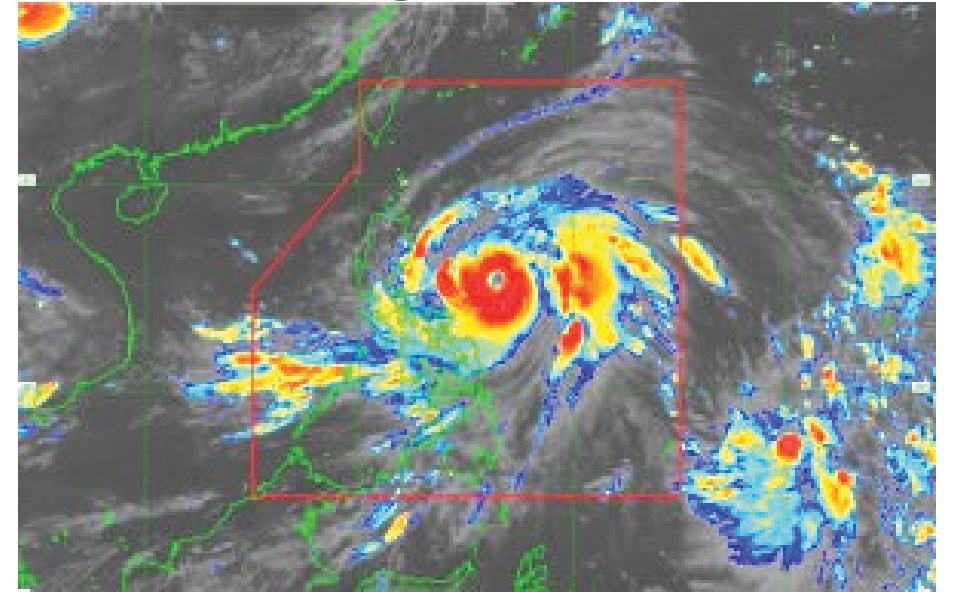
The regional disaster response council has been on blue alert since July 21 while preparations were set in place. This means that all emergency response units from different offices are mandated to standby and monitor the situation.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A, response cluster lead, said the government has prepositioned medical supplies and equipment; food and non-food items; evacuation centers; safety and security teams; and mobility assets.

DSWD IV-A Regional Director Barry Chua said government agencies have been

alerted on their response efforts on early recovery, health, shelter, emergency telecommunications, clearing operations, including management of the dead and missing.

Typhoon Egay is expected to enhance the Southwest Monsoon that will bring continuous rains in the region until Tuesday or Wednesday. **(CH/PIA-Laguna; with reports from OCD CALABARZON)**



The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A, response cluster lead, said on Sunday, July 23 that the government has prepositioned medical supplies and equipment; food and non-food items; evacuation centers; safety and security teams; and mobility assets.

'Habagat,' Typhoon Egay displace 191 families in Cavite, Rizal



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Close to 200 families from Cavite and Rizal provinces have been displaced due to the southwest monsoon "Habagat" and Super Typhoon Egay, the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (RDRRMC) in Calabarzon said on Tuesday, July 25.

The RDRRMC recorded 191 affected families or 698 individuals from the towns of Ternate, Tanza, and Magallanes in Cavite; and Binangonan, Cardona, Morong, and Taytay in Rizal. Most families were temporarily housed in various evacuation centers. The affected families dropped to 570 individuals or 155 families as of reporting time.

Affected families in Ternate and Tanza towns were provided with food packs, Reyans Derrick Marquez, Office of Civil Defense IV-

A officer-in-charge, said in a report.

Incessant rains from the enhanced southwest monsoon resulted in soil erosion in Taytay, Rizal and a landslide incident in Tagaytay City, Cavite. No casualties nor damage to properties were reported, according to Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) IV-A.

Meanwhile, 228 passengers and 18 rolling cargoes were reported stranded in Quezon Province while sea travel remains prohibited due to the prevailing weather condition.

The Philippine Coast Guard said that voyage of any sea vessel will resume when weather and sea conditions improve.

All national roads and bridges remained open to traffic while seven local government units declared class suspensions on July 24 and 25. **(CH/PIA-Laguna)**

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registered, interested buyers may submit their bids online and also observe the e-bidding proceedings by clicking the "Assets for Sale" icon on the PDIC website's homepage at www.pdic.gov.ph.

For agricultural lots, bidders must also submit a Certification, issued by the Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) of the

Department of Agrarian Reform where the property is located, that the property subject of the bid is not covered by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), and that no Emancipation Patent or Certificate of Land Ownership Awards has been issued for the said property. For said lots, bidders are also required to submit an Affidavit of Aggregate Landholdings, which

states that the person's collective landholdings - including the property/ies to be acquired during the bidding - do not exceed the five-hectare limit set by law. The standard format for this Affidavit can be downloaded from the e-bidding portal.

For participants bidding on behalf of another individual or an organization, a Proforma Special Power of

Attorney and Secretary's Certificate, respectively, can likewise be downloaded from the e-bidding portal.

For more information on the e-bidding, interested buyers may call the PDIC Public Assistance Department at (02) 8841-4141 during office hours. Those outside Metro Manila may call the PDIC toll-free hotline at 1-800-1-888-

PDIC or 1-800-1-888-7342, also during office hours. Inquiries may also be sent via e-mail at pad@pdic.gov.ph or private message on PDIC's Assets for Sale Facebook page (@PDICAssetsforSale) or PDIC's official Facebook page (@OfficialPDIC).

As the statutory receiver, the PDIC disposes of closed bank-owned assets through public bidding and

negotiated sales. Proceeds from the liquidation of closed banks' properties are added to the pool of liquid assets of these banks for distribution to uninsured depositors and other creditors based on legal priority. The disposal of these assets increases the chances of recovery of uninsured depositors and creditors of their trapped funds in the closed banks. **(PDIC)**