

PHILHEALTH IV-A AT CAVITE MEDIA, PAKNERS SA HEALTH AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION



Masaya at aktibong nakilahok ang mga miyembro ng Cavite Media members sa ginanap na press conference ng PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A sa Strike Multipurpose Hall Bacoor Government Center, Molino Road sa Lungsod ng Bacoor, Cavite kamakailan Setyembre 20, 2024 sa pangunguna nina Sir Arturo C. Ardiente, Chief ng Field Operations Division; Maam Maria Theresa G. Liwanag, MD, OIC ng Health Care Delivery Management Division; at Sir Benjamin A. Rodil, Head ng LHIO Trece Martires City.

Nauna rito pina-liwanag ni Maam Darlene Albaño ng Social Insurance Officer II, LHIO Dasmariñas City sa mga Media partners ang mga New and Enhanced Benefits na napapaloob sa programa para sa mga miyembro nito.

Masusing tinalakay din ng mga speakers at resource persons ang kahalagahan ng mas “Pinalawak at mga Bagong Benepisyo para sa Mamayang Pilipino” ng PhilHealth kabilang na ang mas pinaigting na Outpatient Mental Health Package, Z Benefits para sa Orthopedic Implants, 171% Pagtaas ng Benepisyo para sa Ischemic Stroke, 156 Hemodialysis Sessions, 182% Pagtaas ng Benepisyo para sa High-risk Pneumonia at 110% Pagtaas ng Benepisyo para sa Hemorrhagic Stroke na sinimulan noon pang 2023.

Ngayong 2024 naman ay iniimplementa ng PhilHealth ang “Dagdag 30% sa mga Care Rate Packages” sa lahat ng admission na naging epektibo noong Peb. 14; ang mas pinabuting Z Benefit Package para sa breast cancer na sinimulan noong Marso 30: at ang inaabangang pagsa-saayos ng case rate para sa bronchial asthma at bacterial sepsis sa mga bagong silang na sanggol.

Tinalakay din sa nasabing presscon ang kahalagahan ng programang Konsulta o Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama na dapat umangon gamitin ng lahat ng miyembro para sa health preventive measures o bago lumala ang sakit.

Kaugnay nito ay binigyang-pansin ng mga opisyal ng PhilHealth ang mahalagang papel ng mga mamamahayag sa pagpapalawig o information dissemination tungkol sa mga magagandang programa ng kagawaran sa ilalim ng Universal Health Care Law sa mga kababayan nating di naabot ng teknolohiya.

Natapos ang nasabing pagtitipon sa isang masayang kwentuhan at kumustahan kasama na ang photo opp session.

Para sa impormasyon, katanungan at ukol sa mga magagandang programa ng PhilHealth ay maaring bumisita sa kanilang website (WEBSTER ACE PAGINAG)

CARD MRI Holds Media Lakbay Aral in Tuguegarao City



The media briefing held in Tuguegarao City was attended by some of the media practitioners in Laguna, Isabela, and Tuguegarao City, together with some of the CARD MRI key officers in the area.

CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) held another Panaghiusa: CARD MRI Exposure Tour Program for Media in Tuguegarao City on August 18-20, 2024.

Organized by CARD MRI Publishing House, the three-day event aimed to deepen media practitioners' understanding of the wide range of services CARD MRI provides, including financial services, insurance, health programs, and more.

“Telling the success stories of CARD MRI clients is one way we inspire the public to strive for betterment. This is why we collaborate with media practitioners nationwide to disseminate these stories and reach a wider audience,” said Marilyn Manila, President of CARD MRI Publishing House.

The event was attended by nine media practitioners: Madeliene Marasigan, Publisher at Rapids Journal; Romulo Madrigal, Publisher at Balitang Pinoy; Emil Jun Delos Santos, Senior Anchor at DZJV Calamba; Via Hanah Visaya, Writer and Researcher at Luzonwide News; Vill Gideon Visaya, Correspondent at Balitang Hilaga; Irene Gonzales, Correspondent Reporter at Pilipino Mirror; Eduardo Quintos, News Director at NBS DWDY; April Jane Racho, Program Producer at

DWPE; and Michelle Bafia, Reporter at NBS DWDY.

During the tour, participants visited CARD MRI offices in Tuguegarao City, including CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO) Regional Office, CARD MRI Rizal Bank Inc. (CARD RBI) Tuguegarao Branch, CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA) Provincial Office, and CARD Pioneer Microinsurance Inc. (CPMI).

The media practitioners also had the opportunity to meet and interview CARD, Inc. clients like Chita Tamayao, a market vendor, and Catherine Alejo Liones, a pastillas maker. Additionally, they visited Maria Luyun, a client from CARD RBI who runs a Miki noodle factory.

They also observed activities at the SK Soldiers Center and Adduru Center of CARD, Inc. on how CARD MRI delivers its products and services.

To appreciate the local culture and history, the participants visited the Cagayan Museum and Historical Research Center in Tuguegarao City and explored the Callao Cave in Peñaflanca.

To wrap up the event, a media briefing was held, attended by various CARD MRI officers, including CARD, Inc. Regional Director Emmanuel Angeles; CARD RBI Regional Director Robert Urgino; CARD, Inc. Regional Accountant Mary Joy Calimag; CARD, Inc. Area Manager Michelle Labsang; CARD RBI Area Manager Raymund Apostol; CARD MBA Provincial Manager Marjane Ampoon; CPMI PRO Mark Molina; CARD MBA Claims Processor Ladychar Dumlaog; CPMI CPRO Sheryl Gumabay; and CPMI Microinsurance Supervisor Annliou Adduru.

This year, the CARD MRI Publishing House held four Media Lakbay Aral events in Masbate City, Butuan City, Tacloban City, and Tuguegarao City.



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Vol. I - Series 10 - Sept 22-29, 2024

Free rides available during 2-day transport strike

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PBBM Administration Commits P8.8 Billion to DOST's Grants-In-Aid Program to Drive Innovation and Economic Growth



The administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has taken a significant step towards advancing the nation's research and development (R&D) by allocating P8.8 billion to the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Grants-In-Aid

cos emphasized that the GIA Program plays a key role in fostering innovation and driving sustainable development. The program will support various sectors, particularly those involved in research, technology transfer, human resources development, and information dissemination.

DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman highlighted the administration's commitment to empowering innovators and researchers. “We will continue supporting programs like GIA to ensure that science and technology serve as powerful tools for societal advancement,” Pangandaman said.

The Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA) 2022-2028 will

Cayetano, isinusulong ang agarang pagpasa ng PHIVOLCS modernization bill



Muli na naman ng ating butihing Mayor Ross Rizal bilang pagkilala sa mga sumusunod First Runner Up

#ModelCity First Runner
#HavenCity Second Runner
Up #WealthCenter Ito ay pagpatunay lamang sa tamang pamamahala upang bigyang halaga ang Kalusugan, Kaligtasan at Kaunlaran ng Lungsod ng Calamba, Ang Bayan ng Bayani (Nelson Dimapilis/COG)



Makikita sa larawan si Laguna Vice Gov Atty Karen Agapay sa regular na Free Legal Assistance and Consultation tuwing araw ng Huwebes sa Kapitolyo ng San Pedro City. Magkatuwang sa naturang programa ang Tanggapan ni VG Agapay at San Pedro City Councilor ToriKonsi Marky Oliveros.

Padel Pilipinas ipinakilala ang National Team, handa na para sa Asia Pacific Padel Cup

Former Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque Faces Arrest Over Alleged Links to Illegal Offshore Gaming Hub in Pampanga

Editoryal

STORAGE FACILITIES KAILANGAN NG MGA MAGSASAKA

Storage facilities ang kailangan ng mga magsasaka upang nakapag imbak sila ng kanilang mga ani . Ito ang dapat pagtuunan ni Department of Agriculture(DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. para walang masayang na pagkain

Ayon mismo sa Department of Agriculture (DA), nasa 30 percent ng agricultural products ang nasisira at nasasayang bawat taon. Ang dahilan kung bakit maraming nasisirang produkto ay dahil sa mahinang logistics system ng food supply chain sa bansa

Dahil kalunus-lunos ang nangyayari sa mga produktong agrikultura sa bansa. Sa halip na pakinabangan at pagkakitaan ay nasasayang o nasisira lamang. Ang pagkasira ay kasingkahulugan din na walang napakinabang ang mga magsasaka. Pagkaraang gastusan ang pagtatanim, paglalagay ng pataba, pag-spray para hindi sirain ng insekto, ay masasayang lamang pala. Itatapon din lamang pala dahil sobra-sobra ang ani. Walang mapaglagakan na storage facilities. Habang marami ang nagugutom sa bansa, marami rin namang itinatapon na produkto. malaking sayang talaga!

Sabi ng mga grupo ng mga magsasaka at nagtatanim ng sibuyas, ang nararapat paghandaan ng pamahalaan ay ang pagkakaroon ng cold storage facilities upang hindi mabulok ang mga aanihing gulay. Ganito rin ang sinabi ng Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food Inc. (PCAFI) mahalagang magkaroon nang maraming storages para sa sibuyas. Ito umano ang dapat paghandaan ng DA. Ayon pa sa PCAFI, mayroon lamang 27 storage plants sa Metro Manila.

Ayon kay Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. kung maayos lang daw sana ang logistics system ng bansa, mababawasan daw ng 10-15 percent ang presyo ng mga gulay at prutas. Nilinaw naman ni Laurel na ang 30 percent na nasisira sa mga produkto ay base lamang sa kanyang karanasan sa pagnenegosyo at hindi base sa datos. Inilatag naman niya ang talong taon na plano para sa “Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas” na ang layunin ay pataasin ang produksyon ng agri-fishery industry.

Ang kawalan ng storage facilities sa bansa ang numero unong problema kaya maraming nasasayang na gulay at prutas. Kapag nagkasabay-sabay ang ani ng mga gulay—repolyo, petsay, kamatis at iba pa, wala nang mapaglagayan at ang kahahantungan ay ipagbibili ito sa murang halaga lamang. Gaya nang nangyayari ngayon sa Benguet, Nueva Ecija at Bicol Region na umaapaw sa dami ang ani ng gulay. Ang hindi na maipagbili at malapit nang mabulok, ipinamimigay na lang. Ang masaklap, itinatapon na lang ang karamihan ng gulay gaya ng kamatis.

Noong nakaraang Enero 2023, binalak ng pamahalaan na umangkat ng sibuyas para raw mapunan ang kakulangan pero tinutulan ng mga magsasaka ng sibuyas sapagkat maaaring mabulok lang. Marami raw aanihing sibuyas sa bansa sa panahon ng Pebrero at Marso kaya hindi na dapat umangkat. Masasayang lang daw at aksaya sa pera kung aangkat.

Libre Sakay...

MANILA — The Philippine National Police (PNP) will deploy vehicles to provide rides to commuters who may be affected by the two-day strike of transport groups Manibela and Piston beginning Monday.

In a radio interview Sunday, PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said police units were tasked to monitor their areas of jurisdiction and to assist stranded passengers.

“The order of our Chief PNP (Gen. Rommel Marbil) is to provide free rides to the stranded commuters,” Fajardo said.

Recto welcomes the remittance of SMC’s P30-B upfront payment on NAIA PPP deal, adds boost to govt’s non-tax revenue stream

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto has welcomed the remittance of a PHP 30-billion upfront payment from San Miguel Corporation-led New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) project, which will boost the government’s non-tax revenue stream without the need to impose new taxes on the people.

“We are hitting two birds with one stone on this project. This will not only transform NAIA into a world-class airport but also guarantees the government a healthy income stream from the private sector operator,” the Finance Chief said.

“The 30 billion pesos is just the upfront payment from the private sector partner. As the project finally takes off, the government is expected to generate roughly 900 billion pesos in revenues from this deal over the entire

Free rides will also be provided by local government units, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board and Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Transport groups Manibela and Piston continue to oppose the government’s Public Transport Modernization Program and demand the following: junking of forced franchise consolidation; renewal of franchises and registrations for all public utility vehicle (PUV) operators, including those who choose not to consolidate; redirecting

funds for the phaseout programs to the rehabilitation of traditional jeepneys and subsidies for local industries; and allowing the withdrawal of those who have made franchise consolidation.

Senate President Francis Escudero recently met with Department of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista and Undersecretary for Road Transport and Infrastructure Jesus Ferdinand Ortega to make sure the PTMP has minimal impacts on drivers and operators.

“We are all for or-

ganizing and modernizing the operations of our PUVs but we should also exert all efforts to include every driver and operator who have relied on jeepneys as their sources of livelihood,” Escudero said in a statement.

Fajardo said that while the government fully respects the right to protest, Manibela and Piston must also recognize the right of other transport operators and drivers to ply their routes.

“We are always ready and our police forces are always on standby,” she said. (PNA)

Led by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the MIAA as co-grantors of this solicited PPP, the NAIA rehabilitation is expected to increase airport capacity from 35 million passengers annually to 62 million and expand air traffic movements per hour from 40 to 48.

The project improves service by applying internationally benchmarked Minimum Performance Standards and Specifications and utilizes private sector expertise for modernization and capacity expansion.

The NAIA project was approved by the NEDA Board, chaired by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr., on July 19, 2023. It was evaluated within a record-breaking six weeks—the fastest approved PPP proposal in Philippine history.

The Department of Finance’s (DOF) Privatization and Partnerships Group

(PPG) is responsible for evaluating solicited and unsolicited PPP proposals, which undergo a rigorous screening process before they are submitted to the Investment Coordination Committee (ICC) and NEDA Board.

On February 16, 2024, the MIAA board awarded the contract for the project to the SMC-led consortium, which submitted the highest bid parameter.

The proponent is providing a PHP 30 billion upfront payment, a fixed PHP 2 billion annual payment, and 82.16% national government revenue share, excluding passenger service charges.

The Concession Agreement (CA) for the project was signed by the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the MIAA, and the SMC-led consortium on March 18, 2024.

PBBM..

guide the funding and implementation of the country’s R&D initiatives. The Marcos administration also envisions the Philippines as a regional hub for smart and sustainable manufacturing, innovation, and creativity, allocating P28.8 billion to the DOST in the proposed FY 2025

FROM PAGE 1

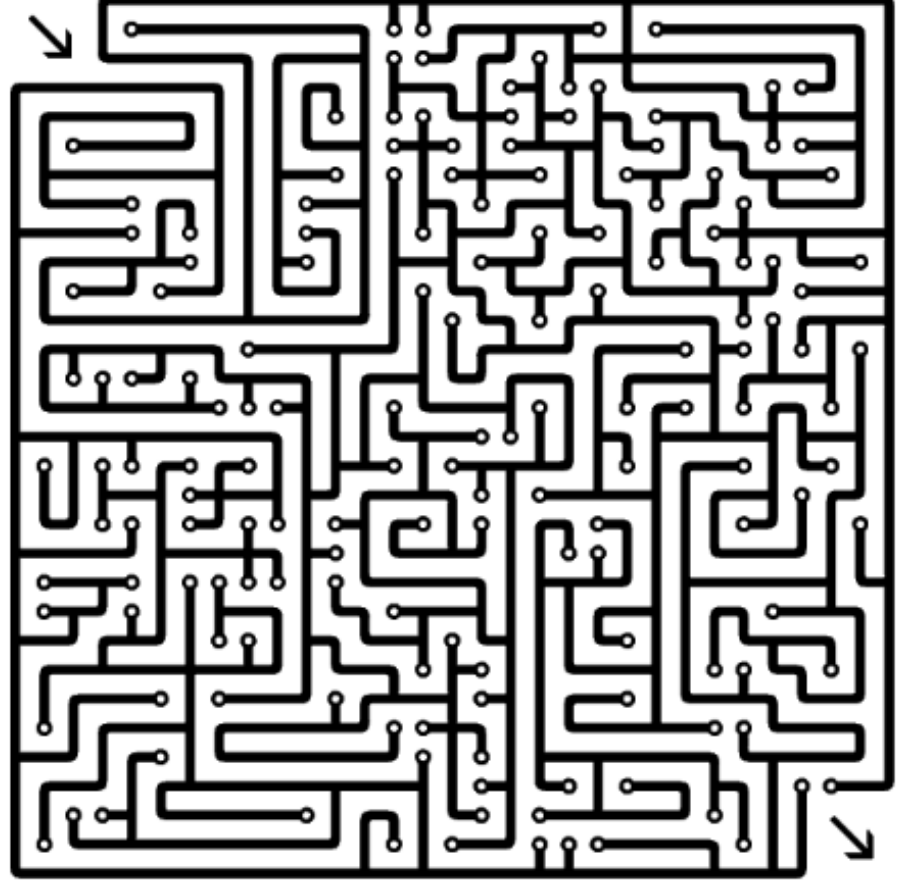
budget.

This strategic investment in science and technology aims to accelerate the nation’s economic and social transformation, positioning the Philippines at the forefront of regional innovation.

(Edjun Mariposque)



MAZE



WORD SEARCH



GALILEE	BAPTIZED	REPENT	VOICE	DESERT
NEWS	DAYS	TEMPTED	DOVE	BELIEVE
SPIRIT	NAZARETH	FORTY	JORDAN	GOOD
JESUS	WATER	JOHN	HEAVEN	LOVE

SUDOKU

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ACROSS			
1	Space		
4	Angels' illuminants		
9	Total		
12	Past		
13	Vote into office		
14	Gorilla		
15	Moon, for instance		
17	Youngster		
18	CDs' forerunners		
19	Winter weasel		
21	Easter egg container		
24	Golf props		
25	"The — Daba Honey-moon"		
26	Water barrier		
28	Vaults		
31	On pension (Abbr.)		
33	In medias —		
35	Tragic		
36	Speaks unclearly		
38	Guy's counterpart		
40	Away from WSW		
41	Regretted		
43	Maestro, e.g.		
45	Wisconsin, the — State		
47	Slight amount		
48	Genetic messenger		
49	Duke Ellington classic		
54	Whatever number		
55	"Excavating for —"		
56	Trouble		
57	More (Sp.)		
58	Subsided		
59	Ram's mate		
DOWN			
1	Petrol		
2	Khan title		
3	Cauldron		
4	Lent a hand		
5	Outstanding athlete		
6	Islander's neckwear		
7	Group of		
8	Cordwood measures		
9	Content		
10	"Once — a time, ..."		
11	Apportion (out)		
16	Wapiti		
20	Anthropologist		
21	Behind — (in jail)		
22	First victim		
23	Halves of weekends		
27	"Little Women" woman		
29	Sea eagle		
30	Prognost		
32	Pharmaceutical		
34	Cracker type		
37	Teeter-totter		
39	Tilted		
42	Pulitzer Prize category		
44	Find 9-Across		
45	"Dracula" author		
46	Actress		
	Paquin		
50	Can material		
51	Have bills		
52	Depressed		
53	Shelter wire		



Brig. Gen. Cerilo Balaoro Takes Command of Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry Division, Pledges to Uphold Legacy of Peace and Security in Southern Tagalog



The 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division (2ID) of the Philippine Army has a new commander at the helm, Brig. Gen. Cerilo C. Balaoro Jr. He officially assumed leadership during a Change of Command Ceremony held at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, on September 17. Balaoro takes over from Brig. Gen. Jose Augusto V. Villareal, who had temporarily led the division after the retirement of Maj. Gen. Roberto Capulong.

The ceremony was presided over by Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Roy Galido, who highlighted the significance of this leadership transition. The event marked the continuation of a storied legacy for the 2ID, known for its pivotal role in maintaining stability and peace in Southern Tagalog, particularly the CALABARZON region.

Brig. Gen. Balaoro, previously the

Commander of the 202nd Infantry "Unifier" Brigade, brings extensive experience to his new role. His deep familiarity with the operational landscape of Southern Tagalog, combined with his leadership background, positions him well to navigate the division through its ongoing peace and development campaigns.

A graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) "Sambisig" class of 1991, Balaoro has earned a reputation for his hands-on leadership style. His proactive approach has been a key factor in the success of previous missions within his brigade's area of responsibility, where he played a crucial role in maintaining operational momentum.

Upon his appointment, Brig. Gen. Balaoro expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to lead such a distinguished unit. He emphasized the hon-

or and responsibility that come with commanding the 2ID and reaffirmed his dedication to upholding its proud legacy of securing peace and stability in Southern Tagalog.

Balaoro also committed to enhancing the division's capabilities, ensuring its continued success in fostering peace, security, and progress across the region. His leadership is expected to further strengthen the division's efforts in protecting communities and contributing to regional development.

With the transition complete, Brig. Gen. Balaoro is now tasked with leading the "Jungle Fighter" Division into the future. His proven leadership and familiarity with the region will be crucial as the 2ID continues its mission to ensure peace and security in the Southern Tagalog area.

(EDJUN MARIPOSQUE)

Cayetano, isinusulong ang agarang pagpasa ng PHIVOLCS modernization bill



ng mga sakuna.

Bilang chairperson ng Senate Committee on Science and Technology, sinabi ni Cayetano na hindi lang ang PHIVOLCS ang makikinabang sa panukala kundi pati na rin ang iba pang mga ahensya ng gobyerno patungo sa modernisasyon.

"It will really help a lot of people but it will also open the doors for modernization of not only DOST [Department of Science and Technology] and DICT [Department of Information Communications Technology], but of many agencies of government," wika niya.

Binigyang diin ni Cayetano na mahalaga ang panukalang ito para mapabuti ang kahandaan ng bansa sa mga sakuna tulad ng lindol, pagsabog ng bulkan, at tsunami.

Sa kanyang sponsorship speech, pinunto rin ng senador ang kahalagahan ng agarang pagpapasa ng panukala lalo na't madalas napapabayaan ang kahandaan sa sakuna hanggang sa huli na ang lahat.

"Kailangan na kailangan natin ito pero naaalala lang natin 'pag wala [na] tayong nasasabi sa ating sarili kung hindi 'sana mas handa ako,'" sabi niya.

"With this bill, mas magiging handa po tayong lahat," dagdag niya.

(Edjun Mariposque)(Nelson Dimapilis)

Padel Pilipinas ipinakilala ang National Team, handa na para sa Asia Pacific Padel Cup



Formal na ipinisenista ng Padel Pilipinas, ang opisyal na Padel Federation sa bansa na kinikilala ng Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) at Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) ang mga kasapi ng national team ngayong Biernes, Setyembre 13.

Katuwang sina Padel Pilipinas Founder and President Senator Pia S. Cayetano, Executive Director Atty. Jacqueline Gan, ipinakilala ni Head Coach Bryan

Casao ang mga miyembro ng Men's and Women's Team.

- Men's Team:
- Atty. Duane Santos
 - Derrick Santos
 - Argil Lance "LA" Cañizares
 - Raymark "Mac" Gulfo
 - Abdulqoahar "Qoqo" Alian
 - Johnny Arcilla
 - Mhar Joseph Serra
 - Francis Casey "Niño" Alcantara

- Women's Team:
- Senator Pia Cayetano
 - Tao Yee Tan
 - Princess Jean Naquila
 - Marian Capadocia
 - Yam Garsin

Nakatakdang lumahok ang koponan sa nalalapit na Asia Pacific



PAMBANSANG PABAHAY NI PBBM IINDI DAW PANGMAHIRAP

Marami ang nagsasabi na ang Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program o 4PH ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. ay hindi pakikinabangan ng mga mahihirap na pamilya. Bagama't may ilalaan umanong P1.5 billion subsidy ang gobyerno sa bawat isang milyong unit ay magiging P1,500 lang ang ayuda ng gobyerno sa bawat beneficiaries na ayon sa mambabatas ay napakaliit

Ito rin ang kapwa tinuran nina ACT party-list Rep. France Castro at Gabriela party-list Rep. Arlene Brosas sa pagdinig ng House appropriations committee sa budget ng Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD) kahapon sa Kamara.

"Kung titingnan ko ang presyo ng pabahay Mr. chair, hindi ito pabahay sa mga mahihirap eh," pahayag ni Castro dahil ang halaga ng isang unit ay aabot ng P1.4 million kapag kinuwenta ang 24 square meter sa P60,000 per sq2.

Sinusugan ito ni Brosas dahil sa ngayon ay maraming beneficiaries ng pabahay ay hindi na kayang bayaran ang kanilang P600 monthly amortization. Sa ilalim ng 4PH ni Marcos ay magbabayad ng 3,000 buwan-buwan at madadagdagan ng P500 kada apat na taon hanggang sa mabayaran ito sa loob ng 30 taon.

"For the middle class kaya yan eh, pero yung sinasabi na poorest of the poor at informal settlers, hindi talaga makikinabang sa ganitong programa," ani Brosas lalo na't walang mapasukang trabaho at mababa ang sahod sa bansa.

Hindi rin naniniwala ang mambabatas na maitatayo ni Marcos sa pamamagitan ng DHSUD ang isang milyong unit kada taon kung ang performance umano ng ahensya ang pagbabasahan sa mga nakaraang taon.

"Kaya sa tingin ko po, wishful thinking o panaginip yung tinatarget na one million (unit kada taon) kasi base sa accomplishment niyo, one hundred sixty five thousand four hundred ninety eight unit (165,498) kahit dolehin natin ito, 1.5 million na pabahay (sa loob ng anim na taon) ang maitatayo," ani Castro.

Ayon naman kay OFW party-list Rep. Marissa Magsino, nakatanggap ito ng impormasyon na hindi pa man naitatayo ang gusali ay inilaan na umano ng ilang Local Government Units (LGUs) sa kanilang mga kaibigan at kaalyado ang mga commercial space at yunit sa mga housing project sa kanilang nasasakupang lugar.

"Merong nakarating sa atin na some LGU officials, ina-allocate na po etong pabahay natin sa mga political friends nila, sa mga allies nila at mga (political) members," ani Magsino.

Dapat aniyang tutukan ito ng DHSUD upang matiyak na mahihirap ang mabigyan ng yunit dahil sila ang target ng nasabing programa.

Itinanggi naman ni DHSUD Secretary Jerry Acuzar na may ganito silang impormasyon at tiniyak na ang huling desisyon kung sino ang bibigyan ng unit ay ang kanilang ahensya at hindi LGU officials.

DA ASSURES STABLE SUPPLY, PRICES OF MEAT, ONION DURING HOLIDAY SEASON

MANILA — The Department of Agriculture (DA) has assured the public of a stable supply of meat and onions, as well as stable prices of basic commodities, particularly during the holiday season, as a result of government interventions.

"Sa karneng baboy dahil importante iyan sa atin, panahon ng holiday season, medyo bumaba iyon presyo — nakakita tayo ng Php260 kada kilo because of the initial scare because of ASF (African Swine Fever). Pero unti-unti na ring bumabalik iyon prevailing prices natin ngayon, nasa Php320 per kilo," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said during a news forum in Quezon City on Saturday.

"At, iyon in terms sa supply ay bumabalik na po ulit sa dati at nakaprograma na naman din iyon importation natin ng karneng baboy at karneng manok, kasama na iyon baka. So, you can expect na kasapatan po ng supply natin ngayong darating na holiday season," he said.

De Mesa said the price of onions and their supply remain stable at this time, pointing out the price of red onions ranges from Php75

to Php120 per kilo.

The public should not expect an increase in the price of red onions, De Mesa said, adding there was a good harvest in the last season.

"More than 30 percent noong area increase na harvest natin at possibleng tumaas, tumagal pa hanggang first quarter next year iyon current supply, but of course nakahanda palagi ang DA," he explained.

"Doon naman sa yellow onion na puting sibuyas, nag-utos na si Secretary (Francisco Tiu Laurel) ng additional importation na 6,000 metric tons lamang at dahan, dahan iyon pagdating dito hanggang December, in time for the harvest ulit ng puting sibuyas ng last quarter of the year hanggang first quarter ng susunod na taon."

The price of imported white onions ranges from Php100 to Php120, said the agriculture official. He added that DA's interventions have reduced onion prices from Php250 early this year to Php75 to Php120.

Asked to comment on the entry of imported onions, De Mesa replied that imports have started to arrive gradually. (PND)

Abalos says prepare for more weather disturbances; distributes food packs to 'Enteng' victims in Bicol

Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos on Wednesday led the distribution of thousands of food packs and other relief and medical goods to the victims of typhoon 'Enteng' in Naga City and Camarines Sur.

Bicol was among the regions hardest hit by 'Enteng'. During his visit to the region, Abalos reminded the Bicolanos to prepare, and to anticipate more storms in the coming days amid the La Niña phenomenon.

"Hindi lang ngayon ito. Let's anticipate the worst kasi ang sabi ng PAGASA, isa hanggang dalawa o baka umabot pa ng tatlong bagyo (ang dating sa bansa) sa bawat buwan bago matapos ang taon," said Abalos.

He then urged the public to be vigilant and conduct pre-emptive

evacuations before typhoons could hit their areas.

"Kung kailangang lumikas, lumikas na kayo," Abalos pointed out.

During his visit, Abalos personally distributed thousands of food packs to the residents of Camaligan and Canaman towns both in Camarines Sur, and also to affected families in Naga City.

He related that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. specifically instructed them to prioritize the handing of assistance to the residents of areas severely affected by 'Enteng'.

Reports coming from National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council showed that some 22,220 families across 226 barangays in Bicol Region were affected by the typhoon. Dilig gov



GSIS earns 98.85% rating in 2023 client satisfaction survey

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) achieved an outstanding rating of 98.85% in the first national harmonized client satisfaction survey, a joint initiative by the Anti-Red Tape Authority and the Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations.

The survey, designed to streamline feedback collection and reduce compliance burdens, saw over 426,000 clients share their experiences, far exceeding the required 1,500 respondents. Nearly 1.4 million transactions were evaluated using a one-page, pen-and-paper questionnaire.

GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso expressed gratitude for the results, saying, "The outstanding rating from our clients reinforces the dedication and hard work of the GSIS team. It reflects our commitment to provide top-notch services to our members and pensioners."

The 31 services evaluated received ratings between 97.13% and 99.69%, all considered outstanding. GSIS frontline staff scored 99.4% on assurance for their understanding of clients' needs.

KALSADANG PARA SA LAHAT, PINASINAYAAN SA BAYAN NG SANTA CRUZ

LAGUNA- Pinasinayahan ngayong araw, ang "Kalsada Para sa Lahat" sa sitio Bukana at G.K. ng Barangay Gatid Santa Cruz Laguna, na pinangunahan ni Mayor Edgar Egay San Luis ng Sta. Cruz Lalawigan ito.

Ayon Kay Mayor or San Luis "Hindi na kailangang magtiis sa putik at hirap ang mga estudyanteng papasok sa eskwela, at mas ligtas na ang bawat hakbang ng bawat isa. Ang proyektong ito ay hindi lang tungkol sa bagong kalsada at walkway shed ito ay patunay na kapag sama-sama at may pagkakaisa."

Pinasalamatan din nito sina Konsehal Ona Pamatmat, Kon-

and knowledge of products and services. They also earned a 99.33% rating on reliability for delivering on promises with minimal errors.

Service quality ratings included 99.31% for outcome, 99.25% for integrity, 99.21% for access and facilities, and 99.08% for responsiveness and communication. Nearly 99% of respondents reported familiarity with the GSIS Citizen's Charter, which outlines services and turnaround times.

Veloso added, "In 2024, both internal and external services will be covered by the survey. This comprehensive approach will help us gain a more holistic view of our performance."

The state pension fund emphasized its commitment to use the feedback to further improve its services. "We view these results not just as a measure of our current performance, but as a roadmap for continuous improvement," Veloso said. "Our goal is to enhance the lives of our key stakeholders, particularly our members and pensioners, by constantly refining and elevating our service standards." END



The celebration continues from SM City Molino to SM City Bacoor! Join the grand celebration of Donald Duck's 90th birthday this weekend at SM City Bacoor's Event Center. Fans of all ages are invited to commemorate the beloved Disney character by taking snaps at this giant photo spot until September 22 only. Don't miss out on Donald Duck and other collectibles, perfect for adding to your Disney collection. Bring your family and friends to share in the joy and celebrate this milestone in style! See you at SM City Bacoor this weekend!



These squad enjoying Donald Ducks' giant figure at SM City Molino



Hurry and add up these items on your Disney collectibles. Grab these merch at the Event Center of SM City Bacoor after you snap your IG photo with Donald Duck.

THE FOOD TRIP CONTINUES AT SM SUPERMALLS IN SOUTH LUZON

South Luzon is a treasure trove of mouth-watering dishes, irresistible desserts, and unique delicacies. Keep savoring the flavors of the Philippines—and beyond—with this guide to the best dining spots at SM Super-

malls in South Luzon. South Luzon is a treasure trove of mouth-watering dishes, irresistible desserts, and unique delicacies. Embark on a culinary adventure and

discover a world of flavors, from authentic Korean treats to hearty Filipino staples. Keep savoring the flavors of the Philippines—and beyond—with this guide to the best dining spots at SM Supermalls in South Luzon.

South Luzon: A Flavorful Adventure Awaits



One sip of this Cafe Dalgona from Cafe Janggeum can immediately transport you to the streets of Seoul!



Fresh seafood and flavors of Southeast Asia converge right here at Crustasia.

For a full meal, Crustasia Asian Seafood Market is a must-try. They serve the freshest

seafood, prepared in delicious ways with recipes from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore.

It's a true Southeast Asian feast that will satisfy any seafood lover—and will definitely power you up for the trip ahead.



Juddies' bulalo is definitely pure comfort in a bowl. (Image sourced from Juddies Bulalohan on Facebook)

Cruising through Batangas? Don't miss the chance to devour some local legends! Head to Juddies Bu-

lalohan at SM City Sto. Tomas for some of the richest, most flavorful bulalo broth you'll ever slurp. The tender, juicy

beef is a perfect match, and trust us, one cup of rice won't even cut it. Get ready for a broth-soaked, meaty fiesta!



Paper Moon's signature mille crepe is best paired with a hot cup of coffee. (Images sourced from Paper Moon on FB)

Another must-try dessert in SM City Sta. Rosa is Paper Moon, a Tokyo-born dessert house famous for its signature

Mille Crepe. This delicate treat features layer upon layer of handmade crepes filled with light pastry cream and topped with

a caramelized crust. One bite will have you over the moon, living up to its claim as the home of the world's best Mille Crepe!



This Spicy Winter Halo-Halo from Ben's is surely gonna make you feel hot and cold at the same time.

(Image sourced from Ben's Halo-Halo Ice Cream on Facebook)

When you're in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, swing by SM City Sta. Rosa for a refreshing treat at Ben's Halo-Halo. Their best-seller is the classic Original Halo-Halo, loaded with bananas, macapuno, white beans, ube, leche flan, and langka.



Creamy and spicy is what the Bicol region is known for—and 1st Colonial takes it up a notch with their Pinangat and Sili Ice Cream.

(Images sourced from 1st Colonial on Facebook)

And if you're craving something creamy and spicy, Bicol's Pinangat is a must-try—a flavorful mix of shrimp and pork wrapped in taro leaves, simmered in coconut milk with a chili kick. For an authentic taste, head to

1st Colonial available in SM City Naga, where their perfectly balanced Pinangat is a rice magnet. Don't forget to try their famous Sili Ice Cream with spice levels ranging from mild to adventurous!



Grab all flavors of J Emmanuel's pili nuts because they are super worth it!

When in Naga, you cannot leave without trying the famous pili nuts! J. Emmanuel Pastries is THE house of Pili and certainly a place you should visit when in the area. Stock up on their must-try pili tarts, hopia de pili, and a variety of flavored pili nuts—roasted, garlic, honey, barbecue, Himalayan salt, chili, and sea salt. It's

a delicious souvenir you'll want to take home! Join us for the ultimate culinary adventure at the SM Supermalls Foodie Festival! Discover a world of flavors, from street food to gourmet. Don't miss out on this limited-time event. Mark your calendars now and get ready to tantalize your taste buds!

Don't miss out on the hottest new food spots at SM Supermalls! Follow us on Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and X for the latest updates and mouthwatering pics. Want to know the latest entry guidelines and mall hours? Check them out here. Get ready to tantalize your taste buds! #FoodieFestivalAtSM #SMSupermalls