

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME III • NO. 23

JANUARY 5 - 11, 2025

P10.00

Cavite PESO and TESDA Join Forces to Empower Job Seekers Through Contact Center Services NC II Training



In a bid to create opportunities for jobseekers, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, in partnership with TESDA Cavite Provincial Office, has successfully concluded the Community-Based Training on Contact Center Services NC II.

The program, held from November 27 to December 20, 2024, combined 13 days of online learning with 5 days of in-person training at the Cavite Provincial Capitol compound in Trece Martires City. Participants, including displaced POGO workers, OFWs, OFW dependents, and unemployed individuals, were trained to become certified customer service professionals, equipped with the skills to thrive in the fast-growing contact center industry.

Designed to address unemployment and skill gaps, the training program aimed to open doors to new career paths while fostering personal and professional growth. By empowering participants to meet industry standards, this initiative serves as a stepping stone for many toward financial stability and meaningful employment.

The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on December 20, 2024, at the Ceremonial Hall which featured inspiring messages from key leaders, including Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, PESO Manager, Ms. Evangeline E. Plazo, TESDA Cavite Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Earl Jim D. Sumaang, University and Community Partnership Supervisor - Foundever Philippines Corporation, and Mr. John Ray B. Malaca, President/TVI Head of IExcel School of Communication and Technical Skills, Inc., emphasizing the importance of education and perseverance in achieving success.

This collaborative initiative highlights the shared commitment of OPPEM and TESDA to uplift communities by providing life-changing opportunities through skill development and job placement. **(R. Tanael)**

DOST 2 Year-End 2024 RTEC Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony Showcases Progress and Innovation

December 27, 2024 — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 02 concluded 2024 on a high note with the Review and Technical Evaluation Committee (RTEC) Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony. The event celebrated the year's achievements while laying the groundwork for an impactful 2025.



One of the event's highlights is the awarding of P5.7 million in SETUP iFund support to three exemplary Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) - two from Cagayan Province and one from Isabela Province.

Additionally, the event recognized the contributions of RTEC members from various sectors for their invaluable efforts in the program's success. The iFund support and awards were presented by Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera and Assistant Regional Director Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, who commended **► DOST 2 YEAR-END • 3**

2025 budget to prioritize poorest students – Gatchalian

The government subsidy programs for private schools will prioritize the poorest learners in the selection of beneficiaries under fiscal year 2025, Senator Sherwin Gatchalian bared on Thursday.



The 2025 national budget carried Gatchalian's proposed amendments to the special provision on Government Assistance and Subsidies under the Department of Education (DepEd) budget.

Under the special provision, learners from low-income households will be prioritized in the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS-VP) and the Educational Service Contracting (ESC) Program.

Gatchalian said the special provision also specifies that learners from congested public schools will be given priority in the ESC.

Under the ESC program, the government shoulders the tuition and other fees of excess students in overcrowded junior public high schools who enter private schools contracted by the DepEd.

Under the SHS-VP, **► 2025 BUDGET • 7**

Lipa students learn science storytelling basics

"Effective storytelling is key to science writing," this was how Ingrid Espinosa, a science communication practitioner sums up her lecture to student journalists from Lipa City Colleges (LCC) in Lipa City, Batangas.



Espinosa shared that whether browsing science alerts, doing investigative projects in school, or observing local communities, storytelling is always easy to understand, entertaining, memorable, and relevant.

Additionally, she also highlighted that human interest, recency, locality, surprise, the power elite, follow-ups, shareability/relatability, controversy, novelty, and bad/good news are what shape news stories.

The lecture was part of the Science Journo Ako (SJA) science communication caravan held in Lipa City, Batangas held last November. The SJA is a science communication advocacy of the Department of Science and Technology through its Science and Technology Information Institute. The program aims to expand science communication at the

grassroots to capacitate young communicators to dive deeper into science and technology by creating awareness and communicating its benefits to the public.

She offered additional tips, such as focusing on positive notes and offering solutions, emphasizing the balance of compelling factors with accuracy, and the use of case studies to support data.

"The structure of a news story should be an inverted pyramid. Make sure to include quotations, further explanation, and the context of the topic," Espinosa said.

Additionally, Espinosa provided tips for student interviews: "It's important to do your research and plan. Don't be afraid to ask simple questions. Summarize to confirm, recheck quotes, and keep questions short and easy to understand."

As part of the



Student journalists from Lipa City Colleges convened as the two-day Science Journo Ako went to Lipa City to enhance their skills in creating science content across multimedia platforms on 21-22 November 2024. (Photos by Andrea Mei B. Resane, DOST-STII)

participants' immersion, Espinosa prepared a mini press conference for the students, allowing them to ask questions about Buddybetes, an application that helps manage blood sugar.

She commended the students for their active participation and ability to apply the interviewing techniques.

One participant asked whether quotations should be direct or paraphrased. Espinosa responded that direct quotations should be used when the statement is noteworthy and "magandang pakinggan" (pleasant to hear) in one sentence. Paraphrase when the

quote is used for an explanation.

Another participant inquired about the ideal length of a news article. Espinosa explained that news articles are typically 300 to 500 words long, while feature articles range from 500 to 800. "Anything beyond that is considered a long-form article," Espinosa emphasized.

When asked if there is a pattern in feature writing, Espinosa clarified that features do not follow the inverted pyramid structure of news articles and are usually free-flowing. "You can tease a bit more and be playful," she said.

Lastly, Espinosa reminded the students to consider various factors when writing articles, including diversity, background, power, interest, sensitivity, SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression), and stigma, as these aspects may affect readers' reactions.

She also reminded the participants to answer the questions, "Who is my audience?" and "What do I want them to do/feel?"

Espinosa was one of the three resource speakers that included Rosemarie Señora, Science Research Specialist I who discussed mobile photography and

photojournalism, and Allan Mauro Marfal, Information Officer III both of the DOST-STII who lectured on the topic social media content creation.

The second day of the event included a site visit, where participants gathered data and interviewed the beneficiaries of DOST Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program in Lipa, learning about the technologies, products, and services offered by these firms, which they could use to write science articles and produce photos and reels for the workshop. (By **Ryan Spencer P. Secadron, DOST-STII**)

Senator calls for action on triple planetary crisis

Climate change accelerates biodiversity loss, pollution harms ecosystems and habitat destruction, thus the need for decisive and coordinated action to address the environmental crises threatening the Philippines.

In a news release Friday, Senator Loren Legarda reaffirmed her commitment to addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis (TPC), which encompasses the interconnected environmental challenges of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

She said the TPC is not a distant threat, but an ongoing crisis with far-reaching impacts.

"The triple planetary crisis is no longer an abstract concern. It is happening now, and it's directly affecting our daily lives and our future," Legarda said, noting the need for urgent action.

As the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Champion for Resilience and Ambassador for Parliaments of the Climate Vulnerable Forum, she has frequently warned about the vicious cycle of these crises, especially in developing countries like the Philippines.

Highlighting the country's growing environmental challenges,

Legarda pointed to alarming plastic pollution statistics, with each Filipino consuming an average of 20 kilograms of plastic annually.

Of this, 15.4 kilograms end up as waste, making the Philippines the top contributor to global ocean plastic pollution, accounting for 36 percent of it.

The country's inadequate waste management infrastructure exacerbates this issue, and over 253,000 tons of hazardous waste were produced in 2022 alone, she noted.

Metro Manila also faces untreated wastewater discharges, with over 80 percent of it entering the environment, compounding health and environmental risks.

Legarda likewise raised concerns about air pollution, as the Philippines ranked 79th out of 134 nations in air quality in 2023.

"The effects of pollution and climate change are visible across the country. From intensified typhoons and flooding in Metro



(PNA file photo by Avito Dalan)

Manila to prolonged droughts in the provinces, these are not isolated incidents, but

consequences of our environmental degradation," she warned.

As one of the world's 18 mega-biodiverse countries, the Philippines is home to a significant portion of global biodiversity, yet its natural habitats face mounting threats.

Legarda stressed the importance of protecting the nation's biodiversity, which includes two-thirds of Earth's species and 5 percent of the world's flora.

"Addressing this crisis requires a whole-of-society approach," Legarda said,

calling for stronger collaboration among government, businesses and communities.

She also urged Filipinos to take proactive steps in protecting the environment for future generations.

Legarda acknowledged the existence of environmental laws, but emphasized the need for more robust policies to enhance climate resilience and promote sustainability.

"As we welcome 2025, we must resolve to make this year a turning point. The challenges of the triple planetary crisis are immense, but so too is our capacity to make a difference," Legarda said. (PNA)

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DOST 2 Year-End... (FROM PAGE 1)

both the awardees and beneficiaries for their unwavering dedication to fostering innovation and excellence. The event also served as an opportunity to engage with RTEC members, discussing observations and recommendations to enhance SETUP implementation for even greater impact.

Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Services, opened the event with her welcome remarks, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in driving technological innovation. She highlighted how the evaluation of proposals plays a vital role in aligning SETUP interventions with the specific needs of MSMEs for sustainable growth. She further emphasized that the activity promotes meaningful collaboration with RTEC members, fostering the identification of challenges and the development of effective strategies to enhance program implementation and ensure its ongoing

relevance and impact. She also acknowledged the awarded SETUP iFund beneficiaries, showcasing the importance of DOST SETUP in supporting MSMEs to achieve innovation and business growth.

In her keynote message, Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera underscored the power of collaboration and sustained efforts in fostering economic development. "We are proud of how far we've come this year, but our journey doesn't end here. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones in advancing regional growth," she stated.

Dr. Bilgera also extended heartfelt gratitude to the RTEC members for their dedication and invaluable contributions. "Your expertise and commitment have been instrumental in the success of our programs," she added.

Ms. Mary Ann D. Carpio, Supervising Science Research Specialist and SETUP Center Manager, presented the

accomplishments of the RTEC in 2024 and outlined the new SETUP Guidelines for RTEC endorsement and approval.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Carpio thanked all stakeholders and participants for their vital contributions to the program's success.

"SETUP is a collaborative effort, and every success we celebrate today is the result of teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision. Let's continue this momentum and transform lives through science and technology," she said.

As the ceremony concluded, attendees reflected on the achievements of 2024 and shared their aspirations for the future. Through this year-end gathering, DOST Region 02 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering innovation, supporting MSMEs, and driving economic growth in Cagayan Valley. By emphasizing the importance of thorough evaluation and collaboration, the region looks forward to an even brighter future for its enterprises and communities.

Researchers eye more partners to test hand-writing tool research

Local researchers have developed a handwriting assessment tool, are looking to get more partners to conduct more tests across the country.



The Intelligent Stroke Utilization, Learning, Assessment, and Testing (iSULAT) is an intelligent pen that provides a practical solution for assessing children's handwriting to provide objective evaluation based on the most common handwriting tools, such as tests of Visual-motor skills, Minnesota handwriting assessment, and an evaluation tool for children's handwriting.

The iSULAT has a microcontroller within the pen, which transmits data to a mobile application. The raw signal undergoes filtering, feature scaling, engineering data, and analyses before it is forwarded to the occupational therapist for diagnosis.

Through the pen, the occupational therapist can efficiently assess one's handwriting based on the alignment of letters, spacing, and consistency.

A separate report mentioned that the number of handwriting problems in developing children reached an approximate 5 to 25 percent range. Handwriting is still the most immediate form of graphic communication and failure to attain proficiency during the school-age year may result in far-reaching negative effects on both the academic success and self-esteem of a child.

This project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-

PCHRD), with a budget of PHP3.2 million for its initial phase.

"Yung mga ganitong invention, kailangan niyan ng testing. Hindi lang isa. Dapat time-test siya ng mas marami para mas ma-check kung accurate or kung maganda na yung pine-perform ng prototype," said Engr. Jomel Herras, Project Manager of iSULAT.

Engr. Herras added that his team is looking for more enthusiasts and partners who will help them promote iSULAT to gain more users from various locations.

The iSULAT is one of the technologies featured in the recently concluded 2024 National Science and Technology Week, held in Cagayan de Oro City from 26 November to 01 December 2024.

According to DOST-PCHRD, standardized assessments of children with developmental delays are quite expensive and must be done with the aid of an occupational therapist or handwriting experts. The therapy usually runs from 20 minutes up to one hour.

"Basically ina-address na problem ni iSULAT is yung kakulangan natin ng occupational therapists at mahal na cost ng therapy," said Engr. Herras. "Siguro yung pinaka rootproblem ay yung problema ng mga bata sa kanilang handwriting. They do it in their everyday lives. Nagsusulat sila even in Math, Arts, and English subjects. Yung ibang mga bata, hindi sila enthusiastic kaya akala natin tamad lang sila magsulat."

With the help of iSULAT,



Visitors of the 2024 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) try the iSULAT pen technology developed by researchers from the University of Sto. Tomas. This project was funded by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. (Photos courtesy of DOST-PCHRD)

children with handwriting problems can undergo simultaneous testing in batches or groups.

During phase I, the project team conducted pilot testing for children ages 6-10 in three sites across Luzon namely Villa Maria Elementary School in Porac, Pampanga; Juan Sumulong Elementary School in Metro Manila; and Bulacan Montessori School Inc. in Bulacan.

Herras said that phase I of the project started in 2022 and ended last 31 October 2024.

"Hopefully by 2026 ay mayroon nang phase II na kung saan ay maiaapply na natin ito hindi lang para sa mga bata," Herras explained. He added that the project targets those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD and autism.

This year, the project team has secured a partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Metro Manila for future testing. (By Claire Bernadette A. Mondares, DOST-STII)

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TICKETING

Doris Yin 2025 New Year's Greetings to Pi Network Community



Doris Yin

has been confirmed since Pi2 Day 2024.

Why am I so confident?

The reasoning is straightforward, and most analysts can understand it. If GCV cannot meet the expectations set by Core Team for the long-term success of the Pi Network, they would not provide us with a deadline for OM by Pi2Day of 2025 on Pi2Day 2024 nor would they issue the recent deadline of Q1 2025. It's important to remember that every project has its vision, mission, and goals. Considerable time and investment are put in to ensure that the project moves in the right direction. If the direction GCV does not align with their requirements, they cannot and will not give us the time frame for OM until we meet the necessary standards. Understand?

Therefore, those who argue against GCV clearly lack understanding of Pi Network, and we can totally ignore them. There's no need to explain or respond to their questions. Our Pioneers Handbook provides a strong theoretical foundation and guidelines for GCV helping Pi Network 100% succeed without any business risk. We already have more than 5 million GCV data on the blockchain, so there's no need to debate what is Pi value. The only GCV value is \$314,159. Our Pioneer's Handbook has been updated to topic #73 and translated into 30 major languages. Pioneers who wish to live happily should obtain a copy from the Telegram International Group. It can not only boost your confidence but also bring you peace of mind.

During the next 72 or 89 days, what should pioneers do? It's simple: study the

Dear Global Pioneers, GCV Ambassadors, and all GCV merchants,

Happy New Year to everyone! Today marks the first day of 2025! I hope you all feel confident and energized as we work towards a successful OM for the Pi Network in Q1.

In 2024, we made significant progress within the Pi Network. This progress serves as both motivation and a foundation for the current mass KYC and migration processes, which means we can finally anticipate a deadline for the OM—within a maximum of 89 days. Most likely, we will have the OM on Pi Day, which is just 72 days away. What has driven this success? GCV \$314,159

Pioneers Handbook. I recommend printing it out and reading it five times. This will contribute to the long-term success of the Pi Network, building this mindset is critical. Additionally, please share this Handbook with all your groups. It will help other pioneers develop a correct outlook on life and values.

If you are a merchant or know any merchants, please also share the Pioneers Handbook and my articles about partial Pi payments at GCV. This will help both your business and your friends' businesses by leveraging the GCV community to increase exposure and attract more customers. After the OM, they can join the Pi Network Web3 blockchain, which will give them an edge over competitors. Make sure they register on MapofPi and remember to include GCV \$314,159. CT needs to see how many merchants support GCV to determine how many pioneers can undergo KYC and migration. The logic here is straightforward: more GCV merchants signify lower failure risks and low policy violations. As demand for Pi increases in this region to support GCV ecosystem, this will lead to more KYC and migration opportunities in your area, including for high amounts of Pi wallets. We have witnessed already in GCV active countries which more than 10,000 or 20,000 above wallets have been migrated a lot.

We achieved significant success in 2024, and I am confident that we will achieve even greater success in 2025, culminating in our OM celebration in about 2-3 months. Isn't that exciting? Please block any accounts trying to convince you that your Pi value is \$10, \$100, \$1,000, or \$100,000. Ignore the noise; If you believe them, it will only slow down your region. GCV is unshakeable, and regions that support GCV and have more merchants in the ecosystem will gain more KYC and migration opportunities.

For all pioneers who are facing financial difficulties, this is your only one opportunity in life. Don't expect to still hold Pi if you choose to sell some for quick cash. Selling 10, 100, or even 1,000 Pi at this moment may entirely derail your chance for a better life because all your Pi account will be frozen. If you transfer your bought Pi from eco wallet to your own wallet, your policy violation will be tracked and all your accounts will be frozen. Any money spent to purchase Pi will be wasted.

All pioneers should learn to be good citizens who respect government regulations and act honestly. Never try to take advantage of others. Greed in the Pi Network can cost you the opportunity to change your life and lose all your investment in buying Pi.

I believe that most of our pioneers are honest, and you will be smart enough not to engage in harmful actions against others, the Pi Network, or yourselves. A person who knows how to navigate challenges is a hero. I wish for all pioneers to be heroes.

Once again, Happy New Year! I wish all of you health, happiness, and prosperity in 2025. **(Doris Yin - Founder, Global GCV Movement)**

DOH: Primary... (FROM PAGE 8)

the First Lady themselves, and some have been used during the disaster response for the health needs during the past disasters, typhoons, floods," Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said.

He added that these are complemented by 14 "PuroKalusugan" projects which provide primary health services to districts (purok) nationwide.

Maternal and child health, immunization, water, sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition services are provided to poor families through these.

Workforce support system

"The government supports local health systems by giving them a total of 19,425 local workers, salary from the DOH, nurse deployment program, midwife, nutritionist, doctors and others," Herbosa said.

He noted that there are local health systems but they lack doctors, midwives and other medical workers.

To address such needs, the DOH deployed 627 doctors to the barrios (communities). It also supported 253,537 Barangay Healthcare Workers and 1,623 local government units -- usually fifth and sixth-class municipalities and geographically isolated

and disadvantaged areas.

Nutrition, outbreak response

A total of PHP560 million fund was added to 235 local government units for achieving their targets for the first tranche of the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project.

It is a performance-based grant to curb malnutrition and stunting among children, particularly in poor communities.

This year, the DOH addressed the measles outbreak in the Baguio Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao through a vaccination program where 1.2 million or 87.9 percent of the target children were immunized.

The agency also issued the 2024 Action Plan for mpox from October to December. It prevented the spread of mpox infection through effective and timely contact tracing and monitoring of cases, creation of additional nine laboratories, risk communication interventions and community engagement activities with key populations, and capacity building for health implementers.

Coordination with international partners for acquisition of mpox commodities are ongoing. MAIFP and grants

As of Dec. 16, the Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients Program (MAIFP) has served 3.8 million patients. In the previous year, it served 4.5 million.

The Philippines received grants and contributions for Health System Resilience Project Phase I, Health4Life Fund, and World Health Organization (WHO) Round to ensure accessible quality health services.

The Philippines is one of the only three countries in the region to have completed a second joint external evaluation. It highlighted the progress across 19 technical areas, reflecting improvement in the nation's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to public health threats.

In terms of global leadership, the country achieved three WHO-verified emergency medical assistance teams and membership to Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.

Public health policies

Strengthening public health and safety measures, the DOH released administrative orders (AO) and department memoranda to address concerns in pharmaceutical products and health benefit packages, among others.

These include AO 2024-0013 or the Rules and

Regulations on the Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients intended for Human Use; and AO 2024-0012 Prescribing the Rules and Regulations on the Registration of Pharmaceutical Products and Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients Intended Solely for Export.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) via Circular 2024-02 Implementing Guidelines for the Konsultasyong Sulit at

Tama (Konsulta) made revisions to its consultation packages to better suit the needs of patients.

Apart from increasing the hemodialysis package rate, the PhilHealth recommended an increase in kidney transplant benefits and the removal of single period confinement in hospitals.

Rationalization of case rates for dengue hemorrhagic fever, eyeglasses for adults and children, mobility devices for the disabled, emergency care, and rare

diseases started this year.

A week before the year ends, Herbosa signed AO No. 2024-0017 removing the need for senior citizens to present a purchase booklet to drugstores when availing of the 20-percent discount on prescribed medicines.

"I am also a senior citizen. I know it is hard to always bring a purchase booklet with you. Seniors need the discount on their medicines, and we must make it easy for them to get that," he said in a statement. **(PNA)**

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Lumari Calls on GCV Ambassadors to Onboard 200,000 Merchants to the Map of Pi – A Bold Step Towards Pi Network's Future

LUMARI REPORTS



Ms. Lumari

In a powerful call to action, Lumari, the Executive Director of the Pi GCV Core Team, has issued an urgent call to all Pi Network GCV Ambassadors and pioneers to: onboard 200,000 merchants to the Map of Pi within the next 88 days. This ambitious mission aims to solidify Pi Network's position as a dominant force in the digital currency space and ensure the growth of GCV as a recognized value for Pi transactions.

"This is our moment to make a massive impact on Pi Network's future," said Lumari. "The success of Pi depends on the merchants who accept it, and we have the opportunity to build a thriving ecosystem. Together, we can create something revolutionary that will stand the test of time."

A Vision for Transformation: The Strategic Roadmap Lumari's plan to onboard 200,000 merchants is

nothing short of transformative, not just for Pi Network, but for the entire cryptocurrency landscape. With the collective power of Pi Network's ambassadors, this goal is within reach. The strategic action plan includes five key initiatives designed to drive rapid progress and ensure the success of this mission:

1. Formation of a Distributed Task Force: A specialized team of Ecosystem and Education Ambassadors will be formed, responsible for merchant acquisition and providing in-depth education on the benefits of Pi and GCV.

2. Merchant Outreach Strategies: In the first 15 days, ambassadors will begin targeted outreach campaigns. This will include hosting Pi payment workshops, bartering events, and collaborating with local influencers to expand Pi's reach and adoption.

3. Streamlining the Merchant Sign-Up Process: To eliminate obstacles, the team will launch an intuitive digital portal that simplifies merchant registration. Regional helpdesks will be set up to support and assist merchants throughout the process.

4. Education Campaign on GCV and Merchant Benefits: A robust education campaign will engage merchants through webinars, live streams, and success stories that highlight the immense value and security Pi payments offer.

5. Progress Tracking and Accountability: To ensure success, daily merchant onboarding numbers will be tracked. Weekly regional virtual meetings will provide a

platform for accountability and the sharing of progress, insights, and challenges.

A Call to Action: Be Part of Pi Network's Legacy

Lumari's call to action is clear: the future of Pi is in the hands of its pioneers. This mission is more than just numbers—it's about shaping the future of finance and creating lasting value for businesses and communities worldwide.

"Every ambassador has a critical role to play. Every action you take, every merchant you onboard, contributes to a legacy that will change the world," Lumari declared. "This is a movement, and we are all pioneers of this new economic era. Let's unite, push forward with purpose, and make history."

The Time for Action is Now

The vision for Pi Network's future is bright, but it requires bold, decisive action. With the strategic plan in place and the support of a passionate global community, Lumari believes the goal of onboarding 200,000 merchants is achievable—and it's just the beginning.

"Let's show the world the power of Pi and GCV. Let's prove that we are not just part of the future of finance—we are shaping it."

Together, we have the power to unlock a new chapter in Pi Network's journey. Let's seize this opportunity and make history. The next 88 days are critical—and the time to act is now. **(Lumari - Executive Director of the Pi GCV Core Team)**

GCV Vision 2025: The Future of the Pi Network

As the world enters a new era, blockchain movements are witnessing rapid transformations. Within this context, the Global Consensus Value (GCV) movement of the Pi Network is asserting itself as a pivotal milestone in the network's development journey.

With the vision of GCV 2025, Pioneers around the globe are working together toward a stable and sustainable future for the Pi Network. Let us revisit the core values of the GCV movement and set ambitious goals for this year.

1. GCV: The Heart of the Pi Ecosystem

GCV stands for Global Consensus Value, shaped by the collective agreement of Pioneers. Why is GCV so important?

- Preserving Pi's Value: GCV establishes a foundational value for Pi, ensuring it remains protected from manipulation or devaluation.

- Attracting Business Partnerships: The GCV pricing encourages merchants to accept Pi payments, thus expanding the ecosystem.

- Strengthening Community Trust: Every Pioneer

participating in the GCV movement contributes to building a future of fairness and prosperity.

2. Goals of the GCV Movement for 2025

The key objectives for 2025 include:

1. Promoting Global Acceptance of GCV

- Expand the number of countries participating in the movement.

- Connect merchants and businesses to embrace GCV.

2. Building a Sustainable Ecosystem

- Increase transactions using Pi at GCV.

- Encourage hybrid payments (part Pi, part fiat).

3. Showcasing Success Stories

- Share the stories of Pioneers who have successfully implemented GCV in real-life scenarios.

3. The Role of Pioneers: The Driving Force of the Movement

Pioneers play a central role in shaping the GCV 2025 vision. This includes:

- Advocating Consistent Value: Upholding GCV in daily transactions.

- Engaging Businesses: Introducing and supporting

merchants in joining the ecosystem.

- Spreading the GCV Spirit: Enhancing understanding of the consensus value.

4. Conclusion: Building the Future Together

The vision of GCV 2025 is not just a goal but a promise for the future of the Pi Network. Let us continue to invest our passion, strength, and unity to make the Pi Network a shining star in the global blockchain landscape.

Join the GCV movement today and be part of history! **(JoJo - Asst Executive Director, Asst Committee Chair GCV Core Team)**



JoJo

Strictly enforce Clean Air Act amid alarming air quality – Legarda

Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday urged the authorities to strictly implement the Clean Air Act after Metro Manila's air quality reportedly reached "very unhealthy" levels during the New Year celebrations.

"Excessive fireworks celebrations across Metro Manila pose lots of risks, not only the safety of external body parts but also to the lungs and nose because of the excessive amount of smoke released by burning gunpowder," Legarda said in a news release.

"The Clean Air Act mandates the State to assure that the air we breathe in is safe and is devoid of impurities that might pollute our respiratory systems."

According to reports, several Metro Manila cities tallied alarming levels of air pollution as the National Capital Region (NCR) was enveloped in a thick cloud of smoke on Wednesday morning.

"Over 25 years ago, we mandated the government to regulate carbon emissions, and until now, not much have been done in curtailing the increased pollution during the turn of the calendar," lamented the senator who authored and co-sponsored the law.

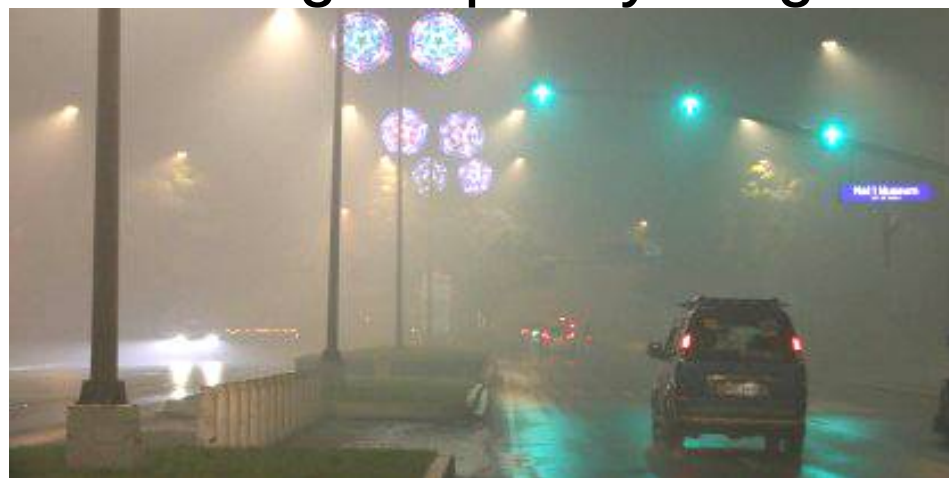
"We should strictly implement the banning of illegal fireworks, and curb pollution by minimizing fireworks displays in specific areas assigned by local government units to help avoid any untoward injuries or damage to properties sustained in fires caused by wayward projectiles."

Legarda also called to activate air quality monitoring stations, which

could provide real-time updates to residents needing them to make informed decisions.

"As online resources are readily available at our disposal, I call on the DENR (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to establish data centers, especially in Metro Manila, as air quality is just as important as typhoon updates provided by PAGASA (Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration)," she said.

It was one of the landmark pieces of legislation concerning the environment, as pollution in the NCR worsened due to smoke from vehicle emissions, leading to



UNHEALTHY. Thick smog envelopes Rizal Park and surrounding roads Roxas Boulevard, Finance Road, and TM Kalaw Avenue in Manila after various fireworks displays on Jan. 1, 2025. Senator Loren Legarda on Thursday (Jan. 2, 2025) urged the authorities to strictly implement the Clean Air Act after Metro Manila's air quality reached "very unhealthy" levels during the New Year celebrations. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

periodic checks from testing centers.

On Thursday, Jundy del Socorro, chief of the Air Quality Management Section of the DENR's Environmental

Management Bureau confirmed that air pollution in Metro Manila spiked alarmingly after the New Year revelry.

He said Makati City that registered the highest air

pollution level, describing it as "very unhealthy."

While the guideline for PM10 is 150 micrograms per cubic meter, Makati recorded levels as high as 390. **(PNA)**

PSA to fete Carlos Yulo as 2024 Athlete of the Year

Carlos Yulo made everything moot and academic.

The human dynamo gymnast made history as the first ever Filipino athlete to win two gold medals in the Paris Olympics in a fitting exploit celebrating the country's century of participation in the Summer Games.

Yulo, 24, scored the rare double gold by topping the men's floor exercise and vault, respectively, leading the Philippines to a feat the country has never done before in the annals of the quadrennial showcase.

For such a breakthrough accomplishment, this one was a no-brainer as Yulo was the overwhelming choice as the 2024 Athlete of the Year by the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) in its coming Awards Night on Jan. 27 at the grand ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

Yulo became the first gymnast since young Pia Adelle Reyes in 1997 to be recognized as Athlete of the Year by the country's oldest media organization in its traditional gala night backed by San Miguel Corporation and co-presented by ArenaPlus, Signal, and MediaQuest.

Aside from the Athlete of the Year, several awards are also lined up during the formal presentation where the Philippine Sports

Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, MILO, PLDT/Smart, Senator Bong Go, and Januarius Holdings serve as major sponsors and with support from the PBA, PVL, 1-Pacman Party List, AcroCity, Rain or Shine, and Akari.

The NSA of the Year, Major Awardees in other sports, President's Award, Executive of the Year, Citations, Tony Siddayao Awards, as well as the Hall of Fame and Special Recognition to Filipino Olympians – the Paris Olympics and Paralympics included – will be handed out in the event recognizing the best in Philippines sports for the year 2024.

"From a great Olympic performance to an even greater Olympic show, and from one big breakthrough to an even bigger breakthrough – thanks to Carlos Yulo whose giant feat we will celebrate in handling him our highest accolades," said PSA President Nelson Beltran, sports editor of The Philippine Star, of recognizing the Filipino gymnast with the highest individual honor by the country's sportswriting community.

Yulo's triumph was a fitting follow up on weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz

ending the country's search for its first Olympic gold during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics when she triumphed in the women's 55kg class final in dramatic fashion.

Ironically, it was in the same Japanese capital where the gymnast from Leveriza, Manila had his first taste of Olympic competitions, eventually only qualifying in the men's vault final and falling short of a podium finish.

Four years later, Yulo was back with vengeance in his eyes.

After a disappointing finish in the floor exercise in the Tokyo Games, Yulo emerged on top of his pet event by compiling a scoring total of 15.000 points, beating reigning champion Artem Dolgopyat of Israel (14.966) for the Philippines' first gold in Paris.

The euphoria of becoming the first Filipino gymnast to win an Olympic gold has yet to die down when Yulo added another mint to his collection by ruling the men's vault final with a 15.116 total over Arthur Davtyan of Armenia (14.966).

By rewriting history, Yulo lined himself up as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, Filipino athletes of all time.



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR. Carlos Yulo proudly displays one of his two Paris Olympics gold medals for the media upon arrival at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Aug. 13, 2024. The Philippine Sportswriters Association is set to recognize Yulo as Athlete of the Year in its Awards Night at the Manila Hotel on Jan. 27, 2025. (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

PH to send 20 athletes to Asian Winter Olympics next month

After winning three gold medals in the Paris Olympics, the Philippines is setting its sights on a first-ever medal at the 2026 Winter Olympics.



Sofia Lexi Jacqueline Frank, figure skating (Facebook)

"We've already accomplished the dream in the Summer Olympics – three gold medals in consecutive games. And that dream we want to also achieve in the Winter Olympics," said Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino in a news release on Wednesday.

For starters, the Philippines will send 20 athletes to the 9th Asian Winter Games on Feb. 7 to 14 in Harbin, China.

There are no available accurate records as to how many Filipinos have competed in the first eight editions of the Asian Winter Games, but Tolentino believed the team to Harbin is the biggest.

"And our athletes are competing in six of the 11 sports on the Harbin program," he said.

Marc Angelo Pfister, Enrico Gabriel Pfister,

Christian Patrick Haller, Alan Beat Frei, Jessica Pfister, Benjo Delarmente, Kathleen Dubberstein, Leilani Dubberstein, Sheila Mariano and Anne Marie Bonache make up the team competing in curling, one of the most-watched winter sports discipline.

The Curling Winter Sports of the Philippines, which was established late last year, joined Philippine Skating Union and Philippine Ski and Snowboarding Association in the POC roster.

Other members of Team Philippines managed by chef de mission Richard Lim are Paolo Borromeo, Aleksandr Korovin, Cathryn Limketkai, Isabella Marie Gamez and Sofia Lexi Jacqueline Frank in figure skating; Francis Ceccarelli and Talullah Proulx in Alpine skiing; Laetaz Amihan Rabe in freestyle skiing; Peter Joseph Groseclose in short track speed skating and Adrian Tongco in snowboarding.

A total of 64 events will be contested in Harbin, which also hosted in 1996. China organized the 3rd Asian Winter Games in Changchun (2007).

Japan has dominated the Asian Winter Games followed by China and Kazakhstan. It hosted the first edition in Sapporo (1986) and the last edition in Sapporo and Obihiro (2017).

Meanwhile, Italy will host the 25th Winter Olympics in the cities of Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo from Feb. 6 to 22, 2026.

"The Winter Olympics are as extremely tough as the Summer Olympics, but we have proven that it could be done," Tolentino said.

Weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo produced the country's first gold medal in Tokyo (2020) and gymnast Carlos Yulo delivered two golds in Paris (2024). (PNA)

Top padel player Agra to join Melbourne Open

Jessica Agra is determined to improve her International Padel Federation (FIP) ranking by joining more tournaments this year.

She is currently at No. 340 in the FIP ranking, which is the world governing body of the sport.

In the Philippine Padel Association (PPA) women's pro rankings, she is No. 1 with 6960 points.

PPA founder Alenna Dawn Magpantay is second with 5740 points, followed by Christine Patrimonio (3900), Bambi Zoleta (3420), Mayumi Penntoft (2660) and Joanna Tan (2600). Alessa Belbes, Jessica Lucas and Michelle Dickson are tied for eighth place with 2000 points each.

"It's nice to end the year taking the No. 1 spot since 2024 was the year I shifted my focus to sports again and took padel seriously. The hard work is starting to pay off and I'm proud of my progress in 2024," said the 32-year-old lawyer in an interview on Thursday.

First on her list is the Melbourne Open, a silver category event in the 2025 Cupra FIP Tour scheduled



next week.

Agra is teaming up with Japan national team member Yoshino Kushima, who is No. 301 in the world.

They are ranked No. 8 in the tournament with 23 points (Agra with 10 and Kushima, 13) behind Marcella Koek and Bo Lutikhuis of the Netherlands (682 points), Catherine Rose and Aimee Gibson of Great Britain (359), Maaikie Betz and Janine Hemmes of the Netherlands (193), Carla Fernandez Gonzalez and Norea Guerra Santana of Spain (102), Marie-Amelie Dardaine and Camille Sireix of France (101), Victoria Kurz and Denise

Hofer of Germany (92), and Kotomi Ozawa of Japan and Constanza Sampaio Kokorelis of Portugal (44).

Agra, a former top junior tennis player who bagged three ITF doubles titles, was ranked No. 2 in the Asia Pacific Padel Tour (APPT) rankings last May after winning the Phuket Open in Thailand with Indonesian Beatrice Gumulya.

After taking the No. 1 spot in June, she started competing in events sanctioned by FIP, teaming up with Fil-Omani Sarah Al Balushi in Abu Dhabi, Swiss national player Gaelle Rey in Manila and Mexican Elizabeth Hernandez in Dubai. (PNA)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 109
CITY OF CARMONA, CAVITE
2Flr., Hall of Justice Bldg., Brgy. Maduya,
Carmona, Cavite
Email add: rtc2cac109@judiciary.gov.ph:
Tel. No. (046) 4828527

EJF-2024-108
For: EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135,
AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

CEBUANA LHUILLIER RURAL BANK, INC.,
Creditor/Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. EMELITA and ANGELO PARAOAN,
Mortgagors.

X-----X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the creditor/mortgagee, **CEBUANA LHUILLIER RURAL BANK, INC.**, with postal address at P.J.L. Building, Gen. Evangelista St., corner Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Barangay Zapote 1, Bacoar City, Cavite, against the mortgagor, **SPS. EMELITA and ANGELO PARAOAN**, with postal address/es at Block 8 Lot 2 Phase 1, Flintridge Street, Canyon Ranch, Barangay Lantic, Carmona, Cavite, and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 25 October, 2024 amounts to **FOUR MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY and 04/100 (PhP4,356,360.04)**, exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned or his duly authorized representative will SELL at public auction on **February 6, 2025 at 1:00 o'clock in the afternoon** at the Court Room of Branch 109, Regional Trial Court, Hall of Justice Building, Carmona, Cavite to the highest bidder for CASH or MANAGER'S CHECK, in Philippine currency, the mortgaged property/ies with all the improvements thereon to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021005574

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BRGY. OF LANTIC, MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:
"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 2, BLK. 8 OF THE SUBDIVISION PLAN PSD-04- 181473, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 2, PSD-04-169122, LRC RECORD NO. N-61423), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF LANTIC, MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, BOUNDED ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 1715-A-1, PSD-04-169122: ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 3: ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY ROAD LOT 18; AND ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 1. ALL OF PSD-04-181473 OF THE SUBDIVISION PLAN, BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" ON PLAN, BEING S. 49 DEG. 45'W., 1,046.03 M. FROM BLLM NO. 10 CAD-285 CARMONA CADASTRE: THENCE N. 05 DEG. 23'E., 8.00 M. TO PT. 2: THENCE S. 84 DEG. 27'E., 11.02 M. TO PT. 3; THENCE S. 05 DEG. 23'W., 8.00 M. TO PT. 4: THENCE N. 84 DEG. 27'W., 11.02 TO THE PT. OF BEGINNING. CONTAINING AN AREA OF **EIGHTY EIGHT (88) SQUARE METERS**. ALL POINTS REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND BY P.S. CYL. CONC., MONS. 15 X 40 CMS. BEARINGS TRUE; DATE OF ORIG. SURVEY: AUGUST 1940 – MAY 1941 AND THAT OF THE SUBDIVISION SURVEY, AUGUST 1 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2005 AND WAS APPROVED ON DECEMBER 1, 2005."

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **February 13, 2025** at the same time and place without further notice.

16th day of December, 2024 at City of Carmona, Cavite.

(Sgd.) **BON GERARD D. ASCAÑO**
Clerk of Court VI
& Ex-Officio Sheriff

Prepared by:
(Sgd.) **JOSEPH R. DIOKNO**
Sheriff-In-Charge

Copy furnished:

CEBUANA LHUILLIER RURAL BANK, INC.
c/o **ATTY. LIANNE MAE D. ENRIQUEZ /**
ATTY. CLAUDETTE Z. VIANZON
P.J.L. Building Gen. Evangelista St., corner Emilio Aguinaldo Highway

2025 Budget... (FROM PAGE 1)

qualified SHS learners from participating private and non-DepEd schools receive subsidies in the form of vouchers.

For fiscal year 2025, PHP12.077 billion will be allotted for the ESC while PHP27.024 billion will be allocated for the SHS-VP.

Last year, Gatchalian flagged that 68 percent of ESC recipients for School Year (SY) 2020-2021 were from non-poor households or those with incomes above or equal to the per capita threshold.

"Fifty-nine percent of ESC recipients from SY 2019-2020 were from non-poor households," he added.

Based on higher-end estimates by the office of the chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, the leakage from the ESC program amounts to PHP8.6 billion.

The findings were derived from an analysis conducted by the senator's office using data from the 2020 and 2022 Annual Poverty Indicators Surveys (APIS).

Using the same data from the 2020 and 2022 APIS, Gatchalian's office also found that 70 percent of SHS-VP beneficiaries for SY 2020-2021 were from non-poor households.

During that school year, PHP7.21 billion or 53 percent of the PHP13.69 billion allocated for the SHS-VP was directed to these non-poor learners.

For SY 2019-2020, Gatchalian said 64 percent of SHS-VP beneficiaries were from non-poor households. During that year, PHP7.30 billion or 39 percent of the PHP18.76 billion allocated for the SHS-VP went to non-poor learners.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed the PHP6.326-trillion national budget for 2025 on Dec. 30, 2024.

Under Republic Act 12116, or "An Act Appropriating Funds for the Operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2025," a total of PHP1.05 trillion has been allocated to the education sector. (PNA)

2024 SETUP... (FROM PAGE 8)

The following winners were recognized in various categories:

Provincial Winners
Ilocos Norte: Bakers Ph
Ilocos Sur: Costales Rice Mill

La Union: Jaypee's Bakeshop
Pangasinan: Net Atlas Printers Plus

Most Productive
Ilocos Norte: Laring's Meat and Processed Food Products Retailing
Ilocos Sur: Niks Printing Shop

La Union: Mae Wood Crafts Manufacturing
Pangasinan: Elisha Bay Dagupan Bangus and Seafoods

Most Resilient
Ilocos Norte: Citipoint Metalcraft
Ilocos Sur: Manang Cora Sugarcane Products Manufacturing
La Union: JC Laroco Rice Mill

Pangasinan: Dizon's Welding Shop

Most Agile

Ilocos Norte: Lucky Theo Food Products
Ilocos Sur: Royal Maharlika Wellness and Livelihood Training Center, Inc.
La Union: Jaypee's Bakeshop
Pangasinan: Toning Digital Printing

Most Innovative:
Ilocos Norte: Niña Leather Ph
Ilocos Sur: Wynn's Food Products
La Union: Calica's Fruit Products
Pangasinan: Net Atlas Printers Plus

Most Sustainable
Ilocos Norte: Adams Inuwayan Food Products
Ilocos Sur: Malakas Farm Livelihood Development Center
La Union: Dr. Ronald Alwit Farm
Pangasinan: Mama Cili Enterprises

(Alyzza Jane N. Gapuz and Ryan Christian A. Manzano)

Brgy. Zapote 1, Bacoar City, Cavite

SPS. EMELITA and ANGELO PARAOAN
Block 8 Lot 2 Phase 1 Flintridge St., Canyon Ranch, Barangay Lantic, Carmona, Cavite

Publication: SUNDAY TRIBUNE NEWS PUBLISHING
Dates: December 22 & 29, 2024 & January 5, 2025

PALAISSIPAN

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PAHALANG
1 Idistansiya
5 Bawal
10 Lusog
11 Panghukay ng lupa
12 Kabisera ng Guam
14 _____ Eclipse
15 Igat
16 Asal
17 Ms. Villania
18 May sakit: Ingles
20 Kalibre: daglat
21 Tatak ng kotse
22 Kapatid na baba
25 _____ CBN
26 Ms. Chiu
29 Limit
31 Karerahan
33 Unang buwan
34 Baul
35 Langis
36 Auntie

37 Abenida sa Makati
38 Kaloob
PABABA
1 Ibalabal
2 Kondisyon
3 Istorbo
4 Payak
6 Sangkap ng nganga
7 Plano
8 Pangamba
9 Bulol
13 Intindi
14 Pandidiri
19 Library: daglat
22 Pangalang pambabae
23 Bayan sa Rizal
24 Reyna sa santacrusan
26 Alagad
27 Loob ng bayan
28 Uri ng tinapay
30 Leksiyon
32 Saludar

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN

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Dagdag Kaalaman

Sunod sa Beatles, ang Led Zepellin ang may pinakamaraming plaka at CD na nabenta. Umabot ito sa 200 million hanggang 300 million na kopya.

2024 SETUP PRAISE Awards Recognize Excellence in MSMEs Across Region 1

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Regional Office 1 recognized the 2024 SETUP PRAISE Awardees during Regional SETUP & CEST Summit at the DMMMSU-International Convention Center in Bacnotan, La Union, recently.



The PRAISE Awards for MSMEs celebrate outstanding micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have excelled and flourished through the support of the SETUP program.

Leading this year's winners is Costales Rice Mill from Magsingal, Ilocos Sur, hailed as the 2024 Regional SETUP PRAISE Awardee. The firm earned this prestigious recognition for its outstanding technological innovations, unwavering resilience, and commitment to sustainable practices. Costales Rice Mill's efforts in modernization and its significant contributions to the community made them the trend-setter of rice mill facility in the region.

► 2024 SETUP • 7



PUSO AT MALASAKIT
PARA SA ATING KAWIT

RATED
TRIPLE A

PAABISO

Hanggang **January 20, 2025** lamang ang
Business Permit Renewal WITHOUT
Penalties or Surcharges

Bukas ang BPLO sa Munisipyo mula Lunes
hanggang Huwebes, simula
8:00 AM hanggang 7:00 PM

MAYOR
AGUINALDO

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SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME III • NO. 23 • JANUARY 5 - 11, 2025 • P10.00

BI intensifies manhunt vs. 11K POGO workers still in PH

The Bureau of Immigration (BI) is mounting an intensified manhunt against over 11,000 foreign nationals involved in Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGO).



NO LET-UP. Some foreign POGO workers undergo immigration processing before leaving the country in this undated photo. The BI said Friday (Jan. 3, 2025) that it would mount an intensified manhunt against more than 11,000 POGO workers who are still in the Philippines and are now considered illegal aliens. (Photo courtesy of BI)

According to Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado, a total of 11,254 foreign POGO workers are set to be deported.

"I have ordered our intelligence division to initiate the search for those at large. They are considered illegal aliens now. Expect an intensified manhunt against these illegal aliens. The order of the President is clear. No more POGO in the Philippines," the BI chief said in a news release on Friday.

He explained that those that will be deported are the ones who did not downgrade and leave the country before the Dec. 31, 2024 deadline.

Also included are those who downgraded but still failed to leave on or before the deadline.

"Foreign nationals who continue to disobey this will be arrested, deported, and blacklisted. No exceptions," Viado said.

BI data showed that out of the 33,863 POGO employees under the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., 24,779 downgraded their visas. A total of 22,609 foreign POGO workers left the country before the deadline. (PNA)

DOH: Primary, emergency care upheld in 2024 to ensure health for all

The Department of Health (DOH) prioritized projects promoting primary and emergency care, and local health systems in 2024, establishing the implementation of the Universal Healthcare Law that was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

To bring the best urgent care and ambulatory services to the poorest families, Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Services (BUCAS) Centers were opened.

Twenty of the centers are in Luzon, eight in Visayas, and 14 in Mindanao.

The first of the 42 BUCAS Centers opened in Santo Tomas, Pampanga on March 6 and has served over 35,000 persons to date.

Free basic healthcare services are provided through the 83 Bagong Pilipinas (New Philippines) Mobile Clinics with complete equipment — digital X-



HEALTHCARE FOR ALL. Bagong Pilipinas mobile clinics for dispatch from Manila North Harbor Port in Manila on Sept. 20, 2024. The mobile clinics provide primary healthcare services, especially in underserved and disadvantaged areas. (Photo courtesy of Malacañang Press Corps)

ray, CT scan, ultrasound, hematology analyzer for blood tests, binocular microscope, ophthalmoscope for eye tests, lab-grade

refrigerator and telemedicine equipment.

"All the provinces have one, we have distributed them, the President and ► **DOH: PRIMARY • 4**