

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXV NO. 3  
ISSN: 2651-7450

MAY 2-8, 2024

P10.00

Entered as Second Class Mail at the Iumus Post Office under  
Permit No. 2003-11 dated August 29, 2003

## Marcos orders review of regional minimum wage rates

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. directed the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) to review the minimum wage rates in their respective regions as the country marks the 122nd Labor Day on Wednesday.

In a speech in Malacañang for the Labor Day rites, Marcos asked the RTWPBs to consider the prevailing economic complexi-

ties such as inflation in conducting the review.

“As president, I call on the Regional Tripartite Wage and Productivity Boards to initiate a timely review of the minimum wage rates in their respective regions, with due consideration to the impact of inflation among others, within 60 days prior to the anniversary of their latest wage order,” Marcos said.

RTWPB are government bodies estab-

### Senator backs academic calendar switch amid extreme heat

MANILA – Senator Francis Tolentino on Wednesday expressed his support for the proposal to change the academic calendar due to the extreme heat that both the learners and teachers have been experiencing these past weeks.

Tolentino also underscored the importance of parental discretion in deciding whether students should attend school.

During his regular radio program

on DWIZ, Tolentino asked Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. if the current heat index trends would persist into the following year.

“Kasi nagpaplano na po tayo for 2025. Yung plano natin for 2025 ay based on existing conditions. So, tama po kaya yun na ganon na talaga ang plano natin (Because we are already planning for 2025. Our plan for



**WAGE RATE REVIEW.** President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. orders the review of the regional minimum wage rates during the 122nd Labor Day commemoration in Malacañang on Wednesday (May 1, 2024). He also asked the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board to consider the prevailing economic complexities such as inflation in conducting the review. (RTVM screengrab)

lished to regulate and set minimum wage rates across its differ-

ent regions. Marcos also called on the National Wages

2025 is based on existing conditions. So, is that right?” Tolentino asked. “Baguhin na talaga siguro hindi lang yung school calendar, pati na rin yung mga personal na pangangailangan ng mga iba’t ibang mga negosyante, baka i-adjust na rin nila (Maybe not only the school calendar should

### DepEd proposes ‘aggressive option’ for quick school calendar shift

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) said Tuesday it submitted a “more aggressive option” to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. following calls for a swift shift to the old academic calendar.

The move came amid mounting calls for the department to bring back the April-May

school break as scorching heat takes a toll on learners and teachers, prompting the suspension of in-person classes and the shift to alternative delivery modes (ADMs).

“The department has already submitted a letter to the Office of the President presenting other options, including a more ag-

gressive alternative of ending the School Year 2024-2025 in March 2025,” DepEd Assistant Secretary Francis Bringas said during a Senate Committee on Basic Education hearing.

Bringas, however, said these options would mean a shorter school year and

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ensure that the boards are able to “maintain a regular and predictable schedule of wage review, issuance and effectivity to reduce uncertainty and enhance fairness for all stakeholders.”

He also appealed to Congress to pass measures that would support the administration’s job creation agenda such as the Enterprise-based Education and Training Program law, the Revised Apprenticeship Program Act, and the CREATE More Law, or the law on corporate recovery and tax incentive for enterprises

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**STAYING HYDRATED.** A student drinks water after classes at the Malagasang II Elementary School in Imus, Cavite recently. Drinking fluid, especially water, prevents dehydration during hot weather. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

be changed, but also the personal needs of the various businessmen, maybe they will adjust as well,” he suggested.

Solidum could not confirm if the extreme heat index that many areas have been experiencing these past weeks would continue next year as the coun-

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**MARCOS.... FR P.1**

to maximize opportunities for reinvigorating the economy.

**One-of-a-kind workers' rehab center**

In the same ceremony, Marcos also unveiled the master plan for the Workers' Rehabilitation Center Complex (WRCC).

The 50-hectare DOLE infrastructure project will be done through the partnership with the Tanay municipal government, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government.

The soon-to-be built WRCC in Barangay Cuyambay, Tanay in Rizal will provide comprehensive management and treatment for injured workers, with a specific emphasis on a biopsychosocial approach to recovery for their successful reintegration into the workforce.

Marcos said the WRCC would serve as a "sanctuary and a place of rehabilitation for our workers and soldiers who suffer from work-related injuries."

"The building of this facility is a just and fitting honor to those who have sacrificed much for the progress of the nation," he said.

Labor Code of the Philippines @50

The President, likewise, led the commemoration of the signing of the Labor Code of the Philippines and reaffirmed the government's commitment to advancing workers'

rights and welfare.

The fundamental law that governs the welfare, protection, and well-being of every Filipino worker was signed on May 1, 1974 by Marcos' father and namesake, the late former president Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr.

"Sa lahat ng mga manggagawang Pilipino, muli ako'y nagpapasalamat sa inyo. Kayo ang puso at kaluluwa ng ating lakas-paggawa, ang nagsusulong ng ating tagumpay, at ang dahilan kung bakit patuloy tayong nangangarap para sa isang mas maliwanag na bukas (To all the Filipino workers, I thank you again. You are the heart and soul of our workforce, the driving force behind our success, and the reason we continue to dream for a brighter tomorrow," Marcos said.

Marcos also commended the non-supervisory white-collar and blue-collar workers who were conferred The Outstanding Workers of the Republic (TOWER) Awards.

"Your hard work and contribution to our labor force and nation-building inspires us all to double our efforts to realize our collective goals," Marcos told the awardees.

Aside from the series of activities in Malacañang, the DOLE has also lined up activities across the country to mark Labor Day, including Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) payouts, job fairs, and Kadiwa ng Pangulo caravans.

Meanwhile, House Speaker Martin Ro-

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squeezed breaks, which might affect the rest period for learners and teachers.

In terms of number of days, he said, the DepEd may need to resort to ADMs or Saturday classes.

"Our option could be to count some days as alternative delivery modes, which are not necessarily in-person classes... We have to look for some days to cover ADM," Bringas said.

Under this option, the actual in-person classes would only be 165 days, less than the minimum required 180 days for each school year.

Besides this, it would also compromise more days for proportional vacation pay (PVP) for public school teachers.

"We all know that teachers are entitled to proportional vacation pay, that is two months after each school year. And they are paid, the PVP is computed based on the number of school days in a given year," Bringas said.

The DepEd earlier maintained its stance on a "gradual reversion" to the old school calendar, considering the effects of sudden shifts to learners and teachers.

mualdez reaffirmed the commitment of the Lower House to continue its work toward legislation that will improve the welfare of Filipino workers.

He also vowed to push measures that will guarantee further fair labor practices and promote the safety and health standards of workers who contribute to the country's growing economy.

"The government is steadfast in its resolve to create more job

In February, it ordered a series of adjustments, including the scheduled end of School Year (SY) 2023-2024 on May 31, intending to implement the school break from June 1 to July 26; with the succeeding SY set from July 29, 2024 to May 16, 2025, according to Department Order 3, series of 2024.

**Heat index arbitrariness**

Bringas, meanwhile, raised current challenges of schools in terms of arbitrariness when identifying the radius or scope of heat index forecast from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

Local government units and school heads currently implement ADMs based on heat index forecasts and other natural calamities.

"We are hoping that PAGASA could help us with this... In comparison, typhoons, we can see typhoons, but for heat, we can only feel it. It becomes more subjective for something that we just feel than something that we see," he said.

Bringas also requested a comprehensive

opportunities and to foster an environment where labor rights are protected and economic opportunities flourish. We pledge to enhance our efforts in equipping our workforce with the skills needed for the jobs of tomorrow through robust education and training programs," he said in a message as the country celebrates Labor Day. (With a report from Zaldy de Layola/PNA)

guide to ensure appropriate actions for teachers and learners.

"While they have heat index also, it may be possible that the heat index is not within the danger zone. But with the existing conditions within the classroom that may contribute to the amount of heat that you feel at that particular time, like congestion, limited ventilation, and so on, it may also contribute," he said.

"We hope we could be more guided scientifically like what we do in typhoons."

Bringas, meanwhile, lauded school heads and LGUs for implementing flexible learning setups alongside balancing learning recovery.

"We acknowledge in the department that

there's still no substitute for in-person classes, but we cannot do otherwise at this point," he said.

To date, he added, some schools avoid peak hot temperatures from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by moving in-person shifts to 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Based on the DepEd's trend of suspension of face-to-face classes, the peak record happened on April 19, with 9,421 schools implementing ADM affecting about seven million learners nationwide.

From April 8 to 26, the most used ADM was blended learning equivalent to 59.4 percent, followed by modular at 38 percent, and online at 2.6 percent. (PNA)

## CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER of PRIME ALLIANCE of  
PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, &  
REPORTERS of the Philippines Inc.

THIS NEWSPAPER IS EDITED, PUBLISHED AND  
CIRCULATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE AT BLK. 8  
LOT 19 SAINT FRANCIS ST. CARDINAL VILLAGE  
SALITRAN 3 DASMARIÑAS CITY OF CAVITE

**Commercial Advertising Rate: P200.00/col.cm**  
**Legal Rate P160.00/col.cm.**





**World Malaria Day: Cavite’s commitment to sustained Malaria-free status.**

With its commitment towards a healthier and Malaria-free province, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) marked the Provincial Celebration of World Malaria Day on April 25, 2024 at the Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health, Trece Martires City. The event, with the theme “Advancing Health Equity, Gender Equality and Human Rights in the Fight Against Malaria”, was attended by representatives from different health units in Cavite.

The short program commenced with Dr. Armand Dotollo, Infectious Diseases head, welcoming the participants and instilling in their minds the importance of collective responsibility and action in safeguarding human health and eliminating Malaria disease and its life-threatening impacts. More so, Dr. Dotollo stated that the celebration was an opportunity to see the progress in addressing this global burden.

Likewise, talks of Ms. Michelle Malawig from DOH - Regional Office IV-A and Mr. Raffy Macdonald from Cavite OPHO underscored the strategies, preventive measures, and prompt response to Malaria. The Online Malaria Information System (OLMIS II) and 1-3-5 Strategy are the practices implemented for the surveillance of, and guidelines in Malaria elimination.

Event’s highlights were the Pledge of Commitment, through which the participants dedicated themselves to meaningful contribution in mitigating the threat of the disease; and the awarding of certificate for the efforts, hard work, and support of the agencies to malaria control.

The province of Cavite was declared Malaria-free in 2005, and continues to take action in sustaining its status until the future generations.--- OPIO



**Medical and Dental Mission in Brgy. Javalera serves hundreds of constituents.**

Another round of free health services was conducted by the provincial government led by the office of the Provincial Governor, in collaboration with medical and dental practitioners from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO). The efforts of local officials and staff headed by Punong Barangay Teddy Romero together with barangay health workers brought essential healthcare services to the doorstep of Brgy. Javalera, Gen. Trias City, recently.

Despite the scorching heat, the medical and dental mission witnessed an overwhelming response from the community, with 309 constituents availing themselves of the services offered. Among the beneficiaries, 259 received medical consultations, addressing a range of health concerns, while 50 individuals underwent dental extractions, improving their oral health. Additionally, free eye check-ups, prescription medicines, and mosquito repellent lotion were provided to the community.

The event’s success highlights the dedication and commitment of all parties involved in serving the community’s basic health needs. Through collaborative endeavor, vital healthcare services, were made accessible, contributing to the overall well-being of the residents of Brgy. Javalera.--- OPIO

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try is about to face La Niña.

“Titingnan natin kasi syempre magta-transition na tayo sa La Niña at ang porsyento ng posibilidad na magka-La Niña is 60 percent by June or July. So kung matutuloy yan, baka last quarter ng 2024 and first quarter ng 2025 ay may pag-ulan pa tayo (We will see because of course we will transition to La Niña and the percentage of the possibility of La Niña is 60 percent by June or July. So if that continues, maybe in the last

quarter of 2024 and first quarter of 2025, we will have more rain),” Solidum said.

The DOST chief also agreed that learners, especially those in basic education, are more exposed to hot weather.

Solidum said most school structure designs are prone to extreme heat and need to undergo modification.

“Kung walang aircon, dapat may heat insulator para hindi masyadong maintiyung loob ng mga eskwelahan (If there is no air conditioner, there

should be a heat insulator so that the inside of the schools is not too hot),” he suggested.

Tolentino added educational institutions should also provide learners with alternative learning solutions.

Both Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian earlier urged the Department of Education to implement the change in the academic calendar as soon as possible because of the continuing hot weather. (PNA)



Breaking barriers to healthcare. The Office of the Provincial Governor - Medical Mission Team, joined by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, spearheaded a transformative medical mission program recently, in Barangay Poblacion V, Silang, Cavite. Offering free medical check-ups and vital medicines, the health outreach event proudly served 280 patients, ensuring no one is left behind in the pursuit of a healthier, happier community.--- OPIO



## PBBM urged to certify as urgent bill for contractual gov't workers

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has been urged to certify as urgent a proposed bill that seeks to provide civil service eligibility and permanent appointment to all government casual and contractual employees who have rendered at least three years of outstanding government service.

“Amin ding inabot kanina kay Pangulong Marcos, sa pamamagitan ng kanyang aide-de-camp, iyong House Bill 1514 na may kinalaman doon sa equivalency bill na kung saan iyong mga manggagawa doon sa gobyerno na nakapaglingkod na ng tatlong taon at pumasa naman doon sa mga assessments and evaluation ay baka dapat na ring bigyan ng pagkakataong ma-regular. (We also gave President Marcos earlier, through his aide-de-camp, House Bill 1514 that has to do with the equivalency bill where workers in government who have served for three years and passed the assessments and evaluations may also be given the opportunity to be regularized),” National Anti-Poverty Commission Formal Labor and Migrant Workers Sector Sectoral Representative Edwin Bustillos said during the Bagong Pilipinas briefing on Wednesday.

House Bill 1514 aims to provide civil service eligibility and permanent appointment to all government casual and contractual employees under job orders, contract of service, and similar contracts who have rendered at least three years of outstanding government service.

“Ito ay subject pa doon sa deliberasyon



**JOB HUNTERS.** Jobseekers queue up in the hope of landing viable employment opportunities during a job fair held in a mall in Marikina on Labor Day on Wednesday (May 1, 2024). Some applicants were fortunate to get hired on the spot. (PNA photos by Ben Briones)

ng Kongreso, kaya ang aming hiling kay Pangulong Marcos Jr. ay i-certify itong batas na ito (This is still subject to deliberation by Congress, so our request to President Marcos Jr. is to certify this act [as urgent]),” Bustillos said.

Aside from the initiative, he said, the Workers Rehabilitation Center Complex was also presented during the Labor Day meeting with labor leaders and other government agencies.

“So, iyong mga, halimbawa mga wounded soldiers natin, iyong mga nagkaroon ng aksidente at naging PWDs ay may pagkakataon muling makahanap ng trabaho sa pamamagitan ng Workers Rehabilitation Center Complex. (For example, our wounded soldiers, those who had an accident and became PWDs will have the opportunity to find work again through the Workers Rehabilitation Center Complex),” Bustillos said.

A joint memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by the local government of Tanay, and the departments of labor, human settlements, public works, environment, and the interior for the construction of

the rehabilitation center.

The soon-to-be-built rehabilitation center in Barangay Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal will provide comprehensive management and treatment for injured workers, with a specific emphasis on a biopsychosocial approach to recovery for their successful reintegration into the workforce.

During the briefing, Bustillos also cited the importance of increasing the purchasing power of workers, ensuring the protection of overseas workers, and freedom of association.

“And lastly, tingin ko, dahil sa tumitinding init at global crisis, particularly sa klima, kailangang bantayan iyong mga implementasyon natin ng ating mga policies, particularly sa occupational health and safety, lalo na iyong mga nagta-trabaho sa construction work (And lastly, I think that due to the intensifying heat and global crisis, we need to watch the implementation of our policies, particularly in occupational health and safety, especially those who do construction work),” he added. (PNA)

## DENR leads plastic waste mgmt in mining, eyes incentive program

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB) has launched its PLASTIKalikasan Program to address plastic waste in mining sites, including its neighboring communities.

In a news release on Tuesday, the DENR said PLASTIKalikasan is a nationwide long-term program on plastic waste management in mining areas.

“At the DENR, our thrust on climate change adaptation and mitigation is at the forefront of our efforts. PLASTIKalikasan is not just a one-day clean-up project, it is a cornerstone of our strategy to build resilience against the impacts of climate change,” DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo Loyzaga said.

She said PLASTIKalikasan, which is done with the help of stakeholders, will serve as a platform for mining and mineral processing companies to collect, recycle, reuse, and dispose of plastic waste.

The program will be integrated into a company’s annual implementation of the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Program (EPEP) and ISO 14001:2015, allo-

cated with appropriate and sufficient budget.

“The annual EPEP outlines the methods and procedures a company will employ to achieve its environmental protection and management goals throughout the lifespan of the mine. Under the Philippine Mining Act of 1995 and its revised implementing rules and regulations, the EPEP should be prepared and approved before the commencement of mining,” the release read.

The PLASTIKalikasan program launch coincided with the Earth Day 2024 celebration, wherein 15 MGB Regional Offices spearheaded community clean-up drives, with over 7,000 participants from mining contractors and permit holders, as well as volunteers from communities, local government, and non-government organizations.

An initial report of the clean-up drive showed around 47,000 kilograms of plastic and other solid waste were collected across several mining sites and its host and neighboring communities.

Meanwhile, Loyzaga expressed delight with its partners’ active participation from the

mineral industry, local communities and other stakeholders to restore, protect, and sustain the environment.

She also reminded them of their equal responsibility in ensuring that their mining operations adhere to the highest standard of environmental protection and conservation.

Loyzaga said the MGB will officially incorporate PLASTIKalikasan in the EPEP for operationalization by 2025.

Loyzaga said an incentive program mechanism will be implemented under PLASTIKalikasan to motivate communities to actively participate in the reduction, recycling, or upcycling of plastic waste.

Details of the mechanism, including the types of incentives and the criteria for eligibility, will be developed by MGB.

The DENR-MGB said it will also help facilitate the forging of partnerships between mining companies and non-government and recycling organizations under the program.

MGB data shows that currently, there are 59 operating metallic mines, 61 operating non-metallic mines, and eight mineral processing plants in the country. (PNA)

*The one walking with the wise will become wise, But the one who has dealings with the stupid will fare badly.*

*Proverbs 13:20*



## DOLE to hold fund-raiser for former child laborers

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) -- The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Calabarzon regional office, in partnership with an organization of companies and businesses, has launched an eco-run activity to garner public support for child laborers as part of this year's Labor Day celebration.

The Project Angel Tree Eco-Run for a Cause event organized by DOLE IV-A and the Laguna Industrial Peace Council Inc. (LIPCI) will be held at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) on May 19 and serve as the highlight event of the Labor Day celebrations.

The inclusion of an eco-friendly element in the program at UPLB aligns perfectly with the sense of sustainability, social responsibility for the welfare of children, and environmental consciousness.

Vergel Rapin Jr., chairman of the social committee of LIPCI, has rightly emphasized the significance of the first fun run activity in expanding the beneficiaries of DOLE's Project Angel Tree program.

"In Laguna, we have more or less 2,500 child laborers and I think we only have 300 to 400 child laborers who benefit from the Project Angel Tree program, that is why we will conduct the Project Angel Tree Eco Run activity as its proceeds will be directed to expand the beneficiaries of the said program," Rapin stated.

Project Angel Tree is a regular program of DOLE that aims to

CATEGORY	REG FEE	INCLUSIONS
10KM	P1,300	SINGLET, FSHIRT SHIRT, MEDAL, RACE BIB & FINISHER CERTIFICATE
5KM	P800	SINGLET, RACE BIB & FINISHER CERTIFICATE
1KM	P600	SINGLET, RACE BIB & FINISHER CERTIFICATE

Registration fees for participants vary by category. It starts at 600 pesos for 1 km, 800 pesos for 5 km and 1,300 pesos for 10 km. (Photo from DOLE CALABARZON facebook page)

provide assistance in addressing their current vital needs and support to child laborers and their families, by ensuring their right to education, livelihood opportunities, and other essential resources for long term solution.

Rapin acknowledged the continuous voluntary support from companies and industries in the province and the region in providing vital assistance to child laborers and for the development of their families.

"In Laguna, industries and companies are very supportive in every project we implement. They continue to provide financial assistance, especially to DOLE's so-called angels [child laborers]. This year, we are aiming for more programs

that will give our angels and their families comfort like scholarship programs to alleviate poverty in the province," he said.

He then calls for the participation of individuals from all walks of life to contribute to projects that seek to assure a future where all children have the opportunity to thrive free from the hardships of labor exploitation.

"On May 19, the entire Philippines is invited to join the Project Angel Eco Run, we will release a registration link or you can contact all DOLE provincial offices for registration and the proceeds will go to child laborers, we expect the support not only of the workers, but also from the industries and runners from other regions," Rapin stated.

## DOLE marks foundation of workers rights as Labor Code turns 50

MANILA – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) commemorates the signing of the Labor Code of the Philippines 50 years ago which serves as the foundation of Filipino workers' rights and industrial peace.

In a news release on Wednesday, DOLE said the Labor Code "not only promotes employment but would also sear the rights, security, and welfare of every Filipino worker as inalienable."

Former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. in 1974 signed Presidential Decree 442, the decree instituting a labor code, revising and consolidating labor and social laws to afford protection to labor, promote employment and human resources development, and ensure industrial peace based on social justice.

This has become the fundamental law that governs the welfare, protection, and well-being of every Filipino worker.

The DOLE also hailed then Labor Minister Blas Ople who facilitated the law into existence, making him the "Father of the Labor Code."

"The Labor Code secured protection of workers and their welfare through its provisions on pre-employment and employment

Registration fees for participants vary by category. It starts at 600 pesos for 1 km, 800 pesos for 5 km and 1,300 pesos for 10 km.

Other Labor Day events to be held in Calabarzon include job fairs intended for various sectors, the

rules on minimum wage and overtime pay, working hours, health and safety standards, and collective bargaining, among others," the DOLE said.

During the celebration of the 122nd Labor Day in Malacanang, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. also recalled his father's signing of the law 50 years ago.

He also quoted the former president as saying that growth will always be tempered by justice and that development will always be weighed by the dignity of man.

"Exactly 50 years ago, on these very same grounds, my father, then-President Ferdinand Marcos Sr., signed the Labor Code of the Philippines, in the presence of representatives of various sectors. The Labor Code, borne out of the vision for development, employment, and social justice, has been one of the most enduring pieces of social legislation in the country," Marcos said.

Since then, the Labor Code has evolved amid the challenges brought in by modern times, to provide further protection to special groups such as women, minors, and those in the informal and vulnerable sectors.

For the past 50 years, the Labor Code has remained the bedrock from which other

establishment of seven Kadiwa ng Panguilo sites, the awarding of DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) payout and the release of Government Internship Program (GIP) stipend. (AM/PIA 4A)

edicts and laws emanated, such as the Wage Rationalization Act of 1989, the Batas Kasambahay Law, the 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Act, laws against child labor, and the mandatory provision of social security benefits to workers.

Another offspring of the Labor Code was the institutionalization of the speedy resolution of labor disputes through the establishment of the National Labor Relations Commission, as well as ensuring industrial peace and scaffolding it through the wisdom of tripartite councils and other bodies.

The DOLE, meanwhile, called on all employers, workers, and policymakers to draw strength from the milestones of the Labor Code in promoting social justice under the "Bagong Pilipinas" (New Philippines).

Labor Secretary Bivenido Laguesma vowed to champion workers rights' while providing them with timely service.

"Sa ilalim ng patnubay ng administrasyon ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., higit na pag-iibayuhin ng kagawaran ang pagpapaabot ng mga kailangan at angkop na programa para sa ikabubuti at ikakaang ng buhay ng manggagawang Pilipino (Under the guidance of the administration of our President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the department will further enhance the delivery of necessary and appropriate programs for the betterment and upliftment of the lives of Filipino workers)," Laguesma said. (PNA)



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MAY 2-8, 2024

P10.00

## Lady Blazers a win away from outright NCAA volley finals berth

MANILA – College of St. Benilde rolled to its eighth win on Wednesday, moving to within a victory of earning an outright finals berth in the NCAA Season 99 women's volleyball tournament.

Michelle Gamit scored 13 points, 12 on spikes, as the Lady Blazers clobbered the Lady Altas, 25-14, 25-18, 25-7, at the Filoil EcoOil Arena in San Juan.

Zamantha Nolasco chipped in 11 points, including blocks and three aces, while Jessa Dorog added 10 points for CSB, which moved to within a win of sweeping the elimination round.

Cloanne Mondoneo contributed four points, including two aces, to go with 13 excellent sets as the Jerry Yee-mentored Lady Blazers stretched their winning streak to 37, starting from the 2020 season.

CSB will go for a sweep against Lyceum of the Philippines Uni-



**NCAA VOLLEYBALL UPDATE.** College of Saint Benilde's Clydel Catarig (No. 16) tries to score against University of Perpetual Help's Charisse Enrico (No. 14) and Krisha Cordero (No. 10) in the NCAA Season 99 women's volleyball tournament at Filoil EcoOil Centre in San Juan on Wednesday (May 1, 2024). The Lady Blazers won, 25-14, 25-18, 25-7, to move a win away from an outright finals berth. (NCAA photo)

versity on Sunday.

Mary Rhose Dapol, last season's MVP, finished with eight attacks and one ace for Perpetual, which fell into a three-way tie with Mapua University and Arellano University for the fourth and last semis slot.

Lyceum kept the No. 2 spot at 6-1 after beating Jose Rizal University, 25-21, 25-9, 25-22 last April 27, while

Letran is in third place with a 5-2 record.

In the men's division, Perpetual defeated CSB, 23-25, 25-16, 24-26, 25-15, 15-8.

Jefferson Marapoc led the Altas with 27 points, 25 on attacks. Louie Ramirez had 18 attacks, four blocks and 14 excellent receptions followed by KC Andrade with 17 points, including five blocks. (PNA)



## CALABARZON RDP 2023-2028 Roadshow kicks off in Cavite

The province of Cavite played host to the first provincial roadshow of the CALABARZON Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2023-2028 recently at the International Convention Center of Cavite State University (CvSU) - Indang Campus. Spearheaded by the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office IV-A in partnership with the Provincial Government of Cavite and CVSU, the event gathered various stakeholders in the aim to improve public awareness, support and participation in the regional and provincial level development plans.

The CALABARZON RDP 2023-2028 is the regional counterpart of the Philippine Development Plan and serves as CALABARZON's blueprint for development until 2028. Ms. Revy Ann Grace Jolongbayan, OIC Chief Economic Development Specialist, NEDA IV-A, further explained that the RDP is a six-year investment programming document which contains priority programs and projects for the region. It also serves as an instrument to monitor targets and commitments, and a reference document to channel resources.

For the provincial level, Cavite has its Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP). These plans assessed the socio-economic performance of key sectors in the economy as well as the development challenges, and identified the targets, strategies and legislative agenda to attain economic and social transformation towards prosperous, inclusive and resilient region and province.

Governor Jonvic Remulla noted Cavite as one the fast-developing provinces in the country with its vibrant economy and strategic location. Nevertheless, the governor pointed out that geography alone does not spell the province's success adding that its strength lies in its people. He describes the integration of people coming in from the different parts of the country as high breed vigor which propels the development in the province. He also shared the current and upcoming development projects that will further bolster the province's economy including the major road infrastructures, heightened peace and order, better education and other innovations.

NEDA Regional Director Agnes Tolentino emphasized that the RDP is not the plan of NEDA alone but is a product of a multi-stakeholder assessment and target-setting; and encouraged the participants to take part in ensuring that the programs are implemented, and strategies are carried out to see the realization of the shared vision for progress.

A short but insightful talk show during the program elicited ideas and recommendations from the participants and the panelists composed of Board Members Shernan Jaro and Irene Bencito, and Engr. Lorna Leyran from the PGC, Ms. Agnes Nuestro and Engr. Orlando Delos Reyes from CvSU, and RD Agnes Tolentino for NEDA IV-A. Among the areas tackled were agriculture and food security, education and employment, to name a few.

Caviteños, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OP-PESM), in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), launched the Passport on Wheels event on April 26, 2024, at SM City Trece Martires. The initiative aimed to streamline the passport application process and cater to the needs of over 400 eager applicants.

The event provided a one-stop-shop for individuals seeking to obtain or renew their passports. It eliminated the need for residents to travel long distances to DFA offices, saving them time and effort in the application process. The Passport on Wheels brought the services directly to the community, ensuring that more people could avail themselves of this essential document without inconvenience.

Applicants were able to complete the necessary requirements on-site, including document verification, data encoding, and biometric capturing. The presence of DFA personnel and OP-PESM staff facilitated a smooth and efficient processing experience.

The partnership between OP-PESM and DFA exemplifies a collaborative effort to improve public service delivery. By bringing government services closer to the people, initiatives like Passport on Wheels contribute significantly to enhancing accessibility and convenience. The approach aligns with the government's goal of promoting efficiency and responsiveness in serving the needs of the people.--- OPIO



## Passport on Wheels: Bringing Convenience to Caviteños

In a move to make passport application more accessible and convenient for