

PASONANCA NATURAL PARK DESIGNATED AS 52ND ASEAN HERITAGE PARK: A LANDMARK ACHIEVEMENT FOR CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES



ZAMBOANGA CITY (May 13, 2024) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga today led the historic designation of Pasonanca Natural Park as the 52nd ASEAN Heritage Park, the 10th in the Philippines, and the first in the Zamboanga Peninsula.

“This milestone represents a significant step forward in the nation’s conservation efforts and underscores our commitment to preserving our natural heritage for generations to come,” Secretary Loyzaga remarked at the unveiling of the ASEAN Heritage Park marker.

Pasonanca Natural Park, with a sprawling area of 17,414 hectares, is a sanctuary of biodiversity in the Zamboanga Peninsula. Its dense dipterocarp forests house a diverse range of flora and fauna, including rare species like the Mindanao Bleeding-Heart and the critically endangered Philippine Eagle. The park’s ecological completeness and conservation significance serve as a beacon of hope for biodiversity conservation efforts in the region.

“The journey of Pasonanca Natural Park to this prestigious status is rooted in history and legislation, with the area being protected under various laws and proclamations over the years,” Secretary Loyzaga added. “Its designation as an ASEAN Heritage Park is a testament to the park’s importance on a national and regional scale, highlighting the collective commitment to preserving our natural treasures.”

Secretary Loyzaga called on all stakeholders to renew their dedication to the conservation and sustainable management of Pasonanca Natural Park and other protected areas across the country. She emphasized the need for continued efforts to ensure that our natural wonders are safeguarded for the benefit of present and future generations.

“The recognition of Pasonanca Natural Park as an ASEAN Heritage Park serves as a reminder that while progress has been made, there is still much work to be done,” the Environment chief noted, adding that it is a call to action for all to champion the cause of environmental compliance, stewardship and work towards a future where nature thrives and shared heritage remain protected and sustained.

In conclusion, Secretary Loyzaga expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to this momentous achievement. She urged everyone to forge ahead with renewed vigor, united

in their commitment to preserving our precious natural heritage. “As we strive for a future where harmony between humanity and nature prevails, let the designation of Pasonanca Natural Park stand as a symbol of our collective efforts towards a sustainable and thriving environment,” she said. /PR

GOV'T, BIG 3 UNITE TO PROTECT VERDE ISLAND PASSAGE



MAKATI Philippines, May 7, 2024 – The government joined hands today with the country’s three biggest business conglomerates to protect and conserve the massive marine ecosystem of Verde Island Passage, the “center of the center” of the world’s marine shore fish biodiversity.

Spearheaded by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the big three – Aboitiz Equity Ventures (AEV), the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), and San Miguel Corporation (SMC) – agreed to assume joint stewardship of the critical waterway between Luzon and Mindoro islands in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DENR and the Department of Energy (DOE).

“Recognizing the imperative of safeguarding this natural treasure, the government, in collaboration with major business conglomerates, has embarked on a landmark partnership for the protection and conservation of the Verde Island Passage (VIP),” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga said.

The five parties today signed an MOU, firming up their commitment to pursue seven key objectives for VIP which stands as a testament to the Philippines’ rich marine biodiversity, earning its reputation as the “center of the center” of the world’s marine shore fish diversity. Spanning the waters between Luzon and Mindoro islands, this critical waterway encompasses the provinces of Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, and Oriental and Occidental Mindoro. Batangas, Marinduque, Romblon, Occidental Mindoro and Oriental Mindoro.

Its strategic location places it at the heart of the Coral Triangle, a vast expanse renowned as the global epicenter of marine life diversity, encompassing countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Timor-Leste.

The ecological significance of the VIP cannot be overstated, as it serves as the habitat of over 1,700 marine species, including 60 percent of the world’s shore fish species, and 300 coral species. This concentration of marine life underscores the urgent need for its conservation and protection to maintain ecological balance not only within the Philippines but also on a global scale.

Secretary Loyzaga says the MOU calls for the partners to collaborate with relevant local government units, non-government organizations, the academe, international development agencies, coastal communities, people’s organizations and other private entities for the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity and coastal marine resources of VIP. “As a framework for joint stewardship and sustainable development, this historic initiative not only underscores the collective commitment to environmental preservation but also heralds a new era of public-private collaboration aimed at ensuring the longevity of one of the world’s most biodiverse marine ecosystems,” Secretary Loyzaga said.

The MOU takes effect for five years from today with possible extension, and with funding from each of the five signatories that will ensure VIP and the nearby provinces will thrive as a marine protected area.

Among the key objectives of the partnership goes hand in hand with the government’s clean energy agenda through

resilient and sustainable low-carbon development in the VIP. According to Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla, the MOU bodes well for the government’s agenda towards renewable energy. “We express our appreciation to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Aboitiz Group, MVP Group of Companies and San Miguel Corporation for committing to he responsible stewardship and sustainable access and use of the Verde Island Passage in pursuit of the government’s overall energy agenda that aim to facilitate access to affordable energy, ensure a reliable and resilient energy supply, and transition to clean, sustainable and climate centered energy resources.”

Metro Pacific Chairman, President and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan echoes the calls of Secretary Loyzaga and Secretary Lotilla saying that the community’s welfare and future depend on the parties’ ability to harmonize these goals. “We must make sure that—in our quest to provide clean, reliable, and affordable energy to our people—we also pay attention to safeguarding the environment and the communities we serve,” he said. “But because we have committed partners in San Miguel, Aboitiz, the DENR and the DOE, there are good grounds for optimism.”

Asserting his full commitment to the call for social responsibility in the VIP, SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said, “Preserving our marine resources is crucial not just for today but for future generations. We are grateful for this opportunity to join forces with the Aboitiz group, MVP group and various stakeholders in protecting the Verde Island Passage,” he added.

While noting that the VIP and its rich biodiversity are under threat of pollution, AEV President and Chief Executive Officer Sabin M. Aboitiz also emphasized the welfare of communities surrounding the area. “It has always been our earnest commitment to help safeguard our environment and uplift the welfare of the communities, in this case the people surrounding and are dependent on the Verde Island Passage for their livelihood. Its preservation is of paramount interest and once again the Aboitiz Group, MVP Group and San Miguel Group are working together to do our part,” he said.

Secretary Loyzaga says the signing of the MOU dovetails with the Philippine observance of the UN Decade of Ocean for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), both seeking to stimulate ocean science and generate awareness while catalyzing opportunities for the development of massive marine ecosystem.

A salient provision of the MOU requires the parties to “establish a marine science biological research station with facilities” in VIP and across the five provinces nearby in partnership with higher educational institutions such as the UP Systems, De La Salle University and the California Academy of Sciences.

The partnership seeks to include among its key considerations the improvement of lives of the communities in the VIP, the opportunity to be heard through a dialogue where they can express their concerns, and the sustainable access and use of coastal and marine resources.

It will also help meet the long-term goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which is the key outcome of the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Moves have been made to legislate a measure declaring VIP a “legally protected area,” given that it is home to more than 300 coral species, 1,700 fish species and thousands of marine organisms such as sharks and turtles, while providing livelihood and other benefits to over two million people.

DENR has declared VIP a marine protected area but LGUs in the five provinces want it “legally protected” with the full force and effect of the law to deter potential violators, according to Secretary Loyzaga.

VIP is one of the Philippines’ busiest marine corridors leading to the ports of Manila to Visayas and farther down Mindanao.

Conservation International (CI) depicts VIP as ‘the backbone of the local economy, thriving upon coastal tourism, fisheries, and as a shipping route, but it is becoming increasingly threatened by illegal and destructive fishing practices, pollution, unsustainable land use and irresponsible tourism.’ “Climate change is also a serious concern which could lead to loss and damage of key infrastructure and local food security,” CI says in its website. #



For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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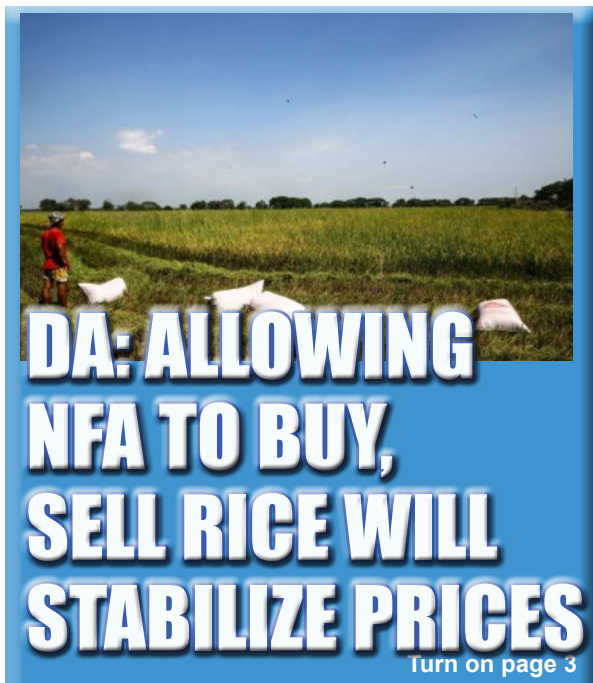
IMPROVING AIRPOWER. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. leads the 2nd Philippine Air Force (PAF) Command Conference in Pasay City on Monday (May 13, 2024). During the conference, President Marcos discussed the strengthening of the PAF to ensure the country’s security and robust disaster response capabilities. (Photo courtesy of PCO)

MANILA – Strengthening the country’s airpower capability was among the points of discussion in the 2nd Quarter Command Conference of the Philippine Air Force (PAF) led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City on Monday. According to Presidential Communications Secretary Cheloy Garafil, Marcos was “briefed on the recent activities, plans, and proposed projects” of the PAF. “The President gave his guidance and instructions on some of the

proposed programs to further strengthen the PAF as it defends the country’s sovereignty, territory, and development,” she added.

The Commander-in-Chief was accompanied by high-ranking defense and security officials including Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Romero Brawner, and PAF Commanding General Lt. Gen. Stephen Parreño.

Also in the meeting were Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin



DA: ALLOWING NFA TO BUY, SELL RICE WILL STABILIZE PRICES

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PNP EYES TRANSFER OF SLAIN COP'S CASE OUT OF MAGUINDANAO NORTE

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DA EYES EXPANDED CONTRACT FARMING FOR MORE AFFORDABLE RICE

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PBBM NAME NEVER APPEARED IN PDEA SYSTEM – AGENCY EXEC

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MINDANAO LEADERS THROW SUPPORT BEHIND PBBM'S BAGONG PILIPINAS

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The Economic Impact of Global Warming on the Philippines

Global warming poses a significant threat to the Philippine economy, affecting various sectors including agriculture, infrastructure, public health, and overall economic stability. As one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines faces numerous challenges that could hinder its economic growth and development.

Agriculture and Food Security
Agriculture, a vital sector for the Philippines, employing about one-third of the population, is particularly vulnerable. Climate change is expected to cause a drastic reduction in crop yields. For instance, rice production, a staple in the Filipino diet, could see a decline of up to 70% due to increased temperatures and changing rainfall patterns (IFPRI) (WhatALife!). This decline not only threatens food security but also puts significant pressure on farmers and the agricultural economy.

Infrastructure and Coastal Areas
The Philippines experiences rising sea levels at about twice the global average. This exacerbates the impact of typhoons and storm surges, leading to more frequent and severe flooding (WhatALife!). The damage to infrastruc-

ture from such events can be extensive, accelerating wear and tear on roads, bridges, and buildings, thus increasing maintenance costs and disrupting economic activities.

Economic Losses
A report by the Asian Development Bank estimates that without adequate adaptation measures, the Philippines could lose about 6% of its GDP annually by the end of the century due to climate change (NICCDIES). Investing in climate adaptation—about 0.5% of GDP annually—could mitigate some of these losses, underscoring the importance of proactive measures.

Health and Labor Productivity
Rising temperatures and changing climate conditions have direct and indirect effects on public health. The prevalence of diseases such as dengue fever and malaria is expected to increase, placing additional strain on healthcare systems (WhatALife!). Furthermore, heat stress can reduce labor productivity, which is anticipated to result in a loss of working hours and economic output over time (NICCDIES).

Economic Displacement and Poverty
Climate-induced disasters often disproportionately affect the poor, increasing

poverty rates and leading to greater economic inequality. The displacement caused by flooding and typhoons forces rural populations to migrate to urban areas, further straining urban resources and infrastructure (WhatALife!).

Policy Recommendations
To mitigate these impacts, the Philippine government needs to implement comprehensive climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Investing in resilient infrastructure, improving agricultural practices, and enhancing disaster preparedness are crucial steps. International cooperation and support, such as technology transfer and financial aid, will also be essential in helping the Philippines build resilience against the adverse effects of global warming.

In conclusion, global warming presents a multifaceted challenge to the Philippine economy, threatening key sectors and overall economic stability. Addressing these challenges requires immediate and sustained efforts in adaptation and mitigation to safeguard the country's future economic prospects.
-Ang Kabitenya

IMPROVING...

and Special Assistant to the President Anton Lagdameo. Meanwhile, the PAF said in a separate statement that Parreño, along with Air Force Unit commanders and senior Headquarters PAF staff officers, provided insights and recommendations to the President on ways to further “strengthen the country’s airpower ca-

pability to effectively guard and defend our nation from various emerging security challenges, including enhancing our capabilities for disaster response.” The AFP’s air wing also expressed its appreciation to the President for personally leading the command conference. “The Philippine Air Force expresses its deep appreciation to our

Commander-in-Chief for his guidance and personal engagement with our leaders in this 2nd Quarter Command Conference, and we look forward to his continuous support in our modernization efforts to become a truly capable, credible, and sustainable Air Force that our nation needs and deserves,” the PAF said. (PNA)

MINDANAO...

MANILA – Officials from Mindanao on Friday threw their support for President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s “Bagong Pilipinas” initiative, calling it the “best” Philippines the government can provide to the Filipino people. Local executives expressed their support as President Marcos personally distributed a total of PHP110 million in cash assistance to the local governments of General Santos, South Cotabato, and Sarangani Province for the El Niño-hit Filipinos in Mindanao. Marcos said the presidential assistance, along with the provision of various government services, demonstrates the administration’s commitment to uplift the lives of the Filipino people under “Bagong Pilipinas.”

Sultan Kudarat Governor Datu Pax Ali Mangudadatu said his province would give its “100 percent” support to the administration’s thrust to build a strong and united Philippines. “The whole province of Sultan Kudarat ay kasama ng minamahal nating Pangulo. Ipinagamalaki po natin that Bagong Pilipinas (supports our beloved President. We are very proud that Bagong Pilipinas) is the best Philippines we can ever give to the Filipino people,” Mangudadatu said. Mangudadatu described President Marcos as a “man of words and man of action,” thanking him

for the much-needed aid for farmers and fisherfolk who were severely affected by the El Niño phenomenon. “From the bottom of our hearts, Mr. President, kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa inyong suport, sa inyong tiwala, at sa inyong pagmamahal sa sambayanang Pilipino (we thank you for your support, trust, and love for the entire Filipino people),” Mangudadatu said. General Santos City Mayor Lorelie Geronimo-Pacquiao praised the President’s efforts to address the challenges faced by farmers and fisherfolk affected by the El Niño phenomenon, highlighting his commitment to unity and ensuring no one is left behind.

“Ang iyong pagkilala sa mga pakikibaka at balakid na nararanasan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangingisda ay nagpapakita ng inyong tunay na pangangalaga at pagmamahal sa kapakanan ng lahat ng miyembro ng ating lipunan (Your recognition of the plight and struggles of our farmers and fisherfolk shows your genuine care and affection for the welfare of every member of our society),” Geronimo-Pacquiao said. “Mahal na Pangulo, ipinapaabot po namin ang aming lubos na pasasalamat sa inyong paglalaan ng oras upang bisitahin at ipakita ang inyong suport sa mga masisipag na magsasaka at mangingisda

ng General Santos City (Our beloved President, we extend our deepest gratitude for the time you spared to visit us and show your support for the hardworking farmers and fisherfolk of General Santos City),” she added. General Santos City Rep. Loreto Acharon said his constituents would give its “101-percent” support to the programs and projects of the government under Bagong Pilipinas. “Kami ay 101-percent suport sa iyong administrasyon, sa lahat ng iyong adhikain, sa lahat ng iyong programa, proyekto, iyong mga ninanais na tayo ay magkaroon ng Bagong Pilipinas. Kakampi niyo kami. Great ally niyo kami (We are 101-percent supporting this administration in all its aspirations, programs, and projects aimed at creating a New Philippines. We are your partners. We are your great allies),” Acharon said. The President handed over PHP10 million in presidential assistance to Geronimo-Pacquiao and PHP50 million each to South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo Tamayo Jr. and Sarangani Province Governor Rogelio Pacquiao. Presidential assistance provided were irrigation projects, rice mill facilities, farming tools, and fertilizers for farmers as well as help for fisherfolk from the Department of Agriculture (DA). The Department of Social Welfare and Development

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DA...

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) announced Monday an expanded contract farming program to offer more affordable rice in the country. “Ngayon ay nagbigay na ng instruction si Presidente (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.), pati sa NFA (National Food Authority) gawin iyan, pati sa buong DA na gawin iyong malakihan na (The President has instructed the NFA to do that, even the entire DA, to expand the implementation of the) contract farming,” Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an interview. De Mesa said the expanded program will start in the upcoming wet season planting. The expanded program stemmed from the implementation of an earlier contract farming program between the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and

local farmers, which will enable NIA to sell PHP29/kg of rice in Kadiwa sites in Luzon, Cebu, and Davao in August. “Sa ngayon, 100,000 metric tons na bigas, that’s 100 million kilos. So re-repack nila iyon at 10 kilo per bag at iyon ang kanilang ibebenta sa mga Kadiwa (For now, 100,000 metric tons of rice, that’s 100 million kilos. So, they will repack it by 10 kg. per bag, and will sell it in Kadiwa [stores]),” he said. Meanwhile, de Mesa assured that all rice production from contract farming is of good quality, particularly the inbred and hybrid varieties. Under the program, farmers earn a higher income through lower production costs made possible by various government support, including seeds, fertilizers, and mechanization, among others. (PNA)

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PNP...

NOT OFF THE HOOK. The mugshots of the two police officers who are among the five suspects in the killing of Capt. Rolando Moralde in Parang, Maguindanao del Norte. The PNP on Monday (May 13, 2024) said the Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) is studying the possibility of transferring the venue of the preliminary investigation on the murder charges against the suspects in Moralde’s killing. (Photo courtesy of PNP)

MANILA – The Police Regional Office-Bangsamoro Autonomous Region (PRO-BAR) is studying the possibility of transferring the venue of the preliminary investigation on the murder charges against five suspects, including two police officers, in the fatal shooting of Capt. Rolando Moralde in Parang, Maguindanao del Norte, a police official said Monday. In a press briefing at Camp Crame, Quezon City, PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said the case may be transferred to “another city or even in Metro Manila.” This came after two suspects, Police Master Sergeants Aladdin Ramalan and Shariff Balading, were released on May 8 following an order from the Maguindanao del Norte Provincial Prosecutor’s Office.

The prosecutor questioned the two cops’ detention following a “warrantless arrest,” noting that the complaint affidavit does not contain nec-

essary evidence to prove the essential elements of murder. The complaint was recommended for further case build-up. “They were not arrested by virtue of warrantless arrest but in fact, voluntary surrendered, hence the arrest and surrender are distinct and separate concepts. An act of voluntary surrender cannot and will never be a subject of arrest as contemplated in the existing rules of court,” Fajardo said. She said they also received information that the two suspects may be relatives of the prosecutor. “But it has to be validated, it was one of the considerations mentioned by the Regional Director of PRO-BAR,” she said. She said the PRO-BAR maintained in its position paper that Ramalan and Balading turned themselves in following their implication on the incident. It noted that the surrender was properly documented and was witnessed by one of the suspect’s sisters. To support their murder complaints, the PRO-BAR also submitted closed circuit television (CCTV) footage of the incident which they believe “will suffice and constitute prima facie evidence” to prove that what happened to Moralde constitutes murder. “The blotter was submitted as supporting evidence to the complaint that was filed. The evidence submitted was the actual death certificate

of Capt. Moralde and it was clear in the CCTV footage that the suspect was already lying on the ground when he was shot to death. The copy of the CCTV footage was extracted to serve as evidence,” Fajardo said. Meanwhile, she said the PRO-BAR had issued an order on May 10 putting Ramalan and Balading, who were relieved from their respective posts, under restrictive custody within its headquarters. Earlier, the two cops were positive in the paraffin test after the ballistic examination. Fajardo said the two cops would also face administrative charges and have surrendered their service firearms, which would undergo ballistic examination to know if

these were used in the incident. Meanwhile, the three other suspects remain at large. Reports said Moralde and his officers were on market chores inside the town’s public market on May 2 when he noticed a man with a pistol on his waist, later identified as Mohiden Untal. Moralde confronted Untal but the suspect resisted and shot him. He also fired back and hit Untal. The five suspects shot Moralde dead. They turned out to be Untal’s relatives. (PNA)

PNP PROMOTES FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING AT MALL CARAVAN



PNP PROMOTES FIREARMS REGISTRATION AND LICENSING AT MALL CARAVAN

In a move to increase awareness and facilitate the registration process, Police Major General Edgar Alan Omas Okubo, Director of the Civil Security Group (CSG), visited the LTOPF Caravan at Digiworld, Food Court Level, Robinsons Galleria Mall, EDSA cor. Ortigas Ave, hosted by Trust Trade. This event is part of the CSG’s efforts to promote License to Own and Possess Firearms (LTOPF) and Firearm Registration, which will conclude on May 12, 2024. The caravan has been a significant success, with hundreds of applicants already served by the Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) for registration and IT matters, the Directorate for Investigation and Detection Management (DIDM) for National Police Clearance (NPC), the Forensic Group (FG) for drug testing, and the Health Service (HS) for neuro psychology tests and interviews. The Philippine National Police (PNP) encourages everyone to take advantage of the firearms exhibits offered by several dealers and enjoy the various promotions available while applying or renewing their LTOPF at the convenient and comfortable setting of the mall. The mall offers ample parking, air condi-

tioning, and restaurants, making it an ideal location for this important civic service. Meanwhile, as part of continued commitment to delivering fast, efficient, and outstanding services to its stakeholders, the FEO, CSG is also catering LTOPF (License to Own and Possess Firearms) and firearm registrations applications at the CSG One Stop Shop, located in Camp BGen Rafael T Crame, Quezon City. For more information on the LTOPF Caravan and the registration process, please contact the CSG or visit the event at Robinsons Galleria Mall.

PNP PAYS PHP1.92M REWARD TO INFORMANTS FOR ARREST OF 11 MOST WANTED CRIMINALS



Today, the Philippine National Police (PNP), led by Acting Director for Intelligence, PBGEN WESTRIMUNDO D OBINQUE, awarded a total of One Million Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php1,920,000.00) to informants who played a crucial role in neutralizing 11 most wanted criminals. The commendable gesture of gratitude took place at the Intelligence Training Group in Camp Crame. The informants, who wore masks to protect their identities, provided vital information leading to the capture of fugitives involved in serious crimes such as murder, rape, robbery, and carnapping. PNP Chief PGen Marbil highlighted the importance of community participation in combating criminal activities, stating, “Granting of monetary reward to persons (except government employees) who are instrumental to the arrest/neutralization of most wanted persons is one of the programs of the Philippine National Police which serve as an effective way of encouraging the community’s participation in addressing security-related threats and criminality in the country.” This initiative demonstrates the PNP’s dedication to collaborating with citizens to ensure the safety and security of the nation. The ceremony not only recognized the bravery of the informants but also emphasized the essential role each individual plays in upholding law and order, creating a safer environment for all Filipinos.



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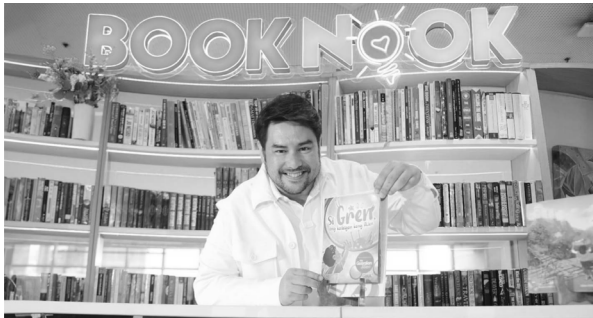
SM CARES FURTHER PROMOTES LITERACY AND KINDNESS WITH BOOK NOOK OPEN LIBRARY DONATION FROM GMA NETWORK

SM Cares further promotes literacy and kindness with Book Nook open library donation from GMA Network

SM Cares' Book Nook fosters a love for reading and community engagement through its open library. In alignment with GMA Network's steadfast belief in the transformative power of reading, a recent book turnover ceremony at SM Aura's Book Nook saw the donation of the beautifully illustrated "Si Gren, Ang Kaibigan Kong Alien" by the media giant.

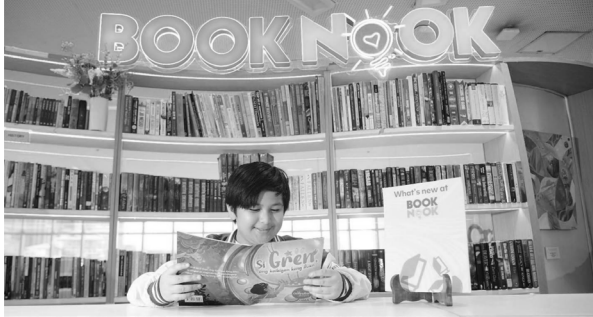


In the photo are Ms. Rossette Roa, Head of Viewer Directed Marketing at GMA Network, along with the cast of "My Guardian Alien": Christian Antolin, Arnold Reyes, Raphael Landicho, and Gabby Eigenmann. Also present are Mr. Royston Cabunag, Assistant Vice President for Mall Operations and Director for Children and Youth at SM Cares, and Ms. Margarita Catalan, Assistant Vice President for Marketing Operations at SM Supermalls, during the activity.

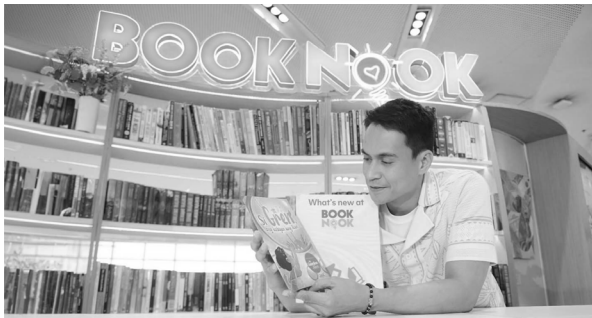


Gabby Eigenmann plays Dr. Ceph in My Guardian Alien

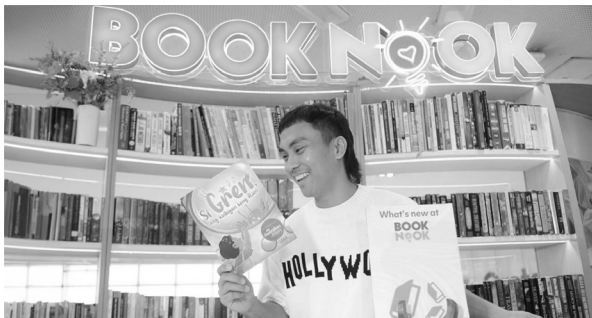
"Si Gren, Ang Kaibigan Kong Alien" is about the friendship of a young boy and an alien who visits Earth to learn about games kids play. The story promotes kindness, diversity, and accepting others, in a way that's easy for children to understand. This book was made for GMA's TV series "My Guardian Alien."



Doy, portrayed by Raphael Landicho, holds a profound affection for this book.



Arnold Reyes plays Minggoy in My Guardian Alien



Christian Antolin plays Sputnik in My Guardian Alien



"Generous contributions like this not only foster a love for joyful reading but also ignite the spark of imagination within every child, empowering them to explore boundless creativity. We are immensely grateful for this donation, which will undoubtedly enrich the lives of countless young minds." Said Mr. Cabunag.

Launched by SM Supermalls in December 2020 at SM Aura as an open and free library, Book Nook aims to create a community where book lovers of all ages can share their passion for reading with like-minded people. It also serves as a hub where brand partners can donate books, contributing to the library's continuous growth.

Through the Book Nook, SM Supermalls aims to showcase its support for literature while providing an avenue for people of all ages to learn more about the world around them through reading, in line with its efforts to promote learning and its important role in nation building. /PR

SM'S BOOK NOOK STRENGTHENS FILIPINOS' LOVE FOR LITERATURE IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL LITERATURE MONTH

SM's Book Nook strengthens Filipinos' love for literature in celebration of National Literature Month



In celebration of National Literature Month this April, Book Nook, a community and learning hub at SM Supermalls prepared a series of engaging events designed for book lovers of all ages, as a way to showcase SM's unwavering support for literature.



To commemorate International Children's Book Day, students were invited to participate in a book reading session

SM Cares and Book Nook began their month-long celebrations with the commemoration of International Children's Book Day on April 2, in partnership with the Vibal Foundation, one of the key organizers for the local leg of the celebration. During the event, they hosted an intimate storytelling session for students from different schools.



Author Nina Daza-Puyat did a story time activity with kids for her books



This was followed by another intimate storytelling session on April 13, led by Nina Daza-Puyat, daughter of culinary icon Nora Daza, where she performed enchanting readings of captivating tales from her celebrated works, which include "Ang Alamat ng Lumpiang Shanghai" and "The Forlorn Rice Cooker." Aside from being a Free Community and Learning Hub, SM Book Nook serves as an avenue for kids to have a safe space. On April 14, lifestyle journalist and author Stephanie Zubiri collaborated with award-winning visual artist Vico Cham to introduce "Chalky The Chameleon," a book that promotes diversity and inclusivity, which were featured in a storytelling session during A Spectrum of Colors event with Best Buddies Event aimed at shining a spotlight on World Autism Awareness Month, which is also in April.

On April 19, expert stylist and author KC Leyco Mempin, also known as Miss Kayce, launched the second edition of her book "Always Be Chic," which aims to make dressing up effortless for everyone, providing an ultimate style map to help them navigate their wardrobe journey at any stage of life. More importantly, the book underscores the environmental impact of sustainable fashion, delving into the importance of conscious consumption while providing practical tips for incorporating sustainability into one's personal style.

Launched by SM Supermalls as an open and free library, Book Nook aims to create a community where book lovers of all ages can share their passion with like-minded people. It serves as a hub where visitors can read books and even donate their own, contributing to the library's continuous growth for the benefit of the community.

"As a form of human expression, literature provides us with knowledge about history, culture, and values, allowing us to understand ourselves and the world around us much better. We recognize its important role in society, which is why we do initiatives like this," said Ms Shereen Sy, Book Nook Founder.

Through its National Literature Month celebrations, SM aims to showcase its support for literature, which is part of its ongoing efforts to promote learning and its important role in nation building. /PR

PAGASA...

MANILA— The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Saturday reiterated the move to re-allow the National Food Authority (NFA) to buy rice and sell it cheaper would stabilize cost when its retail price is too high. At the Saturday News Forum in Quezon City, DA Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said the proposed amendment in the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL) is a much-needed intervention if the Philippines will not resort to drastic measures, such as price caps. "We don't want iyong mga ganitong measures kasi iyong price cap, maganda iyon sa simula pero in the long term, mayroon iyong negative economic impacts sa ating bansa (We don't want those kind of measures because price cap can be good in the beginning but it could have negative economic impacts to our country in the long term)," he said.

"So, kung magkakaroon ng opportunity ang NFA to intervene, mabilis iyong epekto (If the NFA will be given an opportunity to intervene, the effect will be faster)," he added. De Mesa said the rice NFA would be selling is of good quality and "relatively priced lower" than the prevailing market price for well-milled, which is between PHP48 to PHP53. "Kasi noong una kasi, nakakapag-provide siya ng PHP27. But we are not expecting naman iyong ganoong presyuhan but we are expecting na relatively lower iyong presyo

ng NFA (Back then, we can provide at PHP27. But we are not expecting that low of a price, we expect it to be relatively lower than the NFA) prevailing market price," he said. "Kapag naipasa itong amyenda sa RTL, puwede nang mag-intervene at magdala mismo sa retail outlets ang NFA (Once the RTL amendment has been approved, the NFA could intervene and sell rice directly to retail outlets)," he added.

Under the law, the NFA's mandate is limited to ensuring buffer stocks for disasters and is only allowed to purchase two types of produce from local farmers -- fresh palay ranging from PHP19 to PHP23; and the clean and dry that sells between PHP23 and PHP30.

"So, kung makakapamilya iyong NFA ng bigas mismo, mababawasan iyong gastusin ni NFA sa pag-dry, sa pag-mill at kapag bigas na iyan, mas madaling i-dispose (If the NFA can also buy rice, that would lessen the NFA's expenses in drying and milling, it will be easier also to maintain and dispose of)," De Mesa said.

He assured farmers that this would only apply in cases when the country is having issues with the supply or pricing. "Ang normal function parin ng NFA is to buy palay from our farmers (The normal function of the NFA is still to buy palay from our farmers)," he said. (PNA)

PPBM...

NO RECORD. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency has disowned a 2012 document that links President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to illegal drugs. PDEA Legal and Prosecution Service Acting Director Francis Del Valle says the claims of ex-agent Jonathan Morales (in photo) on the authenticity of the document was "purely fabricated." (PNA photo by Avito C. Dalan)

MANILA – An official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) clarified before the Senate Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs on Monday that the name of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. was never included in any of their records. PDEA Legal and Prosecution Service Acting Director Francis Del Valle said "Bongbong Marcos alias Bonget," allegedly the subject of a 2012 pre-operation report and authority to operate that circulated on social media, never appeared in their National Drug Information System or the

Inter-agency Drug Information database. "Hence, he has never been included in the drug list or has been subject to any negation operation," Del Valle said in a presentation during the third hearing on the so-called "PDEA Leaks."

Senator Ronald Dela Rosa, who chairs the panel, admitted that he did not see any copy of the viral documents during his time as chief of the Philippine National Police. "Kasi ako kung tanungin mo rin ako, nag-chief PNP ako, wala talaga akong nakita about that information. Ako mismo, honestly speaking, I never saw any," dela Rosa said. Del Valle reiterated the PDEA's stand that the supposedly "leaked" documents were "purely fabricated," considering that they have no control numbers and are marred with redactions. (PNA)

DA...

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) announced Monday an expanded contract farming program to offer more affordable rice in the country. "Ngayon ay nagbigay na ng instruction si Presidente (Ferdinand Marcos Jr.), pati sa NFA (National Food Authority) gawin iyan, pati sa buong DA na gawin iyong malakihan na (The President has instructed the NFA to do that, even the entire DA, to expand the implementation of the) contract farming," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said in an interview.

De Mesa said the expanded program will start in the upcoming wet season planting. The expanded program stemmed from the implementation of an earlier contract farming program between the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and local farmers, which will enable NIA to sell PHP29/kg of rice in Kadiwa sites in Luzon, Cebu, and Davao in August. "Sa ngayon, 100,000 metric tons na bigas, that's 100 million kilos. So re-repack nila iyon at 10 kilo per bag at iyon ang kanilang ibebenta sa mga Kadiwa (For now, 100,000 metric tons of rice, that's 100 million kilos. So, they will repack it by 10 kg. per bag, and will sell it in Kadiwa [stores])," he said. Meanwhile, de Mesa assured that all rice production from contract farming is of good quality, particularly the inbred and hybrid varieties. Under the program, farmers earn a higher income through lower production costs made possible by various government support, including seeds, fertilizers, and mechanization, among others. (PNA)

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MINDANAO...

(DSWD) also provided PHP10,000 financial assistance each to 10,000 beneficiaries and their families through the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) Program. At least 38 beneficiaries received payouts from Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) Program of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

On the other hand, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) provided livelihood toolkits to 10 beneficiaries. It also gave allowance for scholars. President Marcos reminded qualified beneficiaries to coordinate with their respective local government units to acquire financial assistance worth PHP10,000. In his speech during the distribution of assistance at the Lagao gymnasium, President Marcos commended the invaluable contributions of General Santos City and South Cotabato to the country's food security and agricultural sector. He said the people of the region not only showed diligence in their work, but also utilized technologies that help increase their production, achieving their goal of improving communities. The President also stressed the government's support to empower the

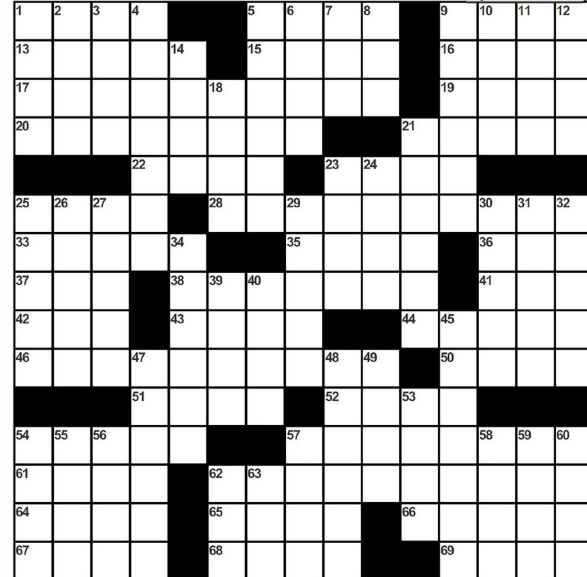
beneficiaries, and help them get through the effects of climate change. "Kaya ang pagpunta ko rito ay hindi lang upang personal na magsabi ng maraming salamat sa ating mga kaibigan dito sa GenSan at sa South Cotabato, pero upang magpahayag rin ng tiwala at magpamalas ng vote of confidence sa inyong kayamanan na makamit ang isang masagana at maaliwalas na bukas (I came here not only to personally thank my friends here in GenSan and South Cotabato, but also to express my trust and vote of confidence in your ability to create a prosperous and bright future)," he said. President Marcos vowed to alleviate the impact of

the El Niño phenomenon that currently affects more than 3 million Filipinos. Marcos said the government will continue its commitment to help those in need, as he urged Filipinos to be with him as they pursue a "Bagong Pilipinas" they deserve.

"Sa ating pagkakaisa, tiyak ako na makakabangon tayo kahit ano mang unos ang ating kahirapin, dahil kilala natin ang ugali ng Pilipino na matatag at pagiging maabilidad (Through unity, I am certain that we will be able to emerge from any tempest we encounter because the Filipinos are known to be resilient and resourceful)," he said. (PNA)

TAKING NOTES

By Fred Piscop

freedailycrosswords.com
ACROSS

- 1) Do a laundry chore
5) Like the Sahara
9) Rush job initials
13) "Das Boot" vessel
15) Movie pal of Stitch
16) Oblong tomato
1 7) Dunkin' Donuts Munchkins, essentially
19) "At which point ..."
20) Uncage
21) Picked out
22) "How are you?" reply
23) Rights org.
25) "Follow me!"
28) "What'd I Say" singer
33) Didn't despair
35) Miners' take
36) Peron of Argentina
37) Dismiss summarily
38) Newspaper publishers, e.g.
41) Suffix with "fact"
42) Galahad's address
43) "Giant" star James
44) Meddlesome type
46) 1932 Spencer Tracy movie
50) Do lunch together, say
51) Yalies
52) Classic toon Betty
54) Short-tempered
57) Sources of nacre
61) Assist nefariously
62) Just about everywhere
64) Like a griot's stories
65) Many a DeMille movie
66) Cathartic-yielding plant
67) Cobbler's piece
68) Heavy cart
69) Enlarge, with "out"

DOWN

- 1) Brewskies
2) Bassoon's cousin
3) Win in a walk
4) "Just do it" for Nike
5) Denali's state
6) Really rankle
7) Not up to par
8) Windows forerunner
9) Dudley Moore title role
10) Area of London or Manhattan
11) Iowa home of the Cyclones
12) French door part
14_ McAn shoes
18) Crude sort
21) Well-bred
23) Yard size, maybe
24) "Moonstruck" actress
25) Bottomless pit
26) Spunk
27) "Aida" or "Carmen"
29) In one's salad days
30) Sierra_ (African nation)
3 1) Digital party notice
32) Co-Nobelists with Begin
34) Nothing, slangily
39) Weigh station user
40) Comes out with
45) Give authority to
4 7) Prickly plant
48) Head monk's jurisdiction
49) Usurer's offering
53) GM make until 2004
54) Pueblo town
55) Zaragoza's river
56) Jesse Ventura was one
57) Met highlight
58) Mudville_ (Casey's team)
59) Charlotte's "Diffrent Strokes" role
60) Baseball feature
62) Paid, as a parking meter
63) Auto loan abbr.

CITY OF BACOR NEWS

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION: BISHOP REYNALDO EVANGELISTA'S ARRIVAL AND FEAST DAY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA PARISH CHURCH



Barangay Molino 6, Bacoor - The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church in Barangay Molino 6 celebrated the Feast Day and welcomed Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista, D.D. yesterday May 13, 2024.

The event was graced by distinguished guests from the local government, including Mayor Strike B. Revilla and the esteemed leaders of Barangay Molino 6, such as Kap. Ronald Javier and barangay council. Kap Alfredo Arevalo from Barangay San Nicolas 2 was also present to join in the festivities.

The celebration aimed to honor the Feast Day and mark the arrival of Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista, bringing spiritual blessings to the parishioners and the entire community. Through the concelebrated Mass and collective prayers, the love and devotion to God and Our Lady of Fatima were fervently expressed.

Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church, located in Soldiers Hills, Barangay Molino 6, served as the heart of the celebration. The gathering strengthened faith and unity within the parish and the community, creating a sense of togetherness and shared devotion. The celebration brought meaningfulness and joy to all who attended. The heartfelt prayers, vibrant flower offerings, and the unity of the people in the celebration inspired and infused hope in the hearts of everyone present.

May 13, 2024, will forever be remembered as a special day of devotion and love for God and Our Lady of Fatima. Through this celebration, the teachings of faith continue to be shared, providing strength and guidance to all. Long live Our Lady of Fatima Parish Church and its devoted parishioners! /PR

MAYOR STRIKE B. REVILLA LEADS OATH TAKING CEREMONY FOR NEWLY HIRED LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD EMPLOYEES



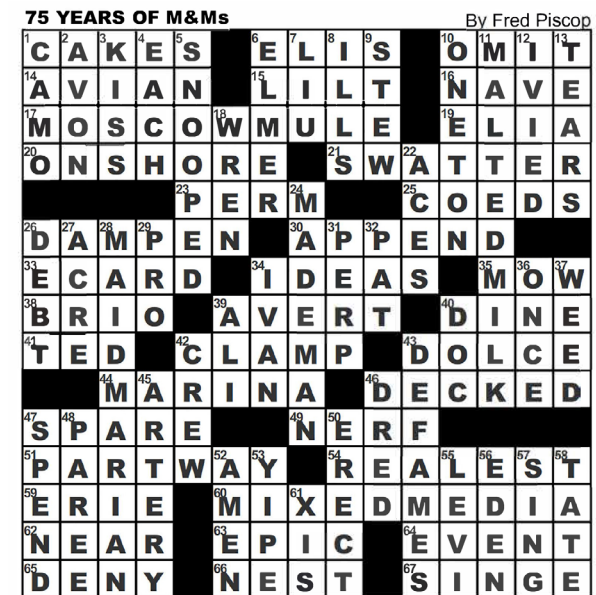
The Department of Education (DepED) organized a significant event to administer the oath-taking ceremony for the newly hired Local School Board employees. The ceremony, held at the Mayor's office, and it was officiated by Mayor Strike B. Revilla.

Among the participants were Mar John W. Cruz, who served as the witness from DepED, and the following individuals who took their oath of office: Erica Joy A. Gayamo, John Raphael J. Icamen, Michael A. Ronquillo, and Joel B. Munda.

Mayor Strike B. Revilla, known for his unwavering commitment to public service, officiated the ceremony. His presence further emphasized the local government's support for education and its dedication to providing quality education for the community.

This momentous occasion underscores the collective effort to provide quality education and create a conducive learning environment for the students. The oath-taking ceremony serves as a testament to the shared commitment to excellence and the continuous pursuit of educational advancement in the community. /PR

Last week's solution:

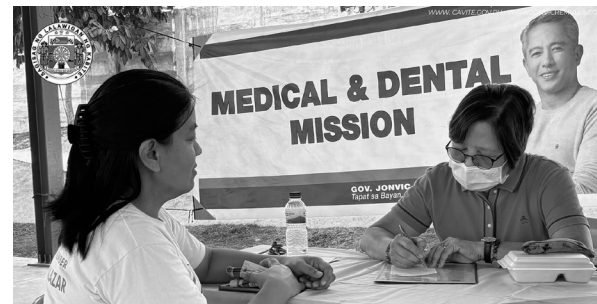


PGC continues to ensure the healthy status of Caviteños.



For the health and well-being of all Caviteños at all ages, another round of Medical and Dental Mission was carried out to bring vital healthcare services to the locals of Brgy. Julugan, Tanza, on May 09, 2024. The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of Tanza, provided free medical check-ups, and dental care through tooth extraction for better oral health. These services were performed by the volunteer medical practitioners from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) and Tanza Municipal Health Office, benefitting a total of 439 patients – 380 for medical and 59 in dental, with free prescribed medicines, insect repellent and vitamin supplements. Aside from these, HIV testing was also offered. Tanza Vice Mayor Archangelo Matro, Sangguniang Bayan members and Punong Barangays of Julugan were actively present at the venue, expressing their gratitude to the medical mission team for their utmost dedication in improving the health and alleviating the lives of the locals. /CPIO

Successful Medical and Dental Mission in Brgy. Panungyanan Gen. Trias, Cavite



Successful Medical and Dental Mission leaves lasting impact in Brgy. Panungyanan General Trias, City, Cavite. On May 8, 2024, the Office of the Provincial Governor, in collaboration with GEAMH medical professionals and General Trias dental team, conducted a successful medical and dental mission in Barangay Panungyanan, Gen. Trias City, Cavite. The initiative aimed to address the healthcare needs of the community, ensuring access to essential medical and dental services. A total of 341 patients benefited from the event, with 75 patients receiving ECGs and X-rays, in addition to

free medical check-ups, dental procedures, and free eye check-ups. Free prescribed medicines, multivitamins, and mosquito repellent lotion were also distributed, showcasing the government's unwavering commitment to accessible healthcare for all Caviteños. 6th District Board Member Kerby Javier Salazar expressed his gratitude to all healthcare professionals, provincial medical and dental mission team, and to Governor Jonvic Remulla for their unwavering support and dedication to providing essential medical and dental services to promote community welfare. /CPIO



PGCEA holds General Assembly for Collective Negotiation Agreement preparation



On May 7, 2024, the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees Association (PGCEA) convened its General Assembly at the Provincial Capitol Grounds in Trece Martires City in preparation of the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA), highlighting the commitment of the association and its members to address crucial issues and advocate for the welfare of government employees. PGCEA officers headed by Ms. Michelle Osorio presented and discussed in detail the content of the CNA during the assembly. It encompassed a wide range of provisions aimed at enhancing working conditions, securing fair compensation and other benefits, and fostering professional development opportunities for PGC employees. Members actively engaged in the assembly by exercising their right to vote on the provisions outlined in the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA). The voting process allowed each member



to express their support or reservations regarding specific clauses, terms, and conditions proposed within the CNA.

The participation of members in the voting process signified their involvement and stake in shaping the final agreement that would impact their working conditions, benefits, and overall welfare as government employees. It provided an avenue for democratic decision-making within the association, ensuring that the collective interests and preferences of the workforce were taken into consideration during the negotiation and ratification of the CNA. As the assembly concluded, participants expressed optimism and solidarity in working towards a mutually beneficial Collective Negotiation Agreement. The event exemplified the proactive stance of PGC workforce in pursuing meaningful reforms and ensuring the well-being of its employees. /CPIO

PGC's medical and dental mission delivers vital services to Naic residents.



The provincial government of Cavite's medical and dental mission, held at the covered court of Brgy. Nazareno in Naic on May 7, 2024, achieved a resounding success, serving a total of 262 residents.

The mission provided free dental extractions, medical check-ups, electrocardiogram (ECG) screenings, eye examinations, maintenance medicines, supplements and mosquito repellent lotion. Moreover, in a proactive approach to public health, the mission also included HIV testing, facilitated by the local government of Naic.

The collaborative effort behind this initiative was instrumental in its triumph, supported by 8th District Board Member Rainier Ambion, in coordination with the OPG mission team, alongside the expertise of GEAMH medical and dental professionals, and the dedicated efforts of RHU Naic, staff and barangay health workers, the event showcased the power of community partnership in addressing vital healthcare needs. /CPIO