

# Carlos Yulo's Double Gold Triumph at 2024 Paris Olympics: A Historic Moment for Philippine Sports

Paris, August 5, 2024\*  
 – Filipino gymnastics sensation Carlos Yulo made history at the 2024 Paris Olympics, capturing two gold medals in a stunning display of skill and determination. Yulo, known for his incredible precision and power, secured the top spot in both the floor exercise and vault events, solidifying his status as one of the world's premier gymnasts.

In the floor exercise, Yulo dazzled the judges with his complex routines and flawless execution, earning a near-perfect score that left his competitors in the dust. His performance was a masterpiece in balance, strength, and artistry, showcasing his unique style and unmatched athleticism.

Yulo's victory in the vault was equally impressive. Demonstrating his explosive power and technical prowess, he performed two difficult vaults with remarkable height and impeccable landings, securing his second gold medal of the Games. His consistency and composure under pressure were evident as he outperformed a highly competitive field.

These triumphs mark a significant milestone for Yulo and for Philippine sports, as he becomes the first Filipino gymnast to win multiple gold medals in a single Olympics. His achievements have not only brought pride to his nation but have also inspired a

new generation of athletes in the Philippines and beyond.

Yulo expressed his gratitude and joy in a post-event interview, dedicating his victories to his family, coaches, and supporters who have stood by him throughout his journey. "This is a dream come true," Yulo said. "I hope these medals show that with hard work and dedication, anything is possible."

Carlos Yulo, the Filipino gymnast who clinched gold in the men's floor exercise at the 2024 Paris Olympics, is set to receive several honors and rewards for his historic achievement:

**House of Representatives:** The House of Representatives will award Carlos Yulo P3 million in recognition of his gold medal win. Representative Elizaldy Co, chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, expressed pride in Yulo's dedication and hard work, emphasizing that Filipinos can excel on the international stage with determination and resilience.

**Olympic Gold Medal of Valor:** The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) will present Carlos Yulo with the prestigious Olympic Gold Medal of Valor for his outstanding performance. This honor recognizes his exceptional contribution to Philippine sports.

**House and Lot:** The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) pledged to provide gold medalists with a house and lot, similar to what they offered to weightlifter Hidilyn Diaz after her gold medal win in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

**Megaworld Condominium Unit:** The Megaworld Corporation will gift Carlos Yulo a fully-furnished condominium unit worth P24 million at the Bonifacio Global City. This luxurious residence adds to his well-deserved rewards.

Additionally, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos congratulated Carlos Yulo on his victory, stating, "Congratulations, Caloy! The entire country stands proud with you." Marcos expressed confidence in the country's medal chances and celebrated Yulo's historic achievement in artistic gymnastics at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Yulo's career is studied with achievements beyond his Olympic success. He has amassed an impressive collection of gold medals at major competitions:

- 2019 World Championships (floor exercise)
- 2021 World Championships (vault)
- 2022 Asian Championships (floor, vault, parallel bars)



Carlos Yulo Clinches Double Gold at 2024 Paris Olympics

- 2023 Asian Championships (floor, vault, parallel bars)
- 2024 Asian Championships (all-around, floor, vault, parallel bars)
- Numerous golds at the SEA Games and FIG World Cup events

In addition to his gold medals, Yulo has consistently performed at the highest level, earning numerous silver and bronze medals across various prestigious competitions.

Carlos Yulo's journey from grassroots beginnings to international stardom exemplifies unwavering dedication and exceptional talent. His recent triumph in Paris cements his legacy as a gymnastics icon, inspiring future generations of Filipino athletes.



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# DILG: 'UNITE' boosts LGUs, civic groups role in local governance

## SABADO SA SITIO BALAGBAG-ARAW: LEARNER'S KITS AT AYUDA HANDOG NI MAYOR ROSS RIZAL



Kahit Sabado, nagpunta po tayo sa Sitio Balagbag Araw, Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna upang personal na pamahalaan ang pagmamahagi ng Learner's Kits. Dalawang-daang mag-aaral ang nagsukli sa atin ng pasasalamat at ngiti dahil sa mga tinanggap nila mula sa ating pamahalaan.

Dalawang-daang pamilya rin ang naabutan natin ng ayuda, feeding program. Binisita rin natin ang patuloy na pagsasaayos ng kalsada at steel bridge na makakatulong sa kanila lalo sa mga mag-aaral.

Ito ay bahagi ng aking patuloy na pangako na maghatid ng tulong at suporta sa bawat Calambeño. Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang Ramdam na Reporma para sa mas maunlad at mas masayang komunidad. (Nelson Dimapilis/COG)



## Cayetano calls out DPWH over incomplete flood control projects amid Typhoon Carina



Pinasinayaan ngayon araw ang Jetour Dealer sa bahagi ng Brgy. Biñan Pagsanjan lalawigan ng Laguna. Bahagi ito ng programa ng Areza administration na Aaasenso Pagsanjeño. Nasa larawan Sila Mayor Gemma Castillo Amante, Cong. Dan Fernandez, at iba pang mga personalidad. (Kevin Pamatmat)

# IKA-405 ARAW NG PAGKAKATATAG AT SAMBALILO FESTIVAL SA CAVINTI LAGUNA ISANG DEKADA NA

NA-Punong-puno ng ngiti ngayon ang bayan ng Cavinti Laguna. Dahil isang dekada na nilang ipinagdiriwang ang Sambalilo Festival na magsisimula ika-1 ng Agosto na tatagal naman hangang ika-7 ng buwan ito.

Unang araw ay Isinagawa ang Pandan tree planting ito ay upang higit na matugunan ang bilang ng mga puno ng Pandan na siyang pinagkukunan nila ng ginagawang Sambalilo, bayong at iba pa. Na sinundan naman ng grand tilapyaan at DepED night.

Ikalawang araw ay higit na kapana-panabik ang inaabangan ng lahat pagpapabagsak ng confetti na mula sa 3 private helicopter na hudyat ng pagbubukas ng pina-



ka malaking Sambalilo sa buong mundo at ribbon cutting naman para sa mga Barangay Booth, kasunod nito ang Competition para sa cooking fest, fruit curving, pabilisan ng paglalala ng Sambalilo, pinaka magarang Purok, modernong paglalala, at patimpalak para sa baluarte.

naman ay ang Sambalilo Pro-Am Golf day, Zumbalilo, Palarong pinoy, Sambalilo 4x4 challenge, iarangkada mo sayaw mo, motor show, at governor's night. Fun run sa ika-apat na araw ay pagkilala naman sa mga natatanging new professional. pinaka maganda at magarang Lola at lolo.

araw ng pagdiriwang ay ang brass band competition, ginoo at bibining Cavinti 2024, at Sambaliluhan Gabi ng pasasalamat sa pinakahuling programa nito.

Araw ng Cavinti na ipnagmamalaki ang kanilang turismo sa lalawigan ng Laguna at para din mai-pakita pinaka malaking Sambalilo hindi lamang sa Pilipinas kundi sa buong mundo.

Aniya bahagi ito ng selebrasyon ng pagpapasalamat sa kanilang patron El Salvador Del

Ikalawang araw

Pang anim na

Festival at ila-405 taong

Patron El Salvador Del

FROM PAGE 1

# Editorial

## MEDICAL ALLOWANCE PARA SA MGA EMPLEYADO NG GOBYERNO

Maliban sa umento sa sahod ng mga kawani ng gobyerno, inanunsyo rin ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang kaniyang pag-apruba sa pagbibigay ng medical allowance sa higit isang milyong government employees sa bansa.

"Para naman sa ating mga kawani ng gobyerno, mayroon silang maaasahang medical allowance bilang karagdang benepisyo sa susunod na taon," pahayag ng Pangulo sa kaniyang ikatlong State of the Nation Address.

Simula sa taong 2025, magkakaroon ang mga kawani ng pamahalaan ng medical allowance bilang subsidiya upang makakuha ng Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) benefits o HMO-type benefits.

Ang medical allowance ay maaring gamitin sa iba't ibang medical services na makatutulong para sa mga kawani ng gobyerno na maging handa sa anumang health-related emergencies.

Para maisakatuparan ito, nasa kabuuang ₱9.5 bilyong piso ang inilaan sa ilalim ng Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MBPF) sa taong 2025.

Sakop nito ang mga kawani sa ilalim ng National Government Agencies, State Universities and Colleges at Government-owned or -controlled Corporations ng Executive Department.

"As you know, health care is a top priority of this administration. Sa pamamagitan po ng pagbibigay ng medical allowance sa ating mga lingkod-bayan, matutulungan po natin silang maibsan ang kanilang medical expenses kung kinakailangan, at masigurong napangangalagaan ang kanilang kalusugan" ayon kay DBM Secretary Amenah "Mina" F. Pangandaman.

Tinitingnan ang medical allowance na ito bilang subsidiya o tulong upang mas maging abot-kaya ang access ng mga kawani ng gobyerno sa mas mahusay na serbisyo o benepisyong medikal.

## CAYETANO...

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The effects of Typhoon Carina could have been mitigated if the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) had completed its long overdue flood control projects, according to Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

This came after Metro Manila and 5 neighboring provinces were placed under a state of calamity after being submerged by heavy flooding due to the typhoon, affecting 882,861 individuals or 183,464 families from 686 barangays nationwide as of July 24, 2024.

"It's a direct result of inaction on crucial flood control proj-

ects. This delay isn't just a failure, it's a disservice to our communities that are now left unprotected and vulnerable," Cayetano said on July 26, 2024.

During last year's Senate hearing on the 2024 national budget, Cayetano criticized the DPWH for years of delays in completing crucial flood control projects. He questioned the allocation of resources to these unfinished projects and suggested shifting efforts towards new infrastructure.

"N a t u k l a s a n n'ung hearing na y'un [na] may flood control part na hindi tinuloy ng gobyerno. And this was more than 10

## DILG...

MANILA – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) aims to empower local government units (LGUs) and engage civil society organizations (CSOs) to contribute to good local governance through a five-year roadmap, an official said Tuesday.

During the Kapighan sa Bagong Pilipinas hosted by the Philippine Information Agency, DILG-National Capital Region (NCR) director Maria Lourdes Agustin said the 'UNITE' Agenda which spans from 2023 to 2028, outlines a transformative course for the department and its attached agencies.

'UNITE' stands for unleashing the maximum potential of good local governance; nourishing the bonds of national and local governments to address key sectoral concerns; intensifying efforts to ensure public order and safety; transforming governance through technology and innovation; and enhancing the capabilities

years ago and after that I thought maaayos na lahat," he said at the time.

With the rainy season underway and flooding in the metropolis being a recurring issue, Cayetano questioned the DPWH's maintenance and rehabilitation budget, which exceeds P200 billion – about a third of its total budget of P737 billion – and how these projects have failed to address the issue.

"We're not building better, we're maintaining and rehabilitating. You're not putting money into building more networks, you're putting money into maintaining it," he said.

"Is there something wrong with the kind of public works we do? Kasi kung parang one is to one na y'ung bago sa pine-preserve mo, ibig sabihin, either hindi maganda y'ung pagkagawa or napakaluma na," he added.

Cayetano, as chair of Senate on Science and Technology, also urged the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and

of the department by improving the capabilities of its personnel.

One of the programs under this agenda, Agustin said, is the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) which serves as the primary performance-based assessment program for excellence in local governance.

The SGLG has 10 components -- good fiscal or financial administration or financial sustainability; health compliance and responsiveness; disaster preparedness; social protection and sensitivity program; programs for sustainable education; business friendliness and competitiveness; safety, and peace and order; environmental management; tourism, culture, and arts; and youth development programs.

"Aside from the UNITE Agenda, one of the focuses of this program is the DILG's role in coaching and monitoring the LGUs' implementation of SGLG incentives fund program. This also includes

Seismology (PHIVOLCS) in its modernization program to strengthen its hazard mapping to assist the DPWH in selecting better locations for flood-related infrastructure.

"Out of the P1 trillion sa DPWH budget ay P250 billion ay flood control. But if you spend P30-40 billion budget on hazard mapping that informs where not to build and which river to protect, you may not need P250 billion in flood control in the future," he said.

"We seem to be neglecting science. Reaction lang kasi after reaction ang paggawa at tinatabunan lang ang maling gawa sa isa," he added.

To achieve government plans to address massive flooding in the country and to cut expenses, Cayetano called for stronger support and proper funding for relevant government agencies, such as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

"Investing in their capabilities is investing in our nation's resilience against future disasters," he said. PR

the program to boost the involvement of CSOs in our local special bodies through giving guidance or developing a policy on the accreditation process for CSOs where they can take part for their advocacies to be given attention," she said in Filipino.

Agustin said one of the fruits of this collaboration is the creation of the Pasig City CSO Academy.

"The Pasig City CSO Academy is the first NGO (non-government organization)-initiated academy that aims to provide training courses to CSO leaders. The DILG is among those helping the Pasig City LGU in establishing this," she added.

DILG also initiated the Dagyaw Open Government town hall meetings where LGUs, CSOs, and other government agencies tackle policies and develop measures to address various concerns.

"Dagyaw" is a Hiligaynon term that means togetherness, aimed at a more responsive, more transparent, and accountable government that will take delib-

erate steps to ensure that all voices are heard in governmental affairs.

The conduct of Dagyaw Town Hall Meetings is a commitment of the DILG to the Philippine National Action Plan under the Open Government Partnership.

Agustin said another outcome area of the DILG is the "peaceful orderly safe and secure communities strengthened", where it engages LGUs to actively join the implementation of the government's flagship anti-drug campaign "Buhay Ingatan Droga'y Ayawan" (BIDA).

BIDA engages communities, stakeholders, and partners to raise awareness, promote wellness, and tackle the effects of illegal drug use and trade, in compliance with the Marcos administration's bloodless drug war.

The BIDA Program is built on three key pillars: prevention; law enforcement, prosecution, and correction; and rehabilitation, wellness, and reintegration. (PNA)



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## RECTO...

MANILA – Finance Secretary Ralph Recto on Tuesday said the unutilized government subsidies will be used exclusively to fund the list of projects identified under the unprogrammed appropriations as mandated by the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Recto, during the Senate Committee on Health and Demography's inquiry on the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act, including the utilization of PhilHealth funds for program benefits, said that if the projects were to be funded with additional borrowings, it would increase the country's deficit-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratio from 5.6 percent in 2023 to 6.4 percent in 2024.

He said this would also hike the debt-to-GDP ratio from 60.6 percent to 61.4 percent this year.

Recto said this means the country will have to pay an additional PHP12.7 billion in interest payments every year.

"In effect, we will not hit our Medium-Term Fiscal Program. And this may put pressure on our investment grade rating," he added.

A credit rating downgrade will increase the country's borrowing rates by around one full percentage point, translating to additional interest payments of at least PHP15 billion annually.

Recto said a downgrade will also generate significant uncertainties that may destabilize the country's macroeconomic environment and jeopardize the country's recovery efforts from the pandemic.

He said the projects under the list of unprogrammed appropriations include but are not limited to the Davao City By-Pass Construction Project; Samal Island Davao City Connector Project; Panay-Guimaras-Negros Island Bridges; Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project; Metro Manila Subway Project; and the Salary Standardization VI for government employees.

"To fund the unprogrammed appropriations, Congress determined that there is another way aside from new taxes as well as debts," Recto said, adding this is through collecting the idle and unused money of government-owned and controlled corporations (GOC-Cs).

"Our cost-benefit analysis shows that the projects to be funded by the Unprogrammed Appropriations --na utos ng Kongreso (ordered by Congress) --will hike real [gross domestic product] GDP growth by 0.7 percent, increase an additional PHP23 (billion)-PHP24.4 billion in revenues, and create hundreds of thousands of jobs," he said.

Recto said implementing these projects will help the government hit its target of 6 to 7 percent growth for the year, especially after Super Typhoon Carina ravaged Metro Manila, the country's economic powerhouse that comprises 31 percent of its GDP.

During the inquiry, Recto reiterated there is a legal basis behind the use of the PhilHealth's unutilized funds to finance projects under the unprogrammed appropriations

He said the DOF moved in line with Republic Act No. 11975 or the GAA 2024, which was approved by the Congress.

The DOF first reviewed and studied the provision to determine its merit, assessing if it will help in growing the economy and also consulted the Governance Commission for GOCCs.

Recto said the DOF also sought the legal opinions of the Government Corporate Counsel and the Commission on Audit to ensure full compliance with the law.

He added the DOF received favorable legal opinions on the matter and was advised that PhilHealth's PHP89.9 billion unutilized government subsidies are not part of its reserve funds, nor income that is being restricted by the Universal Health Care Act to be used by the national government as a general fund. (PNA)

# POLICE, DEPENDENTS GIVEN AID, RECOGNITION FROM PNP SERVICE CARAVAN IN CALABARZON



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Philippine National Police Regional Office IV-A extended different government services to over 1,000 police personnel and their dependents during the inaugural Serbisong Bayanihan Caravan held at Camp Vicente Lim, Barangay Mayapa, Calamba City.

The caravan seeks to enhance the morale and welfare of PNP personnel and their dependents assigned in Calabarzon region and to foster a more resilient and empowered police force capable of serving the community effectively.

During the program, recognition for outstanding police officers and personnel who died on service were held, while financial and medical assistance were also awarded for personnel needing such aid.

Part of the caravan is a command visit of PNP Chief Police General Rommel Francisco Marbil to PRO IV-A Regional Director Police Brigadier General Paul Kenneth Lucas and to personally extend his support to the police forces.

Marbil pushes for the implementation of the PNP DAMAYAN PRO-

GRAM, which focuses on the improvement of spiritual, professional, physical, financial, family life, and legal aspects of each personnel.

PNP Chief Marbil commended PRO IV-A Regional Director PBGEN Paul Kenneth T Lucas for initiating the Serbisong Bayanihan Caravan, aimed at benefiting uniformed personnel from the region. (CO)

In his message, Marbil commended the PRO IV-A for launching the said program which he deemed beneficial for the uniformed force.

He said, "I commend the entire management of the Police Regional Office CALA1BARZON, led by the hardworking Regional Director, PBGEN Paul Kenneth T Lucas, for extending various government services and assistance to its personnel and their dependents. Under the leadership of General Lucas, together with our stakeholders, we are able to provide our personnel with basic needs such as health cards, free wheelchairs, and even free legal assistance. This is the only thing I want for PNP, that we remain safe."

Marbil pushes for the implementation of the PNP DAMAYAN PRO-

aimed at supporting the police and their families, including the distribution of health cards and the provision of legal assistance to protect their rights and uphold the dignity of the police force.

For PRO 4A personnel and one of the beneficiaries of the program, Police Executive Master Sergeant Liezel Hernandez, the Bayanihan Caravan is a crucial event, not only for her but also for her family. As police officers, they often struggle to find time to access and avail government services due to their demanding duties.

"This is a huge help for us because it's rare for both of us and our

## BIR...

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hands which shows the unity and cooperation of BIR personnel and external stakeholders in propelling the nation's progress," he added.

Lumagui said the Philippine flag colors, blue, yellow, red, and white, represent the Bureau's love for the country.

The new BIR web portal, meanwhile, was developed with the help of the Department of Information and Communications Technology.

Lumagui said the new portal aims to create a balance between convenience in accessing tax

children to be the ones benefiting from this kind of activity, given the demands of our police duties, we couldn't easily leave the office. We are very grateful that we brought our family and relatives here, and that we are the ones who received these benefits," PEMS Hernandez stated.

Aside from aids, police personnel and their families availed wide range of services including medical and dental services, Sports Clinic, legal consultation, First Communion, renewal and application of driver's license, livelihood trainings, services from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), entertainment program, distribution of food and non-food items, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) scholarship, National Police Clearance, and processing of the Licensed To Own and Possess Firearms (LTOPF).

Lucas expressed his gratitude to the participating government agencies, foundations, and non-government organizations who generously provided various services and underscored the spirit of unity to the members of PNP and their dependents. (CO/PIA-4A)

information, BIR updates, eServices, and an impression of professionalism and modernity in the 21st century.

"The BIR marks its 120th anniversary with achievements worthy of 'Bagong Pilipinas'. Our 100% Nationwide ISO Certification marks the shift of BIR into a more service-oriented agency. Our new BIR logo marks our adaptation to the 21st century. Our new BIR web portal marks our commitment to the digitalization of our services," said Lumagui. (PNA)

# LAGUNA PPO, NAKAMIT ANG PANG ANIM (6) NA PARANGAL



Ang Laguna Police Provincial Office ay ginawaran ng pang-anim (6) na parangal bilang Best Police Provincial Office Award sa buong rehiyon mula Disyembre 2023 hanggang Mayo 2024 na ipinagkaloob kay PCOL GAUVIN MEL Y UNOS, APD LPPO ng Police Regional Office CALABARZON sa pamumuno ni PBGEN PAUL KENNETH T LUCAS ngayong umaga ng Agosto 5, 2024 sa Camp Vicente P Lim , Brgy. Mayapa, Calamba City, Laguna.

Gayun din naman pinarangalan din ang mga sumusunod na bayan para sa buwan ng Mayo at Hunyo, (Best PMFC - 1st Laguna PMFC, Best CCPS - Sta. Rosa CCPS, Best Class A MPS - Calauan MPS, Best Class B MPS - Alaminos MPS and Nagcarlan MPS at Class C MPS - Majayjay MPS and Rizal MPS).

Ang mga nasabing parangal na ito ay isang patunay na ang Laguna PPO ay patuloy na nagpapatupad ng batas nang may katapatan at integridad sa paglilingkod para sa mapayapa at ligtas na Lalawigan ng Laguna. (LPPO-PIO)

## ABALOS: INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE FORMED TO ADDRESS BATAAN OIL SPILL

DEPARTMENT of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benhur Abalos has said an inter-agency task force was formed to consolidate necessary containment efforts and mitigation measures to address the oil spill in Lamao Point, Limay, Bataan.

This, as he led meeting of the joint National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC)-Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) on Monday in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

According to Abalos, Pres. Ferdinand Marcos Jr. directed all concerned national government agencies to provide the necessary support for the affected LGUs using the lessons from the experi-

ences of Oriental Mindoro oil spill.

"Tutulong po ang lahat, kaya andito ang national government agencies upang paghandaan natin ito paano i-contain itong langis na ito. Ang dapat nating paghandaan, gaano karami ang langis na ito? Ito ba ay masa-salvage, ilang litro ang naitawan nito," Abalos said.

The task force is composed of DILG; Office of Civil Defense (OCD); Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health, Department of Transportation, Department of Science and Technology and other National Government Agencies.

Also with them are the provincial govern-

ment units of Bataan and Bulacan; local government units of Parañaque, Las Piñas, Pasay, Manila, Navotas, and Cavite. Motor Tanker Terranova owned by Shogun Ships Company Incorporated capsized on Thursday carrying 1.4 million liters of industrial fuel oil around 3.6 nautical miles or around seven kilometers east of Lamao Point.

"Let us all be prepared for the worst, dapat handa po tayo at maisama natin sa pag-factor ang bagyo, current, at etc," Abalos said.

Abalos assured that the inter-agency task force will move forward with concrete action and will provide regular reports to keep everyone informed about the status of oil spill cleanup and containment.



Makikita sa mga larawan si Vice Gov Atty Karen Agapay nang dumalo siya sa ginanap na SDO Biñan City's BRIGADA ESKWELA 2024 kick-off, sa pangunguna ni Schools Division Supt. Dr Manuela Tolentino kasama ang kanilang mga guro at mga magulang bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na muling pagbubukas ng klase para sa Taong Panuruan 2024-2025.

## DOST-QUEZON ATTENDS LGU-REAL'S 1ST REAL BUSINESS CONGRESS AND PRESENTS DOST PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



To contribute to the local economic development of the municipality of Real in Quezon, Provincial S&T Director Maria Esperanza E. Jawili presented and discussed the different assistance and initiatives to assist the micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), associations, cooperatives and the LGUs in the activity held at the J.A. Diestro Hall, Municipal Government Center, Poblacion, Real, Quezon last June 21, 2024.

Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (iFWD PH) Program, Grants-In-Aid Community-Based Program (GIA-CBP), technical Manufacturing Productivity Extension Program (MPEX), are among the programs and services shared by Ms. Jawili to the business leaders and stakeholders. She empha-

sized the benefits with corresponding requirements and application of the said programs intended for MSMEs, cooperatives, and the community, anchored in science and technology. Also, she committed a Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) Training to the food processors of Real, Quezon. The event was spearheaded by the Local Government Unit of Real and LEDIPO as part of the 61st Founding Anniversary of the municipality.



## Huwag Sanang Gawing Evacuation Center Ang Mga Eskwelahan

Sa tuwing magkakabaha o tumaas ang tubig sa panahon ng tagbagyuhan palagi na lang ang mga eskwelahan ang unang binubuksan upang gawing evacuation center.

Kaya naman nitong nakaraang Abril 2024, nakiusap ang Department of Education (DepEd) na huwag gawing evacuation centers ang mga eskwelahan. Sa tuwing magkakaroon ng kalamidad—bagyo, baha, lindol, at pagputok ng bulkan, ang mga eskwelahan ang pinagdadalhan ng evacuees. Halos lahat ng mga apektadong residente ay sa paaralan tumutuloy. Mas marami kasi ang nakakasilong sa mga eskwelahan dahil sa dami ng mga kuarto. Maraming public schools ang karaniwang hanggang ikaapat o ikalimang palapag kaya maraming tao ang nakakatuloy.

Nang bumaha noong Hulyo 24 sa Metro Manila dahil sa habagat na pinalakas ng Bagyong Carina, maraming residente ang pansamantalang dinala sa mga eskwelahan na nagsilbing evacuation centers. Ilang araw din na nanatili sa mga eskwelahan ang evacuees. Ayon sa datos, may mga paaralan pa hanggang sa kasalukuyan na ginagamit pa ring evacuation centers.

Nang magbukas ang school year 2024-2025 noong Lunes (Hulyo 29), maraming eskwelahan ang ipinagpaliban ang pagbubukas ng klase. Ilan sa dahilan kaya ipinagpaliban ang pagbubukas ng klase ay dahil baha sa lugar, kailangang i-repair dahil nasira ang eskwelahan at ginagamit na evacuation centers. Ayon sa DepEd, umabot sa 673 na paaralan ang hindi nakapag-umpisa ng klase dahil sa mga nabanggit na kadahilanan.

Pero sa isang report, ang patuloy na pananatili ng evacuees ang malalim na dahilan kaya hindi nakapagsimula ang klase noong Lunes. Hindi naman maitaboy ang evacuees sapagkat karamihan sa mga ito ay mga maliit na bata at sanggol at senior citizens.

Hindi maganda ang epekto sa patuloy na paggamit ng mga eskwelahan bilang evacuation centers. Apektado ang pag-aaral ng mga estudyante. Isa pang hindi maganda, nasisira ang mga school dahil sa kagagawan ng evacuees. Maraming nasasalaula at nasisira.

May mga evacuees na sinisira ang mga kuwarto ng school, pati mga silya blackboards. Sinusulatan ang pader at doon dumudumi. Halimbawa rito ay ang nangyari sa mga school sa Parañaque ilang taon na ang nakararaan. Nababoy ang mga room at kailangang linisin bago gamitin ng mga estudyante.

Sikapin ng pamahalaan na magpagawa ng evacuation centers sa bawat barangay. Huwag sa schools dalhin ang evacuees. Isakatuparan ito sapagkat ang bansa ay laging nakaharap sa kalamidad. Kailangan ang desenteng evacuation centers.

# CHINABANK WINS DOMESTIC RETAIL BANK OF THE YEAR, TWO OTHER AWARDS FROM ASIAN BANKING & FINANCE

Chinabank was named as the Domestic Retail Bank of the Year - Philippines at the Asian Banking and Finance (ABF) Retail Banking Awards 2024. In addition, the bank and Chinabank Capital won the Debt Deal of the Year - Philippines and IPO (initial public offering) Deal of the Year - Philippines at ABF's Corporate & Investment Banking Awards 2024. The awarding ceremonies were held on July 5 at the Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

The Domestic Retail Bank of the Year award recognizes Chinabank's strong performance in the past year, achieving record-high earnings and improved shareholder returns. The country's fourth largest private universal bank, Chinabank recorded 15% higher net income in 2023

to P22 billion on the back of strong core business growth. Its key profitability metrics have consistently remained among the highest in the industry, with a return on equity exceeding 15% for the past two years.

from its sustained solid financial performance, Chinabank embarked on a digital transformation, adopting a customer-centric, technology-enabled retail strategy to offer seamless customer experiences and convenience in-branch and online. "Throughout its transformation, China Banking Corporation has never lost sight of delivering its commitment to its stakeholders," ABF noted in its citation.

ABF also recognized Chinabank and Chinabank Capital for successfully handling significant deals that had a

positive impact on clients' businesses and the industry. Chinabank's P25 billion project finance facility with Suntrust Resort Holdings, Inc. for the development of a modern integrated resort and casino complex in Entertainment City was named as Debt Deal of the Year. This was the largest term loan facility in the Philippines for an integrated tourism project in 2023, and the largest project finance deal to date to be solely led by Chinabank Capital.

Chinabank Capital also won IPO Deal of the Year for Repower Energy Development Corporation's (REDC) IPO. Chinabank Capital was the sole issue manager, lead underwriter, and sole bookrunner for the offering which enabled REDC to raise P1.15 billion in 2023 amid a tepid market that prompted bigger

companies to defer their IPO plans. Proceeds of the IPO were used to partially fund the equity of REDC's 15-MW Pulangi micro-hydroelectric power plant in Bukidnon and 4.5-MW Piapi hydropower plant in Quezon, for the development and acquisition of renewable energy projects, and for operating and working capital requirements.

ABF recognizes banks and financial institutions in Asia for their outstanding performance, innovation and excellence in retail and investment banking. Aside from ABF awards, Chinabank has garnered other international and local accolades over the years. The bank also earned a spot in the inaugural Fortune Southeast Asia 500, a list of the top 500 companies in the region in terms of total revenues.

## DBM: 1st wave of gov't wage hike retroactive starting JANUARY 2024

MANILA – The first of the four-tranche salary increase for government workers that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. announced in his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) last week will start this year and will be given retroactively beginning January 2024.

In a Palace press briefing Thursday, Budget Secretary Amena Pangandaman said the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is currently crafting the Executive Order that will detail the salary increase.

"As of now, we are perfecting the Executive Order. And we are hoping for the issuance of the Executive Order soon," Pangandaman said.

The salary increase will run from

2025 through 2027, she added.

The DBM said it has allocated PHP70 billion in the 2025 National Expenditure Program to ensure the implementation of the initial tranches of the salary increase.

Meanwhile, some PHP36 billion have been set aside for Personnel Services expenditures under the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA) in preparation for this salary hike, which the DBM previously proposed to the President.

Earlier, the DBM said the salary increase for government workers is expected to benefit 165,007 sub-professionals; 1,170,647 professionals, such as teachers and lawyers; and 22,640 personnel in executive functions. The last time

salaries of government workers were increased was in 2023, the fourth and last tranche of the Salary Standardization Law of 2019, which started in 2020.

P7K medical allowance. Meanwhile, Pangandaman also announced that a total of PHP9.6 billion has been allocated for the medical allowance of government workers starting next year.

The allocation

will provide each government employee PHP7,000 for their medical allowance as a subsidy to avail of Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) benefits or HMO-type benefits.

The annual medical allowance may be used for various medical services, helping public employees be prepared for any health-related emergencies, the budget chief explained. (PNA)

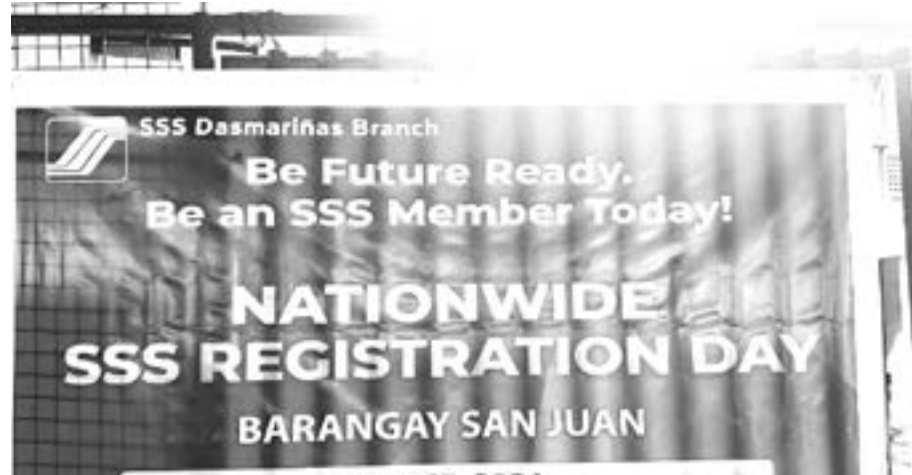


# SSS DASMA NATIONWIDE REGISTRATION DAY



The SSS Dasmariñas Branch successfully conducted a nationwide National Registration Day at the covered court of Barangay San Juan in Dasmariñas City, Cavite. The event saw significant participation from the youth of the barangay and neighboring areas. The activity was facilitated by the AMS Team led by Acting CEO II of Accounts Management Section, Gilfred Capiz and Acting Head Celedonio Valdez.

The program began with a prayer followed by the Philippine National Anthem and after the opening message from Mr. Valdez, a quick talk on SSS benefits and services including Pensioner Booster been conducted by Mr. Capiz then immediately, the registration and caravan for residents formally commenced. Over 256 walk-in participants were successfully accommodated and served during the event. The activity ended with the awarding of certificates to the Punong Barangay for his valuable contributions in the successful national registration day. (Kamille Ann A. Hilot)



# BIR GETS ISO CERTIFICATION, UNVEILS NEW LOGO, PORTAL

MANILA – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) recently received a 100-percent nationwide International Organization for Standardization or ISO certification on several of its services, BIR Commissioner Romeo Lumagui Jr. said on Thursday.

Lumagui, during the 120th-anniversary celebration held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, said the ISO Certification covers both the Operations Group (Revenue Regions, Revenue District Offices) and the Large Taxpayer Service (LTS).

The ISO Certification for the Revenue Regions and Revenue District Offices covered the business registration process; process of retrieval and verification of batch control sheet reports and tax returns from authorized agent banks; and processing and issuance of tax clearance and certificates.

The certification also covered the standards on the processing of one-time transactions and processing of tax returns in the document processing division particularly on document control and data capture processes.

The ISO Certification for the LTS, meanwhile, covered its most important taxpayer service-related processes such as the registration process; collection process; and ONETT Process or the onerous transfer of shares of stock not traded through the local stock exchange, and the donation of real and personal properties.

New logo, portal

The BIR also unveiled its new logo and web portal.

Lumagui said the new BIR logo was created through the contributions of both taxpayers and revenue enforcers and symbolizes the inclusive approach of

the BIR in dealing with taxpayers.

The new logo features the Philippine Eagle, three stars, a sun wreath, and the colors of the Philippine flag

Lumagui said the Philippine Eagle shows the BIR's tenacity and resilience in overcoming the odds to achieve its goals while the eagle's eye symbolizes the BIR's vigilance and attention to detail in the enforcement of tax laws and collection of taxes.

"The three stars, the Philippine archipelago's three principal islands, Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, affirms BIR's dedication to serving the entire nation," he said.

"We also have the sun wreath, which represents the BIR's role in guiding the nation towards prosperity through fair and transparent enforcement of tax laws. We also have here people with joined

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# CARD MRI holds tour program for Media in Tacloban City, Leyte



Media participants and CARD MRI key officers gathered for a media briefing to conclude the three-day Panaghiusa CARD MRI Exposure Tour program.

The CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) invited media practitioners from Laguna, Davao, Leyte, and Samar to participate in its Panaghiusa: CARD MRI Exposure Tour Program in Tacloban City from June 19 to 21, 2024.

LED by CARD MRI Publishing House President

Marilyn Manila said, "The goal of this exposure tour program is to give media participants a chance to interact with communities and see how microfinance and microinsurance services empower the socio-economically marginalized communities."

Led by CARD MRI Publishing House,

the media participants visited the centers and clients of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO) and CARD Bank Tacloban Branch where they learned the stories of success of microenterprises. A short Tacloban City Tour was also held, facilitated by CARD MRI Hijos Tours, to high-

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# EK SUPPORTS BRIGADAESKWELA2024



As part of EnchantedKingdom's advocacy to promote a fun, unique and learning environment for students, EK is now on its 10th year in supporting the Department of Education (DepEd)'s BRIGADA ESKWELA 2024. The first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines has shared its magic by turning over two Kindergarten classrooms to Southville Elementary School last JULY 26, 2024 which it adopted for improvement in support of this year's BrigadaEskwela with its five core values namely; Love of God, Loyalty, Respect, Integrity and Innovativeness. Its official mascot Eldar The Wizard, along with his friends, had a very magical day sharing their enchanting performances for all the guests who also enjoyed tasty treats, EKciting games, and special gifts prepared by EK's Cast Members (employees). The event was gracefully led by Enchanted Kingdom Boss Mr. Mario O. Mamon, chairman and president ; Sta. Rosa City Mayor Arlene V. Arcillas who was represented by no other than Vice Mayor Arnold V. Arcillas together with other School officials and barangay officials of Barangay Southville 4, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. { Webster ace Paginag}



## CARD...

light the rich history of the city. The media attendees gained an understanding of the company's microfinance and microinsurance products and the positive impact CARD MRI creates in communities through its financial services and community development programs after their exposure to the Kaunlaran Caravan in Basey, Samar.

"To grow and strengthen connections with individuals and organizations who share the same purpose is one of CARD MRI's missions. This Lakbay Aral Program is our way to connect with media to help us spread the information about our mission of eradicating poverty in the country," Manila stated.

The three-day event in Leyte was participated by 12 media practitioners from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. The participants were Carmela Estrope from Newscore Bulacan, Kervin Roi Katigbak from Ang Dyaryo Natin, Dexter Visitation from Periodico Norte, Jefferson Crisostomo from Balitang Parehas, Dominic Abrematea from the Tacloban Star, Marie Tonette Marticio from Manila Bulletin, Justine Grace Traya from RMN Tacloban, Tito

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Tapase from the Leyte-Samar Daily Express, Roel Amazona from the Philippine News Agency Tacloban, Ruby Espina from the West Leyte Express, and Ricky Bautista from the West Leyte Weekly Express.

The Media Lakbay Aral is a program organized by CARD MRI Publishing House, an institution under CARD MRI that hopes to elevate the capacity of CARD MRI clients by providing progressive and positive stories. The institution plans to organize another tour program in Tuguegarao in August of this year.

To know more about CARD MRI Publishing House, Inc., please visit <https://www.cardmri.com/publishinghouse/> and CARD MRI Publishing House Inc. on Facebook.



# PAGSASANAY SA PAGGAWA NG BUSINESS PLAN PARA SA SUSUNOD NA BENEPISYARYO NG KADIWA, ISINAGAWA NG DA CALABARZON

Lumahok ang 25 representante ng lokal na pamahalaan at mga kasamang Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCA) mula sa walong bayan ng rehiyon sa isinagawang Business Planning Workshop ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD).

Ito ay idinaos noong ika-25 hanggang ika-28 ng Hunyo tampok ang mga kalahok mula sa bayan ng Antipolo City, Balete, Binangonan, Calaca, Cardona, Bay, San Pablo City, at Sto. Tomas City.

Ito ay upang ihanda sila sa paggawa ng Project Proposal para sa kani-kanilang negosyo kung saan maaari silang maging kabilang sa mga susunod na benepisyaryo ng KADIWA Grant. Ito ay programa ng Kagawaran na nagbibigay ng suporta sa pagpapaunlad ng nego-



syo ng mga magsasaka gaya ng tulong-pinansyal. Binigyang diin sa aktibidad ang mga aspeto sa pagpapatkbo ng negosyo, mga hakbang sa pagbebenta ng produkto at pamamahala ng organisasyon at usaping pinansyal. Sa ika-apat na araw ay dumako ang mga kalahok sa presentasyon ng kanilang mga plano at gawain na inaasahang dadaan sa pagsusuri at ebalwasyon ng Kagawaran bago maaprubahan. Ayon kay Lualhati Debel mula sa San Pablo City, ikinagalak niyang makadalo sa aktibidad na nakatutok sa ikabubuti pa ng hanapbuhay ng mga magsasaka. Aniya, sa tulong ng pagsaayos ng kanilang business plan lalo na sa pinansyal na bahagi ay mas naging malinaw ang direksyon ng kanilang negosyo sa pagpipinya at pagniniyog. (Danica T. Daluz, DA-4A RAFIS)