

# MPTC to Fortify Efforts in Promoting Safer Roads for Children

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) continues its commitment to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through its tollway operations by integrating child rights and road safety into its core initiatives.

Over the years, its business units — NLEX, MPT South, CCLEC, and MPT Mobility — have launched impactful programs, educational campaigns, and partnerships aimed at fostering a brighter future for young generations.

"As a company and as individuals dedicated to fostering economic and social development in our communities while minimizing our environmental impact, we stand united with various socio-civic organizations and the private sector to further this mission. Together, we strive to uphold children's rights — ensuring they are heard, empowered, and provided with a safe and healthy environment. At MPTC, our goal is to create safer roads for our children, enabling them to pursue their future and lead healthy, happy, and productive lives," stated Atty. Cynthia Casino, Chief Corporate Governance and Head of Sustainability at MPTC.

In line with MPTC Group's road safety efforts, NLEX Corporation launched a picture book titled "Ang Bida ng Kalasada" at the National Library of the Philippines to educate young minds on the values of responsible road usage. Featuring engaging stories and illustrations, the book aims to teach children about road safety. NLEX Corp. has distributed 2,000 copies to Grades 3-6 students in 20 public schools within its host communities and to other organizations.

MPT South also launched an updated version of its "Bayani ng Kalasada" (Bayani Ka) book that teaches kids about road signs and familiarizes them with road safety, both in and out of expressways. The book has reached over 1,000 students, with over 420 copies of the updated book donated to participating schools, various libraries, and institutions.

On November 20, MPTC lit several of its key structures in blue to demonstrate its commitment to creating safer roads for children in celebration of World Children's Day. These structures included NLEX Corporation's headquarters in Balintawak, Caloocan; the NLEX Drive and Dine motorists' rest stop in Valenzuela; MPT South's LEED Gold-Certified South Hub in Imus City, Cavite; and the iconic Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway in Cebu.

As part of this initiative, MPTC also echoed the message of this year's World Children's Day by utilizing its expressway network assets through billboards that promote road safety for children and highlighting its shared commitment to provide a safer and empowered future for them. This message was also replicated on its online channels with the help of its business units.

MPTC took a significant stride this year to further integrate Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) across its organization and reinforce its commitment to child rights and safety. The company held a four-day workshop in partnership with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC), with key representatives from its sister companies



PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc. To fortify its efforts, the organization is also preparing for its initiative to conduct a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) in 2025.

MPTC Group's campaigns on child road safety have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Department of Health's Healthy Pilipinas Gold Award, the Asia CEO Awards, and the prestigious ESG Business Awards 2024.

## CARD SME Bank opens 41st Branch in Narra, Palawan

CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), opened its 41st branch in Narra, Palawan on August 12, 2024.

"Our newest branch is proof of the institution's unwavering dedication to widen our reach. We aim that through this, we can extend our hand to local communities, offering financial support to micro, small, and medium entrepreneurs to grow their businesses," CARD SME Bank President and CEO Cynthia Baldeo stated.

The said opening also introduces "Senior's Hub," a space where seniors can comfortably enjoy CARD SME Bank's products and services while waiting for their turn. This initiative is part of the institution's commitment to inclu-



The expansion was spearheaded by CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, CARD SME Bank President and CEO Cynthia Baldeo, some key officers of CARD MRI, staff, and clients.

sivity and customer care, ensuring that all clients receive the best possible service regardless of age.

CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito and CARD SME Bank President and CEO Cynthia Baldeo, along with some key officers of CARD MRI, staff, and clients, attended the opening.

Its newest branch is located at Sampaloc Street, Poblacion, Narra, Palawan.

As of June 2024, CARD SME Bank had more than 1.3 million clients with more than 8.7 billion outstanding loans. For more information, visit its official Facebook page, @CARDSME-BankOfficialPage, or its website at <https://www.cardsmri.com/cardsme-bank/>.

# Cavite Governor Distributes Incentives to BHWs and BNSs

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## Cayetano eyes better FOI process

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday called for a review of the implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 2 on Freedom of Information (FOI) to address persistent challenges in accessing government data and communicating critical issues effectively to the public.

Speaking at a meet-and-greet with Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) station managers



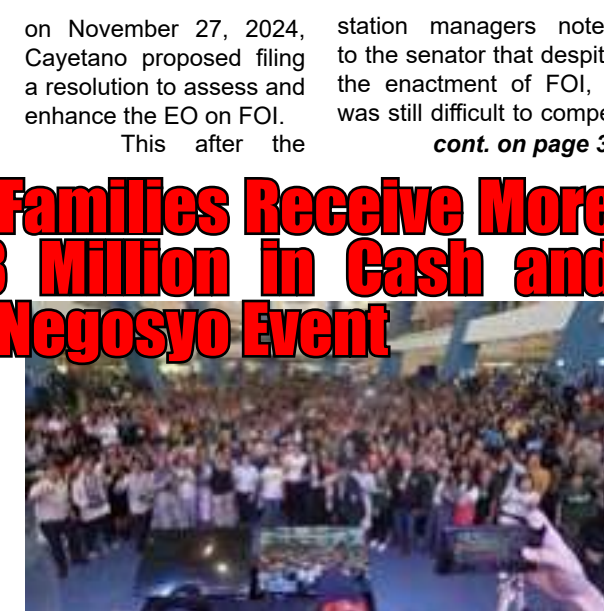
on November 27, 2024, Cayetano proposed filing a resolution to assess and enhance the EO on FOI. This after the station managers noted to the senator that despite the enactment of FOI, it was still difficult to compel

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## OFWs and Families Receive More than PHP3 Million in Cash and Kind at Go Negosyo Event

Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families who trooped to the SM Mall of Asia to attend Go Negosyo's Balik-Bayan Summit 2024 last December 7, 2024 went home with cash and prizes totaling Php3 million given the Go Negosyo, its sponsors, and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Office of the First Lady.

The prizes were announced by Go Nego-



syo founder Joey Concepcion, together with First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, who conveyed President Marcos Jr.'s awarding of Php2 million on top of the cash and

prizes given out that day. Among the recipients were three attendees who lined up at the venue as early as 6 p.m. the day before the summit, as well as all the

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## 5th President of PAPER Inc. Elected

## Governor Tolentino Leads Women's Welfare Program in Trece Martires City

During the program, Governor Tolentino extended financial assistance of Php 2,000 to each participant, emphasizing the administration's dedication to uplifting women and fostering community development. The initiative highlights the pivotal role of women in shaping resilient communities while addressing their immediate needs.

The gathering served as a powerful reminder of unity and progress, showcasing Cavite's commitment to empowering its women. - R. Tanael

## SSS releases over P32B 13th month and December pensions to 3.6M pensioners

# EDITORIAL: What are Chinese research vessels doing in our EEZ?

Obviously not content with its gressive gunboat diplomacy in the West Philippine Sea marked by its use of water cannons and military-grade lasers, and even deliberate ramming of our Coast Guard vessels as part of its dubious claim of ownership of practically the entire South China sea through a fictional "ten-dash line", China appears to be resorting to yet another move that betrays its intent to undermine our sovereignty over our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

According to the Philippine Coast Guard, three Chinese research vessels were recently spotted in our eastern seaboard near our EEZ.

Commodore Jay Tarruela, PCG spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea, identified the ships as Xiang Yang Hong 3, Jia Geng, and Xiang Yang Hong 10. The PCG official told media that last November 30, the vessels were located 210 nautical miles – or roughly 389 kilometers (kms) – east of Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte.

"We are still monitoring the movement of the Chinese research vessels because, at some point, they entered our exclusive economic zone in the past days," he explained. The Jia Geng was spotted 200 NM (370 kms) east of Davao Oriental on November 14. The Xiang Yang Hong 3 was monitored 257 NM (476 kms) northeast of Santa Ana, Cagayan on November 17. The Xiang Yang Hong 10 was spotted 200 NM (370 kms) east of Siargao Island on November 20 to November 29.

Also on November 29, the Xiang Yang Hong 3 was again located at 211 NM (391 kms) east of Siargao Island as well. The Xiang Yang Hong 3 was previously reported seen near the Philippine Rise with another research ship, the Zhang Jian, on November 4.

The Chinese ships were located through their automatic identification systems (AIS). Even if ships turned off their AIS, the PCG could locate them by accessing the Dark Vessel Detection Program of the Canadian government.

What could have been the objective of these Chinese research vessels, Tarruela asked. "We can only speculate, as long as we do not know the true intentions of the People's Republic of China. There must be a compelling reason for the Chinese government to deploy three research vessels all at the same time in one particular area."

If the ships were conducting marine scientific research, the PCG official said they should have obtained the approval of the Philippine government, particularly the Department of Foreign Affairs.

So why didn't Beijing bother to obtain the approval of Philippine authorities for the presence of their research vessels in our EEZ? Is it because they are now a big economic and military power in this part of the world that they can simply ignore international law and blatantly violate the territorial integrity of other countries, including ours?

## Cavite...

The Provincial Government of Cavite, under the leadership of Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino, distributed incentives for Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs) for the third and fourth quarters of 2024. The ceremonial turnover of cheques

amounting to ₱24,480,000 for BHWs and ₱9,384,000 for BNSs was held on December 4, 2024, at the Tagaytay International Convention Center in Tagaytay City.

Governor Tolentino together with Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino personally handed over the cheques to Dr. Nonie

John Dalisay, Provincial Health Officer along with some BHW and BNS. The event was graced by some members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, who expressed their full support for the health and nutrition initiatives of the province.

In her message, Governor Tolentino emphasized the vital role of

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## PAPER...

The officials and members of the Prime Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (PA Inc., also known as PAPER, unanimously elected Bonifacio C. Dacayanan as their 5th President, along with other distinguished members of the association. The group comprises various media practitioners from across the country. The election took place on December 7, 2025, at Hotel Henrico Kisad in Baguio City.

The elected officers include Jerry Ancheta

(External Vice President), Vladimir Asprec (Internal Vice President), Joy Estrellado (Secretary General), Katrina Crucena (Administrative Secretary), Zerryvi Octavio (Administrative Secretary), Milagros Bagaporo (Treasurer), Heidelita Paginag (Auditor), and Karl Geduriag and Diosa Marual (Press Relations Officers).

Ms. Joy Estrellado, the current Secretary General of the media group, expressed optimism, stating that it is time for growth and progress

under their new leader, even though Mr. Dacayanan has long been one of their officials.

The group plans to expedite the oath-taking ceremony to promptly implement initiatives that will invigorate and support every member of the organization.

"In my view, it's crucial for everyone to become aware of the growing challenges faced by journalists, especially with the spread of misinformation on social media platforms like Facebook,

where unverified accounts often share fake news," Mr. Dacayanan remarked.

One of their immediate plans is to organize seminars for their members to raise awareness about the realities in today's media landscape.

The newly elected President also aims to prioritize drafting and sending formal invitations to secure expert lecturers for discussions on issues affecting both the media industry and the nation.

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## Cayetano...

transparency from government offices.

In response, Cayetano emphasized the need to revisit the FOI EO.

"I'll file a resolution. Since Ate Pia (Senator Pia Cayetano) is the chairperson of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, let's look into the implementation of the law."

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is responsible for investigating accountability in government and ensuring that laws and executive orders are properly implemented.

Cayetano added that reviewing the FOI EO under this committee would strengthen efforts to promote transparency, good governance, and public trust.

In his message to the media, the senator acknowledged that while the FOI EO signed during the Duterte administration was a step forward, it still has significant gaps in implementation.

He also noted how changes in journalism have impacted efforts to ensure government transparency.

"Dati pag may scoop ka, you are rewarded. Ngayon, kahit may scoop ka, kung hindi napsansin ng tao [bale wala rin]. You have to lay the basis one brick at a time," he said.

The senator also emphasized how the rise of platforms like TikTok and the shorter attention spans of today's audience make it more challenging to convey complex issues.

"Nowadays, ang attention span kagaya sa TikTok, fifteen seconds, thirty seconds. Right now it's all elevator pitch," he said.

As an advocate for good governance and the fight against corruption, Cayetano has long supported the FOI Bill. While the Senate passed it during the 14th and 15th Congress, it did not pass in the House of Representatives.

Cayetano believes an effective FOI system can lead to a more efficient and accountable government.

Back to values Amid the current political division, Cayeta-

no said addressing moral values is more important than implementing political reforms.

The senator also called for a national consensus on moral standards to serve as a foundation for reforms.

"For me, it goes back to values talaga. Dati, it was absolute, pero relative na ang values and morals ngayon and this affects our identity as politicians, as a government, and as Filipinos," he said. PR

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## More Calabarzon LGUs compliant with eBOSS



At least 13 local government units across the Calabarzon region out of the 35 LGUs nationwide are compliant with the electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) program, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) said. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – At least 13 local government units across the Calabarzon region are compliant with the electronic Business One-Stop Shop (eBOSS) program, the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) in Southern Tagalog said.

The eBOSS system streamlines procedures for obtaining local business licenses and permits via a single digital portal accessible on demand. It is one of ARTA's flagship programs.

Karl Joseph Sanmacte, ARTA Southern Tagalog Regional Chief, noted that part of their efforts includes staying connected with LGUs to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of government services.

"We are cooperating with our LGUs through our inspection. We go around and visit our LGUs first, to assess where they are as far as eBOSS is concerned. Secondly, we also provide orientation, we help them how they can implement this," Sanmacte stated.

The 13 LGUs – which include Batangas City, Ibaan, Taal, and Sta. Teresita in Batangas province; Antipolo City and Baras in Rizal; the cities of Carmona, Dasmariñas, Bacoor and Imus in

Cavite; the cities of Binan, Calamba and Santa Rosa in Laguna – have now integrated the eBOSS system into their local government operations.

ARTA Secretary Ernesto Perez had said only 35 LGUs nationwide are fully compliant with eBoss even as the agency targets to bring 200 LGUs to compliance this year.

The ARTA Southern Tagalog also signed a joint memorandum circular with Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to strengthen the implementation of eB-

OSS in different LGUs and conduct technical assistance and training to better operationalize the system.

Sanmacte said: "With eBOSS, we will be able to really show their responsibility and their accountability in ensuring that the time for document processing will surely be implemented and followed."

The eBOSS is part of the broader push for digitalization under the Philippine government's "Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act" and aims to reduce red tape in government transactions across the country.

## KWF at NCMH, Lumagda ng Memorandum ng Unawaan



Matagumpay na isinagawa ang KWF Tagapangulo at G. Jerry C. Rodriguez, Chief Administrative Office, NCMH sa pagitan ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino at National Center for Mental Health. Pinangunahan ni Dr. Arthur P. Casanova, rasyon sa iba't ibang proyekto.

## BACOOR ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CITY EMPLOYEES TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Bacoor City, December 9, 2024 - The Bacoor Association of Retired City Employees (BARCE) marked a significant milestone today as its officers took their oath of office, officially commencing their term. The event, organized by the Office of the Mayor, was held at the Strike Gymnasium and witnessed by numerous BARCE members.

Mayor Strike B. Revilla, officiated the oath-taking ceremony, signifying the city government's continued support and recognition of the valuable contributions of retired city employees. The new BARCE officers,



led by President Engr. Jesus Francisco, are now officially entrusted with representing and advocating for the welfare of their fellow retired employees.

The event served as a testament to the city's commitment to its dedicated public servants, even

after their retirement. The oath-taking ceremony marked a new chapter for BARCE, setting the stage for collaborative efforts to ensure the well-being and continued engagement of retired city employees in the community.

## CAVITE CITY'S VERY FIRST GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE



The City Government of Cavite received its very first Seal of Good Local Governance from the Department of the Interior and Local Government this year. Mayor

Denver Chua received the city's very first SGLG recognition, becoming a welcome addition to Cavite Province's outstanding local government units.

In his social media post, Chua recognized

the efforts of the city government led by Vice Mayor Raleigh Rusit, CGLOO Mitzie Arceo, SGLG Coordinator Jolina Mabongga, and the department heads and employees.



# DOST-CALABARZON Highlights Active Participation in the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON marked the culmination of its involvement in the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) with a Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) conducted during the Technology Adopters and Cooperators Summit 2024 hosted by DOST Batangas on December 11, at the Solana Events Center, Alangilan, Batangas City.

In line with the campaign's objectives, the DOST-CALABARZON Gender and Development (GAD) unit, with the help of GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) members, Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao, Supervising Science Research Specialist, and Ms. Renalee M. Leyesa, Science Research Specialist II of DOST Batangas, facilitated the GST for the representatives from people's organization, association and cooperative beneficiaries of the Community-Based Enterprise Local Grants-In Aid (LGIA-CBP) and Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) proponents in the province of Batangas. The training aimed to foster a deeper understanding of gender-related issues and promote a culture of inclusivity and respect within communities and workplaces.

Mr. Ristian Aldrin C. Calderon, DOST-CALABARZON GAD Secretariat served as the resource person. This was also attended by Ms. Felina C. Malaban, DOST-Batangas Provincial Director and other DOST-CALABARZON staff.

A significant highlight of the GST was its emphasis on the 18-day Campaign to End VAW and the Safe Spaces Act, alongside other GAD mandates. Participants were engaged in discussions on the roles they play in creating safe and



equitable environments for all, as well as the practical steps they can take to address and prevent violence against women in their respective sectors.

This initiative underscores DOST-CALABARZON's commitment to integrating gender equality and women empowerment into its programs and services. By providing targeted support and capacity-building opportunities to cooperatives and MSMEs,

the organization continues to contribute to the nationwide effort to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

The successful conduct of this seminar not only capped off the region's activities for the campaign but also reinforced the agency's dedication to promoting gender-sensitive practices within its communities and partner organizations.

# Strategic planning, investment programming workshop bilang pagpapalawig ng Urban Agri sa 2026, isinagawa ng DA-4A



Naglunsad ng kauna-unahang strategic planning at investment programming workshop ang Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (DA-NUPAP) para sa paghahanda sa pagbuo ng plano at budget proposal ng Urban Agriculture Industry ng rehiyon para sa taong 2026.

Ginanap ito noong ika-14 hanggang ika-15 ng Nobyembre sa Development Academy of

the Philippines Convention Center, Tagaytay City, Cavite. Layon ng aktibidad na matukoy ang mga estratehiya, polisiya, programa, at interbensyon sa tulong ng mga komunidad at lokal na pamahalaan upang mapalago at mapanatili ang urban agri.

Ang mga mungkahi ay nakatuon sa edukasyon, teknolohiya, regulasyon, at pakikilahok ng komunidad. Isinagawa rin ang pagsusuri sa mga ito upang tiyakin na ang mga benepisyaryo at pondo ay

naaayon. Dumalo sa aktibidad sina Regional Executive Director Fidel Libao; OIC Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension Engr. Redelliza Gruezo; NUPAP Focal Person at OIC Field Operations Division Chief G. Felix Joselito Noceda. Kabilang din ang ilang mga kinatawan ng DA-4A Research and Experiment Stations, NUPAP Central Office, Provincial Agriculturists, at Agricultural Program Coordinating Offices.

Hinimok naman ni Laguna Provincial Agriculturist Marlon Tobias ang bawat LGU na magsagawa ng parehong inisyatibo upang mas mapalalim ang diskusyon sa urban agriculture sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan. PR

# Sectoral collaboration key to advancing PH biotech



LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) – The education sector said collaboration among the academe, government, and stakeholders are crucial in harnessing the potential of biotechnology to resolve resource problems in the country.

UPLB Chancellor Jose Camacho Jr. cited the university's unwavering commitment to promoting and advancing biotechnology through cutting-edge research and knowledge-sharing with partner agencies.

"We are doing this capacity building on technology with other state universities and colleges whom we have part-

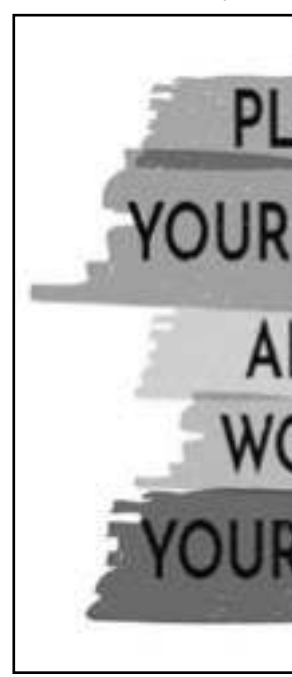
nership with. So on long term, biotechnology will be further enhanced in the programs and initiatives of the university," Camacho said.

Other national government agencies also took part in the event where they recognized biotechnology as the driving force for change from medical treatments, drug development, environmental resilience, and even agriculture improvements.

Meanwhile,

CHED Commissioner Marita Canapi highlighted the integral links between education, innovation, and commercialization as common collaboration grounds for the academe, government, and industry.

"The synergy of education and research with industry partnerships ensures that biotechnology innovations are not only conceptualized but also commercialized for the benefit of society," she stated.



The NBW 2024 featured seminars, technology exhibits, workshops, and panel discussions on advancements in genetic engineering, bioenergy, and biopharmaceuticals.

Industry stakeholders also participated, showcasing products and exploring partnerships with academic and government institutions to bring biotech innovations to market.



# Gatchalian bats for technology use in plugging revenue leakage caused by fake PWD IDs

Senator Win Gatchalian said the government needs to adopt relevant technologies that would help plug government revenue leakage caused by the use of fake person-with-disability (PWD) identification cards (IDs).

According to Gatchalian, the government incurred an estimated revenue loss of around P88.2 billion in 2023 due to discounts and VAT exemption granted to people using fake PWD IDs. Estimates made by his office indicate that 8.54 million individuals used fake PWD cards last year compared to only 1.85 million legitimate PWDs.

"Fake PWD IDs are causing economic damage in terms of foregone revenues from discounts given by establishments to holders of fake PWD IDs. We need to stop the use and proliferation of these fake PWD IDs and the only way is to have a centralized database up and running," he said at a recent Senate hearing conducted by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means on the use of fake PWD IDs.

Based on information from local government units such as the Valenzuela and Quezon City, fake PWD IDs are being sold through the Facebook marketplace or even peddled door-to-door by unscrupulous individuals for fees, ranging from P500 to P2500.

"A centralized database or registry that can be accessed anytime can be a deterrent to those who unlawfully sell these fake PWD IDs," he said. The senator cited the experience of Bacolod City, which adopted a PWD ID with a QR code feature, enabling establishments to verify on the spot whether the PWD ID is legitimate or not. He noted that many LGUs continue to make use of traditional cardboard IDs that can be easily replicated.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Gatchalian also committed to providing budgetary support for the National Council on Disability Affairs, which is in charge of coordinating and developing policies covering disability issues, in the adoption and development of a centralized registry.

"This is not just a fake ID problem but an economic problem because the government is losing revenue and businesses are being burdened into giving discounts to people who don't deserve those discounts," he emphasized.

Gatchalian added he is also considering the inclusion of a penal provision in Republic Act 10754 also known as An Act Expanding the Benefits and Privileges of Persons with Disability to discourage both use and sale of fake PWD IDs.

# OFWs...

attendees who registered or walked in for the event.

Organized by Go Negosyo, Balik-Bayan 2024 featured informative discussions with industry leaders, inspirational and learning sessions featuring successful entrepreneurs, and free onsite mentorship sessions where OFWs and their families can consult with Go Negosyo mentors about their current or planned businesses.

Concepcion invited the attendees to learn from the sessions and seek guidance from mentors. "We don't want you to spend your savings without proper mentorship," he said. "We are here to help you," as he thanked the OFW families for their sacrifice and support for

family members who work overseas.

"Balik-Bayan 2024 is a platform to provide business opportunities and foster investment matches for OFWs, encouraging them toward entrepreneurship and ensuring that their hard work and resources are put to productive and profitable use," said Joey Concepcion, founder of Go Negosyo.

Joining Concepcion and the First Lady were Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Sec. Cris Roque, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Sec. Hans Leo Cacdac, Commission on Filipinos Overseas Chairman Dante "Klink" Ang, and Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano.

DMW Sec. Cacdac thanked Go Negosyo for organizing the event. "Today is about creating opportunities for collaborations, and to uplift not only OFWs and their families but also the entire Filipino people," he said.

He shared that the DMW supports the reintegration of OFWs back into the country through programs for continuous learning and help them re-tool and upskill. He shared that there are now more than 2,000 beneficiaries of its economic reintegration program and will launch the national reintegration network together with the DTI.

The event also saw the awarding of the 2024 Inspiring Balik-Bayan Awards. The awardees

successfully founded their own businesses here in the Philippines. The Inspiring Balik-Bayan Awards is an annual award organized by Go Negosyo to recognize the success stories of OFWs-turned-entrepreneurs, celebrate their achievements, and foster entrepreneurial aspirations among current OFWs.

The event also saw several forums and discussions, including mentoring children in business, preparing for retirement, creating purpose-driven work, financial literacy, platforms for possible OFW businesses including franchising, entrepreneurship, and storytelling and content creation as a tool in entrepreneurship.

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# SSS...

The Social Security System (SSS) today said that it has released the 13th month and December pensions worth P32.19 billion to over 3.6 million pensioners which was given as early as November 29.

SSS Officer-in-Charge Voltaire P. Agas said that SSS pushed for the early crediting of the 13th month and December 2024 pensions as a pre-Christmas gift to SSS and Employees' Compensation (EC) pensioners.

"We are also aware of the plight of our pensioners who were not spared by the recent tropical cyclones that lashed the country in less than a month. The early crediting of these pensions can help address some of their financial needs as they try to rebuild their lives after a series of calamities struck the country," Agas said.

Agas explained that the first batch of the 13th month and December pensions were distributed to 2.09 million pensioners worth P17.9 billion on November 29, covering pensioners with dates of contingency within the first to the 15th day of the month.

Meanwhile, he said that the second batch was released on December 4 which benefitted 1.52 million pensioners

amounting to P14.3 billion. These pensioners have dates of contingency within the 16th up to the last day of the month.

Likewise, Agas said the SSS has released around P41.6 million worth of 13th month and December pensions to more than 6,000 pensioners through non-PESONet participating banks and checks.

"Pensioners in non-PESONet participating banks got their pensions on December 4, meanwhile we have asked the Philippine Postal Corporation to expedite the delivery of the checks of our pensioners in their home address," Agas noted.

He added that

pensioners who availed of the advance 18-month pensions for their initial benefit received their 13th month pensions on December 4.

A tradition since 1988

Since December 1988, SSS has been granting the 13th month pension to SSS and EC pensioners, which is equivalent to their respective monthly pensions. The giving of the 13th month pension has been an annual tradition for the last 36 years to enhance pensioners' benefits and as a way of recognizing the latter's contributions to the country during their productive years.

Agas explained

that retirement and survivor pensioners get a 13th month pension equivalent to their regular monthly pensions, while total disability pensioners receive a 13th month pension equal to their monthly pensions without the medical allowance.

"Member's children receiving dependent's pensions are also entitled to the 13th month pension and partial disability pensioners can receive it if they have a pension duration of at least 12 months," he added.

He concluded that every 13th month pension provided to SSS pensioners shows how the pension fund gives importance to its pensioners. PR

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# LEE URGES IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF GOV'T HEALTH WORKERS' LONG-DELAYED PERFORMANCE BASED BONUSES

"Ibigay ang dapat ibigay sa ating health workers!"

This was the sentiment of Manoy Wilbert "Wise" Lee as he called on the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Health (DOH) to expedite the release of long-delayed Performance-Based Bonuses (PBB) for government health workers, and stressed their vital role as frontliners during

the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Our health workers continue to brave life-threatening conditions, whether there is pandemic or not, to save countless lives. Hindi kanggap-tanggap at hindi makatarungan na hindi ito naibibigay sa kanila," Lee said in a statement.

"Hindi ito kabayaran, kundi pagkilala sa kanilang mga sakripisyo at pagpapahalaga sa kanilang kabayanihan. Hindi

na nga dapat pahirapan o ipinapanawagan pa ito, dapat agaran na itong ibinigay," he added.

The Bicolano lawmaker said that the annual PBBs, which have been unpaid for the past three years, would provide much-needed financial relief, especially for health workers who were affected by recent natural calamities affecting different parts of the country.

"Isang insulto sa mga sakripisyo ng health **cont. on page 5**

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CHERL OF COURT
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund)
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-1539-24
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

ELBERTO P. PERLAS married to
MERLY B. PERLAS,
Respondent/Mortgagor.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act
3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mort-
gagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Other-
wise known as PAG-IBIG Fund), a government financial
institution duly organized and existing under and by vir-
tue of Republic Act No. 9679, with postal address at The
Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave-
nue, Makati City against respondent/mortgagor ELBERTO
P. PERLAS married to MERLY B. PERLAS with postal
addresses at Lot 14 Block 163-A Phase 1, Mabuhay City,
Paliparan III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and Lot 23 Block 5
Mabuhay City (Now Bahay Karangalan), Brgy. Paliparan
III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the
mortgaged debt which as of September 24, 2024 amounts
to ONE HUNDRED SIXTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUN-
DRED THIRTY SIX PESOS & 93/100 (Php 116,836.93),
exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this
foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at
public auction on January 16, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in
the morning or soon thereafter in the Ground Floor Lob-
by of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building,
Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of
Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED
CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described
real property together with all the buildings and other im-
provements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. T-1321353

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land
situated in the Municipality of DASMARIÑAS, Province of
CAVITE bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 23 Blk 5 of the subdivision
plan PSD-04-170378, being a portion of Lot 6348-B-2-A-
1-C, Psd-04-166107, (L.R.C.) Rec No. 8843), situated in
Barangay of Paliparan, Municipality of Dasmariñas, Pro-
vince of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the W.,
along line 1-2 by Lot 21 Blk 5. On the N., along line 2-3 by Pathwalk
5 (5.50m Wide) on the E., along line 3-4 by Lot 2 Blk 6. On
the E., along line 4-5 by Pathwalk 7 (4.00m. Wide). On the
S., along line 5-1 by Lot 24 Blk 5. All of the subdivision plan.
Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 42 deg.
51 E., 307.46m. from Mon. 165, Imus Estate; thence N. 01
deg. 31 W., 8.00 m to point 2; thence N. 88 deg. 29 E., 4.00
m to point 3; thence S. 01 deg. 31 E., 4.18 m to point 4;
thence S. 01 deg. 31 E., 3.82 m. to point 5; thence S. 88
deg. 29 W., 4.00 m. to the point of beginning, containing an
area of THIRTY TWO (32) SQUARE METERS. All points
referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on this
ground by PS cyl. conc. mons 15x40cm bearings true: date
of original survey July 27, 1905-June 11, 1908 and that of
the subdivision survey May 1-15, 2004 & was approved on
October 21, 2004.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby
enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said
real property and the encumbrances thereon, if there be
any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the under-
signed on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take
place on the said date and time, it shall be held on January
30, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

03 December 2024, Dasmariñas City, Province of
Cavite.

(SGD) RODRIGO C. ESTROGERO, JR.
Sheriff IV

ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY
Clerk of Court IV & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Av-
enue, Makati City

ATTY. POMPEYO P. MAYNIGO
Vision Credit & Collection Services Inc.,
JRDC Building 117 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave., Pasay City.

ELBERTO P. PERLAS married to MERLY B. PERLAS
Lot 14 Block 163-A Phase 1, Mabuhay City,
Paliparan III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and
Lot 23 Block 5 Mabuhay City (Now Bahay Karangalan),
Brgy. Paliparan III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
December 09, 16 & 23, 2024

Men in Uniform Grace PAPER's 5th Founding Anniversary

The Prime Alli-
ance of Publishers, Edi-
tors, and Reporters (Ph)
Inc. (PAPER) celebrated
its 5th Founding Anni-
versary on December
7, 2024, at Hotel Enrico
Kisad, Baguio City. The
event, which coincided
with the 5th National Press
Congress, was graced by
esteemed members of the
Philippine National Police
(PNP), the Philippine Air
Force (PAF), and the Phil-
ippine Military Academy
(PMA). Their participation
underscored the essential
collaboration between the
media and uniformed ser-
vices in promoting truth,
trust, and public welfare.

PMaj Marcy
Grace D. Marron: Media
as Indispensable Part-
ners

Speaking on be-
half of PNP Metro Baguio
City, Police Major Marcy
Grace D. Marron empha-
sized the irreplaceable
role of media in today's
society. She highlighted
how media professionals
serve as a bridge between
the police and the public,
fostering transparency
and understanding. "The
collaboration between the
police and the media is es-
sential," she stated, add-



ing that working together
ensures accurate disse-
mination of information and
builds trust in law enforce-
ment initiatives.
Col Marlon A.
Parugrug: Media and
Soldiers Share Altruism
Colonel Marlon
A. Parugrug, Tactical Op-
erations Group 3 Com-
mander of the Philippine
Air Force, drew parallels
between the roles of sol-
diers and journalists. He
remarked, "Ang mga ay
sundalo at ang media ay
magkakapareho—ang pa-
giging handang ilagay ang
kapakanan ng iba bago
ang sariling interes." Citing
Mahatma Gandhi, he ad-
ded, "The best way to find
yourself is to lose your-
self in others." His speech
resonated deeply with the
audience, reflecting the
shared commitment of

both professions to serve
the greater good.
BGen Paulo C.
Teodoro: Strengthening
Public Engagement
Brigadier Gener-
al Paulo C. Teodoro of the
Philippine Military Acade-
my congratulated PAPER
on its milestone anniversa-
ry. He lauded the group's
efforts in fostering jour-
nalistic excellence, which
aligns with the objectives
of the National Press Con-
gress. He also shared
insights from a recent
three-day PMA workshop
aimed at enhancing public
engagement to build trust
and support for their mis-
sion. "Meaningful dialogue
with the public is a corner-
stone of our strategy," he
noted, emphasizing the
academy's commitment to
transparency and collabor-
ation.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate
of the late CRESENCIA ACOSTA consisting of
two parcels of land known as a).Lot No. 901-
E-1 of the subd. Plan, Pasd-042113-075510,
being a portion of Lot 901-E, situated at Brgy.
Bucal,Maragondon, Cavite, containing an
area of ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE (181)
SQUARE METERS, which is embraced and
covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-
2013028137, b) Lot No. 901-E-2 of the subd.
Plan, Pasd-042113-075510, being a portion of
Lot 901-E, situated at Brgy. Bucal,Maragondon,
Cavite, containing an area of ONE HUNDRED
EIGHTY TWO (182) SQUARE METERS, which
is embraced and covered by Transfer Certifi-
cate of Title No. 057-2013028138 issued by the
Office of the Registry of Deeds for the Province
of Cavite, have been the subject of an Extra-Ju-
dicial Settlement of Estate of the Deceased
Among the Legal Heirs With Absolute Sale as
per Doc.No.524; Page No.106; Book No. XXIV
and series of 2024 of Notary Public Jameswell
M. Resus of Naic, Cavite.

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
December 2, 9 & 16, 2024

A Celebration of
Collaboration and Com-
mitment

The presence
of these distinguished
speakers highlighted the
pivotal role of collabora-
tion between the media
and the armed services in
addressing societal chal-
lenges. Their messages
inspired the attendees,
reinforcing the shared val-
ues of service, dedication,
and integrity
PAPER's 5th
Founding Anniversary
was a testament to the
organization's unwavering
commitment to empower-
ing voices that shape the
nation. The event suc-
cessfully underscored the
synergy between media
practitioners and public
servants, fostering a stron-
ger, more informed soci-
ety. JOY ESTRELLADO

DTI Rizal Celebrates Success of 25 Graduates at CHAMPS Rizal Program Recognition Day

Antipolo City, 4
December 2024 – The DTI
Rizal proudly celebrated
the successful comple-
tion of the CHAMPS Rizal
Program, the initiative
program of the agency by
offering hands-on training,
mentorship, and practical
resources to support and
guide novice entrepre-
neurs, during a recognition
event held at the Ynares
Multi-Purpose Hall. The
ceremony recognized 25
beneficiaries who have
completed all modules of
the program, showcas-
ing their dedication and
commitment to business
growth and development.

The event was
hosted by John Francis L.
Sta. Rita, Negosyo Cen-
ter Business Counselor
and coordinator of the
CHAMPS Rizal Program.

Ms. Sharon F.
Dioco, DTI Rizal's BDD
Chief, highlighted the pro-
gram's success, revealing
that a total of 810 partici-
pants had been catered to
through online sessions.
She praised the 25 gradu-
ates for their hard work
and dedication, noting
their successful comple-
tion of all modules. She
also expressed gratitude
to the mentors and guest
speakers who contributed
to the program's success.

In her inspira-
tional message, Ms. Cle-

otilde M. Duran, Provin-
cial Director of DTI Rizal,
inspired the graduates by
urging them to start small
and trust the guidance of
DTI Rizal and other gov-
ernment agencies as they
continue their entrepre-
neurial journeys. Drawing
from her own experiences
as a young entrepreneur,
she encouraged the gradu-
ates to prioritize self-in-
vestment and health while
enjoying the entrepreneur-
ial process.

Ms. Marlene De
Luna and Ms. Jonalyn
Adaya led the awarding of
certificates of recognition
to the graduates. The cer-
tificates symbolized their
successful participation in
the program, marking a
milestone in their business
journey.

Ms. Marilou Sio-
son, owner of Sauce On
Food House, shared her
testimony. She recount-
ed her experiences as a
beneficiary of DTI's flag-
ship programs, including
KMME-MME Online and
OTOP Next Gen. Accord-
ing to her, these programs
enhanced her business
and products, empha-
sizing the importance of
leveraging government
initiatives to achieve busi-
ness success.

Following the
testimonial message were
CHAMPS graduates, Ms.

LEE...

workers ang matagal na
pag-release ng kanilang
bonus," Lee said.

"Sa kasagsagan
ng pandemya, ginusto ba
nating tipirin nila tayo ng
kalinga at dedikasyon para
mapagaling tayo sa sakit?
Bakit ngayon parang tini-
tipid sila ng gobyerno?" he
pointed out.

Lee urged the
DBM and DOH to prioritize
the welfare of the health
workers, citing their critical
role in addressing the na-
tion's health emergencies.

"We owe it to
them to ensure that they
are supported and valued.
This is the least we can
do for those who risked
their lives for us. Kaya
dapat ang gobyerno, hindi
na maging pabigat pa sa
kanila," the solon from Bi-
col said.

He likewise

called for transparency
and accountability from
the agencies involved,
stressing that health work-
ers and the public deserve
to know the reasons be-
hind the protracted delays.
"Huwag hintay-
ing lumpas na naman
ang isang taon bago nila
makuha ito. Our health
workers deserve better!"
Lee stressed.

The Alliance of
Health Workers (AHW)
earlier appealed to DBM
and DOH for the release
of their PBBs, stating that
to many of their colleagues
in government hospitals
have been struggling to
make ends meet.

The AHW previ-
ously noted that the bo-
nuses from as far back as
2021 remain unpaid, with
no clear timeline for their
disbursement. PR



Aileen De Guzman and Ms. Arriane Joy Amargo, who
also shared their inspiring experiences during the pro-
gram. They reflected on how CHAMPS Rizal has helped
them refine their business strategies and create brighter
plans that will lead to significant growth for their busi-

nesses.
The event concluded by ensuring that all gradu-
ates were informed about the next steps and continuous
support available to them through DTI Rizal's programs.
PR

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

No. 057-2016015850

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

FC Case No. 19176-24

-versus-

MARK JOSEPH V. DIAMONON, AS REPRESENTED
BY HIS ATTORNEY-IN-FACT, GLENDALE V. ANGELES,
Debtor/Mortgagor,

JOSHUA PAUL V. ANGELES,
Co-Debtor,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act
3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by BDO UNIBANK,
INC., mortgagee, with principal place of business at, 11th
Floor, BDO Valero Towers, 8741 Valero Street, Makati City,
against Mark Joseph V. Diamonon, as represented by his
Attorney-in-fact, Glendale V. Angeles ("DEBTOR/MORT-
GAGOR"), and Joshua Paul V. Angeles ("CO-DEBTOR")
mortgagors, with residential and postal address at Lot 45,
Blk. 5, Phase 2, Casmalia St., Covina Village, Buhay
na Tubig, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 12, Blk. 7, Phase 5,
Windsor Mansions, Brgy. Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite
to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of August
30, 2024 amounts to TWO MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY
THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FOUR PESOS AND 71/100
(Php2,650,904.71), Philippine Currency, including interest
and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees
and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale,
the undersigned will sell at public auction on January 21,
2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter
at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-
Imus Hall of Justice, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite, to
the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the
following property with all improvements therein to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 12, BLOCK 7 OF THE
CONSOLIDATION-SUBDIVISION PLAN PCS-04-023631,
BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF LOTS
5474-B, FLS-1992-D & LOT 6276-B, PSD-04157371, LRC
RECORD NO. 8843), SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF
TANZANG LUMA, MUNICIPALITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE
OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDAD ON THE SE.,
ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 10, BLOCK 7; ON THE ON THE
SW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY ROAD LOT 10; ON THE NW.,
ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 14; AND ON THE NE., ALONG
LINE 4-1 BY LOT 11 BOTH BLOCK 7, ALL OF THE CONS.-
SUBD. PLAN. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUN-
DRED TWENTY SEVEN (127) SQUARE METERS. X X X"

All sealed bids must be submitted to the under-
signed on the above stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take
place on the said date, it shall be held on January 28, 2025
at 10:00 o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to
investigate for themselves the title to the said property and
encumbrance therein if any there be.

City of Imus, Cavite, Philippines, November 6,
2024

(SGD) MHINARD SANTOS
Sheriff IV

APPROVED

(SGD) ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

COPY FURNISHED:

BDO UNIBANK, INC./ JACEL DL. FLORENCIO
REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT
33rd Floor BDO Corporate Center Ortigas No. 12
ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

Mark Joseph V. Diamonon, as represented by his AIF
Glendale V. Angeles ("DEBTOR/MORTGAGOR"), and
Joshua Paul V. Angeles ("CO-DEBTOR")
Lot 45, Blk. 5, Phase 2, Casmalia St., Covina Village,
Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite, and/or Lot 12, Blk. 7, Phase 5,
Windsor Mansions, Brgy. Tanzang Luma, Imus, Cavite

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
December 16, 23 & 30, 2024