CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXV NO. 9 ISSN: 2651-7450

JUNE 13-19, 2024

P10.00

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

Study on possible state workers pay hike done by end-June-DBM

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Tuesday reported the study on the possible increase in the salaries of government workers is targeted to be completed by the end of June this year.

In a statement, the DBM said the Compensation and Benefits



Study for salary adjustments of state workers is still ongoing.

Spearheaded by the DBM and the Gover-(Turn to p. 2

Public enjoined to participate in Independence Day activities

MANILA – The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) on Monday urged the public to be part of the various activities the government has lined up in observance of the country's 126th Independence Day.

"The theme is since last year is 'Kalayaan, Kinabukasan, Kasaysayan'. The highlight is on June 12 when a commemorative flag raising will be held. In the afternoon, a huge

parade consisting of 22 floats from across the country will feature the government established by Emilio Aguinaldo as well as the towns that were part of the revolution," NHCP History Researcher II Alton Concillado said in the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing over PTV4.

He said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is inviting the public to witness the parade that will start at 5 p.m. on June 12 from the

CCP grounds to Roxas Blvd. up to the Burnham Green across the Quirino Grandstand. A concert will be held after the parade, he added.

Simultaneous flag raising activities will be held in Cavite; Malolos; San Juan City; Caloocan; Angeles City; and NHCP museums across the country.

Meanwhile, Concillado said 132 booths were opened on Monday at the Luneta Park.

These booths are open to the public, allowing them to access various government services.

Aside from Kadiwa ng Pangulo, medical and dental services are also available in those booths, he said.

Last Friday, the government also staged the Musikalayaan, featuring musicians and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

On June 4, the Presidential Communications Office said the festival-like celebrations from June 10 to 12 will be held at the Rizal Park Burnham Green in Roxas Bou-

Green in Roxas Bouthree day
branches and leaves results

It contains several phytochemicals, including chrysophanic acid and anthraquinones, which exhibit strong antifungal activity against Epidermophyton, Microsporum, Trichophyton, and Penicillium.

composed of 8 to 20

elliptical leaflets.

Lazarte said the effectiveness of Akapulco preparations had been measured by the



levard, Manila, right across the Quirino Grandstand.

Various government agencies and non-government organizations have prepared different activities for everyone to enjoy from sun up to sun down for three days.

results of seven randomized controlled Rese trials involving 726 minimal

patients.

Four trials were performed using the NIR-PROMP-IHM formulation, which enrolled 461 patients.

These trials showed that preparations containing Akapulco are as efficacious as synthetic antifungal treatments containing 25 percent sodium thiosulfate, ketoconazole,

The Pilipinas Obstacle Sport Federation will hold competitions for various ages and groups to provide participants a "ninja warrior" experience that would showcase athleticism, bravery, grit and perseverance.

(Turn to p. 2)

or terbinafine cream.

Researchers noted minimal adverse effects from Akapulco lotion compared to conventional treatments.

"Randomized controlled trials are crucial to establish the efficacy and safety of treatments. Our findings indicate that Akapulco lotion offers a cost-effective alternative to imported anti-

(Turn to p. 2)

UP Manila develops potent herbal solution vs. fungal skin infections ANILA – The Unicrowding, poverty, Akapulco," she said

MANILA – The University of the Philippines Manila's National Integrated Research Program on Medicinal Plants (NIRPROMP) has created an herbal lotion against skin fungal infections using the Akapulco plant.

Skin infections are prevalent among Filipinos due to environmental factors, such as heat and humidity, and socioeconomic conditions, such as overcrowding, poverty, and poor hygiene.

Institute of Herbal Medicine - National Institutes of Health (IHM-NIH) Director Dr. Cecilia Maramba-Lazarte noted that Azole antifungals treat such infections effectively but are often expensive and require prolonged application.

"One solution to this problem is the use of Senna alata, more commonly known as Akapulco," she said in a statement on Friday.

"Traditional healers and those of other cultures have used this to treat skin diseases. The antifungal activity of Akapulco has been well-documented in various studies."

Akapulco is a perennial shrub widely distributed in the Philippines.

It typically reaches 1 meter to 2 meters in height with dense

PUBLIC ENJOINED.... FR P.1

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Agriculture will hold the Kusina (Kitchen) Warrior, a nationwide competition among select student-cooks who will compete for the best adobo (vinegar and soy saucebased meat or chicken dish) and pancit (local noodles).

Meanwhile, the Chili Federation will hold the labuyo (wild chili)-eating contest and other activities, like plants and product displays.

National Artist for Dance Alice Reyes will hold a concert on June 10 at the Burnham Green.

Musikalayaan will provide the stage for

musicians and bands like Rocksteady (June 10), The Juans (June 11), Plethora (June 11) and Bini (June 12).

Film showings of Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo, Heneral Luna, and Goyo: Ang Batang Heneral are scheduled on the evenings of June 11 and 12.

A total of 41 government and non-government agencies will offer medical services, fresh produce, passport appointment-bookings, National Bureau of Investigation clearances, artisanal delicacies, children's story-telling, book sales, educational exhibitions, games, and contests under the Pampahalaang Program at Serbisyo on June 11 and 12. (PNA)

UP MANILA FR P.1

fungal medications," Lazarte said.

She said potential investors could capitalize on the global antifungal drug market, which was valued at USD15.8 billion in 2023 and is expected to expand further.

STUDY FR P.1

nance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GCG), the Compensation and Benefits Study will explore various aspects of the current compensation system, including salaries, benefits, and allowances, to identify areas for improvement.

"The results of the study will likewise serve as the basis for making necessary Apart from economic benefits, the development of Akapulco lotion promotes local agriculture and Filipino self-reliance as dependence on imported drugs diminishes, she added. (PNA)

changes in the Total Compensation Framework of civilian government personnel to ensure fair and timely salary adjustment for government workers," the budget department said.

Once finalized, the study will be presented to both the DBM and GCG.

"The DBM assures its readiness to support the implementation of the salary adjustment once approved, to en-

Gov't launches digital national ID

MANILA - The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Information and Communication (DICT) on Monday launched the digital national ID which can be used as a valid proof of identification and age that can be presented in any government or private transactions.

Two authentication platforms which include the National ID eVerify and National ID Check were also launched at the PSA headquarters at East Avenue in Diliman, Quezon City.

The digital national ID is the official digital version of the national ID and can be easily accessible through computers or smartphones with an internet connection.

Anyone registered to the national ID system can access and view their digital national ID via https://national-id.gov.ph or download the eGovPH app, which requires input of demographic information and facial verification to confirm the individual's identity.

National Economic and Development Au-

sure a competitive and equitable compensation package for our civil servants. We will find a way to fund its implementation, subject to excess revenue to be collected by the national government," the agency noted.

The DBM previously said a consultancy firm has been tapped to conduct the study. (PNA)

thority (NEDA) Secretary and Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) Policy and Coordination Council Chairperson Arsenio Balisacan said the digital national ID help advance the government's strategies contained in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

"It is difficult to overstate the potential impact of this project: it will enable efficient identity verification to significantly improve the overall efficiency and quality of government services, especially in the delivery of responsive and timely social welfare benefits. We hope to lessen leakages and ensure that public money is spent where it must be spent," Balisacan said.

As of end-May this year, 87.6 million Filipinos already registered to the PhilSys.

National Statistician Dennis Mapa said of the total number of registrants, 83.6 million were already provided with the unique PhilSys number while 51.6 million were already issued with the physical ID cards.

"Admittedly, we have a backlog of 32 million but the printing of physical cards in the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) printing facility is continuous, that's why we have the digital national ID because the 32 million individuals and even those who already have a physical card can get their digital national ID," Mapa said.

"This collaboration between the PSA and



DIGITAL NATIONAL ID. The Philippine Statistics Authority, in partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology, launch the digital national ID, along with authentication platforms, National ID eVerify and National ID Check at the PSA headquarters at East Avenue in Diliman, Quezon City on Monday (June 10, 2024). Present in the ceremonial launch are DICT Undersecretary David Almirol Jr. (from left), DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy, Special Assistant to the President Frederick Go, National Economic and Development Authority Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, PSA Undersecretary Claire Dennis Mapa, and OIC-Deputy National Statistician Fred Sollesta. (Photo from PSA)

the DICT is a fulfillment of our shared goal towards Makaba-(Turn to p. 4)

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

raquel.cavitenews@gmail.com 0997409432/09329770888

RAQUEL M. MAGTIBAY

Publisher

JESSIEL M. RAVANA

Editor-In-Chief

JOHN JEPREE MAGTIBAY

Lay-out-Artist

LAURO M. MAGTIBAY

Circulation Manager

ATTY. RACQUEL C. LARA

Legal Counsel



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.



Pride radiates colorful energy in Cavite.

Honoring the vibrancy of all colors across the province, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, officially held the Provincial Pride Month Celebration at the Provincial Gymnasium, Trece Martires City, on May 30, 2024.

The program started off with Mr. Alvin S. Mojica – Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, Mr. Cyrus Cruzat – Provincial LGBTQIA Federation President, Ms. Precyl Ramos – OPSWDO Officer in Charge, and Hon. Romel Enriquez – 1st District Board Member and Committee Chair on Social Services, Family, Women, Children and Elderly gracing the event and conveying their ardent joy and appreciation to all who have shown support for the Pride. Above all that, PA Mojica and BM Enriquez assured the LGBTQIA+ community of the consistent support and assistance of the PGC, led by Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla, to the advocacy, initiatives and projects for the betterment of the said community.

Additionally, as part of the celebration, a Career Fair Caravan was arranged with the help of the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, headed by Ms. Rizalie Enero, to which Ms. Precyl Ramos thanked for giving the colorful community the opportunity to shine brighter. "Sa lahat po ng mga korporasyon at mga kompanya na narito para i-engage natin ang atin pong mga kapatid from the LGBT community, maraming salamat po" she expressed. Likewise, free HIV testing was offered by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer represented by Ms. Haydelisa Maderazo.

Consequently, Ms. Kimberly Mae Dimaranan led the zumba dance as an energizer to keep the enthusiasm of the attendees and participants burning. The second part of the program was filled with rainbows, as six LGBTQIA+ entrants, composed of federations from General Emilio Aguinaldo, General Mariano Alvarz, Trece Martires City, Maragondon, Amadeo, and Bacoor, flaunted their talents in the 2024 Festival of Colors Competition.

Mr. King David Agreda, Mr. Ryann Buban, and Mr. Richard Lumandas were invited to be judges of the competition.

After all the energetic performances, Trece Martires City Pride stood out and took home the Champion title. Maragondon Pride secured the 1st Place, while the Bacoor Pride landed on the 2nd Place. Special awards were also given – Best Theme for the contestant of Maragondon and Best in Costume for GMA.

The Provincial Celebration of Colors and Pride reflects the commitment of the PGC in recognizing gender diversity and sensitivity, accepting the LGBTQIA+ community.



Capacity Building Seminar for Cooperatives: Orientation on Intellectual Property

Recently, a breakthrough seminar titled "Capacity Building Seminar for Cooperatives: Orientation on Intellectual Property" was organized by the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) in collaboration with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), to strengthen the capability and competitiveness of cooperatives in Cavite. The program was supported by collaborations with the Union of Enterprising Cooperatives, the PAMANA Development Cooperative Federation, and the IMUST Cooperative Federation.

The warm welcome from Mr. Alvin S. Mojica, Provincial Administrator for Community Affairs, set the tone for an insightful session ahead. Following this, Ms. Avelina Lopez, Chairperson of the IMUST Cooperative Federation, delivered the opening remarks, underlining the significance of the seminar in equipping cooperatives with essential knowledge on intellectual property rights.

In a brief but powerful speech, Mr. Wilfredo Noel, Chair of the PAMA-NA Development Cooperative Federation, emphasized the importance of intellectual property knowledge for cooperatives and how it may improve their competitiveness and sustainability in the marketplace.

The highlight of the seminar was a presentation by the resource speaker from IPOPHL, Mr. Joel C. Caalaman, IP Field Operations Specialist and Account Manager for Intellectual Property Satellite Office (ITSO). Mr Caalaman explained the importance of ITSO in helping cooperatives navigate the complexities of protecting their cooperative name and brand. His enlightening speech clarified the many aspects of intellectual property laws and how they affect cooperative businesses.

After the talk, cooperative members had the opportunity to connect with the speaker and discuss relevant intellectual property concerns in an interactive open forum. Participants also got a chance to have a close look at the ITSO system and use it to verify the availability and sustainability of their cooperative names and trademarks.

The session concluded with words of challenge and concluding remarks by Ms. Fe Regielyn S. Catibayan, Executive Director of the Union of Enterprising Cooperatives. Her closing remarks captured the heart of the event, asking cooperative leaders and members to use what they learned to strengthen their organizations and navigate the ever-changing world of intellectual property rights.

In essence, the Capacity Building Seminar for Cooperatives served as a critical platform for providing cooperative firms with the information and resources they needed to protect their intellectual assets and support long-term growth in Cavite's thriving cooperative sector.

Sinabi ng Dios: "Dahil mahal niya ako, ililigtas ko sya. Poprotektahan ko sya dahil alam niya ang pangalan ko. Tatawag siya sa akin, at sasagutin ko siya. Tutulungan ko siya sa panahon ng paghihirap. Ililigtas ko siya at luluwalhatiin.

Awit 91: 14-15

GOV'T LAUNCHES FR P.2

gong Pilipinas, where services are delivered efficiently and securely through digitalization," he added.

Mapa said the digital national ID is part of the whole-of-government efforts spearheaded by the PSA and DICT towards digitalization.

"The President instructed us to accelerate digitalization process and for the PSA, we see the national ID system as a way of accelerating the digitalization process," he said.

DICT Secretary Ivan Uy, for his part, said the digital national ID shall "revolutionize the way we do things in the government".

"This modern identification system will streamline transactions, improve service delivery, and ultimately make doing business easier for everyone. I am excited to witness a positive change in how things are done with the digital national ID," he said.

Streamlining authentication

For authentication of Filipinos registered to the national ID system, the PSA and DICT also developed the National ID eVerify (https://everify.gov.ph/) for government agencies and private establishments.

The National ID eVerify provides users with a suite of verification tools, including facial recognition and al-time data verification.

It also has a feature called the national ID check which can verify the authenticity of any format of the national ID, including the digital national ID by scanning the quick response (QR) code feature.

Government agencies can leverage the national ID eVerify system to expedite service delivery by swiftly confirming details. Likewise, companies can utilize the national ID eVerify system to confirm the identities of their employees.

The National ID Check,

on the other hand, enables institutions to validate personal information through QR scanning.

It verifies information without accessing the national ID database, making it a valuable tool for organizations with limited technological re-

"With these developments, every registered Filipino now has improved access to a reliable and secure proof of identity that can be easily authenticated on their devices. This will facilitate the faster distribution and wider utilization of the national ID, with relying parties finding it easier to onboard to the national ID system," Mapa said.

Integration with online gov't services

DICT Undersecretary David Almirol Jr. said the digital national ID goes beyond having access and copy of it on the phone. It is also ready for integration with the government's digital and automated services.

"The main purpose here is to really streamline and also simplify the many government and private transactions moving forward," Almirol said.

Even before its rollout, the government agencies are told to get ready for the full implementation and integration into government processes for seamless access to public services

This means all information databases and systems to be developed by government entities must be synchronized to facilitate interoperability of government-initiated identification systems, ensure efficient and more reliable government transactions, and secure access to information and services.

Almirol said the platform used by the PSA is secure and well-encrypted to ensure that all data is safe from malicious actors.

"Ang maganda sa PSA,

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

File No. FC-DC-1328-24 **EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE** OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE **UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED**

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

-versus-ANALIZA J. COSTELO, married to RONALD C. COSTELO.

Respondent/Mortgagor,

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVEL-OPMENT 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, ANALIZA J. COSTELO, married to RONALD C. COSTELO with postal addresses at Lot 5 Block 60 Phase 4, Fatima 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and Lot 35 Block 42, Town & Country Subdivision, Burol, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of March 07, 2024 amounts to **ONE MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO THOU-**SAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN PESOS & 14/100 (Php1,872.387.14), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on <u>July 04, 2024</u> 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, Burol II, 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. 057-2012012821

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BRGY. BUROL, MUN. OF DASMARIÑAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, bounded and described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 35 BLK. 42 OF THE CONS.-SUBD. PLAN PCS-042108-007814, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS OF LOT 1,2,4, & 5 (LRC) PCS-29433, L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. BUROL, MUN. OF DASMARIÑAS, PROV. OF CAVITE. BOUNDED ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 1-2

BY RD. LOT 39, ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 34 BLK. 42 BOTH OF THE CONS. SUBD-PLAN; ON THE S W. ALONG LINE 3-4-5 BY LOT 3787, IMUS ESTATE & ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 5-1 BY LOT 36 BLK. 42 OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN, BEING N. 28 DEG. 10W 488.60 M. FROM MON. 159, IMUS ES-TATE, THENCE 8. 3 DEG. 34'E., 10.00 M. TO PT. 2; THENCE 8. 88 DEG 26'W., 15.00 M. TO PT. 3; THENCE N. 3 DEG. 38'W., 5.58 M. TO PT. 4; THENCE N.3 DEG. 34'E., 4.42 M. TO PT. 5; THENCE N. 86 DEG. 28'E., 15.00 M. TO PT. OF BEGINNING, CONT. AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY (150) SQUARE METERS, ALL PTS. REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND BY PS CYL. CONC. MONS. 15X60 CM. BEARINGS TRUE DATE OF ORIG-INAL SURVEY, JULY 27, 1905-JUNE 11, 1908 & THAT OF THE CONS.-SUBD. SURVEY MAY 3-JUNE 22, 1993 & WAS APPROVED ON

is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of Owner: ANALIZA J. COSTELO, married to ronald c. costelo, BOTH OF LEGAL AGE, FILIPINO CITIZENS.

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 July 18, 2024 at the same time and place without further notice.

21 May 2024, 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: May 30,- June 6, & 13, 2024 Raffle Date of Judicial Notices: 17 May 2024

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

ATTY. MELANIO A. BADENAS JR.

GCCS & Associates Corp.

rm. 209 Megastate Bldg. No. 737 G. Araneta Ave., Tatalon, Quzon City.

ANALIZA J. COSTELO, married to RONALD C. COSTELO Lot 5 Block 60 Phase 4, Fatima 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and Lot 35 Block 42, Town & Country Subd. Burol, Dasmariñas City,

they have a so-called zero-trust policy. So, encrypted 'yung kanil-ang data. Even us, nung ginawa natin 'yung digital national ID as an integrator, wala kaming makitang data (What's great about the PSA is they have a zero-trust policy. Their data is encrypted. Even us when we were helping them with the national ID as an integrator, we didn't have access to their data)," he said.

The data provided by the platform, everify. gov.ph, is fully encrypted to both external and internal accessing enti-

"Through API (application programming interface) lang ang kanilang magagawa. Ibig sabihin, wala pong tinatawag na direct sharing of information. So, integration po ang mangyayari dito (They only have access to an API. What this means is there is no direct sharing of information. So, it's only integration)," he said.

Since there is no direct access to data, Almirol said, data security remains in the hands of the originator of the data.

"Wala na pong kontrol ang DICT or PSA sa mga respective na gumagamit ng national ID moving forward. Kasi ang ibibigay lang ng system ay 'yung verification lang (The DICT or PSA has no control over who uses the national ID moving forward. What our system provides is merely verification)," he added. (With a report from Raymond Carl dela Cruz/PNA)

UNSC adopts **US** resolution calling for immediate ceasefire in Gaza

NEW YORK – The UN Security Council on Monday adopted a resolution aimed at reaching a comprehensive ceasefire deal in three phases to end the war in Gaza, with US Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield telling members "today, we voted for peace."

Adopted by a large majority with 14 votes in favour and 1 abstaining, the resolution urges both parties to fully implement the terms of the proposal "without delay and without condition.'

In a statement carried by Reuters, Hamas welcomed the UN Security Council resolution backing a proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza, saying it is ready to cooperate with mediators over implementing principles of the plan.

The United States-draft-

ed text announced on 31st May by President Joe Biden has already been accepted by Israel.

In the resolution, the Security Council rejects any attempt at demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of the enclave.

The text also reiterates the Council's "unwavering commitment" to the vision of the two-state solution where two democratic States, Israel and Palestine, live side by side in peace within secure and recognised borders consistent with international law and relevant UN resolutions.

"In this regard stresses the importance of unifying the Gaza Strip with the West Bank under the Palestinian Authority," the resolution added. (WAM)

ASEAN, UNDP launch marine conservation project in key SEA areas

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the governments of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand, launched a joint marine conservation project that aims to create strong protected areas for sustainability and develop science-based solutions.

The project, dubbed as "Effectively Managing Networks of Marine Protected Areas in Large Marine Ecosystems in the ASE-AN Region" (ASE-AN ENMAPS), is a five-year project that aims to develop and improve the management of networks of marine protected areas and marine corridors within selected Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) conservation of globally significant biodiversity areas and support for sustainable fisheries and other oceanic goods and ser-

According to the ACB, ASEAN is home to 35 percent of the world's coral reefs with more than 600 species of hard corals, 23 out of 50 seagrass species in the world, and over 1,300 reef-associated fish species, providing vital ecosystem services, including breeding, nursing, and feeding grounds for fisheries.

However, unsustainable resource extraction, infrastructure development, pollution, policy gaps, population pressures, overfishing and other destructive fishing practices have been identified as the most widespread local



The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with the governments of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand, launched a joint marine conservation project that aims to create strong protected areas for sustainability and develop science-based solutions. (File photo)

threats to marine resources in Southeast Asia.

If such threats are not addressed, there might be no viable fish stocks left by as early as 2048, thus the institutionalization of the program after years of dialogues comes at the right time.

The geographic focus of ASEAN ENMAPS includes the Bay of Bengal, South China Sea, Sulu-Celebes Sea, and the Indonesian Seas — areas that are vital for food security and economic trade.

For the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Biodiversity Management Bureau (DENR-BMB) director Asec. Marcial Amaro Jr., the partnership will pose a unified and solid effort in protecting the rich biodiversity of the region.

"It shall serve as a crucial platform for us to come together and discuss the project's objectives, outcomes, governance arrangements, and work plans. We have the opportunity to delve into conservation efforts in Indonesia, The

Philippines, and Thailand, which may provide benefits across the region and even on a global scale."

Amaro believes that the initiative will be beneficial for coastal communities and poor families, as ACB and UNDP will directly engage and impart knowledge in communities and for environmental groups within the three countries to mitigate various environmental risks.

The director explained: "[The project] is envisioned to support coastal communities by addressing threats to coastal ecosystems and by providing opportunities to improve the lives of some of the poorest, if not the poorest sectors in our society."

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity executive director Dr. Theresa Mundita Lim urged like-minded groups and other stakeholders to participate and converge to better implement and operationalize environmental policies and regulations.

"We need a sea change in how we care for the



The provincial government of Cavite gears up for the 2024 Seal of Good Local Governance regional validation as it undergoes the SGLG Provincial Assessment conducted by the team from the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Cavite on June 4, 2024 at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol in Trece Martires City.

Leading the DILG-Cavite team was the Project Manager, LGOO VI Charmaine R. Lopez, together with SGLG Focal Person LGOO III Nina Norisa Maranga, and the rest of the validators composed of LGOO V Ramon V. Nedic, LGOO III Beverly Villaruel, LGOO III Alice Bay, and Engr. Earl Buna.

The PGC team, on the other hand, was led by OIC-Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent Bae who also gave his welcome message emphasizing PGC's tenacity and willingness to take on the challenge as part of the commitment to public service excellence. Ms. Anne Minette Dastas, PGC SGLG Focal Person acknowledged all the participants joining the activity.

The assessment covered different governance areas including Financial Administration and Sustainability, Disaster Preparedness, Social Protection and Responsiveness, Sustainable Education, Business-friendliness and Competitiveness, Safety, Peace and Order, Environmental Management, Tourism, Heritage Development, Culture and Arts, and Youth Development. This was done through document review and onsite visit for areas requiring a check on infrastructures and other means of verification.

Feedbacks were provided by the assessment team during the exit conference with inputs to better enhance the documentation, followed by action planning for the succeeding validation to be conducted by the regional validators of the DILG.

In closing, Ms. Haydee Sy, Deputy Chief-of-Staff of the Office of the Provincial Governor delivered her message of appreciation to the entire PGC team for the commendable efforts in preparing for the SGLG provincial assessment and hopes for the positive turnout in the upcoming regional validation.

oceans. Working with nature is one of our best options for ocean action. With only about eight percent of the ocean under some level of protection, countries must think expansively and cooperatively to conserve, manage and restore the ocean that sustains us."

Lim is optimistic that

the networks of marine protected areas and marine corridors will be a force multiplier for conservation of the seas.

By 2050, it is estimated that close to 500 million people will live in coastal and marine areas in Southeast Asia, all of whom will rely on the rich marine biodiversity that

is their source of livelihood, protection and even culture and identity. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

> SAY NO TO DRUGS

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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VOL. XXV NO. 9

JUNE 13-19, 2024

P10.00



PG-COPS Seminar: Building Better Connections with Neurodiverse and Mental Health Clients

Recently, the Provincial Government-Cavite Office of Public Safety (PG-COPS) successfully held an enlightening seminar titled "Understanding and Engaging with Neurodiverse and Mental Health Clients" at the Ceremonial Hall of the Provincial Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Over 50 dedicated employees from the PG-COPS' Personnel Protection Division (PPD) and Environment Protection Operations Division (EPOD), and the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), gathered to enrich their knowledge and skills in supporting neurodiverse and mental health clients.

This initiative was a collaborative effort between the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disability Affairs Officer (OPPDAO) and PG-COPS, underscoring the provincial government's commitment to fostering an inclusive and empathetic approach to public safety.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Ms. Cecil D. Miranda, PG-COPS Head, who highlighted the importance of understanding and responding to the needs of neurodiverse and mental health clients in public safety scenarios.

The seminar featured two key presentations: Ms. Rachel C. Arellano, a Registered Psychometrician from the Cavite Center for Mental Health, shared her expertise on "Mental Health and Practical Strategies for Effective Client Management," while Mr. Denmark A. Dimapilis, a Licensed Occupational Therapist from ELAD School Potentials Therapy Center, discussed "Understanding Neurodiverse Disorders and Effective Response in Public Places."

These sessions provided attendees with crucial insights and practical approaches to improving their interactions and support for neurodiverse individuals and those experiencing mental health challenges.

Participants expressed their positive impressions, noting the seminar's relevance and the practical knowledge gained. The interactive format and expert-led discussions were particularly appreciated, fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding neurodiverse and mental health client management.

The seminar concluded with inspiring remarks from Ms. Marie Shiela Antenor Haloc, Head of OPPDAO. She reiterated the provincial government's dedication to continuous learning and adaptation in public safety

Albo, De Guzman reach PH Badminton Open finals

MANILA – National team members Jewel Angelo Albo and Mikaela Joy De Guzman reached the finals of their divisions in the 2024 Philippine Badminton Open at First Pacific Leadership Academy courts in Antipolo City on Monday night.

Albo pulled off a 21-12, 21-10 upset of top seed RJ Oba-ob of Philippine Air Force to forge a title showdown with Clarence Villaflor in men's singles.

Villaflor, representing Cadiz-JBA/Apacs, scored a 21-13, 21-16 victory over Ateneo de Manila University's Arthur Salvado Jr. in the other semifinal match.

"I didn't really set a goal for myself. I just want to show my best and perform well," Albo, the UAAP Season 85 Rookie of the Year, said. "What I focused on in the semifinal is my game play which is that I need to attack."

The top-ranked De Guzman, on the other hand, won her semifinal match against No. 8 seed Karyll Rio of National University, 21-10, 21-13, in women's singles.

"She did great. I know that she's one of NU's top players so I gave my 100 percent. I'm happy with my performance," De Guzman, who will defend her title against No. 3 seed Ysabel Amora, said.

Amora, also from NU,

beat No. 5 seed Aniel-ka Maeve Paz, 21-15, 21-12, in the semis.

"I'm going to give it my all because this is the final game. So, whatever I have left, I'm going to give it my all," De Guzman, the 2023 APACS Kazakhstan International Series champion, said.

Meanwhile, Smash Pilipinas standouts Julius Villabrille and Airah Mae Nicole Albo stayed on course in their title-retention bids.

Third seeds Villabrille and Solomon Padiz Jr. outplayed Lanz Ralf Zafra and Nestojan Tapales, 24-22, 21-11, to advance in the men's doubles final against Peter Gabriel Magnaye and Christian Bernardo, who prevailed over University of the Philippines' Kervin Llanes and Rey Angelo Pedron, 21-17, 21-15.

Top seeds Albo of De La Salle and Lea Inlayo of UP conquered University of Santo Tomas duo Patricia De Leon and Marielle Alvarez, 21-14, 21-19, to reach the women's doubles final.

Albo and Inlayo will

face UP's Patricia de Dios and Kimberly Lao, who won over UST's Jennifer Helyn Saladaga and Rhafi Anne Santos, 21-18, 21-13.

In the mixed doubles, top seeds Villabrille and Albo trounced John Gregg Paz and Marilou Dacillo, 21-11, 21-13, to set up a final meeting with Christian Bernardo and Alyssa Ysabel Leonardo, who eliminated second seeds Padiz and Inlayo, 21-18, 17-21, 21-18.

The final matches will be played at Gameville Ball Park in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday starting at 10 a.m. The tournament offers a total of PHP1 million in cash prizes, with the men's and women's singles champions earning PHP100,000 and the runners-up getting PHP50,000.

The third and fourth placers will receive PHP15,000 each.

In the doubles category, the prizes are PHP120,000 (champion), PHP60,000 (runner-up) and PHP30,000 (3rd and 4th). (PNA)

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

practices, ensuring that all community members receive the support they need

This seminar represents a significant stride in PG-COPS's ongoing efforts to promote inclusive public safety measures and enhance the well-being of all Caviteños.