

TESDA TO OPEN CAMANAVA HVAC TRAINING HUB



Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is again set to elevate training for skilled professionals in the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) sector after it has signed an agreement with a leading electrical appliance manufacturer.

TESDA - National Capital Region (NCR) has established a partnership with Concepcion Midea Inc. Philippines (CMIP) to meet the increasing demand for workers in the HVAC sector.

TESDA Director General, Secretary Suharto T. Mangudadatu lauds the said agreement which was signed by TESDA-NCR and the CMIP last January 22 at the TESDA-Navotas Vocational Training and Assessment (NAVOTAAS) Institute in Navotas City.

“TESDA is dedicated to providing accessible and quality skills training for all Filipinos. With the help of Concepcion Midea Inc. we can offer more high-quality technical education for HVAC repair and installation with the integration of Internet of Things (IOT) technology,” Secretary Mangudadatu said.

Through this partnership, CMIP will provide the latest equipment and technology to be used by trainees of RAC Servicing (DomRAC) NC II, and Commercial Air Conditioning Installation and Servicing Training NC III.

These will be housed in the TESDA-Midea Training Hub that will be located within the premises of the TESDA-NAVOTAAS Institute, the training center of TESDA in the CAMANAVA (Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, and Valenzuela) area.

Secretary Mangudadatu thanked CMIP, Inc. and recognized the importance of their support in the development of a qualified and competitive HVAC workforce.

“I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Concepcion Midea Inc. for their partnership and commitment to advancing skills development in the Philippines. Together, I am confident that we can empower more individuals and build successful careers in the HVAC industry,” the TESDA Chief said.

Further, Secretary Mangudadatu said that TESDA has been steadfast in providing relevant, accessible, high-quality, and efficient technical education and skills training programs to support the middle-level manpower development goals and priorities set in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028

Concepcion Midea Incorporated Philippines is a renowned leader in the HVAC industry and is one of the largest manufacturers of appliances in the country.

TESDA TO TRAIN SOLDIERS, REMOTE COMMUNITIES



To reinforce its efforts to empower more Filipinos with employable skills, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has partnered with the Philippine Army (PA) to provide tech-voc training to indigenous people (IPs), former rebels, and other members of the marginalized sector.

This after TESDA Secretary Suharto Mangudadatu and PA Commanding General Lt. Gen. Roy Galido signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the PA Headquarters in Taguig City last February 12.

In his message, Secretary Mangudadatu emphasized the important role of the PA and other uniformed personnel in providing skills training to residents of communities in far-flung areas and other members of the marginalized sector.

“TESDA is very grateful for the contributions of the Philippine Army and other government agencies. As a result, our training programs have reached even more of our kababayans,” the Secretary said.

TESDA's partnership with the PA aims to provide upskilling and lifelong learning programs to PA personnel through technical vocational education and training (TVET) which includes specialized/specific qualifications vital to the execution of their jobs, such as the conduct of community-based training for IPs, former rebels, and residents in remote communities.

Under the MOU, TESDA will provide free skills training, assessment, and issue certifications to qualified Army personnel who have undergone skills training. In turn, the trained Army personnel will assist TESDA in the conduct of skills training programs for IPs, former rebels, and residents of far-flung communities in the country.

Meanwhile, Secretary Mangudadatu officially received his promotion to the rank of Colonel as a reservist of the Philippine Army during the Donning of Ranks Ceremony held at Fort Bonifacio after which the MOU signing was held.

“In my vision, we should be a force that thrives in the face of changing obstacles that never stops adapting. Not only should we be a light of strength during times of conflict, but we should also serve as representatives of stability and ambassadors of peace,” Secretary Mangudadatu emphasized during his message.

“Together, we shall cultivate a place that values the unique experiences, skills, and knowledge that each member of our team brings to the table, and create an environment that shall also promote resilience and inspire innovation,” he added.

Present during the event were TESDA Deputy Directors General Rosanna Urdaneta, Aniceto Bertiz III, and Vidal Villanueva III, and other TESDA and PA officials. The Secretary's spouse, Maguindanao del Sur Governor Mariam Sangki-Mangudadatu, and other members of his family likewise attended the ceremony.

It can be recalled that since 2020, TESDA and uniformed services such as the Philippine National Police (PNP), and the Department of National Defense (DND) have a longstanding partnership to bring community-based training to remote areas of the archipelago.

TESDA has so far trained 53,117 uniformed personnel from 2021 to 2023.



WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE

NEWS PUBLISHING SERVICES

MAKE YOUR WEEKLIES INFORMATIVE

VOL. I • NO. 22 • Feb. 28 - Mar. 05, 2024 • P 10.00



DANCE OF THE PETALS: BAGUIO CITY ABLOOM IN 28TH YEAR OF PANAGBENGA

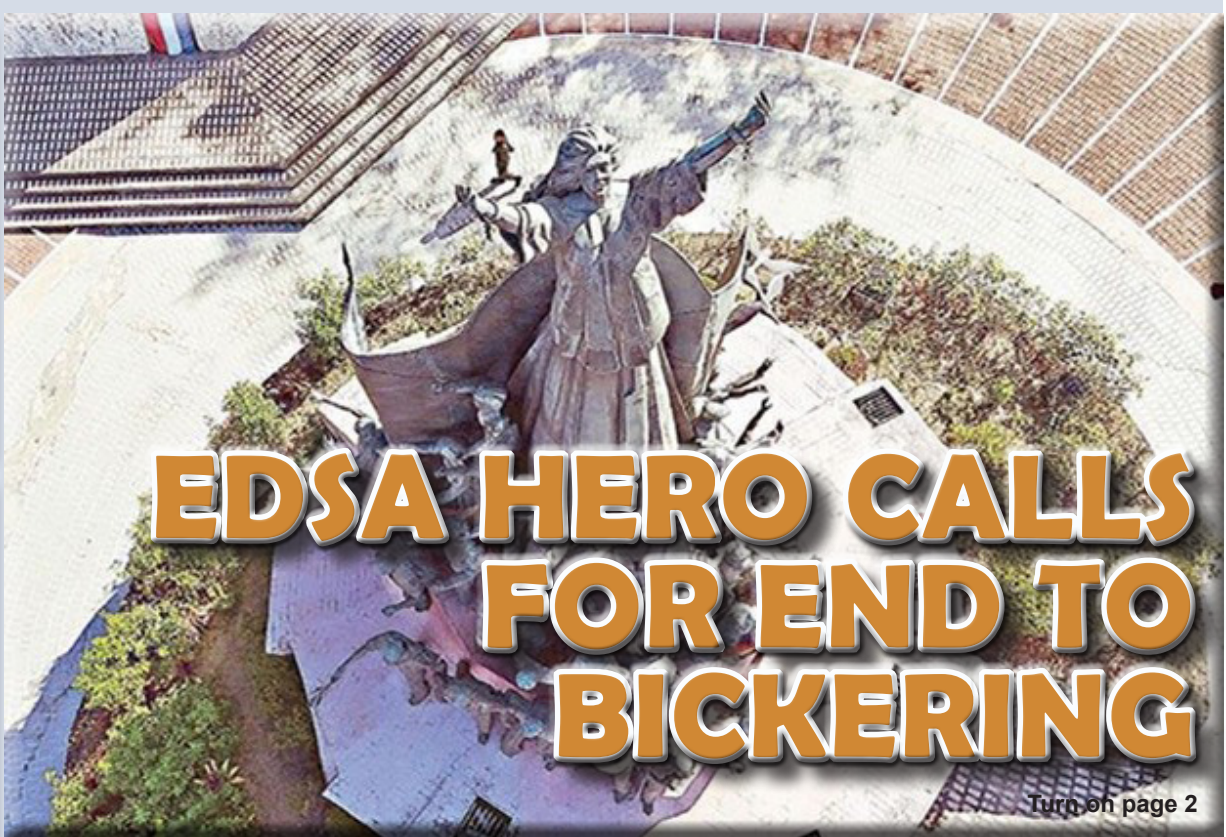
Turn on page 7

38 YEARS AFTER EDSA, FILIPINOS COMMEMORATE PEOPLE POWER, OPPOSE CHA-CHA

Turn on page 2

TESDA TO DISTRIBUTE AGRI INPUTS, HELP TO EL NIÑO-AFFECTED REGIONS

Turn on page 3



EDSA HERO CALLS FOR END TO BICKERING

Turn on page 2



BILL TO COMPEL INSTALLATION OF RAIN COLLECTION SYSTEMS

Turn on page 7



PHILIPPINES ACCUSES CHINA OF ATTEMPTING TO BLOCK ANOTHER VESSEL

Turn on page 3

MANILA, Philippines — Former senator Gregorio Honasan II, one of the prominent figures of the 1986 EDSA People Power uprising, called for a stop to political bickering, as the country commemorates today the 38th anniversary of the event which toppled the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos Sr.

In an interview yesterday, Honasan said the legacy of the uprising is still relevant with the current political climate today.

“It is very relevant because the call now is for unity, an end to too much partisan politics,” he said.

Honasan was an Army colonel when he and then defense minister Juan Ponce Enrile led a mutiny against the elder Marcos, the father of the country's current leader.

Hundreds of thousands of people joined the uprising, which led to Marcos' ouster from power and the installation of Corazon Aquino to the Philippine presidency.

In later years, Honasan would lead several coup attempts against Aquino. He was later given amnesty by former president Fidel Ramos.

For the former senator, the country's national leaders should refrain from engaging in a word war, as partisan politics will not solve the problems that most Filipinos face such as access to basic necessities: food, clothing, shelter, education and timely information.

Climate Change's Impact on Modernization

In an era marked by rapid technological advancement and unprecedented global connectivity, the specter of climate change looms ominously, casting a shadow over our aspirations for modernization. As we march forward into the digital age, the impacts of climate change threaten to disrupt the very foundations upon which our modern society is built. From extreme weather events to resource scarcity, the challenges posed by a changing climate are manifold, necessitating urgent action and a paradigm shift in our approach to development.

One of the most visible manifestations of climate change is the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. Hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and droughts are becoming more commonplace, wreaking havoc on infrastructure, disrupting supply chains, and causing untold human suffering. In an interconnected world where economies rely heavily on seamless logistics and uninterrupted production, these disruptions have far-reaching consequences, undermining efforts towards modernization and economic growth.

Furthermore, climate change exacerbates existing social inequalities, disproportionately affecting marginalized communities and exacerbating tensions within

societies. The burden of climate-related disasters falls hardest on those least equipped to cope, widening the gap between the haves and the have-nots. In a world striving for inclusivity and equal opportunity, such disparities hinder progress towards a more just and equitable society. The implications of climate change extend beyond immediate humanitarian concerns to encompass broader geopolitical challenges. Competition for dwindling resources, such as water and arable land, is likely to intensify, fueling conflicts and geopolitical instability. Moreover, rising sea levels threaten coastal cities and vital infrastructure, posing a direct threat to global trade and economic stability. In an interconnected world, where the fortunes of nations are intertwined, the ripple effects of climate change transcend borders, demanding coordinated action on a global scale.

Yet, amidst the gloom and uncertainty, there exists a glimmer of hope. The imperative to address climate change presents an unprecedented opportunity to reimagine our approach to modernization. By embracing sustainable practices and investing in renewable energy, we can not only mitigate the impacts of climate change but also foster innovation, create new industries, and drive economic growth. Moreover, by prioritizing resilience and adaptation, we can build more robust

and inclusive societies capable of withstanding the shocks of a changing climate. However, realizing this vision requires bold leadership, concerted action, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. Governments, businesses, and civil society must come together to enact meaningful policy reforms, invest in green technologies, and promote sustainable practices. Moreover, we must recognize that the transition to a low-carbon economy will inevitably entail costs and sacrifices, but the price of inaction far outweighs the benefits of short-term gains.

In conclusion, the impacts of climate change pose a profound challenge to our aspirations for modernization, threatening to undermine the progress we have made and the future we envision. Yet, in this moment of crisis, lies an opportunity to forge a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world. By confronting the realities of climate change head-on and embracing a new paradigm of development, we can navigate the storm and emerge stronger, more united, and more prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century. The time for action is now; the future of modernization depends on it.

-Ang Kabitenya

EDSA...

"We have no time to engage in too much politics. We can understand the democratic space to debate and to discuss, but to spend so much time worrying about the next elections – that is counterproductive for us," Honasan said.

It is for this reason that he opted to skip the activities by cause-oriented groups and opposition figures at the EDSA Shrine in Quezon City today, saying that he might be perceived as taking sides.

"I was in EDSA for something, not against something," Honasan said. "If I may be forced to take sides, I will take the side of the Filipino people."

Instead, he will commemorate the anniversary at the Bible Baptist Church and Ministries in nearby Barangay Tatalon.

Even if the younger Marcos is the current chief executive, Honasan does not consider the uprising a failure.

He said the majority of Filipinos have chosen Marcos as the country's president in a democratic election.

On the rumors of destabilization attempts against Marcos, Honasan said the best way the President can respond is by prioritizing the welfare of Filipinos.

"You fight it with a better idea, which is reform and good government," he said.

Renato Reyes, president of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), said Charter change (Cha-cha) will take center stage in their rallies, as various groups air their opposition to efforts to amend the 1987 Constitution.

Apart from the rally near the EDSA Shrine, Reyes said demonstrations will also be held in the cities of Naga, Legazpi, Iloilo, Bacolod, Cebu and Davao. Similar actions are also expected in the US, Canada, Australia and Hong Kong.

For the Bayan leader, the fact that the Marcoses are back in power and are aggressively pushing for Cha-cha is a grim reminder of the unfinished work

"The EDSA revolution is part of being Filipino," Binay added.

Freedom Museum

Meanwhile, the public will now be able to get a glimpse of what will be featured in the soon-to-be constructed Freedom Memorial Museum for victims of the Marcos dictatorship and the martial law regime.

The Human Rights Violations Victims Memorial Commission (HRVVMC), the agency tasked to establish the museum, has opened the Freedom Memorial Museum Gallery, in time for the 38th commemoration of the EDSA People Power uprising.

"After 38 years, we have the state-sponsored museum for that period in history," HRVVMC executive director Carmelo Victor Crisanto said during the launch of the gallery on Friday.

"The Freedom Museum Gallery is a preview of the galleries we will set up when the final museum building is finished. In the final Freedom Memorial Museum, there will be 14 galleries. This is one attempt by which we want to show human rights violations in this gallery," Crisanto told The STAR.

Located at the HRVVMC office at the 150 Corporate Center in Panay Ave., Quezon City, the gallery will be opened to the public on Feb. 27.

The gallery features several installations, including a "wall of torture" containing some of the instruments used to torture martial law victims, and the bloodstained clothes of activist – and later chancellor of the University of the Philippines (UP) Diliman – Fidel Nemenzo, who was shot during a protest in 1984.

There is also a roll of victims containing the names of the 11,103 victims previously recognized by the Human Rights Victims' Claims Board, as well as an immersive experience regarding the Palimbang

cont'd to pg 3

BILL...

MANILA – Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers on Sunday called for the approval of a bill he filed more than a year ago seeking mandatory installation of rainwater collection systems (RCS) in new residential and commercial buildings, particularly in urban or densely-populated areas.

With the advent of the El Niño, the lawmaker from Mindanao is calling for the passage of House Bill (HB) No. 4837 mandating the installation of RCS, primarily to promote sufficient water supply during the extreme dry weather phenomenon and to reduce flooding in urban areas in times of La Niña.

"The global extreme weather conditions apparently due to climate change prompted the idea of calling for the mandatory RCS installation in all residential, commercial and institutional buildings that would be built in the future," he said in a news release.

Barbers explained that RCS shall mean a facility designed to capture, retain and store rainwater flowing off a building, parking lot or any other man-made, impervious surface, for subsequent onsite use.

He said the RCS concept is not new in the country, particularly in rural areas with limited water supply, where pipes or diverters connected to big barrels are used to collect and store rainwater.

"But in urban or densely-populated areas like Metro Manila, people put little to no emphasis on rainwater collection due to the presence of service companies like Maynilad and Manila Water that provide stable and abundant water supply," he said.

But with the onset of El Niño, Barbers said the water levels of dams continue to evaporate and decline due to extreme heat and may soon cause water service interruptions due to the great demands compared to the minimal supply of water.

As per the monitoring on Sunday morning, all dams ,except Ipo in Bulacan and Ambuklao in Benguet, are below the normal high water level (NHWL)

Ipo si 1.37 meters away from

the 101.10m NHWL while Ambuklao still has 2.23m to spare.

Under the revived HB 4837, which was filed on Sept. 14, 2022, the measure compels the owner or developer of new residential, commercial and institutional buildings to include in its building plan an RCS; while local government units (LGUs) and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board are mandated to deny construction permits of such edifices that are without an RCS in their designs or plans.

The Department of Public Work and Highways, through its concerned attached agencies, would be required to install RCS in all new government buildings and shall supervise the filtration and purification process to ensure that the stored rainwater is safe for drinking.

Barbers said private institutional buildings such as private schools and universities, including large commercial establishments like malls, supermarkets, and companies, will be required to install rainwater filtration facilities connected to an RCS for onsite use as potable water.

Property owners who comply with RCS installation would be extended a 10 percent tax credit of their total real property tax but not exceeding PHP10,000.

The LGUs, through their engineering office, shall inspect and issue certifications, which would be used by the property owner as proof for tax credit purposes, on RCS installation compliance.

Under the bill, property owners who fail to comply with RCS installation would be penalized PHP100,000 but not more than PHP500,000, for every year of non-compliance.

Any government officer or employee found to have violated the act's provisions would be suspended for not less than 10 days but not more than 180 days after due notice and hearing in an administrative proceeding.

HB 4837 has been pending with the House Committee on Public Works and Highways since its first reading on Sept.19, 2022. (PNA)

Calabarzon wage board approves wage hike for household workers

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) -- Around 233,000 domestic workers can expect higher minimum wage this month after the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) IV-A approved an increase in minimum wages for kasambahays or household service workers in Calabarzon.

The wage board announced that starting February 19, 2024, workers will receive a monthly increase of P1,000 on top of their current rate under Wage Order No. RB-IVA-DW-04.

With the wage order, the new minimum rates in Calabarzon will now range between P6,000 for highly-urbanized and component cities and first-class municipalities, to P5,000 for second to fifth-class municipalities.

The new wage order applies to all domestic workers, whether on a live-in or live-out arrangement, such as general house helpers, nannies, cooks, gardeners, laundry persons, and any employee who regularly performs domestic work in one household on an occupational basis.

According to RTWPB IV-A, the increase in the minimum wage resulted from a series of consultations and public hearings considering the needs of the domestic workers and their families, the employer's capacity to pay a living wage, and the existing socio-economic conditions in the region.

"The Board, comprised of representatives from the government, management and labor sectors, conducted regional public consultation last 09 January 2024 in San Pedro City, Laguna, regional public hearing on 11 January 2024 in Trece Martires City, Cavite, and wage deliberation on 22 January 2024," RTWPB IV-A said in a press statement.

For Aida Asuncion, a housekeeper from Calauan, Laguna, the wage increase is crucial for covering her family's daily expenses, considering that her children are studying. However, she acknowledges that, due to the ongoing rise in commodity prices, the additional income is still insufficient to meet their needs.

"The increase in salary will support my children's school allowance and help me with daily household expenses," Asuncion said.

She added: "But I will admit that the wage is still insufficient, so I am asking for a more favorable increase now that commodity prices are rising."

Meanwhile, RTWPB will undertake information campaigns to ensure employers' compliance with the new wage order.

The last wage order for domestic workers in the region was issued on June 15, 2022. (AM, PIA 4A)

Small fishers to BFAR: File charges vs Chinese vessels destroying marine resources

MANILA, Philippines — The government should take immediate action against Chinese fishermen engaged in illegal poaching activities in the West Philippine Sea to prevent the continued plunder of the country's marine resources, an association of small fishers said Monday.

Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (PAMALAKAYA) criticized the government's alleged inaction toward the destructive activities of foreign vessels in Philippine waters.

The amended Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 prohibits any foreign entity from fishing or operating any fishing vessel in Philippine waters.

PAMALAKAYA noted that under the law, the entry of any foreign fishing vessel in Philippine waters constitutes a prima facie presumption of illegal fishing activity.

"There should be no exceptions or delays. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) should immediately confront and file charges against all Chinese fishing vessel personnel found in the West Philippine Sea," PAMALAKAYA national chairperson Fernando Hicap said in Filipino.

PAMALAKAYA stressed that regular patrols in Bajo de Masinloc, also known as Panatag Shoal, announced by BFAR are already too late to address the extensive damage caused by Chinese fishers to the area, such as the destruction of coral reefs and depletion of fish stocks.

"Imposing penalties on illegal foreign fishing must accompany patrols," Hicap said.

China's use of cyanide

Over the weekend, BFAR said that Chinese fishers have been using cyanide to "intentionally destroy" Bajo de Masinloc and prevent Filipino fisherfolk from entering their traditional fishing ground.

BFAR estimated that damage caused by China's cyanide fishing could exceed P1 billion.

According to PAMALAKAYA, Filipino fishers have long reported China's use of cyanide, but previous and current administrations "have taken no action to stop the destruction of the Philippine fisheries"

"Filipino fishermen are willing to collaborate with citizens of other countries asserting their rights in the South China Sea against the encroachment and plundering of any powerful country like China," Hicap said.

The Philippine Coast Guard also reported Saturday that floating barriers were once again installed by China around Bajo de Masinloc to keep Filipino boats out of the area.

/PHILSTAR.COM

DANCE...

This year's festival is themed "Celebrating Traditions, Embracing Innovations."

Wearing colorful dresses decorated with flowers, street dancers from public and private schools in Baguio City and from nearby Benguet, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur and Kalinga wowed revelers and tourists who lined the stretch from Session Road to Harrison Road at the Central Business District to join the partying.

The marching brass band of the Philippine Military Academy livened the dance mood.

This year's champion in the drum and lyre tilt was Lucban Elementary School which took home P150,000 in prize money.

Tuba Central School from Benguet was at second place, winning P100,000, while Manuel Quezon Elementary School was third with P70,000 cash prize.

Emerging champions in the Festival Dance competition were students of Tribu Rizal of Kalinga with P200,000 cash prize.

In second place was the Naisangsangayan group of Narvacan, Ilocos Sur with P150,000 prize and third was Baguio City National High School-Special Program for the Arts, which bagged P100,000.

The other street dancers also drew praises. They were from the Bitulok Tribe and Tribu Palayano, of Nueva Ecija, Bani Pakwan and Tribu San Carlos from Pangasinan, Narvacan Naisangsangayan Festival Dance of Ilocos Sur and Tribu Rizal of Kalinga.

Baguio City has been holding its flower festival for 28 years now because of the support of the people and all stakeholders, said Mauricio Domogan, chairman "for life" of the Baguio Flower Festival Foundation Inc.

SM SCHOLARSHIP FUELS DREAMS OF FORMER GASOLINE BOY, NOW A SENIOR MANAGER



Robie Tumibay (third from left), an SM scholar alumnus and SM Retail employee, shares his story at the SM Scholars' General Assembly in Mall of Asia.

Education has always been maximized by determined youth to turn their lives around for the better. Especially those who have lived through the intergenerational cycle of poverty, they use their skills and knowledge to chart a course towards brighter horizons. This rings true to Robie Tumibay, a former gasoline boy who pursued the SM Scholarship Application and became a professional accountant and Senior Manager at SM Retail, Inc.

The SM scholarship opportunity

As a high school salutatorian in the early 2000s, Robie encountered financial obstacles that impeded his college aspirations. His parents, senior citizens relying on handmade rags for income, could no longer support his education. Undeterred, he held onto his dreams, "Hindi ko tanggap noon na hindi ako makakapag-pursue ng college... I knew in my heart that I have so much to give." With his savings, he secured the necessary documents for the SM Foundation College Scholarship. His foresight quickly bore fruit as he was listed among the scholarship recipients. Robie pursued Accountancy at Far Eastern University, graduating in 2008 with academic distinction. According to Robie, the scholarship not only relieved him of financial burdens but also opened doors for a part-time job at SM North EDSA, offering extra income, practical insights, and a valuable work ethic. This experience also fostered life-long memories and friendships with co-scholars.

Entering the professional arena

Prior his graduation, Robie already joined the workforce working as an Auditor. But in 2010, he followed a call to work at an SM Group company.

"I felt that I was really destined to work in SM. I felt as if there was a calling. In 2010, I applied at SM Retail Inc, and ito na ang pinaka-matagal kong trabaho," he shared what inspires him to happily serve at work.

"My department at SM Retail offered numerous growth opportunities through diverse projects. In an earlier project, I played a key role in cleaning our receivables that showed my potential. They provide us with the opportunity to decide on projects, where we will feel the great trust and belief they have in us. From there, na-boost 'yung critical thinking and confidence ko," he added.

Driven by development opportunities, Robie rose from supervisor to Senior Manager, achieving financial stability. This allowed him to support his family and invest in his family's future.



Tumibay spends quality time with his daughter at the amenity area of their condominium.

But for him, his story goes beyond personal success. It's fulfilling his ultimate dream of changing the trajectory for succeeding generations within his family that matters most. "Ito talaga yung determination ko para makapag-tapos noon... It is very humbling to share that some of my nieces and nephews are able to finish their education now."

Robie also takes the time to share his inspiring story with younger generations of SM scholars. As he reminisced with them, he shared that he would choose a life with SM all over again if he could turn back time.

"As an alumnus, we can see the product of the SM College Scholarship Program. They have produced several graduates, who have become leaders, top notchers, and the best in their selected fields. Why? It's because SM does not only support the studies and finances of its scholars but also their overall growth."

"From time to time, they check up on you and keep in touch. They give you the opportunity to build lifelong friendships with your co-scholars. SM Foundation feels like home. They will really make you feel like you belong to a family and a part of the SM Group."

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL OPENS AT SM CITY BAGUIO CINEMA

The Japan Foundation Manila, in partnership with SM City Baguio, recently launched the Japanese Film Festival (JFF) with guests from Baguio Tourism Officer Mr. Alec Mapalo and Deputy Director Japan Foundation Manila Mr. Yojiro Tanaka.

Baguio film enthusiasts warmly welcomed the much-awaited annual showcase of Japanese cinema which opened with "The First Slam Dunk," an animated sports film written and directed by Takehiko Inoue, from the hit anime franchise, 'Slam Dunk.' On top of the amazing animation and heart-pounding basketball action, the film also resonates with heartfelt emotions.



Presented by the Japan Foundation, Manila, JFF was launched in 1997 and has grown to become one of the most anticipated film festivals in the country. Every year it attracts over 25,000 audiences, treating them to a variety of cinematic delights from drama, anime, romance, mystery, and everything in between.

"For this year's selection, we decided on the theme, nostalgia," says festival director Yojiro Tanaka. "We chose films that will make our audience feel nostalgic and remember their own fond memories and feelings.



The movies range from Japanese films with various genres that cater to different tastes. This year's JFF lineup has something for everyone, and guarantees the satisfaction of cinephiles, drama devotees, and comedy connoisseurs alike.



The festival includes recently released titles, such as 'And Yet, You Are So Sweet' (2023) and 'Angry Son' (2022). Audiences can also look forward to nostalgic titles with movie versions of 'Voltes V' (1999 and 2023) and 'Detective Conan' (1997 and 2006) making their way into the lineup.

After its succesful opening in SM Seaside Cebu, the festival is ongoing until March 3 at the SM Cinema 4 in SM City Baguio, as well as in SM City Davao and SM City Iloilo. Admission is free.



JFF is also supported by the Film Development Council of the Philippines, JT International (Philippines) Inc., and the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines.



EDSA...

massacre in Sultan Kudarat in 1974.

Crisanto said guided tours will be available to those who will visit the gallery. "We hope that this will be one of the galleries that will attract a lot of teachers and students to go to," he said.

A long time While he sees the gallery as a welcome development, martial law survivor and playwright Bonifacio Ilagan said the need to have a "preview" of the actual museum is an indication of the slow process of memorializing the victims of the dictatorship.

"It's taken too long... This gallery, no matter how modest it is, is a testament to how we really (need) to make the dream a reality," he said.

Ilagan was among the four victim-survivors whose portraits were featured in the gallery, along with former social welfare secretary Judy Taguiwalo, journalist Jo-Ann Maglipon and Fr. Ben Alforque. The HRVVMC was established through Republic Act 10368 or the Human Rights Victims Reparation and Recognition Act

Message With another Marcos in Malacañang, Ilagan stressed the need for

of 2013, which mandates the establishment of a memorial, museum or library in honor and in memory of the victims of human rights violations during the Marcos dictatorship. A compendium of the victims' sacrifices, accessible online, shall also be prepared by the commission. The law allocated a budget of at least P500 million from the accrued interest of the P10-billion reparation fund provided to the victims.

The allocated budget, currently with the Bureau of Treasury, is now over P600 million due to interest.

Crisanto said they are only waiting for the UP Diliman campus maintenance office to vacate its current office, which is located within the 1.4 hectares of land that the university donated for the Freedom Memorial Museum.

He said construction, which will last for 18 months, may begin this year after the bidding for the contractor is completed.

Message With another Marcos in Malacañang, Ilagan stressed the need for

Filipinos, especially the younger generation, to be "critical and be very aware of the lessons of history." He described the current administration as "insidious," recalling his initial expectation that agencies such as HRVVMC is on a direct "collision course" with the government.

"It's part of their game-plan... The style does not antagonize many people, but he is able to do what he wants," Ilagan cautioned. "Before we know it, (Feb. 25) is no longer a holiday, there are now a lot of changes in the curriculum," he added.

For Crisanto, whether Feb. 25 is a holiday or not, Filipinos should celebrate the EDSA uprising.

"That's a time of jubilation. It's something that was admired by many nations and many people around the world," he said.

"It's more than alive. This is the first time in a decade that the celebration, when it was taken out as a national holiday, bloomed (and will be commemorated in many parts of the country). Its spirit is very much alive," Crisanto added. / [PHILSTAR.COM](#)

From Page 2

38 YEARS...

MANILA, Philippines — "People Power" is not just a one-time event at EDSA but an ongoing movement against injustice and oppression, groups stressed as they commemorated the 38th anniversary of the revolution that ended the brutal dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos Sr. Various groups and government agencies staged activities Sunday even after President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. removed the EDSA People Power Revolution, which restored democracy in the country, from the list of public holidays in 2024.

In a statement, the Campaign Against the Return of Marcoses and Martial Law (CARMMA) criticized the move as "a travesty of history and a direct insult to the people."

"This year, [the Marcos Jr. government] ultimately crossed out the date from the list of holidays—at the same time trying to erase the names of those killed, disappeared and imprisoned under martial rule," CARMMA said.

The network, composed of martial law victims, human rights groups, and freedom advocates, stressed the need for ongoing resistance against oppressive regimes. "As long as injustice remains, and tyranny and

dictatorship exist, People Power is and should be a continuing reality for our times," it said.

Historians and human rights organizations have described the Marcos dictatorship as a period of widespread human rights abuses—including torture, disappearances and extrajudicial killings—and corruption that left the Philippines impoverished.

Fight vs Cha-cha Groups also held protests to mark the anniversary of the uprising and express their opposition to the Marcos Jr. administration's push to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"We are not EDSA-pwera. Because People Power was not only EDSA," the Campaign Against the Return of Marcoses and Martial Law (CARMMA) said in a statement, referring to the pro-charter change advertisement that repeatedly used the phrase, a play on "echapwera," meaning "excluded."

Marcos earlier said that his administration only supports an economic charter change amid concerns that it could eventually lead to amendments affecting political provisions.

"Marcos Jr. is using 'economic cha-cha' as a convenient gateway towards the ultimate goal of tinkering

with the 1987 Constitution's political provisions, which were largely born out of the broad anti-dictatorship struggle," rights group Karapatan said.

CARMMA noted that amending political provisions, such as dropping term limits, "has always been a Marcos obsession to enable them to stay in power indefinitely."

It also criticized the current administration's Maharlika Wealth Fund and the "Bagong Pilipinas" (New Philippines) movement, which drew comparisons to the Marcos Sr.-era "Bagong Lipunan" (New Society) vision.

In Makati City, cyclists and joggers gathered for an "EDSA Freedom Ride" organized by Akbayan Party.

"While acknowledging that our constitution is not flawless and must evolve with changing times, we denounce any efforts to exploit constitutional amendments and revisions for narrow political gains, which undermine the democratic legacy of Edsa," Akbayan President Rafaela David said.

Meanwhile, activists from Southern Tagalog reported that they were stopped by police at checkpoints in Laguna on their way to Manila to participate in EDSA protest actions. / [PHILSTAR.COM](#)

From Page 1

DA...

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) will distribute vegetable seeds and planting materials for high-value crops that require less water in areas highly affected by the El Niño phenomenon. In a statement on Saturday, the DA said it would provide vegetable seedlings and planting materials to farmers in Western Visayas, Mimaropa, Ilocos Region, and Zamboanga Peninsula to help them recover from the damage and losses due to the dry spell brought about by the phenomenon.

The latest El Niño bulletin put the estimated damage and losses to farms in Ilocos, Mimaropa, Western Visayas, and Zamboanga Peninsula at PHP357.4 million, with 7,668 farmers affected. Meanwhile, potential

production losses from 6,523 hectares affected by the dry spell are estimated at 11,480 metric tons (MT) for palay, 2,897 MT for corn, and 225 MT for high-value crops. The affected rice area of 5,011 hectares is 0.52 percent of the total target area planted, while the production loss of 11,480 MT is about 0.12 percent of the target dry cropping season output for 2024.

As for corn, the areas affected by the dry spell are at 1,263 hectares or 0.11 percent of the total target area planted, while the production loss of 2,897 MT is 0.06 percent of the target production for the 2024 dry cropping season. Meanwhile, the department also said it would begin its cloud-seeding operations soon in the Cagayan Valley region to

ease its water shortage.

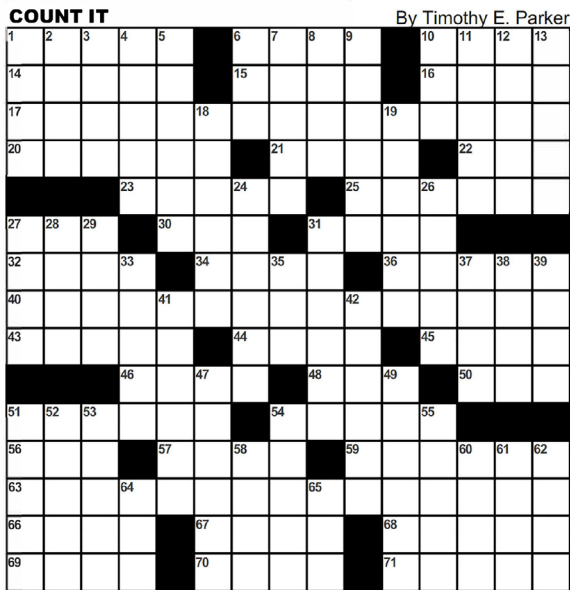
The promotion of drought-resistant crops and pest-control efforts are also underway to assist farmers in areas suffering from low rainfall levels, the agency said.

It added that it continuously encourages farmers to adopt alternate wetting-and-drying methods to reduce water consumption in rice fields.

The department is also considering the use of solar-powered irrigation systems to augment water supply in areas vulnerable to drought.

It will also endorse affected farmers to the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Department of Labor and Employment for other forms of assistance, including financial support. (PR)

From Page 1



freedailycrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) Disorderly, fussy outbursts
- 6) Part of an escalator
- 10) Attempt, in slang
- 14) Heep created by Dickens
- 15) Blanched
- 16) More than a gofer
- 17) Set the date, in a way
- 20) Jacket part
- 21) Break stone
- 22) Wrinkle maker
- 23) Providing details of current events
- 25) Vodka cocktail
- 27) Bleat
- 30) Part of two sts.
- 31) Pin one's hopes (on)
- 32) Arm bone
- 34) Go upward
- 36) Donor's offering
- 40) Fall short
- 43) Get ready to drive
- 44) Certain breads
- 45) Goes quickly
- 46) Pertness
- 48) Do something
- 50) It can cause quite a bang
- 51) Rip off
- 54) Community standards
- 56) Prepare to pull the trigger
- 57) Frau's partner
- 59) Constructs, as a building
- 63) Makes a soccer faux pas
- 66) South American monkey
- 67) Where Marco Polo explored
- 68) Bring together
- 69) Restrain
- 70) Put an edge on
- 71) Guided a gondola

DOWN

- 1) After-dinner roll?
- 2) Kind of thermometer
- 3) Desperate, as straits
- 4) Like some old buckets
- 5) Pushed
- 6) Treatment type
- 7) Far from chic
- 8) Brio
- 9) Mammal's coat
- 10) "Gabriel" lead-in
- 11) Kind of wave
- 12) "What goes around, comes around," e.g.
- 13) Stereotypical artist's hat
- 18) New Jersey city
- 19) Final words (var.)
- 24) Many Colorado tourists
- 26) Gold and frankincense complement
- 27) Sacrifice between the lines
- 28) Ubiquitous lotion ingredient
- 29) Poker chip, sometimes
- 31) Prepare, as leftovers
- 33) Charm
- 35) Muddy home
- 37) Dressage display
- 3 8) Gulf off the coast of Yemen
- 39) Cardinal's residence
- 41) Cochise, famously
- 42) Have nothing to do with
- 47) It may be near a slide
- 49) Shredded
- 51) Willingly avoids meals
- 52) Allowed by the courts
- 53) Be theatrical
- 54) "Sesame Street" resident
- 55) Music-score sign
- 58) Foolhardy and hasty
- 60) Make like a snake
- 61) England's national art gallery
- 62) Coaster in the cold
- 64) Backboard attachment
- 65) Common grain unit

CITY OF BACOR NEWS

5-day Basic Visual and Graphic Design Training



We are now accepting registrants for our 5-day BASIC VISUAL and GRAPHIC DESIGN TRAINING

This FREE Training includes: Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator

Schedule of Training: March 4 to 8, 2024 from 8AM to 4PM at Baco Computer Center, Brgy. Alima, Baco City, Cavite.

For those who are interested in joining, you may register at <https://bit.ly/BCC-VGDRRegisterB19>

Requirements for registration: (Pls. present on the scheduled date of training)

1. 18 to 50 years old
2. Barangay Certificate (Indicate Free Training Purposes)
- b. 1 piece 2x2 ID Picture

For barangay officials or government employees, to register, just present your government-issued IDs and accomplish the registration.

This project is in partnership with DICT-Cavite Office.

For inquiries, you may call us at (046) 450-9293. LIMITED SLOTS ONLY. First come first served.

Last week's solution:



Sangguniang Panglungsod organized an event discussing the "Commencement Planning for the Construction of Strike City Tower in Dulong Bayan"

In an effort to bring progress and development to the City of Baco, the Sangguniang Panglungsod of Baco, through Coun. Rey Palabrica, organized an event to discuss the construction of the Strike City Tower in Barangay Dulong Bayan.

The event was attended by key figures including Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Coun. Rey Palabrica, and Atty. Aimee Torrefrangco-Neri. Also present were representatives from Heartland Ventures Inc., including Nelly Resplandor (President), Nian Valenzuela (Secretary), Nelson Dinglasan (Engineer), Neldrick Dinglasan (Engineer), and Edgardo Pinero (Engineer).

The primary purpose of the event was to initiate the planning and preparation for the construction of the Strike City Tower, which aims to provide housing for the residents of Baco. This project is part of the city's ongoing efforts to improve the living conditions and provide better opportunities for its residents.

The event took place at the Strike Conference Room on February 20, 2024. During the discussions, various aspects of the project were addressed, including the architectural design, engineering considerations, and financial planning. The attendees expressed their commitment to ensuring that the Strike City Tower becomes a reality and benefits the Bacooreños.

The construction of the Strike City Tower is expected to have a positive impact on the local economy, as it will create job opportunities and stimulate business growth in the area. Additionally, the tower will contribute to the city's skyline, becoming a symbol of progress and modernity.

As the planning progresses, Mayor Strike B. Revilla and its partners will continue to work closely together to ensure the successful implementation of the Strike City Tower project. The construction is anticipated to commence in the near future, bringing forth a new era of development and prosperity for the city of Baco.

With the vision of a vibrant and thriving Baco, the construction of the Strike City Tower marks a significant milestone in the city's journey towards progress and prosperity.



Response vehicles, ipinamahagi sa mga barangay sa Batangas

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA) — May 186 multi-purpose response vehicles (MRV) ang ipinamahagi ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Batangas sa mga barangay ng iba't ibang munisipalidad at lungsod sa lalawigan kamakailan.

Pinangunahan ni Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, Vice Gov. Mark Leviste at mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan kasama ang mga kinatawan ng lokal na pamahalaan ang pamamahagi ng mga naturang sasakyan.

Inaasahang malaki ang maitutulong ng mga MRVs sa barangay lalo na sa pangangailangang pang-transportasyon ng mga residente dito.

Ayon kay Mandanas, hindi nagkukulang ang pamahalaang panlalawigan sa paghanap ng paraan upang matugunan ang mga pangunahing pangangailangan lalo na sa mga barangay.

"Hangad natin na mabigyan ng ganitong MRVs ang lahat ng nasasakupang barangay sa lalawigan, nauna na dito ay nagkaloob na ang probinsya sa naunang batch ng mga LGU's na nasa paligid ng Taal Lake at ngayon nga ginagawa natin ang second batch," ani Mandanas.

"Inaasahan nating hindi lamang sa panahon ng sakuna o kalamidad maging kapaki-pakinabang ang sasakyang ito kundi maging sa araw-araw na paglilingkod sa barangay. Nais ko ding pasalamatan ang Sangguniang Panlalawigan at iba pang naging katuwang natin upang emergency sapagkat mabilis silang makakatugon sa iba pang pangangailangan ng barangay.

Matatandaang noong Oktubre 2022, napagkalooban ang mga barangay sa mga bayang nakapalibot sa Lawa ng Taal, coastal areas at low-lying communities sa lalawigan ng Batangas ng mga MRVs na kanilang magagamit sa pagpapaabot ng serbisyo sa kanayunan.

Nakita ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ang malaking pangangailangan sa mga ganitong uri ng sasakyan matapos ang pagputok ng Bulkang Taal noong Enero 2020.

Ang mga MRVs na ito ay nagtataglay ng mga kagamitan para sa rescue, medical at community evacuations at radio communications na magagamit sa pagtugon sa panahon ng kalamidad. (BPDC, PIA Batangas)



Facebook page: [tummyave](#)
Instagram: [tummyave](#)
Contact No.: 0916.355.3703/ 0906.575.9151
Location: 99 Manggahan-Lawin, Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite

Police in Laguna, Cavite block Southern Tagalog delegation commemorating EDSA people power uprising



CAVITE , Philippines — Arestado ang apat katao kabilang ang isang menor-de-edad na ginamit ng magdyo-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.

Good Design Award PH now accepts entries

The prestigious Good Design Award Philippines is back for its 2024 edition, seeking entries that marry brilliant design with the Filipino value of "malasakit" (compassion). This national award, launched by the Design Center of the Philippines, an attached agency of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Design Advisory Council, celebrates exceptional design that goes beyond aesthetics to positively impact lives and communities.

What makes this award unique? Its emphasis on malasakit. Whether it's social well-being, environmental sustainability, or economic empowerment, the Good Design Award Philippines recognizes design that tackles real-world challenges and aligns with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Since its launch in 2019, the award has become the go-to platform for showcasing top-notch design in the Philippines. Winners are recognized for their ability to seamlessly blend functionality, innovation, and a deep sense

of compassion. Think your design embodies these values? Now's your chance to join the movement! Submit your work by February 29, 2024 and become part of a community that champions design with a purpose.

For interested designers and innovators, you can submit your entry online. For more details and the process of submission, visit the link: <https://gooddesignawardph.carrd.co>

This prestigious award is also in cooperation with the Japan Institute of Design Promotion. The award has been instrumental in fostering a culture of design excellence deeply rooted in "malasakit", the Filipino value of compassion.

Embracing the essence of malasakit, the competition transcends conventional notions of design, placing a profound emphasis on the impact and context of creations. It serves as an inspiration for designers, creators, and businesses, guiding them towards solutions that not only excel in form and function but also exhibit a genuine concern for society, economy, and the environment.

This year, the Good Design Award Philippines unveils an array of categories designed to showcase the breadth and depth of design excellence infused with compassion. From architecture and interiors to products and services, each category provides a platform for innovators to demonstrate their commitment to creating meaningful change. The categories include:

Object Making - object designs that are tangible and can be utilized in everyday life such as home furniture and decor, textiles, apparel and clothing.

Place Making - places or environments designed innovatively for the improvement of people's everyday lives such as architecture & interior design.

Image Making - refers to the discipline of creating tangible (i.e. printed) and intangible (i.e. digital) mediums for effective and compelling communication of ideas. This includes packaging and communication equipment.

System and Service Design - any system, service, or process designed to make operations more efficient and sustainable not just for the organization but most especially for the people. This includes service innovations.

Material Innovation - the development of new or existing materials with enhanced properties or functionalities that meet new needs or solve problems. This could include materials based on circular economy principles where waste is designed out and materials are re-used.

Within these categories lie the potential to address pressing global challenges outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reflecting the award's mission to inspire design solutions that contribute to a sustainable and equitable future.

What sets the Good Design Award Philippines apart is not just the recognition of outstanding design but also the tangible impact it aims to achieve. Winners of the award not only receive accolades but also tangible support to further their endeavors. Prizes include:

- Cash Prizes
- International Exposure and Networking Opportunities
- Mentorship and Consultation Services
- Access to Funding and Investment Opportunities
- Collaboration Opportunities with Industry Leaders

Beyond the material rewards, winners find themselves part of a thriving community dedicated to advancing design with compassion at its core.

As life is filled with complex challenges, the role of design in fostering positive change has never been more critical. Through initiatives like this, the Philippines stands at the forefront of global design innovation, not only enhancing its competitiveness but also leaving a huge mark on the world stage. (AVS/PIA-NCR)