

CARD clients take semi-finalist spot for 18th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards

Two (2) microentrepreneur clients from CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) were among the 50 semi-finalists who will compete for the 18th Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) 2021 which will be virtually held in June 2021.

The Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA) is a nationwide search for outstanding microentrepreneurs in the country and founded by Citi Foundation in partnership with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Citi Philippines, and Microfinance Council of the Philippines Inc. (MCPPI). This aims to give recognition to microentrepreneurs and to showcase their significant contribution to the country's economic growth.

This year's objective is to give incentives to microentrepreneur clients who stepped up and embraced the change brought about by COVID-19 pandemic. These microentrepreneurs have an important role in rebuilding local communities during this pandemic.

The CARD clients

Among the selected microentrepreneur clients are Renalyn Brondial from CARD SME Bank and Rosalyn Espenorio from CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO).

Renalyn Brondial from Nagbalayong Morong, Bataan and her husband Willy used to own a sari-sari store. After several years of trying their luck and knowing that their community was abundant in cashew, they decided to venture into selling cashew nuts. The couple started to make roasted cashew nuts and packed them and displayed their products along their house. "Many tourists who pass by our barangay buy our products for pasalubong to their families and friends."

In 2012, the couple officially started their own cashew nut business, "We used our little savings

as capital so that we can purchase materials for the business. Later on, we decided to borrow funds from sharks and some friends." But the couple realized that they needed to find a financial partner that could help them in sustaining their business, then they met CARD SME Bank in 2017.

Their business grew and started to expand in their province. "Since cashew is not really popular in the market, we highlighted its health benefits and made it as our marketing strategy to have a wider network."

But COVID-19 pandemic unexpectedly happened in 2020. Due to threats of the virus, the couple decided to temporarily close their stores and shift to online selling. Despite these challenges, they continued their business and started to use online platforms such as Facebook to market their products. They were able to generate employment with their community.

On the other hand, Rosalyn Espenorio is a microentrepreneur from Antipas, North Cotabato and a client for more than a decade of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO).

In order to provide the needs of her family, Rosalyn started her own bakery, fish and vegetable business, and fish cracker factory in 2004. "I grew up in a simple family and we were raised by our parents to work hard for us to live a life comfortably."

After several years, her business grew and was able to employ a total of fifteen (15) workers from their community. "They helped me to expand my business. With their loyalty and respect, we built a great bond with each other. In return, I also treat them like family."

But when the government started to implement the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ) and total lockdowns in the country, Rosalyn was forced to temporarily close her business. Since food is one of the most import-

ant necessity, she decided to create a small talipapa. "During the ECQ, I sold fish and vegetables, and other household goods to our neighbors. It's one way for me also to help them in maximizing their time and securing their safety of being infected by the virus."

Also, Rosalyn provided relief goods to her employees to help them in their daily needs. She also donated bread and coffee in the barangay for the frontliners. Aside from that, she also volunteered in the distribution of relief goods to households.

When the Local Government Unit lifted the ECQ, she immediately opened her factory and bakery to allow her employees to resume their work.

Because of her humility, generosity, and good leadership, many people admire her. Driven to reach her dreams, Rosalyn wants to expand her business and plans to put up a car wash business and buy additional equipment for her factory.

Ultimately, she dreams of creating more employment in her community. Empowering the microentrepreneurs

Said CARD MRI Managing Director Flordeliza L. Sarmiento, "I'm really proud that two of our clients were chosen as semi-finalists for the CMA 2021. These clients both admirably showed measurable results in terms of making income generating activities in their respective communities despite the pandemic."

She added that they embody the capacity of every CARD client, "Since we started CARD in 1986, our main goal is to empower and give ownership to these women. Through our capacity building programs, our activities about entrepreneurship have contributed a lot in their growth."

Sarmiento is looking forward for the success of these microentrepreneur clients and concluded that many CARD clients will be known in the business in the future. (PR)

New LTQ Cavite office to provide 'much-improved' service



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CAYETANO UMAASA SA 'SNOWBALL OF SUPPORT' SA P10K AYUDA

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CONCEPCION: ASTRAZENACA JAB FOR ALL AGE GROUPS A BIG BOOST TO VACCINE EFFORT, ECONOMIC REBOUND

The Department of Health's (DOH) announcement of the official resumption of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine for all age groups is a big boost toward efforts to vaccinate economic frontliners. This according to Presidential Adviser for Entrepreneurship and Go Negosyo Founder Joey Concepcion. "It's certainly a huge step forward, especially when it comes to combating vaccine hesitancy," he said.

The DOH's announcement came following the recommendation of the Philippine Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the DOH All Experts Group on Vaccines. The DOH concluded that there are currently no known risk factors for Vaccine-Induced Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia (VITT), a very rare condition of blood clots associated with low platelet counts. To date, there have been no local confirmed VITT events.

"This is a big boost," said Concepcion, "especially following the endorsement of the DOLE," he said. The DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) earlier released an advisory promoting the vaccination of private sector employees, a move which Concepcion said was significant given calls from the business sector to open the economy and regain losses incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision is seen to positively impact the public-private partnership efforts to secure 17 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccines. Under the "A Dose of Hope" program pioneered by Concepcion's GoNegosyo, the

private sector, vaccine manufacturers and the government were able to agree to expedite the vaccine procurement process and make it possible for the private sector to secure vaccines for private sector employees and economic frontliners.

Concepcion said that the decision comes just in time as the two million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine are expected to arrive in the country this month. "The DOH concluded after discussions with experts that the benefits of receiving the vaccine outweigh the risks, and we wholeheartedly agree," he said. "We need to vaccinate as many Filipinos as we can so we can achieve herd immunity and give people back their jobs."

"Economic frontliners come in all age groups, and we need everyone safe and vaccinated for us to return back to normal," he said. Go Negosyo is leading the implementation of this vaccine effort from the private sector and the preparation is now in full swing as it expects the first arrival in the first week of June. Its Let's Go Bakuna information and education campaign is already in full swing to combat vaccine hesitancy among Filipinos.

The GoNegosyo efforts also include an agreement with Zuelig Pharma Corporation as its official storage and distribution partner in different locations nationwide. The private sector will also pay for its administration fee including the ones donated to the government for its frontliners. (PR)

DOT eases travel restrictions in NCR Plus

Travel restrictions will be eased in the areas within NCR Plus, which includes Metro Manila, as well as the provinces of Rizal, Laguna, Cavite and Bulacan after the Inter Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) ordered more lenient travel guidelines until May 30.

In a press release, the Department of Tourism (DOT) said it welcomed the IATF-EID Resolution No. 115-A which places Metro Manila, Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, and Cavite — collectively known as NCR Plus — under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) with heightened restrictions.

However, the DOT noted that while only essential travel is allowed within the area, the Resolution allows the implementation of "specialized markets of the Department of Tourism" which includes Point-to-Point (P2P) Air Travel for Leisure Purposes from the NCR Plus Area, and the Staycation program, subject to the observance of minimum public health standards.

"The easing of restrictions in NCR Plus is good news for our tourism stakeholders. This means more tourism workers will go back to work, and economic activities will continue," Secretary Bernadette Ro-

mulo-Puyat said, reminding industry stakeholders that health and safety protocols must be observed in tourist destinations.

Under the IATF-EID Resolution, outdoor tourist attractions can now open at 30 percent capacity with strict adherence to minimum public health standards. Indoor dine-in services can operate at 20 percent of venue or seating capacity, while outdoor or al fresco dining can open at 50 percent of venue or seating capacity.

Meanwhile, DOT Administrative Order No. 2021-003, allows P2P Air Travel from the NCR Plus Area to a resort in an area under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) or Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ), provided, that such travel must be undertaken through a chartered flight, which may involve short, private transfers by land or sea.

Only Accommodation Establishments that have been granted a Certificate of Authority to Operate for point-to-point travel (CAO-P2P) may accept guests from NCR Plus.

On the other hand, staycation for tourists aged 18 to 65 years is allowed for Accommodation Establishments in NCR Plus that have been granted a Certificate of Authority to Operate for Staycation. (PB)

<p>ADJUSTED MALL HOURS Starting May 7, 2021</p> <p>10:00AM TO 7:00PM Monday - Thursday</p> <p>10:00AM TO 8:00PM Friday - Sunday</p> <p><small>We encourage everyone to follow minimum safety protocols at all times.</small></p> <p>#SafeMallngATSM</p>	<p>ADJUSTED STORE HOURS STARTING MAY 7</p> <p>SM HYPERMARKET 10:00AM TO 8:00PM</p> <p><small>We encourage everyone to follow minimum health and safety protocols at all times.</small></p> <p>#SafeMallngATSM</p>	<p>ADJUSTED MALL HOURS STARTING MAY 7</p> <p>10:00AM TO 7:00PM Monday - Thursday</p> <p>10:00AM TO 8:00PM* Friday - Sunday</p> <p><small>*The Seed Cafe Terrace (Other community quarantine guidelines, not part of the)</small></p> <p>#SafeMallngATSM</p>
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SM CITY BACOR, SM CITY MOLINO, SM CENTER IMUS, CAVITE - Please be advised of SM City Bacoor, Sm City Molino, and SM Center Imus' adjusted mall hours starting May 7, 2021. We encourage everyone to follow minimum safety protocols at all times as we shop our essentials and dine in our favorite restaurants. Stay safe and Enjoy SafeMallng!

Dominguez welcomes UK support on plan for PHL single-use plastics ban

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Proposed local ordinance to protect public, dogs' welfare

Cavite 4th District Rep. Pidi Barzaga proposed the drafting of a city ordinance in Dasmarina that will address the perennial problem on stray dogs biting residents, not only to protect the public but the dogs' welfare as well.

According to Rep. Barzaga, the city government allocates almost a million pesos of the LGU's funds on a monthly basis for the purchase of rabies vaccine.

He also cited that

50% of the victims were children or members of the household of dog owners.

As part of the initiative, the city government will undertake the construction of a big impounding center to house stray dogs captured with the support of a centralized dog catching system.

The proposed ordinance will affirm that



all stray dogs will be caught and brought to the center. Dog owners will redeem their dogs within 10 days with corresponding fine. Dogs that will not be redeemed within said period will be placed for adoption, while those that will not be adopted will be "euthanized" as provided by Republic Act 8485 or The Animal Welfare Act of the Philippines. **cont. on page 7**

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EDITORIAL: Heightened inequalities

In the beginning it appeared that COVID-19 was a great equalizer. It affected people from different countries, races, religions, socio-economic classes alike. Prosperous cities were as likely to be hit by a surge as poor ones, and the virus did not distinguish whose system to invade: The person most proximate to the carrier was always the most at risk. The symptoms are the same.

As we learned more about the virus and got accustomed to living with the constant risk, we realized COVID-19 was anything but an equalizer. If anything, the pandemic magnified and even aggravated existing inequalities.

“The pandemic is being felt differently by different people in different places.”

Physically, for instance, the elderly and those with comorbidities face greater risk of getting infected, suffering severe symptoms, taking a long time to recover from the illness or even dying from it.

The examples do not end with the COVID infections, per se. The economic issues are arguably more gaping than the physical ones. Mobility restrictions have allowed work-from-home arrangements for many employees, but not all have the luxury of staying productive through remote work. Those who have to show up have to brave the daily risk of exposure to the virus.

Millions have not even been as lucky. The restrictions have affected numerous businesses, thus forcing them to lay off their workers. It follows

that in this environment, it is difficult to find a new source of income.

Maintaining a safe physical distance is impossible in millions of households and communities.

Even students have not been spared. Those who have the devices and the internet connection, not to mention a set-up conducive to learning, have less to worry about than those with little or no resources. We have no way of knowing today the magnitude of the disruption's effect on their learning in the long term.

For many months as well we pinned our hopes that things

would start looking up as soon as vaccines were available. Now we know that mere availability does not solve the global problem. What we are seeing now is also great inequity: Some cities in rich countries have resumed near-normal activities, but others in developing countries are seeing vicious surges and tragic inability to contain the virus.

Here at home, it does not help that whatever vaccines that manage to find their way here may not be distributed and managed effectively.

What thus can we do in the face of all this? Unfortunately, nothing much in the meantime except to continue maintaining health measures, being aware of these inequities and helping out when we can, and keeping track of what is happening and holding officials accountable for perpetuating instead of closing these gaps.

FROM PAGE 1

LTO Cavite ...

MANILA – Motorists in Cavite are expected to enjoy “swift, enhanced, convenient and much-improved” public service through the newly inaugurated district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the city of Imus.

In a Facebook post on Wednesday, the LTO said the two-storey office building, with an area of 1,135 square meters, has centralized air-conditioning system, accessible emergency exits, uses the

Land Transportation Management System (LTMS) for licensing transactions, and features an all-glass façade, is “a first in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, Quezon)”.

“The new district office will cater to all LTO-mandated requirements such as application and renewal of driver’s license, MV (motor vehicle) registration, and other miscellaneous transactions,” the LTO said.

The new of-

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rice, it said, will also allow the LTO Cavite District to serve more clients through its enhanced operational capacity.

It said these improvements manifest the LTO’s move towards modernization, ease of doing business, and transparency.

The building was officially inaugurated and blessed on Wednesday with Transportation Secretary Arthur Tugade and LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Edgar Galvante.

The LTO Imus district office began operations in 2018 and has served clients for two and a half years before the increasing demand necessitated the construction of a new office building. (PNA)

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Dateline Weekly Newspapers: May 17, 24 & 31, 2021

P10K AYUDA ...

Umaasa si dating Speaker Alan Peter Cayetano na magkakaroon ng snowball of support” para sa kanyang isinusulong at ng mga kasamang kongresista sa Back To Service na P10K Ayuda Bill sa kamara.

Ito ay matakop magpahayag ng suportang naturang panukala si Paranaque 2nd District Rep. Eric Olivares. Sa panayam ng DZRJ, sinabi ni Olivares na full support” sya sa P10K Ayuda Bill ni Cayetano dahil kailangan ng Pilipino.

“Kung kaya ng budget bakit hindi para sa mga nangangailanan, kung kaya ng appropriation na i-budget po ‘yon para sa nangangailangan full support tayo doon kung kaya ng budget”, ani Olivares.

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Dateline weekly Newspapers: May 03, 10 & 17, 2021

FROM PAGE 1

K a u g n a y nitob, lubos ang pagpasalamat ni Cayetano kay Olivares at sa iba pang mga kongresista na anyayayayag at sumusuporta din sa P10K Ayuda Bill. May consensus naman talaga ang buong Pilipinas na kailangan ng P10K ayuda ang mga Pilipino at ito’y mabuti sa ekonomiya at ito ay mabuti sa pamilya”, giit ni Cayetano.

N a k i u s a p din si Cayetano sa mga kapwa kongresista na bilisan ang aksyon at suporta sa P10K Ayuda Bill upang magpahayag ito sa mga nangangailangan lalo na ang mga pamilyang nawalan ng kabuhayan at inilugmok ng pandemyang COVID-19. Mahalaga anyan pagbibigay ng P1K sa bawat Pilipino. Ito ay

maaksyunan ang pagbibigay ng iba pang stimulus package para sa ibang sektor ng lipunan. “Kaya pakiusap ko sa lahat ng kongresista na gawin nating mabilis at i-explain natin sa Malakanyang na may pera naman at agad agad na yung P10K ay maibigay at agada agad na isunod naman ang iba pang stimulus gaya ng health, agriculture, tourism, education, at kabuhayan.”

Ang P10K Ayuda Bill ay inihain ni Cayetano at ng kanyang mga kaalyadong noong February 2021. Sa halip na ito ay talakayin ay isinama ito sa pagtalakay sa Bayanihan 3 ngunit di rin nabigayan ng halaga dahil mas isinulong pa ng kamara ang pagbibigay ng P1K sa bawat Pilipino. Ito ay

mariin namang tinutulan ni Cayetano dahil hindi anyang limos ang kailangan ng mga tao sa kasalukuyan.”Extraordinary times need extraordinary measures. Hindi po limos ang kailangan ng mga Pilipino sa ngayon”, ayon pa sa dating speaker.

Nauna rito nanawagan si Cayetano sa mga tao na pakiusapan at ligawan ang kanilang mga kongresista na sumuporta sa P10K Ayuda Bill. Anya alam nya ang damdamin ng mga kasama sa kongreso tungkol sa naturang panukala. “Alam ko naman ang damdamin ng mga kongresista at payag rin sila.

Noong Mayo Uno, Araw ng Paggawa ay inilunsad ni Cayetano at ng kanyang grupo ang Sampung Libong Pag-asa kung saan mahigit 200 benepisaryo ang nakatanggap ng P10K ayuda mula sa kanilang sariling pagsisikap. Ito ay upang mahikayat ang kamara na aksyunan na ang panukala upang makatulong sa mamaraming pamilyang Pilipino na makapag-umpisa ng maliit na kabuhayan at makabangon paunti-unti mula sa pagkakalugmok dulot ng COVID-19. (PR)

Dominguez ...

FROM PAGE 1

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III has welcomed the support offered by the United Kingdom (UK) to the Climate Change Commission (CCC)’s advocacy on banning single-use plastics, along with UK’s continuing strong partnership with the Philippines on accelerating both infrastructure development and financial inclusion.

In a recent virtual meeting with British Ambassador Daniel Pruce, Secretary Dominguez said the Philippines would appreciate UK’s offer of technical assistance and support in effectively communicating to the public the importance and long-term benefits to the economy of banning single-use plastics.

He cited the need to raise public awareness on the dire effects of the climate crisis, and how every Filipino can play a key role in mitigating these by explaining to them how eco-friendly initiatives such as banning single-use plastics will benefit them and future generations over the long term.

Ambassador Pruce said the UK is ready to assist the Philippines in preparing for its contributions to the discussions in the 26th United Nations (UN) Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), which could encompass a broad range of issues such as green finance, energy transitions and climate crisis resilience and adaptation strategies.

The COP26, which the UK is chairing this year, will be held in Glasgow, Scotland this November. It brings together signatory-parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Assistant Secretary Paola Alvarez, the point person of the Department of Finance (DOF) on climate crisis concerns, said during the meeting with Ambassador Pruce that discussions are underway with the British Embassy on engaging with renewable energy (RE) investors to determine from them the possible Philippine policy gaps that need to be addressed to encourage the entry of RE investments to the country. She said these discus-

sions will be held with representatives from the DOF, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Department of Energy (DOE).

Assistant Secretary Alvarez underscored the urgency of attracting more RE investments into the country, given the government’s recent decision to impose a moratorium on new coal-fired power plants.

During the meeting, Secretary Dominguez also briefly discussed UK’s commitment to implement the first phase of its Iconic Bridges Project for Sustainable Socioeconomic Development in Cagayan province.

Minister Anne-Marie Trevelyan, the UK International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for the COP26 Presidency and Minister of State (Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth) later met with Secretary Dominguez to discuss climate crisis-related concerns, particularly on sharing UK’s expertise in pushing Philippine legislation on plastics use reduction.

During the meeting with Minister Trevelyan, Secretary Dominguez committed the Philippines’ participation in the UK-led Adaptation Action Coalition, which will act as a forum for developed and developing economies to share knowledge and best practices on local, regional and global solutions to deal with the climate crisis.

The Coalition is in response to the UN Call for Action on Adaptation and Resilience and aims to turn the commitments secured from this call to action into on-the-ground support for climate crisis-vulnerable communities.

Secretary Dominguez also separately met with Alok Sharma, the President of the COP26 and Member of the UK Parliament, to further explore areas of cooperation between the Philippines and the UK on raising the awareness of Filipinos over the urgency of climate action, and in finetuning the legislative measure that aims to ban single-use plastics.

They also briefly discussed how a “green industrial revolution” can give rise to new industries and create more jobs while effectively cutting carbon emissions. (PR)

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FROM PAGE 1

Climate crisis mitigation, Mindanao peace top priorities in PHL-EU cooperation

Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and European Union (EU) Ambassador Luc Véron have met to discuss how the Philippines and the EU can broaden their cooperation in mitigating the effects of the climate crisis and strengthening peace building efforts in Mindanao.

These two concerns have emerged as the top two priorities during discussions with Philippine officials on the EU’s next Multi-Annual Indicative Program (MIP) for 2021 to 2027, said Ambassador Véron during a recent virtual meeting with Secretary Dominguez held via Zoom.

The Ambassador said MIP’s priority to support programs leading to a green and resilient economy in the Philippines dovetails with Secretary Dominguez’s goal as chairman-designate of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to push for the ban on single-use plastics as a climate crisis mitigation measure.

MIP’s priority programs on good governance are also in sync with Secre-

tary Dominguez’s objective as co-chairman of the Inter-governmental Relations Body (IGRB) coordinating with the Bangsamoro government in Muslim Mindanao to put in place a successful and functional autonomy in the region.

During the same meeting, Ambassador Véron likewise expressed the EU’s strong support for Secretary Dominguez’s goal to ban single-use plastics as this is aligned with the priorities under the MIP.

On the peace-building efforts in Mindanao, the Ambassador said the EU will continue with its projects to assist the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), particularly in setting up its judicial system, creating jobs and livelihood opportunities, and improving community-based infrastructure in the region.

Secretary Dominguez requested Ambassador Véron to explore the possibility of providing assistance to the BARMM in improving governance and allowing its officials to witness and learn

first-hand from the best practices implemented by the autonomous governments in other countries.

The Finance Secretary welcomed EU’s focus on climate crisis mitigation and its support for his advocacy on the ban of single-use plastics, which, he said, will make every Filipino an active participant in the fight against the climate crisis and raise public awareness on the urgency of addressing this pressing global concern.

On the Philippines’ economic outlook, Secretary Dominguez told the EU Ambassador that the country is “definitely on the road to recovery” starting this year as the COVID-19 vaccination program is now being rolled out to safely reopen the economy.

With a strong fiscal position, high credit rating and prudent spending policy, Secretary Dominguez said the Philippines is fully capable of funding its accelerated spending on its economic recovery program. (PR)

DOH ...

The Department of Health Region IV-A (DOH IV-A) reminds COVID-19 vaccine recipients to take their second dose of vaccines to get full protection amid the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the region.

In a press release, Regional Director Eduardo Janairo emphasized that although they will not be completely immune against the coronavirus, those who got vaccinated against the disease will be able to form antibodies needed in combating severe forms COVID-19.

“Tandaan natin na nagkaroon na nga maraming variant ang virus kaya napakaimportanteng makumpleto natin ang ang bakuna natin upang masiguro na ang katawan natin ay may kumpletong panlaban sa COVID-19,” Janairo explains.

In its May 4 report, the DOH said around 132, 180 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to priority groups in the Calabarzon region using vaccines made by drugmakers Sinovac and Oxford-AstraZeneca.

Around 154,347 (93.8%) have already received their first dose, while 10,154 (5.2%) were given their second shot.

Despite getting inoculated, the region’s top doctor reminded those who have been vaccinated have to continue following minimum health protocols such as wearing face masks, physical distancing, and regular handwashing as they may still get infected by the virus.

“Only upon receiving the second dose of COVID vaccine can you get the full

protection against the virus. Huwag po natin itong ipagwalang bahala dahil mahirap po ang magkaka-sakit dahil sa covid. Mahirap ma-hospital at hindi rin madaling gumaling dahil dito,” Janairo said.

According to the region’s top doctor, those who received AstraZeneca vaccines will have 12 weeks to get their second dose, while those who were inoculated with Sinovac shots have 28 days or 4 weeks to get their second shot. (PB/DOH 4-A)

FROM PAGE 1

Proposed ...

Moreover, all residents who want to breed dogs will be required to obtain a dog breeder’s permit from the city government. Puppies also need to have a cage with corresponding space.

A public hearing will be held for the drafting of said ordinance with concerned stakeholders present to solicit their views on the proposed ordinance.

According to the FB Page of Rep. Barzaga, the ordinance will not only address the safety of the public but also prevent the proliferation of stray dogs, resolve related sanitation problems and significantly reduce LGU expenses every month on anti-rabies vaccine with the savings allotted for other health projects. (PIA)

SM ramps up support for San Pablo City in fight against COVID-19

SM Foundation (SMFI), the corporate social responsibility arm of the SM Group of Companies, remains committed to reaching more COVID-19 frontliners by providing them with much-needed medical supplies.

In its recent social good effort mobilization on the ground, SMFI turned over boxes of face masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) to San Pablo City General Hospital (SPCGH), which was represented by SPCGH Chief of Clinics Dr. Lucy Celino. This marked the third batch of medical supplies donations to the said hospital.

SAVP for Mall Operations South Regions, Engr. John Jason Terrenal, said, "SM is here to serve, help, and support Filipino communities and the medical front liners. We are thankful and salute all those who are tirelessly working with us during this time of crisis.

Dr. Celino expressed her gratitude to SM, "Words cannot describe how truly grateful they are to SM for keeping front liners protected during this unprecedented times."

All out support for its host communities

Aside from extending support for the frontliners, SM, through its malls all over the country, also provides a convenient, safe, and accessible venues for the community to be vaccinated. Through this social good effort, SM enables the local government units (LGUs) to maximize the number of people that can be inoculated per day. This set up where in a large portion of the most vulnerable people can be inoculated helps a community achieve herd immunity.

To ensure the safety of the community while at the SM COVID-19 vaccination hub, SM practices round the clock sanitation in areas with heavy contact and deployed safety protocol



A City Health Officer monitors the temperature of individuals (A2 and A3) as they patiently wait for their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the SM City San Pablo's cinema area.



A senior citizen from San Pablo City receives his first dose of COVID-19 vaccine at the SM City San Pablo's cinema area.

officers to reinforce the mall's safety measures as a way to reduce the transmission of the virus. In San Pablo City, around 500 senior citizens and adults with controlled comorbidities were already inoculated



(L-R) SM SAVP for Mall Operation South Regions Engr. John Jason Terrenal, San Pablo City General Hospital Chief of Clinics Dr. Lucy Celino, and San Pablo COVID Task Force Assistant City Health Officer Dr. Mercydina Caponpon at the turnover of medical supplies from SM Foundation to San Pablo City General Hospital during the City's Inoculation session at the mall.

as the SM City San Pablo repurposed its cinema hallway to a vaccination area, following the standards set by the Department of Health (DOH) and City Health Office.

"Prioritization has benefits because people differ in at least two key ways -- their risk of infection and the likelihood of serious consequences from infection. We are thankful to SM for making it easy for our elderly to get here," San Pablo COVID-19 Task force Assistant City Health Officer Dr. Mercydina Caponpon said.

It can be recalled that last year, SM, through SM Foundation, constructed seven (7) insulated emergency quarantine facilities (EQFs) in Pasay and Quezon City to house and treat patients affected by (COVID-19). In addition to the said EQFs, SM also established a COVID-19 mega swabbing facility at the Mall of Asia Complex, in cooperation with the DOH, Philippine Red Cross, the National Action Plan Against COVID-19, Philippine National Police Medical Corps, and other private sector partners.

To date, SM has donated over Php 300 million in essential medical supplies, equipment, rt-PCR testing, and assistance to other national efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

DA-4A turns over P3.9M agri & marketing interventions to GenTri farmers



The Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON turned over a total of P3.9-M worth of agricultural and marketing interventions to the farmers of General Trias, Cavite on May 10.

DA-4A OIC-Regional Executive Director Vilma M. Dimaculangan led the distribution of the interventions as part of the celebration of the Farmers and Fisherfolk Month

with the theme "May Pandemya man o wala, Masasaka't Mangingisda, Maaasahan ng Bansa."

Dimaculangan handed over about P2,107,970 worth of interventions to the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Maggugulay ng Lungsod ng General Trias with funding from the Bayanihan II Act and High Value Crops Development Banner Program Quick Response Fund.

The interventions include: mushroom house, mushroom bags, bagging machine, improvised autoclave, heavy dust cast aluminum pressure cooker, multipurpose portable spin drying dehydrator, air fryer, continuous vertical band sealer, assorted vegetable seeds, budded calamansi, garden tools, plastic drum, mulon, knapsack sprayer, seeding trays, organic fertilizer, multitiller, grass-cutter, greenhouse with hydroponics, and plant growth enhancer.

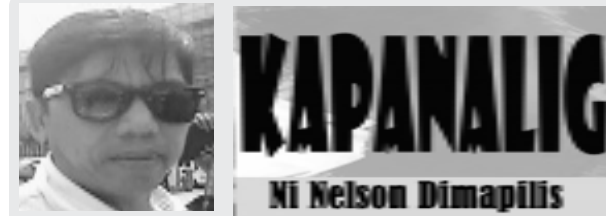
Aside from the abovementioned interventions, the farmer-beneficiaries also received P600K worth of bags of muriate of potash fertilizer with funding source from the Taal volcano eruption

quick response fund of DA-4A.

On the other hand, the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Coop (GTDRMC) received a P1.2-M financial grant through the Enhanced KADIWA Program. The first tranche worth P1M was used by the cooperative for the purchase of a hauling van while the remaining P200K will be utilized for the procurement of an automatic sealing machine.

"Sa ngalan po ng aming kooperatiba, kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa pamunuan ng DA, lalo na kay Ma'am Vilma, dahil napakalaking tulong po nitong financial grant na naipagkaloob sa amin. Malaki po ang aming kakulangan, pero sa tulong ng DA ay matutugunan po ang lahat ng aming pangangailangan. Tunay nga pong sila'y laging nakaalalay sa mga magsasaka," GTDRMC Chairman Alonzo Papaun Reyes said.

In her message, Director Dimaculangan thanked the farmers for their continued drive in producing food and recognized them as true heroes especially in these trying times. (CPG, PIA 4A with report from DA-RFO IVA, RAFIS)



Inquiry needed on gaps hounding Filipino Sign Language use for deaf education

While access to learning remains a challenge for learners and teachers with disabilities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Win Gatchalian is seeking an inquiry on the status of using the Filipino Sign Language (FSL) as the language of instruction of deaf education under the K to 12 basic education system.

To identify and address gaps, issues, and challenges on the use of the FSL for deaf education, Gatchalian filed Senate Resolution No. 722 to determine the impact of FSL's use among deaf teachers and learners, which is mandated by Republic Act No. 11106 or the Filipino Sign Language Act.

Gatchalian lamented that the law's implementation has been neglected, continuously causing communication, information, and institutional barriers in deaf education. These include insufficient training of teachers, the non-promotion of the licensing and mobilization of deaf teachers, and the lack of materials—challenges that are amplified under the distance learning setup.

Republic Act No. 11106, which was signed into law in 2018, declares the FSL as the country's national sign language.

Before the law's enactment, education programs for sign language instruction and interpreter training were all done by a handful of nonprofit organizations with no government policies. Teachers also used to act as interpreters in the classrooms and were pulled away from their duties to serve as interpreters in trial courts and police stations.

For the school year 2016-2017, data from the Department of Education (DepEd) shows that there were 2,885 Special Education Teachers teaching 13,365 learners with diagnosed hearing impairment under K to 12.

The lawmaker also pointed to the barrier facing deaf teachers since the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) does not match the competencies for which they are prepared for. Because of this, deaf graduates end up as tutors with low-paying jobs instead of entering the educational system.

"Noong isabatas ang Filipino Sign Language Act, sinikap nating maging mas madali para sa ating mga deaf learners at teachers ang makilahok sa sistema ng ating edukasyon, ngunit hanggang ngayon ay marami pa rin sa kanila ang nahihirapan. Kaya susuriin nating mabuti kung paano matutugunan ang mga suliraning ito upang hindi mapag-iwanan ang ating mga deaf learners at teachers," said the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

7. Choose a feline-friendly vet. A vet specializing in cat's health and anatomy can be an ally in keeping your cat in best health.

8. Spay and neuter your cat. Female cats should be spayed and male cats neutered by five months of age. This will prevent them from any reproductive diseases. Pet parents can now place their order online thru Pet Express website- www.petexpress.com.ph and on their Call and Collect services in selected branches. Also, you can book a vet or do rush kitty-sentials shopping with Pet Express' PAWSONAL SHOPPER, just book an appointment at 0917.8091864. For more info and updates, follow Pet-

HOW TO KEEP YOUR CAT PURR-FECTLY HAPPY FROM PET EXPRESS



Pamper your feline with a massage to be healthier and happier.



Dry adult cat food is economical and easy to prepare; and energy dense in nutrients for faster absorption.



Grain and Gluten-Free Go! Solutions Carnivore Wet Cat Food.



These Brit Care Cat Treats supplement your cat's diet.



Ciao Jelly Stick helps replenish the fluid loss in your kitty's body.



Nurse your kitties with this Pet Ag Kitten Milk Replacer that is high in protein, fat and carbs.



Make sure your cat has fresh, clean water with Cat H2O to stay hydrated.



Always consult your vet for recommended dietary supplements and cat care.



Keep your home clean and hygienic by having an open litter pan and litter scoop.



OUR CAT Tofu Cat Litter is made of natural and organic tofu that clumps together while absorbing moisture and eliminating unwanted odors.



This Kit Cat Zeolite Charcoal cat litter clumps instantly and absorbs moisture instantly, leaving the litter clean and perfectly dry.



Prevent claw marks on your furniture by putting a scratch post around your home.



Give your cat its own playground with this 3-Tier Animal Planet Cat Tree.



Squeeze a little kibble into this Kitty KONG for your cat to enjoy.

Fun, playful, independent, loving, curious, smart and entertaining, and easy to care for, cats are lovable and adorable pets. Pet parents have found their company comforting and a source of joy especially during the pandemic, when we spend more time at home.

That is why it is important to keep your kitty happy, healthy, groomed and well-fed. Pet Express, the one stop-shop for all your feline essentials, has a wide variety of high-quality cat food, supplements, cat toys, cat litter and accessories to help you in taking care of your feline friend.

Likewise, Pet Express shares some practical tips from American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) on how to keep your kitty purr-fectly healthy and happy:

1. Feed your cat with love. Give your cat the healthy diet they need. Treats should be at least 10% of their diet. Kittens should eat a kitten formula food that is high calorie for their growth.
2. Provide fresh water daily. Clean, fresh water is essential for your cat's good health.
3. Groom your cat regularly. Cats are self-groomers but they will also benefit from regular brushing and combing whether they have short or long fur. It also reduces the amount of shedding and cuts down the incidence of hairballs.
4. Make sure you have enough litter boxes and quality cat litter placed in a quiet and accessible location. Keep it clean regularly and wash it with a mild detergent and refill it weekly.
5. Train your cats to use scratching post. Cutting your cat's nails every two weeks will less likely scar your furniture. A sturdy scratching post made with sisal, burlap or tree bark is a must-have.
6. Make sure they have fun times. Cats love to play, and toy mice, kibble feeder toy, catnip and feathers are great sources of amusement. Also, a good Cat Condo or Play Gym will make your cat happy and active.

The Lounge Lifestyle at Surplus

As we shift into new lifestyles – WFH arrangements, on-line classes, zoom meetings, binge-watching our favorite series- loungewear has become a defining fashion staple in many of our wardrobes. And after a year, in elevated style, it has found its way in the spring/summer runways – track pants at Celine and sweat suits at Rodarte and Balenciaga.

Cozy, cool, and chill loungewear has been updated with fresh colors and new features at Surplus. Hoodies are hot, tracksuits are right on track in the new Surplus collection. There are elevated knit sets, including knit polos with a preppie vibe – the ultimate top to make you feel cozy during zoom meetings.

Explore soft fabrics such as fleece, ribbed, knits, sweat shorts, biker shorts or loose-fitting pullovers and oversized tees for a stylish comfort. Elevate your loungewear game easily by mixing and matching colors and styles, creating a chic yet effortless monochromatic look or throwing on some accessories.

And while spending more time at home, Surplus has wellness essentials to help you unwind and make staying indoors much more enjoyable. Get cozy with Japanese Tatami Chairs in fun colors; and breathe healthy with Wooden Humidifiers or Wooden Air Purifiers. Create your own spa at home with the Rest Easy Massager and Rechargeable Hot Compress.

Stay cozy and safe with the loungewear and self-care home essentials from Surplus. These and other versatile fashionable pieces and protective essentials are available in Surplus stores located in most SM Supermalls.

There are many ways to shop at Surplus! Order To Deliver. Contact your nearest Surplus branch bit.ly/OTDcontacts

Add to cart in Lazada: SurplusPH Flagship Store bit.ly/3qv9N1E #SMCallToDeliver. Visit <https://thesmstorecatalog.com/surplus>

Stay updated as Surplus goes interactive. Like them on Facebook and Twitter at SurplusPH and enjoy great fashion deals on Instagram at Surplus_ph.



Energize your all-white ensemble with a pink hoodie and tote bag made of PVC material which is easy to disinfect after your outdoor errands.

Tie-dye leggings paired with a matching green hoodie.

Hoodies are hot especially when worn with a pair of breezy linen pants



Elevate your loungewear with all-black outfit and a brown hoodie.

Laid-back blues: blue hoodie and jogger pants.

Lounge in style with neutral tones.

There's a lot of grey matter on the loungewear horizon



Relax and ease your muscle pain with this Rechargeable Hot Compress.



Treat yourself with some "me" time with this Rest Easy Massager.



Upgrade your downtime with this khaki pullover and black coordinates.



This hoodie and jogger pants combination will take you from lounging at home to Zoom meetings and beyond.



SUPERMALLS

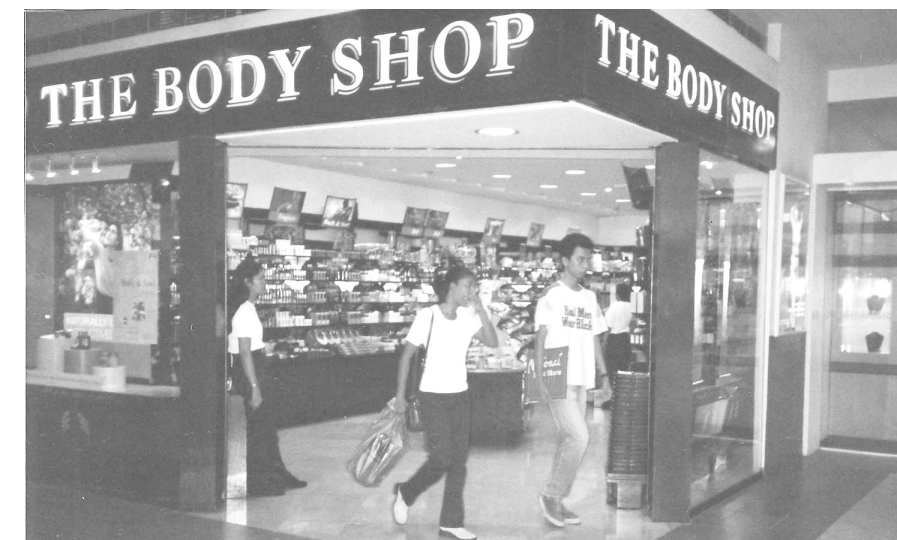


Comfortable, functional and adjustable Tatami Chairs are available in different colors.



Get your much-needed pampering with this Wooden Aroma Humidifier and Wooden Air Revitalizer.

The Body Shop Celebrates 25 Feel Good Years in the Philippines



The Body Shop's first store in the Philippines opened 25 years ago at SM Southmall.



The Body Shop SM Mall of Asia showcases its latest store concept.

British beauty brand The Body Shop marks another beautiful milestone as it celebrates its 25th anniversary in the Philippines. The brand, which introduced cruelty-free and nature-inspired skincare and bath and body treats to Filipinos when it first opened its doors on May 16, 1996 at SM Southmall, now has over 60 standalone stores, and is in 10 The SM Stores all over the country. The Body Shop is more than a beauty brand – activism is in its DNA, and like its counterparts all over the world, Body Shop Philippines has participated in many campaigns which promote real change. With the support of its customers, help was extended to The Philippine Eagle Foundation in 2018, Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation in 2019 and to SM Foundation for the typhoon victims in 2020.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary, The Body Shop will be delighting everyone with amazing offers and promotions for the entire month of May. The Filipina's most loved Lip and Cheek Stain which was first launched in the Philippines will be going to its old price at 395 during the anniversary month. On top of that, The Body Shop's most loved products over the years such as Tea Tree range, Drops of Youth™ range and White Musk® fragrance collection will be offered at 25% OFF. There will also be weekly offers to watch out for so you can stock up on your favorite skincare and bath

The iconic White Musk® fragrance collection for Women and Men will give that earthy and sensual notes for an ultra-smooth scent.



Draw out impurities and refine your pores with Himalayan Charcoal Purifying Glow Mask.



The sparkling scent of British Rose Eau de Toilette contains the essence of handpicked roses.

Don't miss out on the grand 25th anniversary sale and explore cruelty-free beauty. Visit their online store 24/7, add to cart, and check out anytime of the day at thebodyshop.com.ph. The Body Shop's cruelty-free and vegan products are also available in The Body Shop stores, Call & Deliver, Lazada, Shopee and ShopSM. The Body Shop now accepts SM Advantage Card for points earning and redemption, SM and Sodexo premium pass in all The Body Shop stores nationwide.

About The Body Shop The Body Shop was founded in 1976 by Dame Anita Roddick in Little Hampton, England. The beauty brand pioneered corporate activism and was built on a philosophy that business can be a force for good. With its brand expression, Beauty with Heart, the company continues to be focused on five core values: Against Animal Testing, Support Community Fair Trade, Activate Self Esteem, Defend Human Rights and Protect The Planet. All products are created using the finest ingredients sourced from the four corners of the globe, which are not tested on animals and are 100% vegetarian. The Body Shop has been in the Philippine market for twenty-five years with over 60 strategically located stores nationwide.



Last 2018, The Body Shop partnered with The Philippine Eagle Foundation to help protect our endangered Philippine Eagle and let them thrive and breed again.



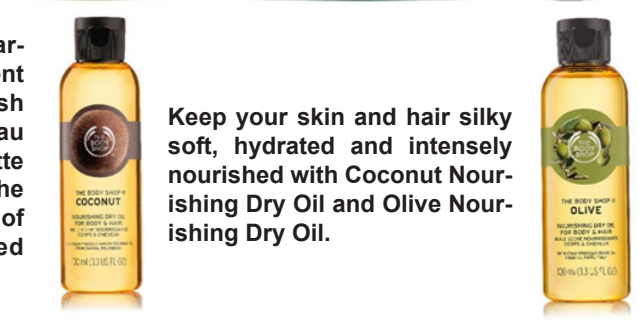
The partnership with Yellow Boat of Hope Foundation last 2019 helped fund boats which the children of Maluso, Basilan use as transportation to school.



The Body Shop's Tea Tree range, which is perfect for oily and blemish-prone skin, is made with purifying Community Fair Trade tea tree oil from Kenya.



The Drops of Youth™ range is the perfect addition to your skincare routine for a smoother, supple and younger-looking skin.



Keep your skin and hair silky soft, hydrated and intensely nourished with Coconut Nourishing Dry Oil and Olive Nourishing Dry Oil.