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PBBM lures more foreign investments as he envisions better 2024

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. capped 2023 with more focus on defending Philippine territory, attracting foreign investments, and making structural reforms.

Marcos' decisive actions were highlighted by a stronger stance against China's aggression and harassment in the Philippine waters and promoting priority sectors during his foreign trips.

In most of his engagements, especially at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders' summits in California, United States, Marcos lamented the slow progress on negotiations for the final and binding Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea (SCS).

During the Daniel In-

ouye Speaker Series at the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Honolulu, Hawaii in November this year, Marcos said he convinced his fellow ASEAN leaders to come up with another COC in the SCS to maintain peace in the disputed waters.

"We've taken the initiative to approach those other countries around ASEAN with
(Turn to p. 2)

NEDA urged to put up digital agri database

MANILA – Local food producers have urged the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to establish in 2024 a long-delayed agricultural statistics database that will be available to all stakeholders online.

In an interview on Tuesday, Elias Jose In-ciong, president of the United Broiler Raisers
(Turn to p. 3)



DIGITALIZATION PUSH. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (left) with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairperson Emilio Aquino during the 85th anniversary of the corporate and capital markets regulator on June 22, 2023, where he urged the commission to continue digitalization initiatives. The United Broiler Raisers Association on Tuesday (Dec. 26, 2023) appealed for the digitalization of agriculture data. (PNA photo by Joey Razon)



TOP SALESMAN. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is welcomed by overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) during the OFW Family Day celebration in Pasay City on Dec. 20, 2023. Marcos said his administration is committed to improving the lives of OFWs and providing support to their loved ones as evident in his continuous solicitation of investments during his official foreign trips. (PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

DOH: Fireworks-related injuries now 52

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday reported 24 new cases related to fireworks, bringing the total tally of injuries to 52.

In its latest case bulletin, the DOH said the additional injuries included five cases of amputations -- three minors and two adults-- resulting in lost or mangled fingers

and hands.

They are all males who used illegal Boga, Plapla, Five-star and Goodbye Philippines fireworks, and the legal whistle bomb.

"The 24 new cases of fireworks-related injuries, ranging from 5 to 52 years of age, involve only one female," the DOH said.

"Twenty-two or 92 percent occurred

at home or nearby streets. Twenty-one or 88 percent had active involvement, with 16 or 67 percent of the fireworks being illegal."

The top three regions which logged the most number of cases are the National Capital Region with 20 or 38 percent of the total tally, Central Luzon with six cases or 12 percent,

and Soccsksargen with five cases or 10 percent.

The DOH has also acknowledged the efforts of the Philippine National Police (PNP), particularly its crackdown on prohibited firecrackers and indiscriminate use of firearms.

"We continue calling on our mayors and barangay captains – once

again, it is time to lead. Our Centers for Health Development are operationalizing this call to action," it said.

Crackdown

Meanwhile, the PNP said it has so far arrested eight violators due to the illegal possession, use or sale of banned firecrackers worth PHP190,390.

"Magtutuloy yung mga random inspections natin pati na sa mga malalaking mar-

kets, mga bangketa para siguraduhin na hindi tayo malulusutan ng mga prohibited firecrackers at nagbabala tayo sa mga kababayan natin na patuloy na nagbenta ng mga illegal na paputok na mabigat ang kakaharapin niyo pong kaso sa ilalim na RA (Republic Act) 7183 (An Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution and
(Turn to p. 2)

PBBM FR P.1

whom we have existing territorial conflicts," he said.

Marcos also had a pull-aside meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the California APEC Summit, where they discussed fishing rights and other mechanisms to ease tensions between the Philippines and China in the SCS.

China, the Philippines, and several other littoral states have overlapping claims in the SCS, with Beijing claiming about 80 percent of the contested waters.

Despite the previous talks between Marcos and Xi, there are still reports of China's provocative actions in SCS, particularly in the Philippines' exclusive economic zone in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Marcos, in a statement issued on Dec. 10, emphasized that "no one but the Philippines has a legitimate right or legal basis to operate anywhere in the West Philippine Sea."

"The illegal presence in our waters and dangerous actions against our citizens is an outright and blatant violation of international law and the rules-based international order."

In a Dec. 16 interview with Japanese media in Tokyo, Marcos said a "paradigm shift" is needed to address China's actions in the WPS, considering that the current diplomatic efforts between Manila and Beijing are heading in a "poor direction."

He, however, admitted that the Philippines needs to be careful and seek a "less confrontational method" to settle the maritime issues with China.

Investment pledges worth trillions of pesos Apart from protecting and defending

Philippine territory, Marcos is also focused on enticing more foreign investors to start or further expand their businesses in the Philippines, with a goal to spur economic growth in the country.

The President had a total of 12 overseas trips in nine countries (China, Switzerland, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Saudi Arabia) this year.

The Philippines secured an estimated PHP2.484 trillion worth of investment pledges from those foreign travels, based on government data.

Despite the growing tensions between Manila and Beijing in the WPS, China remained the top source of foreign investments in the Philippines, with a total of PHP1.374 trillion.

This was followed by Japan (PHP721 billion in Feb. and PHP14.5 billion in December), Saudi Arabia (PHP234 billion), the US (PHP73.79 billion in April to May and PHP36.96 billion in November), Malaysia (PHP15.814 billion), Singapore (PHP11 billion), Switzerland (PHP1.3 billion), Indonesia (PHP1.221 billion), and UK (PHP1.05 billion).

Most of the companies that pledged to invest in the Philippines sought to pursue projects for the development of top priority sectors, including energy, infrastructure, technology, and health.

The investment commitments are expected to create more job opportunities for Filipinos.

Marcos also kept on reassuring the foreign business communities of his administration's strong commitment to improve the business

DOH: .. FR. P. 1

Use of Firecrackers) and other Pyrotechnic Devices. na may pag-kakakulong ng hindi bababa sa anim na buwan (Our random inspections will continue even in the big markets and sidewalks to make sure that prohibited firecrackers will not get through us. We also we warn those who continue to sell illegal fireworks that they will face serious charges under which is RA 7183 with a penalty of at least six months imprisonment)," PNP spokesperson Col. Jean Fajardo said in an interview with reporters.

In a separate interview, Lt. Arturo Garingan of the PNP Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO) said they are also working

climate in the Philippines and make the country a top investment destination.

"With a solid reform agenda and unabating growth amid headwinds, the Philippines is ready to take off as a leading investment hub in Asia. A wealth of opportunity awaits you in the Philippines, and we are ready to explore new horizons with your investments in the coming years," he told foreign business leaders and investors during the Philippine Economic Briefing in San Francisco, California in November.

Structural transformation

Marcos also repeatedly stressed that structural reforms are part of his administration's economic policy-making and -planning.

He described 2023 as "the year of structural changes," noting that the reforms are crucial in the country's recov-

with the Anti-Cybercrime Group and other stakeholders in cracking down on illegal firecrackers sold online.

"Let us only buy from licensed sellers because they have gone through the proper process and they underwent a firecracker safety seminar," he added.

Online sellers of illegal firecrackers would face charges for violation of RA 7183 and RA 10175 or the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

Fire safety

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) said a 20 percent increase in fire-reported incidents from January to Dec. 24 this year.

ery from the economic challenges caused by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic.

Marcos said the government is "remodeling" the fiscal, monetary and spending policies, as the country "moves away from the Covid economy."

"Now, those structural changes should start to -- well, they already have but they will even have a greater effect in 2024 than they did in 2023," he said in a recent interview in Japan.

"We're moving in the right direction. But if you ask me, I always say it's too slow, it's too slow, it's too slow. So, we will just keep pushing and pushing para matapos lahat ito (to finish all that we started) so that we can start to feel the effects of those changes that we made." (PNA)

In a television interview, BFP spokesperson Fire Supt. Analee Atienza said 15,679 fire incidents were reported in this period, compared with 12,000 incidents in the same period last year.

Atienza appealed to the public to always check their power lines and electrical systems to avoid fire.

She also urged them to coordinate with the BFP to identify the fire hazards in their re-

spective areas.

The BFP has raised a red alert status for the New Year revelry, which means no personnel would be allowed to go on leave to ensure a full response to emergencies.

It would also increase the visibility of its personnel in public places, especially in transportation terminals, churches, malls, and major establishments nationwide. (PNA)

Sa nakikita ko, kapag ang isa ay nagtanim ng nakasasakit At naghasik ng problema, iyon din ang aanihin niya.

Job 4:8

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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NEDA ... FR P.1

Association (UBRA), said having easy access to crucial information will guide poultry farm managers in setting production targets that accurately reflect prevailing consumer demand.

He partially attributed the current oversupply in chicken meat to uninformed decision-making by local growers and importers.

“Poultry farms produced aggressively in anticipation of higher demand during the holidays. Importation of frozen chicken was just as aggressive for the same reason. But the expected high demand did not materialize... resulting in the oversupply of chicken we are seeing today,” Inciong said.

He said the glut in chicken meat has caused farm gate prices to drop to levels where poultry farmers are hardly breaking even with their investments.

Inciong said having a digital repository of agriculture data will help both entrepreneurs and government policy-makers make better decisions, drawn from the same vetted body of information.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. underscored the importance of digitalization in the improvement of government services during his last State of the Nation (SONA) address in July.

“Digitalization will support the govern-

ment’s data-driven, science-based planning and decision-making. It is the greatest and most powerful tool, not just to improve ease of doing business, but also against many forms of graft and corruption,” the President said.

Marcos told agencies that “consistent with this transformative policy direction, all government offices must then ensure that their vital services are digitalized immediately.”

Meanwhile, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) highlighted the need to embrace digitalization with the allocation of PHP38.75 billion in the 2024 budget, representing a 61 percent increase from its PHP24.93 billion funding this year.

“Technological advancement has given rise to a growing digital economy which continues to create new forms of work, transforming the employment landscape. Hence, investing in the digitalization of the bureaucracy is crucial not only in enhancing its efficiency but also in generating quality jobs for Filipinos,” DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said in a previous statement.

With a digitalization budget of over PHP2 billion in 2024, NEDA is among the 10 government agencies with the highest allocations for the program.

(PNA)

Recently the Provincial Housing Development and Management Office organized a seminar entitled “Refresher Discussions on the 2021 Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9904 (Magna Carta for Homeowners and Homeowners’ Associations),” at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol Building.

Attended by 52 participants from Pinagbuklod Village, Pinagkaisa Village and Pinagkalob Village in Kawit, and the LRTA Relocation Site in Barangay Santiago, City of Gen. Trias, the event provided updates on the legislation to guide officers and residents.

Ms. Mary Grace Nova, delivered the opening message on behalf of Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Alvin S. Mojica stressing the importance of staying updated on regulations governing homeowners’ rights and responsibilities, underscoring community engagement and adherence to the Magna Carta for Homeowners and Homeowners’ Associations.

The seminar’s highlight was a presentation by Ms. Nini G. Sanchez, Officer-in-Charge of the Community Development Section at the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), providing a comprehensive overview of RA 9904.

The informative session was followed by an open forum, allowing participants to engage with Ms. Sanchez directly, seeking clarifications and sharing experiences.

The event concluded with a closing message from Ms. Ma. Karen B. Camañag-Tupas, expressing gratitude for the attendees’ active participation and emphasizing the importance of applying gained knowledge to build stronger communities. In essence, the seminar served to empower participants to positively contribute to their neighborhoods in alignment with the goals of Republic Act No. 9904.---OPIO



Cavite gives back to the dedicated BHW and BNS.

To give back to the laudable dedication and efforts of Barangay Health Workers (BHW) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) across Cavite province, the provincial government of Cavite, with Governor Jonvic Remulla leading the team, distributed incentives allotted



to the barangay health frontliners recently at Cavite State University-Silang Campus. Two-thousand four hundred (2400) BHW and eight hundred thirty-eight (838) BNS received the incentives, amounting to a total of Php 27,695,400.

Gov. Remulla was accompanied by Hon. Aidel Paul Belamide, 5th District Board Member and Committee Chair on Finance, Budget and Appropriations; Silang Mayor Atty. Alston Kevin Anarna, Vice Mayor Edward Caranza, and Sangguniang Bayan Members during the program.---OPIO

*Kapag nanghihina
ang loob mo sa panahon ng problema,
mababawasan din ang lakas mo
Kawikaan 24:10*

*Ang mga katangian na bunga ng espiritu ay pag-ibig, kagalakan,
kapayapaan, pagtitiis, kabaitan, kabutihan, pananampalataya,
kahinahunan, at pagpipigil sa sarili.
Galacia 5:22,23.*



The Provincial Government of Cavite organized another medical and dental mission, underscoring its commitment to the well-being of its constituents. Collaborating with Bria Homes Homeowners' Association, the PGC medical mission team's outreach event was successfully conducted in Barangay Santiago, City of Gen. Trias recently.

More than 200 residents availed free medical and dental services provided by the Office of the Provincial Health Office's medical team and the dental team of the City Health Office of Gen. Trias, assisted by local officials, barangay health workers, and HOA officers. The consultations addressed various health concerns, empowering individuals with insights into their health conditions and furnishing them with pertinent medical advice. Furthermore, prescription medicines were distributed free of charge.---OPIO



Recently, the provincial government of Cavite, through the office of the Provincial Governor-Extension and Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a successful health outreach program in Brgy. Poblacion 1, Alfonso, Cavite.

A total of 183 patients benefitted, with 161 receiving medical consultations and 32 undergoing dental extractions. The General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital medical and dental team, played a crucial role, guided by the Pamaskong Handog theme, "Kalusugan ay Kayamanan, Ating Pag-ingatan".

The mission's success was attributed to collaborative efforts between local leaders and health professionals, exemplifying the provincial government's commitment to grassroots healthcare. The team distributed medical pre-

Severe storms leave thousands in eastern Australia without power

ANKARA – Thousands of residents in Australia's eastern state of Queensland were without power after a "very dangerous" storm swept through the region for the second time in 12 hours, local media reported on Sunday.

Storms are expected to continue along the entire Australian east coast until Boxing Day due to an unusual weather pattern, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation said, citing the Bureau of



POWERLESS. Australia's eastern state of Queensland was without power after a storm that swept through the region on Christmas Eve. Authorities have warned residents to prepare a backup plan as they may be without power on Christmas Day. (Anadolu)

Meteorology (BOM). Darling Downs to A storm cell that northern New South stretched from the (Turn to p. 5)



The Provincial Government of Cavite took the lead in organizing a health outreach event recently in Brgy. Pulong Saging, Silang. The initiative, designed to tackle the community's healthcare challenges, proved beneficial to approximately 500 residents.

Medical professionals provided services like health check-ups and distribution of essential medications. The team focused on common health issues prevalent in the community.

Simultaneously, the dental team provided much-needed oral health services. Basic dental check-ups and extractions were conducted to address dental issues that might have been neglected due to limited access to dental care.---OPIO

scriptions, multivitamins, supplements, and mosquito-repellent lotion, contributing to community health and preventive care. This initiative not only addressed immediate health concerns but also fostered a culture of health-conscious living, highlighting the effectiveness of community-driven healthcare efforts.---OPIO

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE**

**File No. FC-DC-1197-23
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118**

**HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),
Petitioner/Mortgagee,**

-versus-

**ARTEMIO A. GACITA, married to
CARMENCITA D. GACITA,
Respondent/Mortgagor,**

X-----X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against respondent/mortgagor, ARTEMIO A. GACITA, married to CARMENCITA D. GACITA with postal address at 56 Commonwealth Ave., Holy Spirit, Quezon City and Lot 55 Blk. 5, City Homes-Resortville, Lancaan Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of October 9, 2023 amounts to TWO HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED NINETY TWO PESOS & 07/100 (Php 202,192.07), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **January 18, 2024**, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title
No. T-536633

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 55, Blk. 5 of the subd. plan. Psd-042106-064738, being a portion of Lot 3824-B, Psd -77337, L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in the Bo. of Lancaan, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 56; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Lot 57, both of Blk. 5; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Alley 2, (4.50 m. wide); on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 53, Blk. 5, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. Marked "1" on plan, being S. 62 deg.08'E., 157.50 m. Mon. No. 143, Imus Estate thence S. 36 deg. 46'E., 4.00 m. to pt. 2; thence S. 53 deg. 14'H., 9.50 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 36 deg deg. 46'W., 4.00 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 53 deg. 14'E., 9.50 D. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of THIRTY EIGHT (38) SQUARE METERS. All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS. Cyl. cons. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearing true; date of orig. survey July 7, 1905-June 1, 1905 and that of the subd. survey, March 15-July 15, 1993 and was approved on August 13, 1993.

is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of **ARTEMIO A. GACITA, married to CARMENCITA D. GACITA**, both of legal ages.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

all sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **February 01, 2024** at the same time and place without further notice.

06 December 2023, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite

RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.
Sheriff IV

ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: December 14, 21, & 28, 2023
Raffle Date of Judicial Notices 01 December 2023

Copy Furnished:
**HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),**
The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat, Avenue, Makati City

SEVERE STORM ... FR P.4

Wales brought heavy rain, strong winds, and hail.

Thunderstorms have downed 120 power lines, leaving approximately 57,000 customers without power, said a spokesman for Energex, a Queensland government-owned electricity company that serves 1.5 million homes and businesses in the southeastern

part of the state.

Authorities have warned residents to prepare a backup plan because homes in Logan and parts of Brisbane could be without power on Christmas Day until at least mid-day.

In New South Wales, authorities also warned travelers to be cautious of "widespread unsettled weather."

On Sunday afternoon, a severe thunderstorm warning was issued for parts of Victoria's Central and Mallee districts, including Horsham and Warracknabeal.

Severe storms were also expected to devel-

op in the west of the state and the Macedon ranges.

In Melbourne, meteorologists have forecast up to 40 millimeters of rain on Christmas Day, with a possible severe thunderstorm. (Anadolu)

**DRAW CLOSE TO GOD
AND HE WILL
DRAW CLOSE TO YOU**
James 4: 8



Skills for Success: OPPEM Launches Three-day Basic Employment Services Training

The three-day Basic Employment Services Training facilitated by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) on December 13-15, 2023 at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Session Hall in Trece Martires City successfully wrapped up with enhanced capabilities of local PESO managers and staff on employment-related services.

Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, Provincial PESO Manager opened the training with appreciation of the support of partner agencies and coopera-

tion of local Public Employment Service Offices in continuously upscaling the delivery of employment services.

The training was graced by the Provincial Director Marivic B. Martinez of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)-Cavite Provincial Office, along with resource speakers from the DOLE-Region IV-A, Labor and Employment Officer III, Marie Iris A. Prieto-Perez, and Labor and Employment Officer III, Anne Marie Faye Marjes-Gloria. Their insights and expertise contributed to the success of the program, enhancing the participant's knowledge and skills.

Furthermore, Labor and Employment Officer III, Marie Iris A. Prieto-Perez emphasized that Labor Market Information (LMI) serves as the heart and soul of PESO. Without it, PESO wouldn't be able to perform effectively, she added.

There were also discussions on the use of the PESO website, the roles of DOLE and PESO, as well as tricks that can be applied in Excel, calculations, and a question-and-answer session which provided participants with an in-depth understanding of concepts from the resource speakers.---OPIO

ATTY. MELANIO A. BADENAS JR.
GCCS & Associates Corp.
Rm. 209 Megastate Bldg., No. 737 G. Araneta Ave.,
Tatalon, Quezon City

ARTEMIO A GACITA, married to CARMENCITA D. GACITA
56 Commonwealth Ave., Holy Spirit Quezon City and
Lot 55 Blk. 5, City Homes-Resortville, Lancaan,
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

- Notice posted at:
1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
 2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
 3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
 4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

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A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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National Executive chess tournament set Dec. 30 in Laguna

MANILA – The Philippine Executive Chess Association and the Rotary Club of Nuvali will hold a fundraising tournament billed as Atty. Elpidio Bautista Jr. National Executive Chess Championship on Dec. 30 at the Vista Mall in Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

Grandmaster Darwin Laylo, the country's No. 4 player, has registered in the Open division of the event that will benefit the Bright Eyes, Bright Future project of the Rotary Club of Nuvali.

The project aims to provide free eyeglasses (with eye disorders) to 300 students of Pulong Sta. Cruz Elementary School in Santa Rosa.

GM-elect Ronald Dableo, International Master Ricardo de Guzman, Fide Masters Austin Jacob Literatus and Christopher Castellano, and National Master Vince Angelo Medina are also joining the National Chess Federation of the Phil-



TOURNEY FOR A CAUSE. A photo taken on Oct. 24, 2022 shows Chess Olympiad veteran Grandmaster Darwin Laylo holding the champion's trophy in the Kamatyas Invitational Rapid Chess tournament at the SM Sucat in Parañaque. Laylo will join the Open division of the Atty. Elpidio Bautista Jr. National Executive Chess Championship on Dec. 30, 2023 at the Vista Mall in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. (Contributed photo)

ippines-sanctioned tournament using a seven-round Swiss system format applying 20 minutes plus five seconds delay.

Meanwhile, actor Jao Mapa Mapa and Canada-based NM Zulfikar Aliakbar Sali will see action in the Executive division offering PHP20,000 in cash plus trophy to the champion.

The second placer will receive PHP10,000

and trophy, while the third placer will get PHP7,000 and trophy. The fourth (PHP5,000), fifth (PHP3,000) and sixth to 10th (PHP2,000) will receive medals.

The champion in the Open division will be awarded PHP10,000 in cash and trophy, while the winner in the Senior division (60 years old and above) will get PHP5,000 and trophy. (PNA)

The one who is crooked at heart will not find success, And the one who speaks deceitfully will fall into ruin.

Proverbs 17:20

SM SUPERMALLS SPREADS CHRISTMAS CHEERS IN CAVITE



In Partnership with SM Foundation and SM Cares, SM Supermalls spreads joy and cheers in the spirit of Christmas throughout Cavite by distributing a total of 2,700 noche buena packages. The initiative granted 600 packages from SM City Dasmaringas, 400 from SM City Bacoor, 400 from SM City Rosario, 400 from SM City Tanza, 690 in SM City Dasmaringas, 400 from SM City Tanza, 190 from SM City Molino, and 120 noche buena packages in SM Center Imus to its community and pedicab drivers. This thoughtful gesture not only brings holiday joy to the families but also reflects SM's commitment to making a positive impact on local communities through spreading social good. The Santa Squad also performed, creating an atmosphere of cheer and warmth, making the festive season even jollier for the beneficiaries.

Best PH triathletes to join 2024 National Age Group tourney

MANILA – The country's cream of the crop will see action in the National Age Group Triathlon (NAGT) on Jan. 27 and 28, 2024 at Subic Bay Freeport in Olongapo.

The competition features Super Sprint Distance (500m swim-10km bike-2.5km run), Sprint Distance (750km swim-20km bike-5km run), Standard Distance Individual and Team Relay (1.5km swim-40km bike-10km run) and Super Trikids events.

The categories are Super Trikids (6 and under, 7-8, 9-10, 11-2); Super Sprint (13-15 boys and girls); Sprint (Elite Men and Women, Jr. Elite Men and Women 16-19 years and Age Group Men and Women 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50 and above); and Standard (Men and Women 18-24, 25-29, 30-34,



PODIUM FINISHERS. Filipino-Spanish Fernando Jose Casares (center) won the sprint men's elite category at the National Age Group Triathlon Series in Subic Bay, Olongapo on Jan. 29, 2023. Also in photo are (from left) former triathlon association president Tom Carrasco, Matthew Justine Hermosa (2nd place) and Andrew Kim Remolino (3rd). (Contributed photo)

35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50 and above). Registration deadline is on Dec. 31.

The tournament, organized by Triathlon Philippines headed by Ramon Marchan, will serve as qualifying race for the 2025 Thailand Southeast Asian Games.

The NGAT is also part of the triathlon association's trials and talent

identification for the Philippine team.

Last year's sprint elite champions were Filipino-Spanish Fernando Jose Casares (men) and Cebu City's Raven Faith Alcosoba (women), while the winners in the Junior Elite divisions were Benguet's Dayshaun Ramos and Cebuana Kira Ellis. (PNA)