

MPTC expressways gear up for Undas, urges motorists to be expressway-ready

Easytrip RFID Stations

OUTSIDE EXPRESSWAYS

- Angeles Southbound
- Caltex EDSA Balintawak
- Robinsons Galleria
- Shell Mindanao
- Shell Marilao
- Mamplasan Rotonda

Customer Service Centers

- CAVITEX CS Link CSC
- NLEX Tabang CSC
- NLEX San Fernando CSC

CAVITEX

- Kawit
- Kawit Toll Plaza
- Longos Bacoor
- Parañaque Toll Plaza

Customer Service Centers

- CAVITEX CSC - Manila bound
- CAVITEX CSC - Cavite bound

CAVITEXCSLINK

- CAVITEX CS Link - Merville Entry
- CAVITEX CS Link - Taguig Entry

CALAX

- Laguna Blvd B Toll Plaza
- Santa Rosa
- Santa Rosa Toll Plaza
- Silang Aguinaldo Interchange
- Silang East B Toll Plaza

Customer Service Center

- CALAX Greenfield (Mamplasan) CSC

NLEX/SC/LEX

- CityMall SCTEX Concepcion
- Balintawak Toll Plaza
- Bocause Toll Plaza
- Espana Toll Plaza
- NLEX Drive & Dine
- NLEX Balintawak AOV
- NLEX Mindanao CSC
- Patron Lakeshore
- Shell of Asia
- Shell Balagtas
- Tarlac Toll Plaza
- Total SFEX Southbound

Customer Service Centers

- NLEX Balintawak CSC
- NLEX Valenzuela CSC

in need of medical advice or assistance during their travel.

Smart will also provide free internet access and charging stations in selected areas for motorists to stay connected and keep their devices powered up while on the road.

Be expressway-ready

In addition to being physically and mentally prepared, ensuring your vehicle is in good condition, and observing road safety practices — a working RFID sticker will make your journey smoother.

With the busy holiday season ahead, MPTC encourages the motoring public to have their old RFID stickers replaced at the nearest Ea-

sytrip station or Customer Service Centers to avoid inconvenience while on the road.

"We encourage motorists to be expressway-ready by ensuring that they have sufficient load in their RFID accounts for a hassle-free journey. Let's drive responsibly so we can all arrive at our destinations safely, and spend more time with our loved ones," said MPTC President and CEO Rogelio L. Singson.

For regular updates and road safety tips, check out MPTC expressways' official Facebook accounts @NLEXexpressways, @OfficialCALAX, and @CCLEXexpressway; along with its 24/7 hotline at 1-35000.

About Metro Pa-

cific Tollways Corpora-

tion: Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) is in the business of developing and operating toll roads in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Vietnam. It is the most significant toll road developer in the Philippines, with a current portfolio of tollways that includes the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SC-TEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (CAVITEX), Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX), and NLEX Connector Road (NLEX Connector).

MPTC also has investments in Indonesia via PT Nusantara, whose

operations comprise toll roads, ports, water, and energy generation and distribution, and in Vietnam's CII Bridges & Roads

Investment Joint Stock Company, which is primarily engaged in the construction, development, and operations of urban infrastructure.

MPTC recently accelerated its digital transformation and expanded its business offerings via its two new business units — MPT Digital Inc. and MPT Mobility.

MPTC is the tollways infrastructure unit of Metro Pacific Investments Corp. MPIC is one of three key Philippines units of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co. Ltd.

[easytripPH](#)
[EasytripRFID](#)
[1-35000](#)
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Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation reactivates its Safe Trip Mo, Sagot Ko (SMSK) motorists assistance program to ensure safe and convenient travel during Undas.

With an expected combined surge in traffic volume across its expressways — NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CALAX, and CCLEX — the MPTC Group is ready to assist motorists through its increased personnel deployment, 24/7 traffic condition monitoring and incident response, and enhanced traffic management measures to guide motorists.

To ensure smooth travel experience of motorists — emergency and medical incident response teams will be deployed strategically within the expressways. MPTC will also offer free towing service for Class 1 vehicles up to the nearest exit from 6 AM of October 31 to 6 AM of November 4.

Roadworks and lane closures in MPTC expressways will be suspended from October 30 to November 4 — except for emergency safety repairs.

Plan trip ahead, travel on non-peak hours if possible

Motorists are encouraged to plan their trips and may use the MPT DriveHub app which provides traffic updates, toll fee calculator, reloading facility for RFID accounts, and emergency roadside assistance.

Since high traffic volume is anticipated in its major expressways like NLEX, the public is advised of heavy northbound traffic on October 31 from 6 AM to 10 PM and November 1 from 5 AM to 2 PM. For Manila-bound travelers, expect high traffic volume on November 2, 3 PM to 10 PM, and November 3, 2 PM to November 4, 8 AM.

As part of the MVP Group's commitment to further provide comfort to motorists during the busy Undas period, Maynilad will provide bottles of drinking water to be distributed to travelers at the SMSK motorist camps, ensuring they stay hydrated throughout their journey.

Meanwhile, mWell — Philippines' first fully integrated health and wellness mega app — will set up booths in rest and refuel areas along the expressways, offering health consultations to motorists

CARD MRI vows to continue its poverty reduction efforts

SAN PABLO, Laguna — The Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Mutually Reinforcing Institutions vowed to continue its poverty reduction efforts in the country, remaining committed to driving meaningful, sustainable change.

At least 15 media practitioners nationwide were recently invited to a "PANAGHIUSA: CARD MRI Exposure Tour Program for Media" to witness the CARD's progress since it started in the 1980s and the changes it brought to its clients in San Pablo City.

Jeffrey Tandingan, manager of the CARD MRI Publishing House, said the tour program aims to provide media practitioners with a comprehensive understanding of CARD MRI's mission as the microfinance institution dedicated to fighting poverty in the country.

"Our goal is to foster a deeper understanding that CARD MRI is not just a lending institution, but a social



development organization fully committed to assisting marginalized communities in their efforts to improve their quality of life," Tandingan told the media in a local dialect.

The CARD MRI Publishing House, in partnership with Hijos Tour, two of the 29 institutions of the CARD MRI, toured the media from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao to San Pablo City, Sampaloc, and Mojicap Lakes, providing a brief history of the city and about the seven lakes in San Pablo.

During a tour at Mojicap Lake, 34-year-old Marilyn Maghirang, a natural healer, emphasized the importance of taking good care of the country's flora and fauna. She also discussed and showed

how medicinal plants play a crucial role in human health and well-being, which they still practice.

A 58-year-old farmer and cook of the Ylaya at Sta. Elena, Joel Frago, showed the media during lunch how to prepare the one and only "pancit kalabuko," which he started to make so his wife Myrna could have the opportunity to enjoy eating vegetables. They also shared Ylaya's success.

Marilyn M. Manila, president of the CARD MRI Publishing House, said highlighting the success stories of CARD MRI's client members is a powerful source of inspiration for the general public to pursue personal and community improvement. Ivy Tejano

Calamba City Mayor Roseller Rizal Extends Support to Typhoon Kristine Survivors in Brgy. Masili

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The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money

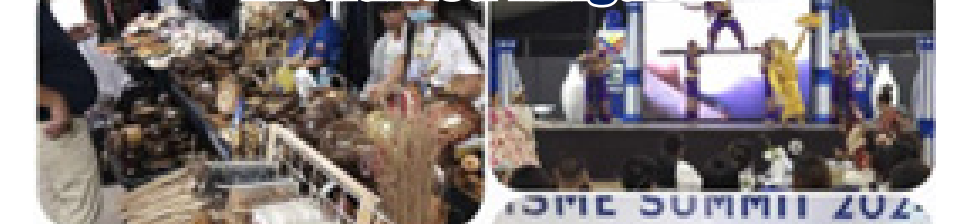
Vol. I - Series 16 - Nov. 03-Nov. 09, 2024



MAYOR RIZAL: TRABAHO PARA SA ATING MGA KABABAYAN, PINAKAMALAKING MAERSK DISTRIBUTION HUB SA BANSA, BINUKSAN SA CALAMBA CITY



ASec. Tolentino at DTI Laguna, Pinasigla ang Digital Transformation ng MSMEs sa 2nd Laguna MSME Summit 2024 sa Enchanted Kingdom



Highway Patrol Group CALABARZON Reinforces Region 5 Efforts with Augmentation Team for Storm Relief



To address the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm "Kristine" in the Bicol Region, the Regional Highway

Patrol Unit 4A (RHPU4A), led by PCOL Rommel C. Estolano, deployed an augmentation team to Region 5. This team was sent to enhance the existing workforce of the Highway Patrol Group (HPG5), which is actively working to ensure smooth traffic flow and assist motorists in the affected areas.

On October 29, 2024, PMAJ Jonathan Victor M. Olveña, the Pro-

vincial Officer of PHPT Quezon, conducted a pre-deployment briefing for the dispatched team. This briefing focused on organizing traffic management efforts and providing assistance to stranded motorists, aiming to streamline road access for relief operations in Bicol. PMAJ Olveña emphasized the importance of coordination to maximize the effectiveness of their mission.

The additional **cont. on page 2**

Editorial SOLAR WATER PUMP SOLUSYON SA PATUBIG

Sa panahon natin ngayon hindi problema ng ating mga magsasaka ang patubig lalo na sa tanim na palay.

Ngunit kapag dumarating ang tag init at tag tuyo't o El Niño diyan na nagkakaroon ng problema. Sa panahon ng El Niño, humihina o nagbabago ang hampas ng trade winds na nagresulta sa pagkalat ng mainit na tubig sa central at easter region.

Isang mabisang solusyon sa kanayunan o liblib na mga lugar kung saan hindi naaabot ang grid ng kuryente, isa sa mga pinaka-makabagong aplikasyon ay solar water pump, na sinasamantala ang photovoltaic energy upang kunin at ilipat ang tubig nang mahusay.

Ang mga solar water pump ay ginagamit para sa iba't ibang mga aplikasyon tulad ng patubig ng mga pananim at taniman, pagkuha ng tubig mula sa malalim na mga balon o pagpapaka-in ng mga sistema ng inuming tubig sa mga rural na lugar.

Ang mga bombang ito ay namumukod-tangi sa pagiging ekolohikal at matipid, dahil ginagamit nila ang araw bilang pangunahing pinagkukunan ng enerhiya. Ang solar water pump ay isang aparato na ginagamit para sa pagkuha at paggalaw ng tubig, na eksklusibong pinapagana ng Energia Solar. Hindi tulad ng mga tradisyunal na pump na umaasa sa fossil fuel o kuryente mula sa grid, sinasamantala ng mga pump na ito ang solar radiation sa pamamagitan ng mga photovoltaic panel na nagpapalit ng solar radiation sa electrical energy.

Mayroong ilang mga uri ng solar pump, tulad ng photovoltaic solar pump, solar thermal water pump at domestic hot water pump. Ang mga solar pump ay karaniwang mga submersible o ib-abaw, at may maraming aplikasyon, mula sa patubig sa mga lugar ng pananim, mga sistema ng inuming tubig, hanggang sa mga instalasyon sa mga proyekto ng tubig para sa mga hayop.

Malaki ang maitutulong ng aplikasyon na ito " Solar Water Pump sa mga lugar na mahirap maabot ng kuryente at sa mga nagnanais ding makatipid upang mapanatili ang mga masaganang pag aani at sa pagpapaunlad ng ekonomiya at agrikultura lalo na sa larangan ng pagsasaka.

Highway... FROM PAGE 1

personnel from CALA-BARZON are expected to play a crucial role in alleviating congestion and ensuring road safety, allowing essential aid to reach storm-impacted communities without delay. Their presence is particularly important on key highways that serve as lifelines for distributing relief goods and medical assistance to those most affected by the storm.

Under the leadership of PBGEN William M. Segun, the Highway Patrol Group continues to demonstrate its commitment to public service,

responding promptly to crises that affect transportation networks. The RHPU4A team's quick deployment is a testament to the HPG's readiness to support national disaster response efforts.

The RHPU4A's efforts in Region 5 reflect their dedication to assisting communities in times of need, with traffic control and relief support being vital aspects of the recovery process. This operation underscores the HPG's commitment to public safety and efficient traffic management during emergencies. (EDJUN MARIPOSQUE)

Calamba... FROM PAGE 1

Calamba City, Laguna – In a dedicated effort to support the recovery of residents impacted by Typhoon Kristine, Hon. Mayor Roseller Rizal led the distribution of more or less 700 grocery packs to the affected families in Barangay Masili. This initiative is part of a larger response to assist the families in all 54 barangays of Calamba, particularly those with severely affected households. Approximately 6,000 homes were washed away, leaving many families in urgent need.

During the distribution, held at the Brgy. Masili Covered Court, Mayor Rizal expressed his commitment to ensuring immediate and con-

tinuous assistance for the affected communities. He announced that, starting next week, families with severely damaged homes would receive emergency shelter assistance in the form of financial aid to help them rebuild and repair their residences.

"We are deeply grateful that, despite the severity of Typhoon Kristine, no lives were lost in Calamba. Let us remain united, resilient, and call upon God as we work toward restoring normalcy," Mayor Rizal shared. He also mentioned that several programs and projects have already been prioritized and bid out for Brgy. Masili, signaling long-term support for the barangay.

Meanwhile, Ms.

Celina D. Manabat, Head of the City Social Services Department, addressed the residents, explaining the emergency shelter assistance available to those with totally and partially damaged homes and for those affected by flooding. The department has coordinated with the National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to facilitate assistance for the most severely impacted residents. "Our department is here to serve you, and we will work tirelessly to ensure every affected family receives the support they need," she assured.

Brgy Chairman Hon. Rohnell Malabanan, alongside members of

the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Kabataan, Brgy Daycare Staff, Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), Barangay Quick Response Teams (BQRTs), Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) representatives, Barangay Tanods, and local NGOs, provided essential support during the distribution of relief packs.

This coordinated response underscores the city's commitment to restoring and rebuilding communities affected by the disaster. Mayor Rizal remains hopeful that with continued assistance, families will soon return to a stable and safe environment. (Ana Marie Flores Demerin)

FROM PAGE 1

spread at isang Fleet Operational Control Centre (FOCC) na magpapa-husay sa operasyon ng kanilang trucking fleet. LEED-certified din ang pasilidad, bahagi ng pag-sisikap ng Maersk na maabot ang net zero carbon emissions pagsapit ng 2040.

Kabilang sa mga unang kliyente ng Maersk Optimus ang mga kilalang brand tulad ng L'Oreal, Beauty Elements Ventures

Inc. (BeVi), at Unilever. Ang pasilidad ay magsisilbi sa iba't ibang industriya tulad ng consumer goods, food and beverage, healthcare, at retail.

Ang pagbubukas ng Maersk Optimus ay isang mahalagang hakbang tungo sa pagpapalakas ng logistics sector sa bansa na magpapabuti hindi lamang sa Calamba kundi sa buong Timog Luzon. (Edjun Mariposque)

DERETSAHAN WEEKLY PUBLISHING
The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money

Editorial Office
Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1 Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite
Mobile No. ----- 09365035056
Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

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Concepcion: Upscale MSMES, Upskill Workers



At two major business events held last week, Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion reiterated the importance of upscaling MSMEs and upskilling workers.

Speaking to nearly a thousand cooperatives at the 3rd Metro Manila Cooperative Congress and to government agencies and the business community at the 2024 Arangkada Philippines Forum, Concepcion reiterated the importance of a robust MSME sector in creating businesses, and of a workforce that is ready for the challenges of artificial intelligence and automation.

"If we get to the largest sectors, to the poorest, then our economy will grow rapidly and more jobs will be created and wages will increase, not because labor mandates us to increase wages but because there will be a supply shortage in labor," he said.

Concepcion observed that cooperatives closely resemble the conditions for successful entrepreneurship; that is, they provide access to mentorship, money and markets to their smaller members. "These are the three pillars which we promote in our advocacy at Go Negosyo. The bigger cooperatives mentor the smaller cooperatives, and as they do, they grow and become stronger," he said.

He added that cooperatives provide the scale that is needed by

small entrepreneurs. "The key is good leadership; people who lead cooperatives should have the entrepreneurial, marketing and digital skills necessary today," he said. The community of member-cooperatives of the organization is estimated to have total assets of Php 179.3 billion and more than 1.8 million members. "Cooperatives provide the scale that small entrepreneurs need," he said. "We can eradicate poverty by helping MSMEs scale up."

According to data from the Department of Trade and Industry, MSMEs comprise 99 percent of enterprises in the Philippines and generate 65 percent of jobs. "Upscaling our MSMEs will have a huge impact because these efforts will trickle down to the grassroots and benefit more communities in more parts of the country," he said.

Concepcion added that access to capital and public-private partnerships continue to be critical in achieving MSME growth. "There's a lot of effort being done to encourage the microfinance institutions to increase lending, while the public-private sector partnership is helping us in the private sector reach out to the grassroots."

He said private sector is also working with government to align the curriculum and training (including digital skills) based on industry standards so that the workforce can

be ready to take on jobs. "This makes the effort of upskilling more efficient and effective because industry itself is giving guidance," he said.

The Cooperative Congress, led by its chair Fr. Anton CT Pascual, was organized by the One Cooperative Federation (OCF), the Union of Metro Manila Cooperatives (UMMC), the Regional Cooperative Development Council – NCR (RCDC-NCR), and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA – NCR), while Arangkada was organized by the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines. PR

Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Relief Operations in Flood-Stricken Sitio Runggot, Calamba

Despite the challenges of both flooding and scorching heat, residents of Sitio Runggot, Barangay Lecheria, patiently gathered to receive much-needed assistance from Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal and his team. The operation drew an enthusiastic crowd, undeterred by the harsh conditions, as they awaited the arrival of relief supplies.

Leading the efforts, Mayor Rizal was joined by Barangay Lecheria Captain Romel Casintahan, Mrs. Nalicyl Manabat from the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD), Mr. Conrado Masongsong from the Public Order and Safety Office (POSO), and Pangulong Ju Mon. Together with barangay councilors and staff from the Office of the Mayor, the team demonstrated an unwavering commitment to bring aid to Calambefios affected by the floods from Typhoon Kristine.

The "Dugong Bayani – Relief Operations" showcased Mayor Rizal's dedication to prioritizing the needs of those impacted, regardless of



circumstances. In the face of adversity, he emphasized that his team's mission is to overcome any obstacle to fulfill their duty to the community.

Sa kabila ng baha, walang alinlangan tayong lumusong upang makapaghatid ng tulong sa mga kababayan natin dito sa Sitio Runggot," Mayor Rizal shared. His words echoed his steadfast resolve to stand by his constituents through every challenge, reflecting his hands-on approach to public service.

Mayor Rizal went on to affirm his commitment to "Ramdam na Reporma," a vision that promotes transparency, integrity, and genuine care for every Calambefio. "Para sa akin, walang pagdadalawang-isip kapag serbisyong bayan ang

usapan," he added. "Kasama ninyo ako, handang maglingkod at sumabak sa bawat hamon."

His hands-on leadership style has drawn praise, as his team worked tirelessly in the flood-affected areas to distribute relief supplies. The community appreciated the Mayor's presence and determination to serve in person, showing that his commitment goes beyond words.

The relief operations in Sitio Runggot reflect Mayor Rizal's broader vision for Calamba, where "Ramdam na Reporma" brings true change to the lives of residents. His dedication to accessible and effective public service highlights a sincere drive for a brighter, more resilient community. (Edjun Mariposque)

Soldiers recover terrorist's arms cache in OcMin

CAMP CAPIN-RIZAL - Troops of the Army's 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) retrieved an arms cache belonging to Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee (STRPC) in Rizal, Occidental Mindoro, Thursday, November 1.

Soldiers belonging to the 2ID's 68th Infantry (Kaagapay) Battalion (68IB) were conducting

security operations at Barangay Manoot when they discovered an arms cache hidden by the communist terrorist group (CTG).

It contained a rifle scope, two M16 rifle hammers, two M16 rifle triggers, an IED switch, and a magazine.

The 2ID commander Major General Cerilo Balaoro Jr in a statement said that the re-

covery of the arms cache contributes to undermining the capabilities of the terrorist groups.

He further emphasized that this discovery underscores the commitment of the 2ID troops to maintaining security and preventing the spread of illegal firearms and explosives that threaten the safety of local communities.

The recovered items were safely turned over to the authorities for documentation and proper disposal.

The security operations in the area continue as part of the 2ID's ongoing efforts to maintain peace and order.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

fAaIth

DA-4A, nagdaos ng Two-Day Enterprise Development Training para sa mga benepisyaryo ng RiceBIS

Idinaos ang Two-Day Enterprise Development Training para sa mga benepisyaryo ng PhilRice BIDA Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Program sa pangunguna ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA IV-A) Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA) sa San Francisco, Quezon, simula ika-18 hanggang ika-19 ng Setyembre.

Layon ng pagsasanay na tulungan ang mga benepisyaryo ng proyektong RiceBIS sa pagtataguyod ng kanilang mga lokal na produkto upang makamit ang mas mataas na produksyon at kita.

Sa unang araw ay tinalakay ni Research Division, Science Research Specialist II, Gng. Ginalyn D. Bocaya ang paksang Packaging at Labelling ng mga produkto na mayroon ang asosasyon. Sa sesyon na ito itinuro ang mga dapat ikonsidera upang maging maayos ang mga produkto gaya na lamang ng pagpili ng pangalan ng produkto, paggamit ng brand trademark, paglalagay ng kumpletong listahan ng mga sangkap, net contents, tamang pagimbak ng produkto, direksyon ng paggamit, mga kaalamang pang-nutrisyon, impormasyon ukol sa mga allergen, bansang pinanggalingan ng produkto, at ang mga importanteng petsa



na dapat tandaan ng mga mamimili. Matapos ang pagsasanay sa unang araw ay namahagi rin ng black pepper seedlings sa mga benepisyaryo ng AMIA Villages sa naturang lugar. Ipinaliwanag sa distribusyon ang tamang pagtatanim at pagpaparami ng black pepper, at kung paano ito mapagkakaitaan.

Sa ikalawang araw tinalakay ni AMIA Climate Resilient Agriculture Focal Person G. Girsy Anda ang Financial Literacy, kung saan ipinaliwanag kung paano mag-ipon bilang indibidwal at bilang asosasyon. Kabilang dito ang mga dapat unahin na pagkagastusan, at ang kahalagahan ng pagkakaroon ng ipon.

Sumunod dito ang diskusyon ni AMIA Field Assistant Gng. Latica Pardilla tungkol sa Business Bookkeeping na kalakip ang pagtuturo ng ang tamang pagsulat sa Columnar ng mga kinita at lumabas na pera mula sa asosasyon. Kasama rito ang paggawa ng income statement at balance sheet, at ang tamang pagsusuri at proyeksyon ng mga nakaraang datos.

Nasundan naman ito ng sesyon sa Inventory Management na pinangunahan ni AMIA Field Assistant, G. Arvex Aman. Sa paksang ito itinuro sa mga benepisyaryo kung ano ang inventory

management, rekords, reports, kung paano malaman ang dami ng stocks, at mga tamang gawain sa pag-imbentaryo ng produkto. Nagkaroon din ng aktibidad ang bawat kalahok kung saan nag-sanay sila sa pagpapresyo ng sarili nilang mga produkto. Kinilala ang mga kalahok na nagmula sa Tayumanin Upland Farmers Association.

Sa pagtatapos, nagpasalamat si Municipal Agriculturist, G. Randy Riego para sa DA-IV A AMIA Program at ipinaabot ang patuloy na pagsuporta ng kanilang opisina, kasama ng bawat magsasaka ng lalawigan, sa mga programa ng DA-IV A na mas makakatulong pa sa pamumuhay at pagsasaka ng bawat benepisyaryo PR

DOST CALABARZON Presents iSTART Project to LGU Angono for Enhanced Local Development

ANGONO, RIZAL (August 1, 2024) — 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, initiated a courtesy visit with Angono Municipal Mayor, Hon. Jeri Mae E. Calderon, and her planning officers on August 1, 2024.

The visit aimed to introduce the "Innovation Science and Technology for Accelerating Regional Terchnology-Based Development" (iSTART) Project to LGU Angono. iSTART seeks 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 Angono strengthen its development initiatives by identifying gaps and incor-



porating relevant STI components. During the meeting, ARD Barquilla provided a brief overview of iSTART and its connection to the Smart and Sustainable Communities Program. He emphasized that iSTART's primary goal is to assist LGU Angono in crafting its own STI Plan, potentially during the workshop series or the mid-term review of their existing CDP.

Mr. Patrick Isaiah Abarra, Project Technical Assistant of DOST CALABARZON, further elaborated on the iSTART proj-

ect background, pilot sites, and technical aspects, including how iSTART aligns with CDP/CLUP through a designated operational framework. ARD Barquilla also outlined the next steps for LGU Angono if they decide to participate in the iSTART Project. He clarified that DOST will be covering the workshop series, while the LGU will be responsible for providing the venue and meals. Additionally, DOST can execute a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) to ensure the confidentiality of

data inputs from the LGU, its offices, civil society organizations (CSOs), state universities and colleges (SUCs), barangay officials, private stakeholders, and other relevant parties. The DOST team concluded their visit with a photo opportunity with Mayor Calderon. DOST CALABARZON and PSTO Rizal expressed optimism for the iSTART project's implementation in Angono, pending the review of the proposed Memorandum of Agreement. PR



MOA NG PAGTUTULUNGAN SA PROGRAMA PARA SA URBAN POOR SA PAGITAN NG BIR AT PCUP

Nagkasundo ang Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) at Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) na magkaroon sa pagitan ng dalawang ahensya ng pamahalaan nang isang kasunduan o Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) para sa programa sa urban poor noong September 10, 2024.

Ang kasunduan ay para sa mga karampatang exemptions ng mga donasyon sa PCUP. ng BIR. Pinirmaha nina Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin at BIR Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui Jr.

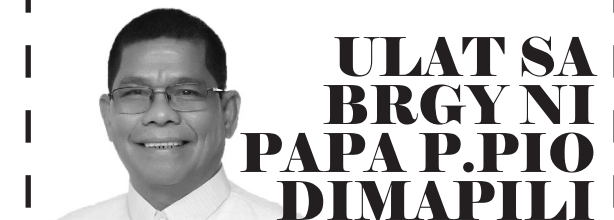
Malaking tulong sa PCUP ang mga probisyon sa MOA na ito. Ilan sa mga ito ay ang pagtulong sa PCUP sa pamamagitan ng tax exemption ng mga donasyon mula sa mga pribadong kompanya, pagtatalaga at pagsasanay ng mga tauhan ng PCUP sa mga polisiya at gabay ng exemption na ito at ang pagkakaroon ng focal person na siyang magpapatupad at monitor ng kasunduan.

Kasama sa excellent taxpayer service ng BIR ang pagbibigay ng mga exemptions kung ito ay nararapat at nakakatulong sa nakakarami. Katuwang ng PCUP ang BIR sa pagpapatupad ng mga programa para sa mga kababayan natin na nangangailangan.

Ayon kay Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui Jr. "BIR will exert all efforts in assisting the noble mission of the PCUP to implement programs for the urban poor. The BIR is your partner in helping the urban poor. Excellent taxpayer service means the granting of tax exemptions, as long as there is legal and factual basis for the exemption. We are at your service"

Ang Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor (PCUP) ay nagsisilbing direktang link o koneksyon ng mga maralitang tagalungod sa pamahalaan sa pagbuuo ng patakaran at pagpapatupad ng programa na tumutugon sa kanilang mga pangangailangan. Ito ay nagkoordina at nagmomonitor sa pagpapatupad ng mga patakaran at programa ng pamahalaan para sa mga maralitang tagalungod.

Ang Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) o Kawanihan ng Rentas Internas ay isang ahensya ng Kagawaran ng Pananalapi at ito ay pinamumunuan ng isang Komisyoner. Ang ahensyang ito ang may responsible sa pagkolekta ng higit sa kalahati ng kabuuang mga kita sa buwis ng pamahalaan.



ULAT SA BRGY NI PAPA P. PIO DIMAPILI ABC PRESIDENT PIO DIMAPILIS NAMAHAHI NG RELIEF GOODS SA MGA BRGY NA NASALANTA NG BAGYONG KRISTINE

Isang ma pag palang Araw po sa ating lahat,Ang Lalawigan po ng Laguna ay lsa sa lubhang na salanta ng bagyo na si Kristine particular Ang Lungsod ng Calamba Marami Ang nawalan ng kanilang mga tahanan at ang iba ay dipa na isalba ang kanilang kagamitan o ari-arian ,Marami ang natuloy sa mga school at ang iba naman ay sa mga evacuation center ,pero Hindi sapat ang Sila ay ating madala sa ganoong mga lugar dapat ay may sapat din silang pag kain ,gamot at maiinum na tubig.

Bilang Ako Ang ABC President Ng Lungsod ng Calamba at City Councilor ,dipo ako tumigil para makipag kaloob sa aking mga ka Barangay Ang bawat panga -ngailangan nila lalo na sa mga na walan ng tahanan,agad nag dala tayo ng mga relief good sa Brgy Sampiruhan,sitio Iraq,Brgy Palingon,nag hatid din po Tayo Ng mga generator sa purok 1at purok 4 sa mga Mamaya Ng Camp Vicente Lim upang maka pag charge ng kanila mga Ebike , cellphone at power bank dahil ilang araw din Silang walang supply ng koryente sa Lugar.

Ang ating po Punong Lungsod Mayor Ross Rizal ay ating katuwang para mas higit at mabilis na nakakarating Ang tulong sa na apektuhan ng Bagyong Kristine at bilang po bahagi tayo ng konseho Kasama ako na agad maipasok sa state of calamity Ang Calamba para mas Lalo po matugunan ang ating mga ka babayan na lubhang na salanta Ng bagyo,Hindi po titigil Ang inyong lingkod ABC President Pio Dimapilis hanggang sa kayo ay maka balik sa normal nating Buhay gaya ng dati.

2ID donates meal allowance for typhoon victims

CAMP CAPIN-PIN, Tanay, Rizal - The soldiers of the Army's 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) donated its one-meal allowance to the victims of Typhoon Kristine here, Thursday, October 31.

According to Brigadier General Cerilo Balaoro Jr., commander

mag-order. And I'm so happy that our Provincial Director and the Regional Director, Mamaris Argen-te, are really active about the MSMB assembly. This is not only a learning, but this is the result of the hard work of our DTI officials."

Ngayong taon, sa pakikipagatlungan ng DTI Laguna, Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna, Enchanted Kingdom, at Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, idinaos ang summit upang hikayatin ang MSMEs na makibahagi sa mga programang pang-inobasyon at digitalisasyon ng pamahalaan, at magbigay ng mas malawak na akses sa teknolohiya at merkado.

Ang summit ay nagtatampok ng mga talakayan ukol sa digitalization, paggamit ng AI sa negosyo, at isang trade fair na nagpapakita ng mga lokal na produkto mula sa native delicacies hanggang sa mga gawang-kamay at tradisyonal na crafts ng Laguna.

Kabilang sa mga tampok na bahagi ng pagdiriwang ang pamamahagi ng livelihood kits sa 30 benepisyaryo ng Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) 2024, at ang parangal sa unang 50 MSME owners ng Laguna na nagawaran ng "Likhang Laguna Product Certification Seal"—isang sertipikasyon na sumisimbulo sa kalidad at kasiguraduhan ng mga produktong gawang Laguna. (Edjun Mariposque)

Chief Operating Officer Ms. Rikki Escudero-Catibog during the 2ID's Color Fun Run in consonance to the October Peace 2024. "By contributing the equivalent of one meal from the subsistence allowance, or P150.00 for each member, the soldiers of the 2ID are showing their support for the victims of Typhoon Kristine," says Brigadier General Balaoro.

A total of PhP669,450.00 was handed over to GMA Kapuso Foundation through its Executive Vice President and



International exhibit and fire square road show address disaster risks at SM Mall of Asia

As the world comes together to observe the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) 2024 in October, an increased awareness on disaster risk reduction becomes everyone's responsibility in the community.

In Manila, the event was commemorated through the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) "Are You Ready?" Exhibition and Fire Square Road Show. This brings together global leaders, government officials, United Nations (UN) representatives, and civil society organizations to underscore education as a driving force in safeguarding communities from natural and man-made disasters for a safer future.

A powerful platform for change

The "Are You Ready?" art exhibition, a collaborative effort by one of Asia's leading integrated property developers SM Prime, together with its corporate social responsibility arm SM Cares, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the Philippine government, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, showcased thought-provoking artworks that highlighted the challenges and solutions related to disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific.

Interactive fire safety training

The Fire Square Road Show, an initiative by the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), provided interactive training on fire safety and prevention. Attendees underwent workshops on first aid, proper use of fire extinguishers, electrical safety, and rappelling, among others.

Empowering youth through education

A panel discussion was also moderated by UNDRR's Rosalind Cook aimed to address key issues concerning



Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza and SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy engage in a discussion about the art exhibition highlighting disaster preparedness.



The "Are You Ready?" art exhibition highlights the stories of the 2004 Indian tsunami survivors.



Students complete a questionnaire reflecting on the art exhibit.

DRR in schools. Panelists discussed the Comprehensive School Safety Framework 2022-2030 and the necessity of empowering the youth to contribute to DRR strategies. Participants emphasized the importance of knowledge and skills-building among students specifically on disaster preparedness.



SM Supermalls President Steven Tan engages in a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training.

the BFP's capabilities in handling emergency situations while educational materials were also provided for children and families on fire safety and emergency preparedness.

A collaborative effort for a safer future

The event demonstrated the power of collaboration in addressing disaster risks. By prioritizing education, empowering youth, and promoting awareness



(L-R): Pasay City Chief of Staff Peter Pardo, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific June Kunugi, Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Director Louie Puracan, SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction His Excellency Kamal Kishore, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyza, and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Communications Manager Afrhill Rances



Panelists highlight how to empower youth to lead the way in emergency preparedness, emphasizing the key principles of the global agreement on disaster risk reduction.



National University (NU) President Dr. Renato Carlos Ermita Jr. participates in a fire safety demonstration at the Fire Square Road Show.



Future generations prepare for emergencies by learning survival techniques in a simulated disaster.

about disaster preparedness, the Asia-Pacific region can work towards a future where communities are better equipped to mitigate the impacts of disasters and help shape a better future for all.

YEAR-END BONUS ALERT

Pangandaan ng gobyerno tatanggap ng year-end bonus at cash gift kasabay ng unang payroll ng ahensya sa Nobyembre; Bagong Circular para sa on-schedule ng pamamahagi ng mga bonus at cash gift sa mga empleyado ng gobyerno, inilabas

Upang masiguro at mapadali ang tamang oras ng pagbibigay at pamamahagi ng year-end bonus at cash gift sa mga empleyado ng gobyerno, pinirmahan ni Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah "Mina" F. Pangandaman noong ika-22 ng Oktubre 2024 ang DBM Budget Circular No. 2024-3 na nagbibigay ng mga updated na mga patakaran sa pagbibigay ng year-end bonus at cash gift.

"Our new release schedule for the cash gift and year-end bonus is a simple and important way to recognize the hard work of our government employees. Gusto natin siguraduhin na matatanggap nila ang bonus nila on time, para masaya ang Pasko at mas pagbutihin pa nila ang kanilang serbisyo," paliwanag ni DBM Secretary Mina Pangandaman.

Sa ilalim ng bagong Circular, makatatanggap ang mga kawani ng gobyerno ng kanilang year-end bonus, na katumbas ng isang buwang basic salary, kasama ang P5,000 cash gift.

"Sa first payroll po sa darating na Nobyembre ay matatanggap na ng mga empleyado ng gobyerno ang kanilang year-end bonus and cash gift. Instead of the existing policy that the payment of

these benefits shall not be earlier than November 15 of the year, the qualified personnel shall be granted their respective year-end bonus and cash gift simultaneously with the first agency payroll for the month of November. We are trying to address here previous delays that had affected employee satisfaction," ani Sec. Mina.

Ang bagong patakaran ay para sa lahat ng ahensya ng national government, kabilang ang mga constitutional office, state universities and colleges (SUCs), mga government-owned o -controlled corporations (GOCCs), at mga local government unit (LGUs).

Sa pamamagitan ng Circular, inaatasan din ang mga ahensya ng gobyerno na isagawa ang mga kinakailangang pagsasaayos sa kanilang mga payroll system upang maiwasan ang karagdagang mga pagkaantala.

Ang hakbang na ito ay bahagi ng mas malawak na pagsisikap na pagbutihin ang kahusayan ng gobyerno, transparency, at kapakanan ng mga empleyado sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos.

"By resolving these delays, the administration of President Bongbong Marcos shows that we are not only taking care of our employees' welfare—we are also sending a clear message of efficiency and good governance," ayon kay Secretary Pangandaman.

Ang pinakabagong Circular ay magkakabisa kaagad at pinapalitan ang anumang mga nakaraang regulasyon na hindi naaayon sa mga bagong patakaran. (Nelson Dimapilis)

OPEN GOVERNMENT ADVOCATES: ACCESS, GENDER EQUALITY KEY TO EQUITABLE PEACE

Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman highlighted the collaborative efforts of the government and the civil society which helped place the Philippines as a global leader in open government during the session on "Empowered Women, Lasting Peace: Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda through Open Governance," a side event of the International Conference on WPS held on October 30, 2024.

Led by the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP), the session also served as a platform for championing inclusive governance through sharing best practices and developing actionable recommendations to ensure that women's voices continue to shape gender equality and peacebuilding efforts.

The Budget Chief and PH-OGP Chairperson encouraged everyone to maximize the opportunity to integrate the WPS agenda into the open government framework: "May our diverse voices—filled with insights from our different experiences, cultures, and communities—come together so that we may speak with one voice—whether you are from the government, from the Judiciary or from civil society—as we pursue gender equality, global security and lasting peace."

Women in Governance

Bangsamoro Minister of the Interior and Local Government Atty. Sha Elijah B. Dumama-Alba, on the other hand, focused on women's participation in governance, noting that they should be present at all levels of the government.

"As a young and transitioning government, the participation of women in the BTA Parliament has exceeded the minimum set by the Bangsamoro Organic Law. There are positive indications that this would improve as Bangsamoro leaders and children are the most affected and displaced by conflicts and so policies

to protect them should be given primordial importance," she added.

Meanwhile, Associate Justice Filomena Singh reaffirmed the Supreme Court's commitment to eradicating abuse, discrimination, and violence, and to elevating government services available to women and girls seeking justice and protection: "This campaign is not just an empty statement; it is an actionable, inclusive response to a deeply-rooted societal issue that afflicts many of our women and girls as young as one, two, three years old."

Malayang Lapihan ng mga Kababaihan (MALAYA KA, Inc) Executive Director and PH-OGP Co-Chairperson Ms. Aurora R. Chavez then showcased the works of their CSO, especially its programs targeting the young adults including Senior High School and Out-of-School Youth and addressing issues such as teenage pregnancy.

Finally, Singanen o Mindanao Founder & Director Ms. Aliah Baniaga Adam called for more opportunities for the youth from all parts of the country to communicate and exchange ideas as she believes that "communication is key to peacebuilding."

Children and youth

Secretary Pangandaman likewise called for the integration of children and youth sectors in the narrative and initiatives, without which the WPS Agenda will never be complete.

"This has been made clear by United Nations Secretary General Amina J. Mohammed and often repeated throughout the conference: women and children are the most affected and displaced by conflicts and so policies

table but also in mobilizing support and gathering inputs for crafting of the law," Atty. Dumama-Alba shared.

In line with this, LENTE Partnership and Mobilization Director Atty. Hazel Marie Y. Mallari shared that increasing women's participation in governance requires capacity building efforts to shift the role of women from supporting to becoming actual leaders with the power to make decisions.

74IB NAGSAGAWA NG KEY LEADERS ENGAGEMENT PARA SA STABLE INTERNAL PEACE AND SECURITY (SIPS) SA PALAPAG, NORTHERN SAMAR

Palapag, Northern Samar – Noong Oktubre 10, 2024, ang 74th Infantry Battalion sa pamumuno ni LTC JOSEPH A ABRENICA INF (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer, katuwang ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Palapag na pinangungunahan ni Hon. Florence "FAWA" Batula, Alkalde ng Bayan, ay matagumpay na isinagawa ang isang Key Leaders Engagement (KLE) sa Sangguniang Bayan (SB) Hall, Palapag, Northern Samar. Ang makabuluhang kaganapang ito ay nagmamarka ng isang mahalagang hakbang sa pagsisikap at layuning ideklara ang Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) sa pitong (7) cleared barangay ng munisipalidad.

"The collaborative efforts of both the government, through PH-OGP and CSOs, should also prepare the society and the voting population as well, for this to become a shift in the norm and become the new political culture in the Philippines," Atty. Mallari ended.

The panel discussion was moderated by DBM Undersecretary for Advocacy, Capacity Development, Economic Affairs, and Stakeholder Relations Margaux V. Salcedo. (Nelson Dimapilis)

pagsisikap na mapuksa ang impluwensiya ng CPP-NPA-NDF. Bukod dito, ang SIPS ay hindi lamang pagkilala sa tibay at pakikiisa ng local na komunidad laban sa insurhensiya, kundi ito rin ay mensahe na handa na ang lokalidad para sa higit pang socio-economic na pag-unlad.

Kabilang sa mga dumalo sa KLE sina Ginoong Mark R Balagat, Palapag DILG-MLGOO; Hon. Helen C Lim, ABC President; kinatawan mula sa PNP, MPS Palapag; mga Punong Barangay ng pitong (7) "cleared" na barangay; at ang mga pangulo ng kani-kanilang asosasyon.

Ang 74IB at ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Palapag ay nananatili tapat sa pangako na tiyakin ang pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan, Patulong ang 74IB na makikipagtulungan sa mga lokal na lider, lokal na pulis, at sa komunidad upang mapanatili at mapaunlad pa ang bayan ng Palapag. (Pau Mojar)

