

DOST EXPLORES PH INITIATIVES AGAINST AMR DURING THE 33RD INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE MEETING



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) explored interagency efforts to advance research and innovation in the fight against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in the 33rd Inter-agency Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance (ICAMR) Meeting and the Stakeholder Consultation for the Review of the Philippine National Action Plan for AMR 2019-2023 on 21 May 2024 at Luxent Hotel, Timog Avenue, Quezon City.

With the rise of antimicrobial resistance as a global issue, addressing ARM requires a coordinated One Health approach which integrates human, animal, plant, and environmental policies. Aligned with this, the DOST was represented by a multisectoral delegation led by DOST Undersecretary for Research and Development Dr. Leah Buendia, along with representatives from the DOST - Philippine Council for Health Research Development (PCHRD) and the DOST - Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARD).

During the meeting, USec. Buendia expressed the DOST's commitment to join the mission of addressing AMR. "The Department of Science and Technology will continue to support initiatives that will contribute to national integrated initiatives to address AMR. We will further our existing support for research on AMR to improve strategies aligned with the global action plan," she said.

During the meeting, updates on the current initiatives, policies, and commitments against AMR in the Philippines were discussed. A stakeholder consultation was also organized by the Ateneo Center for Research and Innovation (ACRI) wherein member agencies were invited to provide evaluations on the implementation of the Philippine National Action Plan (PNAP) for AMR 2019-2023, insights of which will be utilized to draft the succeeding PNAP to combat AMR for 2024-2028.

The meeting was attended by several member agencies of the ICAMR such as the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Agriculture (DA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Department of Education (DepEd), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA).

The ICAMR was established in 2014 to lead the development and implementation of the National Action Plan for AMR in the country. /PR

DOST HOSTS THE 1ST DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FORUM TO ADVANCE SMART AND SUSTAINABLE PHILIPPINES



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) hosted its 1st Development Partners Forum on 30 May 2024 at the Dusit Thani Manila, Makati City, with the theme "Development Cooperation in Science, Technology, and Innovation for a Smart and Sustainable Philippines." The event gathered 150 high-level attendees consisting of heads and representatives of key international development organizations, diplomats from foreign embassies, and officials from the national government agencies. It emphasized the importance of cooperation and partnerships in addressing complex and interconnected challenges through Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI). Presentations of priorities of partners from bilateral and multilateral development organizations were found to interlock closely with DOST's priority outcome pillars of (i) Human Well-being; (ii) Wealth Creation; (iii) Wealth Protection; and (iv) Sustainability. Officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Department of Finance (DOF), and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) were also able to share and discuss practices, experiences, and guidelines of respective agencies in pursuit of sustainable development.

With the aim to share to partners the DOST's Strategic Plan 2023-2028, DOST officials provided an overview of the Department's priorities and programs. Leading the discussion, Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. presented a rundown of existing initiatives and technologies developed within the DOST system. These were subsumed within the eleven (11) program portfolios, aligned to the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 and the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez recognized the dynamic role of the DOST in balancing advancement on technological transformations and the impact of changes in business models and public sector. He shared three elements that are recurrent topics in global discus-

sions on supporting countries in STI – inclusive-ness, challenges of digitalization, and financing STI. "STI policies and regulations have to evolve in a complex inter-agency and multi-sectoral environment preserving a people-centered understanding of development becomes a priority," he added. His statements complement Secretary Solidum's vision for DOST which is to provide more impact and more meaning for the scientific community as part of the national and global effort to eradicate poverty, to become resilient to climate and disasters threats, to overcome many challenges that ordinary Filipinos and other countries are also facing.

The respective roles of National Government Agencies (NGAs) as part of the whole-of-government approach also strengthen the mandate of DOST as the lead agency in the advancement of STI. They have acquainted the plenary on avenues to ensure that STI strategies are in sync with the timeline of achieving the country's socio-economic global development goals.

When asked about DOST's tagline of providing solutions and opening opportunities, Secretary Solidum said during the panel discussion that "the mere fact of providing scholarships or assisting through technologies, we have opened a lot of opportunities for our Filipino people. So, that is why, DOST is known not as an agency that focuses on one service. DOST provides lots of interventions." On top of STI, the Secretary added that "collaboration by many stakeholders would be a game changer, the transformative agents for social and economic development."

Presentations of international development partners boosted opportunities to explore potential partnerships in promoting existing DOST programs, projects, and activities. Existing multilateral and bilateral development partners including the Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank (WB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), US Agency for International Development (USAID), along with the development programs from the diplomatic missions of Australia, European Union, and United Kingdom revitalized mutually beneficial engagements. The DOST likewise reinforced its visibility to other potential development partners including UN Agencies, among others.

The dialogue between development partners framed a global perspective in synergizing ideas on STI and the future of sustainable development in the Philippines. Questions from the audience propelled guided interventions from experts and partners on the ways forward particularly on the flagship programs and projects of both ends.

Alongside the forum, a dedicated exhibit showcasing the technology on high-blend natural textile fiber and eco-friendly textiles from DOST-PTRI stirred conversation among participants during health breaks. The display includes traditional dresses using Philippine Tropical Fabrics, shoes, and accessories promoting indigenous designs which are becoming a common trend -- worn and promoted by public servants during official functions. /PR



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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DE-ESCALATING TENSIONS. Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong shake hand during the 9th Meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea in Manila on Tuesday (July 2, 2024). The Philippines and China have reaffirmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions in the South China Sea following the confrontation near Ayungin Shoal on June 17. (Photo courtesy of DFA)

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MANILA – The Philippines and China have reaffirmed their commitment to de-escalating tensions in the South China Sea during their first formal dialogue since the violent skirmish between the Chinese Coast Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines near Ayungin Shoal on June 17.

The two states convened the 9th Meeting of their Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM) in Manila on July 2.

Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Undersecretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro and Vice Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong led the Philippine and Chinese

delegations, respectively, and had a "frank and constructive discussions" on the situation.

In her comments, Lazaro told her counterpart that the Philippines would be "relentless in protecting its interests and upholding its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in the West Philippine Sea."

"Noting recent incidents in the South China Sea, both sides recognized that there is a need to restore trust, rebuild confidence, and create conditions conducive to productive dialogue and interaction," the DFA said in a statement.

"The two sides discussed their respective positions on Ayungin Shoal and af-

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Navigating the Challenges and Opportunities in Philippine Education

Education in the Philippines has long been a vital cornerstone for the country's growth and development. As we move through 2024, the educational landscape continues to evolve, shaped by both longstanding challenges and promising opportunities. Historical Context and Current State The Philippine education system has undergone significant changes over the decades. The implementation of the K-12 program in 2012 was a monumental shift, extending the basic education cycle to 13 years. This reform aimed to enhance the quality of education and better prepare students for both higher education and employment. Despite these efforts, the country still faces numerous obstacles. Challenges Quality of Education: One of the most pressing issues is the quality of education. According to various studies, Filipino students often lag behind their counterparts in neighboring countries in key areas such as math, science, and reading. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results in 2018 highlighted these deficiencies, placing the Philippines near the bottom in global rankings (RAPPLER). Access and Equity: While enrollment rates have improved, disparities in access to quality education remain. Rural and remote areas, in particular, suffer from a

lack of resources, inadequate facilities, and a shortage of trained teachers. The pandemic further exacerbated these inequities, with many students unable to participate in online learning due to poor internet connectivity and a lack of devices (DepEd). Teacher Training and Support: Teachers are at the heart of the educational system, yet they often face insufficient training and support. The continuous professional development of teachers is crucial, but many educators lack access to quality training programs. Additionally, the workload and compensation for teachers need to be addressed to ensure they are motivated and well-equipped to teach effectively (Teach Pinas). Opportunities and Reforms Digital Transformation: The pandemic accelerated the adoption of digital tools in education. Moving forward, integrating technology into the classroom can enhance learning experiences and make education more accessible. Initiatives to improve digital infrastructure and provide training for both teachers and students are essential steps in this direction (DepEd). Curriculum Revisions: The introduction of the MATATAG Curriculum aims to streamline and strengthen the educational framework. This curriculum focuses on essential learning competencies and aims to make the education system more responsive to the

needs of students and the job market (Teach Pinas). Government and Community Involvement: Collaborative efforts between the government, private sector, and local communities are crucial. Programs like Brigada Eskwela, which encourage community involvement in school maintenance and preparation, demonstrate the positive impact of such partnerships (RAPPLER). Future Outlook As the Philippines gradually transitions back to the traditional school calendar, with the academic year starting in June by 2026, there is hope that these reforms will create a more conducive learning environment. However, sustained effort and investment are needed to address the deep-rooted issues within the education system. In conclusion, while Philippine education faces significant challenges, there are also numerous opportunities for improvement and innovation. By focusing on quality, access, teacher support, and leveraging technology, the Philippines can pave the way for a more robust and equitable education system. The journey ahead is complex, but with concerted effort and collaboration, the goal of providing quality education for all Filipino students can become a reality. -ANG KABITENYA

PH....

firmed their commitment to de-escalate tensions without prejudice to their respective positions," it added. The DFA said there was a "substantial progress" on developing measures to manage the situation at sea, but said "significant differences remain." The DFA has yet to provide details when asked what kind of measures the Philippines is pushing and what progress has been reached. Meanwhile, both sides agreed to continue discussions to find a "mutually

acceptable resolution" to the issues. Communication mechanisms According to the DFA, the two sides signed the Arrangement on Improving Philippines-China Maritime Communication Mechanisms and agreed to discuss further how to operationalize this mechanism. They also agreed to continue discussions on maritime cooperation between their coast guard authorities, including the possible resumption of the Joint Coast Guard Committee.

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30-DAY...

The Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) has announced a 30-day toll holiday across all exits of the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) for all vehicle classes, supporting the Toll Regulatory Board's (TRB) initiative. Raul L. Ignacio, president and general manager of CIC, stated that the measure, effective from July 1, 2024, aims to alleviate the financial burden on motorists dealing with increasing fuel prices and inflationary pressures. CIC received the TRB's decision following consultations with its joint venture partners in the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), namely CIC and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA). President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. previously announced

the toll holiday for all expressway segments managed by the CAVITEX joint venture firm during his speech at the recent inauguration of the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2. "We welcome TRB's policy and operational decision, guided by the President's directive, which was made after considering all implementation details and necessary system preparations," Ignacio said. "We commend TRB for the thorough deliberation as part of their decision-making process," he added. The toll-free initiative covers exits in Kawit, Paranaque, C5 Link segment Merville, Taguig exits, and the newly inaugurated Segment 2 (Sucat Interchange) for all vehicle

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LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA)—Higit na pinaigtig ng Batangas Police Provincial Office (BPPO) ang kanilang kampanya kontra krimen sa lalawigan ng Batangas. Sa ulat ng BPPO sa pulong ng Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC), mula Abril 1 hanggang Hunyo 30 ay nakapagtagala ng nasa 130 naarestong Most Wanted Person sa Batangas, kabilang ang isa sa national level, 22 sa regional level, 52 sa provincial level at 55 sa city/municipal level. Bukod pa rito ay may naaresto ring 287 iba pang wanted persons. Kasabay nito ay nagkaroon din ng 379 operasyon kontra ilegal na droga na nagresulta sa pagkaka-aresto ng 421 indibidwal at pagkaka-kumpiska ng nasa 1,435,465 gramo ng shabu, 338.60 gramo ng marijuana na may tinatayang halagang aabot sa P9,693,202.632 at anim na armas. Kabilang rito ang ilegal na

drogang nakumpiska sa isang checkpoint sa bayan ng Alitagtag na itinuturing na pinakamalaking droga na nakumpiska sa lalawigan at sa bansa. Sa mga naarestong personalidad kaugnay ng kampanya kontra ilegal na droga, nasa 63 ang ikinokonsidera na high value individuals (HVI) at 353 naman ang street level individuals. Nagtala rin ng 41 tokhang activities at tatlong surrenderers. Samantala, patuloy din ang pagpapatupad ng BIDA o Buhay Ingatan, Drogay Iwasan Program ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) kung saan nagpakalat ng mga information materials at naghikayat ang nasa 231 BIDA Advocates sa pamamagitan ng information drive at webinars. Nakapagsagawa ng 358 na operasyon kaugnay ng kampanya kontra ilegal na sugal kung saan nakaaresto ng 609

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PGC Free Circumcision Program for the Young Boys of Tanza



In another round of the operation tuli program with the theme "Magpatuli, para Pogi," held in Barangay Bagtas, Tanza, Cavite, on June 28, 2024, a significant milestone in community healthcare was achieved, benefiting a total of 238 young males. The event was a resounding success, owing to the collaborative efforts of local officials and various stakeholders. The event was spearheaded by the GEAMH Medical Team in collaboration with the Rural Health Unit of Tanza. Their concerted efforts ensured a smooth and effective operation, transforming the lives of young males in Bagtas as they transition to manhood. The Office of the Provincial Governor's medical mission team played a crucial role by distributing essential medicines and antibiotics, which will aid in faster healing and recovery for the beneficiaries. Barangay Chairperson Engr. Manuel "Boyot" Mintu, along with barangay officials, and medical practitioners, worked tirelessly to organize and execute this vital healthcare initiative. The event also received significant assistance from the Philippine Eagles, Fraternal Order, showcasing the spirit of community and cooperation. /PR

PGC'S Operation Tuli Program Reaches City of Imus



On June 27, 2024, the City of Imus witnessed a significant healthcare initiative as PGC's Operation Tuli program extended its services to the local community at Imus Sports Complex. This collaborative effort, spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, was conducted in coordination with RHU Imus and 3rd District Congressman Hon. Adrian Jay Advincula. The program provided free circumcision services and prescribed medicines to 346 young men of the City of Imus. This vital healthcare service was aimed at promoting good hygiene and easing the transitional phase into manhood for the brave Imuseños. The event was marked by meticulous organization and seamless execution, ensuring that every partic-

ipant received the necessary care and support. The success of the activity highlights the commitment of the provincial government and its partners in addressing the healthcare needs of the community. /PR

Cavite Career Caravan Empowers Job Seekers in Maragondon



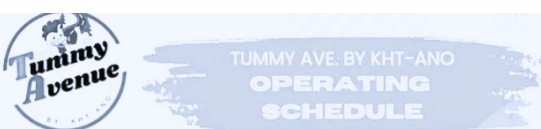
The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) spearheaded another successful Cavite Career Caravan, this time held in the municipality of Maragondon on June 26, 2024 drawing numerous applicants eager to explore employment prospects. The caravan featured participation from fifteen (15) companies, offering a diverse range of job openings and catering to various skills and career aspirations of job seekers. National agencies like Philippine Statistics Authority, National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Internal Revenue, TESDA, Social Security System, Pag-ibig and Philhealth were also present, offering guidance and support to applicants through various stages of the job application process. Their presence ensured that applicants were well-prepared and confident in their pursuit of new career opportunities. With the continued success of the Cavite Career Caravan, the OPPESM remains dedicated to its mission of connecting job seekers with valuable employment opportunities and supporting the workforce of Cavite. /PR

Honoring Child Development Heroes of Cavite



The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer spearheaded the provincial celebration of the Child Development Workers Week Themed: "Building Bridges, Changing Lives: Honoring the Compassion and Commitment of Child Development Workers" on June 25, 2024 at Cavite Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City. National Federation President of Children Development Workers, Ms. Perla P. Reyes officially opened the program by acknowledging the presence of the guests and participating CDWs from the cities and municipalities of Cavite.

In behalf of Dr. Teresita Grafilo Inciong, ED.D., D.P.M., Ms. Necitas D. Lagre, Chief Administrative Officer of the ECCD Council delivered an inspiring motivational talk, as she highlighted the crucial role of child development workers in shaping young minds and fostering a supportive environment for children's growth. 7th District Board Member, Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla graced the event as he delivered a heartfelt speech emphasizing the responsibility and significant contributions of child development workers of Cavite. He commended their dedication and hard work, acknowledging that their efforts laid the foundation for a brighter future for the province. The highlight of the program was the awards ceremony, which honored the participants for their 10 - 40 years of dedication in service. The awarding ceremony was joined by Board Member Abeng Remulla, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica together with the OIC of OPSWDO, Ms. Percyl T. Ramos, and Ms. Perla P. Reyes. A total of 142 child development workers were recognized with certificates and trophies, honoring their invaluable service and commitment to the well-being and education of the children. There was also a raffle draw sponsored by Board Member Romel Enriquez, Chair Committee on Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly, which added fun and excitement to the participants. This recognition underscored the profound impact these workers have on their communities, acknowledging their tireless efforts in shaping the future of children.



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SM PRIME, BUREAU OF FIRE LAUNCH SEARCH FOR TEN OUTSTANDING FIREFIGHTERS

MOA signed to honor Bureau of Fire's role in public safety

SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime) and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) reaffirmed their commitment to fire safety and protection through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony held on June 27, 2024, at the SM Prime Headquarters.



(L-R): SM Supermalls' Vice President for Corporate Compliance Group Liza Silerio, SM Prime President Jeffrey Lim, SM Prime Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, and Bureau of Fire Protection Director Louie Puracan

The MOA highlights SM Prime's recognition on the critical role of the BFP in maintaining public safety, economic stability, and peace and order through the launch of the yearly search for the Ten Outstanding Firefighters of the Philippines. SM Prime President Jeffrey Lim expressed his pride in the commitment to honoring outstanding firefighters. "The Awards aim to celebrate the heroism and bravery of BFP members who have made fire service their vocation, contributing to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the Philippines," stated Mr. Lim. "This is the first awards we in SM Prime have launched, signifying the importance of your heroic role in DRR for the whole of Philippine society."



SM Prime President Jeffrey Lim (second from left) and Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Director Louie Puracan (second from right) shake hands to signify their commitment to the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), with SM Supermalls' Vice President for Corporate Compliance Group Liza Silerio (left) and BFP Chief Superintendent Renato Capuz (right) serving as witnesses.



SM Prime Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy (left) discusses fire safety matters with Bureau of Fire Protection Director Louie Puracan (right), while SM Prime President Jeffrey Lim (second from right) and SM Supermalls' Vice President for Corporate Compliance Group Liza Silerio (second from left) look on.



SM Prime President Jeffrey Lim and Bureau of Fire Protection Director Louie Puracan engage in a discussion on further enhancing fire safety measures during the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony.

Nominations for the awards will begin in July 2024, with the awarding ceremony scheduled for December 2024. The top 10 awardees will receive a plaque of recognition and a cash prize of PHP 250,000 each while ten finalists will each be awarded PHP 20,000. The MOA signing paves the way towards a safer future for Filipino communities. The combined efforts of SM Prime and the BFP will undoubtedly contribute to strengthening fire resilience in the Philippines.



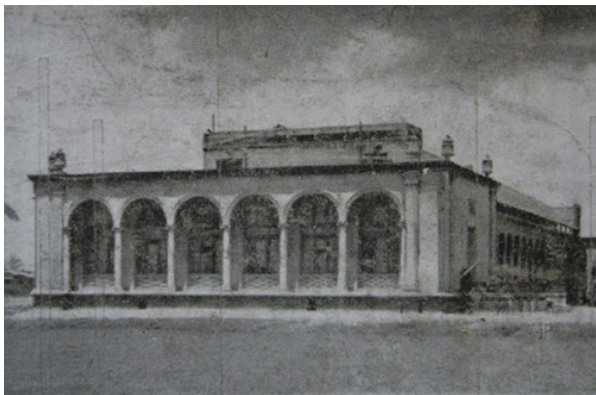
SM Prime executives and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) members join forces to promote fire safety and disaster preparedness in communities.

HISTORIC QUEZON HALL AT WVSU SET FOR ADAPTIVE RESTORATION



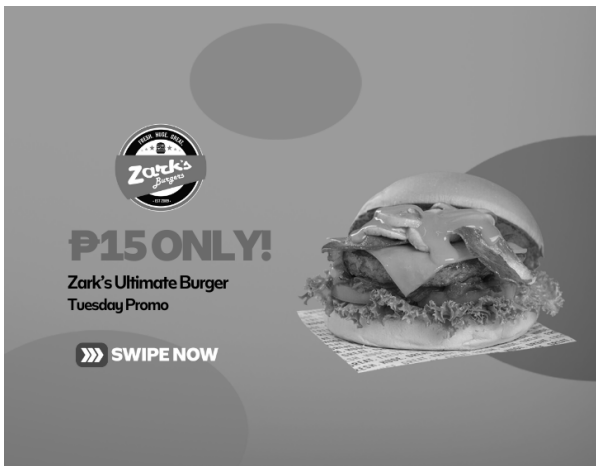
Collaborating for the adaptive restoration of the century-old Quezon Hall or Bulwagang Quezon of the West Visayas State University (WVSU) in Iloilo City. Joining the ceremonial signing of the memorandum of agreement are WVSU's Dr. Joselito Villaruz, Dr. Peter Ernie Paris, Dr. Porferio Barlas, and SM Foundation and Henry Sy Foundation's Debbie Sy, Dr. Lydia Echaz, Virginia Yap, Engr. Ramon Gil Macapagal, Carmen Linda Atayde, and Juris Soliman.

The Henry Sy Foundation (HSFI), West Visayas State University (WVSU), and SM Foundation have recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the adaptive restoration of the century-old Quezon Hall, an initiative to preserve a key educational heritage in Iloilo City.



Bulwagang Quezon, a landmark structure dating back to 1926, is the first unit of a u-shaped group of buildings. It is strategically located at the highest elevation of the university, making it is a focal point of the entire WVSU.

Bulwagang Quezon, a landmark structure dating back to 1926, weathered the destruction of World War II. It was rebuilt in 1946 under the Philippine Rehabilitation Act. Over the decades, the building has undergone various minor renovations, but the hall has not seen a major rehabilitation since its post-war reconstruction. This said collaborative undertaking aims to return the building to its former glory and adapt it for modern educational needs. It also hopes to benefit current and future WVSU students while also preserving an important landmark in the history of education in Western Visayas. The HSFI, known for its mission to empower youth and foster a culture of achievement, is supporting this endeavor as part of its broader goal to drive Philippine social development through educational grants.



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NOGRALES...

MANILA – The Civil Service Commission (CSC) is encouraging job seekers interested in public sector positions to explore opportunities through its Job Portal, available at csc.gov.ph/career. In a statement Tuesday, CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles highlighted the portal's significance in offering aspiring government employees detailed information and easy access to a wide range of job openings within the public sector. "Patuloy ang pagdami ng mga oportunidad sa trabaho sa gobyerno dahil laging may pangangailangan para sa mga mahuhusay at tapat na kawani na magbibigay ng dekalidad na serbisyo publiko (Job opportunities in the

government continue to grow due to the constant need for good and dedicated workers to deliver quality public service)," Nograles said. He said the CSC Job Portal provides an easy way to search for vacant positions in government agencies nationwide. In accordance with CSC Resolution No. 2000221 dated Feb. 4, 2020, the CSC has implemented a unified platform for publishing vacant government positions on its website. National government agencies, local government units, and state universities and colleges are required to submit their lists of authorized first, second, and third level vacant positions in both electronic and printed formats to the

concerned CSC field office (FO). The electronic copy is forwarded to the CSC regional office for publication on the CSC website, while the printed copy is displayed on the bulletin board of the CSC FO. Applicants can use the job portal's filters such as position title, agency name and region to search for available positions. Aside from the position title and place of assignment, the job postings also indicate the salary or job grade; qualification standards that need to be met by the applicant, such as eligibility, education, training, work experience, and competency; documents to be submitted; instructions on how to apply.

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Nograles reminded jobseekers that all job applications or questions should be directed to the agency concerned. He also advised applicants to carefully review the qualification standards and competencies required for each position, emphasizing that eligibility alone does not guarantee a permanent appointment. "The government is not only the biggest employer nationally or locally, and it also provides the opportunity for Filipinos to attain security of tenure. We encourage qualified Filipinos, including our fresh graduates, job shifters, and civil service eligibles to join the civil service and contribute to our nation's development," Nograles said. (PR)

DSWD...

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CASH AID DISTRIBUTION. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) personnel distribute cash assistance to the victims of the El Niño phenomenon in this undated photo. The DSWD on Tuesday (July 2, 2024) said it has distributed more than PHP1.37 billion in cash aid the affected farmers, fishermen and their families. (Photo courtesy of DSWD) MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in compliance with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., has distributed over PHP1.37 billion in cash assistance to farmers, fishermen and their families affected by the El Niño phenomenon. DSWD spokesperson Irene Dumlaog said the entire amount of the cash aid was handed over to some 137,333 beneficiaries from the select sectors in 17 towns in Cagayan Valley and some regions in the Visayas and Mindanao, each receiving PHP10,000 under the agency's Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP). "This aid distribution is part of President Marcos' Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fishermen, and their Families (PAFFF) that aims to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon, especially on the agriculture and fisheries sectors," Dumlaog, assistant secretary for Disaster Response Management Group, said in a news release on Tuesday. The AKAP is the recently

launched program of the DSWD that provides social aid to individuals who may not have access to regular forms of assistance because they do not belong to the poorest population. Of the total amount of assistance, Cagayan de Oro in Northern Mindanao received the biggest chunk with PHP113.8 million for 11,385 recipients. During the PAFFF distribution on June 28 in Bohol, where the President was joined by DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian, the Chief Executive said in his speech that he has expanded the duties of the DSWD not just to provide assistance during typhoons and other calamities. "Dahil sa aking pananaw, itong dinaanan natin na El Niño, na tagtuyot, ay krisis din. Kaya nandyan po ang DSWD para tumulong at magbigay ng tulong sa mga tinamaan at nahirapan dito sa pagdaan ng El Niño sa atin (From my perspective, the recent El Niño, the drought, is also a crisis. That's why DSWD is here to help and provide assistance to those affected and struggling due to the impact of El Niño)," the President told his Cebuano and Boholano audience during the distribution of various government assistance at the Carlos P. Garcia Sports Complex in Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Apart from cash assistance, the DSWD is also providing family food packs to El Niño-hit families and individuals nationwide. (PNA)

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MANILA – The ongoing modernization of the Philippine military has gone far in terms of ramping up the country's capability to thwart attacks or invasion attempts by hostile forces. During Tuesday's pre-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Special "Resibo ng Serbisyo ng Pangulo" interview over state-run PTV, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the military's modernization dates back to 1995 when their assets began to deteriorate after the closure of American military bases in the country. "Hindi po natin pwedeng sabihin iyan para hindi alam ng ating mga competitors kung nasaan na tayo. But suffice to say, na kung mayroon pong gustong sumakop, mag-invade sa atin ay talagang lalaban po tayo at siguradong masusugatan sila (We cannot say that as we do not want our competitors to know where our program is exactly at. But suffice it to say, if anyone wants to invade us, we will fight and they will surely get hurt in the process)," the AFP chief said when asked about the exact progress of the AFP Modernization Program. He said some of the fruits of the ongoing AFP Modernization Program are the FA-50PH light jet fighters and the various missile systems that were recently delivered and are now in service in the military, along with the various state-of-the-art naval vessels being used to patrol the West Philippine Sea. Last month, Brawner also joined Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. at the launch of the BRP Miguel Malvar (FF-06), one of the Philippines' two guided missile corvettes built in South Korea. The AFP Modernization Program is subdivided into three "horizons" aimed at acquiring weapons systems and platforms for external defense missions. Horizon 1 was from 2013 to

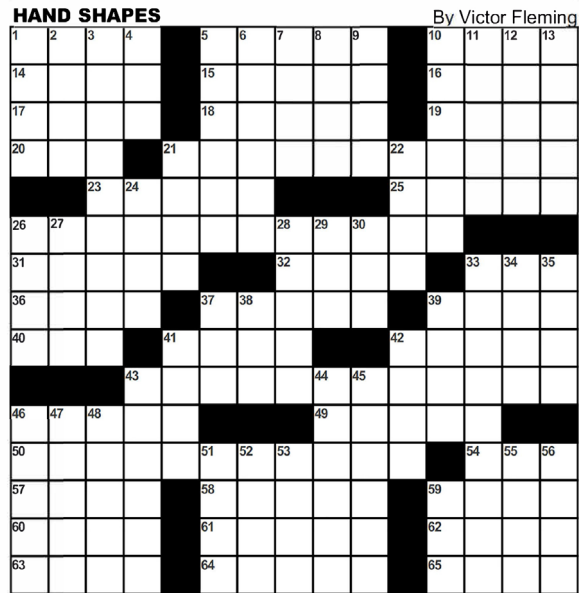
2017; Horizon 2 from 2018 to 2022; and Horizon 3 from 2023 to 2028. "Unang-una, kailangan nating i-modernize ang mga radar systems natin, mga surveillance systems, pati na rin mga sensors natin. And then pag na-develop ito, kailangan i-develop 'yung mga barko at mga aircraft natin na sasalubong. Let's say nagkaroon ng invasion, na-detect ng radar systems, kailangan salubungin ng defense natin (First, we have to modernize our radar and surveillance systems, also our sensors. Once these are developed, we must develop the ships and the aircraft. Let's say there is an invasion attempt and this was detected by our radar systems, our defense needs to intercept it). We have missile systems, pwede natin gamitin iyan (we can use them)," Brawner said. Without giving details, he said the AFP is looking to acquire more modern jet fighters to strengthen its defensive capabilities. Brawner also cited the need to train personnel tasked to handle newly acquired assets to ensure their proper usage and maintenance. He thanked the House of Representatives and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for their strong support for the AFP Modernization Program, considering that this initiative is capital-intensive. He also lauded them for seeing the importance of a modern AFP, considering the Philippines' strategic location, which makes it a prime target for those interested in taking control of its waters. "We really have to be able to present a deterrent factor. Kailangan po natin na ipakita na kayang-kaya natin depensahan iyong ating territory, iyong ating sovereignty and iyong sovereign rights natin (We need to show that we can defend our territory, sovereignty, and sovereign rights)," Brawner said. (PNA)

ANGARA...

From Page 1

MANILA – Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara on Tuesday said he is deeply honored and grateful to gain President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s trust by appointing him as new secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd). Angara promised to work with all sectors in the society, including his predecessor, Vice President Sara Duterte, to ensure that Filipino students will have access to quality education. "This significant responsibility is one I accept with humility and a profound sense of duty," Angara said in a statement. Angara is serving his third term as senator that started in 2013 when he was elected during the mid-term elections after serving as congressman of Aurora province from 2004 to 2013. He is a graduate of Xavier School, the London School of Economics, the University of the Philippines College of Law, and Harvard Law School. He has been a regular newspaper columnist, and a professor of Law. In his 18 years as legislator, Angara has sponsored or authored more than 330 laws. Angara was principal author of the Digital Workforce Competitiveness Act and in the 19th Congress, he filed the National Digital Transformation Act, the Local ICT Officers Act, and the Science and Technology Parks Incentives Act, among many other measures. Senate President Francis Escudero said he fully supports Angara's appointment, two weeks after Vice President Sara Duterte resigned. "We look forward to working collaboratively to fulfill our shared vision of an improved and inclusive education system for all Filipinos. Congratulations once again, Secretary Angara. Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off, and I am certain that you will lead the DepEd to new heights of success," Escudero said in a statement. He said this significant role reflects Angara's extensive experience and unwavering commitment to improving the nation's educational system. Escudero admitted that leading the DepEd is a difficult

task but nevertheless he trusted and have a full confidence in Angara's ability to lead the DepEd with excellence and integrity. "His proven track record in legislative work, particularly in education reform, uniquely positions him to address the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. His background in both Philippine and international education systems equips him with the necessary perspective and expertise to elevate our educational standards," he said. Senator Loren Legarda also commended Angara whom she described his dedication and efficiency, emphasizing his commitment to addressing the needs and welfare of the Filipino youth. Legarda said her fellow lawmaker had significantly improved the state of education in the country with laws such as the Ladderized Education Act, the Open Learning and Distance Education Act, the Youth Entrepreneurship Act, among others. "I am confident that Senator Angara will drive progress and innovation, ensuring a promising future for all Filipino students," he said. Former Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri said Angara is the right man for the job. Senator Nancy Binay described Angara's appointment as excellent. "From the start of his term in 2013, one of his primary advocacies has always been education and a very active participant of EDCOM II he has shown that he has an excellent grasp of the various issues hounding the education sector," she said. Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. said Angara is the best person for the position. "He has a grasp and good understanding of the education system --what needs to be done, and how to do it-- at 'yan ang kailangan sa DepEd (that is what DepEd needs)," Revilla said. Senator Lito Lapid said he fully supports the appointment of Angara, saying this will be a huge challenge to his capability. Senator Risa Hontiveros said Angara is one of the most qualified and acceptable DepEd Secretaries among education reform advocates. (PNA)



freeanycrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) St. Paul's recess
- 5) Cliffside debris
- 10) Chowder morsel
- 14) It may be furrowed or knitted
- 15) Capricious ideas
- 16) Move, in Realtor lingo
- 17) Low-fat, casually
- 18) Camel's stopping place
- 19) "Go back," on a PC
- 20) Psyche section
- 21) Spiny-shelled crustacean
- 23) Roaring success
- 25) Do penance
- 26) Wall-covering workers
- 31) "Me, Myself and _" (Carrey movie)
- 32) "Got it"
- 33) St. Paul's seating
- 36) Celestial Seasonings products
- 37) Big exam
- 39) Clothier Strauss
- 40) Hairy Himalayan beast
- 41) Johnson of "Laugh-In"
- 42) Minimal amounts
- 43) Sidestroker's leg movement
- 46) Modify to fit
- 49) Ignited anew
- 50) Where gains are equally balanced by losses (and a clue to this puzzle's theme)
- 54) Short-lived craze
- 57) Lyft alternative
- 58) Islam branch
- 59) Dunce cap shape
- 60) Littlest litter member
- 61) Unforeseen difficulties
- 62) Half-inning three-some
- 63) Cockpit guesses, for short
- 64) Symbolic ceremonies
- 65) Arduous journey

DOWN

- 1) Fit to serve
- 2) Prudish sort
- 3) In a way
- 4) Lea female
- 5) Nike's logo
- 6) Dance with a three-step tum
- 7) Capitalist's gamble
- 8) Disney's boy detective
- 9) Old U.S. gas brand
- 10) Pie perimeters
- 11) Slowly, in music
- 12) Priscilla's John
- 13) Julianne of "Still Alice"
- 21) Roast beef order
- 22) Like Hubbard's cupboard
- 24) Department store department
- 26) Be sorry for
- 27) Neck of the woods
- 28) Dressed to the _
- 29) Govt. property overseer
- 30) Sniggler's quany
- 33) Bite-size cake
- 34) Escape action, briefly
- 35) "Ring around the collar" brand
- 37) TGIF part (Abbr.)
- 38) Common possessive
- 39) Trickster in Norse myth
- 41) Gets off the fence
- 42) Capri or Wight
- 43) Is wearing
- 44) Oriole color
- 45) Shirking one's duties
- 46) Clear sky color
- 47) Air for the first time
- 48) Where the action is
- 51) Cold War initials
- 52) Bond type, briefly
- 53) Swarming pest
- 55) _ up (pay one's share)
- 56) Blotter's spot
- 59) Cabin bed

CITY OF BACOR NEWS

Tulong Pangkabuhayan, Handog ni Senator Loren Legarda sa mahigit walong pung mga Bacooreño



Sa pangunguna ng City Government of Bacoor, sa pamumuno ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, katuwang ang Public Employment Service Office (PESO) at ang opisina ni Senator Loren Legarda, matagumpay na isinagawa ang TUPAD Pay Out. Ang aktibidad na ito, na isinagawa ngayong araw, Hulyo 2, 2024, sa Revilla Hall, ay nagbigay ng tulong pangkabuhayan sa 84 na residente ng Bacoor. Personal na nagpakita ng suporta sa nasabing programa sina Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista-Mendiola bilang Acting Mayor at Coun. Alde Pagulayan. Dumalo rin ang mga kinatawan mula sa DOLE Provincial Office na sina Mr. Carlo Formento, Mr. Sam Michael Arevalo, at Mr. Lorenz Dizon, na mga TUPAD Coordinator. Ang TUPAD Pay Out ay isang programa na nagbibigay ng ayuda sa mga manggagawang nawalan ng trabaho sa pamamagitan ng Tulong Pangkabuhayan Para sa Displaced Workers (TUPAD). Sa pagtutulungan ng Bacoor LGU, naging matagumpay ang aktibidad na ito na naglalayong magbigay ng pag-asa at suporta sa mga benepisyaryo. /PR

Bacoor City honored with Special Awards during the BJMP's 33rd Anniversary

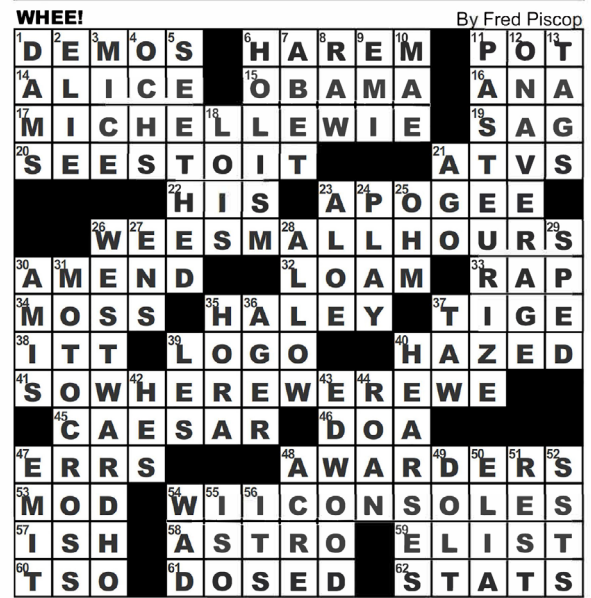
The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) marked its 33rd Anniversary with a grand ceremony dedicated to honoring outstanding contributions to public service and safety. Among the distinguished honorees was the City Government of Bacoor, which received a Special Award.

This accolade was awarded to Bacoor in recognition of the City Government's steadfast support for the BJMP, a commitment spearheaded by Mayor Strike B. Revilla and the Sangguniang Panglungsod Members under the leadership of



Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola. Bacoor City's significant contributions included the allocation of Php 11,750,000.00 to enhance the Bacoor City Jail Female Dormitory Facility. This funding facilitated the construction of a covered court, the installation of electrical wiring, and the provision of a water pump. Moreover, Bacoor City extended logistical support valued at Php 4,405,000.00, which included a vehicle and essential office materials to ensure the efficient operation of the jail. Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola accepted the special award on behalf of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, acknowledging the leadership and support provided to the BJMP by the City Government of Bacoor. The prestigious event took place at Tejeros Hall, AFP Commissioned Officer's Clubhouses, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, De Jesus Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila on July 1, 2024. /PR

Last week's solution:



Aguilar, 7 others secure junior PGT finals slot



MANILA – Ana Marie Aguilar topped the girls' 8-9 category of the ICTSI Junior Philippine Golf Tour (PGT) Visayas Series 3 at Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club on Tuesday to qualify for the Philippine Junior Match Play Championship in October. "I'm very happy that I'll be going to Manila," Aguilar, who finished with a 109 and a 229 total, said in a news release. "I'm going to keep practicing for the national finals, particularly on my driving and putting." Aguilar, niece of former top amateur and Ladies PGT campaigner Anya Tanpinco, earned 27 points to advance to the national finals, behind Eliana Mendoza, who garnered 30 points after winning the Iloilo and Bacolod legs.

Meanwhile, Tobias Tiongko made it to the finals after ruling the boys' 8-9 category with an 86 for a 179 total. He secured 25 points to join division leader Kvan Alburo, who earned 30 points from his two-leg victory. "I trusted myself and I tried very hard to win. I'll focus on my irons and short game and will practice more to get better for the finals," Tiongko, a Homeschool Global student from Cebu, said. Also gaining slots to the national finals were Race Manhit and Kurt Flores (boys' 10-12), and Cailey Gonzales and Zuri Bagaloyos (girls' 10-12).

Manhit of Ateneo had a 76 to finish with a 154 and prevail over Rafael Alvarez (94-190) and Isaac Locsin (102-203). He earned 30 points while Flores got 27 points. The national finals will be held on Oct. 1 to 4 at The Country Club in Laguna. (PNA)

Libreng Legal na Serbisyo mula sa Abogado ng Imuseño, Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara para sa mga residente ng Anabu 2nd!

Libreng Legal na Serbisyo mula sa Abogado ng Imuseño, Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara para sa mga residente ng Anabu 2nd! Sa patuloy na paghahatid ng libreng legal advice, notaryo, at late birth registration ni Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara sa mga barangay sa Imus, ang mga residente naman ng barangay Anabu 2nd ang kaniyang bibisitahin sa darating na Huwebes, Hunyo 27, 2024, 8:00 AM, sa Anabu 2-C, Covered Court. Bukas ito sa mga residente ng mga barangay Anabu 2-A hanggang 2-G. Para sa Libreng Notaryo, kinakailangan ang: * Appearance of Affiant (Personal na pagpunta ng kinaukulang taong magpapanotaryo) * Photocopy of Valid Government ID with 3 signatures affixed on photocopied paper (Kopya ng Valid Government ID na may tatlong lagda sa papel). Para sa Libreng Legal Advice, dalhin ang: * Ano mang dokumento o legal papers na may kaugnayan sa nais ipakonsulta. Para naman sa Late Birth Registration, ihanda ang mga sumusunod: * Affidavit of two witnesses • Maaaring magsama ng dalawang taong hindi kamaag-anak dala-dala ang kanilang valid ID. * Barangay Indigency

SPORTS NEWS

Gilas Pilipinas women's team gears up for Jones Cup

MANILA – The Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) is looking forward to the country's first and solo hosting of the FIVB Men's World Championship next year. The world's top 32 teams, including host Philippines, are competing in the men's world championship scheduled Sept. 12 to 28, 2025. The Philippines earlier staged the Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Men's Week 3 on June 18 to 23 at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City, attracting more than 45,000 fans. This week, the Alas Pilipinas will see action in the FIVB Volleyball Challenger Cup for Women at Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the historic Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila. "We're down to 14 months and at the rate we're going, we look forward to aiming for a well-hosted world championship in 2025," Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) president Ramon "Tats" Suzara said in a statement on Tuesday. The Philippines' love for volleyball was in full display during the VNL, setting the stage for the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship 2025, the FIVB said in its official website. It noted the "massive turnout of 45,886 fans eager to witness world-class volleyball, an exciting sign of what is to come for the upcoming FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship 2025 in the country." "The event [VNL Men's Week 3] was marked by excellent organization and hospitality, which allowed the action on the court to take center stage. As the tournament unfolded, fan excitement and engagement visibly grew," the FIVB added in its website news. The FIVB also noted that the attendance on the final day of competition peaked at 93.82 percent, with 12,497 tickets sold. Meanwhile, Alas Pilipinas will be facing powerhouse neighbor Vietnam at 6:30 p.m. in the Volleyball Challenger Cup on July 5. Brazilian coach Jorge de Brito, whose contract was extended for one year after the team's historic bronze medal in the Asian Volleyball Confederation Challenge Cup last month, said the players must focus on "what they can bring and not who they are facing." "I think we know what we need to know about Vietnam. We know their players, we know how they play," said De Brito. "We shouldn't be surprised with what they can do, what we should be concerned about is what we should do," he added. The Volleyball Challenger Cup will kick off on July 4 with Puerto Rico meeting Kenya at 3 p.m. and Belgium battling Sweden at 6:30 p.m. (PNA)

Gilas Pilipinas women's team gears up for Jones Cup

MANILA – After winning the FIBA U18 Asia Cup Division B title in Shenzhen, China last week, the Philippines will be setting its sights on the Jones Cup this month and the qualifying tournament for the FIBA World Cup in August. The Gilas women's senior team will see action in the Jones Cup set in Chinese Taipei on July 13 to 21, and the pre-qualifiers for the FIBA World Cup in Rwanda scheduled from Aug. 19 to 25. "Then there's the next SEA (Southeast Asian) Games (2025). We need to get the gold medal again in the SEA Games," Gilas women's program director Patrick Aquino said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) Forum at the PSC Conference Room inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Tuesday. Also present were head coach Julie Amos, U18 players Ava Fajardo (captain), Naomi Pangniban, Margarette Duenas, Sophia Canindo, Gabby Ramos, Reyes, Alyssa Rodriguez, Alicia Villanueva, Audrey Lapasaran, Ashlyn Abong, Jolzyne Impreso, and Venice Quinte, and former champion coach Ryan Gregorio, now serving as special assistant to the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) president. The U18 champion team was promoted to Division A for 2026. "Only one (Tiffany) will be left, so I hope the SBP continues to help us," said Amos, a former national player. "But we have a good problem because more players are asking how they can join the team. It's just a matter of identifying the talents that will fit the program." The promotion of the U18 team to Division A did not surprise Aquino, who played for the UP Fighting Maroons. "We were expecting it. I knew the girls can do it. And it's a mark for us now around Asia that we can play against the level of China, Japan, and Korea," said Aquino, who steered the National University women's team to six straight titles in the UAAP. "I hope that someday they can all represent the senior team. They have talents, they can do more. And hopefully, we'll find new faces who will continue with our program. We have a big pool

Office of Councilor Atty. Wency Lara

Mayor Alex DVINCULA WENCY LARA

ABOGADO NG IMUSEÑO Coun. Atty. Wency Lara

Serbisyo para sa Imuseño

• Libreng Notaryo

• Libreng Legal Advice

• Libreng Late Birth Registration

July 05, 2024 | 08:00 AM

Bucandala 3 La Terraza, Basketball Covered Court Phase A

- Bucandala I
- Bucandala II
- Bucandala III
- Bucandala IV
- Bucandala V