

## MPT SOUTH JOINS GLOBAL EFFORT FOR INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY 2024

Santa Rosa City, Laguna—On September 21, 2024, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), actively participated in this year's International Coastal Cleanup. MPT South is dedicated to being a strong advocate for environmental protection and sustainability."



The event brought together over a thousand volunteers from various companies and organizations to address the growing issue of plastic pollution and waste along the country's waterways. They aimed to remove waste from the coastlines and raise awareness about the importance of protecting our oceans, rivers, seas, and lakes.

MPT South volunteers helped collect 2,016.5 kg of waste by the lakeside. In total, the efforts of all participants across the cleanup site resulted in 591 filled trash bags, including 126.5 kg of PET bottles, 611 kg of plastic laminates, 2,938 kg of residuals, and 314.3 kg of special waste—culminating in 3,989.8 kg of waste removed from the waterway.



The coastal cleanup is part of MPT South's broader sustainability efforts, emphasizing the need to protect and preserve the natural environment in the areas it serves. Through this initiative, the company demonstrated its dedication not only to improve mobility with its expressways but also to safeguard the ecosystems that surround these communities.



Arlette Capistrano, MPT South's Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, stated, "As a company deeply connected with communities across South Luzon, we take our environmental responsibilities seriously. We look forward to always being a part of the International Coastal Cleanup. MPT South is dedicated to being a strong advocate for environmental protection and sustainability."

MPT South continues to help foster environmental responsibility and sustainable practices, ensuring to contribute positively to both community welfare and environmental protection efforts across the region. /PR



## PH COASTAL CLEANUP YIELDS RECORD VOLUNTEERS, TRASH COLLECTION



Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga led government partners, private sector partners, and volunteers of all ages at SM By the Bay in Pasay City on September 21 for the annual International Coastal Cleanup, the largest volunteer effort in the world devoted to cleaning the ocean and finding solutions to ocean pollution. In the Philippines, over 74,000 volunteers from 1,913 partner organizations in 250 sites nationwide collected some 352,479 kilograms of trash during the cleanup. From left to right: DENR Regional Executive Michael Drake Matias, Nestle Philippines Senior Vice President and Head of Corporate Affairs Jose Uy III, Pasay City Congressman Antonino Calixto, SM Supermalls Vice President Liza Silerio, Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano, DENR Secretary Loyzaga, SM Supermalls President Steven Tan and SM Supermalls Senior Assistant Vice President for Operations Perkin So.

MANILA, September 22, 2024 – The Philippines surpassed its International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) records during the activity conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) yesterday in 250 coastal sites across the country to raise awareness about the impact of plastic pollution on marine life and ecosystems.

From 35,000 volunteers last year, DENR recorded 74,075 volunteers from 1,913 government, academe, and private sector organizations yesterday. From the northernmost Pasuquin municipality in Ilocos Region to the southernmost Gian municipality in Socksargen Region, volunteers of all ages gathered at beaches, riverbanks, and coastlines and meticulously collected a total of 352,479 kilograms trash and debris, ranging from plastics to other waste materials during yesterday's cleanup.

"This year marks a significant milestone as the Philippines affirms its commitment to coastal cleanliness and environmental conservation," DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said. "With the ICC 2024 theme, 'Clean Seas for Blue Economy,' this year's cleanup not only aimed to address immediate pollution but also sought to inspire long-term behavioral changes among communities, encouraging everyone to reduce waste and participate in ongoing clean-up initiatives."

The data gathered during the cleanup will be compiled to better understand the types of waste affecting the country's waters, ultimately guiding future conservation, waste recovery, and resource utilization strategies, while the collected trash that can be recycled will be brought to the nearest local Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Previously, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. pegged climate change and common trash disposal practices as the culprits of extensive flooding in Metro Manila, following the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) report that Typhoon Carina last month had brought about 13 landslides, causing the evacuation of more than 600,000 people, and the deaths of 14 in the country.

"Today, we witnessed an incredible outpouring of support and dedication from Filipinos who care deeply about our environment," said Secretary Loyzaga. "As we celebrate the 30th year of the International Coastal Cleanup in the Philippines, we reaffirm our commitment to safeguarding our coastal resources and promoting sustainable practices that protect our marine ecosystems."

The International Coastal Clean-up is one of the largest volunteer efforts in the world, with over 150 participating countries and millions of volunteers each year. The Philippines started participating in the ICC around 1994 and, in 2003, the Philippine Government institutionalized the event by issuing Presidential Proclamation 470 setting ICC in the Philippines every 3rd Saturday of September.

"We are grateful for the collaboration of local governments, academic institutions, non-government organizations, and most importantly, the passionate volunteers who made this event a resounding success," Secretary Loyzaga added.

Inviting the public to continue their efforts in keeping the Philippines clean and green even beyond the cleanup day, Secretary Loyzaga concluded, "By becoming stewards of our ecosystems and natural resources, we can ensure a healthier environment for current and future generations. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in protecting our precious marine environments."



For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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POVERTY INCIDENCE REPORT. Charity O. Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of the Statistical Operations and Coordination Division of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 4A (Calabarzon), reports on the region's poverty incidence at Hotel Marciano, Calamba City. She said the region had 226,670 poor families in 2023, a decrease of almost 69,000 from 295,640 in 2021. (Photo by Zen Trinidad)

**GOV. JONVIC REMULLA WITHDRAWS FROM 2025 GUBERNATORIAL RACE, SET TO BECOME NEXT DILG SECRETARY** Turn on page 2

Trece Martires, Cavite – In the afternoon of October 7, 2024, Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla has announced his withdrawal from the 2025 gubernatorial race, opting instead to take on a larger national role as the next Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

The move comes after speculation that Remulla was being considered for a cabinet position as Secretary Benhur Abalos resigned from his

post as DILG Secretary. President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reportedly tapped Remulla for the post, entrusting him with the task of leading one of the most crucial departments in government.

As the next DILG Secretary, Remulla will be responsible for overseeing the performance of local governments, law enforcement, disaster response, and the peace and order situation nationwide. His experience as

governor of Cavite—a province known for its complex political and social issues—positions him as a strong candidate for the role.

Jonvic Remulla's withdrawal from the gubernatorial race is expected to shake up Cavite's political landscape. He has been a dominant force in local elections, and his endorsement could make or break the candidacy of other hopefuls. Speculation is rife over who will take his place as

the political frontrunner in the province, but Remulla has pledged his support to the next generation of leaders in Cavite, saying, "I leave the province in capable hands. The work we've started will continue."

As Remulla prepares to assume his new role, many are looking forward to how his leadership style will translate into national governance. Known for being hands-on and pragmatic, the incoming DILG Secretary



## The Persistence of Political Dynasties in 2024 — A Threat to Democracy

As we step further into 2024, the political landscape remains deeply entrenched in a system that seems resistant to meaningful change. Political dynasties continue to dominate the democratic space, raising urgent questions about the future of governance and equality. The existence and persistence of these family-run political empires represent a serious impediment to the progress and inclusiveness of our democratic institutions.

The Continuing Rise of Dynasties Despite decades of political reforms and promises to curb the influence of elite families, political dynasties remain a formidable force in many countries, especially in developing democracies. The centralization of power within a few elite families has continued, with a younger generation of dynasts stepping into the shoes of their forebears. Instead of encouraging diversity in leadership, the system has, in many ways, regressed.

In some countries, these political families have been in power for generations, wielding significant influence not just over government institutions but also over the economy and the media. The 2024 elections in many parts of the world have only highlighted this pattern, with political dynasties once again clinching key positions from local councils to national offices. Their ability to consolidate power is often enabled by a combination of name recognition, deep-rooted networks, and vast resources—advantages that ordinary citizens and new political players rarely have.

The Consequences on Governance Political dynasties often result in governance that prioritizes personal and familial interests over the public good. This has stunted social mobility and reinforced entrenched inequalities in society. Instead of a merit-based system where

citizens can trust that leaders rise through competence, dynasties tend to operate on the principle of maintaining power within the family, perpetuating corruption and cronyism.

In addition, the presence of political dynasties stifles innovation in policy-making. When the same families hold power, the same ideas and policies tend to dominate the national conversation. True political competition—vital for a healthy democracy—is often undermined as dynasties crowd out alternative candidates, ideas, and policies.

The Legal Loopholes and Weak Institutions Part of the problem lies in weak or insufficient legislation. While many countries, including the Philippines, have laws that aim to curtail political dynasties, these regulations are often toothless or laden with loopholes. For instance, the absence of clear term limits or the lack of proper anti-dynasty laws allows members of the same family to occupy different posts, effectively bypassing restrictions.

Moreover, political institutions, already vulnerable to corruption and manipulation, become further compromised under dynastic rule. With their long-standing influence, political families can easily navigate and exploit these institutional weaknesses, ensuring their continued dominance. Voters, especially in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, may feel they have little choice but to support the established political families, who can offer patronage or protect vested local interests.

The Call for Reform The persistence of political dynasties in 2024 is a clear sign that democratic systems need urgent reforms. Several key steps are necessary to counteract this troubling trend:

Legislation: Stronger anti-dynasty laws need to be enacted

and enforced. This can include imposing stricter term limits and banning members of the same family from holding key political offices simultaneously.

Strengthening Democratic Institutions: Electoral bodies, anti-corruption agencies, and the judiciary must be strengthened to ensure that political families do not manipulate systems to their advantage.

Empowering New Leaders: Incentives and support for new political leaders, especially from marginalized and underrepresented communities, are needed to create a more diverse and representative political class.

A Struggle for Democracy The dominance of political dynasties is a long-standing issue that continues to plague modern democracy. In 2024, their persistence serves as a sobering reminder of the fragility of democratic institutions when they are captured by the few. It is a challenge that must be met with a combination of legal reform, institutional strengthening, and a commitment to democratic principles. As citizens, the responsibility also lies with us—to be vigilant, to advocate for true representation, and to reject the politics of dynastic entitlement.

Only through collective effort can we hope to dismantle the political dynasties that undermine democracy and build a more equitable, inclusive political future.

-Ang Kabitenya

## GOV...

tary faces a set of challenges, particularly in terms of decentralizing power, improving local government efficiency, and addressing security concerns across various regions.

Jonvic Remulla's deci-

## POVERTY...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 4A (Calabarzon) announced on Friday the decrease of poverty incidence in the region.

In a presentation of the 2023 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics held Friday at Hotel Marciano here, Charity O. Bautista, Officer-in-Charge of the Statistical Operations and Coordination Division, said in 2023, the poverty rate stood at 7.9 percent, meaning 79 out of every 1,000 residents were considered poor.

This, she noted, showed a reduction from 10.2 percent (or 102 out of 1,000 residents) in 2021.

It was highlighted that the total number of poor individuals in the region dropped by 331,310, from 1,676,350 in 2021 to 1,345,040 in 2023.

Among the provinces, Quezon reported the highest poverty incidence at 10.2

sion to step away from local politics to join the DILG is seen as both a personal milestone and a crucial moment in the government's efforts to further strengthen the relationship between national and local gov-

percent; followed by Rizal at 8.5 percent; Laguna at 7.9 percent; Batangas at 7.6 percent; and Cavite at 6.7 percent.

Looking at the poverty incidence and magnitude of poor families, the rate was estimated at 5.1 percent in 2018, which increased to 7.2 percent in 2021, and then declined to 5.3 percent in 2023. This means that about 53 out of every 1,000 families in the region lacked sufficient income to meet basic food and non-food needs.

In terms of numbers, the region had 226,670 poor families in 2023, a decrease of almost 69,000 from 295,640 in 2021.

Laguna province has the largest share of poor families at 24 percent; followed by Cavite at 22 percent; Rizal at 19.4 percent; Batangas at 17.4 percent; and Quezon at 17.2 percent.

For a household of five, the minimum monthly

ernance. His supporters in Cavite and beyond are hopeful that his appointment will lead to greater progress and stability in the years to come./PR

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income required to cover basic food and non-food needs, known as the Poverty Threshold, is PHP15,457. Among the provinces, Cavite has the highest threshold at PHP17,399; followed by Rizal at PHP16,273; Laguna at PHP16,038; Batangas at PHP14,742; and Quezon at PHP12,108.

Notably, the average poverty threshold in 2023 rose by 19.4 percent compared to 2021 and increased by approximately 32.8 percent compared to the pre-pandemic level of PHP11,673.

“The records reflect a decline in poverty incidence in the region post-pandemic. With more job opportunities available, we can anticipate further reductions as individuals gain the capacity to meet their basic needs,” PSA-4A Regional Director Charito C. Armonia said. (PNA)

## BACOR CITY...

The City of Bacoor marked Elderly Filipino Week with a series of community events organized by the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA), led by Atty. Venus De Castro. The celebration saw the participation of Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, Councilor Simplicio Dominquez, Chair of the Committee on Senior Citizens, and representatives from the City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) and the Office of the City Health Services.

The event aimed to honor the contributions of senior citizens to the community and promote their well-being.

ing. Activities included health checkups, recreational programs, and a special luncheon for senior citizens. A highlight of the celebration was the distribution of rice to Bacoor's senior citizens.

“Our elderly are the heart and soul of our community, and we are committed to ensuring their well-being and recognizing their invaluable contributions,” said Atty. De Castro. Vice Mayor Mendiola echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the importance of providing support and opportunities for senior citizens. “We want to ensure that our elderly feel valued and

supported, and that their wisdom and experience are essential for the growth and development of our city,” she stated. The celebration was met with positive feedback from the senior citizens of Bacoor, who expressed their gratitude for the recognition and support./PR



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## PGC's OPENRO LEADS ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING IN TAGAYTAY CITY



In observance of Cavite Monthly Arbor Day, the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer organized a tree planting activity in Barangay Iruhin Central, Tagaytay City on September 27, 2024. The activity aimed to contribute to local reforestation efforts and strengthen environmental protection in the province.

The event began with a short program in which Punong Barangay Arnold Mendoza of Iruhin Central, welcomed the participants, including government employees and residents of Batangas and Tagaytay City. Several local officials were also in attendance, including Dr. Joselito R. Laguarda, Tagaytay City Agriculturist; Mr. Oscar B. Laurenciana, Tagaytay CENRO; and Hon. Florencio Sangalang, ABC President of Tagaytay City.

A total of 351 fruit-bearing seedlings were planted along the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape (TVPL) in Barangay Iruhin Central. All seedlings were generously donated by OPENRO Nursery and various organizations including Cavite Council of Human Resource and Management Practitioners, Incorporated (CCHRMPI), PAMO-TVPL Batangas, PAMANA Development Co-operative Federation, and DALI-Everyday - Barangay Batino, Calamba Branch.

The tree-planting activity emphasized a collaborative effort to promote ecological restoration and sustainability. OPENRO continues to lead environmental advocacy projects, empowering communities to contribute to a greener and healthier environment. /CPIO

## Regional-Level Most Wanted Person Nabbed in GMA, Cavite



Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite—The warrant personnel of the General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station successfully apprehended a regional-level most wanted person on October 6, 2024, in Brgy. Olaes, GMA, Cavite.

According to the report of PLTCOL RANDY C OLQUI-

NO, COP, GMA MPS, the suspect, identified as alias “Joshua,” 28 years old a resident of Brgy. Olaes, GMA Cavite, was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest for the crime of Violation of Anti-Rape Law of 1997 (RA 8353) and Acts of Lasciviousness in Relation to RA 7610 under Criminal Case no. 2016-614 and 2016-641 issued by Family Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 16, Satriaya Quezon with no recommended bail for violation of RA 8353 and Php 180,000.00 recommended bail for violation of Acts of Lasciviousness in Relation to RA 7610. The suspect is now in the custody of GMA MPS for documentation and proper disposition.

“This successful operation underscores the commitment of the personnel of the GMA MPS and the entire Cavite Police Force to ensuring the safety and security of the community by bringing wanted persons behind bars,” said PCOL ELEUTERIO M RICARDO JR. /CPPO

## PROCLAMATION RALLY NI SEN. BONG REVILLA JR. AT AGIMAT PARTYLIST SINUPORTAHAN NG MGA CAVITENO



Kahapon, Oktubre 7, 2024 ginanap sa Strike Gym (Bacoor Government Center ) ang proclamation rally nila Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. at ng Agimat Partylist - Cong. Bryan Revilla. Inabangan ito ng mga supporters galing sa ibat-ibang Bayan at Lungsod ng Cavite. Hindi naman nag pahuli ang mga Bacoreño sa pag suporta sa nag-iisang senador at Partylist ng Cavite.

Buo naman ang suporta ng ibat-ibang opisyal mula sa ibat-ibang Bayan at Lungsod ( Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Cavite City, Imus at iba pa ) na talagang dumalo sa Bacoor para ipakita ang kanilang suporta at pagmamahal sa butihing Senador Bong Revilla Jr. at sa Agimat Partylist. Ang TEAM REVILLA naman sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola, Cong. Lani M. Revilla, Sangguniang Panlungsod Members ay sasamahan ang ating Senador at Partylist kanilang laban.

Sa huli, sama-samang nag taas ng kamay sila Sen. Bong Revilla Jr, Cong. Bryan Revilla, 2nd Nominee Samantha Panlilio, 3rd Nominee King Gutierrez, Cong. Lani M. Revilla, Cong. Aj Advincula - Imus, Mayor Aguinaldo - Kawit, Mayor Chua - Cavite City, Board Member Ram Bautista.

AKSYON SA TUNAY NA BUHAY/PR



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Alorica Philippines will conduct the Local Recruitment activity and they are giving Opportunities for Job seekers like you!

October 8 (TUESDAY), 9 (WEDNESDAY), from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Bring two UPDATED Resumes and Ballpens at the Bacoor Public Employment Service Office Department, 2nd Floor, citygovtbacoor, Bacoor Boulevard, Bacoor City, Cavite. /PR

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Tuesday Wednesday

Bring 2 Copies of your UPDATED RESUME from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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Bacoor Public Employment Service Office

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October 8, 9, 2024 Tuesday & Wednesday

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Bacoor Public Employment Service Office



## SM PRIME CONTINUES SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION ADVOCACY WITH UP LOS BAÑOS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



In the photo are the SM sustainability scholars with University of the Philippines Los Baños' Office of Scholarships and Grants (UPLB-OSG) Director Assoc. Prof. Ariel Babierra, Ph.D. (standing, far right), UPLB-OSG Scholarship Affairs Officer Ivy Mary Selarde, SM Prime Assistant Vice President for Public Relations and Communications Rida Reyes-Castillo, with the rest of the SM team (standing, third from right).

After a year, leading integrated property developer SM Prime Holdings, Inc. (SM Prime) stays true to its commitment for educational access and environmental stewardship through its sustainability scholarship program in partnership with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). Under the SM Sustainability Scholarship, SM Prime continues to support ten UPLB students with their undergraduate studies, helping them pursue degrees in either Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology or Bachelor of Science in Forestry, fields that align with the property developer's focus on building resilient communities and fostering a sustainable future.

"SM Group's founder, Henry "Tatang" Sy Sr. always believed that education is the greatest equalizer. He envisioned that sending one child to college would create ripples of social good, not just for families but for the entire community these students belong to," said SM Prime Assistant Vice President for Marketing, Public Relations, and Corporate Communications, Rida Reyes-Castillo. "SM Prime believes UPLB would be the best partner to support its sustainability initiatives in promoting a conducive learning environment while honing new Iskolars ng Bayan leaders committed to knowledge creation and public service. We will continue to support the empowerment of our youth and communities' well-being", she added. The SM Sustainability Scholars, who were chosen for their academic excellence and dedication to sustainability, were again met by the SM Prime team during their meet-and-greet gathering at UPLB last September 26.

Each scholar will receive a full scholarship covering tuition fees, a monthly living allowance, and a stipend for books, ensuring all the support they need is there so that they can focus on their studies.

For UPLB, College of Human Ecology (CHE) Dean Dr. Jennifer Amparo expressed that the pursuit of sustainability is most effectively undertaken collaboratively. "CHE is one of the colleges that puts a premium on interdisciplinarity and trans-disciplinarity because we believe that in sustainability, you don't work in silos. We need to work together and build each other's skills, know-how, and also our programs together to ensure sustainability," she said.



SM Prime Assistant Vice President Rida Reyes-Castillo (left) is hopeful that the SM Sustainability Scholars, including Adina Lacdang (second from top left), will become future sustainability stewards, with Lacdang expressing gratitude for SM Prime's continued support.

SM Sustainability scholar Adina Lacdang, who majors in Bachelor of Science Forestry, said that the crucial support from SM Prime has helped her in her studies and also eased the added financial burden on her parents.

"With the knowledge I am able to acquire through this scholarship, gusto ko po mapangalagaan 'yung sarili naming kabuhayan through agroforestry. I hope to serve as a bridge for industries that are rapidly modernizing and use my skills and knowledge to align them to sustainable practices," Lacdang said.

Now in her sophomore year, she hopes to apply her knowledge of sustainability and use her voice to encourage the youth to take an interest in the environment, including forestry.

"I have seen that they are making a great impact in the field of forestry in terms of sustainability and broadening the sciences. When we continue to learn about our surroundings, we are able to make informed decisions that will leave a lasting positive impact," she shared.

For decades, SM Prime has embraced the responsibility to contribute to nation-building through social good programs that are geared towards quality education, sustainable agriculture, healthcare, and disaster response. By helping improve the quality of life of the people in these host communities, social development and investment go hand in hand with business growth to achieve a better future for all. **/PR**

## SM FOUNDATION PROVIDES RELIEF TO TYPHOON JULIAN-HIT COMMUNITIES

Following Ilocos Norte's declaration of a state of calamity in early October due to Typhoon Julian, SM Foundation activated its Operation Tulong Express (OPTE) to provide immediate assistance to over 750 families.

Employee-volunteers from SM City Laoag led the distribution of the Kalinga Packs containing essential items to affected families in the province.

OPTE, a collaboration between SM Foundation, SM Supermalls, and SM Markets, addresses community needs during calamities and crises. The program has distributed over 800,000 Kalinga Packs since its inception, supporting emergency response efforts across various situations.



## SM Foundation, naghatid ng tulong sa mga nasalanta ng bagyo sa Ilocos Norte

Agad na kumilos ang SM Foundation matapos ideklara ang state of calamity sa Ilocos Norte dahil sa Bagyong Julian.

Sa pamamagitan ng Operation Tulong Express (OPTE), namahagi ang mga volunteer-employees mula SM City Laoag ng mahigit 750 Kalinga Packs sa mga apektadong pamilya.

Ang OPTE ay isang inisyatiba ng SM Foundation, SM Supermalls, at SM Markets na nagbibigay tulon tuwing may kalamidad. Simula nang ilunsad ito, mahigit 800,000 Kalinga Packs na ang naimamahagi sa iba't ibang komunidad. **/PR**



## DAY 7...

MANILA – A total of 99 aspirants for national positions in next year's mid-term elections filed their certificates of candidacy (COC) on Monday, the second to the last day of the filing period. The number includes 49 senatorial bets and 50 party-list organizations. Among the filers at The Manila Hotel Tent City was entertainment industry "Superstar" Nora Aunor, the second nominee of the People's Champ party-list. "Gusto ko makatulong (I want to help)," the multi-awarded actress said in an interview when

asked why she decided to join the group. Former Commission on Elections (Comelec) commissioner Gregorio Larazabal is also seeking to be part of the House of Representatives under the Partido sa Bagong Pilipino party-list. Human rights lawyer Chel Diokno, meanwhile, is running as Akbayan party-list first nominee. He ran for senator in the May 2022 polls but lost. Meanwhile, prominent figures who filed their senatorial bids included reelectionist Senator Ramon Revilla Jr., former Department of

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the Interior and Local Government Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr., former Ilocos Sur governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, former Marine colonel Ariel Querubin, and former senators Gregorio Honasan II and Manny Pacquiao. As of Monday, a total of 127 senatorial bets have filed their COC while 137 party-list organizations have submitted their certificate of nomination-certificate of acceptance of nomination. The filing period will end Tuesday. (PNA)

## CIVIL...

MANILA – The head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) on Monday said it's safe to go to Tagaytay despite the recent phreatomagmatic eruption in Taal Volcano. Phivolcs recorded the eruption in Taal on Saturday, which lasted four minutes and resulted in a short black jetted plume, followed by a steam-rich plume that rose 2,000 meters above the main crater. "The phreatomagmatic event was likely driven by sudden contact of water with a small branch of shallow magma that has been in place beneath the Taal Main Crater and that has been degassing sustained levels of SO<sub>2</sub>

(sulfur dioxide) for the past three years," Phivolcs said in an advisory. "It's safe to go to Tagaytay. People just need to bring face masks to protect themselves in case of another eruption, or in case of ashfall or sulfur dioxide emission," Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol said in Monday's episode of Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon.

He said there was no volcanic earthquake recorded in Taal for the past 24 hours, but there was reported ashfall in Agoncillo, Batangas. There was also a phreatic eruption on Sunday night, but Bacolcol said it generated a 300-meter-tall plume only. He reminded the public

that entry into the Taal Volcano Island (TVI), Taal's permanent danger zone, especially the vicinities of the Main Crater and the Daang Kastila fissure, remains prohibited. Taal Volcano remains under Alert Level 1, which means sudden steam-driven or phreatic explosions, volcanic earthquakes, minor ashfall and lethal accumulations or expulsions of volcanic gas can occur and threaten areas within the TVI. "Everyone, not just those residing near active volcanoes, must be vigilant and should heed the announcements of Phivolcs and local government units. Don't enter the PDZ," Bacolcol said. (PNA)

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## INTENSIFIED INFO DRIVE VS. VACCINE HESITANCY



PREVENTION. Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa administers vaccine on a student of Dr. A. Albert Elementary School in Sampaloc, Manila on Monday (Oct. 7, 2024) as Education Secretary Sonny Angara (center) looks on. The "Bakuna Eskwela" (School Vaccination) program provides protection to school-aged children against measles, rubella, diphtheria and for girls, human papilloma virus. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

Meanwhile, Education Secretary Sonny Angara assured that the DepEd will conduct an intensified information campaign to reduce vaccine hesitancy among learners in the basic education sector.

"Talagang may effort ang (there's really an effort from the) DepEd to talk to each parent to inform them kung ano ang pwedeng mangyari kapag hindi nagpa-bakuna (on what could happen if they refuse to be vaccinated)," he said in an ambush interview.

Angara said the resurgence of life-threatening vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) may have been affected by the reduction of those being vaccinated. "Information dissemination para 'yung sabi ni Secretary Ted (Herbosa), iyong mga marites ay hindi pakinggan. Ang dapat pakinggan ay 'yung mga eksperto (So that, just like what Secretary Ted said, we should not listen to gossips. We must listen to the experts)," he added.

Karen Bulseco, a parent, lauded the DepEd's move as her daughter got the opportunity to join the SBIP.

"Iyong mga nagsasabing delikado raw, mga marites lang po 'yun. Meron po akong kaibigan na nasa medical industry, sinabi niya na sobrang halaga raw po nun at nag-i-start siya (Those who are saying that it's dangerous, that's only gossip. I have a friend who's in the medical industry and told me that it's very important which starts) at the age of nine," she said. Bulseco also recalled that her sister died due to cervical cancer, which prompted her to have her daughter vaccinated against the disease.

"Mayroon po akong sister na na-diagnose ng cervical cancer noong 2018 at noong 2019, nawala na siya. So one year lang, kaya sobrang halaga po para sa akin itong vaccine (I have a sister who was diagnosed with cervical cancer last 2018 and died in 2019. Just one year, that's why for me this vaccine is very important)," she added.

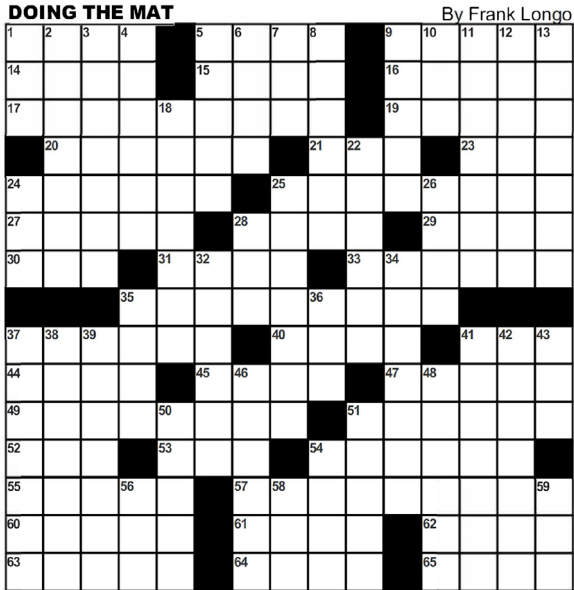
Angara, meanwhile, also thanked President Marcos for prioritizing the resumption of the SBIP following its long halt due to the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Thank you to the President for his support for this program at nabanggit nga ni Sec. Ted Herbosa iyong HPV virus, mga magulang, ang ginagastos diyan (and Secretary Ted Herbosa mentioned that for the HPV virus, parents spend around) PHP4,000," he said. (PNA)

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ACROSS

- 1) Simple skills
- 5) On-the-run GI
- 9) Raced down an icy chute
- 14) Pile set afire
- 15) \_ fide
- 16) Atmosphere protector
- 17) Footwear item for Inspector
- 19) “Chicago” actor Taye
- 20) Necessitate
- 21) Chillax
- 23) Milne young ‘un
- 24) \_ d’
- 25) Ernie’s roommate, after
- 27) About to go under the knife
- 29) K’Nex alternative
- 28) Neighbor of a Malaysian
- 30) Altitudes (Abbr.)
- 31) Ro Hing rock
- 33) Chophouse choices
- 35) Blow up a citadel?
- 37) Caviar fish
- 40) “I, Claudius” role
- 41) NYC hub
- 44) Singer-songwriter Tori
- 45) Develop
- 47) Not in the dark
- 49) Sound from a toddler’s toy
- Gadget? horn?
- 51) Actor Brody
- 52) Highchair wear
- 53) Put-\_ (hoaxes)
- 54) Twinkling
- 55) Ferengi, e.g.
- 57) Stuck-together mass of gaining lots of weight?
- towel fabric?
- 60) “Angie” star Davis
- 61) Latin “Lo!”
- 62) Classic Welles role
- 63) Famous car flop
- 64) Gift for a lover
- 65) Venue

DOWN

- 1) Android extra
- 2) From memory
- 3) Chums
- 4) Posted for
- 5) Activist Hoffman
- 6) Sheep’s clothing?
- 7) Singer on “Double Fantasy”
- 8) Land on the Baltic Sea
- 9) Rustic retreat
- 10) Commando gun
- 11) Begin recycling, say
- 12) Fill with blood
- 13) Antique Chrysler makes
- 18) Noise blocker
- 22) Periodical figure
- 24) Speed abbr.
- 25) Stuff like that
- 26) Ink spill result
- 28) LG products
- 32) Spanish region
- 34) For the most part
- 35) Not at all idle
- 36) Handful
- 37) Computing pioneer Charles
- 38) Wrote to, without a writing implement
- 39) Hotel areas
- 41) Game with cestas
- 42) San Francisco Bay area city
- 43) Mattel man
- 46) List of players
- 48) Pileups, e.g.
- 50) Pitch-related
- 51) Think similarly
- 54) Parabola parts
- 56) Chemical suffix
- 58) Author Umberto
- 59) Masters prop

CITY OF BACOR NEWS

BACOR HOPE CHILDREN’S CHORUS  
NASUNGKIT ANG GOLDEN DIPLOMA SA  
KATATAPOS LANG NA SING ‘N’ JOY INTER-  
NATIONAL CHORAL COMPETITION SA  
TAGBILARAN BOHOL



Wagi ang Bacor Hope Children’s Chorus sa katatapos lang na Sing ‘n’ Joy International Choral Competition na ginanap sa Tagbilaran Bohol. Ang Bacor Hope ay nakakuwa ng pinaka mataas na parangal sa kategorya F FOLKLORE na ang puntos ay 21.08, dahil dito sila ang nakakuwa ng GOLDEN DIPLOMA Level I na hangad rin ng mga sumali.

Nakuha rin ng Bacor Hope Children’s Chorus ang isang parangal sa kategoryang G1 o Children Choirs, ang puntos na nakuwa nila dito ay 19.97 na may SILVER DIPLOMA Level X.

Nakamit ng Bacor Hope Children’s Chorus ang tagumpay na ito sa suporta at gabay nina Founder Dr. Tina Alberto at Coach/Conductor Mr. Vell Litan na umalalay at nag turo sa mga Batang Bacooreño.

Ang laban na ito ay alay ng mga kabataang Bacooreño o Bacor Hope Children’s Chorus sa ating butiing Alkalde Strike B. Revilla at sa buong Team Revilla na sumuporta sa laban ng Bacor Hope Children’s Chorus.

CONGRATULATIONS BACOR HOPE CHILDREN’S CHORUS TUNAY NA ANG BATANG BACOOREÑO AY TALENTADO.



WEDNESDAY  
CHRONICLE  
NEWS PUBLISHING SERVICES  
STRIKE FAMILY DAY SA BARANGAY  
MOLINO 1



Naging masaya at nagkakaisa ang mga residente ng Barangay Molino 1 kahapon, ika-6 ng Oktubre, 2024, sa pagdiriwang ng “STRIKE FAMILY DAY.” Ang kaganapan, na inorganisa ng City Government of Bacor sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, sa pamamagitan ng LYDO, ay naging isang malaking selebrasyon ng pagkakaisa ng komunidad, na nagdala ng ligaya at saya para sa lahat.

Nanguna sa kaganapan ang LYDO Head na si Ms. Angie Cariaso, kasama ang Strike Bacor Rainbow Community, Triskelion Grand Fraternity Tau Gamma Phi, SBR-KKK Members, Barangay Molino 1 na pinamumunuan ni Kap Jeo Boying Dominguez, ang Barangay Bantay Bayan at Barangay Employees, SK Chairperson Arjay Alonzo at SK Council. Naging masaya naman ang araw para sa mga residente ng Barangay Molino 1, kabataan, at mga magulang.

Puno ng masayang aktibidad ang “STRIKE Family Day,” kabilang ang photobooth, sing along contest, inflatable slide, libreng gupit, at libreng pagkain. Nagbigay din ng libreng mais at ice scramble si Kap Jeo Dominguez para sa lahat.

Ang “STRIKE FAMILY DAY” ay nagsilbing isang malaking pagpapakita ng pagkakaisa, pagmamahal, at saya ng komunidad sa Barangay Molino 1, sa pagsisikap ng ating Bacor LGU.

Last week’s solution:



WEDNESDAY  
CHRONICLE  
NEWS PUBLISHING SERVICES  
Cavite Immunization Summit



On October 4, 2024, the Cavite Immunization Summit, spearheaded by the Department of Health - Center for Health Development (DOH CHD IV-A) in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), took place at the Summit Ridge Hotel in Tagaytay City. The event brought together health leaders of city/municipal health offices of the province, government officials, and experts to discuss critical strategies to enhance the province’s immunization efforts.

The summit opened with a warm welcome from Dr. Nonie John I. Dalisay, Provincial Health Officer II, who emphasized the importance of working together to improve immunization coverage and ensure the well-being of Caviteños. Representing Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, Provincial Administrator Alvin Mojica attended the event, underscoring the provincial government’s commitment to supporting health initiatives.

Dr. Leda M. Hernandez, Assistant Regional Director of DOH CHD IV-A, delivered the keynote speech, stressing the need to accelerate the National Immunization Program (NIP) to protect vulnerable populations. She commended the province for its proactive approach to health care.

The global perspective on immunization was provided by Dr. Namrata Bhatta from the World Health Organization (WHO), who presented the Global Immunization Situationer, offering insights into current global trends and challenges in vaccine distribution. This was followed by Mr. Devon Ray Pacial, Supervising Health Program Officer, who discussed the Philippine Immunization Situationer and the NIP Acceleration Plan aimed at addressing immunization gaps in the country.

Dr. Mark Nicholas O. Santos, Family Health Cluster Head of DOH CHD IV-A, presented the Regional Immunization Situationer, shedding light on Calabarzon’s progress and areas for improvement. Dr. Nonie John I. Dalisay also provided an update on Cavite’s provincial immunization status, highlighting ongoing efforts to meet targets.

Moreover, Mr. Christopher V. Bayle, Nurse V of DOH-CHD IV-A, discussed the Status and Involvement of the National Immunization Program under the Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG), emphasizing the role of governance in sustaining immunization efforts.

An important segment of the summit included plenary discussions on key topics such as governance and leadership, improving service delivery and reaching immunization targets, and the use of data for effective decision-making. Likewise, local government units (LGUs) of the City of Carmona, Tagaytay City, Mendez, and General Mariano Alvarez (GMA) shared their best practices in implementing successful immunization programs.

Among the local chief executives present were Mayor Dahlia Loyola of the City of Carmona, Mayor Lamber to Bambao of Ternate, Mayor Maricel Torres of GMA, Mayor Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista of Magallanes, and Rosario Vice Mayor Joanne Michelle Gonzales. Their attendance signified strong support for health initiatives

in their respective municipalities. The summit concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Nelson C. Soriano, Provincial Health Officer I, who expressed gratitude to all participants and reiterated the importance of sustained collaboration in achieving immunization goals for a healthier Cavite.--- OPIO

LCPCng Gumagalaw 2024: Advocating for Children’s Right Across Cavite



The Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC) - Cavite spearheaded the LCPCng Gumagalaw program from September 19 to October 1, 2024, covering city and municipalities across the province, including Cavite City, Noveleta, Ternate, Rosario, Silang, Amadeo, Kawit, General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), and Naic. The activity aimed to provide technical assistance to Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC) while advocating for children’s rights and emphasizing the importance of active council participation.

The advocacy focused on the four essential categories of children’s rights: survival, development, protection, and participation. LCPC members were guided through discussions on how to further promote these rights in their local government initiatives. The event also highlighted the critical role that LCPCs play in ensuring that the needs and voices of children are prioritized in community governance.

Ms. Roxanne Vicedo and Ms. Rey Ann Avilla from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Cavite, along with Ms. Jessie Rose Cruto from the Office of Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (OPSWDO), served as resource persons for the activity. Their expertise gave participants invaluable insights into strengthening their councils and fostering collaboration within their local communities.

The activity enhanced the capacities of LCPC members and reaffirmed Cavite’s commitment to safeguarding children’s rights and promoting child-friendly governance as the council aims to create safe and supportive environments where every child can thrive. /CPIO

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GSIS STAKEHOLDERS’ DIALOGUE IN  
CAVITE



Governor Jonvic Remulla graced the GSIS Stakeholders’ Dialogue at the Bayleaf Hotel, City of Gen. Trias on October 2, 2024. During the event, he received the GSIS Gawad Kalasag Special Citation for Resilience from GSIS President and General Manager Jose Arnulfo “Wick” Veloso in recognition of the provincial government’s prompt and effective public service during calamities, highlighting the timely submission of requirements during state of calamity declarations in the province, and its role as a partner of GSIS in advancing corporate social responsibility.

In his message, the Governor underscored that public service is a collective responsibility and that the GSIS plays an important role as the trustee for government insurance in providing service not only for government employees but the whole system. He called on fellow public servants in the government and the GSIS to work together to make the country better.

The GSIS stakeholders’ dialogue serves as the agency’s program to keep in touch with its various partners from the local government, national agencies, as well as government owned and controlled corporations across the country. Aside from hosting a special event for strengthening partnership with stakeholders, the assembly in Cavite also served as venue to recognize the exemplary performance of various departments and LGUs in implementing GSIS programs and services in the province.

Awards were given to agencies and LGUs with the highest percentage reduction of unpaid premiums, longest Landbank WeAccess eMDS users, highest number of members enrolled in GSIS Touch, and best performing agencies in non-life insurance. Five Caviteño awardees were also granted the symbolic key to their housing units under the Lease with Option to Buy (LWOB) program.

PGM Wick Veloso reported the ongoing and continuous development of programs that will better serve GSIS members including the new loan products and flexible terms, the digitalization of services using online application and communication platforms, housing loan, and LWOB program, among others. In a press conference, he also ensured their commitment to look for more options and explore future innovations to better serve GSIS members./CPIO