

REPATRIATED OFWS FROM ISRAEL TO  
RECEIVE TESDA TRAINING



The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) said that it will provide free skills training to returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who were affected by the Israel-Palestine conflict.

TESDA Secretary Suharto Mangudadatu said that OFWs and their families have always been among TESDA's priority clients when it comes to the provision of skills training and livelihood programs.

"With TESDA's commitment to the upskilling and reskilling of the Filipino workforce, the Agency is one of the Philippine government agencies assigned to extend its programs to the repatriated OFWs who were affected by the Israel-Palestine conflict and their beneficiaries," Secretary Mangudadatu said.

According to the Secretary, a Certificate of Scholarship Grant Commitment will be issued to the OFWs as proof of scholarship assistance from TESDA.

As of writing, a total of 62 repatriated OFWs have already been given Certificates of Scholarship Grant Commitment, which they can later present at the nearest TESDA office to avail of free skills training for themselves or for their respective beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, Secretary Mangudadatu also urged repatriated OFWs as well as their dependents to register in the TESDA Online Program (TOP).

They can access the TOP, which offers online courses such as Computer System Servicing NC II, Caregiving (Elderly) NC II, Cookery NC II, Housekeeping NC II, among others through e-tesda.gov.ph.

"Our OFWs are among TESDA's top clients. Kasama n'yo ang TESDA sa pagpapalalim ng ating kaalaman, sa paghuhubog ng kasanayan, at sa pagpapalago ng inyong kabuhatan. Kaisa ninyo ang TESDA sa inyong mga pangarap sa buhay," the Secretary assured. /TESDA

TESDA, NHA INK PACT FOR LIVELI-  
HOOD PROGRAMS



The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the National Housing Authority (NHA) have entered into a partnership to provide skills training to the latter's housing beneficiaries.

The ceremonial signing was attended by Deputy Director General for Operations Aniceto D. Bertiz III, representing Secretary Suharto T. Mangudadatu, and NHA Assistant General Manager Alvin S. Feliciano, representing General Manager Joeben A. Tai at the NHA Office in Quezon

City last October 9.

The partnership aims to ensure the availability of livelihood and employment opportunities for housing beneficiaries.

Specifically, TESDA shall facilitate scholarship assistance with all available training programs that are suitable for the NHA relocates and provide them assessment and issue corresponding National Certificates (NCs) should they pass it.

TESDA shall also join the NHA's "People's Caravan" in the identified NHA Resettlement Sites, and conduct orientations and skills demonstrations on select training programs.

During these events, TESDA will also set up "TESDA sa Barangay" booths for NHA beneficiaries to learn more about TESDA, accept pre-registration of beneficiaries for available courses being offered, and deliver the community-based programs for the housing beneficiaries in far-flung resettlement areas of NHA.

The NHA, for its part, shall identify appropriate training programs and other interventions that will enhance the employability and entrepreneurship qualities of the housing beneficiaries.

Secretary Mangudadatu shared that the TESDA-NHA partnership will reach more Filipinos especially those who are in the country's remote areas.

"The core objective of this initiative is to mobilize the delivery of skills development and livelihood programs in these far-flung areas. through the synergy of TESDA's expertise in skills training and the NHA's experience in community development, we will create sustainable change in the lives of our fellow Filipinos," the TESDA chief said./TESDA

GRADUATES, EMPLOYERS VERY SATISFIED  
WITH TECH-VOC TRAINING - TESDA



According to surveys done by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) for the last five years, tech-voc graduates are "very satisfied" with the training they received.

Likewise, employers who hired graduates of technical vocational education and training (TVET) programs found the performance of these workers to be "very satisfactory".

The results on the satisfaction of the TESDA graduates is based on TESDA's Study on Employment of TVET Graduates (SETG) in the last five years, which disclosed that the delivery of the training program has significantly influenced the employment rate in relation to the overall satisfaction of the graduates in their respective training programs

"The SETG in the last five years have shown that an average 93% of tech-voc graduates are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with their training," said TESDA Secretary/Director General Suharto T. Mangudadatu.

Likewise, in the last five years, 52.33% of TVET graduates on average found that the skills they had acquired were very useful, while some 31% conveyed that they used some of the competencies they acquired from their tech-voc training.

"We regularly ask tech-voc graduates to rate their training based on entry requirements, trainers' methodologies, tools and equipment, knowledge expertise of the trainers, learning materials, training activities, training facilities, training duration, level of knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired, and assessment method," explained the TESDA head.

The SETG is conducted annually to measure the relevance and effectiveness of tech-voc training programs.

This information is further validated in TESDA's annual Employment Satisfaction Survey (ESS), which recorded employers to have rated their tech-voc graduates' performance to be "very satisfactory" on average in the last four survey rounds.

The ESS serves as one of the monitoring and feedback mechanisms to generate inputs and comments from the industry regarding their perspective on the performance of employed TVET graduates, TVET provisions, certification, and other TVET-related areas.

Meanwhile, according to Secretary Mangudadatu, many tech-voc graduates who have trained under TESDA have found success after finishing their respective training programs.

One of them is Joeminel Cutcharo, a holder of Automotive Servicing NC I to NC IV at TESDA's Auto-mechanic Training Center in Eastern Visayas. Joeminel, a victim of typhoon Yolanda, took up his tech-voc course as a way for his family to recover from the disaster.

Joeminel went on to represent the Philippines and earned medals in the ASEAN Skills Competition in Thailand, and the WorldSkills Competition in Russia. He currently works as an automotive technician at the Laguna plant of a known Japanese car manufacturer.

Another TESDA graduate, Chef Roxanne Joy Magday-Ningala, took Bread and Pastry Production NC II training at the Provincial Training Center in Nueva Vizcaya after she quit her job as a domestic helper in the Middle East.

Currently, she is now employed at a large dessert shop and wholesale bakery in Malé, Maldives, and has even assisted the world's top Master Chefs.

"These are just a few real-world examples of the impact that TESDA and tech-voc has made on the lives of its graduates," added the Secretary./TESDA

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MANILA, Philippines — Around 60 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from Israel were repatriated on Monday — the fourth batch of Filipinos to have returned since Hamas militants attacked Southern Israel in early October.

Of the 60, most or 32 OFWs worked in the hotel industry while 28 were caregivers, according to the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW).

This brings the total number of Filipino returnees from Israel to 119.

In a press briefing, DMW Officer-in-Charge Hans Cacdac said that 250 more Filipinos in Israel have requested repatriation, but this could still go up in the coming weeks. At least 130 applications are already being processed, Cacdac added.

Meanwhile, 124 Filipinos in Lebanon have also requested to return to the Philippines after the Department of Foreign Affairs raised Alert Level 3 in the area after escalating border tensions sparked between Israeli forces and Hezbollah following the former's

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PRESIDENT MARCOS:  
GOVERNMENT TO BUY  
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COMELEC: LONG-  
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GAY, SK POLLS 'GEN-  
ERALLY PEACEFUL'  
DESPITE LOCALIZED  
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QUEZON CITY  
NAMED MOST  
BUSINESS-FRIENDLY  
LGU IN NCR  
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## Pagdiriwang ng Undas sa Pilipinas

Ang Undas sa Pilipinas ay isang napakahalagang pagdiriwang na naglalaman ng malalim na kahulugan at tradisyon. Ito ay isang pagkakataon para sa mga Pilipino na alalahanin at gunitain ang kanilang mga yumaong kamag-anak. Ang mga yumaong mahal sa buhay, Sa tuwing sumasapit ang Undas, milyon-milyong Pilipino ang naglalakbay patungo sa mga sementeryo upang magbigay-pugay at mag-alay ng basal para sa kanilang mga kamag-anak.

Iisa sa mga pangunahing kaganapan sa pagdiriwang ng Undas ay ang pagpunta sa sementeryo upang bisitahin ang mga puntod ng mga yumaong kamag-anak. Ang mga pamilya ay nagdadala ng bulaklak, kandila, at iba't ibang klase ng pagkain upang ihanda sa mga yumaong mahal sa buhay. Ito ay isang paraan ng mga Pilipino para ipakita ang kanilang pagmamahal at pagpapahalaga sa mga taong pumanaw na.

Iisa sa mga tradisyunal na gawain sa Undas ay ang pag-aayos at paglilinis ng mga puntod bago ang araw ng pagdiriwang. Ito ay isang pagpapakita ng respeto at pagpapahalaga sa yumaong mga kamag-anak. Minsan, ang mga pamilya ay nagdadala ng mga bagong bulaklak at nag-aayos ng mga ilaw upang gawing mas maganda at mas maayos ang lugar ng kanilang mga yumaong

kamag-anak.

Sa ilalim ng mainit na sikat ng araw, makikita ang mga pamilya na nagtatayo ng mga tolda at nagluluto ng mga handa para sa kanilang mga yumaong kamag-anak. Ang mga lugar ng libingan ay nagiging parang maliit na pista, kung saan ang mga tao ay nagtitipon-tipon upang ipagdiwang ang Undas. May mga nagdadala ng mga larawan ng mga yumaong kamag-anak, nagkukwentong ng masasayang alaala, at nagbabahagi ng mga kwento tungkol sa buhay ng mga pumanaw na.

Sa kabila ng malungkot na pagkakataon, nararamdaman ang pagiging buo at pagkakaisa sa pagitan ng mga tao. Ang Undas ay nagiging pagkakataon para sa pamilya na magsama-sama at magbigayan ng suporta sa gitna ng lungkot ng pagkawala ng isang mahal sa buhay. Ito ay isang pagkahalaga at pagpapahalaga sa mga kaibigan at kamag-anak na magkita-kita at magbahagi ng mga kwento.

Isang makulay na aspeto ng Undas sa Pilipinas ay ang pagkakaroon ng mga tradisyunal na pagkain sa sementeryo. Maraming pamilya ang nagdadala ng mga paboritong ulam at kakanin ng kanilang mga yumaong kamag-anak. Ito ay isang paraan ng pag-alala hindi lamang sa mga yumaong mahal sa buhay kundi pati na rin sa mga masasayang pagka-

## Fourth...

continued launch of airstrikes on Gaza.

Foreign Undersecretary Jose De Vega said during the same press briefing that around 57 Filipinos remain at the Rafah border crossing near Egypt -- the only exit point and humanitarian corridor for civilians looking to flee Israel's continued bombing of Gaza. De Vega also said that the Philippines has gotten in touch with about 115 Fili-

pinos in Gaza who are all uninjured, but stressed that currently "there's no 100% safe place in Gaza." There are, however, nine Filipino nationals who chose to remain in Gaza City, the central target of Israeli airstrikes, De Vega said.

The nine include three who "definitely wanted to remain there, including a nun from the Missionaries of Charity," while six others

## SARA'S...

MANILA, Philippines — Satisfaction ratings for Vice President Sara Duterte declined by double digits while overall ratings for Duterte and President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. fell in the third quarter of the year, the latest Tugon ng Masa Survey by private research firm Octa Research found.

From July to September, Duterte's satisfaction score dropped 12 points from 82% to 70%, while her trust score dipped by eight points from 83% to 75%, according to the poll released Sunday. The president suffered a six-point drop in his satisfaction score from 71% to 65% while his trust rating dropped to 73% from the second quarter's 75%. Both leaders still held majority approval in their trust and satisfaction ratings nationwide despite the "significant decreases," Octa Research noted.

Duterte's satisfaction score plummeted the most in Visayas — declining by 16 points from 90% to

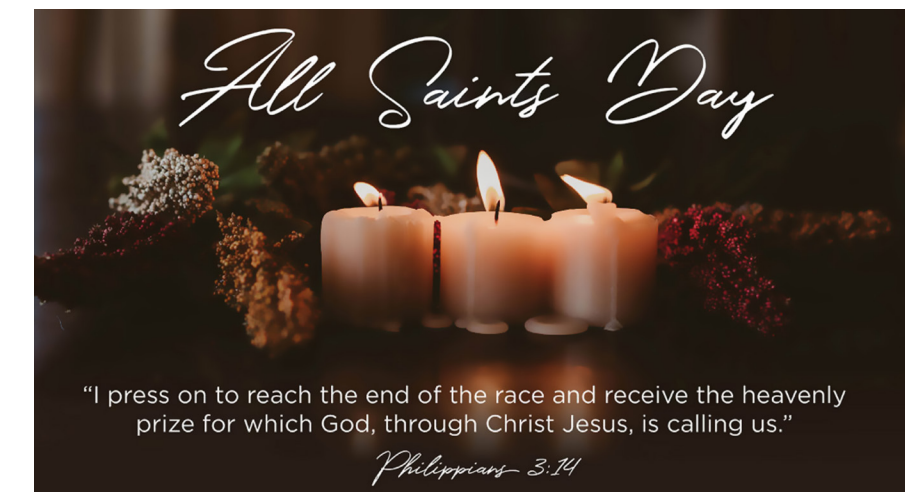
74%, while survey respondents from Balance Luzon provided the lowest score for Duterte at 62% (lower by 12 points from July). Trust ratings for the vice president remain the highest in Mindanao — 95%, the highest of the five officials included in the survey. Meanwhile, Duterte received the lowest trust score in Balanz Luzon (64%) and members of Class ABC (59%). Marcos enjoyed the highest trust rating in the Visayas (78%) and from members of class D (74%) and E (75%). The president's lowest trust rating comes from Metro Manila (66%) and from members of Class ABC (53%).

Meanwhile, House Speaker Martin Romualdez's satisfaction rating rose by six points from 55% to 61%, while his trust ratings improved from 54% to 60%. Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri's ratings remained stable with a one-point increase in his performance ratings from 57% to 58%.

Scores for Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo were the lowest among the five officials, with his satisfaction rate lagging at 20% — lower by eight points from July's 28%. Octa Research conducted the survey from September 30 to October 4, days after media reported on Commission on Audit reports showing Davao City's hefty spending on confidential expenses under Duterte's term as mayor.

It was also conducted days after the Romualdez-led lower chamber wrapped up its deliberations for the proposed 2024 national budget and decided to realign the proposed P650 million in confidential funds of Duterte's two offices — the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education

The OCTA survey had total of 1,200 respondents, which had a margin of error of ±3%. **IPHILSTAR.COM**



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(L-R): United Nations (UN) Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Chief Marco Toscano-Rivalta, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Mami Mizutori, and UN Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales



SM enacts a multifaceted disaster risk reduction program, emphasizing structural resilience, emergency response, and sustainability.



ARISE Philippines fosters risk-resilient societies through distinct public-private partnerships.

## SM CITY CEBU LIGHTS UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

As the year ends and the yuletide phase is in full swing, prepare to wander through a magical spectacle in the Queen City of the South.

SM City Cebu ushers the holiday season with the lighting of its dazzling 30ft Christmas Tree full of lights, stars, and balls, on October 21. With its theme Wish Upon A Star, let your Christmas dreams come to life, the centerpiece located at the North Wing Atrium highlights the 3D LED fountain lights, giant stars, dichroic lights, and an interactive LED floor.



Recognizing women's resilience

The 2023 Women's International Network (WIN) for Disaster Leadership Awards acknowledged the remarkable women in the Asia-Pacific region for their achievements in DRR. This initiative is an integral part of the pioneering WIN DRR program, supported by the Australian government. It encompasses two categories: the prestigious Excellence Award, sponsored by SMPHI, and the promising Rising Star Award. SMPHI endorsed the 2023 WIN DRR Excellence Award, offering a substantial USD 10,000 prize to recognize an exceptional woman excelling in the realm of DRR.

This year, Shaila Shahid from Bangladesh received the esteemed 2023 WIN DRR Excellence Award. Her exceptional contributions to DRR have made a resounding impact across the Asia-Pacific region.



Shaila Shahid from Bangladesh is an environmental lawyer working globally to reduce the disaster risks for the urban poor.

Abia Akram from Pakistan, a dedicated advocate for women with disabilities for over 25 years, was honored with the prestigious 2023 WIN DRR Rising Star Award.



Abia Akram from Pakistan is a disability rights activist, known for founding the National Forum of Women with Disabilities in Pakistan.

The giant Christmas Tree gleams brightly with gold and silver running lights, surrounded with smaller Christmas trees adorned with Christmas balls and stars.

The magical celebration featured musical and dancing performances from the Holiday of Stars, and glittering installations that transformed the mall atrium into a delightful wonderland.



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The 2023 Women's International Network for Disaster Risk Reduction (WIN DRR) Excellence Awardee Shaila Shahid (2nd from left), and Rising Star Awardee Abia Akram (3rd from left, front), are joined by other awards finalists.

To know more about SM Supermalls' disaster risk reduction programs, visit [www.smsupermalls.com](http://www.smsupermalls.com) or follow @SMSupermalls on social media. **IPR**



Find irresistible offers and deals on branded toys that you won't see anywhere else at Toy Kingdom TOY WAREHOUSE SALE! Shop from November 2 to 5, 2023 at Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.



SM Supermalls will continue to launch its much-awaited Christmas centerpieces all over the country, from this week toward the end of October and early November, with uniquely designed and themed trees and holiday installations that promise to delight kids of all ages in each of the SM malls.

SM City Cebu ushers the holiday season with the lighting of its dazzling 30ft Christmas Tree full of lights, stars, and balls, recently. With its theme Wish Upon A Star, let your Christmas dreams come to life, the centerpiece located at the North Wing Atrium highlights the 3D LED fountain lights, giant stars, dichroic lights, and an interactive LED floor. **IPR**



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# TOP LEADERS FORUM BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

"Resilience is not just a word, it is a way of life. It is a commitment to ensure that we have the responsibilities to others and that no one is left behind," said SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPHI) Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairperson of ARISE Philippines and the National Resilience Council (NRC), Hans Sy.



SM Prime Holdings, Inc. Chairman of the Executive Committee and Chairperson of ARISE Philippines, Hans Sy

In celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) last October 13, 2023, Mr. Sy underscored the collective action and commitment of the private and public sectors toward achieving a sustainable and resilient nation during the 10th Top Leaders Forum held at the SMX Convention Center in Manila.



(L-R): Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro IV, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPHI) Assistant Vice President Jessica Sy-Bell, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Marilou Erni, United Nations (UN) Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Mami Mizutori, SMPHI Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, UN Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Chief Marco Toscano-Rivalta, and Department of the Interior and Local Government – Bureau of Fire Protection Fire Chief Superintendent Manuel Golino

Organized by ARISE Philippines, SMPHI, NRC, and its partner agencies, the Top Leaders Forum centered around the theme of "Transforming Victims to Victors: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Inclusive Resilience" emphasizing collaborative efforts for disaster resilience.



United Nations Secretary-General Special Representative Mami Mizutori

**Policies into action**  
One of the event's highlights was the panel sessions, which brought together experts and leaders to discuss critical topics related to resilience. These topics included Environmental, Social, and Governance; Food-Water-Energy Nexus and DRR; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Resilience Framework; Synergy for Inclusive Resilience; and Innovative Technologies and Resilience.



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Anto (L-R): University of Asia and the Pacific Center for Social Responsibility Executive Director Colin Legarde Hubo, Securities and Exchange Commission Director Atty. Rachel Gumtang Remalante, Bank of the Philippine Islands Vice President for Sustainability Jo Ann Bue-no-Eala, and Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro IV nia Yulo-Loyzaga



(L-R): Broadcast journalist Ces Drilon, Department of Energy Chief of Solar and Wind Energy Management Ferdinand Binondo, International Institute for Rural Reconstruction Country Director Emelita Monville Oro, and Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Carlos Primo David



(L-R): Philippine Disaster Foundation President Rene "Butch" Meilly, former Zamboanga City Mayor Ma. Isabelle Climaco-Salazar, and Unilever Chairman Benjie Yap



(L-R): Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Marilou Erni, United Nations (UN) Philippines Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzales, National Resilience Council Executive Director Silvestre Barrameda, Jr., and UN ARISE Global Board Member Vice Admiral Alexander Pama



(L-R): Xavier University Vice President for Social Development Engr. Dexter Lo, Aboitiz Foundation, Inc. President Maribeth Marasigan, Philippine Space Agency Director General Dr. Joel Joseph Marciano, Jr., and Department of Science and Technology Secretary Dr. Renato Solidum



(L-R): Climate Change Commission Commissioner Atty. Rachel Anne Herrera, Office of Civil Defense Assistant Secretary Raffy Alejandro IV, SM Supermalls' Vice President for Corporate Compliance Group Liza Silerio, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Undersecretary Marilou Erni, SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SMPHI) Assistant Vice President Jessica Sy-Bell, United Nations (UN) Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Chief Marco Toscano-Rivalta, SMPHI Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Mami Mizutori, National University-Asia Pacific College President Dr. Ma. Teresita Medado, Aboitiz Foundation President Maribeth Marasigan, UN ARISE Global Board Member Vice Admiral Alexander Pama, Galing Pook Foundation Chairperson Mel Senen Sarmiento, and Department of the Interior and Local Government – Bureau of Fire Protection Fire Chief Superintendent Manuel Golino.

Disaster risk reduction innovations

The Marketplace showcased DRR solutions from various sectors, such as government, embassies, and local establishments. Each participant had a booth to showcase their diverse DRR tools.

The Ignite Stage allowed selected participants to present their DRR initiatives. Sessions covered five themes: The Power of Resilience; Global Resilience Initiatives: Discussing Efforts and Strategies for Building Resilience on a Global Scale; Private Move, Private Action: Private Sector Initiatives to Resilience; Local Moves, Local Action: Local Government Units Resilience; and Resilience 301: National Government Action to Resilience.



## Comelec...

MANILA, Philippines — The long-delayed Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections have been "generally peaceful" so far, despite incidents of violence reported in some parts of the country, the Commission on Elections said Monday. Millions of Filipinos flocked to polling centers to vote for village and youth leaders for the first time since 2018. Around 672,000 seats are up for grabs in Monday's polls. "The elections are generally peaceful, although there were some incidents of violence, especially in the Bangsamoro region," Comelec Chairperson George Garcia said in a briefing. The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, the citizens' arm of Comelec, echoed this observation. "It seems that our Barangay and SK candidates are behaving well. There are just a few reported incidents where some are attempting to campaign by distributing sample ballots," PPCRV national coordinator Arwin Serrano told state broadcaster People's Television in Filipino.

## CO-STARS...

MANILA, Philippines — Tributes have poured in from fellow cast members, friends from across the world of television and movies, the Canadian prime minister and Perry's favorite ice hockey team. Here is what people have said: Maggie Wheeler, who played Chandler Bing's on-and-off-again girlfriend Janice on Friends, wrote on Instagram that she feels "so very blessed by every creative moment" with Perry. ADVERTISING "What a loss. The world will miss you Mathew Perry. The joy you brought to so many in your too short lifetime will live on." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who went to Rockcliffe Park Public School alongside Perry, said he would "never forget the schoolyard games

we used to play." Matthew Perry's passing is shocking and saddening. I'll never forget the schoolyard games we used to play, and I know people around the world are never going to forget the joy he brought them. Thanks for all the laughs, Matthew. You were loved – and you will be missed. Morgan Fairchild, who played Chandler Bing's mum Nora Tyler Bing on Friends, wrote a touching tribute to her "son." "I'm heartbroken about the untimely death of... Perry. The loss of such a brilliant young actor is a shock. I'm sending love & condolences to his friends & family, especially his dad, John Bennett Perry, who I worked with on Flamingo Road & Falcon Crest." Paget Brewster, who played Kathy in Friends' fourth season, wrote Per-

forms. According to Garcia, the Board of Election Inspectors decided to list down the names of voters and use extra ballots from neighboring precincts. The Comelec chief also reported a fist-fighting in a polling precinct in Nunungan, Lanao del Sur. "Of course, there is no perfect election. Walang election na hindi nawala ang pangalan ng mga botante. Walang eleksyon na walang nagsuntukan at nagputukan. These incidents have always occurred," Garcia said. "The important thing is to prosecute those responsible for these actions," he added. The last village polls took place in 2018 and were postponed twice in 2020 and 2022. The barangay is the smallest political unit in the Philippines, but its leaders have considerable influence. Political parties strategically utilize council posts to establish grassroots power bases. President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. described Monday's polls as "crucial" in shaping the national political landscape.

— with report from John Unson, Agence France-Presse /PHILSTAR.COM

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## SLEX...

MANILA, Philippines — Starting November 3, the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) will implement increase in toll fees in South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX). TRB said that the increase in toll fees will be implemented in two tranches "to protect the general welfare, curb existing inflationary situation and to

mitigate the impact of the toll rate adjustments." The first tranche will be implemented this year while the second tranche will be implemented next year. ADVERTISING Additional P10 for Class 1, P20 for Class 2, and, P30 for Class 3 vehicles shall be paid by motorists traveling from Alabang to Calamba. Meanwhile, price increments of P4 for Class 1,

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## Quezon...

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) has named Quezon City as the most business-friendly local government unit in the National Capital Region (NCR). Mayor Joy Belmonte personally received the award during the 49th Philippine Business Conference and Expo held at the Manila Hotel last Thursday. "I share these awards with our city officials and employees who are working tirelessly to give businesses an ideal climate where they can flourish and provide employment and livelihood opportunities to QCitizens," Belmonte said in a statement released yesterday. "This victory proves that we are headed in the right direction, serving as an inspiration and a driving force for us to develop more programs and pro-

jects that will help businesses thrive," she added. The local chief executive noted various initiatives that the city government has undertaken to attract more investors, such as the digitization under the QC E-Services Program. "After we automated our business processes, we have seen a 350-percent increase in capital investments totaling P51 billion in 2022. We even held the groundbreaking of the world's biggest data center in the city, a testament to the overwhelming trust and confidence of the business sector," she said. Quezon City reported that 10,216 new businesses have been registered, up from 7,652 last year. Belmonte also cited the StartUp QC program, which provides mentorship and financial grants to startup businesses, and the various support pro-

vided to micro, small and medium enterprises. The PCCI-QC, led by its president Alfred Carandang, was also awarded the Most Outstanding Chamber for the NCR and the Philippines-City Level 1. Joining Belmonte in receiving the award were Business Permits and Licensing Department head Margie Santos, city assessor Sherry Gonzalvo, Small Business and Cooperatives Development Promotions Office head Mona Yap and Local Economic Investment and Promotions Office head Jay Gatmaitan. Also last week, Quezon City received several recognitions during the 2023 Urban Governance Exemplar Awards of the Department of the Interior and Local Government – NCR. /PHILSTAR.COM

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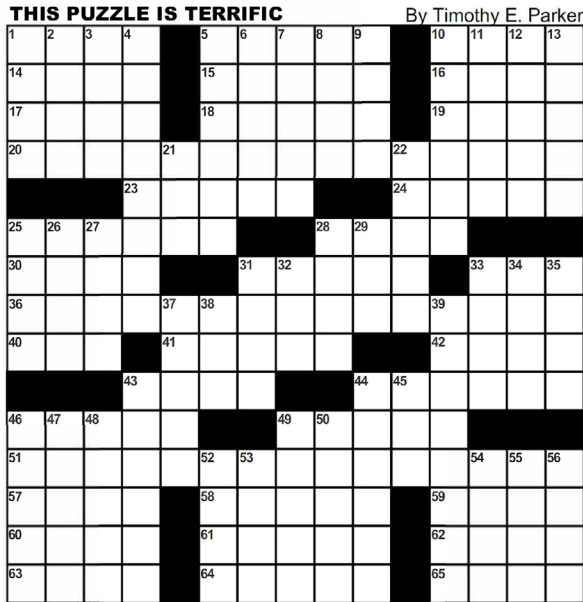
hockey team paid tribute to Perry, who spent much of his childhood in Ottawa, Canada. During an NHL game between the Nashville Predators and Toronto Maple Leafs today, the organist at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena played the Friends theme song in tribute to Perry. Saddened to learn about the passing of Matthew Perry, one of Ottawa's proudest sons and biggest hockey fan Warner Bros. TV, one of the production studios behind Friends, said Perry "was a true gift to us all". We are devastated to learn of Matthew Perry's passing. He was a true gift to us all. Our heart goes out to his family, loved ones, and all of his fans. Actor George Takei: What a tragic piece of news to read. My heart goes out

to his loved ones and long time cast mates. Director Joe Russo: Matthew Perry was all of our friend to the end. This one hurts. RIP. Piers Morgan remembered Perry as "a great actor" and said his autobiography Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing was "one of the most powerful, honest and revealing I've ever read". RIP Matthew Perry, 54. The Friends star was a great actor, but by his own admission, a very tortured guy. His recent autobiography about his addiction-ravaged life was one of the most powerful, honest and revealing I've ever read. Such sad news. Its course, and while the video does not confirm any damage, the incident highlighted the tense encounter.

"The statements made by China are not supported by evidence. Parang kinuha lang sa hangin (It's like they were pulled out of thin air)...the Unaiza May 2 were moving in a regular direction and it was the Chinese Coast Guard Vessel blocked the path," Jonathan Malaya, spokesperson for the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a press conference. "I think that kind of statement collapses in the face of overwhelming evidence," Malaya also said, referring to China's claims. The DFA said that it had summoned the Chinese ambassador, however, another embassy official stood in for Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian as he is currently away. /PHILSTAR.COM



CROSSWORD



ACROSS

- 1) Thing you can't make when bald
- 5) Cut dramatically, as prices
- 10) Make untidy, as hair
- 14) Dr. Frankenstein's assistant
- 15) "New Guinea" starter
- 16) spumante
- 17) Church part
- 18) Old knockout gas
- 19) Chinese currency
- 20) Seal hunter
- 23) Like some jackets
- 24) Some Boston pros, briefly
- 25) Era
- 28) Carpentry leveler
- 30) Man famed by elevators
- 31) Evidence
- 33) Vast amount
- 36) 115-pound brawlers
- 40) Secure one's shoes
- 41) Double-reed instruments
- 42) Gambler's "lady"
- 43) Final notice
- 44) Long, narrow strips
- 46) Kirby of "City Slickers"
- 49) Assumed name
- 51) Really great tidings
- 57) What this is
- 58) Smallest detectable sensation
- 59) Face-to-face exam
- 60) Particular breath mint
- 61) Grammar topic
- 62) "Us" or "them," in competitions
- 63) West enders?
- 64) One who goes for the gold?
- 65) Irate (with "off")

DOWN

- 1) Engine knock
- 2) Biology lab gel
- 3) Amble all over
- 4) Expanded essay
- 5) Discharged
- 6) Carpenter's machine
- 7) Food for a ladybug
- 8) Bird feeder fill
- 9) Aesop's also-ran
- 10) Utter confusion
- 11) Typical
- 12) Begin
- 13) Kitchen features
- 21) Tango quorum
- 22) Genre for 37-Down
- 25) Display a public notice
- 26) Vanity case for milady
- 27) Ready to pick
- 28) Some farm females
- 29) Weed uprooter
- 31) Novel staple
- 32) Place for a literary catcher
- 33) Not open or ajar
- 34) Carve in stone
- 35) Is inquisitive
- 37) Mechanical man or woman
- 38) J. Edgar Hoover's org.
- 39) Gorbachev's policy
- 43) Beginnings
- 44) Evildoer
- 45) Move one's tail
- 46) Italian bowling game
- 47) It can create long lines
- 48) 180 on the road
- 49) Male Madison Ave. employee
- 50) Feudal lord
- 52) Homecoming returnee
- 53) Not finalized, legally
- 54) Great Lakes city
- 55) Utilize hip boots
- 56) Winter vehicle

CITY OF BACORR NEWS

Awarding of DOLE-NEGOKART



Noong October 27, 2023, pinangunahan ni Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla ang pagbibigay ng Negokart sa 8 na Bacoreño na napili ng PUBLIC Employment Service Office (PESO) para mabigyan ng pangkabuhasan na programa ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

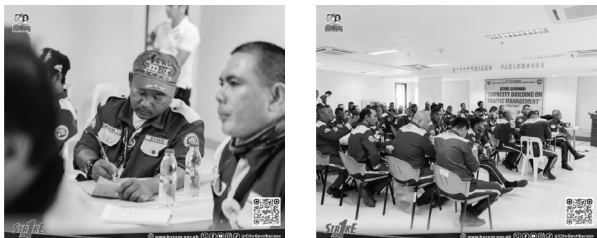


Ang pagpili sa mga nabigyan ng Negokart ay dumaan sa pagsusuri ng DOLE Cavite at ng DSWD Region IV-A. Ang PESO Bacoor naman sa pangunguna ni Dr. Abraham De Castro ang siya ring nag patunay na ang kanil-

ang napiling Bacoreño ay kwalipikadong mabigyan ng negosyo. Si Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla naman ang nagbigay ng paalala para mas lalong palaguin pa ang ibinigay na negosyo, dahil susi rin ito para makatulong sa Kani-kanilang pamilya. Dinaluhan naman ni Provincial Director Marivic Martinez – DOLE, Cavite ang turn over ng mga Negokart sa 8 benipisyaryo.

Patuloy naman ang pakikipag tunglung ng Pamahalaang Lungosod sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla katuwang ang opisina ni Cong. Lani M. Revilla sa mga National Agencies para matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga Bacoreño pagdating sa pagnenegosyo. As We Strike As One, Dahil sa Bacoor at Home ka Dito! / BACORR.GOV.PH

“Capacity Building on Traffic Management” tema sa nagdaang Seminar ng mga traffic enforcers ng Bacoor



Isinagawa noong October 23, 2023 ang seminar para sa mga traffic enforcers na may temang “Capacity Building on Traffic Management.” na pinangunahan ng BTMD OIC Head, Mr. Miguel “Mike” Bautista na ginanap sa Revilla Hall. Tinalakay sa seminar ang Fundamental of Traffic Management ad ang mga iba pang kalagahan ng batas trapiko sa ating Lung-sod. Nagbigay ng suporta ang ating City Administrator, Atty. Aimee Neri Torrefranca, habang nagbigay naman ng panayam sina Ms. Mary Jane B. Salibio, Mr. Antonio Pagulayan, Mr. Francis Angelo Eselaban, Mr. Maximo Tapangot, Mr. Edwin C. Manga, Ms. Amita DC. Llana, at Mr. Miguel E. Panal. /BACORR.GOV.PH

City Social Welfare & Development nag-organisa ng Seminar na may temang “Local Nutrition Action Plan”



Para sa mas malalim na talakayan ukol sa Malnutrisyon, inorganisa ng City Social Welfare & Development ang isang seminar – workshop na may ngalang “Local Nutrition Action Plan” Sa workshop na ito, binigyang pansin ang kahalagahan Pagsasanay tungkol sa Pagbuo ng Local Nutrition Plan, mga Update para sa PPAN 2023-2028 at ang Kalagayan ng Nutrisyon sa Bacoor City, Layunin nito na itaguyod ang tamang nutrisyon sa Bacoor at bawasan ang bilang ng malnutrisyon. /BACORR.GOV.PH

Public Employment Service Office (PESO) at DOLE PESO JOBSTART Philippines, Nilagdaan na ang kasunduan patungkol sa 10-Day Training ng mamayan ng Bacoor



Opisyal nang nilagdaan ng Pamahalaang Lungosod ng Bacoor katuwang ang Public Employment Service Office (PESO) ang kanilang kasunduan sa DOLE PESO JOBSTART Philippines noong October 25, 2023.

Sa ilalim ng kasunduan na ito, kasama ang Task Us Molino at Chin Su Philippines, magkakaroon ang mga mamamayan na nagnanais magkaroon ng trabaho ng 10-Day Training. Kasama sa mga benepisyo ng programang ito ang Allowance na may katumbas ng 75% ng minimum wage kung saan libre na ang pagkain at transportasyon, libre pa ang life skills at technical support para sa napiling kompanya.

Matapos ang sampung araw ng Immersion Program, ang lahat ng mga participants nito ay direktang makakapasok sa trabaho. Isa lamang itong patunay sa pagsusumikap ng Lokal na Pamahalaan, sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, na maging instrumento ng pag-angat at pag-unlad para sa kanilang mamamayan.

Higit sa lahat, ito rin ay naging posible sa kooperasyon at pagsusulong ng mga pribadong sektor na kinatawanan nina Ms. Beth Incabo – HR Director, Ms. Lara Delos Reyes – VP for Operation, at Mr. MJ Bilugan – Engagement and Experience Manager mula sa Task Us Molino, kasama si Ms. Rachelle Juico, HR ng Chin Su Philippines, at Dr. Abraham “Bob” De Castro, Head of PESO-Bacoor. /BACORR.GOV.PH

Malfuncions, missing names mar Dasmariñas, Cavite polls



DASMARIÑAS, Cavite — Hundreds of voters here complained to the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV) that they could not find their names in the voters list even if they have been active voters. The incident happened hours before the opening of precincts at Paliparan 3 Elementary School in this city. Liparan 3 Elementary School is one of the pilot areas for automated elections for the Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections. Voters said they were puzzled that their names were missing even if they had voted in previous elections. Some said they found names of dead relatives in the lists. “Four thirty a.m. pa kami. Hanggang ngayon ayun ang manugang ko nakapila para magtanong bakit wala ang pangalan namin doon, kailangan namin bomoto tapos wala ang aming pangalan, paano kami makaboto?” said Alejandra Yanag. (We have been here since 4:30 a.m. and until now, my in-law is still in line to ask why our names are not on the list. How will we vote?) “Kapag ganitong botohan ayusin nila yung mga pangalan para lahat maisasali sa pagboto,” said Rebecca Ranuco, another voter. (They should fix these lists so everybody can vote.)

“Nag-ikot na ako simula sa A hanggang letter E, wala talaga. Tuwing botohan naboto ako hindi ako na-absent ngayon lang po nangyari na wala ang aking pangalan,” Wilma Ramos said. (I have voted at every election. This is the first time that my name is not on the list) PPCRV: Lists came from Comelec PPCRV volunteer Karlo Rufin said they themselves do not know what to do because their list is based solely on information provided by the Commission on Elections (Comelec). “Nagbigay ang Comelec ng precinct finder ang lumalabas naman ay ‘no record found,’” he said. “Yung mga kamag-anak nilang patay yung nasa listahan pa pero sila na boboto, wala na po.” (They don’t have records in the precinct finder. Their dead relatives are in the list but the voters are not.)

Double registration? Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia said that the names of those not on the voters’ list may have been deactivated due to double or multiple registration. “Hindi lang siguro hinahanap nang mabuti. Di po ba pag-double or multiple, tatanggalin at tatanggalin natin? So, maaari po na isa sa kanila ang natanggal dahil nagpalipat sila ng registration,” said Garcia during his visit to Paliparan 3 Elementary School. (Maybe they didn’t search thoroughly. Don’t we remove double or multiple registrations? So, some of the entries may have been removed when they transferred registration.)

“Hindi nila kinancel yung registration sa dating pinagpaparehistrohan nila therefore kapag vinerify ng ating makina, yan dalawa ang makikita na fingerprint,” he added. (They did not cancel their previous registration, so when the machine verifies it, there will be two sets of fingerprints.) Because many could not find their names, many also decided to just go home without voting. Aside from the issue of missing names, Paliparan 3 Elementary School also experienced vote-counting machine (VCM) malfunctions, such as paper jams and overheating. The Comelec chief said they expected these problems because the VCMs are already quite old. Garcia added that the teachers already know what to do. But at Precinct 357, a ballot was torn after being ejected by the VCM. The ballot reportedly could not be read, so it was inserted in the machine again. On the second attempt, the ballot was torn when it was ejected again. / ABS-CBN News

6 NA PANALO, NATAMO NG CAVITE TEAM SA PCAP



Sunod-sunod na panalo ang nakuha ng Cavite Spartans sa Professional Chess Association of the Philippines (PCAP) Wesley So Cup na ginanap nitong Sabado, October 28, 2023 via Chess.com. Tinalo ng grupo ang mga teams ng Negros Oriental SAGAR Sports, 18-3; at Davao Durianburg Stallions, 13.5-7.5, na may finishing win-loss record na 11-3. Third place ang Spartans sa Northern Conference, habang nangunguna naman ang mga teams ng Pasig City (14-0) at San Juan (12-2). Tuloy-tuloy ang blitz ng Cavite Spartans sa rapid category sa pagtalo sa Negros Oriental bunga ng key victories nina Grandmaster Rogelio “Joey” Antonio Jr., Woman International Master Bernadette Galas, Jovert Valenzuela, Kevin Mirano Alexis Emil Maribao and Voltaire Marc Paraguya sa rapid category. “Despite the wide winning margin, both matches against Negros Oriental and Davao were really tough,” ayon kay Joel Del-fin, miyembro ng coaching staff ng Spartans. Dagdag niya, ang winning margin sa blitz category na 6-1 lead ang isa sa factors kung bakit tuluyang nanalo at nanguna ang Cavite Spartans. / GOCAVITEFACEBOOK

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Empowering Cavite Entrepreneurs through Coop i-CREATE Ladderized Training for Cooperatives



The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO), conducted a comprehensive seminar/workshop on September 5-8, and October 10, 2023, held in Happy Homes Housing Cooperative in Tanza, Cavite. Fifteen cooperatives embarked on the journey of entrepreneurial mind setting, skills development, strategic business plan and business plan presentation in a ladderized training program. The program aims to recognize aspiring entrepreneurs and provide them with comprehensive assistance to improve their abilities and expertise, enabling them to establish and run a sustainable, competitive business and offers individuals who aspire to start their own businesses alternative and profitable employment opportunities. Dr. Aldrin P. Antivola, Coop i-CREATE Resource Consultant, discussed the Business Plan Presentation Rules, and expressed his astonishment regarding the first ever housing operated by a cooperative, he also shared some invaluable insights on entrepreneurship. His dedication and commitment for uplifting individuals were evident as he motivated the participants to pursue success in their business endeavor. The 5th day of the seminar/workshop was the culmination of the 4-day training program. They presented their business plan to the panelists, showcasing the knowledge they acquired throughout the training. Among the panelists were Ms. Hannah Pateticco, Dr. Leo Manansala, Mr. Allan Reclusado and Dr. Zandro Catacutan. Dr. Benjamina Pereyra, Chairperson, Happy Homes Housing Cooperative, welcomed the participants and shared some inspirational thoughts and expertise. Meanwhile, Atty. Khervy B. Reyes, Officer-in-Charge of OPCDO, congratulated the graduates, organizers, and acknowledged the hard work and dedication of all that took part in the said program. During the graduation ceremony, fifteen cooperatives were given certificate of recognition. Best Business Plan award was given to Happy Homes Housing Cooperative with an average score of 96%. Closing message was delivered by Ms. Janice T. Burgos-Diesta, Senior Cooperative Development Specialist, highlighting the financial assistance as incentives to all graduates who completed the training. The resounding success of the event is a testament of mentorship, guidance and perseverance in achieving a specific goal. OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Last week's solution:

