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DA: Climate-smart mapping to help alleviate effects of La Niña

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday said climate-smart mapping of river areas will help alleviate the destructive effects of the looming La Niña.

During the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas, DA Assistant Secretary U-Nichols Manalo said the strategy, which uses consolidated records, is important in coming out with location-specific evaluations of areas vulnerable to flooding and

typhoon tracks.

“Tinitingnan natin iyong mga possible areas na based on history, talagang flood-prone siya, lalo na sa rice. Ang gusto natin gamitin iyong climate smart map, na kung saan datos ng region, datos ng NIA, datos din ng ating LGU (We are looking at possible areas that, based on history, are really flood-prone especially for rice. What we want is to use a climate-smart map, where the data of

the region, data from the National Irrigation Administration, and data from the local government units are consolidated),” he said.

Using historical data and the latest forecast from the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) would give a clearer picture when and where to issue advance warnings to farmers, as well as rice varieties to be planted

during the rainy season, he said.

“Mas nagkakaroon tayo ng advance warning sa farmers. Kung ready na to harvest iyong kanilang pananim, pwede nang mag-harvest, at iyong mga flood-tolerant na varieties, pwede ring magamit (We will have more advance warnings to farmers. If crops are ready for harvest, these can be harvested, and we can also use flood tolerant varieties,” he added.

Based on historical data, Manalo said areas typically affected by typhoons are the

eastern portions of the country, with tracks sometimes traversing Central Luzon, Northern Luzon, or even Southern Tagalog.

He said the country loses around 500,000 to 600,000 metric tons (MT) in palay production during “historical” typhoons where flooding is prevalent. This is higher than the

191,233 MT recorded losses during the El Niño phenomenon.

Agri-fishery growth The DA, meanwhile, reported that the growth of the agri-fishery sector was recorded at 1.2 percent in December 2023, from 0.5 percent in 2022.

“Ito po ay same level noong pre-pandemic, (Turn to p. 2)

PBBM OKs laws on new Bacoor schools, engineering offices in provinces

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has signed into law several measures seeking to establish new schools in Bacoor City, Cavite and district engineering offices of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in various provinces.

Marcos signed Republic Act (RA) 12007 and 12008 on June 13, establishing a senior high school and an

elementary school in Bacoor City, Cavite, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) said in a news release Tuesday.

RA 12007 establishes the “Progressive Senior High School” in Progressive Village 3, Barangay Bayanan, while RA 12008 creates the “Progressive Elementary School” in Barangay Molino 2.

The PCO said Vice President and Edu-

cation Secretary Sara Duterte was tasked to immediately include in the department’s program the operationalization of the new senior high and elementary schools, as well as to formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the two laws within 90 days from its approval.

New local engineering offices

In a separate new re-

DA: P29/kg rice at Kadiwa sites to benefit 30% target population

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday said the 30% target population, including those with weaker purchasing power, will benefit from the sale of PHP29 per kilogram of rice in various Kadiwa sites.

“Ang intensyon noon is para sa targeted beneficiary na mostly iy-

ong mga mahihirap, tsaka seniors, atsaka iyong mga solo parents (Its intention is for the targeted beneficiaries who are mostly the poor, elderly, and single parents). That’s about 30 percent of the total population,” said DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa in an ambush interview.

He said persons with

disabilities (PWDs) and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) are also included in the subsidized rice sale.

De Mesa said the mechanics for the rice sale and distribution are still being finalized.

“Pinag-aaralan pa rin ngayon, iyong number (Turn to p. 4)

DSWD’s ERPAT project highlights fathers’ parental roles

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Tuesday vowed to continue implementing the Empowerment and Reaffirmation of Paternal Abilities (ERPAT), an agency project that gives importance and emphasis on the fathers’ parental roles, responsibilities and abilities.

“ERPAT sees the significant role of fathers in performing multiple roles in all aspects of child rearing and development including the care and behavior management of adolescent children,”

DSWD Assistant Secretary for Disaster Response Management Group Irene Dumlao said in a news release Tuesday.

To strengthen the program, the DSWD conducts capability building and training of implementers, ERPAT members, and local government units (LGUs), Dumlao said.

Last May, the DSWD Field Office-7 (Western Visayas) launched the 1st ERPAT Regional Summit as part of the celebration of the International Day of Families (IDF) 2024.

In the summit, family (Turn to p. 2)

DA.... FR P.1

noong 2019. Although nagkaroon po tayo ng challenge dahil dito sa pandemic, pero paunti-unti pong umaangat ang ating sector (This is similar to the pre-pandemic levels in 2019. Although we encountered challenges due to the pandemic, our sector is gradually recovering),” Manalo said.

Among the major contributors to the growth is the increased production in the country’s staple, which is around 20.06 million MT last year.

Various programs including the implementation of the national and communal irrigation systems benefiting 136,000 farmers, small-scale irrigation projects for 2,707 farmers’ cooperatives or groups, distribution of machinery and equipment, improvement of post-harvest and cold-storage facilities to 4,178 farmer groups and 1,044 fishers, development of farm-to-market roads, and expansion of fish ports and landings, and updating of registry system of farmers

and fishers, among others, have helped achieve the sector’s gradual growth.

To date, there are over 7.65 million farmers and fishers registered in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) of the DA, with more than 2.7 million registered rice farmers.

Palay production outlook

For palay, Manalo expressed optimism in attaining the 20.44 million MT target production for the year despite the looming La Niña.

“Tumataas iyong (There is increasing) productivity per hectare,” he said, noting areas hitting or surpassing five MT in production per hectare.

Other drivers of high palay production include minimal losses during the El Niño phenomenon, and wider areas planted to hybrid rice varieties nationwide.

In terms of rice imports, the Philippines has so far recorded 2.17 million metric tons as of June 6. (PNA)

PBBM OKs LAWS FR P.1

Office located in the City of San Carlos. It will serve the cities of Escalante and San Carlos, and the municipalities of Toboso, Calatrava, and Salvador Benedicto.

RA 12003 and 12004 were also signed on June 13, creating the Bataan 3rd District Engineering Office and the Bulacan 3rd District Engineering Office.

The Bataan engineer-

ing office, to be located in Bagac, Bataan, will serve the towns of Bagac, Dinalupihan, Mariveles, and Morong.

The Bulacan office, on the other hand, will be located in the municipality of San Rafael and will serve the municipalities of San Rafael, Dona Remedios Trinidad, San Miguel, and San Ildefonso.

Lastly, the President signed RA 12005, es-

Manila Water gets 100% score in wastewater effluent quality compliance

MANILA – For April, Manila Water achieved a 100-percent score in its wastewater effluent quality compliance scorecard, versus the target of 95 percent.

The score was based on the scorecard set by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) Regulatory Office relative to the applicable General Effluent Standards set in the issued Wastewater Discharge Permits to the treatment facilities by either Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR) or the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA).

Under DENR’s Updated General Effluent Standards, wastewater treatment plants should produce “Class C” effluent with eliminated bio-nutrients such as ammonia and phosphorus, which is deemed to be safe for water recycling for non-contact purposes such as toilet-flushing, cleaning and irrigation, and ultimately, should be safe for discharge to water bodies and the marine life.

As part of its sustainability agenda and regulatory compliance, Manila Water is ramping up the development of new infrastructure and upgrading of its wastewater facilities.

The company has invested PHP271 million for construction of the 1.95-kilometer (km) Kalayaan Sewer Replacement Package 2 and the 3.23-km Kalayaan Sewer Replacement Package 3 which will improve the sew-

tablishing the Iloilo 6th District Engineering Office, which will be located in the municipality of Pototan,

er network in Quezon City by replacing old pipes with new and more durable PVC pipes, installation of manhole and clean-out, transfer of service connection, and connection of unsewered households and establishments.

Manila Water’s Mandaluyong West Sewer Network Packages 3A and 3B also aim to expand sewer coverage in the East Zone, as well as aid in the restoration of Manila Bay.

The PHP306-million Package A and PHP494-million Package B sewer pipelaying projects are vital sections of the 52.5-kilometer Mandaluyong West-San Juan and South Quezon City Sewerage System or the MandaWest Project.

The PHP4.2-billion MandaWest Project, targeted to benefit over 700,000 customers in Mandaluyong, Quezon City, and San Juan, includes a 60-million-liter-per-day (MLD) sewage treatment plant equipped with a biological nutrient removal system, one major pump, 13 lift stations, 276 interceptor boxes, and a 16-channel interceptor.

Manila Water has also upgraded the PHP119-million Taguig North Package 4A, part of the Taguig Sewer Network, with installation and pipelaying of quality and more durable pipes and channel interceptors.

Currently, Manila Water is operating 24 sewage treatment plants and two septage treatment plants in the East Zone. (PR)

serving the towns of Badiangan, Cabatuan, Calinog, Janiuay, Lambunao, Maasin, Mina, and Pototan. (PNA)

DSWD FR P.1

advocates and experts on family affairs discussed various topics to enhance the knowledge and skills of ERPAT members.

Dumlao said ERPAT aims to enhance and strengthen the parenting capabilities of Filipino fathers in performing their familial tasks and responsibilities, help them achieve an active and equal role with their spouses or partners in fostering the optimal development of their children and other family members, and take active leadership in the community in promoting positive family life.

The priority target beneficiaries of ERPAT are biological fathers (solo fathers, returning migrants/overseas Filipinos, released prisoners, or persons with

disabilities), adoptive fathers, newlywed husbands, organized father groups, male caregivers, foster fathers, and guardians.

These include, but not limited to, families with cases of mild and severe abuses; family members with poor health or nutrition; presence of out-of-school youth; inappropriate behavior models of family heads or members such as use and abuse of substance; and solo male parents.

“We in the DSWD want our programs and services to be inclusive so that no sector will be left behind. We will continue to enhance our programs and services for the improvement of life of Filipino families,” Dumlao said. (PNA)

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Cavite Convergence: Empowering Communities Through Inclusive Services

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), spearheaded a successful event titled “Cavite Convergence: A Pathway for a Better Tomorrow for Inclusive Services to All” on June 11, 2024, at Alfonso Town Plaza. The gathering brought together over 500 selected members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) from the municipalities of Alfonso, Magallanes, and Maragondon who took part in the wide range of essential services promoting the spirit of modern-day Bayanihan.

The program with a warm welcome from Vice Mayor Madonna M. Pel, followed by insightful messages from key representatives. Ms. Nellibeth V. Mercado, Division Chief of the PPPMO and representative of Dr. Barry R. Chua, Regional Director of DSWD IV-A, emphasized the importance of convergence and continuous cooperation among the participants. Ms. Beverly Alvaran, representative of BM Romel R. Enriquez, Chairperson of Social Services, Family, Women, Children, and Elderly, also shared her insights, along with Ms. Carolina Rivera, representative of Vice Governor Bryana Athena Tolentino, who highlighted the significance of the event in ensuring easy access to basic services for 4Ps members.

The event was a hub of vital services, primarily health-related, provided by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Attendees received medical check-ups, dental services, nutrition programs, maternal and child health services, family planning advice and supplies, TB programs, HIV screenings, skin consultations, and health promotion. Free vitamins and medicines were also distributed, courtesy of the Office of the Provincial Governor.

Beyond healthcare, participants enjoyed a range of other services. Phil-Health provided an orientation on Universal Health Care and Konsulta Benefits, while Landbank introduced the Perang Inimpok Saving Option (PISO). The Office of the Provincial Cooperatives and Development Officer offered economic opportunity mentoring, and the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Services Manager provided career guidance and employment coaching. Legal consultations were available through the Office of the Provincial Legal Officer, and the Department of Trade and Industry offered customer protection and consultation services.

Support also came from various members of the Provincial Advisory Council, including DILG, OPENRO, DOST, OPIO, Pearl of the Orient, Cavite State University, and DepEd, ensuring a comprehensive support network for all attendees.

In closing, Ms. Maria Aura D. Fuentes, Social Worker Officer III from OPSWDO, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants and service providers for their active involvement and support, which made the event a resounding success. The convergence event marks a significant step towards ensuring that all 4Ps members in Cavite have access to essential services and opportunities, reinforcing the Provincial Government of Cavite’s commitment to fostering a better tomorrow for all its residents.--- OPIO



Operation Tuli benefits 49 young individuals in Barangay San Andres 1, City of Dasmariñas

The Office of the Provincial Governor, through its medical mission team in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a successful Operation Tuli in Barangay San Andres 1, City of Dasmariñas recently, benefiting 49 young individuals.

The event aimed to promote health and hygiene among young males through free circumcision services. The medical mission team, comprised of skilled doctors and healthcare professionals, ensured a safe and efficient procedure for all the beneficiaries.

Local officials and parents of the young boys expressed their gratitude for the continuous support and efforts of the Provincial Government of Cavite in delivering essential healthcare services.--- OPIO



Governor Jonvic Remulla’s Medical Mission Team together with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer organized a successful Medical and Dental Mission recently, at Alfonso Town Plaza as part of the “Cavite Convergence: A Pathway for a Better Tomorrow for Inclusive Services to All”.

The event provided free health consultations, check-ups and medicine to 343 patients, with a dedicated team addressing individual health concerns. Notably, 47 patients received free tooth extractions, emphasizing the importance of dental health. The mission aimed not only to address immediate health needs but also to promote health awareness and preventive care.

Local leaders and recipients of the healthcare services expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort, highlighting the significance of community engagement in bridging healthcare gaps. The initiative’s success reflects a commitment to prioritizing the health of residents and serves as a model for future healthcare initiatives in underserved communities.

I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.

Ecclesiastes 9: 11

PH delegation gets top Japan lawmakers' vow to hire more Filipinos

MANILA – House of Representatives Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez said the Philippine delegation he led has secured a firm commitment from top Japanese parliamentarians to facilitate the hiring of more Filipinos by the Japanese government, particularly in crucial sectors, such as elderly care.

They acquired the commitment during high-level discussions with National Diet of Japan Speaker Fukushima Nukaga and Vice Speaker Banri Kaieda at the Tokyo parliamentary building on Tuesday.

During the meeting, Kaieda acknowledged Japan's demographic challenges and the valuable contributions of Filipino workers.

"Japan is facing a decrease in population, and in this regard, Japan truly appreciates the Filipinos working here, especially elderly care workers. We are looking forward to welcoming more Filipinos to work in Japan," Kaieda said.

Responding to this commitment, Romualdez underscored the potential for enhanced cooperation between the two nations.

He said the Philippines has a growing population, and Filipinos are more than happy to come and work in Japan after receiving the appropriate training.

"This will enable Filipino workers to integrate into society and benefit from the best practices and

advanced technology that Japan has to offer," Romualdez said.

"It creates an ideal environment for Japan to continue investing in the Philippines, not just in human resources but in Japanese-trained human resources, which will further promote economic cooperation between our countries."

Uplift the economy

In the same meeting, Nukaga committed to continued cooperation to help uplift the Philippine economy, noting the presence of 1,400 Japanese companies operating in the Philippines.

"I will continue to cooperate with the Philippines to help uplift the Philippine economy," he said.

Romualdez thanked Japan for its unwavering support for more than 300,000 Filipinos residing in the country.

"We appreciate your efforts in securing, nurturing, and accepting our Filipinos who are in Japan," he said, citing the importance of these diplomatic efforts in fostering a strong community and ensuring the welfare of Filipino expatriates.

Romualdez also highlighted Japan's leading role in providing economic assistance through the Official Development Fund (ODA), which is important in the Philippines' development and disaster response.

He also mentioned and acknowledged the continuous support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), noting its contributions to the Philippines' economic landscape.

(Turn to p. 5)

House probe sought on issuance of special resident visas

MANILA – A House leader on Tuesday filed a resolution seeking a congressional inquiry into the issuance of special resident visas and the delayed registration of births as possible avenues enabling the influx of Chinese nationals in the Philippines.

In filing House Resolution 1771, Deputy Majority Leader and ACT-CIS Party-list Rep. Erwin Tulfo said the processes for granting the Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV) and Special Investor's Resident Visa (SIRV), in addition to the late registration of births, should be assessed as these could serve as channels for foreign nationals to enter the Philippines, stay indefinitely, and even maintain employment.

He said around 30,000 Chinese nationals were allowed to permanently reside in the country despite not meeting the age requirement for the retiree visas.

"Based on the Im-

migration Bureau records given to us, of the 78,000 foreigners issued retiree visas, 30,000 are Chinese. What is puzzling here is that they are yet to reach retirement age but they are on retiree visa. They are just aged 35 to 50," Tulfo said in an interview.

He said possible circumvention of the laws through these existing policies undermines the Philippine authorities and aids in the perpetration of illegal activities in the country committed by foreign nationals.

"It is imperative to assess the impact of the SRRVs, SIRVs, and delayed registration of births which may have contributed to the influx of Chinese nationals to ensure that such policies align with our national interests and security," he added.

Tulfo further said the influx of Chinese nationals has raised concerns regarding the socio-economic impact, including but not

limited to labor market dynamics, national security, and public order.

Several crimes were linked to the Chinese influx, including human trafficking, scamming, kidnapping, illegal detention, prostitution, and other fraudulent practices, he added.

"Recent raids of POGO (Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators) establishments also resulted in traces of criminal activity and the discovery of offices, dorms, villas, and lifestyle facilities within such hubs, indicating prolonged presence and actual living situations within supposed business establishments," he said.

Tulfo also highlighted the case of suspended Bamban, Tarlac Mayor Alice Guo, pointing out the potential risks for abuse in the process of delayed registration of births.

He said these could have long-term con-

sequences, including ultimately allowing non-nationals to participate in various social, economic, and political activities, such as running for or holding public office, reserved only for Filipino citizens.

Guo, whose identity and citizenship have been placed under scrutiny, was placed under a six-month preventive suspension without pay by the Office of the Ombudsman on May 31 following the administrative complaints of the Department of the Interior and Local Government for grave misconduct, serious dishonesty, gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

Authorities have raided POGO firms in Tarlac and Pampanga in the past four months over alleged "scamming activities" and other serious concerns, including national security. (PNA)

DA:P29/KG RICE FR P.1

of kilos na ipapamigay sa kanila, part pa rin iyon ng pinag-aaralan kung gaano maraming kilos kada buwan (It's still under study, the number of kilograms to be distributed to them, that's part of the study on how many kilograms per month)," he said.

To date, the DA is conducting a trial sale of PHP29/kg. of rice in select Kadiwa sites, prioritizing 4Ps beneficiaries, solo parents, PWDs, and senior citizens, with the allowed volume set at 3 kg per buyer.

The subsidized price

ing scheme may be rolled out in August through the National Irrigation Administration (NIA)'s contract farming program with farmers' cooperatives.

Earlier, the NIA said around 100,000 metric tons of rice equivalent to 10 million sacks of 10 kg. rice can be produced, with 4 million sacks targeted to be distributed in August.

De Mesa said others who are not included in the select beneficiaries may still enjoy the expected lower rice retail prices following the tariff reduction from 35 to 15 percent.

"Iyong target na pagbaba (The target of lower price) because of tariff, ang target is the general public," he said.

Eliminating rebagging

The National Food Authority (NFA), meanwhile, said it is finalizing a plan to eliminate rebagging to save more funds.

NFA administrator Larry Lacson said this strategy makes NFA act like a trader since its end product is milled rice and not palay.

He also mentioned a significant estimated amount of savings with the waiving of 10 million NFA sacks

costing PHP13 each.

"That's roughly PHP130 million. Sa handling cost, siguro (In handling cost, maybe) PHP30 per bag, that's PHP300 million. So that's totaling to more or less half a billion savings na pwedeng ma-save ni NFA (that the NFA can save) just by tweaking that particular process," he said.

Earlier, Lacson vowed to push for more cost-effective reforms in the NFA to avoid corruption and improve strategies to meet the country's national buffer stock alongside support to local farmers. (PNA)



Training on Empowering Parenthood: Strengthening Families for Pantawid Households

The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer successfully conducted a two-day training on "Empowering Parenthood: Together Towards Stronger Families" at Trece Martires City National High School on June 13-14, 2024. The event brought together 46 parent leaders of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) from the local government units of Cavite. The training aimed to equip parent leaders with the necessary knowledge and skills to foster stronger family units.

Ms. Dolurusa Eresmas-Vidallo, Project Development Officer III of DSWD IV-A led discussions on Basic Gender Sensitivity and provided comprehensive insights on the two critical laws designed to protect the vulnerable individuals, RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act) and RA 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act).

Furthermore, Ms. Clarissa S. Matienzo from the Office of the Provincial Population Officer, delved into the principles of Responsible Parenting and Family Planning, emphasizing the importance of nurturing and supportive family environments.

The event concluded with an open forum, allowing participants to ask questions, share experiences, and discuss the topics covered. The interactive session provided an opportunity for the attendees to gain deeper insights and clarify their understanding.

The training was a significant step towards empowering 4Ps parent leaders, equipping them to be catalysts for positive change in their communities and to contribute to the development of stronger, more resilient families.

PH FR P.4

He said the high-level exchanges and visits by respective heads of state, including the historic signing of the trilateral agreement in Washington DC involving Japan, the Philippines, and the United States, further underscored the strengthening alliance.

"We are happy because this is a great lead-up to the celebration of 70 years of our diplomatic relations in 2026," he said.

Robust ties

Nukaga pointed out the enduring and robust relationship between Japan and the Philippines.

"Japan and the Philippines, both island nations, have a strong foundation to build good relations and friendly bridges," he added, as he

acknowledged the significant presence of Filipinos in Japan, particularly in his hometown of Ibaraki Prefecture.

Reflecting on his previous roles, Nukaga mentioned his tenure as the chair of the parliamentary group for JICA and as the Minister of Finance, where he led efforts to increase JICA's budget.

He noted that the Philippines is the third-largest recipient of Japan's ODA, after India and Bangladesh.

Discussing the trilateral meetings among Japan, the Philippines, and the United States, Nukaga stressed the importance of these alliances.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is strong and built on trust. It is very im-

portant to promote cooperation among our three countries to ensure safe maritime transport and the safety and stability of the region," he said.

Nukaga also noted the recent joint maritime exercise involving Japan, the US, the Philippines, and Canada as a testament to this cooperation.

He emphasized the foundational principles of security, democracy, and the rule of law.

Also present during the meeting were Japan House of Representatives International Affairs Department Director General Yamamoto Hironori, House Majority Leader Manuel Jose M. Dalipe, senior Deputy Speaker Aurelio Gonzales Jr., Deputy Speaker David Suarez,



The Cavite Career Caravan, held on June 13, 2024, at SM City Tanza, exemplified a joint endeavor led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), headed by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, in coordination with the management of SM City Tanza.

Attendees demonstrated a high level of participation as 54 domestic companies and 3 foreign companies offered job openings, expanding recruitment potential. The event demonstrated its significance in meeting the province's employment needs, attracting 311 candidates, 78 of whom were able to secure jobs immediately.

In addition, attendees included representatives from national government agencies including SSS, Pag-ibig, OWWA, TESDA, Philhealth, PSA, and NBI, that offered crucial information and support on government programs and services related to social welfare and employment.

All participating companies and government organizations were commended with their unwavering support and teamwork, which contributed to the success of the Cavite Career Caravan. The Cavite Provincial Government expressed its heartfelt gratitude to all of the contributors for their dedication to empowering job seekers and fostering the province's economic growth and prosperity.



Medical mission in DLSU-D benefits hundreds

In celebration of Independence Day, the Provincial Government of Cavite in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE- IVA) conducted the medical mission at Ugnayang La Salle in De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) on June 12, 2024. The event brought vital health services to over 200 beneficiaries, emphasizing the importance of accessible healthcare for the community.

The mission offered a range of services including electrocardiogram (ECG), X-ray, medical check-ups, and free prescription medications. These services were instrumental in addressing various health concerns and providing necessary medical support to attendees.

The event was a collaborative effort, showcasing the spirit of unity and service that Independence Day symbolizes. Through this initiative, the community not only celebrated freedom but also received the gift of health, ensuring a brighter future for Caviteños.--- OPIO

House Committee on Appropriations Chairman Zaldy Co, Navotas Rep. Toby Tiangco,

House Secretary General Reginald S. Velasco, House Sergeant-at-Arms

retired general Napoleon C. Taas, and other House officials. (PNA)

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MPT South Kicked Off 'Drayberks Alerto Kada Kilometro'



As part of its commitment to safety, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), joins in the celebration of National Road Safety Month and launches 'Drayberks' Alerto Kada Kilometro road safety campaign.

On Wednesday, May 15, MPT South kicked off the Alerto Kada Kilometro at the TasTrans Corporation in Las Pinas, Metro Manila, where more than 50 bus drivers who regularly traverse the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) were invited to participate. Government partners, Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), were also present.

This year, the campaign promotes driver alertness and focus, emphasizing their critical role in safe driving. MPT South introduced a challenging buzz-wire game that is designed to test participants' alertness. In the buzz-wire game, triggering the buzzer with one mistake mirrors driving; a momentary lapse in focus can lead to accidents or violations on the road.

Aside from exciting games, the event also served as a wellness day for the drivers. Participants not only enjoyed different wellness activities but also provided them with valuable insights into road safety. Wellness booths including eye check-ups, and basic health check-ups, were set up in collaboration with Medical Center Imus.

Additionally, in partnership with Cavite State University (CVSU), drivers were refreshed on BLOWBAGETS, a vehicle maintenance checklist before hitting the



PGC goes to Mendez for another leg of Cavite Career Caravan.

As the provincial government continues its pursuit of providing better future to young Caviteño hopefuls, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), under the supervision of Ms. Rizalie Enero, goes to Mendez, Cavite on June 07, 2024 for another leg of Cavite Career Caravan giving Mendezeños a range of employment opportunities for growth and development.

The program served 48 applicants who sought for better careers in the 26 participating companies. Likewise, eight national government agencies were present to provide services for those who are planning to join the corporate world.

Mendez Mayor Francisco Mendoza, Jr., graced the program, conveying his utmost gratitude to Governor Jonvic Remulla and Vice Governor Athena Tolentino for bringing the said program in their municipality and giving his constituents the opportunity to connect with various companies and employers.

"Kami po ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat dahil hindi ninyo nakakalimutan ang bayan ng Mendez para sa ganitong mga programa. Sana ay malaking porsyento ng mga nag-aaply ngayon ay matanggap ng iba't ibang kompanya dito sa Cavite."

Eight aspiring individuals were hired on-the spot, while others are continuing with the application procedures.

road.

"Staying alert means always keeping your eyes peeled, being watchful for any potential dangers, and responding quickly to any shifts in traffic situations," emphasized Mr. Raoul Ignacio, President and General Manager of MPT South.

"This marks just the kick-off event of Alerto Kada Kilometro campaign which will run throughout the year. At MPT South, we are not just in the business of toll roads but also committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all motorists who travel on CAVITEX and CALAX. Through initiatives like Alerto Kada Kilometro, we aim to instill a culture of vigilance and responsibility among drivers that promotes safer roads for everyone," Ignacio added.

"On behalf of our Executive Director Atty. Alvin A. Carullo and the whole Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) family, we express our support and appreciation to all organizers and participants of this momentous event. As we go towards our Road Safety endeavor, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Code, Presidential Proclamation No.115-A, May was dedicated as the Road Safety Month. TRB, Toll Regulatory Board, as the regulator of all toll roads, in cooperation with the toll concessionaires and operators, expresses our objective to maintain a safe, reliable, and convenient toll facility, in the implementation of rules and regulations of all expressway under our jurisdiction," said Rechillo S. Baladjay, Technical Staff of Regulation Division, TRB.

"Binabati ko po ang mga organisasyon sa likod ng programang ito sapagkat napakaganda po ng adbokasiya na ito. Alam naman po natin kung ano ang impact ng road crashes. It may cause injury or death, impact on financial, as well as psychological, and even permanent disability. And higit sa lahat po (ito) ay number one cause ng traffic congestion sa kalye. Sana marami pang organisasyon at grupo ang magsagawa ng ganitong klaseng adbokasiya," said Usec. Procopio G. Lipana, General Manager, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA). "We envisioned this partnership to be helpful as our goal is to promote safe driving practices and reduce the number of accidents on the roads. Our partnership will focus on several key areas, including education and awareness that will refresh our drivers with regards to safe driving habits. In addition, we will work closely with law enforcement agencies to strictly enforce traffic laws and regulations. We believe that by working together, we can create a safer driving environment for everyone," said John Benedict Santiagu, General Manager of Tas Trans Corp. The Alerto Kada Kilometro road safety campaign aligns with MPTC's broader 'Mission: Road Safety' initiative, which includes conducting road safety seminars and digital information campaigns. These efforts aim to educate both the general public and motorists, ensuring their safety while traveling along MPTC expressways across Luzon and Visayas, including CAVITEX, C5 Link, CALAX, NLEX, NLEX Connector Road, SCTEX, and CCLEX in Cebu.