

DOH DETECTS ONE NEW MPOX CASE IN THE PHILIPPINES



Following heightened surveillance due to the recent declaration by the World Health Organization of mpox (formerly monkeypox) as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the DOH has detected one new case of mpox in the Philippines. Prior to this, the last case was found in December 2023. All previous cases were isolated, cared for, and have since recovered.

The 10th laboratory-confirmed mpox case was reported to the DOH on August 18, 2024. The case is a 33-year-old male Filipino national with no travel history outside the Philippines but with close, intimate contact three weeks before symptom onset. Symptoms started more than a week ago with fever, which was followed four days later by findings of a distinct rash on the face, back, nape, trunk, groin, as well as palms and soles. The case was seen in a government hospital, where specimens were collected from the skin lesions and tested via real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. PCR test results are positive for Monkeypox viral DNA.

Common symptoms of mpox are a skin rash or mucosal lesions, which can last 2–4 weeks. The rashes are accompanied by fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, low energy, and swollen lymph nodes. Anyone can get mpox. Mpox can be transmitted to humans through close, intimate contact with someone who is infectious, with contaminated materials like used clothes or utensils, or with infected animals. Soap and water can kill the virus. When washing contaminated materials, use gloves.

Laboratory confirmation of mpox is done by testing skin lesion material by PCR. Dermatologists and other physicians who are entertaining a high index of suspicion are reminded to record the name and contact information of their patients and guide them to the nearest major hospital. There, complete case data and specimens for confirmation shall be collected. The list of hospitals includes the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, San Lazaro Hospital, East Avenue Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center, Jose N. Rodriguez Memorial Hospital, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, and the UP-Philippine General Hospital, among others.

Mpox is treated with supportive care. Patients with no other illnesses may stay at home after testing, until all scabs fall off and a new layer of skin forms, typically after 2-4 weeks. The DOH is updating its mpox guidelines to allow for this convenient and dignified approach so that potential cases may be encouraged to seek consultation and testing.

“We can avoid mpox. Mpox is transmitted through close, intimate contact, and also the materials used by people who have mpox. Keeping our hands clean with soap and water, or with alcohol-based sanitizers will help. DOH will make the testing process as convenient as possible, so that suspect cases may be identified fast and allowed to stay at home,” said Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa. “Our health system is working. We can handle the situation, and will keep the public well-informed,” assured the Health Chief. /PR



MORE DENGUE CASES RECORDED NATIONWIDE WITH LESS DEATHS TO DATE

The DOH continues to observe a trend of higher case detection with lower case fatality for dengue. This may indicate better health-seeking behavior, with more Filipinos seeking early consultation that leads to early testing, diagnosis, and better case management.

The most recent epidemiologic data from January 1 to August 10, 2024 (Morbidity Week 32) lists a total of 150,354 dengue cases nationwide. This is 39% higher compared to the 107,953 dengue cases reported in the same period in 2023. Three hundred and ninety-six (396) deaths have been reported from January 1 to August 10, 2024 nationwide, which is lower than the 421 deaths recorded during the same period in 2023.

A 24% increase in dengue cases was observed, from 18,784 cases during June 30 to July 13, 2024, to 23,290 cases during July 14 to July 27, 2024. While there was a lower number of cases logged from July 28 to August 10, 2024 (n=13,369), DOH epidemiologists caution that there may be late consultations and reports.

All regions except SOCCSKARGEN, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Bicol showed an increase in cases in the recent 3-4 weeks counting back from August 10, 2024.

The Department continues to advise the public of its 4S strategy against Dengue as cases are still on an uptrend. These are: Search and destroy mosquito breeding sites; Secure self-protection by wearing light colored clothing and applying insect repellents when able; Seek early consultation if symptoms of dengue appear; and Spraying and fogging hotspot areas for two consecutive weeks to prevent outbreaks.

“Dengue has a seasonal pattern. Case counts are expected to rise during the rainy months. It is good that more Filipinos are seeking early consultation that leads to less deaths. Keep cleaning our surroundings – search and destroy mosquito breeding grounds: anything with stagnant water,” said Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa. /PR

CARINA LEPTO CASES ADDING, HOSPITAL COMMAND COPING; DENGUE TREND CONTINUES WITH MORE CASES BUT LESS DEATHS

Even as the Department of Health (DOH) responds to the rise in Leptospirosis cases due to floods from Typhoon Carina and the enhanced Habagat last July 24, it also continues to monitor and support local governments as they respond to the seasonal rise in Dengue cases.

A little over two weeks after Typhoon Carina and an enhanced Southwest monsoon (Habagat) caused flooding in several areas nationwide, the DOH has been navigating Leptospirosis patients in Metro Manila to available beds via the DOH Lepto Referral Lines (02) 8531-0037 and (0920) 283-2758.

The most recent epidemiologic data recorded 255 new Leptospirosis cases from July 21 to August 3. This is 17% higher than the 217 cases recorded in the previous weeks before (July 7 to 20). Since the start of 2024 until August 3, the total number of recorded Leptospirosis cases nationwide is now 2,115. It may be lower by 23% compared to 2,757 casrs reported in the same period last year, but DOH epidemiologists continue to be cautious in interpreting trends as there may be late reports. Also, the incubation period of Leptospirosis ranges from 2 to 30 days, with a clinically observed average of 7-14 days. Two hundred and twenty four (224) deaths have also been recorded for the same time period this year.

“The surge in Leptospirosis cases is not a communication problem, it’s a behavior problem. We need a change in behavior. I’d like to discuss with the Department of Education how to teach children early on that they should not swim in flood waters. I’d also like to discuss with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority how to improve solid waste management, because rats live in garbage and rats are the reason for Leptospirosis,” said Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa.

The DOH continues to advise that antibiotic prophylaxis against Leptospirosis is widely available by prescription. The price freeze for Doxycycline stays until September 23, and there are free capsules nationwide at government health centers and hospitals. Those who had contact with flood waters should not wait for symptoms to appear. Consult a doctor or health center immediately.

Meanwhile, national data as of August 3, 2024 (Morbidity Week 31) listed a total of 136,161 Dengue cases, 33% higher compared to the 102,374 cases in the same period last year. Fewer Dengue deaths continue to be recorded this year (n=364) compared to last year (n=401) for the same time period. The DOH sees the lower number of deaths this year (despite the higher number of cases) as an indication of people seeking early consultation, and hospitals doing better case management.

The Department continues to advise the public of its 4S strategy against Dengue as cases are still on an uptrend. By law, the declaration of local disease outbreaks must come from provincial, city, or municipal authorities (see Sec. 7 of Republic Act No. 11332). DOH continues to discuss with local epidemiology and surveillance units (ESUs) to provide sufficient scientific evidence so that they may advise their local chief executives (Governors or Mayors) on the best available response.

“Lower deaths despite higher cases means our campaigns are working. Let us continue to seek early consultation for symptoms that may already be Dengue. Let us also keep cleaning our surroundings – search and destroy mosquito breeding grounds: anything with stagnant water,” added the Health Chief.

Students' HAVEN
TUTORIAL & LEARNING CENTER

'YOUR BEST EDUCATION STARTS HERE'

TODDLER NURSERY PRE-K

KINDER GRADES 1-6 TUTORIALS

Contact:
046-434-7365
09368919566

@students'haven

Facebook, Instagram, YouTube icons

WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE
NEWS PUBLISHING SERVICES

MAKE YOUR WEEKLIES INFORMATIVE

VOL. I • NO. 47 • Aug. 21- Aug. 27, 2024 • P 10.00

ZERO VOLCANIC QUAKES IN TAAI FOR PAST 12 DAYS: PHIVOLCS

Turn on page 2

DOJ CHIEF VOWS HEADS WILL ROLL IN ALICE GUO ESCAPE

Turn on page 3

PHILIPPINES AND SINGAPORE TO BRING RELATIONS TO NEW TRAJECTORY

Turn on page 2

P29 BIGAS NG NIA, SINIMULAN SA CALABARZON

Turn on page 3

“POLICE BUST NIGERIAN NATIONALS IN CAVITE LOVE SCAM HUB, RESCUES FOUR ILLEGALLY DETAINED WOMEN”

Turn on page 3

INTENSIFIED BORDER CONTROL, SURVEILLANCE TEST HELP CONTAIN ASF SPREAD

Turn on page 3

The Evolving Landscape of the 4Ps in the Philippines

The Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) has been a cornerstone of the Philippine government's poverty alleviation strategy for over a decade. Established under the Aquino administration and continued by successive governments, the program has provided conditional cash transfers to millions of Filipino families, primarily aiming to improve health, education, and nutrition among the poorest sectors of society. As the program evolves and faces new challenges, it is crucial to reflect on its impact, the criticisms it has garnered, and the opportunities for improvement. The Impact of 4Ps The 4Ps program has been instrumental in lifting many Filipino families out of extreme poverty. By conditioning cash transfers on school attendance and regular health check-ups, the program has encouraged investments in human capital—specifically, the education and health of children. According to government data, millions of children have stayed in school longer and are healthier as a result of this program. For many families, the financial support provided by the 4Ps has been a lifeline, helping them to meet basic needs and break the cycle of poverty. Furthermore, the World Bank and other international organizations have lauded the program as one of the more successful conditional cash transfer programs globally. It has also served as a model for other countries looking to implement similar poverty alleviation strategies. Criticisms and Challenges

Despite its successes, the 4Ps program has not been without criticism. One of the most significant concerns is the program's sustainability and long-term impact. Critics argue that while the program provides immediate relief, it does not necessarily lead to sustainable economic empowerment. Many beneficiaries remain dependent on the cash transfers, and there is limited evidence to suggest that the program has led to significant long-term income generation. There are also concerns about the accuracy and fairness of the beneficiary selection process. Reports of inclusion and exclusion errors have raised questions about whether the program is truly reaching the poorest of the poor. Some families who are in dire need may be left out due to bureaucratic inefficiencies, while others who do not qualify might still receive benefits.

Moreover, there is the issue of political manipulation. In some areas, the program has been used as a political tool, with benefits allegedly being withheld from those who do not support certain political figures. This undermines the program's credibility and its intended purpose of serving as an impartial poverty alleviation tool. Opportunities for Improvement To address these challenges, several measures can be considered to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the 4Ps program. First, there is a need for improved targeting and data management. By leveraging technology and regularly updating the database of beneficiaries, the government can ensure

that assistance reaches those who need it most. Second, the program should be coupled with initiatives that promote livelihood development. Providing beneficiaries with skills training, access to microfinance, and opportunities for entrepreneurship can help them transition from dependency to self-sufficiency. This would not only alleviate poverty but also stimulate local economies.

Third, greater transparency and accountability are essential. The government must ensure that the program is insulated from political interference, and there should be clear mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating its impact. Engaging civil society and local communities in the oversight process can help maintain the integrity of the 4Ps.

C o n c l u s i o n The 4Ps program has been a significant step forward in the Philippines' fight against poverty. While it has brought tangible benefits to millions of Filipinos, its implementation is not without flaws. As the country moves forward, there is a need for continuous assessment and adaptation of the program to ensure that it not only provides immediate relief but also fosters long-term economic empowerment and social equity. The challenge lies in balancing immediate needs with sustainable development, ensuring that the 4Ps remains a powerful tool for poverty alleviation in the years to come. - Ang Kabitnya

PHILIPPINES...

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday expressed optimism about fostering closer and enhanced cooperation with Singapore in defense and security, trade and investment, as well as sustainability and energy fields. "MOUs in the fields of health and maritime security are already in the pipeline and are anticipated [to be] finalized in the very near future," President Marcos said in his opening remarks during the bilateral meeting with Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam in Malacañang.

"There will also be the planned signing of MOUs by Philippine local government units and their Singapore private sector partners, a collaboration of a Philippine national government agency and the Singaporean private sector, and [a] business-to-business [agreement]," he added. President Marcos recognized that the bilateral relations between the two nations are deep and multi-faceted. He was elated over the signing of the MOU on Defense Co-

operation by the defense ministers of both countries last July. According to the President, he was pleased that after months of negotiations, the MOU on the Recruitment of Healthcare Workers and the MOU on Collaboration on Carbon Credits Under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement were exchanged during President Shanmugaratnam's visit.

"I note as well that our respective agencies are actively discussing proposed MOUs in the areas of Health and Maritime Security," he added. For his part, President Shanmugaratnam said that following the MOU on Defense Cooperation, the two nations are now looking at areas such as healthcare, environment, carbon credits, infrastructure, and other fields. "So, I think we are making fine progress and it's a phase of our relationship that shouldn't be business as normal, incremental change after each meeting. But we really want to take it on a new trajectory," Shanmugaratnam told President Marcos.

ZERO...

MANILA – The head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Tuesday said there were no volcanic quakes recorded in Taal Volcano for the past 12 days, indicating a "good" sign. "Not even one volcanic earthquake was recorded since August 8. This is a good sign because the presence of volcanic quakes indicate that magma goes up," Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol said in the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon aired over PTV-4. Volcanic earthquakes are among the signs that magma is moving upward since the rocks are breaking as magma ascends. "When magma rises, it gets closer to the sum-

mit, which means an eruption may be imminent," he told the Philippine News Agency. Degassing of the Taal Volcano temporarily stopped at around 11 a.m. Tuesday but noted that emission of sulfur dioxide (SO2) is continuous since 2020, Bacolcol said. Volcanic smog (vog) may form for as long as Taal Volcano is fuming out SO2, he said, noting that several towns in Batangas reported a presence of vog on Tuesday. These include Laurel, San Nicolas, Agoncillo, Talisay, Balete, Lemery, Cuenca, Malvar, Lipa City, Taal, Lian and Nasugbu. Bacolcol said SO2 emission is just one of the parameters that Phivolcs is monitoring to see whether an eruption

"Under your leadership, I'm confident we'll be able to achieve that. I should say, by the way, that you know, these things do matter," he added. Shanmugaratnam arrived in the Philippines for a three-day state visit, his second such visit to an ASEAN country. He visited Brunei earlier this year. The Philippines and Singapore established diplomatic relations on May 16, 1969.

Last year, the country's total trade with Singapore was at US\$10.62 billion, with US\$3.53 billion in exports and US\$7.09 billion in imports. In the same year, Singapore ranked as the country's 8th largest trading partner, 6th export market (out of 205), and 7th import supplier (out of 221). Based on recent estimates, there are 200,000 Filipinos living and working in Singapore. President Marcos participated in the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue last May and attended the Milken Institute Asia Summit on September 13-17, 2023. / PND

Empowering Cavite Cooperative Leaders



The Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer in partnership with Cooperative Development Authority - Region IV-A, and the League of Cooperative Development Officers of the Philippines - Cavite Chapter, successfully conducted an eight-day training which run from July 24 to August 14, 2024 entitled, Capacity Development Seminar for Cooperative Development Officers: Training of Trainers Certification Course, held at different venues within the Provincial Capitol Compound in Trece Martires City.

Thirty (30) participating Cooperative Development Officers from the cities and municipalities of Cavite engaged in workshops, interactive discussions, and hands-on training sessions led by the trainers from the CDA Region IV-A. After eight days of in-depth lessons and demonstration, they successfully completed the course and awarded with their certificates during the graduation ceremony on August 14. The event was joined by CDA IV-A Regional Director Salvador V. Valeroso, CRITS Senior Cooperative Specialist Head, Ms. Ivyrene Rose Panaglima, and LCDOP-Cavite Vice President, Mr. Generoso Ramos Jr.

Several outstanding participants were recognized for their exceptional performances. The top achiever in the Final Exam was Ms. Kristine Joy A. Nuestro from CICLEDO-LGU Imus while the top performers in the Return Demonstration were Ms. Dianne April V. Matel and Ms. Janice T. Burgos-Diesta from OPCDO-Cavite, and Ms. Rachel Beltran from LGU Bailen. The top overall performers were also recognized, with Ms. Kristine Joy Nuestro earning the 1st honor, Ms. Jaquilyn V. Lara securing 2nd honor, and Ms. Jennifer Gandia from CICLEDO-LGU Imus bagging the 3rd honor. These awardees distinguished themselves through their dedication, hard work, and excellence throughout the training program.

CDA officials extended their gratitude to all participants and awardees, who have demonstrated their commitment to advancing cooperative development in their areas.

The Training of Trainers seminar was part of the CDA's Cooperative Development Officers Certification Program, which aims to enhance the capabilities of CDOs in delivering the Basic Cooperative Course. It is vital in helping CDOs fulfill their role in contributing to the growth and success of cooperatives in the province. / CPIO

Concerned agencies taking appropriate actions on Taal vog

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will let concerned government agencies and the local government units (LGUs) take the precautionary measures against the effects of volcanic smog (vog) emitted by Taal Volcano, Malacañang said Tuesday.

In an interview with Palace reporters, Communications Assistant Secretary Joey Villarama said Marcos is monitoring and being briefed about Taal's increased degassing activity.

"He (Marcos) is informed and kung meron pong kailangang gawin (if something needs to be done) in terms of utos (order) or directive from Malacañang, we will let you know about that," Villarama said, when asked about Marcos' directive amid Taal's emission of vog.

"Ginagawa naman po ng gobyerno ang lahat para po hindi

po maging malaki ang impact nitong pag-alburoto ng Taal. So, mag-ingat po tayo (The government is doing everything to minimize the impact of Taal's vog emission. Let's all take precautions)," he added.

Taal Volcano is releasing about 3,355 tons of sulfur dioxide flux per day since Aug. 15, resulting in vog, according to the latest advisory from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

Phivolcs also observed upwelling of hot volcanic fluids in the main crater lake.

Vog is composed of sulfur dioxide gas and other volcanic gases, and mixed with atmospheric oxygen, dust or ashes, and sunlight.

Vog results in a foggy view of surroundings and causes irritations of the eyes, throat, and nose.

Villarama advised the wearing of face masks and other protective gears such as goggles. He also urged the public, especially the vulnerable groups like the elderly and children, to stay indoors to reduce their exposure to vog.

"So, nananawagan po tayo sa ating mga kababayan na 'yung kaukulang pag-iingat lamang po (we are calling on our fellow countrymen to take the precautionary measures)," he said.

Entry into Taal Volcano Island, especially the main crater and Daang Kastilla fissures, as well as occupancy and boating on Taal Lake are not allowed.

Flying aircrafts close to the volcano are also not advisable. Phivolcs warned of possible stem-driven or phreatic or gas-driven explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall, lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas.

PNP deploys disaster response teams Meanwhile, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has activated disaster response units to augment local groups in handling emergencies amid the vog from Taal.

"We have activated disaster incident management task group in the province of Batangas and the PNP is ready to assist local government units (LGUs) in terms of security coverage, especially in case there is a need to bring residents to evacuation centers," PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said in a press briefing at Camp Crame, Quezon City Tuesday.

She said there are no reports of evacuees so far due to the volcano's activity and that only class suspensions were reported in areas affected by the vog from Taal./PNA

Ano ang Sulfur Dioxide?



Ayon sa Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS - DOST), ang Bulkang Taal ay naglalabas ng Volcanic Smog o Vog na maaaring may kasamang Sulfur Dioxide.

Ang Sulfur Dioxide ay isang polusyon sa hangin na dulot ng asupre. Ito ay walang kulay at mayroong napakatapang na amoy.

Paunang Lunas:



Banlawan agad ang mga mata gamit ang malinis na tubig upang matanggal ang kemikal na nasa loob nito.



Kung mapunta sa balat ang kemikal, hugasan agad ito ng malinis at maligamgam na tubig.



Magpalit ng damit kung ito ay kontaminado ng spure.

Pag-iwas:



Lumayo sa lugar kung saan mayroong lumalabas na Sulfur Dioxide (asupre).



Manatili sa loob ng bahay at isara ang mga pinto at bintana.



Magsuot ng na-aangkop na face mask



Uminom ng maraming tubig upang maiwasan ng iritasyon sa mata.



Kumonsulta sa pinakamalapit na pagamutan kung kinakailangan.

Paunang Lunas:



Kung nakalanghap ng mataas na konsentrasyon ng kemikal, dalhin ang pasyente sa lugar na may malawak na espasyo at sariwang hangin.



Kung patuloy na makaranas ng hirap sa paghinga, agad na dalhin sa pinakamalapit na pagamutan.



Manatiling kalmado at obserbahan ang paghinga.

Source : Department of Health, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS - DOST)

Epekto ng Sulfur Dioxide sa tao:

Ang paglanghap at matagal na exposure sa Sulfur Dioxide (asupre) ay maaaring magdulot ng mga sumusunod:



Pangangati ng lalamunan



Hirap sa paghinga



Panikipik ng dibdib

Source : Department of Health, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS - DOST)



99 Manggahan St, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite
09153553703 or 0960 5759151 www.fb.com/tummyave

We are open for dine-in, pickup and deliveries every Friday, Saturday & Sunday from 4:00PM - 10:00 PM

SM PRIME JOINS GLOBAL CONVERSATION ON BUILDING SUSTAINABLE CITIES FOR THE FUTURE



SM Prime Holdings (SM Prime) played a pivotal role in advancing sustainable urban development by hosting the 7th annual Association of Pacific Rim Universities – Sustainable Cities and Landscapes (APRU-SCL) 2024 Conference and 3rd International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development (ICHSPD) at SMX Convention Center Aura. This prestigious event, organized by the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), brought together over 300 experts to discuss innovative solutions for building greener and more resilient cities. Focused on the theme “Advancing Sustainable Cities and Communities Through Science, Technology, and Innovation,” the conference highlighted the importance of collaboration in addressing urban challenges.



(L-R): Moderator Efraim Roxas, Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau (ELUPDB) Director Mylene Rivera, SM Supermalls' President Steven Tan, and Tohoku University Professor Jeongsoo Yu

SM's commitment to sustainability was evident through the participation of its top executives. SM Supermalls' President Steven Tan showcased SM Supermalls' eco-friendly practices and community-focused programs. “Our malls are more than just shopping centers; they are dynamic public spaces, woven into the daily lives of millions of Filipinos. Our comprehensive environmental sustainability programs are deeply inspired by the vision of our Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Hans Sy, a tireless advocate for environmental sustainability and disaster resilience,” Mr. Tan said.

He added, “At SM Supermalls, we leverage science and technology to develop innovative solutions that are seamlessly integrated into the design and operation of our malls. We remain committed to leveraging innovation and collaboration to build a greener, more resilient, and more sustainable future for the Philippines.”

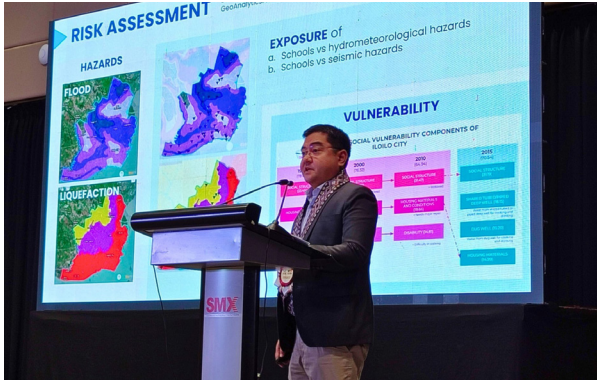
SM Prime and SM Development Corporation (SMDC) Lead Executive for Design, Innovation, and Strategy Jessica Bianca Sy, shared the com-

pany's vision of creating sustainable integrated properties that foster lively communities.



(L-R): University of the Philippines Los Baños' (UPLB) Dean Jennifer Marie Amparo, UPLB Chancellor Jose Camacho Jr., Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU) Chief Executive Thomas Schneider, Makati Mayor Abigail Binay, SM Prime and SM Development Corporation (SMDC) Lead Executive for Design, Innovation, and Strategy Jessica Bianca Sy, International Conference on Human Settlements Planning and Development (ICHSPD) Conference Director Edgar Reyes Jr., and APRU-Sustainable Cities and Landscapes Director Yekang Ko

National Resilience Council (NRC) Executive Director Silvestre Barrameda Jr. highlighted SM's role in disaster preparedness. He presented “From Risk to Resilience: The Work of the National Resilience Council in Risk Governance” where he introduced the Resilience Local Government Unit Program (RLGUP), NRC's approaches and tools and how risk governance is supported by the sciences.



National Resilience Council (NRC) Executive Director Silvestre Barrameda Jr. showcases SM Supermalls' resilient infrastructure.

SM Prime's commitment to sustainability was further emphasized during a breakout session on creating connections and partnerships, hosted by Jonas Marie Dumdum, Senior Consultant and Sustainability Lead of Nomura Research Institute (NRI) Manila Branch. Katherine Custodio, Executive Director of World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)-Philippines, underscored the significance of collaboration: “Any program that aims to build climate resilience requires strong partnerships and working together across all sectors.”

SM Prime remains committed to its role as a catalyst for economic growth, delivering innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities, thereby enriching the quality of life of millions of people. SM Prime is pursuing the next horizon on integrated property development and onward to building sustainable cities of the future. /PR



MPT SOUTH CONDUCTS PHOTOWALK TOUR SHOWCASING LAGUNA HERITAGE

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), in collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government – Laguna (DILG Laguna), Laguna Tourism Culture Arts and Trade Office (LTCATO), Biñan City Culture, History, Arts, and Tourism Office (BCHATO), and Sta. Rosa Tourism Office (SRTO) successfully culminated its first Biyaheng South's “Discover Laguna: A Heritage Photo Walk Tour” in Biñan and Santa Rosa.



‘Biyaheng South’ invited photo enthusiasts and selected media partners to take part in the Photo Walk Tour. It started in Biñan, with a quick tour of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) from Mamplasan to Silang-Aguinaldo exit to highlight its features as a green expressway which makes the segment self-sustaining. Afterward, participants, media partners, and colleagues from different government agencies enjoyed a heartwarming breakfast and the cozy vibe of one of Biñan's hidden gems, Kamp Lilim, just a few kilometers away from CALAX. Shortly, they headed to Biñan Esplanade, the coastal area of Biñan, where they got the chance to see the Hispanic-inspired coastal architecture and breathtaking scenery of Laguna Lake, the country's largest freshwater basin. Heading to the city's población, they got the chance to explore and capture one of Biñan's historical landmarks, the Alberto Mansion, Teodora Alonzo's ancestral abode, the mother of the country's national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. They also seized the moment, learning the footprints of Dr. Rizal's maternal and paternal lineage sketched around the city center.

The photo enthusiasts who took part in the event shared their most exquisite captures of the day during their photo walk of the two cities, which was judged by MPT South and other partners in government. After their careful deliberation, the judges concluded that the winning photograph was from participant Sarah Lou Bernardino, who garnered the highest score for her photos captured in Biñan and Sta. Rosa.

As they head to the city of Sta. Rosa, the participants were also pleased with the homey Filipino food served for lunch at ‘PansEAT,’ one of Sta. Rosa's oldest restaurant. After the luncheon, they were briefed by the local tourism officers with the amazing historical evidence found in the city's museum, and city's century-old church, the Sta. Rosa de Lima Parish Church, which was built in 1792; the impressive Spanish and American ancestral houses along Zavalala Street adds to the historical significance of the city; and the infamous landmark and identity of Sta. Rosa, the Sta. Rosa Arch.

Participants captured different heritage sites and historical landmarks in the middle of the bustling metropolis of Biñan and Sta. Rosa; enjoyed the local delicacies such as Puto Biñan and fried okay, or shrimp fritters; and got to learn its historical significance which displays the tapestry of culture, arts, and heritage it embodies. /PRMPT



DOJ...

MANILA – The Department of Justice (DOJ) on Tuesday issued a stern warning against Bureau of Immigration (BI) officials who may have a hand in the escape of former Bamban, Tarlac Mayor Alice Guo. In a statement, DOJ Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla said all government officials who backed or participated in the illegal exit of Guo will be held accountable. “As civil servants, we have sworn to the country our unwavering integrity, transparency and accountability in all our actions and decisions. Hence, I am issuing this final warning against erring BI personnel who may have had a participation in the escape of Guo despite strict restrictions imposed by our government. It's either you come out and unveil the truth or wait until I personally get to the bottom of this where heads will roll and all hell will break loose,” Remulla said. He also ordered BI Commissioner Norman Tansingco to come up with a report immediately. The BI earlier assured the public that the names “Alice Guo and Guo Hua Ping” were both included in the Immigration Lookout Bulletin Order (ILBO). Despite the existing ILBO, the BI confirmed on Monday that Guo has managed to slip out of the country en route to Malaysia in July, then allegedly flew to Singapore with her siblings, Sheila and Wesley. Remulla said the DOJ will also look into the possibility that the camp or legal counsels of Guo abetted her departure. “Let me reiterate that as much as lawyers have an obligation to protect the interests of their clients, they also have a broader responsibility to uphold the Rule of Law and safeguard public interest,” he said. The BI, meanwhile, said it is working with its foreign counterparts in tracking the movements of the dismissed mayor. “We are continuously monitoring her movements out of the country

POLICE...

The police arrested two Nigerian nationals after rescuing four women who were illegally detained in Tanza, Cavite. According to a report by the Calabarzon Police, the suspects' residence, which was believed to

be used as a “love scam” hub, was raided on the afternoon of Tuesday, August 13. Calabarzon Police Director Brig. Gen. Paul Kenneth Lucas stated that the suspects were former employees of a Philippine Offshore

Gaming Operation hub in Bamban, Tarlac, before they left and started their scam operations. According to Lucas, not only Filipinos but also foreigners have fallen victim to the suspects. /PR

P29...

Abot kayang presyo ng bigas ang hatid ng paglulunsad ng programang Murang Bigas @ P29/kg ng National Irrigation Administration Calabarzon sa Naic, Cavite ngayong araw, Agosto 15. Pinangunahan nina Regional Manager Roberto Dela Cruz NIA Cavite-Batangas Irrigation Management Office (IMO) Manager Edwin Nazareno ang nasabing aktibidad kung saan nasa 1,000 sako ng 10 kilo na

bigas ang mabibili ng publiko. Ayon sa NIA, bibigyang prayoridad sa bentahan ng murang bigas ang mga senior citizen, miyembro ng 4Ps, solo parent, at PWD. Naging posible ang abot-kayang presyo ng bigas dahil sa programang Rice Contract Farming kung saan sinusupportahan ng ahensiya ang mga magsasaka na kasapi ng Irrigators Association (IA) mula sa pagtatanim hanggang sa pag-harvest ng mga palay. Maliban sa bigas, ibi-

nenta rin ng mga Irrigators Association (IA) sa murang halaga ang kani-kanilang produkto gaya ng mga gulay at ibang high-value crops. /PR



Facebook page: Ruthless Apparel Email: pidibibote@gmail.com Contact No.: 09055 060 516 Location: Binakayan, Kawit Cavite

INTENSIFIED...

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) reported Tuesday that intensified border control and surveillance testing in the country has helped contain the further spread of the African swine fever (ASF). This came after the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) confirmed that 11 intercepted hogs from two trucks in livestock checkpoints in Quezon City and Valenzuela City on Aug. 17 were positive for ASF. Transporters from the said trucks were reportedly using recycled local shipping permits. The BAI also seized hogs from three trucks with 60, 87, and 14 hogs that tested positive for ASF in other checkpoints in Metro Manila. “Una, effective iyong ating border control na in-establish para mahuli iyong mga nagpu-puslit ng mga fast break na baboy, iyong mga infected na baboy para mapigilan natin iyong pagkalat lalo from south to north or from north to south, ng ASF (The border control we established is effective in arresting those trying to smuggle infected hogs, and prevent the spread of ASF from south to north or from north to south),” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa said in a phone interview. De Mesa also underscored the advantage of surveillance testing to identify the actual spread of ASF in the country. “Mas dumadami rin kasi ngayon yung tinatawag natin na surveillance testing ng ASF. So, nagiging aktibo rin tayo dun sa pagsusuri (We also have increased what we call surveillance testing for ASF. So we are now more active in testing),” he said. “Maganda rin ito na nakikita natin na talagang iyong mga areas na may ASF. Kesa yung walang testing, tapos, meron palang ASF, patuloy lalo na kakalat (This is good because we can really verify the areas with ASF. Instead of no testing, then there's actually ASF, it will spread even more),” he added. To date, biosecurity and surveillance checkpoints are located in Commonwealth, Mindanao Avenue, Tandang Sora,

and EDSA Balintawak in Quezon City; Marulas and Mandalay in Valenzuela City; animal quarantine checkpoint in Barangay Turbina, Calamba, Laguna; Star Tollway, Sto. Tomas, Batangas; and animal quarantine checkpoint in Barangay Amuyong, Alfonso, Cavite. (PNA)

STRENGTHENING TIES UN EDUCATION: JEONBUK STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO CAVITE



The provincial government of Cavite through the Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office hosted a significant visit of the delegation of Jeonbuk State Office of Education, Republic of Korea on August 12-16, 2024. The visit further paved the longstanding partnership between the province and Jeonbuk State Office of Education formerly Jeollabuk-do Office of Education, which has been thriving since 2005. The delegation, headed by Mr. Yoo Jeongki, Deputy Superintendent, engaged in a series of activities aimed at enhancing digital education and fostering cross-cultural exchange. The highlight of the visit was the delegation's tour at Ichican Elementary School in Silang and Pueblo Del Mar National High School in Naic, both of which are recipients of computer donations from the Jeonbuk State Office of Education. These visits offered the delegation a firsthand view of how their contributions have significantly enhanced the students' learning environments. They were greeted with enthusiasm by students and teachers who demonstrated how digital tools, made possible by these donations, have become integral to their education.

The delegation also made a courtesy call to Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla. During the meeting, both parties discussed the significance of their ongoing partnership and explored future opportunities for collaboration in education and technology. Governor Remulla expressed his gratitude for the continued support and reaffirmed Cavite's commitment to nurturing this valuable relationship.

Additionally, a digital education training for primary and secondary public teachers held at Francisco P. Tolentino Integrated High School in Tagaytay City was facilitated. The training aimed to equip educators with the latest technological tools and methodologies to enhance the learning experience in classrooms. Cultural exchange was also a significant aspect of the visit, with the delegation touring the historic Aguinaldo Shrine, where they gained insights into Cavite's rich history. Likewise, the delegation also had the opportunity to meet with officials from the Department of Education's Main Office, discussing future collaborations and educational initiatives that could benefit both regions. To cap off their visit, the Provincial Government of Cavite hosted a farewell dinner in honor of the delegation. This gathering not only celebrated the successful visit but also reinforced the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between Cavite and Jeonbuk State Office of Education. As the visit concluded, both parties expressed optimism for future projects and initiatives that would continue to strengthen the partnership, with a shared vision of advancing education and fostering mutual understanding. /CPIO

