# **DOST AND DOE FORGE PARTNER-SHIP TO EXPEDITE THE IMPLE-MENTATION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRUST FUND (RETF) PROJECTS**



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Department of Energy (DOE) have officially sealed a collaborative agreement on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Trust Fund (RETF) proj-

The establishment of the RETF is mandated by Section 28 of the Renewable Energy Act of 2008, with the primary objective of fostering the greater utilization of renewable energy sources. Since its inception, the RETF has gained momentum, particularly with the issuance of Department Circular No. DC2022-06-0018, which provided the essential guidelines and procedures for the fund sourcing, accounting, and audit processes.

The RETF, administered by the DOE, has commenced collection from various sources, including a percentage of the net annual income of institutions such as the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). Despite the potential for other fund sources as outlined in the Renewable Energy Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, the DOE has so far collected primarily from the aforementioned sources, amassing a balance of Php 209,984,504.22.

To expedite the operationalization of the RETF and ensure its objectives are met, the DOST and DOE have entered into MOA detailing areas of cooperation and mechanisms for fund utilization. The partnership will leverage DOST's expertise in science, technology, and innovation to drive the development and adoption of renewable energy solutions. Through this collaboration, the parties aim to conduct scientific studies, demonstrate cutting-edge technologies, and pilot test innovative approaches that will propel the renewable energy sector forward.

During the signing ceremony, DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr. expressed enthusiasm about the partnership, highlighting the shared commitment of both agencies to advance renewable energy initiatives. Secretary Solidum emphasized DOST's dedication to supporting research and development endeavors that will shape the future of the Philippine innovation system, underscoring the Department's unwavering commitment to providing solutions and opening opportunities. Meanwhile, DOE Secretary Raphael Perpetuo Lotilla affirmed DOE's commitment to providing full cooperation with DOST.

With this milestone collaboration between DOST and DOE, stakeholders in the renewable energy sector can anticipate accelerated progress towards a sustainable and energy-efficient future for the Philippines. /PR

# **DOST'S GENDER-RESPONSIVE AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT PREVAILS IN CELEBRATING THE 2024 NATIONAL WOMEN'S** MONTH



DOST-wide parade for 2024 National Women's Month Celebration, led by DOST Sec. Solidum and DOST ASec. Ignacio. (Photo from Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII)

Promoting gender equality and women empowerment reigned in the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as it started the celebration of National Women's Month through a Kick-Off Activity at DOST Compound, Gen. Santos Ave., Bicutan, Taguig City, on March 01, 2024.

Bearing the theme "Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas: Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, Patutunayan!' the DOST, together with its agencies, aims to transform and uplift the women's roles in society, which will lead them to have the courage and confidence to take the challenges and reap the opportunities.

The highlight of the Kick-Off Activity was the DOST-wide parade, where its agencies became united in showing their support to create a culture that inhabits an equal and inclusive environment for women.

"Our Department has always celebrated Women's Month, an opportune time to highlight and honor the achievements of DOST women leaders and employees," remarked DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr.

Upgrading the measures and initiatives for gender equality

"Gender equality is essential to achieve peaceful societies with full human potential and sustainable development. However, there is still a long way to go to achieve full equality of rights and opportunities," underscored DOST Secretary Solidum.

He also shared the Global Gap Report 2023 that no country has yet achieved full gender parity as the gender gap score stands at 68.4% closed. "This report should serve as a challenge for us to strengthen our women empowerment measures and initiatives further," he said.

"Promoting gender equality, women empowerment, and social inclusion concepts in development programming is significant even as the Sustainable Development Goals directly recognize these issues as fundamental to the end goal of reducing poverty and advancing a healthier, safer, cleaner, better educated, connected, just, and more egalitarian world," he continued.

Gender equality is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that oversees the implementation of gender-responsive policies and accountability processes. According to the DOST Secretary, providing op-

portunities for women's participation and contribution to education, government, and leadership roles were constant in the DOST. "Our programs

and projects will give equal importance to providing women equitable access and control over the resources they need to be economically empowered," he affirmed.

Paving appreciation and recognition for women's role

Meanwhile, the DOST Assistant Secretary and DOST-wide GAD Focal Person Diane L. Ignacio explained that celebrating Women's Month gratifies the importance of establishing an inclusive and safe workplace for women in the DOST.

"Women's Month Celebration is a symbolic recognition of women's contribution despite the daily struggle from society's gender expectations, stereotypes, and discrimination," said DOST ASec. Igna-

She said that the celebration is one of the many ac-tivities and programs that the DOST conducts to mainstream gender and development, as empowering women in all aspects of life is always present in the DOST.

In the Kick-Off Activity, the parade was followed by the opening program that included the presen-tation of DOST agencies' Lakambinis and floats, as well as the turnover ceremony of 'Silyang Pinoy' that consists of 12 sets of tables and chairs for the DOST Day Care Center.

Other activities incorporated in the whole-day celebration that promote and advocate gender equality are Mini Bazaar, Palarong Pinoy, Wellness, Free Legal Assistance, and Al Fresco Entertainment, which are organized by the DOST Central Office (DOST CO) and DOST-Research and Development Institutes (DOST RDIs), /PR



DOST Lakambinis proudly and confidently wears the attire made of Philippine Tropical Fabrics, created and produced by the DOST-Philne Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI). (Photo from Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII



Official opening and launching of the DOST GAD Bazaar, led by DOST Sec. Solidum and DOST ASec. Ignacio. Also, it is one of the whole-day activities that was enjoyed and participated by DOST employees. (Photo from Henry A. de Leon, DOST-STII)

















2 Corinthians 5:7

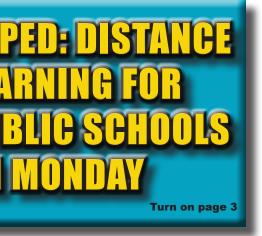
ISSN: 3028-0044













udents use a cardboard box to protect themselves from the sun during a hot day in Manila yesterday. More than a hundred schools nationwide nave shut their classrooms and resorted to alternative learning modes due to sweltering temperatures, which have hit danger levels. AFP



MANILA, Philippines The Department of Education (DepEd) must speed up the return to the old academic calendar mid widespread suspension of onsite classes due o extreme heat, teachers roup Teachers' Dignity oalition (TDC) reiterated vesterday.

n an interview with ABS-CBN News, TDC national chairman Benjo Basas said the reversion to the old academic calendar – where classes run from une to March and school oreak from April to May his coming school year 2024-2025.

'One of our calls to DepEd is to speed up the 2026-2027, where classes reversion to the old school

calendar... We think it can already be implemented as early as this upcoming school year, so that by next year, 2025, we won't have classes in April and May," Basas said. ADVERTISING

The DepEd had earlier issued DepEd Order No. 3 series of 2024, ordering the gradual return to the old academic calendar with the opening of classes for SY 2024-2025 set on July 29, 2024 and closing on May 16, 2025.

DepEd spokesman and Undersecretary Michael seemed feasible starting Poa had earlier told reporters that the agency eves full return to the old academic calendar by SY would open in June.



#### From Page 1

#### cording to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PA-GASA).

Central Luzon has the This is well within the most number of affected dangerous levels of the learners, with 1.1 milheat index, in which heat lion students from 1,619 cramps and heat exhaustion are likely and heat In Ilocos, Calabarzon, Mistroke is probable with continued exposure.

PAGASA also warned that dangerous heat index levels could be felt in at least five areas of the country today. Temperatures of between 42 to 43 degrees bined total of 961 schools Celsius are forecast over Romblon City, Puerto Princesa City and Aborlan in Palawan, Masbate City, Dumangas in Iloilo and Catarman in Northern Sareminded schools that mar

> State weather forecasters said the easterlies are affecting the country, with rainshowers scattered forecast over Davao region and Soccsksargen. Meanwhile, Metro Manila

and the rest of the country may see isolated rainshowers due to the eastrandum issued on Friday, erlies and some localized thunderstorms.

Garcia has directed all the 500,000 people affected mayors in the province to The ongoing El Niño has suspend classes "indefiaffected some 500,000 nitely," citing the health people so far, as almost 20 risks to students brought provinces in the country by the unusually high heat have expressed intention to declare a state of ca-In response to rising temlamity, El Niño Task Force peratures, DepEd's Taguig spokesman Assistant Secretary Joey Villarama said fice has ordered the relaxvesterday

> "Not only farmers are affected but also their families. In terms of individuals, the affected are about half a million individuals. So, we are not only providing assistance to the farmers but also to their immediate family," Villarama said.

"At least 20 provinces are mulling to declare a state of calamity but they need to be qualified in the criteria, including 15 percent of their population are affected, 13 percent of the livelihood suffered and a vital structure or institution is also affected," Villarama explained.

State of calamity was already declared in the province of Occidental Mindoro; Bulalacao and

As the scorching sun sures are imperative to continues to blaze across the archipelago, the Phil-• ippines finds itself in the •grip of an unprecedented heatwave. With temperatures soaring to record hanced medical support in highs, communities are grappling with the debil-itating effects of this cli-

matic extremity. The relentless heat has not only disrupted daily life but also exacerbated existing environmental and socioeconomic challenges, underscoring the urgent need for concerted action •to mitigate its impact. The Philippines, known

for its tropical climate, has experienced heatwaves in the past. However, the current heatwave is exceptional in its intensity and duration, stretching •resources and resilience to their limits. From bus-•tling urban centers to •remote rural areas, the heat's impact is palpable, eaffecting millions of lives across the nation.

One of the most alarm-•ing consequences of the heatwave is its toll on public health. Prolonged exposure to high temperatures poses serious health risks, particularly to vulnerable populations such as the elderly, •children, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions. Heat-related illnesses, including heat-•have surged, straining already burdened healthcare systems and claim- the most vulnerable coun-

safeguard public health, including the establishment of cooling centers, dissemination of heat safety guidelines, and enaffected areas. Moreover the heatwave

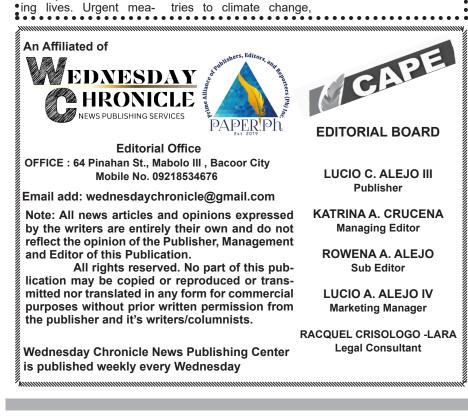
exacts a heavy toll on the country's agricultural sector, a cornerstone of the economy and livelihood for millions. Prolonged exposure to extreme heat leads to drought conditions, parching farmlands and decimating crops. Farmers endure significant losses as crops wither and livestock struggle to survive in the blistering heat. The resultant food shortages not only threaten food security but also exacerbate poverty and deepen existing socioeconomic disparities. Immediate interventions. such as drought-resistant crop cultivation and provision of financial assistance to affected farmers, are essential to mitigate the

agricultural fallout of the heatwave In addition to its direct impacts. the heatwave exacerbates the broader climate crisis, underscoring the urgency of climate action. Rising global temperatures, fueled by areenhouse gas emissions, contribute to the frequency and intensity of stroke and dehydration, heatwaves, placing communities worldwide at risk. The Philippines, as one of

**Call for Action** faces disproportionate impacts, despite its minimal contribution to global emissions. Addressing the root causes of climate change through ambitious mitigation efforts and adaptation : strategies is essential to build resilience and protect vulnerable communities from the ravages of extreme weather events.

As the heatwave persists, it serves as a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of climate change, public health, and socioeconomic well-being. Urgent action is needed on multiple fronts, from enhancing heat resilience and disaster preparedness to accelerating the transition to renewable energy and sustainable practices. Governments. communities, and individuals must collaborate to confront the challenges posed by the heatwave. with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable and building a more sustainable and resilient future for all.

In the face of escalating heatwaves and looming climate threats. complacency is not an option. The time for action is now. Let us heed the warnings of this heatwave and unite in pursuit of a healthier, more equitable and climate-resilient Philippines -ANG KABITENYA



#### **2** Apr. 10 - Apr. 16, 2024 **DEPED.... Escalating Heatwave in the Philippines: Urgent**

Basas, however, said there 658,711 students, based is still time for the DepEd to adjust the calendar for SY 2024-2025 so that classes do not extend to are affected. April and May, which are the hottest months of the vear.

on DepEd data.

schools.

termined.

schools are affected.

Bicol, Central Visavas,

Eastern Visayas and Soc-

csksargen have a com-

suspending onsite classes.

students has yet to be de-

The DepEd had earlier

they have the authority

to suspend onsite classes

and shift to alternative de-

livery modes "in cases of

extreme heat and other ca-

lamities that may compro-

mise the health and safety

of learners, teachers and

non-teaching personnel."

Meanwhile, in a memo-

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn

index in the province.

and Pateros division of-

ation of the dress code for

teachers and students in

In a memorandum issued

by Schools Division Su-

perintendent Alejandro

Ibañez, several dress code

adjustments were adopted,

such as allowing students

to wear PE uniforms,

jogging pants and white

ing teachers to wear polo

shirts to combat extremely

Under the memorandum,

outdoor activities during

peak heat hours have been

strongly discouraged to

prevent health-related

The maximum heat index

risks among learners.

'Dangerous' heat index

public schools.

In Metro Manila, 592,875

students from 279 schools

"We think this is still doable. Because if we will still push through with allowing classes to run maropa and Zamboanga until May 16, 2025, we peninsula, a little over a are bound to experience million students in 954 the same dilemma as now – lots of schools will again have to shorten or suspend onsite classes in April and May to protect the students and teachers from the harmful effects The number of affected of extreme heat," Basas said

He said the DepEd must come up with an "optimal scheme" on how to go about adjusting the calendar for SY 2024-2025 such as by incorporating various modes of delivery of lessons, without sacrificing the vacation of teachers.

Nonetheless, Basas said if shortening the vacation of teachers to prepare for a possible earlier date of opening of classes cannot be avoided, the DepEd must provide them necessary compensation such as additional service credits convertible to vacation leave or extra pay.

'The two-month vacation of teachers (every school year) must not be compromised because this is nandated under the existing rules of the DepEd and the Civil Service Commission," he said.

The DepEd has yet to respond to the media's request for reaction on the TDC's proposal for immediate reversion to the old academic calendar. Class suspensions

Based on DepEd's data as shirts as well as authorizof Friday, a total of 5,288 schools have suspended onsite classes due to exhigh temperatures. treme heat, from 4,769 schools on Thursday. The DepEd said a total of

3.6 million students were affected by the onsite class suspensions.

Western Visayas remains the region with the highest number of schools af- in Dagupan City reached fected, with 1,287 or about 45 degrees Celsius, ac-

ince of Cavite."

## **Mednesday HRONICLE**

# DOLE...

Where the day immediately preceding the regular holiday is a non-working day in the establishment or is the scheduled rest day, the employee shall be non-working day or rest (PNA)

#### From Page 3

The Day of Valor remembers the soldiers who fought and died for freedom against Japanese invaders in the Battle of Bataan in 1942.

entitled to holiday pay if Eid'I al-Fitr is one of two the he/she reports to work major Muslim holidays or is on leave of absence and celebrates the end of with pay on the day im- the monthlong Ramadan mediately preceding the dawn-to-sunset fasting.

# **PGC Supports Peace and Or**der with Distribution of New **Vehicles**



The Provincial Government of Cavite led by Governor Jonvic Remulla bolstered its commitment to ensure peace and order in the province with the distribution of new vehicles to support law enforcement efforts. A total of two hundred (200) NMAX motorcycles, ten (10) Wigo patrol vehicles, and ten (10) Lite Ace patrol vehicles were distributed to the police force in the province through a simple turnover ceremony on March 20, 2024 at the Provincial Capitol Grounds in Trece Martires City. As part of its continuing initiative to enhance public safety and security, the Provincial Government has allocated resources to provide vehicles to support the invaluable effort of the PNP. The move affirms the shared dedication of the PGC and Cavite police force to safeguarding and serving the community.

The newly acquired vehicles will serve as important assets in the province to maintain peace and order effectively. With enhanced mobility and operational capacity, law enforcement officers will be more equipped to respond promptly to emergencies, conduct patrols, and engage in the community policing activities.

"Cavite is the most mobile police force in the entire country. We have settled over 700 four-wheeled vehicles, we now have 200 two-wheeled vehicles, and in the next two years, we're gonna invest some more and make it up to 600 two-wheeled vehicles para sa lahat ng pulis ng Cavite", stated Gov. Remulla.

In turn, the Cavite Police Provincial Office through PCOL Eleuterio M. Ricardo, Provincial Director, extended gratitude to the Provincial Government of Cavite for the support and commitment to have a more peaceful and progressive province. In his message, PCOL Ricardo said, "All chiefs of police, I would like to reiterate that you are responsible for monitoring a patrol mobile. As I conclude let us look forward and instill in our minds our primary duty to maintain peace and order in the prov-

SOURCEOffice of Provincial Information Officer

## Meeting the basic healthcare needs of Silangeños



Cavite provincial government's commitment in nurturing the well-being of the Caviteños was once again witnessed in a medical mission bringing basic healthcare services to the Municipality of Silang, Cavite on March 18, 2024.

Silang Municipal Mayor Kevin Alston Anarna, alongside Sangguniang Bayan members, heartily welcomed the medical mission team, conveying their esteemed appreciation for the PGC's continuous love and support to their community and constituents.

During the course of the program, the OPHO technical eam worked together with the Silang RHU in carrying out free check-ups and consultation, benefitting a total of 872 patients. Likewise, 70 residents consulted with Silang public dentists for their oral health concerns.

Staff from the Office of the Provincial Governor led the distribution of prescribed medicines, vitamin supplement, and insect repellant lotion to the Silangeños, relieving the worries and concerns for the needed medication.

Other services rendered during the mission were free eye check-up, pneumococcal vaccines, and anti-rabies vaccines for fur babies.

The initiative truly served as an avenue for the PGC to connect with its people, assess their healthcare needs, even those in the marginalized areas.

### SOURCEOffice of Provincial Information Officer

## **Medical and Dental Mission in** Sta. Cruz, City of Dasmariñas



Cavite Provincial Government's health outreach program held on March 8, 2024, at Golden Horizon Subdivision covered court in Barangay Hugo Perez, Trece Martires City was a resounding success serving total of 560 beneficiaries with vital medical services and sup-

Led by the office of the Provincial Governor medical mission team, in collaboration with the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) team of health professionals, and Kara Medical Diagnostic Clinic Corp., the outreach program provided a comprehensive range of healthcare services to the residents of Barangay Hugo Perez. From medical consultations and check-ups to dental extractions, ECG, and X-rays at the LAB for ALL, and even free eye check-ups, attendees received

# 🔳 Apr. 10 - Apr. 16, 2024 🏼 🕇

holistic care.

Additionally, maintenance medicines, multivitamins, and mosquito repellent lotion were distributed as part of the anti-mosquito campaign.

The dedication and expertise of medical and dental professionals, supported by a committed team of medical staff, were instrumental in the success of the program. A total of 485 individuals received medical check-ups, 50 underwent dental extractions, while 9 received X-rays and 16 underwent ECG tests, addressing a variety of healthcare needs within the community.

The event received unwavering support from local government officials, with 7th District Congressman Ping Remulla, Mayor Gemma Lubigan, city councilors, and SK Federation President John Allyson Sepacio gracing the occasion to express solidarity with their constituents. Furthermore, Barangay Chairperson Raymundo Villa, along with barangay officials and health workers, played a vital role in coordinating efforts to ensure the program's success. / Office of Provincial Information Officer

## **Art Painting Activity and Exhibit** for Children with Autism



As part of the post celebration of National Autism Consciousness Week, the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disability Affairs Officer in partnership with the Municipality of Rosario through the Persons with Disability Affairs Office spearheaded a heartwarming and inspiring art painting activity for 40 children with autism on March 21, 2024 at SM City Rosario Event Center. The event not only highlighted the artistic abilities of the children but also emphasized the importance of inclusion and appreciation for individuals with diverse abilities.

The art workshop proper was facilitated by the members of Skills and Drills Dance, Arts and Sports Studio, Inc. Each child was given the freedom to express themselves through colors, shapes, and imagination. The activity was a collaborative effort involving the children, their families, and volunteers who worked together to create a supportive and encouraging environment.

One of the most remarkable aspects of the event was witnessing the joy and enthusiasm radiating from the children as they immersed themselves in the creative process. For many of them, art serves as a powerful medium of communication and self-expression, allowing them to convey their thoughts, emotions, and unique perspectives.

The art pieces will be featured in an exhibit, which will run from March 22 to March 27, 2024, at SM City Rosario Cinema Hallway, which will provide an opportunity to the public to admire and appreciate the artworks created by these talented young artists. It also serves as a platform to raise awareness about autism and promote understanding and acceptance within the community. SOURCEOffice of Provincial Information Officer



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## **SM SHOWS SOLIDARITY FOR DOWN SYNDROME COMMUNITY THROUGH THIS YEAR'S HAPPY** WALK

SM shows solidarity for Down syndrome community through this year's Happy Walk



SM Cares, a long time-supporter of the Down Syndrome community, is celebrating 20 years of supporting communities. This Also present in the event for SM City Bacolod is Negros 2024, SM malls celebrate Happy Walk in SMX Manila, SM City Cebu and SM City Bacolod.

SM Cares, in partnership with the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines (DSAPI), continues to show its support and commitment to raising awareness and empowering the Down syndrome community through the annual Happy Walk, held last March 24, Sunday.



Happy Walk got even bigger with over 5,000 attendees at SMX Convention Center Manila at the SM Mall of Asia Complex, registering 480 persons with Down Syndrome - the highest across runs since 2007.



All for Down, several executives showed full support during the event. Among them were (third from left) Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines (DSAPI) President Luis Harder, along with Toy Kingdom Senior Assistant Vice President for Operations Ms. Karen Dechavez; Toy Kingdom Vice President for Operations Ms. Mvra Dumangas: SM Supermalls' Assistant Vice President for Marketing Hanna Carinna Sy; SM Prime Holdings Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy; Atty. Peter Pardo, Chief of Staff of Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano; SM Prime Chief Finance Officer John Ong, and DSAPI's Elmer Lapena, Agnes Lapena and Nill Arroyo



SM City Cebu also participated in the Happy Walk with over 1.000 participants. bringing together their own local communities in solidarity for people with Down syndrome



Over 500 attendees came to SM City Bacolod to further raise awareness for a great cause. Aside from the walk, Natataning Nilalangs had a fashion show and mascot meet and greet



Occidental Governor Eugenio Jose Lacson.



This year's Happy Walk had various fun activities and events for attendees to participate in, alongside walking with members of the Down syndrome community.



SM Employees and their families also showed support to our Natatanging Nilalangs during the Happy Walk 2024 - showing SM's commitment in being a Mall for All

SM Cares has been supporting the Down syndrome community for over 20 years, and has also been a consistent partner of DSAPI through the Happy Walk since 2007. Each step of the journey shows SM's commitment to encouraging compassion and acceptance for people with Down syndrome within society, as well as fostering an inclusive mall experience for everyone.

## **SM FOUNDATION, PARTNERS MEDICAL MISSIONS REACH 3.000 IN LAGUNA. BOHOL**





With the rising prevalence of diseases straining healthcare systems, preventive healthcare has become an urgent priority to identify and address potential health issues before they develop.

Early detection and intervention are key to stopping health problems in their tracks, leading to better health outcomes and a lighter burden on both individuals and healthcare systems.

Amidst this. SM Foundation continues its mission of uplifting low-income communities by providing free medical services through its medical missions with its social good partners. Its recent outreach programs in Bohol with BDO Network as well as SM City Sta. Rosa, Laguna saw roughly 3,000 patients receive vital healthcare check-ups.



These medical missions prioritize preventive healthcare, offering services, including medical consultations, basic laboratory tests, dental check-ups, and free medicines. This focus on early detection of potential health issues empowers residents to take control of their well-being.

The two legs of the medical mission were a social good collaboration between SM Foundation, Jonelta Foundation, Perpetual Help Medical Center, Brgy. Dita, Sta. Rosa in Laguna; BDO Network Bank, MX3-DMIRIE Foundation, 21st Special Force Company Philippine Army JCI, LGUs of Carmen, Jagna, and Calape in Bohol.

SM Foundation's commitment goes beyond immediate care. SM Foundation also rehabilitates local health centers to upgrade equipment and facilities. This strengthens the healthcare infrastructure in these communities, ensuring better access to quality care in the long run.

By bringing preventive healthcare directly to underserved areas. SM Foundation's health and medical pillar continues to promote better health outcomes for the communities they serve.





farmers as of April 3. Heat in workplaces affecting workers. In a statement, the TUCP

# DOLE...

holidays. low the pay rules.



Mansalay, Oriental Mindoro; San Vicente, Palawan; ments should formulate San Andres, Romblon; their respective "Heat Risk Mayoyao, Ifugao; Sibalom, Antique and Zamboanga City.?Agriculture workers from the scorch-Assistant Secretary and spokesman Arnel de Mesa has said that the damage measures is the provision of El Niño to the agriculture sector in 10 regions has reached P2.63 billion, affecting more than 54,000

for outdoor workers, de-

veloping a "buddy system"

where workers shall check

on each other's health con-

dition and regular hydra-

They also suggested con-

ducting heat stress ori-

entation sessions so that

workers are educated

about identifying the

symptoms and appro-

priate responses to heat

The TUCP said manage-

ment should also ensure

better ventilation in work-

places and that windows

should be opened for bet-

ter air circulation. /PHIL-

From Page 1

The employee who will

work during a regular

holiday that also falls on

his/her rest day, they shall

receive an additional 30

percent of the basic wage

of 200 percent (basic wage

times 200 percent x 130

In excess of eight hours

during a regular holiday

that also falls on the em-

ployee's rest day, the over-

time pay is computed at

hourly rate of the basic

times 130 percent times

number of hours worked.

If the employee does not

work, the employer shall

pay 100 percent of the em-

ployee's wage for that day,

provided that the employ-

leave of absence with pay

preceding the regular hol-

iday./PHILSTAR.COM

wage times 200 percent

percent).

tion reminders.

stress.

STAR.COM

De Mesa added that among the regions affected are Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Zamboanga peninsula and Soccsksargen.

Meanwhile, labor group Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP) urged companies to come up with a plan that will address extreme heat levels

- Workers in the private sector who will be working on April 9 (Araw ng Kagitingan or Day of Valor) and April 10 (Eid'I al-Fitr or the end of Ramadan) are entitled to 200 percent of their salary for each of the twin regular

In Labor Advisory No. 05 issued on Friday, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reminded employers to fol-

The 200-percent pay covers the first eight hours (basic wage times two).

In excess of eight hours, the DOLE said the employer shall pay the employee an additional 30 percent of the hourly rate ee reports to work or is on (hourly rate of the basic wage times 200 percent on the day immediately times 130 percent times number of hours worked).

............................... Personalized Leather Items FB Page: ForCraftnessSake For giveaways and Gifts 0919.557.2657



MANILA, Philipsaid business establishpines — Lower power rates may be expect-Action Plan" to protect the ed this month due to health and well-being of lower generation and transmission charges, ing heat in workplaces. according to energy Included in the proposed utility provider Manila Electric Co. of "heat breaks," especially

Meralco vice president and head of corporate communications Joe lary service charges in Zaldarriaga, however, said they "have yet to finalize the final figures," and charges are "indications."

"For generations, we Market Corp. and the see the cost of natural gas suppliers decrease ity Market Operator partly due to lower liquefied natural gas pric-

# **MECO...**

GOV'T AID. A building Bello III visited Hualien that tilted following a 7.2 County, the epicenter earthquake in downtown of the tremor, on Sun-Hualien County, Taiwan day and distributed relief is being demolished on packs and cash assistance Friday (April 5, 2024). Manila Economic and Cultural Office chair Silvestre H. Bello III said on tragedy. Sunday (April 7) that they continuously monitor the situation of Filipinos in cerned with your situation Taiwan. (Xinhua photo) MANILA – The Manila Economic and Cultural ed assistance to ease your Office (MECO) is continuously monitoring the situation of Filipinos in The magnitude 7.2 earth-Taiwan, especially in ar- quake (7.3 and 7.4 in otheas badly hit by the strong er reports) struck off the earthquake on April 3. MECO chair Silvestre H. ern Taiwan at 7:58 a.m.

# **EASTERLIES...**

country and may bring rain showers on Sunday in several parts of the storms. Atmospheric, Geophys-(PAGASA) reported.

Tawi-Tawi will experience cloudy skies with Sunset is at 6:09 p.m. and thunderstorms due seen in 7 areas to the easterlies.

MANILA - The east- Metro Manila, will have the following areas may erlies will affect the partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers or thunder-

country, the Philippine The weather bureau warned the public to take ical, and Astronomical caution as flash floods Services Administration and landslides are possible during heavy rains. In its 24-hour weather Light to moderate winds forecast, the PAGASA and slight to moderate said Basilan, Sulu, and seas will prevail across the country, it added. scattered rain showers 'Danger' level heat index

the country, including bureau also reported that

to suspend settlement said. amounts in the reserve Last month, Meralco market.

The suspension of the implementation of Section 8 on the billing and settlement of the Price crease this year. Determination Methodology for the reserve market in the wholesale electricity spot market covers the March billing period.

"We cannot ignore the implementation of the in their electricity bill. designed that puts to month will be anrates," ERC chairperson soon. Monalisa Dimalanta /PHILSTAR.COM

#### From Page 1

💷 Apr. 10 - Apr. 16, 2024 3

increased electricity rates by P0.0229 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), marking the third in-

The adjustment brings the overall rate last month to P11.9397 per kWh from the previous month's P11.9168 per kWh, allowing residential consumers fact that there are is- consuming 200 kWh to sues arising from the expect an increase of P5 system as currently Final power rates this question the resulting nounced by Meralco

From Page 1

Hualien, the biggest county and a major tourist destination in Taiwan, is host to about 1,400 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Earlier on Friday, Bello met with about 30 Filipino community group leaders who reported the situation of their members.

During the meeting, he also relayed the President's message to the OFWS. MECO had distribut-

ed T\$150,000 (about PHP265,000) in assistance

Bello had also visited the four OFWs who sustained injuries and handed them

#### From Page 1

#### have a "danger" level heat index ranging from 42°C to 43°C on Sunday: Laoag, Ilocos Norte -43°C

Dagupan, Pangasinan 42°C

Aparri, Cagayan - 43°C Tuguegarao City, Cagavan – 43°C

Puerto Princesa, Palawan – 42°C

Daet, Camarines Norte – 42°C

Cotabato City, Maguindanao – 42°C

Heat Index is the tem-Meanwhile, the rest of Meanwhile, the weather perature felt by the human body when relative

humidity is combined with the air temperature. The weather bureau advised the public to limit the time spent outdoors, particularly direct exposure to scorching sunlight, and drink plenty of water.

It warned that heat cramps and heat exhaustion are likely while heat stroke is possible with continued exposure to the heat.

Dagupan, Aparri and Tuguegarao had the highest heat index on Saturday at 43 degrees. (PNA)

nos. "We are here to extend the Bongbong sympathy of our President to the government and people of Hualien. We are

also here to check the condition of our kababayan (compatriots)," he said. MECO deputy resident

representative Alice Visperas, Migrant Workers Office director Cesar Chavez and Welfare Officer Ruth Vibar joined T\$10,000 each. (PR/PNA)

to hundreds of Filipino workers whose work and

es," Zaldarriaga said.

Meanwhile, transmis-

sion charges may have

lower costs following

the order of the Energy

Regulatory Commis-

sion (ERC) to suspend

settlement in the re-

This "drove the signif-

icant increase in ancil-

the March electricity

rates," Zaldarriaga said.

In an earlier report,

the ERC ordered the

Philippine Electricity

Independent Electric-

of the Philippines Inc.

serve market.

for looking after the Filipilives were disrupted by the

"President Marcos is very much conhere and he has instructed us to extend all needcondition," Bello told the

Filipinos.

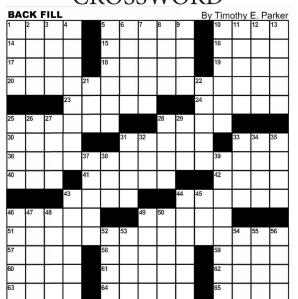
coast of the county in east-

The Focus Taiwan news Bello outlet said that as of Sunsix missing.

#### day 8 a.m., there are 13 dead; 1,133 injured; and Bello also met with county officials and thanked them



# **4** Apr. 10 - Apr. 16, 2024 CROSSWORD



freedailycrosswords.com ACROSS 1) Three-player card game

5) Thumbnails 10) "Then it's settled" 14) "Little" girl of early comics 15) Flynn of old Hollywood 16) Napoleon exile spot 17) Jewish month after Shevat 18) Sung syllables 19) Like a useless tire 20) Back fill x 3 23) Sculpting materials 24) Decreases in strength 25) Ancient 28) A pair's air 30) "Buona \_" (Italian greeting) 31) Cause to laugh 33) Scholastic stat 36) Back fill x 4 40) "What \_ the odds?" 41) Fabled slipper material 42) Place of desertion 43) Bit of defamation 44) Steal gas, in a way 46) Follow as a result 49) Birchbark craft 51) Back fill x 3 57) Shot for one? 58) Baking need 59) Lake that's great 60) Certainly not for 61) Top-\_ (golf ball brand) 62) Move merchandise 63) Medical advice, often 64) Jazzy instruments 65) Ooze through cracks

DOWN 1) Concrete section 2) African antelope ) Winged 4) Traitor 5) Group of four Deck out 7) Sticking points on crows? 8) Caffeine-containing 9) Kill, as a dragon 10) Beat in competition 11) DeGeneres of TV 12) Decrease 13) Plasterwork backers 21) Addition shape, sometimes 22) Dinner jacket material, sometimes 25) Fishing in the Atlantic, e.g. 26) Reverse or drive, 27) Scottish Gaelic 28) All couples 29) Apollo letters 31) Way, way off 32) Title for a married woman 33) "Fancy that!" 34) Game played with horses and mallets 35) Prayer's end 37) Like bodies on beaches 38) Winter ailment 39) Something tested on the vine 43) Naturally bright 44) Makes noise at night 45) Letters from a poor gambler 46) Painter Degas 47) Not a soul 48) Belts, as flies 49) de Guerre (French military award) 50) Type of angle or pain 52) Cut- (short shorts)

#### 53) \_ podrida (Spanish stew) 54) Éruit bearer 55) Make upset

56) Cry like a pup

# CITY OF BACOOR NEWS **Limang Centenarians, Nab**igyan ng munting regalo ni **Mayor Strike B. Revilla**

Sa layuning butihin si Mayor Strike B. Revilla na magbigay-pugay at magkaloob ng karagdagang suporta sa mga matatanda sa Bacoor, isinagawa ang isang espesyal na pagdiriwang na naglalayong magdala ng kaligayahan at suporta sa ating mga centenarian. Ito ay pinangunahan ng Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO) kasama ang kinatawan ng LGU Bacoor, ang OSCA at CSWD, kung saan nagbigay sila ng 50,000 pesos na cash gift sa ating mga centenarian. Kasama sa mga dumalo sina Ms. Lynn Andrea Escobar, Mr. Jun Pagarita ng OPSWDO, Mr. Christian Avilla ng OPTO, at sina Jasmine Daria, Nenita Reyes, at Marygel Raymunda Sornet ng LGU Bacoor na naglaan ng kanilang oras at pagmamalasakit upang tiyakin ang tagumpay ng programa.

- Ang mga nabigyan ng cash gift ay sina:
- 1. Feliciana F. Asuncion ng Salinas 1
- 2. Corazon B. Jao ng Molino 1
- 3. Rosila P. Medina ng Bayanan
- 4. Pastora G. Vila ng Molino 2
- 5. Lucia V. Tabor ng Salinas 1

Ang programa na ito ay hindi lamang isang simpleng aktibidad kundi isang pambihirang pagkakataon upang magbigay-pugay at maglaan ng tulong sa ating mga centenarian, pinagtibay ito ng Provincial Ordinance No. 184 Series ng 2017, kung saan dapat bigyan ng cash gift ang mga centenarian sa Cavite. Hindi maitatanggi na malaki ang ginampanan nilang papel sa ating komunidad at nagsisilbing inspirasyon na maaari nating makamit ang ganung edad kung pangangalagaan natin ang ating katawan at wastong pagkain. Maraming Salamat po.

## Twenty three sets ng Starlink Wi-Fi Router, Matagumpay na na-i-turnover ng NGCP sa Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Bacoor



Sa pangunguna ng National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), matagumpay na na-iturnover ang 23 sets ng Starlink Wi-Fi Router Units sa Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Bacoor.

Ang pagkakaloob ng mga nasabing router na ito, na may internet speed na umaabot mula 80 hanggang 100 MBPS, ay isang hakbang upang mapabuti ang konektibidad at serbisyo ng City Government ng Bacoor sa kanilang mga mamamayan. Ito ay bahagi ng pagsisikap ng NGCP na magbigay ng teknolohiya at serbisyo na makakatulong sa pag-unlad at pagkakaisa ng lokal na pamahalaan at komunidad.

Lubos namang pinasalamatan nina Mayor Strike Revilla, LSB Vice President Randy Francisco, at MIS Head Lodgene Asuncion ang NGCP sa kanilang pagtugon sa pangangailangan ng Lungsod.

## **Collaborative meeting between Bacoor LGU and DPWH**, Aims to advance road development in **Bacoor City**



BACOOR CITY – A significant meeting took place between the Bacoor LGU and the DPWH (Department of Public Works and Highways) to discuss important matters pertaining to the development of the city. The event, organized by the Office of the Mayor, was held at the SBR Conference Room on April 2, 2024.

The meeting was attended by key representatives from the Bacoor LGU, led by the dedicated 24/7 Mayor Strike B. Revilla. Also present were Engr. Jicky Jutba, head of the City Engineering Office, and Mr. Royce Cuevas, Bacoor City Chief of Staff. The participants from DPWH Regional Office Region IV-A Planning and Design Division included Engr. Domingo D. Danao Jr., Engineer II, Engr. John DG. Aldrin Hipolito, Engineer II, and Engr. Kurt Kyle Azrae R. Garcia, Engineer I.

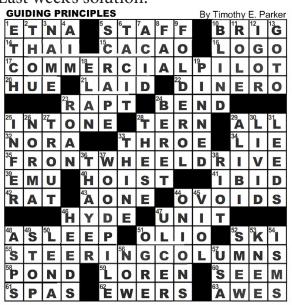
The primary purpose of the meeting was to conduct a coordination session between the Bacoor LGU, headed by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, and the DPWH Planning and Design Division Engineers. The agenda focused on the Master Plan of Various Road Opening and Improvement, as well as the Bacoor Diversion Road Extension in Bacoor City, Cavite. These projects are crucial for the continued progress and development of the city.

The SBR Conference Room served as the venue for this important gathering, providing a conducive environment for the discussion and collaboration between the Bacoor LGU and DPWH representatives. The meeting aimed to foster effective communication and coordination between the two entities, ensuring that the plans and projects are aligned and executed efficiently.

Mayor Strike B. Revilla expressed his gratitude to the DPWH team for their active participation and commitment to the development of Bacoor City. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between the LGU and national agencies like DPWH to achieve the shared goal of progress and improve-

The meeting concluded with a fruitful discussion, highlighting the significance of continuous coordination and cooperation

#### Last week's solution:







pine News Agency.

# **DOST warns Batangas MSMEs** vs. food spoilage amid summer heat

FOOD SAFETY. The Department of Science and Technology-Batangas has collaborated with the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood, and Enterprise Development Office to ensure food safety compliance among cooperatives and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises in the province. A seminar-workshop on food safety was held on March 21-22, 2024, covering basic food hygiene, food safety hazards, and current good manufacturing practices. (Photo courtesy of DOST-Batangas)

BATANGAS CITY - The Department of Science and Technology's (DOST)-Batangas office on Thursday advised food industry stakeholders to double down on their quality control protocols amid the intense summer heat which hastens spoilage.

In an interview, Maico Hernandez, Science Research Specialist at DOST-Batangas, said food manufacturers must strictly adopt basic hygiene principles amid the continued rise of temperature this summer.

He said his office is most concerned about small diners (carinderias), kiosks, ambulant vendors, and food manufacturers and re-packers that fall under the micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) category.

"We are encouraging food manufacturers to support clean and safe production... Time and temperature are one of the most crucial aspects of this. We thank the Provincial Cooperative, Livelihood, and Enterprise Development Office (PCLEDO) for forging collaboration with us as we share the same advocacy in ensuring food safety," Hernandez told the Philip-

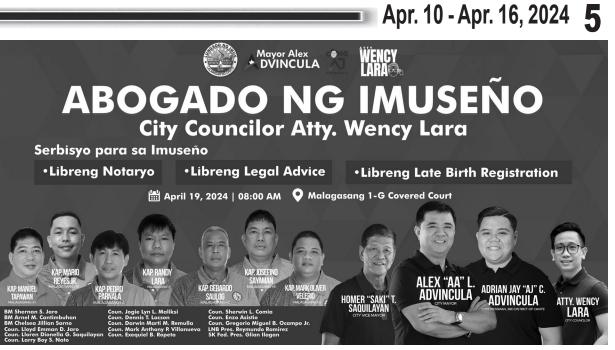
He noted that physical, biological, and chemical food hazards have implications on food processing and the control mechanisms for food safety risks are crucial aspects this summer.

Meanwhile, he said hand-washing, physical hazards, and cross-contamination must also be emphasized among the employees of MSMEs and cooperatives. DOST-Batangas and PCLEDO will organize on-site assessments of food safety among the cooperatives and MSMEs to ensure that they obtain licenses to operate from the Food and Drug Administration.

Hernandez said they held a seminar-workshop on food safety before the Holy Week to ensure food safety compliance among food manufacturing and food service businesses.

Among the relevant topics that were discussed include basic food hygiene, food safety hazards, and current good manufacturing practices.

He said they are looking to capacitate smaller businesses to comply with food safety regulations and standards and equip them with knowledge and skills to ensure the safety and quality of their food prod-velopment Council. (PNA)



Office of Councilor Atty. Wency Lara Mayor Alex DVINCULA ABOGADO **NG IMUSEÑO** Coun. Atty. Wency Lara

## Serbisyo para sa Imuseño

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

🛗 April 19, 2024 | 08:00 AM • Malagasang 1-G Covered Court • Malagasang 1-A • Malagasang 1-E Malagasang 1 – B
Malagasang 1 – F
Malagasang 1 – C
Malagasang 1 – C
Malagasang 1 – D

licts

City Government of Imus () www.cityofimus.gov.ph

It would empower cooperatives and MSMEs to meet food safety requirements and enhance their competitiveness in the market. Hernandez said.

"Food should not be left out for more than four hours, otherwise it should not be consumed. If in Imuseño! doubt, throw it out," he said.

The DOST-Batangas and PCLEDO are members of the Provincial MSME Development Council while the latter also chairs the Provincial Cooperative De-

#### Libreng Legal na Serbisyo mula sa Abogado ng Imuseño, Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara!

Ngayong Abril, muling ilalapit ni Konsehal Atty. Wency Lara ang mga libreng legal na serbisyo sa mga barangay sa Imus! Una nang ihahatid ang Libreng Notaryo, Legal Advice at Late Birth Registration sa mga residente ng mga barangay Mala-gasang 1st sa darating na Abril 19, 2024, Biyernes, mula 8:00 AM sa Malagasang 1-G Covered Court.

Bukas ito sa mga residente ng mga barangay Malagasang 1-A hanggang 1-G.

Para sa Libreng Notaryo, kinakailangan ang:

\*Appearance of Affiant (Personal na pagpunta ng kinauukulang 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 kamag-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,

