

DENR REPORTS PH CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMS NOW AT USD\$13.5 BILLION



With technical and funding support amounting to USD 13.5 billion as of the end of June 2024 from development partners, the country is making significant progress in its climate change action plan and support mechanisms, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) reported today.

According to DENR data, the country's climate action initiatives are supported by the collaborative effort of 31 development partners in 94 projects, of which 23 are loan-funded and comprising 96% of the total value of \$13.5 billion. These projects are mainly in the transport, agriculture, waste and industrial processes, and energy sectors.

Transport projects alone account for \$11.79 billion in loans, with 21 ongoing and two upcoming projects. In the agriculture sector, \$81 million in grants support livelihood enhancements and smart agricultural technologies, while the waste and industrial processes sectors received \$11.79 million and \$9.22 million, respectively, in project funding. The energy sector also sees significant investment, with projects totalling \$1.08 billion.

DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said the country's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Nationally Determined Contribution Implementation Plan (NDCIP) are actively addressing climate change impacts and helping local governments become more resilient through greenhouse gas emissions reduction and capacity-building.

The NDCIP is a document containing the country's contribution to the goals of the Paris Agreement on greenhouse gas emissions, while the NAP is the country's plan to mitigate and adapt to the adverse impact of climate change. Secretary Loyzaga, who also represents the President Bongbong Marcos in the Climate Change Commission (CCC), emphasized the importance of strategic coordination with development partners and financial institutions to achieve mitigation and adaptation goals. "This coordination ensures that adaptation and mitigation efforts are integrated across sectors, scales, and regions," she said.



Secretary Loyzaga led and presided over the "Development Partners' Forum on Climate Action: Mobilizing Support for the NDC Implementation Plan and National Adaptation Plan" on June 20 in Makati City. Represented by H.E. Laure Beauflis and Asian Development Bank's (ADB) ASEAN Green Catalytic Finance Lead Scott Roberts, the UK and ADB have been key supporters of the Philippines' climate action efforts in line

with fulfilling the country's commitments to the Paris Agreement. The UK provided financial, scientific and technical support towards drafting the NAP, while the ADB assisted the country in identifying the strategies and targets towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and cost of sectoral transitions in the NDCIP. The development partners forum then aimed to sharpen the focus and accelerate the roles and contributions of partners from the World Bank, GIZ, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Food Program and others in addressing the NAP and NDCIP targets in line with the implementation of the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. Present at the Forum were representatives from the CCC, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department of Finance (DOF). These agencies highlighted the need to target support towards the specific priorities, strengths, gaps and needs in the country's journey to inclusive, resilient and sustainable development. Agency representatives such as Undersecretary Carlo Abad Santos and CCC Vice-chairperson Robert Borje are also lead members of the Philippine Delegation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations.###

GLOBAL CHAMPION OCEANOGRAPHER SYLVIA EARLE DIVES DEEP INTO THE VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE TO PUSH PHILIPPINE MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

Distinguished oceanographer, National Geographic Explorer in Residence and Mission Blue Founder Dr. Sylvia Earle recently met with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and partners for the conservation of the Verde Island Passage (VIP) to discuss marine life preservation and experience firsthand diving in what is known as the "center of the world's marine shore fish biodiversity".

Dr. Earle's first visit to the Philippines is upon the invitation of DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga and coincides with the country's observance of June as the Philippine Environment Month. Meeting "Her Deepness", as Dr. Earle is called, is considered a momentous occasion especially by the country's marine scientists and advocates for the protection and conservation of the Philippines rich coastal and marine ecosystems. This is especially in light of new threats to biodiversity in the high seas and to the deep-sea environments.

The first woman to lead the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States, Dr. Earle noted that nature had changed at a rate that is essentially geological in terms of its speed, but this is no longer the case "because of the actions of one species - that would be us." She noted that humans are "at a point in time when what we do or what we fail to do will determine what the next 50 or 500 or 5,000 years will be."



DENR Secretary Antonia Loyzaga (left) receives a copy of "Ocean: A Global Odyssey" from author and distinguished oceanographer Dr. Sylvia Earle during their meeting in Pasay City on June 24, 2024.

In a dialogue with the conservation partners, the respected oceanographer discussed the importance of integrating biodiversity conservation with climate action, and the indispensable role of the ocean in achieving global climate goals. She also emphasized that one cannot care for the ocean if one does not know it. Given this, she pointed out that there have never been tools and technologies to build that knowledge, but never before has man's power to alter nature been greater. The meeting included United States Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson, environmental champion Senator Loren Legarda, representatives from the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute and De Lasalle University, NGOs such as ABS-CBN Foundation, Conservation International Philippines, and Communities Organized for Resource Allocation (CORA). They were joined by major private sector stakeholders in the conservation of VIP including Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), San Miguel Corporation (SMC), First Gen Corporation (FGC) and the Ten Knots Group.

Dr. Earle described the VIP as a unique global treasure, emphasizing its profound historical significance and exceptional biodiversity. She stressed the honor and respect befitting the area, attesting to its rich biodiversity as the "center of the world's marine shore fish biodiversity" while highlighting the urgent need for proactive conservation efforts amid growing threats.

"Whether it's industry, education, science, government, whatever the powers that are represented, we need to come together to take care of nature, take care of the ocean, as if our lives depend on it, because they do," she added.

Her discussion was supplemented by Secretary Loyzaga, who underscored the indispensable role of the ocean in achieving global climate goals and advocated for science-based and equitable measures such as the creation of marine protected areas. She also stressed that while the Philippines may be a small country, it is, in fact, a large ocean nation.

The environment chief also cited the challenges besetting the VIP and the current initiatives for the area, including research studies for its protection and management, and the establishment of marine scientific research stations in collaboration with stakeholders.

"With the VIP Protected Seascape Bill on file in the Senate and active collaboration with all stakeholders embracing a whole-of-society approach, we must move steadfastly in pursuit of a true identity of the VIP and our own country as a resilient and blue nation," she stated.

Diving in the Verde Island Passage (VIP)

Dr. Earle, along with Mission Blue Global Ocean Policy Advisor Maximiliano Bello, later proceeded to Mabini, Batangas for a dive at the VIP. They were accompanied by the DENR dive team and other Filipino divers and marine scientists and experts including, UP MSI Executive Director Dr. Laura David and DLSU professor Dr. Al Licuanan.



Dr. Sylvia Earle spots a marine turtle during her exploration at the Verde Island Passage (VIP).



For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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MASTERMINDS. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. and ranking police officials present dismissed police officers Michael Guiang and Rommel Abuza in a press briefing in Camp Crame on Monday (July 8, 2024). The two were tagged as the alleged masterminds in the killing of beauty pageant candidate Geneva Lopez and her Israeli boyfriend Yitzhak Cohen, whose remains were found in Tarlac province on July 6.



INCREASED EXCHANGES. Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. (left) and Japan Self-Defense Forces Chief of Staff, Gen. Yoshihide Yoshida, shake hands during their bilateral meeting in Shangri-La The Fort Manila in Taguig City on Monday (July 8, 2024). The two countries signed the Reciprocal Access Agreement, which would facilitate mutual visits between Filipino and Japanese armed forces for training and joint exercises. /PNA

MANILA – The newly signed Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) will lift restrictions on military exchanges between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and Japan Self-Defense Forces (JSDF).

In a statement Monday

night, Department of National Defense (DND) spokesperson Arsenio Andolong said the pact would allow the holding of "joint military exercises and disaster relief operations" both in the Philippines and Japan.

Before the signing of the

RAA, Japanese troops could only participate in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions and act as observers in joint military exercises, such as the annual "Balikatan."

He added that the RAA with the Philippines is

Japan's first with a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

"The new bilateral defense agreement, which requires the concurrence of the Philippine Senate and ratification of Japan's Diet, aims to pave the way

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The Ayungin Shoal Standoff: Navigating Tensions in the South China Sea

The Ayungin Shoal, known internationally as Second Thomas Shoal, is a strategic and contested territory in the South China Sea. Its significance has escalated tensions between the Philippines and China, making it a focal point of geopolitical, economic, and security issues. The outcome of these tensions holds substantial implications for both nations and the broader international community.

Historical Context and Current Tensions

The Ayungin Shoal has been a contentious point in the South China Sea dispute for decades. In 1999, the Philippines deliberately grounded the BRP Sierra Madre, a World War II-era ship, on the shoal to assert its claim. Since then, a small contingent of Filipino marines has been stationed there. China, on the other hand, claims nearly the entire South China Sea, including Ayungin Shoal, as part of its historical territory under the so-called nine-dash line. Recent incidents, including the blocking of Philippine resupply missions by Chinese vessels and the harassment of Filipino fishermen, have brought the Ayungin Shoal back into the spotlight. These actions underscore the ongoing struggle for control and influence in the region. Implications for the Philippines

Sovereignty and National Security

For the Philippines, the Ayungin Shoal is a matter of national sovereignty and security. The government's ability to maintain its presence and supply the marines stationed on the BRP Sierra Madre is crucial for asserting its territorial claims. Failure to do so could embolden China's expansive maritime claims and weaken the Philippines' position in future negotiations.

Interests

The South China Sea is rich in natural resources, including fish stocks and potential oil and gas reserves. Ensuring access to these resources is vital for the Philippines' economic development. China's aggressive actions in the region threaten to undermine the economic opportunities that the South China Sea offers to the Philippines.

International Alliances

The Philippines' response to the Ayungin Shoal issue also affects its international alliances. Strengthening ties with allies like the United States, which has a mutual defense treaty with the Philippines, can provide crucial support in countering Chinese aggression. Moreover, the Philippines' actions may influence its standing in ASEAN and its relations with other regional powers.

Implications for China Geopolitical Strategy

For China, controlling Ayungin Shoal is part of a broader strategy to dominate the South China Sea and project power in the region. Establishing control over such territories enhances China's ability to monitor and potentially restrict the movement of other countries' naval and commercial vessels. It also serves as a stepping stone for further territorial claims.

Economic Ambitions

China's interest in the South China Sea is also driven by its desire to secure access to vital maritime trade routes and natural resources. The region is a critical passageway for global trade, and control over it can bolster China's economic security and influence.

International Relations

China's actions in the Ayungin Shoal and the broader South China Sea have significant ramifications for its international image and relations. Aggressive

DEFENSE....

for joint military exercises, and closer defense and security relations,” Ando-long said.

In 2015, Japanese lawmakers passed a law enhancing the role of its troops, which had been restricted by its post-World War II Constitution.

This law allowed the JSDF to increase participation in international peace-keeping missions and defend its allies even when not under attack.

In a separate statement, AFP chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. said the RAA would greatly boost military relations between Manila and Tokyo.

“The RAA will pave the way for joint military exercises, closer defense cooperation, and robust security relations between our forces. This agreement exemplifies our shared commitment to uphold a rules-based international order and secure a peaceful and prosperous region,” Brawner said.

“Deepen security, maritime cooperation”

In a meeting with reporters on Monday night, Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Press Secretary Mariko Kaneko said the RAA allows the development of defense capabilities and promotion of interoperability between the JSDF and the AFP through bilateral and/or multilateral exercises, and cooperation on defense equipment and technology.

“Every time we need to have like the visa clearance or we need to ask for the use of facilities in the Philippines, these kind of procedures by having these RAA, will be streamlined and so that we can have more joint exercises to strengthen defense capabilities,” she said.

The Kaneko noted that specific activities for such exercises would still need to be determined by both countries but it will not include the establishment of Japanese bases in the Philippines.

Citing that both countries face law enforcement and security challenges, she said Japan has decided to continue the cooperation on strengthening maritime and air domain awareness with the Philippines and further promote cooperation on cybersecurity and open, interoperable, secure, reliable, and trusted telecommunications networks, including Open Radio Access Network.

“Minister Yoko Kamikawa, she has said that Japan would further deepen security and maritime cooperation, including through the provision of coastal surveillance radar system under the Official Security Assistance, the strengthening of coordination among coast guards, and the provision of additional patrol vessels under Official Development Assistance,” she said.

Apart from economic and security partnerships, Japan will further promote bilateral trade and investment relations to help the Philippines achieve upper middle-income country status.

Kaneko said Kamikawa visited the Metro Rail Transit Line 3 to check its condition to know other forms of assistance Japan could provide for the development of the infrastructure.

Japan and the Philippines, she said, have decided to introduce measures on visa exemption arrangements for their diplomatic passport holders and continue to promote people-to-people and cultural exchange through tourism.

As for multilateral cooperation, Japan also affirmed the importance of strengthening trilateral cooperation with the United States to complement existing multilateral mechanisms and to uphold international peace and security.

“This will enhance the strategic cooperation among Australia, Japan,

Fifty-Seven Young Males of Brgy. Hugo Perez bravely faced the Circumcision



Cavite provincial government's medical mission team brought the Operation Tuli program to the Barangay Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City, catering a total of 57 young males who braved the circumcision as they transition to manhood.

Staff from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and Barangay Health Workers complemented the technical team that rendered the clinical procedures. Likewise, OPG personnel dispensed the needed medicines to the circumcised males.

During the program, 7th District Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” Remulla and Board Member Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla, graced the event, showing their passionate support and gratitude to everyone who helped in making the program a resounding success.

Gentriseños received Essential Healthcare Services



On July 2, 2024, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), in collaboration with local officials from the City of Gen. Trias, successfully conducted a comprehensive medical and dental mission in Brgy. Pasong Camachile II. A total of 345 Gentriseños benefitted from the outreach program, which provided essential healthcare services free of charge.

The initiative, requested by 6th District Board Member Maurito C. Sison, included services such as medical consultations, dental extractions, eye check-ups, cervical vaccinations for girls aged 9-14, ECGs, and X-rays. In addition, OPG staff distributed prescription medicines, antibiotics, and multivitamins to ensure the improved health and wellness of the community.

The event was graced and supported by 6th District Board Member Kerby Salazar and other local officials who expressed their sincere gratitude to the PGC team for the untiring support given to their community.

This mission is part of the provincial government's ongoing commitment to improving healthcare access for all Caviteños, ensuring that even the most underserved communities receive the medical attention they need.

Provincial Council of Women Launches Successful Health Program for Women in Cavite



The Provincial Council of Women, under the leadership of its President, Ms. Anne Ferrer, together with council members, and in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, has successfully conducted a series of comprehensive health program titled “Serbisyon Pangkalusugan para sa mga Kababaihan”.

This initiative took place across various locations in Cavite, including Alfonso, Magallanes, General Trias, Mendez, Tanza, and Cavite City, throughout the month of June.

The program offered free eye check-ups, CHEM12 laboratory tests, and chest x-rays, ensuring that women in these areas had access to essential health services. These services were made possible through the generous support of Health Ridge Medical Services. Additionally, the Office of the Provincial Legal Officer provided free legal consultations to the public.

The initiative aimed to address the health needs of women, providing vital medical screenings and promoting their overall wellness. The program's impact was significant, with a total of 1,592 beneficiaries receiving the much-needed medical services.

PGC's Operation Tuli Program in Tanza



On July 8, 2024, the Municipality of Tanza hosted Cavite provincial government's Operation Tuli program led by the Office of the Provincial Governor in collaboration with the Tanza Rural Health Unit (RHU) and volunteers from the Army Reserve Command stationed in the municipality.

The program offered free circumcision services and prescribed medications to 233 young men in Tanza. This crucial healthcare service aimed to promote good hygiene and support the transition into manhood for the brave Tanzeños.

SPORTS NEWS Olympic fencer Catantan sharpens movements with Italy training



HAPPY TEARS. Samantha Catantan breaks down after officially claiming a Paris Olympics berth via the Asia-Oceania Zonal Qualifier in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates on April 27, 2024. She will wrap up her three-week training in Italy on Saturday (July 13) and join Team Philippines for a training camp in Metz, France. (Photo courtesy of International Fencing Federation)

ITALY – Filipino fencer Samantha Kyle Catantan is hoping her three-week training in Italy under Italian coach Matteo Zennaro would pay off with only 17 days left before the much-awaited Paris Olympics Games.

She arrived in Venice on June 13 and has been sparing with some members of the Italy national team. Catantan and Zennaro, also her mentor in Pennsylvania State University in the United States, will leave on Saturday to join the entire Team Philippines in a training camp in Metz, France.

“Ngayon po kasi na malapit na ang Olympics, hindi na po masyadong hardcore training when it comes to strength and conditioning, kasi napaghirapan na ‘yun it’s no longer hardcore training when it comes to strength and conditioning, because we worked hard for it already’ all the way to get here,” she said in an interview on Tuesday.

“For now, physical training is secondary. We train more on technical and skills na pwede po namin mabaon sa (that we can use in the) upcoming Olympics,” she added.

Catantan made history as the first Filipino fencer to qualify for the Olympic Games in 32 years after winning the women's individual foil event at the Asia-Oceania Zonal Olympic Qualifier in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates last April 27.

The 22-year-old gold medalist in the 2021 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Hanoi, Vietnam is also the first full-blooded female fencer from the Philippines to make the Olympics.

Walter Torres, the last Filipino fencer in the Olympics, competed in 1992 Barcelona. He is now one of the commissioners of the Philippine Sports Commission.

In Paris, Catantan will be up against the world's top 34 fencers, including former teammate and world No. 27 Maxine Esteban who will now represent Ivory Coast.

“As of now, hindi namin iniisip kung sino makakatapat namin. Basta focus kami ngayon training po and sa mga skills na pwede pa pong maimprove (As of now, I'm not thinking about my opponents. We just focus on training and skills that can be improved) before the upcoming Paris Olympics,” the world No. 266 said.

SM PRIME'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTS: BRIDGING LIFE-STYLE AND LEISURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY

SM Prime's sustainable developments:

Bridging lifestyle and leisure with sustainability



SM Mall of Asia (MOA) Complex, spanning over 67 hectares, is a testament of SM Prime's commitment to sustainability.

The mall culture in the Philippines is more than just about shopping, dining, and entertainment. The eco-conscious age pivots its focus toward sustainability and mindful urban development – a story exemplified by the SM Mall of Asia (MOA) Complex of SM Prime, one of Southeast Asia's leading integrated property developers. Spanning 67 hectares, SM MOA Complex is currently the largest shopping mall nationwide and sixth worldwide. It's a vibrant integrated city development where lifestyle and leisure intersect with sustainability. Behind the bustling retail haven, gastronomic delights, and entertainment attractions lies a dedication to environmental stewardship and community resilience that set a precedent for malls in the country on sustainable urban planning.

Pioneering environmental stewardship

SM Prime, through its subsidiary SM Supermalls, has undertaken groundbreaking initiatives in SM MOA complex and its other SM malls across the country to reduce the ecological footprint and promote a greener future. From pioneering activities and integrating advanced technologies such as solar rooftops, water recycling systems, adoption of air conditioning inverters, and installation of standard Light-Emitting Diode (LED)-lighting and motion detectors on its escalators to robust solid waste management, advanced water conservation practices, and green building developments, SM Prime is regarded as the most energy efficient mall group in the country. Currently, the company sources more than 50% of its electricity from renewable energy across all its properties and facilities nationwide. Apart from renewable power generation, SM Supermalls is also part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) Interruptible Load Program (ILP), a power supply mitigation program wherein companies with their own stand-by generation capacities can be compensated by the government by using their own generation facilities when power reserves are low. To date, SM can reduce around 110 megawatts (MW) of power from the grid when 56 of its malls will use their own generator sets. SM has the largest offset with the SM MOA providing a committed capacity of 15.92MW.



Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong (right) samples the water from SM City Baguio's rainwater treatment facility with SM Supermalls' Vice President for Corporate Compliance Engr. Liza Silerio (left).

SM Prime further intensified its sustainability journey and recently embarked on an #SMWasteFree-Future program, encouraging its stakeholders and employees across the group to reduce waste generation through effective segregation practices and adopt sustainable consumption by recycling, reusing, or composting.

Sustainable water usage is one of the long-standing practices of SM Prime. The group has been recycling water since the 1990s, treating an average of 1 billion gallons annually in past years to repurpose for mall operations including toilet cleaning and landscaping use. It has integrated rainwater harvesting systems in over 30 malls, particularly in flood-prone areas. Recently, it made another breakthrough in water usage by successfully treating rainwater into potable water in SM City Baguio, which the company aims to replicate in other malls.

Strengthening disaster resilience

Apart from its environmental approaches and innovations, SM Prime takes sustainable mall design and developments seriously across its projects. Led by SM Prime's subsidiary, SM Engineering, Design and Development Corporation (SMEDD), the company has revolutionized its design approaches to green building – minimizing vulnerability and increasing the infrastructure resiliency of its developments. Among its developments are Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Gold certified SM Aura and green office buildings in SM MOA Complex that deliver healthier work-life spaces to optimize business operations while minimizing its environmental impact.



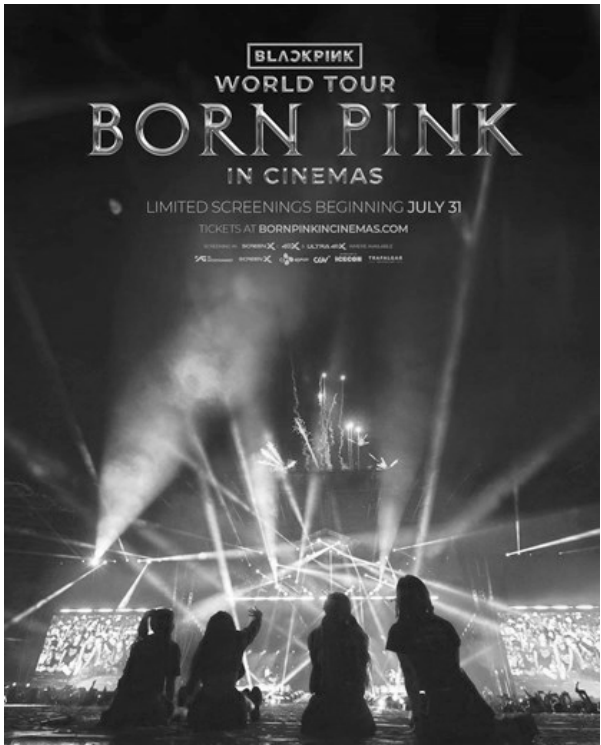
Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-Gold certified SM Aura is SM Prime's gold standard in building sustainable projects.



Located at the SM MOA Complex in Pasay City, Four E-Comm is one of SM Prime's sustainable office buildings.

At the core of SM MOA Complex's continued expansion is the community's safety and well-being through disaster resiliency features. SM Prime worked with a team of local and international experts, including Jan de Nul, Belgium's renowned coastal development construction company, to ensure the stability of the terrain and infrastructures against earthquakes and erosion. The complex's climate adaptation features include a seawall design to protect the development and surrounding communities from potential storm surges or rising sea levels, as well as specialized foundation systems against liquefaction and seismic events. This commitment establishes a benchmark within the

SM Prime portfolio, demonstrating best practices used across other SM malls nationwide. Shaping the landscape of Philippine integrated property developments As the world navigates environmental and urbanization challenges, SM Prime continues to advance sustainability, innovation, community stewardship, and resiliency. With its multifaceted approaches and pioneering efforts in the SM MOA Complex and across all its developments, SM Prime is a key Philippine industry partner through its revolutionary and responsible mixed-use developments with premier destinations integrating leisure, lifestyle, and business with sustainability and disaster resilience at work. SM Prime remains committed to its role as a catalyst for economic growth, delivering innovative and sustainable lifestyle cities, thereby enriching the quality of life of millions of people. SM Prime is pursuing the next horizon on integrated property development and onward to building sustainable cities of the future.



FINNISH...

MANILA – Outgoing Finnish Ambassador Juha Markus Pyykkö on Monday thanked President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for reopening the Philippine embassy in Helsinki, Finland this year. In his farewell call to the President in Malacanang, Pyykkö expressed elation over the reopening of the Philippine Embassy in the Finnish capital. “I’m extremely happy that the Philippines is reopening in Helsinki. So, thank you for that. It’s very, very interesting,” Pyykkö told Marcos, as quoted in a Presidential Communications Office (PCO) news release. For his part, Marcos said the reopening of the Philippine Embassy in Helsinki is important as it will further strengthen the relationship between the Philippines and Finland, which was established on July 14, 1955. It will be beneficial not only for the two countries but “for everyone else,” he said. “These relationships provide us a solid footing in terms of our relationships around them with not only amongst ourselves, but [also] with other countries,” Marcos said.

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MANILA – The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on Tuesday belied China's claims that the Philippine Navy ship BRP Sierra Madre (LS-57) is causing massive environmental damage to the Ayungin Shoal. “The accusation against the Philippines by so-called ‘Chinese experts’ is false and a classic misdirection,” NTF-WPS spokesperson Jonathan Malaya said in a statement. He said it was China which has been found to have caused irreparable damage to corals and the marine environment and jeopardized the livelihood of thousands of Filipino fisherfolk. “In fact, China's involvement in the destruction of the maritime environment was established by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in 2016. On Page 464 of the Arbitral Award, it states that China has aggravated the dispute by building a large artificial island on Mischief Reef (Panganiban Reef); inflicted

The Philippine Embassy in Helsinki was closed in October 2012. The Senate approved its reopening during a budget hearing in November 2022. Irish envoy attached to PH hospitality Irish Ambassador William John Carlos also paid his farewell to the President on Monday in the Palace. Speaking before President Marcos, Carlos said it would be difficult for him to leave the country as he is already attached to Filipinos' hospitality and the country's rich culture. “[What] I like about here as well is the accessibility of the people. And the humor, it's something that we connect with,” Carlos said. “There's a lot of connection between my country and your country. There's a growing relationship between Ireland and the Philippines,” he added. For his part, Marcos said he is very happy to know that the Irish ambassador had a wonderful stay in the Philippines and was able to visit some places in the country. The Philippines and Ireland established diplomatic relations in July 1984. (PNA)

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Studies (CSIS), found that: “more than 6,200 acres (25 sq. kilometers) of coral reef have been destroyed by island-building activities in the South China Sea, with 75 percent of the damage being done by China; another 16,353 acres (66.1 sq. kilometers) of coral reef were damaged due to giant clam harvesting by Chinese fishermen, and China has caused the most reef destruction through dredging and landfill, burying roughly 4,648 acres (18.8 square kilometer) of reef,” Malaya said. The NSC official pointed out that Manila has also collated evidence that Beijing has been responsible for severe damage to corals in Bajo de Masinloc, Rozul Reef, Escoda Shoal, Sabina Shoal, and Pag-asa Cays 1, 2, and 3, among others. He said the swarming and indiscriminate, illegal fishing activities of the Chinese Maritime Militia (CMM) in these areas have severely degraded the marine environment in the WPS. “We call on the public and the international

community to be wary and conscious of ongoing activities by Chinese state-owned media and so-called ‘Chinese experts’ to spread fake news and disinformation and conduct malign influence operations in the Philippines, including this false accusation against BRP Sierra Madre,” Malaya said. The NTF-WPS spokesperson also called for an independent third-party marine scientific assessment in the WPS by impartial recognized experts -- using underwater surveys, collated satellite imagery, photo and video references, and other scientific means to establish the causes of coral reef damage and other recorded destruction of the maritime environment in the vital waterway. “We invite other Indo-Pacific nations to join the Philippines in pushing for a more united, coordinated, and sustained multilateral action to protect and preserve the marine and land biodiversity in our region,” he said. (PNA)

PNP...

MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) has identified two dismissed police officers as the alleged masterminds in the killing of beauty pageant candidate Geneva Lopez and her Israeli boyfriend Yitzhak Cohen. Ranking police officials and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin Abalos Jr. presented suspects Michael Guiang and Rommel Abuzo to the media in a briefing in Camp Crame on Monday. PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief Maj. Gen. Leo Francisco, director of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said a land dispute was the motive of the killing after Lopez attempted to take the parcel of land pawned to her by Guiang over his failure to pay back the money he owes the beauty queen. Investigation showed Guiang convinced Lopez to meet a supposed buyer of the parcel of land in Capas, Tarlac on June 21. The CIDG chief said unknown to Lopez, Guiang connived with Abuzo for him to pose as the buyer. “From that point nagkita sila sa Barangay Armenia at binaril ng dalawang dating pulis na ito ang magkasintahan. So makikita niyo (they met in Barangay Armenia and the two former police officers shot the couple. You'll see) it's a planned activity. Sa aming imbestigasyon ay nag usap si Guiang at Abuzo tungkol sa gagawin nila sa magnobyo na ito (Based on our investigation, Guiang and Abuzo planned how they would deal with the couple), so there was that plan of killing itong magnobyo na ito (the couple). Ayaw ibigay ni Guiang yung lupa na isinangla niya kay Geneva (Guiang doesn't want to give to Geneva the land he pawned),” Francisco said. The couple succumbed to gunshot wounds, based on the results of the autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation. Francisco said the surrender of another person of interest (POI), alias ‘Jun Jun’, led to the identification of the suspects as he narrated the events that occurred on the day the couple was killed. ‘Jun Jun’, who served as Guiang's driver, revealed the location of the couple's remains. These were later exhumed by authorities in Barangay San Vicente in Capas town on July 6. Abalos said Guiang and Abuzo are now under police custody. The CIDG chief, meanwhile, said a manhunt is underway against two other persons who allegedly assisted Abuzo and Guiang in carrying out the couple's murder. PNP chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil assured that the police would file airtight cases against those involved in the killing of Lopez and Cohen. He said the two former police officers would be charged with two counts of murder. Abalos, meanwhile, said two more cases would be filed against Guiang and Abuzo -- charges of illegal possession of firearms and illegal possession of explosives as a result of follow-up operations that resulted in their arrest. Abuzo and Guiang were dismissed from the police service in 2019 and 2020, respectively, for being AWOL (absent without official leave). (PNA)

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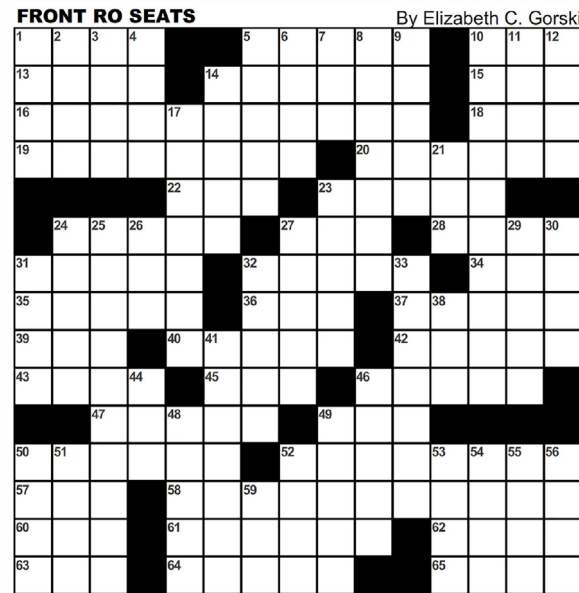


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CROSSWORD



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ACROSS

- 1) Water-to-wine site
- 5) Beat at chess
- 10) Propel a dinghy
- 13) Pioneering DJ
- Freed
- 14) "Shoulda listened to me!"
- 15) Raw rock
- 16) UFC fighter nicknamed "Rowdy"
- 18) Grazing place
- 19) "Don't panic"
- 20) Crew member
- 22) "Born in the _"
- 23) They're verboten
- 24) Soup base
- 27) Film charioteer
- Ben_
- 28) The munchies, say
- 31) Berry's Johnny B.
- 32) Mineral deposits
- 34) " _ the ramparts ..."
- 35) Chair designer
- Charles
- 36) Work unit
- 37) Jon of "Pretty in Pink"
- 39) Baking meas.
- 40) Beef cut
- 42) Taxi drivers
- 43) Blossom support
- 45) Walk-_ (minor roles)
- 46) Skeletal makeup
- 47) Synagogue leader
- 49) Feeling blah
- 50) Sentence ender
- 52) Doing the Wright thing?
- 57) Self-image
- 58) 1972 Michael Jackson hit
- 60) In the past
- 61) United in a cause
- 62) Spydom's _ Hari
- 63) Male cat
- 64) Sub-freezing temperatures
- 65) Make coffee

DOWN

- 1) Alamo rentals
- 2) Oodles and oodles
- 3) Granny
- 4) Roddick of tennis
- 5) Cash, slangily
- 6) Reunion attendee
- 7) QB's scores
- 8) Weedy lot, e.g.
- 9) Moshe of Israel
- 10) British luxury car
- 11) Three-layered cookie
- 12) Hold up well
- 14) Totally destroy
- 17) Most severe
- 21) Debtor's letters
- 23) Gentle jab
- 24) Blowhard's claim
- 25) Children's show from 1953 to 1994
- 26) Work of Sappho
- 27) Brass section
- 29) Nerdy types
- 30) Slips up
- 31) Fetches
- 32) Tea of "Madam Secretary"
- 33) Learned one
- 38) Sought office
- 41) 1996 Bill Clinton rival
- 44) _ tai cocktail
- 46) Window shade
- 48) Sacha Baron Cohen role
- 49) Dartmouth, Yale, etc.
- 50) Organic fuel
- 51) Frozen waffle brand
- 52) Related (to)
- 53) Mummy's home
- 54) Support beam
- 55) Evening, in an ad
- 56) Chew like a squirrel
- 59) The Browns, on scoreboards

CITY OF BACOR NEWS

Bacoor City hosted the 9th National Competition 2024 'Fugue of Champion'



On June 30, 2024, Bacoor City, under Mayor Strike B. Revilla's leadership, hosted the 9th National Competition 2024, 'Fugue of Champion.' Organized with the Philippine Drum and Lyre Association Inc. (PDLAi) and Bacoor City Culture, History, Arts, and Tourism Department, the event highlighted the city's dedication to musical excellence. Young musicians from across the Philippines showcased their talents in various categories, including elementary and high school levels, as well as an open class. Notable performances came from schools like Cabangan Elementary (Zambales), Tagkawayan Central (Quezon Province), Talipad National High (Quezon Province), and Cavite City Bluecoats (Cavite City). The event also featured the oath-taking ceremony for new PDLAi officers, marking a significant moment for the organization. Held at Bacoor Elementary School Oval Track, 'Fugue of Champion' celebrated talent, camaraderie, and the unifying power of music, leaving a lasting impact on Bacoor City's cultural landscape.

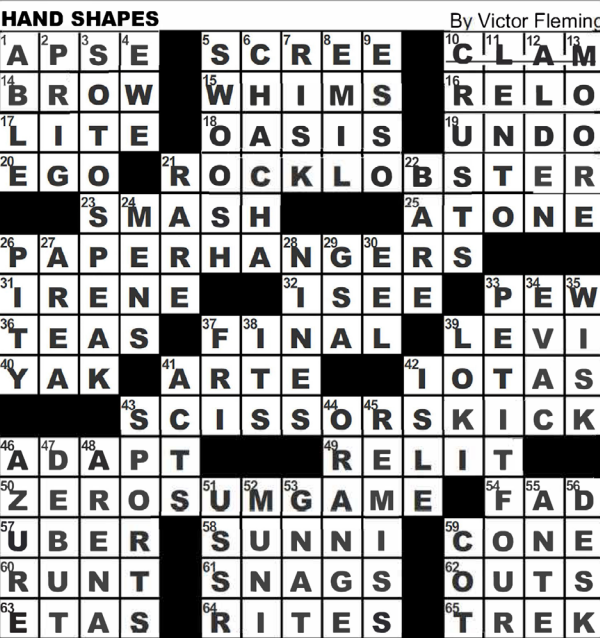
Bacoor City launches a comprehensive training for 2024 Census and Community-Based Monitoring System

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – Cavite, in collaboration with the City Government of Bacoor under the leadership of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, through PESO Bacoor headed by Dr. Abraham De Castro and the City Planning and Development Coordinating (CPDC) office led by Ms. Rhowena D. Alcantara, organized a significant event focused on the Census Population and Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS).



Participants, consisting of newly hired job seekers, underwent a 6-day orientation conducted by PSA for the Census and CBMS. The orientation took place from July 8 to 13, 2024, starting at 8:00 AM at Revilla Hall. This initiative aimed to equip the newly hired individuals with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively carry out the census and monitoring activities in the community.

Last week's solution:



PHRCS...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Presidential Human Rights Committee Secretariat (PHRCS), in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Commission on Human Rights (CHR), and the UN OHCHR Country Team, continues to conduct public consultations to craft an inclusive and responsive 4th Philippine Human Rights Plan (PHRP4) for 2024-2028. In a joint regional consultation for Southern Luzon and Bicol Region held at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City on July 1-2, various government agencies and instrumentalities presented their action plans and initiatives as part of the creation of PHRP4, including the Department of Justice (DOJ), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), and the PNP-Human Rights Affairs Office (PNP-HRAO). Non-government organizations, and civil society representatives from different sectors and communities likewise actively participated and gave insights on the observed human rights issues and concerns in the country. According to PHRCS Undersecretary Severo Catura, the PHRP4 aims to present a holistic approach to human rights promotion, protection, and fulfillment focusing on various issues and concerns in the country. It reaffirms the State's commitment to uphold and advance human rights as a priority of the Philippine government under the Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration. Among the raised issues and concerns during the consultation are civil and political rights, strengthening the rule of law, economic and social rights, empowering Filipino women and capacity-building for sustainability, opportunities for children, youth, and adults with disabilities, rights and freedom of Indigenous People, protecting migrant workers, preventing cruel, inhumane, and degrading treatment or punishments, humane acceptance and integration of Persons Deprived with Liberty, and the rights of LGBTQIA+ community members. Catura said: "This is not only focused on the usual human rights issues, we are showing here that if we look at our participants, they come from various sectors. We are addressing what we call sectoral rights, meaning rights of women, children, people with disabilities, migrants, and migrant workers, as well as Indigenous People. Additionally, we also consider the essential human rights; education, health, labor, and employment. Our aim is to present holistic approach." For Larry Santos, Vice Chairman of the Binangonan Ondoy Solidarity Association and council member of the National Anti-Poverty Commission – Victims

DOH...

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) – The Department of Health Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) CALABARZON has announced a new program aimed at decongesting hospitals and widening the coverage of state-provided healthcare throughout the region. The Bagong Urgent Care

and Ambulatory Services (BUCAS) Centers will be established in areas without DOH-run hospitals or with inadequate healthcare facilities, providing immediate and primary care, including outpatient and diagnostic services, regardless of geographical barriers. During the Kapihan sa

of Disasters and Calamities (NAPC-VDC), the consultations on human rights issues and concerns are a good way to monitor the content and concepts of PHRP4 closely. This also allows the public to raise current situations on the ground and coordinate effectively with the government. "The government's consultations on the Philippine Human Rights Plan are beneficial as they allow us to closely monitor its content and concepts. The VDC sector is always present in the community and it is continuously increasing management, and those needing diagnostic procedures such as X-ray, mammogram, ultrasound, ECG, and blood chemistry. The first center in the Calabarzon region is set to be

primary care and apex hospitals. If there are already existing hospitals, we encourage them to upgrade their capacities to serve more. The idea for BUCAS is to handle all diagnostic requirements, but there will be no admitting of patients," Valencia added. "Emergency rooms of hospitals will be decongested. Before visiting a hospital, patients may visit BUCAS to meet their healthcare needs." BUCAS Centers can cater to patients with minor injuries, those undergoing preventive and chronic care, follow-up, and ongoing management, and those needing diagnostic procedures such as X-ray, mammogram, ultrasound, ECG, and blood chemistry. The first center in the Calabarzon region is set to be

inaugurated at Batangas State University in July this year, with the goal of expanding it into a hospital. Establishing BUCAS Centers aligns with the Eight-Point Action Agenda of the DOH and the National Objectives for Health for 2023-2028, ensuring every Filipino is entitled to responsive, safe, and high-quality health services. Meanwhile, major accomplishments by the DOH in the Calabarzon region were also reported by DOH IV-A Assistant Regional Director Dr. Leda Hernandez, including the region's status as malaria-free since 2022; having the highest number of vaccinated children during the Chikiting Ligtas Campaign for measles, rubella, and oral polio vaccination with 1,124,563 total inoc-

ulations; adoption of the Philippine Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP) with the World Bank; and the establishment of four Universal Health Care implementation sites. Asec. Valencia affirmed that the DOH through the direction of its secretary Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, and under the 'Bagong Pilipinas' is modernized, with health services felt by every Filipino wherever they may be. "The objective of our department is to continue and further improve our programs and projects to better address the needs of our fellow citizens. Providing accurate and quality healthcare services is crucial to our goal of achieving a strong, stable, and healthy nation," the assistant secretary proclaimed. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

Libreng Legal na Serbisyo mula sa Abogado ng Imuseño, Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara para sa mga residente ng Anabu 2nd!

TANZANG LUMA, PALICO, at BUHAY NA TUBIG (Cluster 7) - ABOGADO NG IMUSEÑO FREE LEGAL CONSULTATION, NOTARY, and LATE BIRTH REGISTRATION Kami po ay bibisita sa Tanzang Luma 5 Covered Court ngayong darating na July 12, 2024 (Friday), 8:00am para mag bigay ng serbisyo sa labing isang (11) barangay mula Tanzang Luma I - VI, Palico I - IV, at Buhay na Tubig, City of Imus, Cavite. Ito po ay mula sa inyong lingkod kasama ang Team AJAA, City Civil Registrar, at Brgy. Officials ng Cluster 7. Para po sa mga dokumento at requirements na kailangan dalhin, tingnan po dito sa ating post. Para sa Libreng Notaryo, kinakailangan ang: * Appearance of Affiant (Personal na pagpunta ng kinaaukulang taong magpapanotaryo) * Photocopy of Valid Government ID with 3 signatures affixed on photocopied paper (Kopya ng Valid Government ID na may tatlong lagda sa papel). Para sa Libreng Legal Advice, dalhin ang: * Ano mang dokumento o legal papers na may kaugnayan sa nais ipakonsulta. Para naman sa Late Birth Registration, ihanda ang mga sumusunod: * Affidavit of two witnesses * Maaaring magsama ng dalawang taong hindi kama-anak dala-dala ang kanilang valid ID. * Barangay Indigency

- * Kung ang aplikante ay menor de edad (0-17 taong gulang), ipapangalan ito sa magulang.
- * Barangay Certification, kalakip ang mga sumusunod:
 - * Full Name
 - * Date of Birth
 - * Place of Birth
 - * Maiden Name of Mother
 - * Name of Father.
- * Proof of Birth, alin man sa mga sumusunod:
 - * Baptismal Certificate
 - * Medical Record (Immunization)
 - * Marriage Contract
 - * Lumang NBI Clearance, Police Clearance, o Passport
 - * Form 137 mula sa paaralan
 - * Voter's Registration Record mula sa COMELEC (2 pages)
 - * Member Data Record mula sa Pag-IBIG Fund, PhilHealth, o SSS
 - * Government-Issued ID (tulad ng National ID, Driver's License, Senior Citizens ID)
 - * CEDULA (Community Tax Certificate)
 - * Marriage Contract ng mga Magulang, kung kasal.
- PAALALA: Kailangan ang personal na pagpunta ng Ama, Ina, at ng Bata kung ang edad nito ay pitong taong gulang pataas.

Para sa mga katanungan at iba pang impormasyon, makipag-ugnayan sa official Facebook page ni Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara.

Wala itong bayad, kaya't kunin na ang pagkakataong ito, Imuseño!

Office of Councilor Atty. Wency Lara

ABOGADO NG IMUSEÑO

Coun. Atty. Wency Lara

Serbisyo para sa Imuseño

- Libreng Notaryo
- Libreng Legal Advice
- Libreng Late Birth Registration

July 12, 2024 | 08:00 AM

Tanzang Luma 5 Basketball Court near Barangay Hall

- Buhay na Tubig
- Palico I
- Palico II
- Palico III
- Palico IV
- Tanzang Luma I
- Tanzang Luma II
- Tanzang Luma III
- Tanzang Luma IV
- Tanzang Luma V
- Tanzang Luma VI

Office of Councilor Atty. Wency Lara

REQUIREMENTS FOR LATE BIRTH REGISTRATION

- AFFIDAVIT OF 2 WITNESSES
 - Pending magpunta ng dalawang (2) tao na hindi kapaligiran ng magulang at may Valid ID.
- BARANGAY INDIGENCY
 - Kung ang aplikante ay minor (0-17 years old) sa magulang ito ipapangalan.
- BARANGAY CERTIFICATION (sa kopya ng mga sumusunod):
 - Full Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Place of Birth
 - Maiden Name of Mother
 - Name of Father
- PROOF OF BIRTH (sa may lagay ng kagangnagan, alin man sa mga sumusunod):
 - Baptismal Certificate
 - Medical Record (Immunization)
 - Marriage Contract
 - Lumang NBI, Police Clearance o Passport
 - Form 137 from School
 - Voter's Registration Record from COMELEC (2 pages)
 - Member Data Record from SSS
 - Government Issued ID (National ID, Driver's License, Senior Citizens)
 - CEDULA
- MARRIAGE CONTRACT NG MAGULANG (kung may ayon)

PAALALA

Kailangan paing mga sumusunod sa kopya ng valid government ID na may tatlong lagda sa papel.

REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBRENG NOTARYO

- APPEARANCE OF AFFIANT
- PHOTOCOPY OF VALID GOVERNMENT ID (with 3 signatures)

REQUIREMENTS FOR LIBRENG LEGAL ADVICE

- BRING ANY DOCUMENTS OR LEGAL PAPERS RELATED TO YOUR CONCERN