

Unremitted SSS contributions from delinquent employers down by 40 percent in 2023

Encouraged by the Supreme Court decision upholding the right of the Social Security System (SSS) to take legal action against employers who have been remiss in settling their contribution delinquencies, SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Rolando Ledesma Macasaet ordered an increase in the frequency of its Run After Contribution Evaders (RACE) Campaign nationwide.

"Our RACE Campaign must be working," Macasaet said as he reported that the amount of unremitted members' contributions from delinquent employers have plummeted by almost 40 percent in 2023.

Macasaet said that uncollected contributions in 2022 stood at P92 billion, but SSS successfully brought it down by 39 percent to P56 billion in 2023 on the back of aggressively pursuing delinquent employers and continuously updating employer records.

In 2022, the Commission on Audit (COA) called out the SSS for failing to collect over P92 billion from half a million delinquent employers.

According to state auditors, 466,881 employers did not remit P92.49 billion in premium contributions, penalties, and damages.

In a statement, Macasaet said the SSS has filed cases in court against 2,422 errant employers, majority of which have opted to settle their delinquencies either through full payment or via installment schemes, resulting in a record-high collection P1.37 billion in 2023 from P1.15 billion in 2022.

Collection from delinquent employers

Macasaet explained that the decrease in unremitted contributions could be attributed to the high collection of delinquencies from employers not remitting their employees' contributions.

Macasaet also explained that the RACE Campaign is one of the programs that played a vital role in pursuing delinquent employers nationwide.

The SSS chief explained that RACE was an operation conducted by the state fund to ensure that employers com-

ply with their obligation as stipulated in Republic Act No. 11199 or the Social Security Act of 2018.

He said that only selected SSS branch offices conducted RACE campaigns in previous years. Recently, Macasaet said, he ordered the SSS to beef up the initiative by requiring all SSS branch offices nationwide to carry out RACE campaigns in their respective areas.

"We issued Show Cause Orders or Notices of Violation to delinquent employers and instructed them to report to SSS within 15 days to settle their unpaid contributions and corresponding penalties or face legal consequences for violating RA 11199," Macasaet said. He added that in 2023, SSS conducted 587 RACE operations nationwide and issued written notices to 4,923 delinquent employers.

SC upholds RACE Campaign

Last month, the Supreme Court (SC) rejected an appeal filed by a real estate company, which was found by a lower court to have failed to remit employee contribu-

tions to the SSS on time.

In a seven-page resolution, the SC Second Division upheld a decision of the Court of Appeals (CA) against RGV Real Estate Center, Inc. for violating the Social Security Law for failure to remit contributions.

RGV also violated SSS Circular No. 52 for failing to remit salary loan/calamity loan amortizations of its employees. "The SSS is a government agency that is imbued with the salutary purpose of carrying out the State's policy of establishing, developing, promoting, and perfecting a sound and viable tax-exempt social security system," the SC resolution said.

The SSS had repeatedly issued Demand Letters seeking the payment of more than P3 million representing employee contributions. RGV availed the condonation program, which allows members with outstanding balances to settle their arrears by installment. In this instance, RGV still failed to comply with the condonation program's rules.

The Social Security Commission first heard the case and found RGV liable to pay almost P7.5 million in unpaid contribu-



tions, interest, and penalties for late remittance.

The CA then ruled the case to be not reviewable. "Needless to say, the entitlement and amount of benefit and privilege of its (SSS) members are adversely affected by the non-remittance of the much-needed contributions. Any divergence from the rule subjects the employer not only to monetary sanctions but also to criminal prosecution," the SC said.

Macasaet said the SSS RACE operations have been institutionalized into the mainstream branch operational procedures in addition to systems enhancements made on regular collection, improved interoperability among concerned internal offices/units involved in collection, introduction of the administrative collection remedy of issuance of a Warrant of Distraint,

Levy, and Garnishment (WDLG), partnership with various Regulatory & Law Enforcement Agencies through Memorandum of Agreements, and judicial recourse to our Criminal Courts nationwide.

Updating the employers' list

Aside from improved collection from delinquent employers, Macasaet said that SSS also updated its records since it discovered that many of the reported contribution collectibles were from establishments that no longer operated, resulting in overstated statements of accounts (SOAs) being issued by SSS.

Macasaet added that SSS Account Officers and branch personnel visually inspected the establishments and discovered that many of these businesses had ceased operations. **END**

Sen Alan: Faith in God, collective effort key to success of single-hosting FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Philippines in 2025

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano believes the success of single-hosting the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Philippines in 2025 depends on the Filipino people's sense of community and their faith in God.

"It's up to us," Cayetano said at a press conference on March 26, 2024, in the City of Taguig.

"Ang pag-asa natin sa successful hosting will be two elements: One, faith and action, faith in God, and number two, action as a community," he said.

Chairing the Local Organizing Committee of the international event, Cayetano underscored the importance of the Filipino people, particularly those

volunteering their efforts during the competition, in showcasing the nation's capabilities.

"I'm reminded how beautiful our country is and how our number one resource is underutilized. Our number one resource is the Filipinos and Filipinas, the men and women of the Philippines," he asserted.

The hosting of the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Philippines 2025 marks the first instance in nearly a decade where a sole country will bear the responsibility alone.

With all facets of the tournament slated to unfold within the Philippines over a span of approximately 17 days,

the absence of additional co-hosts distinguishes this event from other major tournaments such as the FIBA World Cup.

Citing the burgeoning sector of sports tourism which is projected to contribute significantly to the global economy, Cayetano outlined the potential economic dividends awaiting the Philippines.

"As one of the fastest-growing sectors in tourism generating 800 billion dollars worldwide, sports can have a positive impact on the country's economy," he noted, referring to the anticipated growth of sports tourism in the Philippines.

Cayetano also said the championship is a good platform to show-

case the renowned Filipino hospitality.

"We are still known in the whole world to be the most hospitable people. I'm talking about how we as a people, welcome the rest of the world," he said.

Beyond the games

Cayetano, an avid sports fan who has supported the industry throughout his political career, said the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Philippines 2025 can also spur future development in sports in the country.

He expressed the need to establish a dedicated Department of Sports that would institu-



tionalize consistent and widespread support for sports development.

He said while he appreciates the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), its reach is limited due to its very nature. The games it hosts are also few and far between, he said, and do not address the need for regular competitions that would hone the country's athletes. **PR**

heidelitalat@yahoo.com ISSN NO. 2619-8185
datelineweeklynews.com



heidelitalat@yahoo.com ISSN NO. 2619-8185
datelineweeklynews.com

4-DAY WORK WEEK IPAPATUPAD SA BACCOOR CITY LGU SIMULA ABRIL 22

CBS RISES TO 2ND LARGEST THRIFT BANK IN THE COUNTRY



CBS China Bank Savings has moved up two notches in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' 2023 ranking of thrift banks in terms of total assets. From top four in 2022, CBS is now the second largest thrift bank with P153.45

billion in resources as of December 31, 2023.

CBS finished strong in 2023, achieving a record high of P1.85 billion in net income, up 17%, and P113 billion in loans, up 25%, as its client base grew by 21% year-on-year. CBS is determined to reach as many new clients as possible this year, already registering 22% growth in its total customer base in the first quarter of 2024 vs. year-end 2023.

"We are aware of the challenges facing the banking sector this year. Inflation just won't go away, and movements in international banking

continue to be a key consideration for local monetary policy. Nevertheless, **cont. on page 3**

Kalidad ng proyektong pang-imprastruktura ng DA Calabarzon siniguro, ebalwasyon ng mga konstruktorsinagawa

DTI-Laguna Safeguards Consumers by Inspecting PETC in San Pablo City



Pursuant to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Department Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2002 (DAO 3:2002), the Department of Trade and Industry - Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna), through its Consumer Protection Division, conducted onsite inspection and monitoring of a motor vehicle private emission testing center (PETC) in San Pablo City, Laguna, on April 05, 2024, to ensure that accredited PETCs continuously comply with government rules and regulations as well as meet the quality standards set by the government under the Republic Act No. 8749, otherwise known as the Philippine Clean Air Act.

The onsite inspection and monitoring

activity of motor vehicle PETCs is one of the DTI's mandates in implementing standards and procedures on the accreditation of PETCs. This process also includes checking of their necessary tools, equipment, facilities, expertise, and quality service; interview with their qualified motor vehicle emission center technicians; and actual testing of equipment.

As part of its regular activities, DTI-Laguna will continuously inspect and monitor motor vehicle PETCs at least once a month for this year of 2024 all throughout the Laguna Province. This endeavor seeks to protect the interest of the consumers in availing PETC services (**ALSlinga, DTI-Laguna**).

UPLB holds courtesy all of project impact assessment with DOST Quezon, PNAO, OPA

With the aim to assess the impact of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-supported complementary food production in Luzon, a research team from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) conducts courtesy visit and key informant interview as preliminary activities at DOST Quezon, April 15, 2024.

According to Marianne R. De Luna, project leader, their research team is on its second year and the focus site is Mulanay Quezon, a DOST beneficiary that has Complementary Food Production Facility (CFPF).

CFPF is an establishment that adopted DOST developed technologies which aim to produce nutritious food blends and snacks to combat malnutrition in respective communities.

Further, the researchers hope to understand the interaction in initiating nutrition programs between Provincial Nutrition Action



Office (PNAO), Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA) and DOST Quezon using the theory of change framework.

The research project is funded by the DOST-Grants-In-Aid and monitored by DOST-Philippine Council for Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technology Research and Development. **PR**

ADVERTISE WITH US * Contact: Landline 046-476-7611 Cell. Nos.09753289576/09551552764

NIA to help Cavite, Batangas farmers improve productivity

EDITORIAL:

A toothless regulator

All bark, no bite. This doggone cliché may well apply to certain state regulators with a fondness for dishing out press releases but short on action in the discharge of their mandated tasks, and therefore get away with murder, so to speak.

Let's talk about the Securities and Exchange Commission, with particular focus on the cryptocurrency giant Binance, that has been encountering near-fatal debacles on many fronts.

Offhand, let's give credit where credit is due.

It is admirable that in November last year, the SEC boldly announced its intent to ban Binance as it is not a duly registered corporation with permits to do business in the Philippines as a cryptocurrency exchange.

Here's a direct quotation from the SEC's advisory: "This is to inform the public that the online cryptocurrency exchange BINANCE is NOT AUTHORIZED TO SELL or OFFER SECURITIES to the public in the Philippines."

If that is not crystal-clear enough, we don't know what is.

The SEC advisory holds criminally liable and imposes stiff penalties (up to P5 million and/or imprisonment of 21 years) on those who act as "salesmen, brokers, dealers or agents, representatives, promoters, recruiters, influencers, endorsers, and enablers of the Binance platform in selling or convincing people to invest in this platform within the Philippines."

As of writing, however, Binance continues to offer securities and is still available to be downloaded from app stores. Last we checked, this is a clear violation of our laws.

According to SEC Chairman Emilio Aquino, it really meant to ban Binance but had to put it off on account of changes in its ranks.

With all due respect, that's as flimsy as an excuse could get. The SEC also says it is delaying the ban to allow local investors to withdraw their exposures.

But how long does it actually take for an investor to withdraw his money?

For tech-savvy crypto investors—this takes anywhere from a few seconds to a couple of days.

It's been four almost four months now since the SEC flagged Binance's illegal operations in the country, and nothing definitive has been done about it.

Without doubt, the SEC has certain police powers to maintain the integrity of our capital markets and credibility of our securities laws.

Ergo, it can initiate legal proceedings motu proprio against Binance or request the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to block its website.

Regrettably, this is where the bite is lacking.

What is baffling is the SEC has implemented bans on similar unregulated cryptocurrency exchanges like MiTrade and OctaFX, with way fewer Filipino users. Is there favoritism towards the world's biggest exchange?

No less than the United States has set the precedent on how to apply the law against Binance.

Are we too compassionate to a fault?

We hope not.

However, running after Binance is not the task of the SEC alone.

This should be a collaboration with other agencies such as the NTC, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Anti-Money Laundering Commission, and the Department of Trade and Industry at the very least.

We need to see some action here, definitely.



Beating the Odds

Marilyn Cañeja found herself starting again with her paper wallet business that she is distributing around Poblacion Market in Davao City.

Marilyn Cañeja's journey from North Cotabato to Davao City is a tale of resilience and determination. As a young woman, she lived a sweet but meager life in the province. It was during her sophomore year in college that circumstances led her to drop out and work as a sales clerk in a pharmacy. Little did she know, this job would introduce her to her future husband.

Together, they shared dreams of independence; so they decided to quit their job and open a sari-sari store. The store prospered; however, to bear a child, she needed to give up the store as her doctor advised her to leave the stresses of store management behind. Meanwhile, her husband got a job as a bus conductor in Davao City. Prioritizing the family, Marilyn made the move to be closer to him after the birth of their child.

Their life was going well in Davao City, not until she was diagnosed with cancer in 2013. Bills are overwhelming, but despite the struggles they

faced, they were able to pull back up, proudly announcing that she is now a cancer survivor.

Her next business venture was born out of her doctor's advice to remain active and not lie down too often to fight the disease. This led her to start creating paper wallets in 2017. What started as a therapeutic activity blossomed into a flourishing enterprise. She used to finish 500 wallets in a week with the help of her husband and some of her neighbors, but now they can finish the 500 wallets in just half a day.

To support the early days of her business venture, Marilyn secured a loan from CARD Bank. She learned about the Bank in 2011, observing that many of her neighbors trusted its services.

Marilyn's journey is proof of the power of determination. "Do not let the challenges be the reason for you to stop growing. Instead, treat them as a stepping stone in order to thrive," Marilyn concluded. PR

Inagurasyon

From Page 1

laang Lungsod sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Agimat PartyList Cong. Bryan Revilla, at ng Sangguniang Panlungsod Members sa pangunguna ni Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola.

Dumalo rin sa programa si Councilor Alde Pagulayan, Kap. Jeffrey Campana at mga kagawad, ABAKA Officers, South 2, President Timotheo Ramon Ampil, Foschai Head Pres. Sunyabelle Basconcillo, Senior Citizen – Spring Ville City, Ms. Au Macavinta – Almakar builders Contractor.

Patuloy parin ang mga programa, proyekto ni Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla na magbibigay ng malaking kaginhawhan sa ating mga kababayang Bacooreno.

PENALIZE MAYNILAD OVER SALES "SINK-HOLE" - REVILLA SENATE Committee of Public Works Chairman Senator Ramon

Bong Revilla, Jr. demanded that Maynilad and its contractors be penalized over the huge hole that appeared in the middle of Sales Road in Pasay City on Sunday (April 14).

According to the report of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the "sink-hole" was caused by a leak from the water pipeline of Maynilad Water Services, Inc. The opening of the hole measures 2 meters by 3 meters but the hollow space inside is much wider. It also goes down as deep as 8-10 feet.

"Dapat mapanagot ang Maynilad at ang mga contractors nila dito! This poses great danger lalo na sa mga motorista, at kung di agad nakita at napabaya, baka pati sa mga residential properties at buildings sa area. Kung makikita niyo nga yung butas, malapit na siya sa pundasyon ng NAIAX elevated highway. Nakakatakot ang posibleng epekto nito kung sakali," the solon

said in exasperation.

Revilla said that the water concessionaire should be held accountable so that they will become more responsible with the impacts of their service.

"Hindi pwedeng hayaan lang na ire-repair tapos wala na. Hindi 'yon accountability. Dapat may managot para magsilbing daan ito para mas maging proactive ang mga service providers sa mga projects nila, hindi lang basta reactive kapag may problema na. Ilang beses na tayo nakakatanggap ng report na may pumutok na pipe sa ganito, minsan nagdudulot pa ng baha at nakaka-abala. Dapat bago pa lang magkaroon ng leak, na-check na. Tuloy-tuloy dapat ang inspection at maintenance," the Senate Public Works Chairperson explained.

As of the morning of April 15 (Monday), DPWH said that they are already prepared filling the void and repair the said damage.

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE TEOFILO VILLAMARZO AND CECILIA RESUS VILLAMARZO HAVE BEEN ADJUDICATED BY THEIR SOLE HEIR THRU AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION AS PER DOC. NO. 194; PAGE NO. 90; BOOK NO. 158; SERIES OF 2024, BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. CESARIO G. GONZALES, JR.

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS: APRIL 15, 22 & 29, 2024

DATELINE Weekly Newspapers has its principal business editorial office at 2F #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1 Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite with all the required BIR, DTI (CR#01576397), Barangay and City business permits Tel Nos. (046)476-7611/(0955)1552764; datelineweekly@gmail.com / heidelitalat@yahoo.com



HEIDELITA LAT PAGINAG

Publisher

Webster Ace Paginag

Editor-in-Chief

Marvin Lat Marketing Manager

Jenalyn B. Lat Circulation-in-Charge

Atty. Evelyn R. Dominguez Legal Consultant

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL P200/col.cm LEGAL/NOTICES P160/col.cm Font Size: Heading : 10 Body Text : 8 Space : Single space

HIRED ON THE SPOT!



SM CITY BACCOOR, CAVITE - Age is just a number for this 70-year old job seeker at the Job Fair Held at SM City Bacoor. Organized by Bacoor City PESO and the office of Congresswoman Lani Mercado-Revilla, the job fair gathered 44 companies and almost 400 job seekers with 239 of them hired on the spot.



NIA to help Cavite, Batangas farmers improve productivity

NAIC, Cavite (PIA) – As a commitment to support local farmers and enhance their agricultural productivity, the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Calabarzon has formalized a partnership with Cavite and Batangas-based irrigator associations (IA).

Among the approved provisions in the agreement is that farm inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, bio-fertilizers, and

cash assistance totaling P50,000 per hectare for farmers, will be awarded to IA members as a significant investment in the success of rice farming in the region.

NIA said that over 100 hectares of farm lands will be put under rice contract farming, which will benefit 62 farmers.

The MOA encompasses nine IAs, including Putat Balok Balok Bayabas IA, Campo Ave-

jar IA, Nasugbu Batangas Central IA, Banlikan IA, Nasugbu East Farmers IA Inc., SMMT Cavite Pioneer IA, CMSJTF IA, Balite-Munti-Doreo IA, and Bucal Pasong Malainen IA.

The organizations cover three irrigation systems in the two provinces, namely the Balayungan River Irrigation System and Kay Akle River Irrigation System in Cavite and the Palico River Irrigation System in Batangas. Reynaria Tapia, the administrative and finance division manager of NIA Calabarzon, sees the partnership as a strategic approach of the agency in aiding farmers, on which she expects them to play an active role in achieving broader objectives, such as helping the various initiatives of the government in attaining food security.



Among the approved provisions in the agreement is that farm inputs, including seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, bio-fertilizers, and cash assistance totaling P50,000 per hectare for farmers, will be awarded to IA members as a significant investment in the success of rice farming in the region. (Photo from NIA Calabarzon)



As a commitment to support local farmers and enhance their agricultural productivity, NIA Calabarzon has formalized a partnership with Cavite and Batangas-based irrigator associations. (Photo from NIA Calabarzon)

SUMMER VIBES AT THE SM STORE BACCOOR

Dive into endless fun with The SM Store Bacoor's top-quality inflatable pools! Perfect for this summer relaxation right in your backyard. Enjoy upto 20% discount and grab this Inflatables of Toy Kingdom at The SM Store Bacoor!



BETTER SUMMER DAYS WITH STARBUCKS – SM CITY MOLINO

SM CITY MOLINO, CAVITE - You can't buy happiness, but you can buy coffee, and that's pretty close. Visit Starbucks at SM City Molino located on the Ground Level.



MOA SIGNING



hope that our beneficiaries will become more part of the food security initiative of the government," she said.

Arnesto Dino, president of the Cavite IA Federation, expressed gratitude to NIA for bringing the program and hopes that it will help promote agricultural development at the grassroots level, which will safeguard the livelihood and income of small farmers in Cavite. "We think that this program is not only targeting an increase in our yield, but also to help us stop the activities of exploitative rice traders," he said.

Batangas IA Federation president Teodoro

Jonson backs up the program and projects that the initiative will provide more opportunities to improve their livelihood.

"We will do everything to make this program a success, which used to be just a dream, but now it is happening all because of NIA," Jonson said.

In a report released by NIA Calabarzon, 271 hectares of farmland are involved in contract farming region-wide which currently benefits 278 farmers from 17 IAs across Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, and Quezon provinces. (AM/PIA-4A; with reports from NIA Calabarzon)

