



In a move to foster inclusivity in sports, SM Cares partnered with SM Skating to sponsor the training of Phenelopy Marzo, a young athlete with a disability pursuing her dream of becoming a figure skater. By supporting her lessons and providing access to world-class training facilities, SM Cares is not just helping Phenelopy follow her passion, but also sending a powerful message—that disability is not a barrier to achievement. This partnership exemplifies SM Cares' belief in breaking down the walls that limit the potential of Persons with Disabilities in sports where they can shine.



SM Cares also hosted the Boccia Sports Tournament for Persons with Cerebral Palsy, offering a platform for individuals to demonstrate their athleticism and sportsmanship through boccia, a precision sport designed for athletes with limited motor skills. By organizing such an event, SM Cares encouraged inclusion and provided the athletes with the recognition they deserve, inspiring them to further pursue their passion and break barriers in the said sport.



Meanwhile, SM Cares has demonstrated a strong commitment to uplifting Persons with Disabilities in the performing arts through its support for Rondalla on Wheels, creating a platform for them to showcase their skills.



In partnership with PAVIC, a free concert titled UNSEEN: Beyond Vision was organized and open to the public, featuring visually impaired children as the star performers. The event highlighted their incredible talent and unwavering spirit, offering a moving celebration of resilience and limitless possibilities.

With this, SM Cares highlights the incredible talent of Persons with Disabilities, allowing them to express themselves and bring joy to others through their performances. This initiative embodies SM Cares' dedication to promoting equal opportunities for all, regardless of physical limitations.

Creating a space where every story—and every child—belongs.



Book Nook, a vibrant community library and learning hub, has become a welcoming space for all, hosting activities that celebrate inclusivity and diversity. In partnership with Best Buddies Philippines, it held special Book Reading sessions focused on themes of neurodiversity, thoughtfully designed to engage children with special needs

Looking ahead: Building a more inclusive society

The year 2024 has been a monumental chapter in SM Cares' journey towards creating a more inclusive Philippines. Through these efforts, SM Cares continues to provide platforms for learning, connection, and advocacy: these initiatives are not just events, but milestones in the fight for equality and empowerment for the PWD community.



Members of Persons with Disabilities community groups, tenants, and employees of SM joined the National Disability Rights parade at SM City Caloocan, which aimed to highlight and honor the rights and contributions of the PWD community.

As the organization moves ever forward, SM Cares remains unwavering in its commitment to promoting awareness, understanding, and empowerment for Persons with Disabilities. While the work is far from over, with every step, SM Cares is creating a world where disability is no longer a limitation, but a call for greater inclusion and innovation.



WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE

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Woody has spent seven years travelling across the world to find a place to settle. He checks out Japan where he meets Lynlyn, who has the special ability to tell if a certain person will cause happiness or harm to her by merely touching them

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For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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ECOZONES CRUCIAL IN BOOSTING LGU REVENUES: PEZA CHIEF

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CAVITE BET-TOR BAGS P55-M GRAND LOTTO JACKPOT

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GOV'T SHUTS DOWN PH'S BIGGEST POGO FACILITY

CLOSED. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla (center) and other government officials lead the formal closure of the Island Cove resort-turned Philippine offshore gaming operator facility in Kawit, Cavite on Tuesday (Dec. 17, 2024). The POGO facility, located on a 33-hectare property, is the biggest in the country. (PNA)

MANILA – The country's biggest Philippine offshore gaming operator (POGO) compound, located in the province of Cavite, was shut down Tuesday. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC) Executive Director Undersecretary Gilbert Cruz, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) chairperson Alejandro Tengco and Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil led the formal closure of the POGO compound located at the former Island Cove resort in Kawit town. The Remulla family sold the resort to a real estate developer in 2017. The facility then started operations as a POGO hub in 2019. Remulla certified the shutdown of the facility after the local government confirmed that it ceased operations on Nov. 30. "As promised, we visited the area by December to see that everything is closed. We will follow the President's (Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.) lead." Turn on page 2

Bullying in the Philippines: A Call to Action

Bullying remains a pervasive issue in the Philippines, casting a long shadow over schools, workplaces, and online platforms. Despite legislative efforts like the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013, which mandates schools to adopt anti-bullying policies, the problem persists, affecting countless lives and hindering the holistic growth of individuals and communities. Recent incidents have brought the issue of bullying back into the spotlight, exposing the need for a more comprehensive and collective response. Whether it occurs in classrooms, on social media, or in the workplace, bullying undermines the values of respect, empathy, and inclusivity that are central to a harmonious society. The Heavy Toll of Bullying

The consequences of bullying are far-reaching. Victims often grapple with anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and, in severe cases, suicidal thoughts. For young students, bullying disrupts their education, leading to absenteeism or poor academic performance. The perpetrators, too, are affected, as unchecked behavior can escalate into more severe forms of violence or antisocial tendencies in adulthood. Moreover, bullying impacts families and communities. Parents of victims endure the pain of seeing their children suffer, while schools and workplaces are often tarnished by a culture of toxicity and fear. The rise of cyberbullying has added another layer to the issue,

with technology amplifying harassment to a larger audience and making it relentless. A Shared Responsibility

Addressing bullying requires a multi-pronged approach that involves schools, families, communities, and policymakers. Schools must implement and strictly enforce anti-bullying policies, ensuring that teachers, guidance counselors, and administrators are equipped to intervene effectively. Regular seminars on emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and the dangers of bullying should become an integral part of education. Families, as the primary source of values formation, must foster open communication with their children, teaching them kindness, empathy, and the courage to speak out against bullying. Parents should monitor their children's behavior—both as potential victims and as possible bullies—to provide timely intervention. The community also plays a crucial role. Barangays, local government units, and non-governmental organizations can establish safe spaces for victims and offer support systems such as counseling and peer mentoring. Social media platforms should be held accountable for monitoring and removing harmful content, while public campaigns can raise awareness and promote a culture of kindness and respect. Strengthening Policies and Enforcement

While the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013 laid a strong foundation, its implementation needs strengthening. Government

agencies, particularly the Department of Education and the Department of Information and Communications Technology, must ensure that schools and online platforms comply with anti-bullying regulations. Policies should also evolve to address emerging challenges, such as the psychological impact of cyberbullying and the role of artificial intelligence in moderating harmful content online. Punitive measures for bullies must be balanced with opportunities for rehabilitation. Programs that focus on the emotional and behavioral reformation of perpetrators can prevent future incidents and break the cycle of bullying. Building a Culture of Respect

Ultimately, the fight against bullying is not just about laws and policies; it is about fostering a culture of respect and empathy. As a society, we must reject the normalization of bullying in any form and empower individuals to stand against it. Whether it means speaking up for a classmate, reporting an abusive co-worker, or calling out harmful behavior online, collective action is essential. Bullying is not a rite of passage, nor is it an issue to be ignored. It is a societal ill that demands immediate and sustained attention. By working together, the Philippines can build a safer, kinder, and more inclusive society where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

-Ang Kabitena

Gov't...

Jr.) directive that all POGOs must be closed. Per the local government unit administrator, they inspected the facility on the last week of November and there are no more operations here," Remulla told reporters during the ceremonial closure of the POGO compound. Remulla said there is no more power supply in the buildings nor signs of business activities since November. The POGO facility on the 33-hectare property is the biggest in the country with 30,000 employees, half of whom were Filipinos. The compound consists of 57 buildings, including employee dormitories, gaming hubs, cafés, groceries, clinic, restaurants, spas and beauty salons. "The DOLE (Department of Labor and Employment) and DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) are setting up job fairs for displaced Filipino workers so they can find new jobs. As for foreign workers, I think all of them have been repatriated as their work visas were downgraded to tourist so they cannot work here," he added. Cruz said they have monitored around 100 guerilla POGO operations throughout the country. "There are a lot of red

flags. There are a lot of indicators pointing to areas that still have POGO operations. We have coordinated with LGUs (local government units) and we are working with the PNP and PAGCOR would mount inspections of special class business process outsourcing (BPO) facilities to ensure that no POGO hubs are concealing operations. "We will be utilizing the barangays because most likely, they are the ones that can spot these. There are a lot of indicators. For instance, if a house's lights are open 24 hours a day, even at night, and then there is a presence of foreign nationals. They also frequently order food via delivery services and then you would see huge piles of trash there. They also frequently avail of additional internet connections. These are some red flags to watch out for," he added. Remulla, meanwhile, again denied the involvement of his family in the POGO facility's operations. He said neither of his brothers, Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla and former television reporter and now PAGCOR Director Gilbert Remulla, approved the POGO hub's

operations. Remulla was Cavite governor from 2010 to 2016 and from 2019 until his appointment to the DILG post in October this year. All POGO hubs shut down. Tengco said all POGO hubs in the country are now closed. While he admitted that the total POGO ban would mean PHP20 billion in lost revenues for the government, Tengco is optimistic that the issuance of new gaming licenses will cover such losses. Marbil, meanwhile, assured an intensified crackdown against guerrilla POGO operations. "We have the Task Force Skimmer composed of the Anti-Cybercrime Group and we have reports where we are able to monitor their operations, how many people they have and we are also keeping a close watch on some foreigners," the PNP chief said. POGOs in the country must cease operations by Dec. 31, under Executive Order (EO) 74 signed by Marcos in November. The EO orders a total ban on Philippine offshore gaming, Internet gaming, and other offshore gaming operations in the country. (PNA)



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From Page 1

Women's Welfare Program Reaches New Heights in Tagaytay City



Tagaytay City, December 6, 2024 -The Women's Welfare Program (WWP) achieved another milestone in Tagaytay City on December 6, 2024, as 2,000 women came together to receive Php 2,000 in cash assistance and enjoy a day filled with camaraderie and celebration.

The event was led by Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino, joined by 8th District Representative Aniel Tolentino, Mayor Bambol Tolentino, Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, and members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Tagaytay. Together, the leaders underscored their commitment to empowering women and enhancing the welfare of their constituents.

Representative Aniel Tolentino highlighted the indispensable roles women play in society, stating, "Alam po namin kung gaano kahirap maging isang babae kaya ginawa po itong programa na ito para sa inyong mga kababaihan." Her heartfelt message resonated with attendees, celebrating their resilience and contributions to their families and communities.

Governor Athena Tolentino also shared her appreciation for the women of Cavite, recognizing their sacrifices and dedication. "Alam po namin ang mga sakripisyo ng mga Boss ng tahanan," she remarked, bringing both humor and gratitude to her address.

The event concluded with a joyful celebration of Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino's birthday, with attendees extending their warm wishes and appreciation for her leadership.

The Women's Welfare Program continues to create meaningful impacts across Cavite, offering financial aid and fostering a sense of unity and hope. Under Governor Athena Tolentino's leadership, the program remains a testament to the province's dedication to empowering women and building stronger communities./PR



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Cavite Provincial Government Celebrates Public Service Excellence at 2024 PRAISE Awards



General Trias City, Cavite, December 6, 2024-The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) honored outstanding public servants during the 2024 Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Awarding Ceremony, held at The Bayleaf Cavite in General Trias City. The event, organized by the Office of the Provincial Human Resource and Management Officer (OPHRMO) under the leadership of Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin, highlighted the critical role of dedicated service in driving Cavite's progress.

Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent T. Bae, in his opening remarks, lauded the honorees for their unwavering commitment to public service. He underscored that Cavite's status as one of the country's leading provinces stems from the collective efforts of its workforce, stating, "Cavite's achievements are built on the dedication of every individual member of the PGC."

Civil Service Commission (CSC) Cavite Field Office Director Jeffrey C. Cruz echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the transformative impact of even the smallest acts of commitment. He further presented the CNA Certificate to the PGCEA Officers, led by Ms. Michelle Osorio, PGCEA President, as a testament to their partnership in advancing employee welfare.

The event recognized 85 exemplary employees across four service categories:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 0-15 Years of Service: | 14 recipients |
| 16-30 Years of Service: | 29 recipients |
| 31-40 Years of Service: | 12 recipients |
| 41 Years and Above: | 11 recipients |

Additionally, 10 posthumous awards were conferred to honor the enduring contributions of departed employees. Awardees received plaques of appreciation, grocery packs, and cash incentives ranging from 5,000 to 20,000, with posthumous honorees receiving 20,000 as a heartfelt tribute.

The ceremony also celebrated organizational excellence through the Good Housekeeping Awards, which recognized exemplary offices across categories:

Category I: Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, Office of the Provincial Youth Development Officer, and Office of the Provincial Budget Officer

Category II: Office of the Provincial Planning and

Development Coordinator and Cavite Provincial Jail Category III: Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Category IV: Cavite Municipal Hospital

The awards were received by the respective department and unit heads, reflecting their commitment to operational excellence.

In her closing message, OPHRMO Head Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin expressed gratitude to Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino, Vice Governor Shernan Jaro, Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent T. Bae, and the event's organizing teams. She commended the awardees for their contributions, saying, "The services rendered by our awardees will remain in our hearts as a testament to Cavite's culture of excellence in governance."

The ceremony concluded with a collective pledge to uphold innovation, collaboration, and dedication in public service, as Cavite continues to set the standard for governance excellence nationwide. /PR



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SM CARES MARKS MILESTONE YEAR IN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



As the world commemorates the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on December 3, 2024, SM Cares is once again reiterating its commitment to championing empowerment, inclusion, and support for Persons with Disabilities, leading the way in creating a society where all individuals, regardless of ability, can thrive with dignity and respect. Throughout 2024, this commitment has been more evident than ever, with SM Cares continuing to push the envelope with impactful initiatives that elevate the lives of Persons with Disabilities and build a more inclusive future for them.

A tradition of Persons with Disabilities-centric advocacy

Central to SM Cares' ongoing mission of inclusion are its flagship programs, the "Angels Walk for Autism," the "Happy Walk for Down Syndrome," and the "Emergency Preparedness Forum." These annual events continue to stand as powerful reminders of the importance of understanding, acceptance, and empowerment for those living with disabilities.



In April 2024, more than 22,000 individuals came together at the SM Mall of Asia Arena for the "Angels Walk for Autism," a significant event in partnership with the Autism Society Philippines. Held in multiple locations across the country, the event underscored the growing awareness and acceptance of the autism community, as families, advocates, and allies walked side by side to amplify their voices and call for inclusivity.



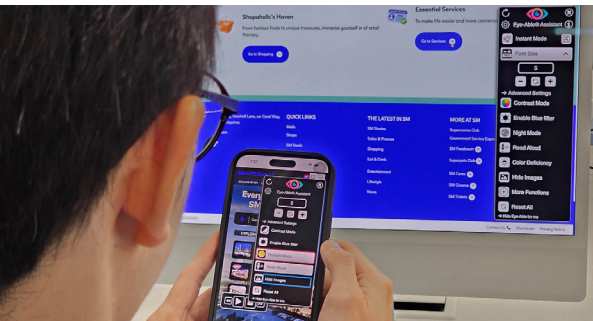
Not far behind, the "Happy Walk for Down Syndrome", held in March 2024, saw a sea of participants join forces to raise awareness and promote understanding of Down Syndrome. This vibrant celebration, in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, exemplified how SM Cares continues to provide a platform for Persons with Disabilities to shine, breaking barriers and creating a supportive environment where everyone is celebrated for their uniqueness.



Acknowledging the need for greater preparedness and resilience, SM Cares also hosted its annual Emergency Preparedness Forum for Persons with Disabilities and senior citizens in various locations across the country, offering training and resources to help these vulnerable groups stay safe in the face of emergencies and disasters. This initiative, which began six years ago, has been instrumental in empowering Persons with Disabilities with the tools and knowledge to navigate unforeseen events with confidence.

Fostering inclusivity through digital accessibility

While the three annual initiatives have remained the cornerstone of SM Cares' advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, the organization's work extends far beyond these signature events. For instance, SM Cares has been steadfast in promoting accessibility and inclusion in every aspect of life. One notable initiative in line with this was the integration of digital accessibility tools such Eye-Able into SM Supermalls website, offering an accessible and user-friendly online experience for individuals with visual impairments. This pioneering step towards digital inclusivity ensures that the virtual world is a place where everyone can participate and access services without barriers.



Sensitivity trainings and partnerships for a more inclusive workforce



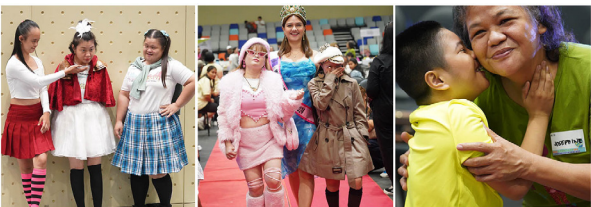
SM Cares hosted impactful forums aimed at fostering greater understanding and inclusivity for individuals with special needs. "Happy Talk: Usapang Down Syndrome", in collaboration with the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines (DSAPI), provided an open platform to raise awareness and break down stereotypes through shared stories and experiences. Similarly, A-OK Pilipinas Live!, held in partnership with the Autism Society Philippines during National Autism Consciousness Week, gathered thought leaders, lawmakers, and celebrities to explore key issues surrounding autism.



In May 2024, SM Cares furthered its dedication to inclusivity by conducting sensitivity training for employees at their newly opened mall. This initiative aimed to equip staff with the knowledge and empathy needed to better assist Persons with Disabilities, ensuring that each SM Supermall remains a welcoming space for all regardless of their ability or disability.



A similar training session was recently conducted last November 5 at SM Prime's Headquarters and livestreamed nationwide to SM malls across the Philippines. This insightful event focused on deepening understanding of Tourette Syndrome and ADHD, inspired by one of SM's newly hired employees who lives with Tourette Syndrome. The training aimed to foster empathy, inclusivity, and awareness, empowering employees to create a more supportive environment for colleagues and customers alike.



Similarly, SM Cares joined forces with the Cerebral Palsy Epilepsy Family Awareness Support Group (CEFASGPH, Inc.) last October to raise awareness about cerebral palsy. The event, held at SM Southmall, underscored the importance of community support and awareness in ensuring that individuals living with cerebral palsy have the resources and care they need to thrive.

A commitment to inclusivity in sports and the performance arts

Turn on page 8

PHILPOST...

LONGEST USABLE STAMP. The Simbang Gabi sa Ilog Pasig (Christmas Dawn Masses along Pasig River) features the Catholic churches along the Pasig River from Binondo, Manila to Antipolo, Rizal measuring 234mm by 40mm. The Philippine Postal Corporation launched this Christmas stamp at Kartilya ng Katipunan (City Hall Park) in Manila on Friday (Nov. 29, 2024) to honor the deep faith and enduring hope that unite Filipino communities during the season. (Photo courtesy of PHLPost)

MANILA – The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) on Friday unveiled its special 2024 Christmas Stamp, aimed at highlighting the cultural and historical churches along the Pasig River. PHLPost Postmaster General Luis Carlos explained that the stamp, titled "Simbang Gabi sa Ilog Pasig" (Christmas Dawn Masses along Pasig River), is a creative work by Gelo Andres, developed in partnership with Renacimiento Manila. Renacimiento is a group of artists, creators and history enthusiasts. Measuring 234mm in length and 40mm in width, the stamp claimed the title of the world's longest usable postage stamp. It features unique embellishments, including blue iridescent ink on the river and suprametal-multilevel embossing depicting the churches. "Ito ay nagpapakita ng mga simbahan na dinayo ng mga Pilipino kapag Pasko para sa simbang gabi, mula sa Binondo hanggang sa Antipolo na malayo na, na dinadaluyan ng Pasig River (This shows the churches along Pasig River starting from Binondo to as far as Antipolo. Filipinos go to these churches for the Christmas dawn Masses)," Carlos said during the launch. The Catholic churches highlighted on the stamp are Binondo, Quiapo, Manila Cathedral, Sta. Ana, San Felipe Neri, San Pedro Macati, Guadalupe, Pasig and Antipolo. The Pasig River is historically significant, having served as an important waterway before and during the Spanish colonial era. Carlos mentioned that the Manila Central Post Office building was constructed near the Pasig River to facilitate the transport of mail and packages via the waterway. In addition to honoring the Catholic tradition of Simbang Gabi, Carlos said the stamp celebrates the Philippines' distinction of hosting the world's longest Christmas season, which stretches from September until the Feast of the Three Kings on the first Sunday of January after the new year. "As the vibrant hues of dawn light up the Pasig River and its surroundings, so does this stamp illuminate the essence of Christmas which is love, joy, peace and hope," he added. The stamp's launch occurred alongside the Manila city hall's Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Kartilya ng Katipunan (City Hall Park). (PNA)

CAVITE...

MANILA – Christmas came early for a lone bettor from Cavite province who bagged the PHP55 million jackpot of Monday night's Grand Lotto 6/55 draw. In an advisory Tuesday, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said the winning ticket bearing the lucky numbers 21-40-15-55-10-54 was bought in Trece Martires City. The total jackpot prize is PHP55,648,009.00. Meanwhile, seven others won PHP100,000 each for hitting five out of the six winning numbers; and 499 bettors will get PHP1,500 each for getting four correct numbers and 11,104 bettors will get PHP60. The winners have one year from the date of the draw to claim the prize, as specified in Republic Act 1169 or the law on PCSO lotteries. All jackpot prizes must be claimed at the PCSO main office on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Winners must write their names and signatures on the back of the winning tickets and present two government-issued identification cards or documents. Lotto winnings of more than PHP10,000 are subject to 20 percent tax under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion law. The Grand Lotto 6/55 is drawn every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. (PNA)

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ECOZONES...

MANILA – The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) emphasized that the creation of ecozones drives development across the country, with nine out of 10 wealthiest local government units (LGUs) in the country hosting PEZA zones. PEZA Director General Tereso Panga told reporters in a press conference in Pasay City Monday that establishing ecozones can drive economic growth and improve the lives of Filipinos outside Metro Manila. Citing the data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the top 10 richest LGUs in the country are the cities of Baguio, Cagayan de Oro, Lapu-Lapu, Iloilo, Cebu, Mandaue and Davao; and the provinces of Bataan, Laguna and Batanes. Except for Batanes, the nine wealthiest LGUs are home to a big number of ecozones under PEZA. "We see a direct correlation that the more an LGU is hosting ecozones, the better, the higher is the level (of the development)," Panga said. "So this means a lot to us. I mean, this is as low-hanging as a growth strategy," he added.

The PEZA chief also pointed out that the inclusion of an ecozone program in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 maximizes investments and promotes industrial dispersion, especially in developing rural areas. Panga reported that between 2023 and 2024, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. proclaimed 27 ecozones, five of which are expansion projects. Most of the recently proclaimed ecozones were manufacturing ecozones and information technology (IT) parks, with total investments of PHP9.18 billion. These ecozones were approved by the Chief Executive in 2023: Robinsons Cyberpark Bacolod and Lope's Mandalagan IT Center in Bacolod City; Felcris Centrale IT Park in Davao City; Philtai Central Luzon Industrial Park in Magalang, Pampanga; ECCO 4 Building in Baguio City; Naga City Industrial Park in Naga City; and Marina Town Dumaguete in Negros Oriental; as well as four expansion projects of Lima Technology Center in Malvar, Batangas; the expansion of Hermosa Ecozone Industrial Park

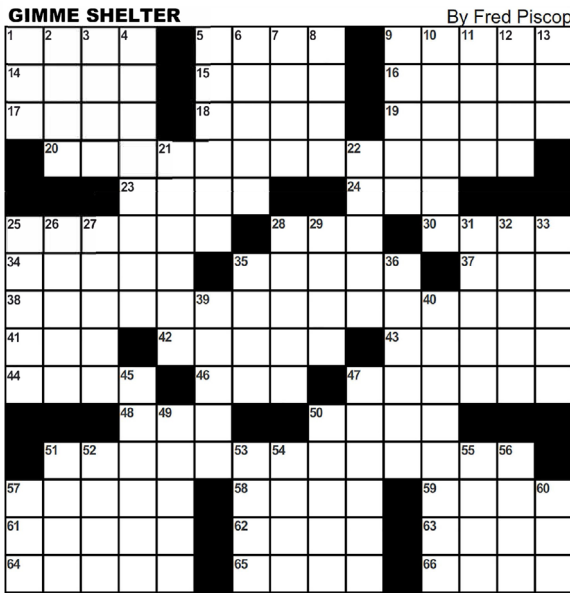
in Bataan; and two expansion projects of Kamanga Agro-Industrial Economic Zone in Maasin, Sarangani. In 2024, President Marcos greenlit these new and expansion of ecozone projects: Sevina Park Commercial in Biñan City; ArcoVia City in Pasig City; MetroCas Industrial Estates-SEZ in Tanza, Cavite; Taft East Gate in Cebu City; Tupi IT Park in Tupi, South Cotabato; Victoria Industrial Park in Victoria, Tarlac; The Grid in Mandurriao, Iloilo City; NDC Industrial Estate in Dasmariñas, Cavite; TARI Estate in Lourdes, Tarlac; and Xentromall Antipolo in Rizal; as well as two expansion projects of Gateway Business Park in Gen. Trias, Cavite and an expansion project of West Cebu Industrial Park in Balamban, Cebu. The United States Department of State has earlier released a statement about the 2024 investment climate in the Philippines, highlighting PEZA as a one-stop-shop agency for investors known for its regulatory transparency and no red-tape policy. (PNA)

LTO...

ROAD SAFETY. Land Transportation Office (LTO) chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II talks to reporters in this undated photo. Mendoza on Monday (Dec. 16, 2024) said the data-sharing agreement with the local government of Carmona City would help boost road safety by providing necessary data to local traffic enforcers. (PNA photo by Joseph Razon)

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) and the City of Carmona in Cavite signed an interconnectivity agreement on Monday to help enforce traffic laws by providing local traffic enforcers with necessary data. Erring motorists who escape traffic enforcers, he said, could later be identified if their license plate is obtained. "The LGU of Carmona City could send us the information and in return, the LTO could issue a show cause order to the registered owners of vehicles that violated traffic rules and regulations," he said. The agreement, he added, is part of the advocacy of Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista for road users' safety and the LTO's newly-launched "Stop Road Crash" program. The memorandum of agreement and data sharing agreement for the LTO-LGU Interconnectivity Project was signed by Mendoza, Carmona City Mayor Dahlia Loyola, LTO-LGU Interconnectivity Project chairperson Noreen Bernadette San Luis-Lutey, and LTO Region IV-A Regional Director Elmer Decena in Carmona City. (PNA)

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freedailycrosswords.com
ACROSS

- 1) Sweet wine
- 5) Conrad's " _ Jim"
- 9) Hard tennis shot
- 14) Nest-egg funds, briefly
- 15) Fit to serve
- 16) J ai lai basket
- 17) Starry-eyed
- 18) Things to repent for
- 19) From another world
- 20) Have liberal views
- 23) Gain admission
- 24) Shakers founder Ann
- 25) Give the green light
- 28) Fuel-economy org.
- 30) Concrete ingredient
- 34) Replicate, in a way
- 35) Rotisserie League concern
- 37) Reptilian squeezer
- 38) Drill sergeant's chant
- 41) Rescue squad member
- 42) Sought intel
- 43) Like Odin
- 44) An "X" may mark it
- 46) Mess up
- 47) Went splitsville
- 48) Van Gogh's partial loss
- 50) Warms the bench
- 51) Show a bit of sorrow
- 57) Blackmore title surname
- 58) Leave off
- 59) Menthol cigarette brand
- 61) Adrien of cosmetics
- 62) Prop for Popeye
- 63) Popular bidding site
- 64) Farm machinery pioneer
- 65) Kane's Rosebud, e.g.
- 66) Informal denial

- DOWN
- 1) Selfish sort
 - 2) Kind of surgery
 - 3) "Road" or "roid" follower
 - 4) Carry-on bag inspector
 - 5) Freaked out
 - 6) _ dome (St. Basil's feature)
 - 7) East Village musical
 - 8) Recipe guesstimate
 - 9) Sequence of tones
 - 10) Bench-clearing brawls
 - 11) "Yeah, sure!"
 - 12) Dele undoer
 - 13) Dynasty after the Qin
 - 21) "Same old same old"
 - 22) Lift the spirits of
 - 25) Needs ibuprofen
 - 26) Batter's dry spell
 - 27) _ voce (whispered)
 - 28) Old anesthetic
 - 29) Pal on the ranch
 - 31) Scrub, in a way
 - 32) "I'll never work"
 - 33) Had the nerve
 - 35) Tend to the batter
 - 36) Capitol Hill group
 - 39) Puccini offering
 - 40) Abandoned
 - 45) Many a Belieber
 - 47) Like many store-bought olives
 - 49) Singer with the album "25"
 - 50) Credit card action
 - 51) Fighting mad
 - 52) Optimistic view
 - 53) Dandy dressers
 - 54) Disney's boy detective
 - 55) Prefix meaning "mechanized"
 - 56) Bathroom bar
 - 57) Jr., to III
 - 60) Drain unclogger ingredient

CITY OF BACORR NEWS

Mayor Strike B. Revilla Joins Bacoor RTC Christmas Party, Announces Major Judicial Support Initiatives



Bacoor City, Philippines – December 16, 2024

The Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Bacoor City marked the holiday season with its annual Christmas party on December 15, held at the Revilla Hall. The celebration was graced by Mayor Strike B. Revilla as the event's special guest, along with local officials, including Councilor Karen Sarino Evaristo, and RTC officers and staff.

In his message to attendees, Mayor Revilla emphasized the pivotal role of the RTC in ensuring justice and maintaining an efficient legal system in Bacoor. He expressed his unwavering support for the judiciary and announced significant developments aimed at enhancing the court's operations.

One major announcement was the upcoming relocation of the RTC offices to a larger, modern space at the Main Square Mall. This move is expected to provide a more efficient and accessible environment for the court's functions.

Mayor Revilla also revealed plans by the City Government to donate land for the construction of a permanent RTC building in Bacoor. This initiative highlights the city's commitment to providing long-term support for the judicial system and ensuring that the RTC has a dedicated and sustainable facility.

The Christmas party served as a platform for fostering camaraderie among RTC staff while reinforcing the partnership between the judiciary and the local government. The event underscored the administration's dedication to promoting justice and supporting the RTC in its critical role within the community./PR

BACORR CITY HONORS CENTENARIANS, SENIOR CITIZENS & PWD'S WITH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Bacoor City, December 16, 2024 - The City Government of Bacoor, led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla and Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, today distributed financial assistance to three centenarians, the Federation of Senior Citizens Association,

and the PWD Federation at the Strike Gymnasium. The event, organized by the City Government in partnership with the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) and the PWD Federation, showcased the city's commitment to its senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, Sangguniang Panglungsod members, Team Revilla, Atty. Venus De Castro (OSCA Head), Pres. Nenita Reyes (Federation of Senior Citizens), and Kap Jorwin Bautista (PWD Federation Head) were present to personally hand over the financial support.

Each centenarian received 100 thousand pesos, while the Federation of Senior Citizens Association and the PWD Federation each received a check worth 200 thousand pesos. This financial assistance aims to provide support and improve the well-being of these deserving individuals and organizations. The event highlighted the City Government's dedication to promoting the welfare of its senior citizens and persons with disabilities, ensuring they have access to essential resources and support. The distribution of financial assistance is a testament to the city's commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for all its residents./PR



Last week's solution:



NOTICE

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF SPS. ALFREDO P. AMPOSTA AND CORAZON LARA AMPOSTA

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SPS. ALFREDO P. AMPOSTA AND CORAZON LARA AMPOSTA has been Extra-Judicially settled, adjudicated by their legal heirs and notarized on April 29, 2021 at Imus, Cavite before Notary Public, Atty. PETER JOSEPH C. LARA, PTR No. 1600017, expires June 30, 2021. The decedents died intestate without leaving any Last Will and Testament. The decedents left a parcel of land situated in Anabu, Imus, Cavite under Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-54032 with an area of TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN (211) SQUARE METERS.

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DSWD...

From Page 1

SATELLITE WAREHOUSE. The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office-Calabarzon satellite warehouse in Quezon province in this undated photo. It is one of 72 DSWD warehouses in the region stocked with prepositioned food and non-food items that serve as augmentation support to local government units during emergencies. (Photo courtesy of DSWD FO-4A)

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna – The Department of Social Welfare and Development Field Office-4A (DSWD FO-Calabarzon) on Friday announced the expansion of its disaster response capabilities in the region with the opening of 14 additional satellite warehouses this year. This brings the total number of warehouses in the region to 72, ensuring faster and more efficient delivery of aid to communities affected by calamities, according to Jessie Jerusalem, head of the Regional Resource Operation Section of the Disaster Response and Management Division of DSWD-4A. "With the establishment of more warehouses strategically located across the region, we can provide assistance more quickly since our

facilities are closer to the communities that need help," Jerusalem said in a news release.

The 14 satellite warehouses complement the 67 warehouses managed in partnership with local government units (LGUs) through memorandums of agreement -- six warehouses in Cavite, 10 in Laguna, 11 in Batangas, six in Rizal and 34 in Quezon.

Under the agreements, LGUs can access the stored relief goods to respond to disasters, in coordination with the DSWD.

The warehouses are stocked with prepositioned food and non-food items that serve as augmentation support to LGUs during emergencies.

According to the DSWD, each facility is designed to store between 1,000 to 1,500 family food packs and 100 non-food items, significantly enhancing the region's disaster preparedness.

The DSWD official noted that until recently, the FO 4A operated only two warehouses located in Dasmariñas City and Gen. Mariano Alvarez, both in Cavite.

This limited capacity often delayed the delivery of relief goods to remote areas during emergencies. (PNA)

GOVERNOR ATHENA TOLentino LEADS WOMEN'S WELFARE PROGRAM IN CAVITE CITY AND NOVELETA



Empowering Women and Strengthening Communities Across the Province

CaviteProvince – December 2024 - In a significant push to promote women's welfare and community development, Governor Athena Tolentino spearheaded the Women's Welfare Program in Cavite City and Noveleta. The initiative provided financial assistance of Php 2,000 each to 2,000 women from the two areas, reinforcing the province's commitment to empowering women and fostering socio-economic growth.

The program launch in Cavite City was graced by prominent leaders, including Tagaytay City Councilor Micko Tolentino, representing Senator Francis "Tol" Tolentino, and 1st District Board Member Rommel Enriquez. Key local officials, including Vice Mayor Raleigh Rusit and members of the City Council, also lent their support, emphasizing a unified effort to uplift Caviteña women.

Meanwhile, in Noveleta, Governor Tolentino was joined by Tagaytay City Councilor Micko Tolentino, 1st District Board Member Davey Chua, Mayor Dino Chua, and the Sangguniang Bayan. Their collaborative presence highlighted the solidarity among provincial and local leaders in advancing women's welfare and community development initiatives.

The Women's Welfare Program is a cornerstone of the province's efforts to empower women, fostering stronger family units and driving economic progress. Governor Tolentino's leadership continues to inspire inclusive growth, with the program serving as a beacon of hope and opportunity for Caviteña women.

As the province moves forward, the Women's Welfare Program exemplifies Cavite's dedication to inclusivity, unity, and the upliftment of all its citizens./PR

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WOMEN'S WELFARE PROGRAM BRINGS SMILES AND SUPPORT TO TAGAYTAY CITY WOMEN



Tagaytay City , December 6, 2024 -The Women's WelfareProgram (WWP)reachedanother milestone in Tagaytay City on December 6, 2024, as 2,000 women gathered to receive Php 2,000 in cash assistance and share in a day of camaraderie and celebration. Leading the event was Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino, joined by 8th District Representative Anie-la Tolentino, Mayor Bambol Tolentino, Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, and the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Tagaytay. Together, they highlighted their shared commitment to uplifting women and improving the lives of their constituents. In her remarks, Representative Aniela Tolentino emphasized the diverse roles women play in society, stating, "Alam po namin kung gaano kahirap maging isang babae kaya ginawa po itong programa na ito para sa inyong mga kababaihan." Her message resonated with the audience, celebrating the resilience and contributions of women. Governor Athena Tolentino also expressed her deep gratitude and admiration for the women of Cavite, acknowledging their pivotal role in their families and communities. "Alam po namin ang mga sakripisyo ng mga Boss ng tahanan," she remarked, adding a touch of warmth and humor to the occasion. Theeventconcludedonajoyfulnotewithaspecialgesture of appreciation for Vice Mayor Agnes Tolentino, who celebrated her birthday during the gathering. The Women's Welfare Program continues to make a lasting impact across Cavite, empowering women and fostering unity within the community. With leaders like Governor Athena and her team at the helm, the initiative remains a beacon of support and recognition for women throughout the province./PR

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