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Biyaheng South Experiential Tour 2024: Discovering the History and Culture of Cavite

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), in partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) Region IV-A (CALABARZON) and Provincial Government of Cavite, held a successful Biyaheng South Experiential Tour 2024.

This year's Experiential Tour was proudly co-presented by Taal Vista Hotel and DongFeng Motors PH, with generous sponsorship from World Balance, Sky Ranch Philippines, and Suteki Japanese Restaurant.

Our Ka-biyaheros—comprising a diverse group of influencers and



Biyaheng South Experiential Tour 2024 at Skyranch Tagaytay

media partners—went on an exciting adventure to explore and experience the hidden treasures of South Luzon.

Day 1: Exploring the Rich History of Silang ang Tagaytay

The tour started with a visit to the MPT South Hub, the sustainable headquarters of CAVITEX and CALAX that is awarded Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification. As part of its green initiatives, its architecture features a solar panel field that contributes to 97% of the hub's energy requirement,

► **BIYAHENG SOUTH • 3**

Cavite Holds Orientation on Gender and Development Planning and Budgeting



On September 23, 2024, around 50 members of the Gender Focal Point System – Technical Working Group (GFPS-TWG) and focal persons from the Provincial Government of Cavite gathered at the Cavite Social Development Center in Trece Martires City for a day of training on Gender and Development (GAD) Planning and Budgeting. The initiative, organized by the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), aimed to strengthen the participants' understanding of GAD planning, budgeting, and fund utilization.

► **CAVITE HOLDS • 7**

Awarding of the Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) Seal to Component Cities and Municipalities

On September 16, 2024, Governor Jonvic Remulla graced the awarding of Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) Seal at the Bayleaf Hotel in the City of General Trias, during the 3rd quarter meeting of the Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) and the Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC). The event recognized the efforts of various cities and municipalities in promoting peace and security in their communities.



Governor Jonvic C. Remulla opened the ceremony, stressing the need for teamwork in maintaining peace and order. He praised local government units for their dedication to creating safe environments.

Engr. Danilo A. Nobleza, the Provincial Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Cavite, acknowledged the participants and thanked them for their commitment to peace initiatives, highlighting the vital role of local leaders in building secure communities.

Cavite officials including Board Member Ramon Vincent H. Revilla and local chief executives of the different cities and municipalities also attended the event, together with BGEN. Cerilo Balaoro Jr., Commander of the 202nd Infantry Brigade, and other distinguished guests.--F. Tamio

► **AWARDING • 3**

DepEd retrieves learning materials withheld in Cavite warehouse

The Department of Education (DepEd) has retrieved the last batch of the P3 billion worth of learning materials that were withheld in a warehouse in Cavite due to unpaid storage fees.

With the help of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the DepEd hauled laptops, television sets and other devices from the warehouse owned by Transpac.

The AFP transported 630 units each of TV, laptops and laptop bags with accessories to Central Visayas, where 156 schools and 407 teachers are set to benefit.

Up to 290 units each of

TV and external hard drives were delivered to Caraga, benefitting 73 schools and 62 teachers.

Northern Mindanao will receive 464 units each of laptops, laptop bags with accessories and television

sets for the region's 412 schools and 686 teachers.

"The delivery of these items will support the digital learning needs of schools in these regions, in line with DepEd's efforts

► **DEPED • 3**



This file photo shows a facade of the Department of Education.

PGC Employees Attend Seminar on Basic Beekeeping and Management

As part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's (PGC) celebration of Employees Month, a seminar on Basic Beekeeping and Its Management was held on September 17, 2024, at the OPCDO Training Area in Trece Martires City.



The event was facilitated by the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPV) in partnership with the Office of the Human Resource Management Officer (OPHRMO).

The seminar aimed to enhance knowledge of PGC employees in beekeeping, fostering a new area of interest among participants. Dr. May M. Magno

delivered her welcome remarks, expressing her enthusiasm for the participants' willingness to learn new skills. Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin also extended her



appreciation for the collaboration between OPV and OPHRMO in making the seminar a success. The lecture was led by Prof. Michelle T. Bono and Dr. Dickson N. Dimero, Director of the Bee Research, Innovation, Trade, and

Extension (BRITE) Center, both of whom shared their expertise in bee farming, management practices, and the importance of beekeeping in sustainable agriculture. The seminar provided employees with insights

into bee biology, colony management, honey production, and the significant role of bees in maintaining environmental balance, aligning with the PGC's ongoing efforts to promote sustainable livelihood practices. (J. Patulot)

MOST-BARMM Benchmarks DRRM Technologies in CALABARZON

TAYTAY, RIZAL - The Department of Science and Technology's Provincial Science and Technology Office (DOST-PSTO) in Rizal, led by Director Fernando E. Ablaza, conducted a courtesy call to the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office of Rizal, headed by SDS Dr. Doris DJ. Estalilla, CESO V. Also in attendance were Dr. Rosemarie Blando, the Head of the Office of the Curriculum Implementation Division (CID), and Mr. Robert John D. De La Cruz, Education Program Supervisor in Science. The visit aimed to introduce and promote the adoption of DOST's Science and Technology (S&T) programs for schools: the 21st Century Learning Environment Model (21st CLEM) and Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated Kiosk Stations



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(STARBOOKS). During the meeting, Ms. Josephine "Josh" S. Feliciano, Science Research Specialist (SRS) II of the Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) presented the various educational innovations and technologies developed

by the DOST-SEI, including Bukas-Tuklas, Storybooks, Courseware, SIMATAR, and the Virtual Laboratory Application in Science (VLAS). These standalone tools are designed to enhance the learning experience within the framework of the 21st CLEM.

Ms. Jennefer Jeazon "Duday" P. Medina, SRS II of DOST-PSTO Rizal, further presented a draft project proposal for establishing STARBOOKS in the municipalities of Angono and Taytay. STARBOOKS are interactive kiosks providing students with easy access

to various S&T resources. DepEd Rizal expressed keen interest in the presented technologies and is hopeful that at least one of the 13 municipalities in Rizal will adopt and fund either the 21st CLEM or STARBOOKS program. (By Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio)

THE LOGIC BEHIND KYC, MIGRATION AND OPEN MAINNET" by Doris Yin, Global Ambassador of Pi Network

Ms. Doris Yin emphasizes the importance of understanding the logic behind KYC (Know Your Customer), migration, and Open Mainnet (OM) within the Pi Network. Many pioneers have misunderstandings about these processes due to a lack of thorough research and study.

* Goals of Pi Network:
- Build a cryptocurrency and smart contracts platform operated by everyday people.
- Create the most inclusive peer-to-peer ecosystem driven by Pi, the most widely used

cryptocurrency.
* Conditions for OM:
- According to the 2021 white paper, OM requires the maturity of the enclosed network ecosystem and progress in KYC.
- By the end of 2023, Core

Team updated the OM conditions to include 15 million KYC verifications and 10 million migrated Pi wallets.
* Speed of KYC and Migration:
- KYC and migration will accelerate as the

ecosystem matures.
- Opening KYC and migration to all pioneers before the ecosystem is fully developed could lead to many selling their Pi, reducing its value and causing centralization.
* Role of the Ecosystem:
- Core Team is waiting for the ecosystem to develop to minimize risks and protect Pi Network after

OM.
- The slow progress is not due to CT but rather due to pioneers not completing their tasks fully.
* Actions for Pioneers:
- If you haven't migrated Pi, self-study and help educate others.
- If you've passed KYC and have Pi in your wallet, participate actively in ecosystem development

by trading Pi at the GCV price.

Ms. Doris Yin concludes that understanding the interconnectedness of these elements is crucial. The ultimate goal is to achieve financial freedom through the success of Pi Network. **(Jojo - Asst Executive Director GCV CT Global GCV Ambassador)**

Biyaheng South... (FROM PAGE 1)

a biophilic design that integrates natural elements, and a charging station for electric vehicles.

The day continued with a cultural immersion at Shambala Silang, where the main attraction is their Tawid Gallery, where guests got to see the indigenous arts and crafts of the region, offering them a glimpse into their rich heritage.

This was followed by a hearty lunch at Siglo Moderno Filipino, known for its modern takes on traditional Filipino dishes. They served the guests a meal they called "Lakbay Lokal Platter." This special meal contains different local dishes with a twist from the provinces of Cavite: Laing Dinamita, Sisiglaw Salad, Himagsikan wings (a local version of Buffalo wings), and more.

In the afternoon, guests were treated to the scenic beauty of Tagaytay with a stay at the iconic Taal Vista Hotel. More than just offering a luxurious retreat, the hotel enriched their experience with a captivating history walk tour, shedding light on the rich heritage of Tagaytay, the Taal Volcano, and the storied legacy of the hotel itself.

To end the day, they experienced the thrills of Sky Ranch Tagaytay before enjoying a delightful dinner at Suteki, a restaurant that features contemporary Japanese cuisine, adding a vibrant contrast to the day's Filipino-themed meals.

Day 2: Delving Deep into the Culture of Maragondon

The adventure continued the second day, where they took the influencers to the charming town of Maragondon, Cavite, starting with a peaceful lunch at the "Alegria del Rio" Maragondon Balsa River Cruise.

After, they went on to visit one of the famous tourist spots around the city, the Bonifacio Trial House, where national hero Andres Bonifacio stood trial, giving them a deeper understanding of the area's role in Philippine history.

To further enrich their experience, the participants joined a hands-on session at the Likhang Maragondon Bamboo Weaving Workshop, where they learnt weaving techniques from local artisans using bamboo as a material. Every one of the guests got to create their own placemats out of bamboo.

Weaving is part of Maragondon's history and culture. As part of the community's way of preserving this tradition, this workshop serves as a bridge between generations, ensuring that the rich heritage of Maragondon's indigenous weaving techniques is passed down to younger artisans.

The day concluded with snacks at Lolo Claro's Restaurant, providing a perfect relaxing ending to the two-day adventure.

Why We Do This

Biyaheng South Experiential Tour holds great significance in showcasing the vibrant culture, history, and hidden gems of South Luzon. However, we are not only promoting the scenic spots of South Luzon but also supporting the local economies of the provinces.

"This initiative is a testament to economic innovation and sustainable tourism development, enhancing tourism through accessibility and convenience for travelers. The goal is to create an environment where convenience complements the beauty and uniqueness of the destination, resulting in enjoyable,

memorable, and convenient experiences for all," Department of Tourism Region IV-A Director, Ms. Marites Castro, said.

"In honor of National Tourism Month, the Biyaheng South Experiential Tour shows our dedication to drive tourism and economic growth in the South. We are grateful for the continued support of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and Cavite Tourism; their partnership and shared vision have been instrumental in making this program a success. Together, let's look forward to fostering sustainable tourism, contributing to the livelihood of local communities, and showcasing the treasures that lie just beyond our toll roads," stated Arlette Capistrano, MPT South's Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management.

Biyaheng South is MPT South's tourism advocacy program that has made a significant impact by promoting its toll road networks, particularly CAVITEX, its C5 Link segment, and CALAX, as gateways to the tourist destinations of Southern Luzon. The program demonstrates how infrastructure not only can improve connectivity but also can serve as a catalyst for regional economic growth through tourism promotion.

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Aside from the CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

DepEd... (FROM PAGE 1)

to improve access to technology in education," the agency said.

Earlier, lawmakers deplored the non-distribution of learning materials, which were "held hostage" due to DepEd's supposed refusal

to pay storage fees.

Although most of the materials had been released to DepEd, the agency told a recent congressional hearing that a majority of the items remained in Transpac's warehouse in Carmona.

Rep. Marcoleta... (FROM PAGE 8)

nahirapan sa kakulangan ng budget. Marami sa mga barangay captain ay tumatanggap lamang ng ₱5,000 kada buwan, na mas mababa pa ang suweldo ng mga tanod, health workers, at Lupon Tagapamayapa. Dahil dito, apektado ang serbisyong publiko sa mga barangay.

Layon ng panukala na lumikha ng Barangay Affairs and Development Fund mula sa 3-4% ng mga nakatenggang pondo ng iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno. Kasabay nito, magkakaroon din ng Barangay Affairs and Development Commission na magbibigay ng tamang

pasahod at magsisiguro na maayos ang paggamit ng pondo para sa kapakanan ng mga barangay.

Nanawagan si Marcoleta sa Kongreso na madaliin ang pagpasa ng batas na ito upang mabigyan ng sapat na suporta ang mga barangay at makapagdulot ng pangmatagalang pagbabago sa mga komunidad.

Awarding... (FROM PAGE 1)

The program showcased the achievements of Local Government Units (LGUs)

in maintaining peace and security in their communities. The awarding of the SIPS Seal

celebrated these accomplishments and encouraged ongoing efforts to enhance public safety and community welfare throughout the province.

Wilcon... (FROM PAGE 8)

Wilcon Depot SEVP and COO, Ms. Rosemarie Bosch-Ong joyfully asserts, "With the robust economy and increasing demand for quality home products and services, we firmly believe that Wilcon Depot's continued expansion in Cavite province will significantly contribute to the community's development and the overall improvement of the lives of our fellow Filipinos".

The same sentiments were shared by the President and CEO of Wilcon, Ms. Lorraine Belocincohan. During her closing speech, she thanked the Caviteños for welcoming Wilcon again after the successful store opening of its branch in Naic last October 2023.

Wilcon Depot-Pala-Pala is the 8th store of Wilcon in Cavite joining big-box branches in Naic, General Trias, Bacoor, Silang, Kawit, Tagaytay, and Dasmariñas City in providing the Cavite

province with home improvement supplies.

With Wilcon's extensive range of products from trusted local and international brands, homeowners can access everything they need to build and transform their spaces. Its exclusive and in-house products include Pozzi for trusted bathroom solutions; Hamden Kitchen Appliances, an ideal partner for your kitchen needs; Alphalux, an energy-efficient lighting solutions brand; Kaze, an appliance brand that will help you live a healthy space; Hills, a trusted brand for construction and electrical power tools; P.Tech, your partner for reliable building materials; Rocersa, Emigres, STN Ceramica, Stylish Spanish Tiles with a contemporary interpretation of a classic style; Arte Ceramiches, Verona Tiles, and Saigres, Asian tiles for a more sophisticated home; Energie Ker, Gardenia

Orchide, and Novabell, Sophisticated Italian Tiles; Grohe and Kohler for bathroom and plumbing solutions; Franke, convenient kitchen solutions; and Rubi a partner when it comes to tile cutting necessities; and among many other brands, are made accessible in the new Wilcon Depot Roxas, Capiz.

Start building big ideas with Wilcon Depot and shop daily at its newest store from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Visit Wilcon Depot Pala-Pala located at Aguinaldo Highway, Brgy. Sampaloc 1, Dasmariñas City. Valued customers can also shop online at Wilcon by visiting shop.wilcon.com.ph/.

For more information about Wilcon, visit www.wilcon.com.ph or follow their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, or subscribe and connect with them on Viber Community, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Or you may contact Wilcon Depot Hotline at 88-WILCON (88-945266) for inquiries.



Doris Yin

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PIONEERS AND LOCAL MERCHANTS OR ONLINE ECOSYSTEMS

Many pioneers seem to be confused about this, and this confusion has the potential to lead to legal liability in the future. First of all, it is important to remember that traders and pioneers are part of the Pi Network Community.

The community is vast, and GCV is just one of many under the Pi Network. We are all equal individuals with the same goal of collaborating with Core Team to complete the attached mainnet tasks, namely KYC and a mature ecosystem. However, we are not an official organization or company with a CEO or Board of Directors that requires compliance from employees or suborganizations to put board decisions into practice.

Therefore, we all just volunteer in our community. Even though some ecosystems or merchants claim to support GCV, they may not offer it for all products. However, we should still show respect to them but choose not to attend the transaction. Moreover, if you are holding a large event, the costs will vary, starting from clothes, food and rent. In such cases, they will inform the pioneers of the costs and give them the option to participate or not.

All of these fees, including non-GCV prices, are protected by local business laws and permitted on the Pi Network. It's not a SCAM if they tell you the price before you pay. On Pi Network, traders have the freedom to set their own prices for goods and services as long as both parties agree. Additionally, they can accept partial payments in FIAT and Pi.

However, it is important to note that businesses need FIAT to pay their employees' salaries, rental costs, and material costs to survive. Therefore, it is recommended that pioneers work together to establish a unified price for Pi to ensure the sustainability of the ecosystem so that all traders can realize the exchange to FIAT when OM. It is also important to consider that charging a portion of FIAT payments for high value products with significant investment is a better alternative than using lower Pi prices to stockpile Pi. This approach helps protect sellers and maintain GCV records. As pioneers, we must understand the challenges traders face and value their contribution to the ecosystem. We should support and cooperate with them, not force or require them to do anything.

Only by working together, supporting each other, and respecting each other's efforts, can we quickly launch OM successfully. I understand that I, like other pioneers,

support GCV to bring pioneers together and set prices for OM. However, keep in mind that I am not the president or CEO and therefore, I do not have the authority to force different ecosystems to adopt GCV or prevent them from charging for their events. And I shouldn't do this as a pioneer.

Every business has the right to set prices and charge fees, if necessary, as long as they comply with local business laws and inform customers of the prices of their products and services. To avoid any misunderstanding about my identity, I would like to make a disclaimer: I, Doris Yin, am the pioneer who volunteered my analysis of the Pi Network consensus price to GCV. This is my personal opinion and analysis for reference only.

I respect different prices, but I promote GCV because I believe it is the fastest solution to OM and supports Pi's long-term goal of becoming the world's currency. I am not involved with any merchants or ecosystems, nor do I accept payments from them. My role is to promote GCV traders and pioneers, so that our community can build trust. I do not support any merchant or ecosystem to comply with GCV. As long as they have a product that supports GCV, I appreciate it. However, I recommend small items for GCV. For high-value products, I recommend using GCV after OM or when the price converges to reduce business investment risk.

Alternatively, consider Pi's partial fiat, but continue to support GCV. It's not my job to investigate whether merchants have adopted GCV; this is the pioneer's responsibility to choose barter or other services. Therefore, I focus on pioneer education. Please note that Core Team and I have no authority to impose a specific price for the Pi.

We must respect business laws in different countries and locales and respect different Pi prices. If local businesses comply with regulations and laws, we recommend that pioneers respect them. If there is a dispute, contact the local merchant directly rather than suing them. If you sue them and they haven't violated any local laws, they can sue you again for defamation. Lawsuits may affect the Pi Network in your country.

Please read all legal documents before taking any action. Global community pioneers should appreciate traders and the ecosystem as they are the foundation of Pi Network. By protecting them, they can grow stronger and support the Pi Network. This way, Pi Network can attract more traders to join. If we make it difficult for them to make a profit, how can they support the ecosystem? We hope that global pioneers and the ecosystem can have a harmonious relationship. Only when we respect each other can we build strong ecosystems and communities. Don't forget that our goal is GCV, not personal gain. **(Doris Yin - Global GCV Movement Founder Grand Global GCV Ambassador)**

MPT SOUTH TO SERVE OVER 340,000 MOTORISTS IN 2025

MPT South forecasts more than 30% traffic growth by the end of 2025, translating to over 340,000 average daily motorists, a significant increase from the current figure of 259,815. This growth will be driven by the completion of several key segments of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and CAVITEX C5 Link.



These segments include the CALAX Governor's Drive Interchange, Open Canal Interchange, and Kawit Interchange, as well as the C5 Link Segment 3B, which will connect the current Sucat Interchange to the C5 Link Flyover Extension, spanning from SLEX-Taguig to E. Rodriguez in C5. The CAVITEX-CALAX Link, currently under construction, will integrate these two major toll roads, creating a more seamless connection for motorists.

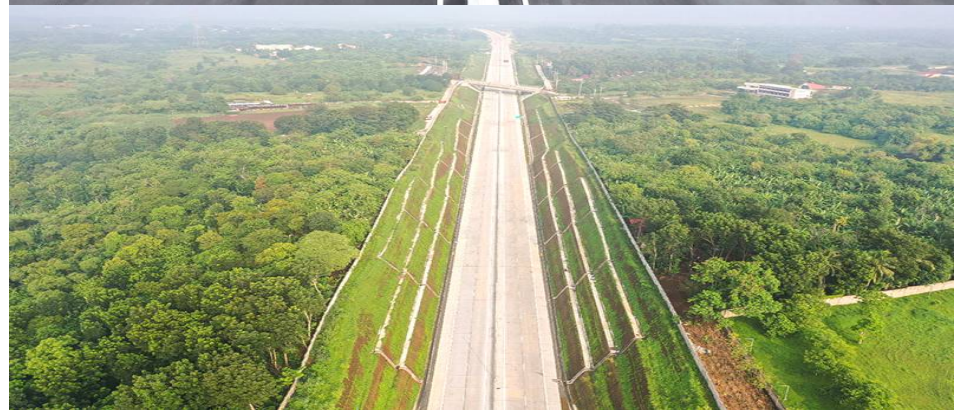
These projects are slated for commercial operations before the end of 2025, bringing MPT

South's total road network to 67 km. The new segments, designed to enhance travel time and accessibility, are expected to encourage more motorists to utilize the network, further boosting traffic flow in the region. This will improve connectivity and travel efficiency between major provinces in Southern Luzon, easing travel for daily commuters and businesses alike.

"Aside from providing an enhanced driving experience for our motorists, our projects also aim to contribute to the region's economic

development by improving accessibility and connectivity. Once completed, our expressway network will provide a more seamless travel experience for over 340,000 motorists, a 30% increase from our existing daily traffic, and help spur economic growth in both regions," said MPT South President and General Manager, Mr. Raul L. Ignacio.

In line with this, MPT South is allocating Php14 billion in capital expenditures (CAPEX) in 2025 to support the construction and maintenance of its



infrastructure.

"Despite the challenges we face in construction, such as the timely delivery of right-of-way and the recent typhoons, we are working around the clock to ensure the delivery of these vital infrastructure projects for the benefit of progress by the end of 2025," Ignacio added.

Upon completion, MPT South's expressway network is expected to

boost regional economic growth by facilitating quicker, more efficient movement of goods and services between key industrial and commercial hubs. The shortened travel time will provide additional benefits such as reduced fuel consumption and lower vehicle emissions, contributing to nation-building and improving the quality of life for Filipinos.

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation. In addition to CAVITEX and CALAX, MPTC also holds concession rights for North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), NLEX Connector Road, and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

LUMARI RERORTS



Ms. Lumari

and actively shape the future of the Pi economy. As the Pi Network continues to evolve, a strong and united merchant ecosystem is crucial for driving growth and ensuring the long-term prosperity of the community.

Merchants' General Assembly to Strengthen GCV Ecosystem Set for October 6 in General Santos City

General Santos City, Philippines – Excitement is building as the Pi Network community prepares for the highly anticipated Merchants' General Assembly on October 6, 2024, at 2:00 PM at Bayfront, Acharon Blvd., General Santos City. This landmark event will gather Pi pioneers and merchants to discuss the future of the Pi Network and the expansion of the Global Consensus Value (GCV) merchant ecosystem.

More than just a meeting, this assembly is designed to lay the foundation for sustainable economic growth, trust, and collaboration within the Pi community. It offers a platform for attendees to exchange ideas, network, and actively shape the future of the Pi economy.

The Merchants' General Assembly will focus on building a thriving and resilient economy that supports the shared goals of Pi pioneers and merchants alike.

The event is hosted by Engr. Anthony Nierra, Ecosystem Development GCV Ambassador, and Mr. Wyn Figueroa, GCV Ambassador of Region 12, General Santos City. They will be joined by barangay GCV ambassadors Mirasol Flores, Pastor Arman Conde, Edilberto Celis, Desebel Monteron, and others, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive atmosphere.

This gathering presents a valuable opportunity for participants to contribute to the development of a vibrant Pi ecosystem that fosters unity and collective success. Attendees will play an essential role in creating a stronger, more connected community.

For more information or to register, please contact:

* Mirasol Flores: 09433490178

* Wyn Figueroa: 0962375359

* Engr. Anthony Nierra: 09466710718 (Lumari - Global GCV Ambassador Executive Director GCVCT Head GCV Philippines)

DOST CALABARZON Brings iSTART Project to Taytay for Local Economic Growth

TAYTAY, RIZAL — A team from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON, led by Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations, and Dir. Fernando E. Ablaza, Provincial S&T Director of DOST PSTO Rizal, presented the iSTART Project to representatives from various departments (e.g., Admin, MENRO, Planning, Legal, and SMILE I.T. Lab) of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Taytay. The meeting took place at the SMILE I.T. Lab - Rosario Ocampo Elementary School, Taytay, Rizal.

DOST CALABARZON introduced the "Innovation, Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-Based Development" (iSTART) project. This initiative aims to integrate science, technology, and innovation (STI) into local development plans, such as the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). This will help Taytay, a first-class municipality, strengthen its development initiatives by identifying gaps and incorporating relevant

cities." Mr. Patrick Isaiah Abarra, Project Technical Assistant of DOST CALABARZON, further elaborated on the iSTART project background, pilot sites, and technical aspects. He explained how iSTART aligns with CDP/CLUP through a designated operational framework and the DOST Implementation Model of SSP (from aim-collaborate-establish to involvement of key players, achieving the desired outcome, and becoming a "smarter" city/municipality).

He also shared insights from the Regional Stakeholder Analysis



series, including the resource speaker(s), state universities and colleges (SUCs), barangay

CALABARZON's Infosystems (including DARIUS, TRACE, HRMIS, QMIS, PIMS) and Food Safety Solutions.

The DOST team concluded the iSTART presentation meeting with a group photo with the team of LGU Taytay. DOST CALABARZON and PSTO Rizal are hopeful for the iSTART project's implementation in Taytay,

following the positive response of Mr. Enrico Marquez, Manager of the SMILE I.T. Lab, and Ms. Fatima Garcia, Head of the Municipal Planning and Development Office of Taytay, pending the review of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement. (By Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio)



STI components. To provide context for iSTART, ARD Barquilla connected it to the Smart and Sustainable (Cities and) Communities Program (SSCP), highlighting Taytay's recognition as one of DICT's "digital

where agencies presented their STI plans, programs, and activities. Next, ARD Barquilla outlined the next steps for LGU Taytay if they decide to participate in the iSTART Project. He clarified that DOST will cover the workshop

while the LGU will be responsible for providing the venue and meals. Additionally, DOST can execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement to ensure the confidentiality of data inputs from the LGU, its offices, civil society organizations (CSOs),

officials, private stakeholders, and other relevant parties. The Legal Officer of LGU Taytay also suggested a Data Sharing Agreement for further protection.

To maximize the meeting, ARD Barquilla also presented DOST-



PH women's team wins gold at Chess Olympiad

The Philippine women's team ended its campaign in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad with a 4-0 win over Brazil at the BOK Sports Hall in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday.

WFM (Woman FIDE Master) Shania Mae Mendoza, WGM (Woman Grandmaster) Janelle Mae Frayna, WIM (Woman International Master) Jan Jodilyn Fronda and WNM (Woman National master) Ruelle Canino won their matches in the 11th round as they finished with 14 points for joint 22nd with 14 others, and 24th overall after tiebreaks were applied.

They also took the gold medal in Group B, giving the Philippines its first medal since the team of Sheerie Joey Lomibao, Catherine Pereña, Sherily Cua and Beverly Mendoza won in Group C at the 2006 Turin edition.

In 1988, the team of Girme Fontanilla, Mila Emperado and Cristina Santos-Fidaer placed 22nd in Thessaloniki, Greece.

"This is a milestone in Philippine chess history, a legacy that will not be

forgotten for the generations to come," said national women's coach Grandmaster Jayson Gonzales, who acknowledged the support of delegation head Atty. Ruel Canobas, team manager Atty. Nikki de Vega and Far Eastern University chair Aurelio Montinola III.

The Philippine women's team also surpassed their 36th-place finish two years ago in Chennai, India.

All five players improved their ratings, with Canino from Cagayan de Oro earning 102 rating points from scoring six points in eight games on board four.

The 16-year-old student from FEU will have a 2260 rating, including points from previous tournaments in Europe.

Frayna secured eight points out of 11 with plus 27 rating points, while Mendoza of Sta. Rosa,

Laguna had 5.5 out of 10 with 36.2 rating points as top board player.

Frona of Muntinlupa gained 6.5 out of 10 and was a plus 0.60 while Bernadette Galas got three of five with plus 8.8.

In the men's division, the Philippines absorbed a 1-3 loss to Hungary.

Julio Catalino Sadorra fell to Adam Kozak on board one, Daniel Quizon split the point with Tomas Banusz on board two, John Paul Gomez was beaten by Peter Prhaszka on board three and Jan Emmanuel Garcia settled for a draw with Gabor Papp on board four.

The Eugene Torre-mentored team, which includes Paulo Bersamina, finished 59th with 12 points.

India ruled the men's and women's divisions to receive the Gaprindashvili Cup for having the highest combined scores of both teams. (PNA)



GOLD MEDAL. The Philippine women's team defeated Brazil, 4-0, in the 11th and final round of the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad at the BOK Sports Hall in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday (Sept. 22, 2024) to take home the Group B gold medal. From left are GM Jayson Gonzales (coach), WFM Shania Mae Mendoza, WGM Janelle Mae Frayna, WNM Ruelle Canino, WIM Bernadette Galas, WIM Jan Jodilyn Fronda and GM Eugene Torre (coach). (Contributed photo)

PH's Palomar vs China's Tang in URCC Fight Night Sept. 28

Mark Palomar is optimistic that his forthcoming duel with Chinese Darui Tang in the Universal Reality Combat Championship (URCC) Fight Night on Sept. 28 at Octopus Bar in Makati City would cement the Philippines' position in combat sports.



Filipino Mark Palomar (left) and Chinese Darui Tang (Photo courtesy of Raul Garcia)

"One of us will fall, probably him (Tang). I prepared hard for this fight to prove that the Philippines is No. 1 in combat sports in Asia," Palomar said during a press conference on Friday.

"It will be a very short fight. My opponent will be knocked out at fight

night," Tang countered.

Competing in the undercard events are Jacis Macasinag against Ezekiel Isidro (135lb); Gabriel Baguio against MJ Montealto (155lb); JR Alejandro against Marvin Malunes, Ariel Oliveros against Kenneth Maningat and Jared Alzeta against Rocky Vergara (125lb);

and Dave Valencia against Ferdinand Aquino (115lb).

"We are inviting all fight enthusiasts to watch the fights for personal glory and beyond.. 'Bakbakan na (Fight time)!' URCC Mixed Martial Arts founding president Alvin Aguilar said. (PNA)

PH sambo federation to host 2 major events next year

Filipino sambo athletes will get the chance to show their skills in two major tournaments the country will hold next year.

The Bongbong Marcos "BBM Cup" will be staged in March at the SM Mall of Asia Arena Music Hall while the World Beach Sambo Championships is scheduled in September in Boracay.

Both tournaments will be supervised by Pilipinas Sambo Federation Inc. incoming project director Jose Antonio "Pepeton" Ejercito Goitia.

Six-time world champion Sydney Sy-Tancontian will lead the Philippine campaign in the BBM Cup and the World Beach Sambo Championships.

Three weeks ago, Sy-Tancontian (women's +72kg) and Jeniva Consigna (women's -72kg) bagged the bronze medals at the World Beach Sambo Championships held in Casablanca, Morocco.

"With the recent success of our national athletes on the international stage, we just want to express our humble gratitude to our sports officials for their continuous support, that's why we want to try to host two international events here in the country next year to show them what we have worked for in the past years by producing World medalists and being one of the Asia's best,"



BRONZE WINNER. The referee raises the hand of Filipina Sydney Sy-Tancontian after the bronze medal match in the women's +72kg category at the World Beach Sambo Championships in Casablanca, Morocco on Sept. 8, 2024. She will lead the national team in two major tournaments which the Pilipinas Sambo Federation Inc. will host next year. (Contributed photo)

PSFI president Paolo Tancontian said on Monday.

The PSFI has a very competitive team, which include Chino Sy, who has won medals in international tournaments, and combat fighters and mixed-martial arts champions Mark "Mugen" Striegl, Rene Catalan, Robin "The Ilonggo" Catalan, Marianne Mariano, Jomary "The Zambaguena" Torres and Zus Combat World challenger John McLeary "Pirata" Ornido.

The sambo federation,

which was founded in Davao City, has a nationwide grassroots program which involves local government units (LGUs). It is promoting women's sports in the University of Santo Tomas Sambo and Judo Club.

"We just want to show the Filipino people that we produce many athletes who provided more medals in international competitions, most of them are from the grassroots and we don't need to import (naturalized) athletes to perform abroad. Most of our athletes are organic

coming from various public schools and universities," said Tancontian, who got veteran sports official Red Dumuk as adviser.

"Because of such successes, PSFI's desire to strengthen women's sports will be further emphasized by us, especially since Filipinos have greater hopes for martial arts or combat sports events. The target is to spread the

knowledge of Sambo throughout the country by launching a series of teaching and seminars, especially in the provinces because it is an excellent chance for Filipinos to succeed in martial arts. After all, they are naturally combative and good at fighting," he added.

Tancontian thanked the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), and Philippine Olympic Committee president and

Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino for their support.

"We're looking and planning to have a series of seminars in the provinces for people to better understand Sambo because in combat sports, the Filipinos have a big chance. Especially in martial arts, there is punch and kick, the Filipinos are naturally good in combat sports," he said. (PNA)

DTI-Laguna Conducts Livelihood Orientation Seminar

Calamba City, Laguna — The Calamba Manpower Development Center, in cooperation with the Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office, Department of Labor and Employment, and Cooperatives and Livelihood Development Office of the City Government of Calamba, conducted a seminar last September 16, 2024, which was attended by 238 participants composed of trainees and graduates from courses in Bread and Pastry Production Food and Beverage Services, Culinary Arts, Dressmaking, Welding, and RAC Servicing.



The seminar titled "Livelihood Orientation Program" aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge.

The program was hosted by Ms. Joanna Marie M. Malihan. The first topic is on Business Ideas, which was discussed by Mr. Rafael Yuan P. Gatdula, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Pagsanjan.

He discussed how one's passion can be turned into an income-generating business and also provided various examples on which businesses the participants can engaged to. Following this, Mr. Syruz A. Reyes, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Cabuyao City, discussed the topic "Entrepreneur Mind Setting".

He discussed the different stories, traits and qualities that an entrepreneur must have.

He also shared steps on how entrepreneurs transform ideas into profit. Mr. Dharrel A. Delos Reyes, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Victoria, continued the program by discussing "Consumer Education".

He provided the participants the knowledge on what are their rights as consumers, as well as their responsibilities to the community and to the environment.

The DTI Programs and Services were discussed by Ms. Dianne M. Piamonte, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Calauan. She discussed various programs and services the DTI offers which an individual can enjoy once they decided to engage in business. Ms. Alma R. Arenal, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of

Calamba City, followed the discussion with the topic "How to Start a Business". She shared the step-by-step procedures on how an individual or a corporation can start a business. She also discussed what are the permits and other requirements that must be acquired in starting a business.

In addition, Ms. Teresa Carreon of Cooperatives and Livelihood Development Office of Calamba shared other programs and services that their department offers. Following this, Ms. Carla Cabiles, Livelihood Development Specialist of DOLE discussed DOLE Livelihood Orientation Programs.

The program concluded with positive feedback from attendees, who expressed their satisfaction through

the Client Satisfaction Form. The program was highly praised by trainees and graduates, who appreciated the relevant and actionable information provided. The enthusiasm for the session was evident, with many participants expressing a strong interest in future business engagement. They specifically requested speakers for the remaining quarters of the year, highlighting the growing need for comprehensive business education and support from DTI-Laguna.

This enthusiastic response has paved way to a sign of a continued commitment to professional development and underscores the valuable role of DTI-Laguna's initiatives in fostering business growth and success (**SAReyes, DTI-Laguna**).

budgeting, emphasizing the importance of aligning programs with gender equality objectives.

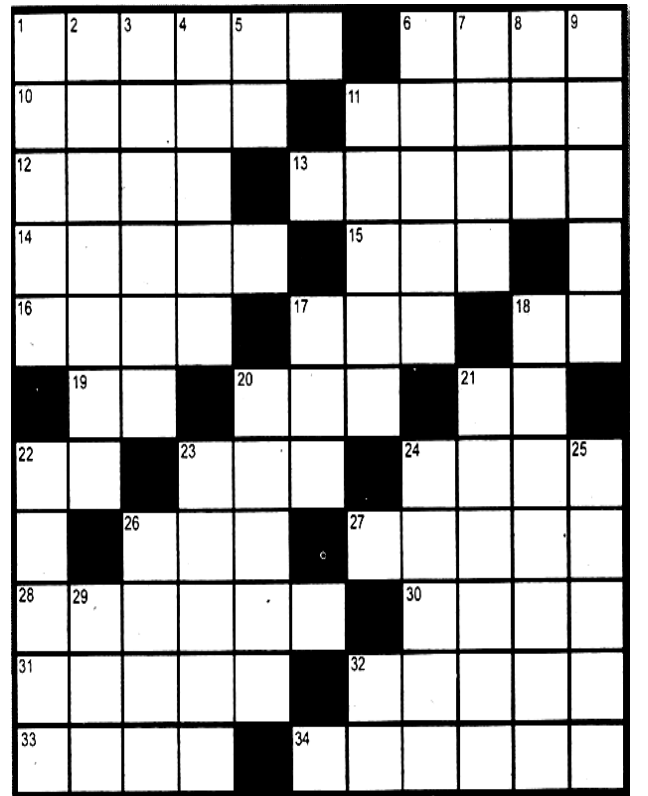
The orientation also featured an open forum, where participants had the chance to ask questions and share insights on challenges and best practices related to GAD fund utilization.

The interactive session encouraged knowledge sharing and peer learning, fostering a deeper understanding of how to

apply GAD principles in their respective organizations.

This training forms part of Cavite's ongoing commitment to promoting gender equality and inclusivity in governance. By equipping GFPS-TWG members with the necessary tools and knowledge, the province aims to ensure that GAD funds are efficiently used to address gender-related issues and foster a more inclusive society. (**A. Cabrera**)

PALAI SIPAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Yugyog
- 5 Uri ng kawayan
- 10 Lungsod sa Nueva Ecija
- 12 Kulungan ng hayop
- 14 ___ Parica
- 15 Bundok sa Japa
- 16 Bansag
- 18 Pag-unat pagkagising
- 19 Professional: daglat
- 20 James ng B-meg
- 22 Buti
- 23 Ms. Solis
- 24 Hamak
- 27 Touch Me _
- 28 Anak ng anak
- 30 Lungsod sa Bikol
- 32 Gamit panulat
- 34 Uri ng butil
- 36 Atsay
- 38 Ensalada
- 39 Panggagaya
- 40 Babag

41 Bawat

- PABABA**
- 1 Tuyo
- 2 Odom ng NBA
- 3 Ihataw
- 4 Palayaw ni Isagani
- 6 Butas
- 7 Sutlang-pinya
- 8 Bayan sa Bataan
- 9 Maliit na pinggan
- 11 Kasalukuyang panahon
- 13 Tagulamin
- 17 Gatang
- 19 Gamit ng plantsadora
- 21 Igtad
- 25 Harang
- 26 Banoy
- 28 Kaibigang baba
- 29 Suwerte
- 31 Hablot
- 33 Kidkiran
- 35 Uri ng tula
- 37 Diwata

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN

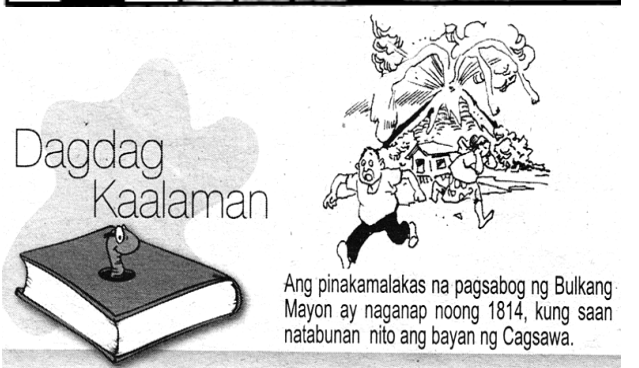


Cavite Holds... (FROM PAGE 1)

The event kicked off with opening remarks from Ms. Ekeiko Paola Haidah Sadang, Promotive Division Head of the OPSWDO, who emphasized the importance of building the capacities of GFPS-TWG members to ensure effective gender mainstreaming and promote gender responsive governance in

the province.

Atty. Melissa Mae C. Marero, DILG GAD Focal Person, served as the resource speaker, delivering a comprehensive review of the parameters for the GAD Plan Budget and Accomplishment Report. Her presentation focused on key elements necessary for effective GAD planning and



Ang pinakamalakas na pagsabog ng Bulkang Mayon ay naganap noong 1814, kung saan natabunan nito ang bayan ng Cagsawa.

Cavite Career Caravan in Tagaytay City

The Cavite Career Caravan made its stop at Fora Mall in Tagaytay City on September 20, 2024, providing employment opportunities for 230 jobseekers. Organized by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) in partnership with SK Provincial Federation and various national agencies, the event aimed to bridge the gap between jobseekers and employers across the province.



A total of 37 participating companies and national agencies which include PSA, NBI, Pag-ibig, SSS, OWWA, BIR, DTI and TESDA gathered to offer a wide range of career options. By the end of the day, 30 jobseekers were successfully hired on the spot, marking the event's success in matching talents with suitable roles.

The caravan is part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuous efforts to support employment and livelihood in the province. Through initiatives like this, more Caviteños gain access to meaningful job opportunities, contributing to local economic growth. **(J. Patulot)**

Rep. Marcoleta Naghain ng Panukalang Batas para sa Karagdagang Pondo ng mga Barangay

Inihain ni Rep. Rodante Marcoleta ang House Bill 9400 na layong magbigay ng direktang suportang pinansyal sa mga barangay sa buong bansa. Target ng panukalang ito na tulungan ang mga komunidad, lalo na sa 4th at 5th class na munisipalidad, sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng mga hindi nagagamit na pondo ng gobyerno upang palakasin ang pamamahala at kapabilidad ng mga barangay.

Ayon sa pag-aaral, 12% lamang ng halos 42,000 barangay ang may sapat na pondo para magpatuloy ng operasyon, habang karamihan ay **REP. MARCOLETA • 3**



2ND MEDICAL MISSION FOR FISHERFOLKS IN KAWIT: Tagumpay ang ikalawang taon ng ating medical mission para sa mga mangingisda ng ating Kawit sa Aguinaldo Shrine! Dahil sa ating programa na pinangunahan ng Kawit RHU ay maalwan nating nailapit sa mga kababayan nating mangingisda ang libheng check-up at mga medical service. Ito na ang pangalawang beses na naidaos natin ang programang ito na nakatutok para sa mga mangingisda at asahan n'yong ipagpapatuloy pa natin ito kasama si Mommy Armie Aguinaldo, ang buong Team Puso at Malasakit, at Kawit LGU. **#AlagangAngeloAguinaldo #RatedTripleA #PusoAtMalasakitParaSaAtingKawit #MayorAguinaldo**

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Wilcon's 98th store opens: Caviteños welcomes new destination for home and building solutions in Pala-Pala, Cavite



On September 13, 2024, the leading home and building solutions store opened store #98 in the burgeoning district of Pala-Pala, Cavite. This expansion echoes Wilcon's steady and strong commitment to bring high-quality building materials and home improvement solutions closer to the growing communities of Cavite, as it advances toward its #FlyingHighTo100 expansion campaign.

Pala-Pala in Cavite stands as an ideal spot for Wilcon's new store. Cavite, known as the Land of the Brave, is considered one of the best-loved destinations of investors due to the unmistakable potential of its local economy manifested by an increasing number of industrial establishments. Pala-Pala's steady development reflects a pressing need for reliable construction materials, modern home fixtures, and sustainable building solutions. This is where Wilcon Depot steps in, offering a one-stop destination for homeowners, professionals, and DIYers looking to turn their vision into reality. The trust and confidence that remains in the province encourage Wilcon to introduce its brands to a wider market.

Wilcon Depot's new store is another addition to the community. Although a milestone, Wilcon sees this successful launch a stepping stone to explore new opportunities for innovation and sustainability.

The opening of the Pala-Pala store marks another step toward Wilcon's ambitious #FlyingHighTo100 campaign. As the company continues to strengthen its presence nationwide, it is now just 2 stores away from its 100th store target for 2025. **► WILCON • 3**

PhilHealth board recommends end of single period confinement rule

The Benefits Committee (BenCom) of the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) Board of Directors has decided to create a new policy that would remove the single period of confinement rule.

In a meeting on Tuesday, Health Secretary and PhilHealth Board Chairman Teodoro Herbosa said the new policy would be recommended to the board en banc that is scheduled to meet on Friday.

The single period of confinement rule means that admissions and re-admissions due to the same illness or procedure within a 90-calendar day period shall only be compensated with one case rate benefit.

PhilHealth's All Case Rates Policy 2 (PhilHealth Circular 0035, series of 2013) states that availing of the benefit for the same illness or procedure – not separated from each other by more than 90 calendar days – will not be provided with a new benefit, until after the 90-calendar day period computed from the date of admission.

In 2023, the rule resulted in the denial of 26,750 claims, including community-acquired pneumonia, acute gastroenteritis, urinary tract infection, and chronic kidney disease.

"We are now in the era of the Universal Health Care Act of 2019, decades after the Philippine Medical Care Act of 1969," Herbosa said. "Technologies against fraud are also better today."

He added that health benefits policies must be fixed to bring down the out-of-pocket payments of Filipino families.



Emergency room at the San Lazaro General Hospital. **RUSSELL PALMA/THE MANILA TIMES FILE PHOTO**