

CASH GRANTS FOR RICE MORE PRACTICAL, EFFICIENT FOR DSWD, 4PS MEMBERS – SPOX

The current mode of providing rice subsidy through cash grants using the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) cash card is a more practical and efficient means both for the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the 4Ps beneficiaries, an agency official said on Wednesday (February 14).

“We have to be honest din po na may implied logistical nightmare ito should we decide to distribute rice instead of cash,” DSWD Asst. Secretary for Strategic Communications Romel Lopez said in an interview with Radyo5. (We have to be honest that this may imply a logistical nightmare should we decide distributing rice instead of cash.)

Asst. Sec. Lopez, who is also DSWD spokesperson, said the rice subsidy for 4Ps beneficiaries is given in cash to avoid queuing up to get their bags of rice during the distribution.

The Php600 monthly rice subsidy is given to qualified 4Ps members on top of their education and health grants upon compliance with specific behavioral conditions like sending their children to school, bringing them to health centers for regular check-ups, and attending the Family Development Sessions (FDS).

DA officials have proposed to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to convert the cash aid given to 4Ps beneficiaries into rice assistance to be supplied by the National Food Authority as “this will ease the price pressures of the market in terms of buying high-price rice.”

During the radio interview, Asst. Sec. Lopez said the DSWD is open to recommendations from partner stakeholders that will improve the implementation and delivery of programs for poor Filipino households under the 4Ps program “Tayo naman po sa DSWD lagi nating iginagalang any move, any suggestion that will improve iyon pong pagbibigay natin ng serbisyo sa ating mga beneficiaries including iyong ating mga 4Ps members,” the DSWD spokesperson told TV anchors Ted Failon and DJ Chacha.

(Well, we, at the DSWD, always respect any move or suggestion that will likely improve the services we provide to our beneficiaries, including our 4Ps members.)

The DSWD spokesperson explained that any recommendation that will amend the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the 4Ps, such as the proposal to provide actual bags of rice – instead of cash – to the 4Ps beneficiaries, needs the approval of the NAC member-agencies.

The NAC is composed of members from different government agencies that include the DSWD, the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), among others.

Asst. Sec Lopez assured the beneficiaries and partner-stakeholders that the DSWD is ready to implement the DA’s proposal once the 4Ps National Advisory Council (NAC) approves a resolution calling for actual rice distribution instead of the cash grant.

“If ito po ang mapagkakasunduan ng National Advisory Council, we will follow and we will implement,” Asst. Sec. Lopez told Radyo5.

(But then, if this is agreed upon by the National Advisory Council, we will follow and implement it.)

The DSWD spokesperson said the Department is a member of the technical working group (TWG) tasked to study the DA proposal.

“Studies and simulations are being done by the DA, taking into account the point of view of our 4Ps beneficiaries,” Asst. Sec Lopez pointed out.

The 4Ps, a flagship program of the DSWD, currently has 4.4 million household-beneficiaries nationwide.#

DSWD HIGHLIGHTS AGENCY’S FLAGSHIP PROGRAMS IN MONGOLIAN STUDY TOUR TO PH

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) highlighted its flagship social protection programs during the technical discussion of the Philippine study tour of the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP) of the government of Mongolia.

In her message, DSWD Undersecretary for National Household Targeting System (NHTS) and Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Vilma Cabrera told the Mongolian delegation the agency is honored to host the study visit that provides a great opportunity for both countries to share insights on implementing social protection programs and services.

“Your presence here signifies the strong bond between our nations and the mutual desire for knowledge sharing and understanding to improve the lives and well-being of our respective people,” Undersecretary Cabrera said as she led the DSWD team during the discussions held on Tuesday (February 13) at the DSWD Central Office.

The study tour was requested by the Mongolian government through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with the aim of having a learning dialogue and knowledge-sharing sessions with the country’s lead social protection agency, particularly on DSWD’s experiences in social protection.

Particularly, the Mongolian government is interested in understanding the DSWD’s 4Ps implementation and its interface with the graduation approach which can be very insightful for them.

“Over the course of your visit, you will have the opportunity to explore our flagship programs, or what we call here 4Ps, the biggest government’s conditional cash transfers that are provided to 4.4 million Filipino households,” Usec. Cabrera pointed out.

The DSWD team presented to the Mongolian delegation the agency’s major programs such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the Department’s flagship program for poverty reduction; the National Household Targeting System for Poverty Reduction which provides a standard targeting system for poor households; the Food Stamp Program (FSP) geared at mitigating involuntary hunger; and the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

“On the other hand, the SLP is a capacity-building program that provides access to opportunities to increase the productivity of the livelihood assets of the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized communities, helping them improve their socio-economic well-being,” Usec. Cabrera explained.

For its part, the Mongolian delegation provided DSWD officials with valuable insights and lessons learned in the implementation of their Food Stamp Program which will be very helpful for the agency as it is currently scaling up the FSP in the targeted pilot areas.

“We also thank everyone for choosing our country to share your experiences and expertise in the Mongolian Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, as we are willing also to share our insights into the different social protection programs,” Usec. Cabrera said.

As part of the study tour, the Mongolian delegation will also visit 4Ps and SLP sites in Iloilo to facilitate a more immersive and deeper understanding of the DSWD’s program implementation and achievements.

The Mongolian delegation headed by MLSP-Social Welfare Policy Implementation and Coordination Department Director Undral Bold is composed of social protection staff that include Social Insurance Department Senior Expert on Occupational Safety and Health Legislation, Agreements, and Conventions Tsevelmaa Jigjid; Policy and Planning Department Senior Specialist for Policy and Planning Chinmandakh Dukhlaibaatar; Public Administration and Management Department Senior Specialist in charge of Cooperation with International Organizations Tungalag Jargalsaikhan. Also representing the Mongolian government were General Office of Labor and Social Welfare (GOLSW) – Department of Social Welfare Services Director Chimegsuren Altangerel; 24th khoroo of the Bayanzurkh District Governor Batsukh Nyamaa; and Ulaanbaatar City Songinokhairkhan District Deputy Governor Undarmaa Dashdaraa. The ADB team which arranged the tour is composed of the following: Office of the Director General – East Asia Department Advisor Kelly Bird; East Asia Department Senior Social Sector Officer Itgel Lonjid; Human and Social Development Sector Office – Sectors Group Social Sector Specialist Amir Hamza Jilani; Sectors Group Social Development Specialist, Palak Rawal; ADB Consultant Joven Valenzuela, Jr.; and ADB Consultant Fatima Angela Marifosque.

Usec. Cabrera was joined by Undersecretary for Standards and Capacity Building Group (SCBG) Denise Fb Bernos Bragas; Assistant Secretary for NHTS and 4Ps Marites Maristela; 4Ps National Program Management Office (4Ps-NPMO) Director and National Program Manager Gemma B. Gabuya; Sustainable Livelihood Program Director Edmon B. Monteverde; Policy Development and Planning Bureau (PDPB) Director Rhodora G. Alday; Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau (SWIDB) Director IV Justin Caesar Anthony Batocabe; and SWIDB Assistant Bureau Director Edna J. Sacedor.

The Mongolian study tour to the Philippines started on February 12 and will culminate on February 17. #

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MANILA, Philippines — Vice President Sara Duterte yesterday thanked President Marcos for visiting the Davao region – her home province – to deliver aid to victims of flooding and landslide that left scores dead or injured.

“Thank you very much, President Bongbong Marcos, for all the help you extended to the affected areas throughout the Davao Region,” Duterte said in a statement.

“Caring for the life and general welfare of the citizens must remain

the priority,” she said.

In her statement, Duterte also reminded Mindanao residents to be always prepared for disasters so they could avoid or minimize loss of lives or damage to property.

Rains have been pummeling parts of Mindanao for weeks on and off, triggering flooding and landslides, forcing thousands of residents to flee to emergency shelters.

The Office of the Vice President said it continues to provide aid to residents in the Davao region, as it thanked re-

sponders for their “tireless efforts” at helping in search and rescue operations as well as in evacuating residents trapped in flooded areas.

Marcos and Duterte attended a series of events in Davao City – the bailiwick of the Duterte family – amid speculation that they no longer see eye-to-eye following a public tongue-lashing the President received from former president Rodrigo Duterte and Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte at a recent rally. Among the Dutertes, only the Vice President showed up to

welcome Marcos.

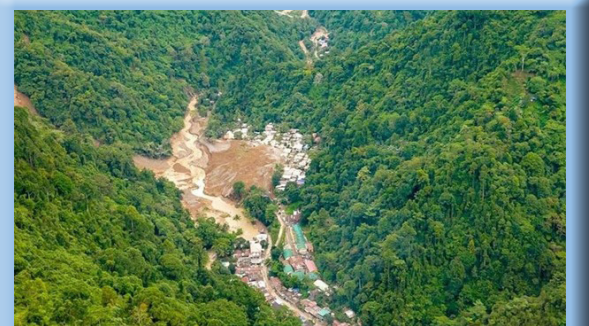
The former president, in a speech in Davao City, called Marcos a drug addict who was on the drug list of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, while Mayor Duterte demanded in a speech the resignation of the Chief Executive. Despite the verbal attack from the Dutertes, the President designated his Vice President and education chief to serve as caretaker during his trip to Vietnam. Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government, the Metro Manila De-

**SENATE
RESUMES
CHA-CHA
HEARINGS**

Turn on page 3

**BAHAY PINASOK:
5 ONLINE GAMER
IGINAPOS,
1 DINUKOT!**

Turn on page 3



**DEATH TOLL IN DAVAO
DE ORO LANDSLIDE
CLIMBS TO 27 AFTER
BURYING MINING
WORKERS**

Turn on page 2

Embracing Love: The Filipino Spirit on Valentine's Day

In the heart of every Filipino beats a rhythm of love, and on Valentine's Day, this rhythm crescendos into a symphony of affection and connection. Across the archipelago, amidst the bustling streets of Manila or the serene landscapes of Cebu, Filipinos celebrate love in its myriad forms, embodying a unique cultural perspective that blends tradition, romance, and resilience.

Valentine's Day in the Philippines is more than just a commercialized event; it is a deeply ingrained cultural phenomenon that reflects the nation's values of warmth, hospitality, and solidarity. Families gather, friends exchange tokens of appreciation, and couples express their devotion in heartfelt gestures. However, beyond the romantic allure, Valentine's Day in the Philippines is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of its people.

In a country often challenged by economic hardships and natural calamities, Filipinos

have mastered the art of finding joy in simplicity and strength in unity. This resilience is mirrored in their approach to love – steadfast, enduring, and unwavering in the face of adversity. Couples weather storms together, families stand by each other through thick and thin, and communities rally around those in need, exemplifying the true essence of love and compassion.

Moreover, Filipino culture infuses Valentine's Day with a rich tapestry of traditions and customs. From the exchange of "harana" or serenades to the ubiquitous presence of "balik-bayan" boxes filled with gifts from abroad, each tradition adds depth and meaning to the celebration. Even in the digital age, where social media and online communication dominate, Filipinos maintain a personal touch, preferring handwritten letters and face-to-face interactions to express their affections.

At its core, Valentine's Day in the Philippines is a reminder to cherish the connections that

enrich our lives – romantic, familial, and platonic. It is a day to celebrate love in all its forms and to honor the bonds that unite us as a nation. In a world often plagued by division and discord, the Filipino spirit of bayanihan, or communal unity, shines brightly on this day, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration for people around the globe.

As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us embrace the Filipino spirit of love – resilient, inclusive, and overflowing with warmth. Let us cherish our loved ones, express gratitude for the blessings in our lives, and extend a hand of kindness to those in need. For in the end, love is the greatest gift we can give and receive, transcending borders, languages, and cultures, and uniting us in a shared journey of compassion and connection.

- **ANG KABITENYA**

SARA...

velopment Authority (MMDA) and the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) announced that they have mobilized to address the water needs of the devastated communities in Mindanao.

Interior Secretary Benhur Abalos said they have sent water purification teams and equipment to address the lack of potable water in affected areas.

The MMDA said it is set to deliver 90 portable water purification machines, which can process 180 gallons of potable water per hour for drinking, cooking, cleaning and washing. It has already delivered

60 solar-powered water purifiers.

In a statement, the MMDA also revealed deploying 30 personnel from the Public Safety Division, Road Emergency Group and Flood Control and Sewerage Management Office to affected regions.

The PRC, for its part, said it has deployed two water tankers to Mindanao to help communities that lost access to clean and safe drinking water.

PRC chairman Richard Gordon said 8,327 individuals have benefited from 44,200 liters of water distributed in Davao de Oro and Davao del

Norte.

"This is why provision of clean water is among the standard response of PRC to communities affected by disasters," he said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Red Cross volunteers assisted in the search and rescue of passengers of three buses buried in a landslide in Barangay Masara in Maco town.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said massive flooding and landslides in the region have killed 17 people and hurt 11 others.

/ **PHILSTAR.COM**

DEATH...

MANILA, Philippines — More casualties are being tallied by government officials following a deadly landslide that occurred in Maco, Davao de Oro that buried two buses carrying workers of Apex Mining Co. Inc.

The fatalities from the incident last Tuesday have since risen to 27, according to data shared to the media by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) on Saturday.

Among the 151 casualties include:

- dead: 27
- injured: 35
- missing: 89

"A total of 1,315 families / 5,318 persons in 4 barangays in Maco, Davao de Oro were affected," said the NDRRMC in a statement.

"A total of 62 houses were totally damaged."

A two-month-old infant and and 3-year-old child were earlier rescued by officials from the Philippine Red Cross after being under the rubble of the landslide for over three days.

Progressive worker's group Kilusang Mayo Uno last Friday demanded for an independent investigation regarding the incident to figure out if the large scale mining operations and labor practices of Apex contributed to the immense number of deaths.

Amihan and LPA On Wednesday, Apex Mining Co. attributed the landslide to the heavy rains that poured on Brgy. Masara in Maco in the last two weeks.

From Page 1

From Page 1

Bridging Health Gaps at Dasmariñas City Jail



The Office of the Provincial Governor, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), led the medical and dental mission at the Dasmariñas City Jail on January 26, 2024. The mission sought to address the healthcare needs of persons deprived of liberty (PDL), aiming to uplift their overall well-being and provide essential medical and dental services.

Recognizing the challenges faced by correctional facilities in ensuring comprehensive healthcare for its population, the provincial government took proactive steps to extend a helping hand to those in need, emphasizing the importance of accessible healthcare services regardless of one's legal status.

Healthcare professionals from OPHO and Dasmariñas City Health Office, including doctors, nurses, and dentists, collaborated to provide a range of services, from basic check-ups to more specialized medical attention to 372 PDLs. The mission aimed not only to treat existing health issues but also to prevent the escalation of potential medical problems.

In addition to the health benefits, the mission fostered a sense of hope and humanity within the correctional facility. It demonstrated that, regardless of one's circumstances, everyone deserves access to basic healthcare. The compassionate outreach by the provincial government also emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and reintegration into society, recognizing the potential for positive change even in the most challenging environments.

SOURCE: OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Mga aktibidad ng PSA Calabarzon para sa civil registration month, kasado na

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) — Hinihikayat ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Calabarzon ang publiko na makilahok sa mga aktibidad na inilatag ng kanilang ahensya para sa obserbasyon ng Civil Registration Month sa darating na buwan ng Pebrero.

Sa panayam kay Marife Bautista, registration officer ng PSA Calabarzon, sa programang PIA Ngayon R4A, sinabi nito na nakahanda na ang kanilang ahensya para sa pagdiriwang ng Civil Registration Month na may tema ngayong taon na "CRVS: The Future of Seamless Services".

Aniya, "seamless services" ang ginamit na termino upang maipabatid ang pagbibigay ng isang maayos at mahusay na serbisyo publiko.

Ayon kay Bautista, bibigyang daan ng pagdiriwang ang pagpapalaganap ng impormasyon patungkol sa kahalagahan ng pagrerehistrong sibil sa mga kapanganakan, kasal, kamatayan, gayundin ang pagsasaayos sa mga anghangkop na dokumento.

Dagdag ni Bautista, inatasan na ng PSA Calabarzon ang kanilang mga katuwang na local civil registrars sa rehiyon na magsagawa rin ng mga kaugnay na aktibidad.

Sisimulan ang pagdiriwang sa pamamagitan ng isang fun walk na gaganapin sa unang araw ng Pebrero. Isang exhibit din aniya ang bubuksan sa publiko tampok ang mga mahahalagang impormasyon patungkol sa civil registration at vital statistics.

Ilan pa sa mga aktibidad na nakalinya sa buwan ng Pebrero ang pagkakaloob ng libreng civil registry documents, pagsagawa ng seminars, civil registration quiz bee para sa mga local civil registry employees, poster making at slogan making contest, at iba pa.

Dagdag pa ni Bautista, maraming lokal na pamahalaan ang nag-iimbiba sa kanilang ahensya upang maging saksi sa mga isinasagawang kasalang bayan na malaking tulong sa mga mamamayan lalo na sa mag-asawang nais mapagtibay ang kanilang pagsasama.

Binigyang-diin pa nito ang kahalagahan ng pagtatalang sibil sapagkat malaking tulong ito sa pagkikilanlan at sa pagkakaroon ng legal na dokumento na kailangan ng isang tao lalo na sa kasalukuyan. (BPDC, PIA Batangas)

Governors, LGUs told to prioritize national ID use

MANILA, Philippines — Interior and Local Government Secretary Benhur Abalos has ordered all governors, city and municipal mayors, including those in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, to prioritize the Philippine Identification (Phil ID) or the national ID and its electronic format (e-Phil ID) on the list of accepted identification documents.

Abalos issued Memorandum Circular-2024-014 directing all local government units (LGUs) to support the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) as mandated by Republic Act 11055.

"Republic Act 11055, otherwise known as the Philippine Identification System Act, mandates the establishment of a single national identification system to register all Filipinos and resident aliens in the Philippines," he said.

He added that the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and other partner government agencies are exerting all efforts to ensure that the Phil ID and e-Phil ID are used and considered in the list of valid identification requirements.

"All provincial governors, city and municipal mayors are hereby enjoined to support the implementation of the PhilSys and require the Phil ID and e-Phil ID to be placed on top of the list of accepted of identification documents for various government transactions, including availing government programs," Abalos said in his memorandum. PSA chief Dennis Mapa has said that about 81 million Filipinos have already registered with the national ID, with 39.7 million physical IDs delivered to the owners while 40.8 million or half of those registered have digital or e-Phil ID. Mapa added that the PSA is expected to complete processing all physical national IDs by September.

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian has lamented that while identification has been expanded to accept barangay clearance, person with disability and senior citizens IDs, the cleaning process of these cards is still not regular as not all LGUs clean up their database.

Gatchalian said that the national ID is not yet accepted at the Land Bank of the Philippines even though it is the government bank.

From Page 1

Government workers for 10 years may earn civil service eligibility

MANILA, Philippines — Job order (JO), contractual, casual and co-terminus employees who have been working in the government for at least 10 aggregate years may now apply for civil service eligibility, according to the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Resolution No. 2301123 promulgated on Dec. 7, 2023 covers the "JOCOSC6" workers, or those under the JO, Contract of Service, Casual, Contractual, Coterminous status holding Category III and Category IV positions and career service employees with first level eligibility who may now apply for Career Service Eligibility – Preference Rating (CSE-PR).

To qualify, applicants need to have accumulated a minimum of 10 years of service in the government as JOCOSC6, along with a performance rating of at least very satisfactory or its equivalent in the two most recent rating periods before the application date for eligibility.

Moreover, the JOCOSC6 workers interested in availing themselves of the CSE-PR must take the scheduled civil service examinations beginning March 3 and thereafter, at either professional or sub-professional levels must obtain a general rating not lower than 70.

Under the resolution, those who are granted the CSE-PR, shall have 10 points automatically added to their failed civil service examination ratings of at least 70 to achieve the passing rate of 80, thereby qualifying them for career service professional or sub-professional eligibility.

Lastly, the application for the grant of CSE-PR must be filed using the appropriate application form with complete requirements within six months from the date of release of the results of the civil service exam taken.

CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles clarified that individuals can only avail themselves of the CSE-PR grant once.

"We are mindful, however, of the need to uphold meritocracy in the hiring process and to ensure that the quality of government service will not be compromised. Therefore, the conferment of CSE-PR will go through a meticulous process so that only those who are truly qualified may avail of this privilege," he added.



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PROGRAMA NG SM FOUNDATION PARA SA MAGSASAKA, INILUNSD SA BAGUIO, BENGUET



Ang paglulunsad ng KSK sa Sitio Liw-liw, Tuba, Benguet

Sa layuning mapalakas ang sektor ng agrikultura sa bansa, muling naglunsad ang SM Foundation ng kanilang programang Kabalik at sa Kabuhayan.

Ang nasabing programa ay inilunsad sa Sitio Liw-liw, Tuba, Benguet; Brgy. Calamay, Sablan, Benguet; at Purok 1, Happy Hollow, Baguio City.

Sa pamamagitan ng proyektong ito, layon ng SM Foundation na bigyang bagong sigla ang sektor ng agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng pagpapalakas at pagtuturo ng karagdagang kaalaman tungkol sa mga modernong teknolohiya, pagne-negosyo, at iba't iba pang aspeto ng pagsasaka.



Ang mga kalahok ng KSK training sa Happy Hollow, Baguio City

ng SM Foundation ay patuloy na nagbibigay-halaga sa pag-unlad ng sektor ng agrikultura at nagsusumikap na maging katuwang ng mga magsasaka sa pagtataguyod ng sapat na pagkain at agripreneurship sa bansa.

Simula ng ilunsad ni Henry "Tatang" Sy, Sr. noong 2008, mahigit 28,000 na magsasaka na ang naka-pagtapos sa nasabing programa.



Brgy. Bayabos, Sablan Benguet

CELEBRATE LOVE: TOP 5 EXPERIENCES AWAIT AT SM BY THE BAY THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

Get fully absorbed in the celebration of love as Valentine's Day (V-Day) takes center stage! Whether you're dating exclusively, getting to know each other, in a relationship, happily married, or purely want to celebrate love with family and friends, explore these five fun V-Day activities that SM By the Bay Amusement Park has to offer.

MOA EYE. Enjoy an intimate V-Day date with the stellar view of the Manila Bay sunset from the MOA Eye. Book a ride at one of the four VIP gondolas, adorned with lights and flowers, for an extra sweet celebration of Valentine's Day and the perfectly-timed International Ferris Wheel Day from February 12 until the end of the month.

Get VIP gondola tickets for only 250php, while regular tickets are priced at 200php



Treat your special someone to a V-Day ride on the MOA Eye and soak in the breathtaking views.

CRUISE BY THE BAY. Witness the breathtaking sunset and city lights at night as you cruise along Manila Bay with your special someone, friends, or family. Fall in love with the unobstructed Manila skyline view while feeling the cool breeze against your skin. Tickets for the boat ride are priced at 200php for a 30-minute ride.



Cruise Manila Bay at sunset, creating unforgettable memories with loved ones.

Celebrating Valentine's Day at SM By the Bay Amusement Park is sure to ignite your romance, strengthen bonds, and celebrate togetherness while creating #HappyMemoriesInLove

SM By the Bay Amusement Park is open daily from 1PM to 12MN, and on weekends and holidays from 1PM to 1AM. Ride-All-You-Can tickets are available on



DROP TOWER: Experience the thrill of gravity at the Drop Tower ride! This heart-racing ride towers 40 feet high, lifting passengers to the top before releasing them to free fall, intensifying the excitement. Let this exhilarating experience, for only 120php, make you scream your heartache away.



Defy gravity and unleash your inner thrill-seeker on the Drop Tower ride.

LOLLY SWING. Have fun with your family, friends, and special someone on the Lolly Swing ride. This colorful, candy-themed ride features a unique swing with a bucket seat, providing a sweet ride as it rotates, raises you in the air, and swings. Enjoy a ride on the Lolly Swing for only 60php.



Go on an adventure with loved ones aboard the Lolly Swing ride.

CAROUSEL. Experience the magic of the Grand Carousel ride, perfect for kids and kids-at-heart. For only 60php, create fairy-tale memories as you enjoy the charm of riding a genuine antique horse on this classic and timeless ride. It's a truly romantic ride that delights the heart.



Take a spin on the Grand Carousel and let love whisk you and your loved ones away this Valentine's Day!

BAHAY...

CAVITE, Philippines — Pinasok ng pitong hinihinalang miyembro ng "Akyat-Bahay Gang" ang isang bahay saka iginapos ang limang lalaki na abala sa paglalaro ng "online games" at kinulimbat ang mahigit P.4-milyong halaga ng pera at ka-gamitan saka tinangay sa kanilang pagtak-as ang isa sa mga biktima at maging ang sasakyan nito, kamakalawa sa isang pribadong subdibisyon sa lungsod ng Bacoor.

Kinilala ng Bacoor City Police ang mga biktima na sina Abe Joule Jimenez, 23, binata, online gamer, residente ng Almond St., Meadowood Village, Panapaan VIII, Bacoor City; kapatid na si Jed Xiann Jimenez, 27, binata, online gamer, ng Mabilis St., Pinyahan, Quezon City; Jimi Hendrix Liquido, 24, binata, online gamer, ng Kalayaan Avenue, Brgy. Central, Quezon City; John dela Cruz, 27, binata, ng Almond St., Meadowood Village, Brgy. P.E Espiritu 5, Bacoor City, Cavite at Jumar Orlina, 28, binata, utility man, ng Almond St., Meadowood, Brgy. P.F Espiritu 5, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Dalawa sa pitong suspek ang naaresto na tinukoy lang ng pulisya sa mga alias na "Kent", 24-anyos, tubong Tondo, Manila, at "Mark", 35, may-asawa, Grab driver, tubong Tandang, Surigao del Sur; pawang residente ng 116B Juan Luna St. 16* ISU Village, Brgy. Pinagsama, Taguig City.

From Page 1

Limang suspek na kasamahan nina alias Kent at Mark ang patuloy na tinutugis ngayon ng pulisya.

Sa ulat ng Bacoor City Police, naganap ang pagnanakaw nitong Pebrero 3 ng alas-11:30 ng gabi pero nadiskubre lang ito ng Pebrero 5 ng alas-4:40 ng madaling araw sa ginawang operasyon sa Blk. 5 Lot 16 Almond St. Meadowood Village, Panapaan 6, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Lumalabas na mga nakagapos pa nang datnan ng mga police rescuers ang apat sa limang biktima sa nasabing lugar.

Sa ulat, pinasok ng pitong suspek ang bahay nina Abe sa nasabing village kung saan mga naglalaro ng online games ang limang biktima. Agad silang tinutukan ng baril at isa-isang iginapos gamit ang duct tape.

Mabilis na nilimas ng mga suspek ang mga pera, alahas, cellphone, at iba pang gadgets ng mga biktima na nasa mahigit kumulang na P400,000 ang halaga.

Bago umalis sa lugar, isinama pa ng mga suspek ang isa sa mga biktima na si Abe at tinangay din ang kotse nito na putting Honda Accord na may plakang PIH-118 na kanilang ginamit sa pagtakas.

Gayunman, naharang ng mga operatiba ng Taguig City Police Station ang nasabing sasakyan sanhi upang maaresto ang dalawang suspek dahil sa paglabag sa PD

From Page 1

MANILA, Philippines — Lower pump prices for petroleum products are expected next week, with the Department of Energy-Oil Industry Management Bureau assistant director Rodela Romero estimating an oil price decrease of around P1 to P1.20 per liter for gasoline, P0.40 to P0.60 per liter for diesel, and P0.45 to P0.65 per liter for kerosene.

Last Tuesday, pump prices increased by P0.75 per liter for gasoline, P1.50 per liter for diesel, and P0.75 to P0.80 for kerosene.

However, Romero said trading yesterday might change the estimates.

The buildup of US crude inventories, increase of US oil production and the slowing oil demand growth caused the rollback, she said.

"The following reasons make the oil market on a bullish mode, namely the Israel-Hamas tension, the production cut of OPEC member countries and India's oil demand growth," Romero said.

The decrease was predicted following a four-day trading of

SENATES...

MANILA, Philippines — As a Senate panel resumes today its second hearing on moves to amend the economic provisions of the Constitution, Sen. Francis Escudero is hoping everyone calms down, and the process can continue with respect from both chambers.

Escudero said the chamber has started discussion on Resolution of Both Houses 6 (RBH6) as part of the process, thus he hopes the House of Representatives would respect and not rush senators.

Some congressmen are urging the senators to come up with a decision by March.

"It is not good for these two institutions to continue attacking each other, which has become personal between some members of the Senate and the House. Personally, I hope everyone calms down. Let the process continue with respect, not only for the individual, but also for the institution which includes both sides, whether it be the Senate or the House," he said in an interview over the weekend on dzBB

Escudero said the impasse between the Senate and the House might also affect the confidence of investors and the business sector in placing more investments into the country.

"All the noise in any country gives fear to any businessman who invests," the senator noted.

The Senate subcommittee on constitutional amendments and revision of codes, chaired by Sen. Sonny Angara, is set to hold the second public hearing for RBH6, which seeks to amend certain economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution, specifically with the public utilities and education sector, and the advertising industry.

Escudero pointed out the officials of the executive departments have yet to give their insights on the issue. He said he has not heard any reports or meeting called to discuss the matter.

"I don't know where those three (issues) came from, I know that it was the product of a conversation between Senate President (Migz) Zubiri, Speaker (Martin) Romualdez. I don't know if there's a study, if there's data.

From Page 1

Honestly, I have not seen any study that says that if we open up the advertising industry, our economy will grow and foreign investors will flock to our country. If so, we will open those three. As for public utilities, it's still possible," Escudero added.

During its first hearing, the subcommittee invited resource persons representing both proponents and opponents of amending the 37-year-old Charter.

Angara yesterday urged the public to follow the ongoing hearings on RBH6, in order to have a better understanding of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, which may be tackled in a future plebiscite.

Over 20 resource persons, including business executives, legal experts and government officials have confirmed their attendance to the hearing.

"The upside of these hearings and this process is that it is very transparent. The public can watch them in real-time on the Senate's YouTube channel, or whenever they're free," Angara said.

"We can hear the opinions and views of legal and economic experts, and these will help voters form their own views about the need to amend our Constitution," he added.

"It would help if, this early, voters can familiarize themselves with the pros and cons of amending the economic provisions of the Constitution, as they may have to vote on these changes that could have a direct impact on their lives," Angara explained.

Angara invited the public to weigh in on the discussion by emailing their questions, concerns, or comments to angara.sonny@gmail.com so that the Senate can hear directly from the people.

He reiterated his position that the plebiscite could be held together with the 2025 national and local elections, and said voters would be capable of deciding on Charter change while choosing their next leaders.

"If we have faith in the ability of our voters to discern who to vote for, then we should be confident in the capacity of our countrymen to determine whether changes in our Constitution will be advantageous for them," Angara said.

House "happy" with Cha-cha spotlight

Allies of President Marcos in the House of Representatives are grateful that the decades-long issue of amending the prohibitive economic provisions in the 1987 Constitution has now gained national prominence, as the Senate is expected to act on it.

"At least we're very happy that the issue of Charter change is now being discussed nationally. There were already moves to amend the Constitution as early as the 10th Congress (1995-1998) during the time of then-president Ramos," Rep. LRay Villafuerte recalled.

"Right now, at least it (Charter change) is in the forefront of discussion nationally. Whether they are negative or positive, at least we're having a discourse about constitutional reform," the Camarines Sur congressman and president of the National Unity Party added.

The senior Bicolano administration legislator is confident something good will come out of the controversy, especially since no less than Marcos has already endorsed the lifting of economic restrictions in the Charter.

"What is clear right now is there should be a change in the Constitution for us to be updated globally. I think nobody will disagree with that. Those saying that we don't need it, they have to justify it," Villafuerte reiterated.

"Do we wait for another decade and miss the boat? Should we wait for Laos, Cambodia, Burma to overtake us before we act?" the former House deputy speaker asked.

Another lawmaker, Rep. Lex Anthony Cris Colada of party-list AAMBIS-OWA, commended Marcos' initiative to amend the Constitution's restrictive economic provisions, highlighting the urgent need for such reforms.

He said economic changes are crucial for facilitating foreign direct investments and fostering faster, more inclusive economic growth, which directly impacts the well-being of every Filipino from all social classes. —**PHILSTAR.COM**

IN LABOR By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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57					58					59		
60					61					62		
63										64		

freedailycrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) Make pigtailed
- 6) Trendy place to go downhill
- 11) Agent for trips?
- 14) Wavelike design
- 15) Brahman, for one
- 16) Ring bearer, often
- 17) Busy bodies?
- 19) Card to keep
- 20) Apple leftover
- 21) "Four" at the fore
- 23) Movie theater purchase
- 27) Knight to remember
- 29) Many have chapters
- 30) Erase
- 31) Claims on homes, e.g.
- 32) Chops finely
- 33) Nipper's co.
- 36) Damed thing
- 37) This makes five in this puzzle
- 38) Broadway star Verdon
- 39) Hurricane heading, sometimes
- 40) Popular game
- 41) Beside
- 42) California county
- 44) Far from eager
- 45) Opens a map
- 4 7) More expressionless, as astare
- 48) Hauled away
- 49) Exec, in slang
- 50) "How was _ know?"
- 51) Computer user's locale
- 58) Dog that's far from apurebred
- 59) Arctic inhabitant
- 60) Event with cowboys andlassos
- 61) Inquire
- 62) Requires
- 63) Brenda who was drawn out

DOWN

- 1) Mercedes competitor
- 2) "Winnie-the-Pooh" baby
- 3) Requirement for a useful balloon
- 4) Aggravate
- 5) Some church officers
- 6) Squash type
- 7) Ad headline, often
- 8) Letters on tires
- 9) "Yadda, yadda, yadda"
- 10) Snuggles down
- 11) It's done in some tanneries
- 12) Pelvic bones
- 13) Apprehension
- 18) _ d'oeuvre (appetizer)
- 22) "Dig in!"
- 23) Sign of life
- 24) Bermuda vegetable
- 25) Complicated, eccentric person
- 26) Bop on the head
- 27) Little leapin' lizard
- 28) Pub offerings
- 30) Funeral hymn
- 32) Ding_ (doorbell sounds)
- 34) Perfume by burning
- 35) Rage
- 37) Breeze component
- 38) Hidden valley
- 40) Variety of apple
- 41) Images representing posters
- 43) Lobster eggs
- 44) Came down to earth
- 45) Central New York town
- 46) "We didn't do it!"
- 47) Some sculptures
- 49) Prepare to crash
- 52) Half and half
- 53) Have regrets
- 54) "Sesame Street" viewer
- 55) Potato state (abbr.)
- 56) " _ the ramparts ... "
- 57) Word partnered with "neither"

CITY OF BACOOR NEWS

ZUMBA BREAK: EMPLEYADO NG BACOOR CITY NAGKAISA KASAMA SI MAYOR STRIKE AT VICE MAYOR WENA PARA SA MALUSOG AT ENERGETIC NA SERBISYO



Sa layuning itaguyod ang malusog at aktibong puwersa ng mga manggagawa, nag-organisa ang Human Resources Development and Management Department (HRDMD) ng Bacoor City ng espesyal na kaganapan na tinawag na “Zumba Break.” Dumalo sa aktibidad sina Mayor Strike B. Revilla at Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola.

Ang pangunahing mga kalahok sa kaganapan ay walang iba kundi ang dedikadong mga empleyado ng Bacoor City. Layunin nila na panatiliing malusog ang kanilang katawan at magbigay ng mas magandang serbisyo sa komunidad, kaya’t regular silang nagpapraktis ng zumba dalawang beses sa isang araw. Ang mga sesyon ay ginaganap sa ganap na 10:00 AM sa umaga at 3:00 PM sa hapon.

Naganap ito sa Bacoor Government Center Building noong ika-13 ng Pebrero, 2024. Ang maluwang at masayang lugar ay nagbigay ng tamang ambience para magtipon ang mga empleyado at magsaya sa isang puno ng enerhiya na sesyon ng zumba. Lalo pang nagningning ang atmospera sa pagdating nina Mayor Strike at Vice Mayor Wena, na aktibong nakilahok sa kaganapan.

Ang Zumba Break ay hindi lamang nagsilbing platforma para sa pisikal na aktibidad kundi nagpalaganap din ng pagkakaisa at samahan sa mga empleyado ng lungsod. Ito ay isang makasaysayang okasyon kung saan nagkaisa ang lahat, mula sa mga pinakamataas na opisyal hanggang sa masisipag na mga tauhan, upang bigyang-pansin ang kanilang kalusugan at kabutihan.



A coming of RAGE love story about a teenager and her crush, who happens to be a corpse. After a set of horrific circumstances bring him back to life, the two embark on a journey to find love, happiness - and a few missing body parts.



Last week's solution:

BLOCKADE By Timothy E. Parker

S	P	E	C	S	M	B	A	A	G	H	A	S
E	A	S	E	L	Y	O	U	B	U	I	L	T
L	I	A	N	A	N	O	D	A	N	N	I	E
F	R	U	S	T	R	A	T	I	O	N	D	N
					E	T	A			O	R	D
T	R	I	D	E	N	T	S	B	O	N	A	
H	E	M			D	I	R	T		N	O	N
R	A	P	S		S	I	R	E	S	S	C	U
U	P	E	N	D		G	I	A	N	T	E	R
					D	I	E	D		P	H	A
S	N	I	P	P	E	T				F	A	N
C	A	M			O	B	S	T	R	U	C	T
A	V	E	R	S		A	R	E		T	I	T
L	A	N	C	E		R	U	N		O	M	E
A	L	T	A	R		S	E	T		R	E	M

Commemorating the 60th Death Anniversary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo



On the solemn occasion of the 60th Death Anniversary of General Emilio Aguinaldo, the people of Kawit, Cavite, along with esteemed guests and representatives from various sectors, gather on February 6, 2024, at the historic Aguinaldo Shrine to pay tribute to the memory of one of the Philippines’ most illustrious leaders.

The commemorative program commenced at 8:00 in the morning with a Holy Mass, officiated by Reverend Father Efrén Bugayong, parish priest of St. Mary Magdalene Church, highlighting the spiritual aspect of this significant occasion.

Following the mass, the Philippine Navy, accompanied by the Naval Base Cavite Band and the Kawit Police Force/Cavite Tourist Police Unit, orchestrate the hoisting of the Philippine Flag - a symbol of unity and patriotism.

As part of the ceremony, wreaths were laid and flowers were offered at the tomb of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, marking a gesture of respect and remembrance for his invaluable contributions to the nation.

The program culminated with the blessing of the tomb by Reverend Father Efrén Bugayong, symbolizing the eternal honor bestowed upon Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo’s legacy.

In attendance were Ms. Rozelle Sangalang, Provincial Tourism Officer and representative of Cavite Provincial Governor Jonvic Remulla, along with local leaders from the Municipal Government of Kawit. Also present were members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Navy, Department of Education, Kawit Association of Barangay Captains and SK Federation, and the esteemed family of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo headed by Ms. Emilie A. Pulido.--- AC Cabrera

3 HVI, 1 minor arestado sa P2.8 milyong shabu

CAVITE , Philippines — Arestado ang apat katao kabilang ang isang menor-de-edad na ginamit ng mag-dyo-wang suspek sa pagtutulak ng droga sa magkasunod na drug operation ng pulisya sa Dasmariñas City. Alas-2:30 ng hapon sa isang parking lot ng fast food chain sa Brgy. Paliparan 3, isinagawa ang unang buy-bust -operation ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Regional Drug Enforcement Unit 4A, Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, Dasmariñas City Police Station, PNP Drug Enforcement Unit 4A at Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency kung saan naaresto ang magdyowang sina alias “Popoy”, 42, at “Madie”, 38-anyos, at ang 16-anyos na si alias “Khalix”; pawang residente ng Brgy. San Dionisio ng nasabing lungsod.

Kasama ang magd-yowang suspek sa mga High Value Individuals (HVI) list na target ng pulisya. Nakuha sa kanila ang mahigit 200 gramo ng shabu na P1,360,000 ang halaga at 7 kilong marijuana na may halagang P840,000.

Kasunod nito, alas-8:00 naman ng gabi nang masabat ng pulisya ang isa pang big-time na tulak na si alias “Bryan”, HVI, ng Brgy. Zone 4, Dasmariñas City sa ikinasang buy-bust operation ng Dasmariñas Police Drug Enforcement Unit. Narekober sa kanya ang isang medium size na plastic na naglalaman ng 100 gramo ng shabu na may halagang P680,000.

Chinese vessels shadow Philippine ship in Panatag Shoal



MANILA, Philippines — China Coast Guard (CCG) vessels performed dangerous and blocking maneuvers against the BRP Teresa Magbanua during its nine-day patrol at Panatag or Scarborough Shoal from Feb. 1 to 9, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) reported yesterday.

During its mission, the BRP Teresa Magbanua also distributed food packs and groceries to 100 Filipino fishermen who were on board 14 fishing boats and engaged in fishing activities at Panatag, also referred to as Bajo de Masinloc.

“These CCG vessels shadowed the PCG vessel on more than 40 occasions, with the closest distance being 176 meters from its side. The CCG vessels performed dangerous and blocking maneuvers at sea against BRP Teresa Magbanua four times, with the CCG vessels crossing the bow of the PCG vessel twice, recklessly,” said Commodore Jay Tristan Tarriela, spokesman for the PCG-West Philippine Sea.

At 1:26 p.m. on Feb. 8, a CCG vessel reportedly blocked and conducted a dangerous maneuver by passing from the left side to directly in front of Teresa Magbanua. Tarriela said that the four CCG vessels had bow numbers 3105, 3302, 3063 and 3064.

PCG spokesperson Rear Admiral Armand Balilo said

that there were only “the usual shadowing and radio challenges. But there was no water canon incident.”

“BRP Teresa Magbanua professionally engaged the Chinese maritime ships through radio, reiterating the clear and principled position of the Philippines in accordance with international law,” he added.

The dispatch of the BRP Teresa Magbanua was in line with the instructions given by the PCG Commandant’s Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan, “to ensure safety and safeguard Filipino fishermen in the area,” Balilo said.

Also spotted in Scarborough Shoal were four Chinese maritime militia vessels.

Tarriela said that the CCG “once again” disregarded the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea.

“The activities of the Filipino fisherfolk and of the PCG in the area are consistent with national laws and the Philippines’ position on the West Philippine Sea,” he added.

The Filipino fishermen reportedly expressed their gratitude to the PCG, and added that the presence of PCG vessels enhanced their confidence to continue fishing at Scarborough Shoal.

“The Coast Guard’s white ships will consistently ensure Filipino fishermen’s safety and welfare,” Gavan said.

“Every Coast Guardian will do more so that the best public service prevails in accordance with the President’s vision and call for action towards ‘Bagong Pilipinas’ by ensuring food security, among others, being a fundamental element of the societal change that drives national development,” he added.

On Jan. 12, the CCG reportedly harassed some Filipino fishermen who were collecting “taktakun” shells, which were supposed to have been part of their meal, and ordered them to return the shells back into the sea.

At the time there were no vessels from the PCG or the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources at the Scarborough Shoal.

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