VICE PRESIDENT SARA, CONCEPCION SIGN MOA TO PROMOTE ENTREPRE-**NEURSHIP AMONG YOUTH**



The Department of Education (DepEd)signed a Memorandum of Agreement with non-profit organization Go Negosyo last November 27, 2023 to promote entrepreneurship and agriculture entrepreneurship among the Filipino youth through various programs and initiatives. Vice President and DepEd Secretary Sara Duterte and Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion signed the MOA during the non-profit's 18th anniversary celebrations in Makati City.

The programs outlined in the MOA aim to promote an entrepreneurial mindset among Filipino youth, build skills through mentorship, increase financial literacy, raise agricultural awareness, cultivate entrepreneurial skills in agriculture, and facilitate industry connections for mentorship. The programs and initiatives include the school garden project called "Pampaaralang Taniman ng mga Agribida (PTA)," a public entrepreneurship mentoring event called "Youthpreneur", and "Mentoring the Mentors," which will train teachers in teaching basic entrepreneurship concepts in the classroom.

The Vice President noted how an innovative mindset among the youth will be key to achieving a truly progressive nation, highlighting how the MOA strengthens the DepEd's MATATAG agenda, and how it enables the youth to identify opportunities for creating wealth and respond to social and economic

Vice President Duterte also noted how agriculture is one of the strongest backbones of wealth creation. "We want to inspire a generation of agricultural leaders," she said, outlining how, with the help of private sector, high school students can be introduced to basic agriculture concepts, school gardens can be established, and make possible the cultivation of cash crops using school sites. "School gardens provide a platform for communities to come together, work toward a shared goal and promote healthy eating habits." she said.

"Public-private partnership has had a lot to do with the success of Go Negosyo," said Concepcion. Already, the organization has organized the country's biggest agriculture companies under its KALAP (Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program) initiative to harness the private sector to scale up the country's agriculture sector. Concepcion also noted how young Filipinos are becoming interested in entrepreneurship.

"At our public entrepreneurship events, we are getting more young attendees who are keen on starting their own business," said Concepcion. "And now with the support of the Department of Education, we can institutionalize this training so that it becomes part of the school curriculum in primary education, enabling us to reach more young Filipinos and teach them about entrepreneurship, or at least open their minds to it," he said.

Last November 25, Go Negosyo held a successful pilot event of Youthpreneur, and attracted hundreds of Senior High School students from 17 schools in the National Capital Region. Concepcion said that the success of the pilot event of Youthpreneur bodes well for its future programs aimed at growing the next generation of Filipino entrepreneurs.

Following the signing, a technical working group comprising members of both DepEd and Go Negosyo will be created to oversee, implement, and fulfill the objectives of the MOA. DepEd shall provide policy guidance, data, and evaluation of program implementation, while Go Negosyo will be responsible for

providing mentors, securing support and resources, and leading in its implementation in coordination with the DepEd.

The signing was witnessed by the heads of some of the country's top conglomerates and business groups, as well as veteran entrepreneurship mentors that form Go Negosyo's core pool of mentors for its various programs such as Kapatid Mentor MicroEntrepreneurs, Kapatid Agri Mentor ME, and 3M on Wheels, as well as its Kapatid Angat Lahat sa Agri Program and the ASEAN Mentorship for Entrepreneurs Network./PR

GO NEGOSYO HOLDS FIRST YOUTH EN-TREPRENEURSHIP EVENT

Go Negosyo's YOUTHPRENEUR was held successfully last Saturday, November 26 at the SM City Fairview in Quezon City, with a total of 17 schools from the NCR and hundreds of senior high school students coming to be mentored by veteran entrepreneurs and successful businessmen. YOUTHPRE-NEUR is Go Negosyo's first entrepreneurship mentoring event specifically designed for Filipino youths.

"At our public entrepreneurship events, I notice that we are getting more young attendees who are keen on starting their own business," said Joey Concepcion, founder of Go Negosyo. "We are fortunate that the Department of Education is supporting us, and we are now exploring ways to institutionalize this training so that it becomes part of the school curriculum in primary education. With DepEd's help, we can reach more young Filipinos and teach them about entrepreneurship, or at least open their minds to it.," he said. Vice President and Department of Education Secretary Sara Duterte sent her message of support for YOUTHPRENEUR, saying that the event, "serves as a beacon of hope and opportunity for young Filipinos, igniting their passion for entrepreneurship and providing them with the tools and resources they need to transform their ideas into reality."

Angkas CEO George Royeca was also on hand to deliver an inspirational message to the students, emphasizing how time management is an important skill mastered by successful entrepreneurs. Entrepreneur/content creators Kween Yasmin and Hiraya Filipina CEO Cleo Loque likewise shared their experiences as twentysomething businessmen.

Prior to the event, the senior high school students were asked to select a specific sector they were interested in pursuing for business. They were then matched with veteran mentors to guide them through the process of starting a business, and what steps they should take in order to pursue their entrepreneurship dreams.

Concepcion shared that the success of YOUTHPRENEUR will help its future programs aimed at growing the next generation of Filipino entrepreneurs. /PR





For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7



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PENSE STRATEGY IN



PINOY SEAFARERS FROM RUSSIAN MISSILE-HIT SHIP RETURN HOME



MOST JOB VACANCIES ACCEPTING SENIOR HIGH GRADS OFFER MINIMUM WAGE WORK — DOLE



evidence after a bomb attack at Mindanao State University in Marawi, Lanao del sur province on December 3, 2023.

MANILA, Philippines with the commemora-(Updated 4:56 p.m.) — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. condemned Sunday the attack at the Mindanao State Univerdead and injured doz-

An explosion ripped through the MSU's Digymnasium was being held Sunday

tion of the Mindanao Week of Peace. In a statement posted

Marcos condemned sity in Marawi City that what he called "senseleft at least four people less and most heinous said. acts perpetrated by foreign terrorists." The National Philippine Police, in a separate government and has statement, said that it is working to identify the individuals or groups behind the blast.

"I extend my most heartfelt condolences to the victims, their loved ones, and the commuon X, formerly Twitter, nities that have been the target of this latest assault on peace," Marcos

The president said he is in close coordination with the Bangsamoro instructed the PNP and the Armed Forces of the Philippines to ensure the safety of civilians.

curate, unvetted, and unofficial information," Marcos said "Rest assured we will

throughout the day, l

enjoin all of us to re-

main calm, circum-

tious in our collective

efforts to ensure that the

horrific events of this

morning are not further

spect, and

bring the perpetrators of this ruthless act to

2 Dec. 06- Dec. 12, 2023

Tis the Season of Prosperity: Unwrapping the Booming Business of Christmas

As the holiday lights twin- kle and festive melodies fill the air, the spirit of Christmas brings morethan just joy and goodwill—it also ushers in a ment: wave of economic prosperity. The Christmas season is not only a time for merriment and reflection for businesses to thrive. In this editorial, we delve into the various facets of the booming business during the Christmas season, exploring the economic impact and the strategies employed by businesses to capitalize on the holiday

fervor. • Economic Impact:

The weeks leading up to Christmas have traditionally been a goldmine for businesses across various sectors. Retailers, both online and brick-andmortar, witness a significant surge in sales as consumers embark on a gift-buying frenzy. The retail industry, in particular, experiences a substantial uptick in revenue, with businesses strategically offering discounts, promotions and exclusive deals to attract holiday shop-

E-commerce Takes Cen-

ter Stage: In recent years, the rise of e-commerce has reshaped the landscape of Christmas shopping. The convenience of on-• line shopping, coupled • with expedited shipping options, has led to a significant increase in digital transactions during the holiday season. Businesses that have invested in of storytelling and conrobust online platforms necting with customers on

selves at the forefront of this digital shopping revolution.

Hospitality and Entertain-

Beyond retail, the hospitality and entertainment industries also witness a surge in activity. Restaurants, but also a crucial period theaters, and event venues experience increased footfall as people gather to celebrate with family and friends. Holiday-themed events and performances become popular attractions, contributing to the overall festive ambiance and providing additional revenue streams for businesses in these sectors. Seasonal Employment Op-. The Christmas season not

only benefits established businesses but also creates opportunities for seasonemployment Retailers logistics companies, and hospitality services often hire temporary staff to manage the increased demand. This surge in employment not only boosts the overall economy but also provides individuals with the chance to earn extra income during the holiday season. Marketing and Branding

Strategies: Successful businesses understand the importance of effective marketing and branding during the Christmas season. Clever advertising campaigns, heartwarming holiday commercials, and festive packaging contribute to creating a memorable and emotionally resonant experience for consumers. The power

this time.

Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility: In recent years, there has

strate their dedication to

As we revel in the warmth 3

of the Christmas season

it's clear that the spirit of

giving extends not only

to individuals but also to

ment, businesses strate-

gically leverage the hol-

iday season to not only

boost their bottom line but

also to forge lasting con-

As we unwrap the gifts

let's also appreciate the

economic dance that

takes place behind the

scenes, contributing to

the magic of Christmas in

more ways than one.

and enjoy the festivities,

nections with consumers.

causes.

Conclusion:

authorities conduct an investigation. But she also called been a growing emphafor viligance to prevent possisis on sustainability and ble further attack on civilians. corporate responsibility in the business world. "We should stand strong in Christmas presents an the face of challenges and the opportunity for businessongoing threat of terrorism," es to showcase their Duterte said in Filipino. commitment to these val-'No to violence in schools' ues through eco-friendly In a statement condemning packaging, charitable (nitiatives, and ethical

the explosion, Bangsamoro Chief Minister Ahod Ebrabusiness practices. Conhim said that MSU is an acsumers are increasingly drawn to businesses that ademic institution that has align with their values. always welcomed people of and the holiday season different faiths. provides a platform for "We must see to it that this companies to demon-

Marcos...

Vice President Sara Duterte,

on the other hand, urged Fil-

pinos, especially those from

Mindanao to remain calm as

justice," he added.

tradition will endure these times of tribulations," he said. In a separate statement, the Bangsamoro Ministry of Basic, Higher and Technical Ed- za, regional director of the

ucation stressed that it stands firmly against violence in educational institutions which are supposed to be safe spac-

es for learning and growth. "We shall continue to advocate for the safety and well-being of all students, faculty members, and school personnel in the Bangsamoro and the rest of the country," the ministry said.

Marawi Mayor Majul Gandamra urged members of the city's Muslim and Christian communities to remain uni-

"Our city has long been a

beacon of peaceful coexistence and harmony, and we will not allow such acts of violence to overshadow our collective commitment to peace and unity," he said. In an interview with DZBB, Police BGen Allan Noble**EDNESDAY HRONICLE**

From Page 1

Bangsamoro police, said that authorities are investigating a range of motives, including the possible retaliation by ISIS-inspired group Dawlah Islamiyah. An airstrike launched by the military Friday killed 11 militants from the Dawlah Islamiyah.

He also said that ordnance disposal exports are working to determine the type of improvised explosive device used in the attack.

The blast occurred six years after hundreds of pro-Islamic State foreign and local gunmen seized Marawi, the country's largest Muslim city. The Philippine military reclaimed the city after a fivemonth battle that resulted in the loss of over a thousand

/PHILSTAR.COM

Pinoy...

businesses that thrive MANILA, Philippines during this festive period. Fourteen Filipino seafar-The economic impact of Christmas goes beyond ers who were among the the exchange of gifts, crecrew of the marine vessel ating a ripple effect that ' struck by a Russian mistouches various sectors sile in Ukraine have arof the economy. From rived and are now reunited retail and e-commerce to hospitality and entertainwith their families

> Officials of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and Overseas Workers Administration (OWWA) welcomed the seafarers upon arrival at the airport past midnight Saturday.

According to DMW, the shouldered the repatria-

accommodations on their way home to their respec-**ADVERTISING**

There were 25 Filipino crewmembers of the KMAX RULER, three of whom got injured during the missile attack but are

DMW said all three injured Filipino seafarers returned home last weekend and have reunited with their families

All crewmembers were crew's manning agency provided initial medical checkup, psychosocial

tion as well as transit and assessments, and an initial amount of P10,000 in financial assistance from

From Page 1

They are also to receive additional insurance and other benefits from their manning and shipping

DMW officer-in-charge Hans Cacdac previously reported that all the 24 Filipino crewmen of a Liberian-flagged vessel damaged by a Russian missile attack are returning home.

/PHILSTAR.COM



and seamless shopping a personal level becomes

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Dec. 06- Dec. 12, 2023 **7** SM FOUNDATION LAUDS 397 COLLEGE SCHOLAR-GRADUATES

SM SUPERMALLS TO SPEARHEAD ANNUAL JOB FAIRS IN SELECT MALLS NATIONWIDE







SM Supermalls, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Public Employment Service Office (PESO), and Local Government Units (LGUs), will hold job fairs across SM malls from November 29 to December 11, 2023. The initiative aims to provide employment opportunities for job seekers and contribute to the government's ongoing efforts to alleviate unemployment in the country.

On November 29, the Job Fair will take place at SM City Lucena, followed by SM City Legazpi on December 1. Additionally, the Job Fair will be held on December 2 at SM Cagayan de Oro (CDO) Uptown and SM City Tuguegarao, on December 7 at SM City Iloilo, on December 8 at SM Seaside City Cebu, and on December 11 at SM City Olongapo Central.

These job fairs welcome all job seekers, including fresh graduates, returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and those exploring new job options. DOLE has extended invitations to various companies, ensuring a diverse range of job opportunities.

Throughout the job fairs, attendees can submit their resumes and undergo initial interviews with participating companies. Some companies may even extend on-thespot job offers, providing qualified applicants with immediate employment opportunities.

Since 2008, SM Supermalls has collaborated with DOLE in hosting job fairs.

"At SM Supermalls, we're committed to fostering meaningful connections between job seekers and employers. Our goal is for SM to be recognized as more than just a shopping destination but also as a dynamic job fair matching area, where career opportunities flourish," said SM Supermalls' President Steven Tan.

The event celebrates DOLE's 90th Founding Anniversary with the theme 'DOLE 90th Anniversary, Serbisyong Mabilis at Matapat sa Bagong Pilipinas.' It is supported by the Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) Jobs Group, the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP). /PR



Foundation (SMFI) celebrates the feat of 397 SM scholars from class 2023, including 8 summa cum laude, 72 cum aude, 55 magna cum laude, and 26 academic distinction awardees. Joining the event is SMFI trustee Engr. Ramon Gil Macapagal, SM Investments (SMIC) Chairman Emeri-tus Jose Sio, SMIC executive director Harley Sy, SM Engineering Design and Development Corporation (SMEDD) president Hans "Chico" Sy, SMFI independent trustee Dr. Lydia Echauz, and SMFI Executive Director for Education Programs Carmen Linda Atayde.

The SM Foundation (SMFI) celebrated the graduation of its 397 scholars from the class of 2023, including 8 summa cum laude, 72 cum laude, 55 magna cum laude, and 26 academic distinction awardees

Held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City, the presentation of graduates served as a mark of the significant milestone in the scholars' academic journeys and a testament to their resilience and determination to uplift their families and illuminate a path for future generations.

The inspiring event was joined by scholars' families, esteemed partners, and the SM Foundation's heads, including the foundation's Executive Director for Education Programs, Carmen Linda Atayde. In her address, Atayde emphasized the transformative power of education: "Behind these impressive statistics lie stories of triumph over challenges, stories of dreams pursued against all odds. These scholars, hailing from humble backgrounds, have shown that with opportunity and hard work, one can break the intergenerational cycle of poverty."

Atayde also recognized the support of mentors, educators, and the Sy family, noting how their efforts have paved the way for success, not only for today's graduates but also for the communities they represent.

Echoing the vision of the SM group's founder, Tatang Henry Sy Sr., SMFI Executive Director Debbie Sv also emphasized the importance of education as a tool for social mobility and poverty

"As we stand here today, let us remember the vision of Tatang, who believed deeply in the power of education to break the shackles of poverty," she

Addressing the scholars, Sy reminded the SM scholars of their role as catalysts for change in their communities: "You are the living proof of the transformative power of education. The SM Foundation Scholarship Program's goal is not just academic success but to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty."

"Now, armed with knowledge, be agents of social good in your communities. Your journey doesn't end here; it's a new beginning, and we can't wait to witness the positive impact you'll create," she

The SM Foundation's Scholarship Program, established in 1993, has provided financial and holistic support to over 8.000 college and technical-voca-

tional scholars, empowering them to pursue their academic aspirations and contribute to the betterment of their families.

This cements the SM group's commitment to social good in the last 40 years, ensuring that deserving students, especially from low-income communities, have access to quality education and the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.



SM Foundation Senior Asst. Vice President for Education



SM scholar-graduates from Batch 2023 during their special mance dedicated to their loved ones, the Sy family, and the SM group.



On the sidelines of the 2023 Presentation of the SM College Scholar-Graduates event, SM scholars from across the Philippines bond and create lifelong friendship



Tears of joy. SM Foundation's event honors the hard work of scholars and opens the limitless possibilities ahead of

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CHRISTMAS IN THEIR HEARTS: CHILD HAUS AND THE METRO MANILA **MAYORS' SPOUSES**

Christmas in their hearts: CHILD Haus and the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses



the Executive Committee Hans Sy (5th from right) and members of the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc and their representatives, as they present Christmas gifts to 30 beneficiaries and their parents from CHILD Haus, an institution founded to be a bastion of hope for children stricken by cancer. The event, which aimed to create a memorable Christmas outing and merienda party, took place last November 28, 2023, at the SM Mall of Asia (MOA). Activities included a shopping spree at the SM Store, snacks at Shake Shack, and rides at MOA SM By the Bay Amusement Park.



Mother Ricky Reyes (center) with SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, members of the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc., and their representatives by the SM Mall of Asia's magnificent 65-foot gigantic

As most know, CHILD Haus is a special home where underprivileged children, stricken by cancer, are offered an opportunity to reside in a home (along with a parent, or both parents if an infant), where they are provided food and shelter while undergoing treatment for their illness. Mother Ricky Reyes is CHILD Haus' Executive Director and guiding light; and it's through Hans Sy's continued support and status as principal benefactor that CHILD Haus has blossomed and expanded, such that two CHILD Haus locations now exist.

November 28 was a special day for the CHILD Haus residents as the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation, Inc. banded together with Mother Ricky and Hans Sy to create a memorable Christmas outing and merienda party at the SM Store, SM Mall of Asia, and at the SM by the Bay Amusement Park, alongside the mall.

Led by CHILD Haus and the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc., the event included the participation of San Juan City Mayor Francis Zamora, along with his wife and President of the said foundation, Mrs. Keri Zamora. They were joined by the following members: Mrs. Tiffany Gatchalian (wife of Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian); Mrs. Judy Chua (mother of Mrs. Tiffany Gatchalian); Mrs. Aubrey Malapitan (wife of Caloocan City Mayor Along Malapitan); Mrs. Catherine Mary "Trina" Reves-Biazon (wife of Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon); Pasay City Mayor Imelda "Emi" Gallardo Calixto-Rubiano, along with her husband, Pasay City representative Egay Rubiano; and Mrs. Peggy Anne Riate-Sienes, sister of Mrs. Aileen Olivarez (wife of Parañague City Mayor Eric Olivarez). They all interacted

with the children and their parents, acting as 'ninangs' and 'ninongs,' fairy godmothers, and godfathers for the

Even though they were unable to attend the event in person, these spouses still found ways to share their blessings with the CHILD Haus children: Mrs. Jenine Ponce (wife of Pateros City Mayor Mayor Miguel "Ike" Ponce), Mrs. Barbie Pardo-Tiangco (wife of Navotas City John Rey Tiangco), Mrs. Minnie Arte (wife of MMDA Chair Don Arte), and Vice Mayor Menchie Aguilar (Mandaluyong City).



(R-L): SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, Mrs. Judy Chua (mother of Mrs. Tiffany Gatchalian, wife of Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian), Pasay City Mayor Imelda "Emi" Gallardo Calixto-Rubiano, her husband Pasay City representative Egay Rubiano, Mrs. Tiffany Gatchalian (wife of Valenzuela City Mayor Wes Gatchalian), San Juan City Mavor Francis Zamora, and his wife, who is also the Presider of the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc., Mrs. Ker Zamora. Other members of the foundation, including Mrs. Tri-na Biazon (wife of Muntinlupa City Mayor Ruffy Biazon), Mrs. Aubrey Malapitan (wife of Caloocan City Mayor Dale Gonzalo "Along" Malapitan), and Mrs. Peggy Anne Riate-Sienes (sister of Mrs. Aileen Olivarez, wife of Parañaque City Mayor Eric Olivarez), joined the group at the SM Mall of Asia carousel.

A shopping spree at the SM Store was followed by a hearty Shake Shack merienda, then the opportunity to indulge in rides at the SM by the Bay Amusement Park. Between the shrieks of delight and wonder from the children, there was the heartfelt desire on the part of the mayors' spouses to have both children and parents put their health troubles behind them for the afternoon, and know that there was someone ready to look out for them. CHILD Haus is all about never losing hope, and that there are prayers that are answered.



Mother Ricky Reyes (third from left) with the members of the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc., along with their representatives, at the Mall of Asia's SM Store, where they conducted a Christmas shopping spree for the CHILD Haus beneficiaries.



Pasay City Mayor Imelda "Emi" Gallardo Calixto-Rubiano with the CHILD Haus beneficiaries during their Christmas shopping spree at the Mall of Asia SM Store.





A CHILD Haus beneficiary chooses a toy at the Mall of Asia SM Store during the Christmas shopping spree, supported by the Metro Manila Mayors' Spouses Foundation Inc.



Shake Shack at SM Mall of Asia provides delightful food for over 30 CHILD Haus children and parents.



The CHILD Haus kids and their parents pose in front of the MOA Eve located at SM By the Bay Amusement Park.

About CHILD Haus

CHILD Haus is a non-profit organization that provides a temporary home for indigent cancer-stricken children and their families. CHILD Haus provides a safe and loving environment for children to undergo treatment and recovery. The organization also offers support services to families, including counseling, financial assistance, and transpor-







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2023.....

MANILA, Philippines — The United States has described 2023 as a decisive year for implementing the US defense strategy in Asia, citing the expansion of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the Philippines to allow American access to four more Philippine facilities.

US Defense Secretary Llovd Austin on Saturday noted that more progress was made with each of his trips to the Indo-Pacific this year.

"In this decisive decade, 2023 will be remembered as a decisive year for implementing the US defense strategy in Asia. We're making our force posture in the Indo-Pacific far more distributed, mobile and resilient " Austin said in a speech at the Reagan National Defense Forum.

ADVERTISING

"We're helping our friends build up their own capabilities to defend themselves, and we're working with our allies and partners like

never before," he added. Austin cited the announcement of the EDCA expansion during his visit in Manila in February.

The Philippines ramped up its military ties with the US this year and allowed greater US access to local military bases that angered China. China condemned the new

sites, saving they threaten the peace and stability of the Indo-Pacific and are aimed directly at Beijing. The US National Defense Strategy describes China as America's "most consequential strategic competitor and the pacing chal-

lenge for the Department of Defense China is the only US rival with the intent - and, increasingly, the capacity - to reshape the international order, according to Austin

"The (People's Republic of China) hopes that the United States will stumble, and become isolated abroad and divided at home. But together, we can prevent that fate, and we have

From Page 1

made extraordinary progress, along with our allies and partners, in meeting the China challenge - and forging a more secure Indo-Pacific," he said.

The Pentagon said that the US is not seeking permanent bases in the Philippines with the new EDCA sites as it assured of activities that are responsive to the needs and priorities of local communities.

The US announced that it would allocate more than \$100 million in investments at new and existing FDCA sites by the end of Fiscal Year 2023.

expanding the EDCA to include four new sites in Palawan and Northern Luzon, the Philippines and the US will increase infrastructure investments at these sites to further support combined training. exercises and interoperability between the US and Philippine Armed Forces and the Philippines' civilian-led disaster preparedness and response capacities. /PHILSTAR.COM

dated 9:32 a.m.) — Pope ican's secretary of state, Francis conveyed a message of assurance to the victims of a deadly bomblearning about the injuries ing at a Catholic Mass in and loss of life resulting Marawi City that killed from the bombing. at least four people and Pope Francis concluded wounded 50 others.

"I wish to assure my prayer for the victims of the attack Peace will grant to all the that occurred this morning in the Philippines, where a bomb exploded during Mass," Pope Francis said in a statement on X, formerly Twitter

"I am close to the families and the people of Mindanao, who have already suffered so much," he added. The blast from an improvised explosive device occurred during a regular morning service at the gymnasium of the Mindanao State University Sunday. The Islamic State group claimed its members had detonated the bomb

In a telegram addressed to Marawi Bishop Edwin the bombing to "foreign de la Peña through Cardi- terrorists.

MANILA, Philippines (Up- nal Pietro Parolin, the Vat- Defense Gilberto Teodoro the Pope said that he was "deeply saddened" upon

strength to turn from vio-

lence and overcome every

The United Imams of the

Philippines Foundation,

Inc. condemned the "ap-

evil with good."

sinful acts," it said.

Jr. said there were "strong" indications pointing to the involvement of a "foreign element" in the bomb attack. He, however, refrained from disclosing inhis message with "prayers

From Page 1

🔟 Dec. 06- Dec. 12, 2023 🏻 🔏

The police and the military said that they are investithat Christ the Prince of gating whether the blast may have been a revenge attack for recent military operations against Islamist militant groups such as Dawlah Islamiyah-Philippines, Abu Sayyaf, and parently vicious and cow-Maute.

For the Council for Climate ardly acts of terrorism against innocent individuand Conflict Action Asia, it is too early to make con-"Terrorizing innocent peoclusions or assign blame ple and shedding blood, to any individual or group constitute a form of injusat this time

tice that cannot be tolerat-"We also call for calm and ed by Islam which views reflection amid attempts to polarize the situation and them as gross crimes and sow the seeds of a Muslim-Christian conflict," the President Ferdinand Margroup said. — with report cos Jr. condemned the "senseless and most heifrom Agence France-Presnous acts" and attributed se /PHILSTAR.COM

Most Jobs ...

MANILA, Philippines — Just around 1% of job vacancies in the Department of Labor and Employment's K-12 job fair in 2022 went to senior high school graduates, an official said on Monday, with most work available to them limited to the service industry.

DOLE Undersecretary Carmela Torres told the Senate higher technical and vocational education committee on Monday that senior high school graduates landed just 116 out of the 9,000 job vacancies advertised through its December 2022 job fair, while the rest went to applicants with higher educational backgrounds.

Torres said: "116 (senior high graduates) were hired basically as cashier. sales agent and service crew.

"So what we're saying is that these are the areas where they can be hired. These are the areas where we can enhance their competencies." she said in Filipino.

was specifically held for senior high school graduates, Torres said, most of applicants with college diplomas due to companies' preference

"The qualifications (required by some companies) are different. The applicant has to be a college graduate. That's why others are not hired." the labor official said.

Sen. Raffy Tulfo asked Torres: "I thought you said the job fair was for senior hiah?"

"Many job vacancies are for senior high school graduates, but there are also vacancies for college," Tulfo said. Torres did not state the

specific job fair but a post on DOLE's Facebook page indicates that an event called "Pasayahin 2022 K-12 Job Fair" was held on December 1. This job fair included the participation of more than 70 local employers and 9,379 iob vacancies.

According to another

But even as the job fair Facebook post by DOLE's uate), you would be turned National Capital Region office in 2022, the companies that participated in manufacturing, banking, retail & trade industries, among others.

> The job fair also included advertisements for vacancies in the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

'What's the purpose of K to 12?' Tulfo asked Torres wheth-

with a job fair exclusive to make use of those who finished senior high school." Senior high school gradu- centives," Tulfo added. ates' lack of employment According to the Departopportunities was the ment of Education's tracmain concern during the er study of its senior high Senate panel's hearing on school graduates, only legislative bills on the pro- around 10% of senior high posed Enterprise-Based Education and Training to job, while 83% continued Employment Act.

off," Tulfo said. "What's the purpose of

K to 12? So maybe this the available work went to the job fair were from busi- is where DepEd should PHILSTAR.COM ness process outsourcing, come in," the senator add-Tulfo pushed for longer

work immersion hours for students similar to apprenticeship programs, where trainees embed with companies for months and not iust weeks

These programs should "(provide) a guarantee that er DOLE could come up by the end of their immersion, they will be employed senior high school gradu- and will receive regular ates "to ensure that there pay and benefits. And the are industries that can company who accepted that senior high school graduate will receive in-

> school graduates landed a to higher education.

"(Jobs that are) typist, re- In April, Sen. Sherwin ceptionist, you have to be Gatchalian flagged the a college graduate. If you Civil Service Commission were a senior high (grad- for accepting graduates of From Page 1

both the old high school curriculum and the K to 12 program, which he said "violates" the K to 12 law./



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



DOWN

for short

4) Gains

3) Canal site

5) Whimpered

10) Aged one

vents it

three times

6) Act the bouncer

7) Unpleasant smell

8) Belt-hole makers

9) Football formation

11) Dramamine pre-

12) High-pitched wood-

13) Baseball backstops

18) Amerada_ (bygone

petroleumcompany)

22) He fought Frazier

23) '80s fashions, now

24) How most fans

25) Material for some

28) "There's no music

.. " -- Ruskin

29) Former Yugoslavi-

33) It might come with

3]) Samoan money

26) Batty, in Spain

an president

a few pointers

43) Paddle kin

34) Jittery

36) Acme

1) Christmas mo.

2) Retrovirus contents.

freedailycrosswords.com

ACROSS

- 1) Improbable wish
- 6) A Muse
- 11) Environmental hazard. for
- short
- 14) Maternally related 15) Ruby or diamond,
- 16) Chicken king
- 17) Did a gymnastic maneuver
- 19) It may have a nap on the floor
- 20) Smart_ (obnoxious
- 21) Likes and dislikes
- 23) Most risque 26) " of the Field" (Poitier
- classic)
- 27) Spiral-horned beasts 28) Type of clock or
- 30) Rocky peaks
- 31) Brief period of time 32) Mauna (Hawaiian
- 35) Hamlet's catch 36) Ancient Roman magistrate
- 38) Palindromic Bobbsev 39) "Deep Space Nine"
- character
- 40) "Me too" 4 I) Aphid, to a gardener
- 42) Word on a nutritional
- 37) Huck Finn's boat 41) Type of resistance 44) Cleans the slate
- 46) New delivery

59) Feudal vassal or lord

58) Anger

- 44) Ashtabula's lake 48) In an angry way 45) Window-shade part 49) Nigerian currency
- 46) Like Sanskrit, Hindi 50) Cook with direct radi and Bengali ant heat 47) South Pacific island
- 52) Add a soundtrack 53) Browns, as onions
 - 48) Up-and-
 - 50) Raised racehorses 51) Rush furiously, as
- 60) Sidestep, as an issue 61) An inferior dog 54) Feel pain, perhaps 62) Certain church officer
 - 55) Use the microwave
- 63) Transfer, as at a nursery 56) Tokyo, formerly 57) Fix, as a clock

Inagurasyon at Ceremonial Blessing | Solar Power Water Station with Filtration Project, Pinangunahan ni Cong. Lani Mercado Revilla



Isa sa pinakahihintay ng paaralan, guro at estudyante ang provektong inilaan ni Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla katuwang sila Senator Ramon Revilla Jr, Agimat Partylist- Congressman Bryan Revilla, Board Member Ram Revilla, Speaker Martin Romualdez at ang Pamahalaang Lungsod sa pangunguna nila Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Sangguniand Panlungsod Members sa pamumuno ni Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola.

Ang proyektong ito ay malaki ang maitutulong sa ating mga kabataang mag-aaral na nag-aaral sa Bayanan Elementary School. Target ng proyektong ito na maibsan ang uhaw ng mga magulang, estudyante at guro para hindi na kailangan pang gumastos ng mga estudyante pagbibili ng tubig.



Ang proyektong ito ay naging matagumpay sa tulong narin ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na sa sama-samang pag tutulungan ay madaling naibigay ang proyekto.

Dumalo naman sila Punong Barangay Alfie Gawaran, Dr. Babylyn Pambid – OIC School Division Superintented, Dr. Venus T. Balmedina, Assistant Schools Division Superintendent, Dr. Ma. Teressa Semino - School Principal IV at ibang PTA Offi-

Hindi natiqil ang ating Pamahalaang Lungsod, Office of the Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla, Agimat Partylist Cong. Bryan Revilla at iba pang ahensyang sa National na patuloy na natulong sa ating Lungsod.

Ito na ang pinakahihintay ng lahat! Ang Libreng Sine ay nagbabalik!

Simula Disyembre 4, 2023, alas 10:00 ng umaga sa SM CITY BACOOR, muling magbabalik ang LIBRENG SINE na handog ng City Government of Bacoor sa pamumuno ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla para sa mga Senior Citizens at PWD. LIBRENG SINE GUIDELINES

- Ang mga Senior Citizens at PWD ng Bacoor ay maaaring manood ng 1 pelikula tuwing Lunes kada
- Kailangan ipakita ang valid Senior Citizens ID, PWD ID, at SBR CARD na ibinigay ng LGU Baco-
- Ipresenta ang inyong Senior & PWD Booklets na ibinigay ng LGU Bacoor.
- Hindi Maaaring Mag-avail ang mga Benepisyaryo ng mga Sumusunod:
- Special Screening, Special Events, Ang taunang 2-Weeks MMFF Newly Release Movies na may sakop na linggo.
- PAUNAWA: Ito ay maaaring ma-avail lamang sa SM BACOOR & SM MOLINO CINEMAS only.

Last week's solution:

A DIFFICULT DIVERSION										By Timothy E. Parker					
¹L	A	D	⁴ S		B	O	⁷ L	⁸ T	⁹ S		¹⁰ S	11 A	k	13 E	
14 A	S	Е	A		15 A	W	A	R	Е		W	Η	-	R	
¹⁷ B	A	L	L	¹⁸ C	A	N	D	Υ	С	19 H	Е	Е	S	E	
²⁰ S	P	Е	A	R			žΕ	S	T	Е	ш	M	S		
			²² b	_	²³ E	²⁴ S		²⁵	0	R	T				
²⁶	²⁷	²⁸ P		29	A	P	30 A		³ R	E	Р	³² A	³³ S	³⁴ T	
35 A	M	A		36	С	0	N	³⁷ S			38 E	T	C	Н	
39 C	A	S	⁴⁰ H	С	Н	0	1	С	41 E	42 L	A	В	0	R	
43	N	Т	0			44 L	L	A	М	A		45 A	R	Е	
46 S	=	Е	S	⁴⁷ T	⁴⁸ A		49 E	R		С		50 Y	Ш	W	
			⁵¹	0	T	⁵² S		⁵³ S	Т	U	54 N				
	⁵⁵ C	56 H	E	R	0	0	⁵⁷ T			58 N	0	59	⁶⁰ S	61 E	
62 F	Е	E	L	I	N	G	S	63 H	64 E	Α	R	Т	Е	D	
65 	0	N	Е		66 A	G	Α	I	N		67 M	Е	R	E	
⁶ U	S	S	R		69 _	Υ	R	Е	S		70 A	M	Ε	N	



CAVITE WATER AND SOLID WASTE SUMMIT 2023



The Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO) led by Ms. Anabelle L. Cayabyab organized the Cavite Water and Solid Waste Summit 2023 which was held on November 20-21, 2023 at Cavite State University International Convention Center in Indang. This year's theme, Cavite Ecological Network; Establishing a Consortium of Academic Institutions for an Open Data Bank is a step towards addressing the many concerns on environment and natural resources management through inter-disciplinary approach and data sharing.

The two-day summit focused on research, data banking and presentation of various on-going and completed studies on environment and natural resources in Cavite. Among the speakers and presenters were: Dr. Rico C. Ancog, Dean of the School of Environmental Science and Management, University of the Philippines-Los Baños; Ms. Des'ree Lechuga, Provincial Focal Person of the Department of information and Communications Technology-Laguna; Ms. Nancy Bermas, Regional Project Manager of the GEF/UNDP/ASEAN IRBM Project, Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of east Asia (PEMSEA); and Engr. Christian Ron Cocson, Focal Person for Manila Bay, DENR-Environmental Management Bureau Region IV-A.

In support of the advocacy, the Consortium of Academic Institutions for Sustainable Development of Water Resources in Cavite composed of seventeen colleges and universities in the province were present and pledged their commitment officiated by Mr. Rodel Vincent Bae, OIC-Provincial Administrator for Internal Affairs.

During the course of discussions, issues as well as ideas were raised for clarification and consideration, all geared towards harmonizing actions toward water resources sustainability and improved solid waste management programs in the province

Posters of different studies were also on display at the venue of the summit for viewing and ranking of the panel of judges. The entry from the De La Salle University-Dasmariñas for their study entitled Survey on Plastic Litter Along Imus River, Cavite, Philippines bagged the Best in Poster Award.

Among the esteemed guests who joined the program were Cavite State University President, Dr. Hernando Robles, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, and 4th District Board Member Shernan S. Jar who all delivered messages of support and high hopes for the success of the environmental advocacies./PROVINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER

SEARCH FOR THE MOST CREATIVE AU-DIO-VISUAL MEDIA WORK THAT CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP



As a prelude to the 2023 Cavite Entrepreneurship Student Conference, the spotlight focused on the audio-visual media work of students from 15 different universities in the search for the most creative audio-visual media work held on November 22, 2023 at the Sanggunaing Panlalawigan Session Hall in Trece Martires City. The annual conference organized by the Office of the Provincial Cooperative Development Officer (OPCDO) in coperation with the Department of Trade and Industry-Cavite has been a melting pot of ideas, a catalyst for nnovation, and a platform for aspiring student entrepreneurs in the province

Ms. Liza C. Gabatan, Entrepreneurial Division Head of OPCDO gave the opening message where she presented the program overview and welcomed the aspiring guests and participants. It was followed by the messages of Mr. Alvin S. Moiica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, and Ms. Lilibeth R. Chavez, the OIC-Provincial Director of DTI-Cavite, who both left inspiring messages to the future generation of entrepre-

The parade of creativity at the event reached new heights as students from the competing universities dazzle audiences with their creative audio-visual media works. Each participating university brought a unique perspective to the theme, weaving captivating narratives that explore the entrepreneurial spirit, underscoring the widespread interest and commitment among students from various academic institutions to explore the intersection of entrepreneurship and audio-visual media

Panel of judges who scored the artistic entries include Ms. Mia Rayray, Associate Dean of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Mr. Mariano Sayno, an art director, photographer, designer, and travel blogger, and Mr. John Berlin Santos, a producer and video director.

Exceptional entries stand a chance to be recognized, with accolades and rewards awaiting those who successfully encapsulate the entrepreneurial spirit in their audio-visual masterpieces that will be announced on November 29 during the 2023 Cavite Entrepreneurship Student Conference.

The event concluded by distributing of certificate of participation of the judges and participants with the presence of Ms. Liza C. Gabatan../ OFFICE OF THE PRO-VINCIAL INFORMATION OFFICER

PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM ORIENTATION

Dec. 06- Dec. 12, 2023 5



The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO) organized a remarkable Orientation on the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, with an aim of improving the level of well-being and break the intergenerational cycle of poverty, on November 17, 2023, at the Capitol Building's Ceremonial Hall. Mr. Alvin Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, kicked off the event with an inspirational message, setting the tone for an informative session.

Mr. Jay O. Olaquir, Project Development Officer II, DSWD IV-A, delivered the keynote address, which navigated through the milestones of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, which is anchored in Republic Act 11310. Participants gained a thorough understanding of the program's framework, delving into the complexities of the Implementing Rules and Regulations that govern

Mr. Olaguir further explained the Regional Memorandum Circular No. 001-s-2022, providing a comprehensive overview of updates on active households and the commendable progress of exit graduates in Cavite. Adding a personal touch to the proceedings, Ms. Marry Lyn Villamor, Project Development Officer II of Citylink - Trece Martires City, shared her journey as a living testament and product of the 4Ps beneficiary program, underscoring the real impact on individual lives.

The diverse array of attendees, including representatives from PHO/Nutritionist, DepEd, Philhealth, 4Ps TMC, representatives from the different departments of the provincial government, and Cavite State University-Indang, showcased the combined effort towards community development. The program seamlessly integrated a workshop component, fostering a collaborative environment for knowledge exchange and strategic planning.

As a fitting culmination, certificates were awarded, recognizing the dedication and commitment of the participants to the cause of advancing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program's objectives. The Orientation not only disseminated crucial information but also nurtured a sense of community and empowerment, emphasizing that the success of the program is a collective endeavor, uniting various sectors for the greater good of Cavite's residents./OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL INFORMA-**TION OFFICER**