

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO RECEIVE HMO-TYPE BENEFITS FROM PHP 7,000 MEDICAL ALLOWANCE IN 2025



PASIG CITY, 20 August 2024 — Public school teachers will enjoy expanded healthcare benefits with the introduction of a Php 7,000 medical allowance for government employees beginning fiscal year 2025. This significant increase from the Php 500 medical examination allowance provided in 2020 marks a substantial enhancement in support for teachers' health and well-being.

Under Executive Order No. 64, s. 2024, signed by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the government will provide an annual medical allowance of up to Php 7,000 to eligible government civilian personnel, including public school teachers. This allowance is intended to subsidize the cost of health maintenance organization (HMO)-type benefits.

"If we pool that together, we can secure comprehensive insurance coverage for our teachers," Education Secretary Sonny Angara stated. This adjustment represents a 1,300% increase from the Php 500 medical allowance granted in 2020, which was primarily intended to cover the cost of eligible diagnostic tests, as outlined in Department Order No. 28, s. 2020.

In addition to the medical allowance, public school teachers also received a Php 5,000 tax-free teaching allowance for the School Year 2024-2025. Thanks to the Kabalikatan sa Pagtuturo Act (Republic Act 11997), co-authored by Secretary Angara during his tenure in the Senate, this allowance will increase to Php 10,000 starting in School Year 2025-2026 and beyond.

Furthermore, the Department has reminded its teaching and non-teaching personnel that they are eligible to file claims under the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)-issued Personal Accident Insurance (GPAI) policy. This policy provides coverage for accidental death or dismemberment up to Php 100,000 and medical reimbursement up to Php 30,000 for injuries. /PR

**DEPED AND BARMM PARTNER TO LAUNCH TEACHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN MINDANAO**

**DEPED NEWS**

PASIG CITY, 21 August 2024 – The Department of Education (DepEd) and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to implement the

Teacher Effectiveness and Competencies Enhancement Project (TEACEP) which aims to enhance educational support for teachers.

Education Secretary Sonny Angara and Minister Mohagher M. Iqbal, head of the Ministry of Basic, Higher, and Technical Education (MBHTE) in BARMM, led the signing ceremony at the DepEd Central Office.

TEACEP, developed in collaboration with the World Bank, is designed to support DepEd's initiative to improve the quality of education and equitable access to teaching from Kindergarten to Grade 6 through enhanced teacher professional development training.

The project focuses on boosting teacher effectiveness, particularly in literacy and numeracy, by providing in-service training for teachers. It also incorporates a coaching and instructional leadership model aimed at fostering professional growth among teachers and school leaders.

TEACEP is closely aligned with the Basic Education Development Plan 2030 (BEDP 2030) and the National Learning Recovery Program (NLRP), which address the educational challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, TEACEP will support BARMM's contextualized education initiatives, such as the Bangsamoro Education Reform and Development Plan (BERDP) and the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP), with the goal of strengthening the region's capacity to deliver effective teaching and learning resources.

The MOA outlines the three main components of the project: enhancing teaching practices for teachers and school leaders, providing adequate resources for effective teaching and learning, and establishing a robust framework for project management, monitoring, and evaluation.

As an initial step under Component 1, BARMM will identify public elementary school teachers (Kindergarten to Grade 6), school heads, Education Program Supervisors (EPS), and Public Schools District Supervisors (PSDS) who will participate in the training.

TEACEP will be funded through a loan agreement between the Government of the Philippines, represented by DepEd, and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). /PR

**PHILIPPINES ADVOCATES FOR DIGITAL EDUCATION REFORMS AT ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING**

**DEPED NEWS**

Buriram, Thailand, August 26, 2024 — At the 13th ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (ASEM), Philippine Education Secretary Sonny Angara called on ASEAN member states to prioritize digital transformation in education to better prepare the region's youth for future challenges.

Angara highlighted the collective responsibility of policymakers to equip learners with the skills and values needed to thrive in an increasingly digital world. He stressed the urgency of these reforms as ASEAN approaches critical deadlines for its Community Blueprints and begins developing post-2025 strategic plans.

"We have a duty to ensure that our students are not merely passive recipients of knowledge but active citizens capable of shaping their futures and contributing to the growth of their communities and the entire ASEAN region," Angara stated.

While advocating for digital advancements, Angara reminded the audience that education remains a fundamentally human endeavor, requiring strong institutions, evidence-based policies, competent civil servants, and an engaged network of stakeholders.

"Yes, the future will be increasingly digital, but we must remember that education is still a human endeavor—technology is simply a tool to address real human challenges," he emphasized.

As President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council from 2023 to 2024, the Philippines has initiated several programs to foster digital transformation.

Angara highlighted key initiatives such as DepEd Digital Education 2028 (DepEd DigiEd 2028), the Higher Education Digital Integration by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Digital Skills Training in Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). He also announced the launch of a new digital transformation initiative under the SEAMEO Council Presidency's Flagship Programs, aligning with ASEAN's goal of creating "a community of opportunities for all."

"Collaboration is key," Angara asserted, reflecting the Marcos administration's belief that unity and cooperation among ASEAN countries and their education ministries are essential for achieving educational excellence and accessibility across the region.

"We achieve more, together," he added, underscoring the importance of shared commitment and partnership.

This year's meeting also featured key milestones, including the report on the implementation of the ASEAN Work Plan on Education (AWPE) 2021-2025, the adoption of the ASEAN-SEAMEO Joint Declaration on Common Space in Southeast Asian Higher Education, and the updated ASEAN Plus Three Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility./PR

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2 Corinthians 5:7

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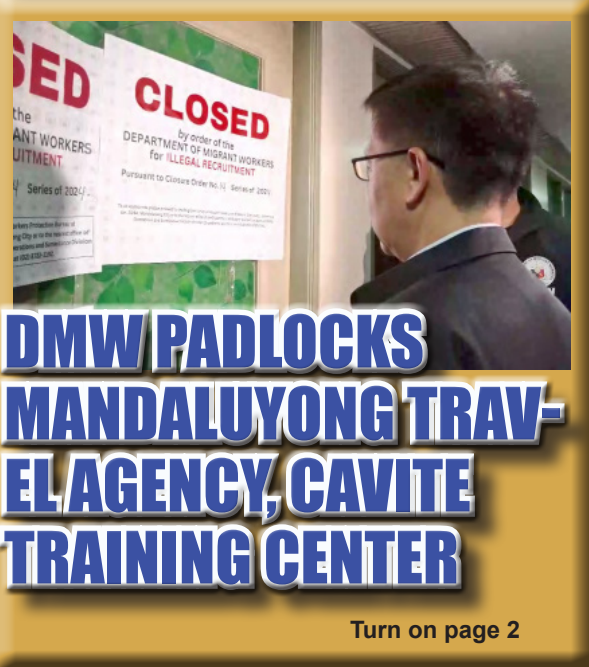
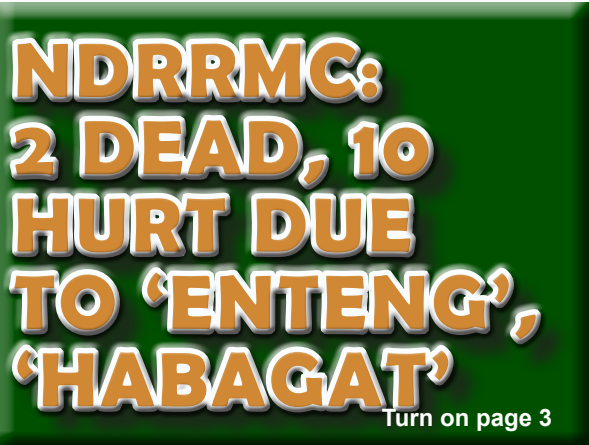
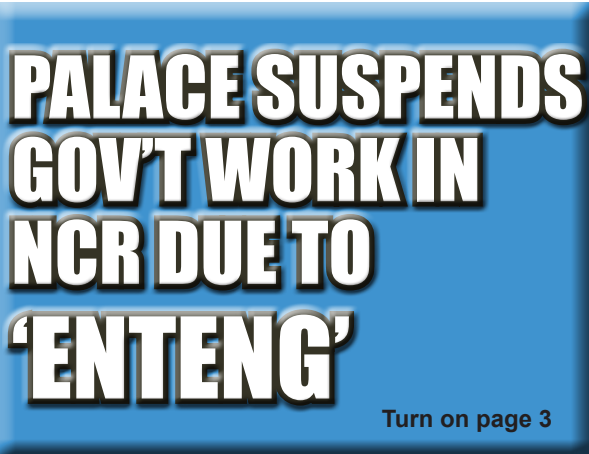


MANILA, Philippines — The United States has denounced what it calls China's "dangerous" behavior after a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel intentionally collided with a Philippine ship near Escoda Shoal on Saturday. In a statement released on Sunday, U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller reaffirmed America's support for the Philippines, condemning the aggressive actions by China against lawful Philippine maritime operations in the vicinity of Sabina (Escoda) Shoal on Aug. 31," Miller stated.

The incident involved a CCG vessel deliberately ramming the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ship BRP Teresa Magbanua three times as it was conducting navigation exercises within the Philippines' exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The collision caused damage to the Philippine vessel and endangered the lives of the crew.

This event marks the fifth maritime confrontation in the region within a month.

"This is the latest in a series of dangerous and escalatory actions by the





## Endless Floods: A Persistent Challenge for the Philippines During Typhoon Season

The Philippines, an archipelago that boasts breathtaking landscapes and vibrant communities, is also unfortunately synonymous with the harrowing reality of typhoons and the accompanying floods. Each year, from June to November, the country is battered by an average of 20 tropical storms, with a significant number escalating into destructive typhoons. The aftermath is all too familiar: inundated streets, displaced families, and a rising death toll that casts a long shadow over the nation's resilience. Flooding has become an almost inevitable consequence of the typhoon season. The country's geographical location in the Pacific Ring of Fire and the equatorial typhoon belt exposes it to frequent and intense weather disturbances. However, the devastation brought by these floods is not merely a natural disaster but a complex issue compounded by human factors—urbanization, deforestation, and inadequate infrastructure all play a role. In urban areas, especially Metro Manila, rapid and unregulated development has significantly reduced the capacity of natural drainage systems to cope with heavy rainfall. Rivers and canals, once capable of channeling excess water away, are now clogged with debris and waste, leading to frequent overflow during

storms. The informal settlements that line these waterways are often the hardest hit, with the poor and marginalized bearing the brunt of the disaster. Rural areas are not spared either. Deforestation, driven by illegal logging and agricultural expansion, has stripped the uplands of their natural ability to absorb rainfall, leading to severe soil erosion and the swelling of rivers downstream. The floods that ensue not only destroy homes and livelihoods but also exacerbate poverty and food insecurity in these regions. The cycle is vicious: poverty drives deforestation, which in turn makes these communities more vulnerable to the very disasters that deepen their poverty. Government responses have been mixed. On the one hand, there have been notable efforts to improve disaster preparedness and response, such as the establishment of early warning systems and the preemptive evacuation of at-risk communities. Yet, these measures often feel like a band-aid on a gaping wound. The underlying issues—poor urban planning, environmental degradation, and insufficient investment in resilient infrastructure—remain largely unaddressed. The national and local governments must recognize that disaster management is not just about responding to crises but preventing them. This requires a paradigm shift towards sustainable development.

opment. Investments in flood control infrastructure, such as modernized drainage systems and the rehabilitation of natural waterways, are crucial. Simultaneously, there must be a concerted effort to protect and restore the country's forests, which serve as natural buffers against floods. Moreover, urban planning must be rethought to ensure that development does not come at the cost of the environment. The establishment of green spaces, the enforcement of zoning laws, and the relocation of informal settlers to safer areas should be prioritized. The government must also engage communities in disaster risk reduction efforts, ensuring that they are not just passive recipients of aid but active participants in building resilience. The endless floods during typhoon season are a stark reminder of the Philippines' vulnerability to climate change. But they are also a call to action. The country's future depends on its ability to adapt, to learn from past mistakes, and to build a more resilient society. The cost of inaction is too high—a future where the cycle of disaster and recovery continues, trapping millions in poverty and insecurity. The time to act is now.

- Ang Kabitenya

## US...

PRC. Throughout August 2024, the PRC has aggressively disrupted lawful Philippine aerial and maritime operations in the South China Sea, including at Sabina Shoal," Miller added.

Washington also called on China to align its claims and actions with international law and urged Beijing to cease its dangerous and destabilizing conduct.

The U.S. reiterated its commitment to defending the Philippines under the Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT), emphasizing that Article IV of the 1951 agreement extends to armed attacks on Philippine forces, public vessels, or aircraft—including those of the Coast Guard—anywhere in the South China Sea.

The BRP Teresa Magbanua has been stationed at Escoda Shoal since April to prevent potential reclamation activities by China. This deployment followed reports from marine science researchers at the University of the Philippines of crushed corals dumped in the area.

Japan and Australia Express Concerns

Japan and Australia also voiced their concerns regarding the incident. Japanese Ambassador Kazuya Endo expressed "serious concern" over the repeated confrontations in the West Philippine Sea. He emphasized Japan's commitment to upholding the rule of law at sea and opposing the use of force or coercion.

"As a stakeholder of the SCS, Japan is seriously concerned about the repeated incidents, including the collision by a CCG vessel against a Philippine vessel," Endo wrote on X. "Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force or coercion." Australian Ambassador HK Yu also criticized China's "destabilizing" actions, stating, "Australia shares the Philippines' concerns about China's destabilizing behavior at Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea. Repeatedly ramming vessels is unacceptable and dangerous. All countries must comply with international law. The 2016 Arbitral Award is binding on its parties."

The Japanese embassy responded to a statement from the Chinese embassy, asserting that the recent actions in the South China Sea are directly related to regional peace and stability, a legitimate concern of

the international community. Japan reiterated its strong opposition to any unilateral attempts to alter the status quo by force or coercion and emphasized the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Speculation of China's Intentions at Escoda Shoal

Ray Powell, director of the U.S.-based ocean monitoring group SeaLight, raised concerns that China might be attempting to remove the BRP Teresa Magbanua from Escoda Shoal. In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Powell pointed to a photo released by the PCG that showed at least two CCG vessels and two People's Liberation Army Navy tugboats near the Philippine ship, suggesting that these vessels might be used to tow the BRP Teresa Magbanua away from the shoal.

"This is the first documented sighting of these vessels at Sabina Shoal to my knowledge, and it's hard to imagine what their purpose might be," Powell said. "The idea that they may have been sent there to push the BRP Teresa Magbanua out of the shoal can't be discounted." /Philstar

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## Cavite Career Caravan in SM Tanza City



On August 27, 2024, the Cavite Career Caravan took place at SM City Tanza led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) under the leadership of Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, in partnership with the management of SM City Tanza and PESO Tanza.

The event saw an impressive turnout, with 50 companies offering a wide array of job opportunities and the attendance of 511 job seekers, with 84 candidates securing employment on the spot. This outcome underscores the significance of the Career Caravan in facilitating meaningful employment connections.

In addition to the corporate participants, representatives from various national government agencies, including SSS, Pag-IBIG, HDMF, OWWA, TESDA, PhilHealth, PSA, BIR, DTI, and NBI, were present. These agencies provided vital information and support on government programs and services related to social welfare and employment, further enhancing the event's impact.

The unwavering support and collaboration among the participating companies and government organizations were key to the event's success. The Cavite Provincial Government extended its heartfelt gratitude to all contributors for their dedication to empowering job seekers and fostering economic growth in the province. The Cavite Career Caravan stands as a testament to the power of collaboration in driving regional prosperity. /CPIO

## Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro visited the Provincial Government of Cavite for a Benchmarking Activity



The Provincial Government of Cavite warmly welcomed the delegates of the Provincial Government of Occidental Mindoro at the ceremonial hall of the provincial capitol in Trece Martires City, as they conducted a benchmarking activity in the province on August 22, 2024.

Cavite provincial government officials and Bids and

Awards Committee (BAC) officers and members joined the activity, including Mr. Renato Abutan, BAC-A Chairman, Ms. Jennifer Disagon-Mutya, Provincial Accountant and BAC-A member, and Dr. Nonie John Dalisay, Provincial Health Officer. The discussion between PGC officials and the Occidental Mindoro delegates was productive, focusing on enhancing healthcare service delivery and the continuous improvement of public service./CPIO

## An Impactful Medical Mission was conducted in Poblacion V, Mendez



The Provincial Government of Cavite partnered with the Kababaihan ng Familiang Mendezño - Poblacion V in the recent conduct of the medical mission program in the barangay, on August 22, 2024, to give hope and ensure the good health of the constituents in need, especially those with limited access to healthcare services. A total of 258 residents availed the medical services, including 34 patients in ECG and 13 in X-ray examinations, done by the medical professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital. In addition, the Office of the Provincial Governor supplied essential resources, such as medicines and vitamins, to meet the prescribed needs of the adults and children.

Aside from the said services provided by the PGC, an eye consultation was also offered.

The smooth flow of the program was ensured through the assistance of the officials of Poblacion V, led by of Hon. Ronel O. Rozul, and KFM-Poblacion V members. As women continue to strive for equality and to empower one another, Ms. Sonia Mendoza, President of Kababaihan ng Familiang Mendezeno, showed her support and solidarity with Poblacion V women in initiating such health activity. /CPIO

## Medical and Dental Mission benefits more the 300 Residents of Brgy. Pasong Kawayan II



On August 27, 2024, the Provincial Government of Cavite conducted a medical and dental mission in Brgy. Pasong Kawayan II, General Trias City, benefiting more than 300 residents. The health mission, organized to provide much-needed healthcare services to the community, was met with appreciation and gratitude by the local constituents.

Board Members Kerby Salazar and Morit Sison were in attendance, showing their support and extending their heartfelt thanks to the provincial government for the invaluable services rendered. The mission provided a range of medical and dental services, including check-ups, tooth extractions, and the distribution of prescribed medications.

The initiative is part of the continuous outreach programs aimed at bringing healthcare closer to the grassroots level, ensuring that every Caviteño has access to essential medical and dental care.

## Excellence in Action: Cultivating Leadership and Ethical Work Practices in Provincial Government of Cavite



The Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer (OPHRMO) spearheaded a pivotal training session titled "Excellence in Action: Cultivating Leadership and Ethical Work Practices" at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol Building in Trece Martires City on August 27, 2024. The training was graced by the presence of Mr. King David J. Agreda, MIT - GAD Focal Person of Cavite State University-Cavite City campus, who served as the resource speaker. Mr. Agreda, delivered a comprehensive discussion that emphasized the importance of ethical conduct and strong leadership in government service. His insights were well-received by the participants, which included department heads and unit heads of the Provincial Government of Cavite.

Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs Alvin S. Mojica kicked off the event with his warm welcome remarks, highlighting the significance of continuous learning and development in fostering effective governance. His address set a positive tone for the day's training, underscoring the provincial government's commitment to excellence in public service.

Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin, who introduced the participants, acknowledged the vital roles they play in their respective departments and units. She emphasized that the training would equip them with the necessary tools to lead with integrity and uphold ethical standards in their daily operations.

The "Excellence in Action" training not only served as a platform for knowledge-sharing but also reinforced the provincial government's dedication to cultivating a culture of ethical leadership and accountability. As the event concluded, participants left with renewed enthusiasm and a deeper understanding of their responsibilities as leaders and public servants./CPIO

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# SM'S HANS AND CHICO SY SHARE SUCCESSION LESSONS, HENRY SY LEGACY

The National Retail Conference and Expo (NRCE) 2024, organized by the Philippine Retail Association (PRA), kicked off its second day with a highly engaging 'fireside chat' that featured SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy and his son, SM Engineering Design and Development President Hans "Chico" Sy Jr. The two spoke informally about succession, and about carrying on a vision and legacy as set by SM founder Henry Sy Sr. Anecdotal, humorous, and insightful; the two speakers captivated the audience.



(L-R): SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hans Sy, and his son, SM Engineering Design and Development President Hans "Chico" Sy Jr., during the special session "Legacy of Guidance: How my Father Shaped My Life" at the 30th National Retail Conference and Expo (NRCE).

How anecdotal, humorous, and light? Well, the first thing Mr. Hans mentioned was how Friday was his regular golf day, but he had given that up in order to make it to the NRCE event. And he proceeded to mention the recurring theme of how the Sy family operates on the principle of "we are never forced, but we have no choice!" And with that contradiction in terms, amidst much laughter from the audience, insight into how the Sy family deals with succession could be understood.



SM Prime Chairman of the Executive Committee, Hans Sy (right), and his son, SM Engineering Design and Development President Hans "Chico" Sy Jr. (left), share insights on Henry Sy's legacy of guidance.

Mr. Hans recounted working at the age of 13, and not the traditional 'after college'. It was a family custom, and one the children would get excited about, 'being able to help dad'. His first job at 13? Throwing the garbage out and assisting the cash clerk - and for that, he had gotten all dressed up on his first day. And Mr. Hans was quick to point out that elder sister Tessie was then the cashier. It was all about working from the ground up and understanding the operations, and experiencing what the rank and file go through on a daily basis. That was how Mr. Henry Sy wanted his children to appreciate the business.



(L-R): SM Prime Director Herbert Sy and his sons, Herson and Hendrick, proudly show their support for the National Retail Conference and Expo (NRCE)

Chico Sy then chimed in, saying that as a grandfather, Mr. Henry Sy would show more of his human and soft side. As a third-generation member, he did recall being exposed to the business at an early age, like walking through SM City North EDSA when it was still a construction site. And Chico joked about how that was a truly different time, as you can't bring children to a job site nowadays.



(L-R): Penshoppe Brand Director Brandon Liu, SM's Shereen Sy, and SM Supermalls' Assistant Vice President for Special Events and Tenant Marketing Hanna Carinna Sy



(L-R): SM's Carol Sy and Shereen Sy with Golden ABC Chairman Bernie Liu

Mr. Hans then spoke of the value of leading by example, something that was instilled into them from an early age by Mr. Henry Sy, also known as "Tatang". And it's one he has taken to heart himself. He remembers how Chico's brother would think family dinner at 10 PM is a regular thing in most households, as that was the time Mr. Hans would get home from work. He frankly admitted he didn't really have a life when he was working full time at SM. While he is still hands-on with National University (NU) and China Bank, he was honest to say that letting go and turning over responsibilities at SM Prime has been rewarding, giving him more time for himself.

Chico recalled Tatang's reminder that behind every success is a person, and it was important to understand that person. Chico accepted that as market leader, and working under the umbrella of a massive vision and legacy, one has a unique set of challenges. What he remembers is how Tatang always said that the key is to stay focused, to stay hungry, and to stay humble. As market leader, you're creating your own benchmark, and one has to challenge oneself every day. To the mantra of focused, hungry, and humble, Mr. Hans then spoke of 'malasakit,' or being mindful of others. He mentioned how this was an added dimension by which one conducts business at all times. Resilient, innovative, and compassionate were the rules to also live by and embed in the company's DNA. He reminded the audience that it should never just be about profit, of being the best, or dominating the market.

Mr. Hans recalled how all of his generation studied here in the Philippines; and how with the first grandchild, it was him who pushed for Chico to study abroad, convincing Tatang that Chico would learn more and could apply it here. Chico then revealed how his grandfather took him aside and reminded him that as the first to be sent to Melbourne, Australia, he better do well and prove the 'experiment' was worthwhile, or all the other grandchildren would never leave. Chico laughed remembering the weight on his shoulders from that one-on-one conversation. And he smiled saying that all the other grandchildren have since gone on to study abroad as well.

Mr. Hans then got nostalgic, recalling how so much of his time was spent with his father and loving how Tatang was so eager to spoil the grandchildren, easing up and lavishing so much love on this third generation. Misty-eyed, the two generations of Sys spoke of shared values playing an essential role in making succession effective and rewarding. Much food for thought from this discussion, and the learning that so much about worthy succession has as much to do with things of the heart as it does with bottom lines and expansion targets.

## DMW...

CLOSED. Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac leads the entrapment and closure operation of Thrifty International Travel and Tours, Inc. in Mandaluyong City on Friday (Aug. 30, 2024). Two employees of the illegal recruitment firm were arrested after receiving marked money from an undercover agent. (Photo courtesy of DMW) MANILA – The Department of Migrant Workers issued a closure order against a travel agency in Mandaluyong City allegedly involved in illegal recruitment. DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac led the closure and entrapment operations on Friday against Thrifty International Travel and Tours, Inc., which reportedly charged exorbitant fees from applicants.

Two were arrested after they were caught receiving marked money from

an undercover agent, who posed as an applicant looking for work in Japan. "Caught red-handed ang dalawang empleyado nito (Two employees were caught red-handed). It's an entrapment and closure operation actually," Cacdac said in a news release. The undercover agent was offered a job as a household worker in Japan with a PHP60,000 monthly salary, Cacdac said. "He was charged PHP120,000 and was told to pay PHP60,000 as downpayment. And that's how we caught them, that's the marked money, the PHP60,000," he added. The agency, which also offers jobs in Italy, has no recruitment license from the DMW, Cacdac said. On Thursday, the DMW also shuttered Volant Academy for Language Excellence, Inc. in Brgy. Lumil, Silang, Cavite for recruiting its students to Germany without neces-

sary documents from the government. Before the actual closure, the DMW's Migrant Workers Protection Bureau (MWPB) conducted surveillance where it was revealed that Volant offered postings in Germany for nurses/caregivers, auto mechanics, bakers, butchers, restaurant specialists, and security specialists with a promise of PHP60,000 monthly salary. The MWPB said applicants were required to undergo a dual training program combining vocational and on-the-job training. Volant promised their trainees full-time jobs using a student visa and charged them PHP515,900 for processing, language training and practical job training. Volant admitted to deploying almost 200 students to Germany. /PNA

## NOTHING...

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) – The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) Calabarzon has reassured the public that there is "nothing to worry" about Taal Volcano's recent degassing activities as the situation remains stable, and shows no immediate signs of an impending eruption. During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas with the Department of National Defense, OCD Calabarzon Regional Director and Calabarzon Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Chairperson Carlos Eduardo Alvarez III explained that the current activity at Taal Volcano is influenced by the region's humid temperatures which then interacts with the volcano's geothermal features, leading to increased steam emissions and degassing. "Taal is on alert level 1 as usual, it's degassing. I think what happened is very humid, there is no wind around Taal area and also in other areas around Metro Manila and that's why when it was released, the sulfur gas stayed still

and was not blown away by the wind that is why there was a vog," he explained. Volcanic smog, commonly referred to as vog, is a type of air pollution that occurs when volcanic gases, particularly sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), are released into the atmosphere during volcanic activity. When these gases interact with sunlight, oxygen, dust, and moisture in the air, they undergo chemical reactions that produce a visible haze or smog. Vog can spread over large areas depending on wind patterns and can have significant environmental and health impacts to people with respiratory conditions, as it can exacerbate symptoms like coughing, shortness of breath, and throat irritation. Alvarez reminded the public about the potential harm that the smog can cause and urged them to take necessary precautions, such as staying indoors, using air purifiers, and avoiding outdoor activities in affected areas. "But nothing to worry

about Taal Volcano, as it's still on Alert Level 1. There's degassing and the bad part is the sulfur gas emission is not good for our body, so better if we can stay home and if we really need to go out, I think best to wear a mask, it can irritate our eyes" he said. Alvarez also advised the public to stay informed through official channels and to follow any guidance or updates provided by the OCD and PHIVOLCS. While vigilance is necessary, the current level of activity does not pose a significant threat at this time./PNA

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## PALACE...

MANILA – Malacañang announced the suspension of government work in the National Capital Region on Monday due to bad weather caused by Tropical Storm "Enteng". The work suspension is effective 8:30 am, the Office of the Executive Secretary said in a statement. "The suspension of work for private companies and offices is left to the discretion of their respective heads," it added. The Palace earlier suspended classes at all levels in Metro Manila also due to the heavy rains caused by Enteng, the country's fifth tropical cyclone for this year. Several areas in Luzon,

including Metro Manila, are now under tropical cyclone wind signal (TCWS) No. 2 as of 8 a.m. Enteng packing maximum sustained winds of 75 kilometers per hour near the center and gustiness of up to 90 kph was last tracked over the coastal waters of Vinzons, Camarines Norte. The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, meanwhile, suspended the number coding scheme in the region. Meanwhile, the water level at the Marikina River is now 16.8 meters (second alarm) as of 9:10 a.m. following torrential rain since Sunday evening. Marikina City was one

## NDMRC....

MANILA – Two persons were reported dead while 10 were injured due to the impact of Tropical Storm Enteng and the southwest monsoon (habagat), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported on Monday. In its 8 a.m. update, the NDRRMC said the reports of casualties, all from Northern Mindanao, were being validated. It added that the bad weather has so far affected 14 families or 63 individuals from three barangays in Central Visayas. Of this number, nine families or 43 persons are being aided in an evacuation center. The agency also reported the collapse of two structures and one rain-induced landslide in Central Visayas. Some 739 passengers are

reportedly stranded in various ports -- 679 in Bicol and 60 in Calabarzon. A total of 22 ships, four motor bancas, and 282 rolling cargoes stopped to leave the ports in Calabarzon and Bicol due to bad weather. Around 10 houses were reported damaged in Central Visayas as of this time. OCD to regions: Brace for Enteng The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), meanwhile, instructed all regional offices to ensure that advisories and response measures were being effectively disseminated and implemented amid the onslaught of Enteng. OCD administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno gave this order following a pre-disaster risk assessment meeting Sunday where

of the hardest-hit cities during the onslaught of super typhoon Carina last July 24, causing the river to swell and eventually flooding several barangays. The Senate has also announced work suspension. "In view of the inclement weather caused by Tropical Storm Enteng, Senate President Francis 'Chiz' Escudero has declared suspension of work at the Senate today, Monday, 2 September 2024. Session will resume tomorrow, Tuesday, 3 September 2024, at 3:00 p.m.," Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said in an advisory. /PNA

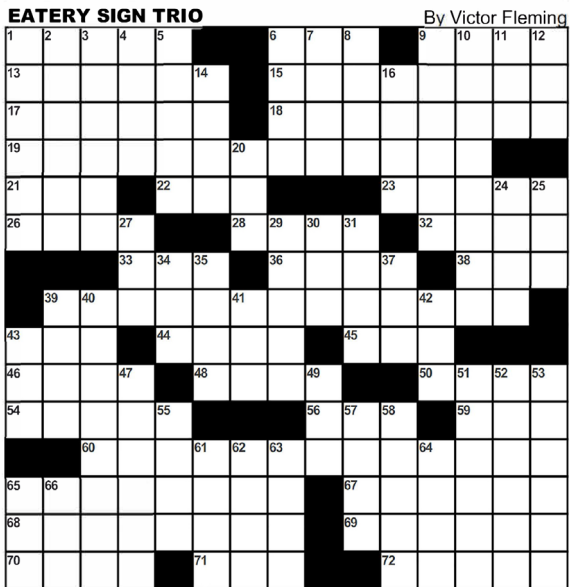
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### ANCIENT HEALING

KNOWLEDGE, METHODS & PRODUCTS for WELLNESS

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- freedailycrosswords.com
- ACROSS**
- 1) Cream-filled pastries
  - 6) Snaky shape
  - 9) Way out there
  - 13) Product demon-strators' pitches
  - 15) Sinks
  - 17) Playground rejoin-der
  - 18) Views of the future
  - 19) Suffer a huge finan-cial loss
  - 21) Clever comment
  - 22) Masters org.
  - 23) Hardly long-wind-ed
  - 26) Hang in there
  - 28) Remove, as fat
  - 32) Spinnaker or spanker
  - 33) Make public
  - 36) Numbered work
  - 38) Boo-hoo
  - 39) Prudish sort
  - 43) Cleveland hoopster, briefly
  - 44) "For pity's \_!"
  - 45) \_ Locks (Huron-Su-periorlink)
  - 46) Pub orders
  - 48) Court plea, for short
  - 50) Free TV ads, for short
  - 54) Repair bill compo-nent
  - 56) Nile slitherer
  - 59) Guinness suffix
  - 60) President's protec-tors
  - 65) Judge, as a coin dealer
  - 67) Loose oomph
  - 68) Interior designer's container
  - 69) Words that can precede the last words of 19-, 39- and 60-Across
  - 70) Daly of "Cagney & Lacey"
  - 71) Crude home
  - 72) Flies, roaches and such
- DOWN**
- 1) Book after Job
  - 2) Yank out of the ground
  - 3) Big bash
  - 4) Wine and dine
  - 5) The John B of song, e.g.
  - 6) They may be inflated
  - 7) Old French coins
  - 8) Green of "Austin Pow-ers" movies
  - 9) Really goes for
  - 10) 1 OK or marathon
  - 11) Parrot's word, in comics
  - 12) TLC specialists
  - 14) Karaoke selection
  - 16) Open, as an envelope
  - 20) "Mangia!"
  - 24) "Dear" addressees
  - 25) English cathedral site
  - 27) Former NBA star\_ Ming
  - 29) Spur wheel
  - 30) Wall St. debut
  - 31) Tousle, as hair
  - 34) TSA requests
  - 35) Actress Irene or Meg
  - 37) " \_ nuff!"
  - 39) Big bash
  - 40) It may be applied to a tennis ball
  - 41) Bout stopper, briefly
  - 42) "Alley \_!"
  - 43) Place for a tassle, maybe
  - 47) "Tristram Shandy" author Laurence
  - 49) Intercontinental gp. since 1948
  - 51) Some Japanese watches
  - 52) Trip to the summit
  - 53) Dictaphone users, perhaps
  - 55) Sing like Cab Cal-loway
  - 57) Concluded, with "up"
  - 58) Before surgery, informally
  - 61) Loaded with butter, say
  - 62) Hairly twin in Gen-esis
  - 63) "M\* A \*S\*H" quar-ters
  - 64) Barn attachment
  - 65) Quick to catch on
  - 66) Shell out

CITY OF BACOOR NEWS

“KASIYAHAN AT PAGKAKAISA SA STRIKE FAMILY DAY SA BRGY. MAMBOG 3”



Patuloy ang pagbibigay ng kasiyahan ng Team Revilla sa mga Barangay sa Lungsod ng Bacoor. Ngayong araw, ika-1 ng Setyembre, 2024, dinala ng Team Revilla ang kasiyahan sa Greentown Villas 1, Barangay Mambo 3. Pinangunahan ng iba’t-ibang samahan sa Lungsod ng Bacoor ang pagbibigay ng kasiyahan sa mga bata at matanda sa pama-magitan ng pagbibigay ng pagkain na inihanda ng ALPHA PHI OMEGA PHILIPPINES INC. at SCOUTS ROYALE BROTHERHOOD ESPILON NU CHAPTER.

Dumalo rin personal si LYDO Head Ms. Angie Cariaso sa tulong ng Kuya ng Bayan na si “Kuya” Noly Galvez.

Ipinakita naman ng pamunuan ng Barangay Mam-bog 3 sa pangunguna ni Kap. John Ernest Advin-cila, Brgy. Councils, SK Chairman Vicente Villa-fuerte, SK Kagawad, at kawani ng Barangay ang kanilang suporta sa programa.

Patuloy na nagpapasalamat ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Bacoor sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla sa Strike Rainbow Community, Triskel-ion Grand Fraternity, Tau Gamma Phi, SBR-KKK members sa patuloy na pagsuporta sa STRIKE FAMILY DAY PROGRAM.

RICE DISTRIBUTION BARANGAY HABAY 1



Sa patuloy na pagsusumikap ng Team Revilla para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan ng Ba-coor, matagumpay na isinagawa ang pamamaha-gi ng bigas ngayong araw, ika-30 ng Agosto 2024, sa Habay 1 Covered Court. Ang kaganapang ito ay pinangunahan ng Team Revilla, kasama sina Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., ang ina ng Bacoor Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, at ang ating masipag na 24/7 Mayor Strike B. Revilla. Mahigit 2,000 Bacooreño ang nakatanggap ng bigas sa nasabing programa, na nagpapakita ng dedikasyon ng Team Revilla sa pagtulong sa mga

mamamayan ng Bacoor. Dumalo rin sa kagana-pan sina Konsehal Mike Solis, Kuya Noly Gal-vez ng City Officer BDRRMO, Kapitan Robert Castillo Sr. at ang Barangay Council ng Habay 1, at Ms. Athena Louie Cenizal, SK Chairperson, kasama ang SK Council.

Ang aktibidad na ito ay bahagi ng patuloy na programa ng Team Revilla upang masigurong natutugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng bawat pamilyang Bacooreño, lalo na sa mga panahong may krisis. Ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulongan ng lokal na pamahalaan at mga opisyaes ay muling pinatunayan sa matagumpay na pamamahagi ng bigas na ito.

RICE DISTRIBUTION SA Brgy. BAYANAN: TEAM REVILLA NAGHATID NG TULONG!

Ang Team Revilla, sa pamumuno ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, ay nagdala ng ngiti at busog sa mga residente ng Barangay Bayanan kahapon, Agosto 29, 2024. Kabuuang 927 pamilya ang tumanggap ng tulong sa bigas sa isang distribution event na ginanap sa Progressive Village, Bayanan.

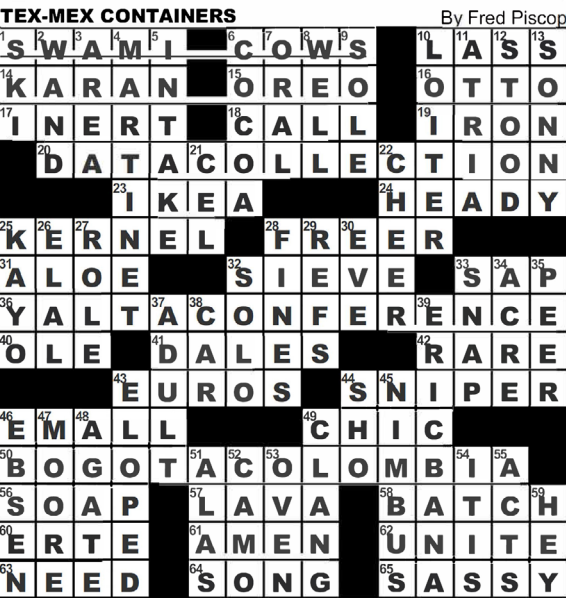
Kasama sa pagtulong sa pag-distribute ng bigas sina Councilor Bok Nolasco, Councilor Simplicio Dominguez, Kap Alfie Ga-waran at ang kanyang council, at SK Chairman Willer Alamo at ang kanyang council upang siguruhing maayos at organisa-do ang pagtitipon.

Nagpadala rin ng video sina Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice May-or Rowena Mendiola, Congressman Bryan Revilla ng Agimat Partylist, Congresswoman Lani Revilla, at Senator Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. Ang mga mensaheng ito ay nagpapakita ng kahalagahan ng suporta ng komunidad at ang pangako ng Team Revilla na tumulong sa mga nangangailangan.

Ang rice distribution na ito ay isa lamang sa mga halimbawa ng dedikasyon ng Team Revilla sa pagpapabuti ng buhay ng mga Bacooreño. Nagdala ito ng pagkakaisa at pag-asa sa ko-munidad, na nagpapaalala sa lahat na hindi sila nag-iisa sa harap ng mga hamon.



Last week’s solution:



Municipality of Nagtipunan goes to province of Cavite



To drive improvements in various aspects of its gover-nance, the Municipality of Nagtipunan in Quirino prov-ince visited Cavite for a Benchmarking activity/Team Building cum Legislative Research, on August 21, 2024. This activity was carried out to explore the practices utilized in enhancing their legislative measures, and to adopt these for the development of their municipality. The delegation paid a courtesy visit at the Session Hall in the Legislative Building for the introduction of the guests. Afterwards, the delegates had the opportunity to ask questions and gain information regarding the prac-tices they intended to adopt.

Following was the visitation of the delegates to the offi-ces located in the Legislative Building to see, first hand, the practices and systems implemented for better service delivery.

Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Com-munity Affairs, and Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Quality Man-agement Representative warmly welcomed the delega-tion, on behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla and Vice Governor Athena Bryan Tolentino, expressing their ut-most appreciation for choosing Cavite for their activity. /CPIO

Tragic Tagaytay Shooting Incident Claims Lives of Two Police Officers and a Suspect



Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite– A tragic shooting incident occurred around 2:15 PM at Prime Peak Subdivision, Barangay Maitim 2nd Central, City of Tagaytay, Cavite. The incident involved two po-lice officers and three suspects, resulting in the deaths of two police officers and one suspect.

According to PltCol Joven T. Bahil, Officer-in-Charge of the Tagaytay Component City Police Station, the fall-en officers have been identified as PCapt Adrian Binalay, 43, assigned to the Criminal Investigation and Detec-tion Group National Capital Region (CIDG NCR), and PCapt Tomas Batarao Jr., recently placed under RPHAS, he is currently conducting a courtesy call following the completion of his schooling.

The suspects involved in the shooting were identified as Atty. Den, alias Ver, aged 52, and alias Ben, who is al-

“COMPREHENSIVE SOCIAL BENEFIT PROGRAM PROVIDES VITAL SUP-PORT TO FAMILIES OF FALLEN PNP AND AFP MEMBERS IN CAVITE”



The Department of the Interior and Local Government Cavite, together with the Cavite Provincial Peace and Order Council (CPPOC) spearheaded the Ceremonial Conferment of Comprehensive Social Benefit Program (CSBP) package of assistance to the beneficiaries of the members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) who were killed in action or killed in police operations. The ceremony was conducted on August 22, 2024 at the Auditorium of the Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital Compound, Trece Martires City.

Seven (7) PNP beneficiaries received scholarship grant from the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) amounting to PhP 10,000.00 for kindergarten, PhP 15,000 for Elementary Education, PhP 20,000.00 for secondary education; and PhP 30,000.00 every semester for college education. Three among them also received a housing unit from the National Housing Authority (NHA). On the other hand, five (5) beneficiaries of the members of the AFP received scholarship grant from the AFP Educational Benefit System Office.

The activity was graced by Gov. Juanito Victor C. Remulla, CPPOC Chairperson; Engr. Danilo A. Nobleza, DILG Provincial Director; LGOO VI Gilberto L. Tu-mamac, OIC-Chief, Local Government Monitoring and Evaluation Division, DILG Regional Office; PLTCOL Jack Angog, Deputy Provincial Director for Operations, Cavite Police Provincial Office; LTCOL Rolando Acido, representative of the 202nd Infantry Brigade; and Mr. Albert B. Agarin, Estate Supervisor B, NHA Cavite Dis-trict Office.

The CSBP is a program of the DILG that aims to provide assistance to families of uniformed personnel killed or wounded while performing their duties. This is in com-pliance with Executive Order No. 110 issued by former President Rodrigo Duterte in 2020. It provides for differ-ent types of benefits and assistance such financial, schol-arship, social welfare, health and employment. /CPOP

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