

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXIII NO. 49 MARCH 23-29, 2023 P 10.00

SM SUPERMALLS SOUTH 1 SECURITY FORCES, GATHERED FOR THE JOINT TACTICAL INSPECTION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF TROOPS 2023



SM CITY BACOOR, CAVITE – Gathering security forces and agency personnel, SM Supermalls - South 1 recently held its Joint Tactical Inspection (JTI), an annual event conducted by SM's CRS Division to inspect and check the readiness of the security guards assigned in SM Supermalls, SM Retail Group and its Affiliates. The event was spearheaded by Mr. Almus J. Alabe, CPP, CSP; SM Supermalls Senior Vice President for CRS, Senior Assistant Vice President for Mall Operations - Mr. John Jason T. Terrenal, Assistant Vice President for Mall Operations – Mr. Lorenzo A. Calingasan IV., and Guest of Honor and Speaker PMAJ. Alexis Tuazon, DCOP of Bacoor City, Cavite.

The event is done in cooperation with Mall Operations Department and the Security Agency and Service providers. Uniforms and equipment were checked and inspected in order to conform with the standards set by the company; and the requirements so required by the Philippine National Police, SOSIA in compliance to RA 5487 in specific terms. The inspection was done individually, from head to foot, following a very distinct and unique procedure. The inspection is not a fault finding activity but more on a corrective measures to ensure that guards are always dressed, equipped and supplied completely by the respective security providers. Aside from the individual clothing, Agency equipment, armaments and issued firearms were also inspected. Communication equipment and other support gadgets were tested to ensure that they are always functional and ready for operational use.

Citing his experience in the Philippine National Police, Guest of Honor and Speaker PMAJ. Alexis Tuazon encouraged the security personnel in the Joint Tactical Inspection to stand firm on the very basic foundation of discipline in the performance of their mandated tasks in SM Supermalls and its affiliates nation-wide, in partnership with the Philippine National Police and to protect and care for the shoppers and stakeholders of SM Supermalls. Mr. Almus J. Alabe, CPP, CSP; SM Supermalls Senior Vice President for CRS also uplifted their morale as he remind them to always show courtesy, professionalism, and respect as they assist shoppers in their everyday service and to ensure protection and safety of the mallgoers as SM Supermalls become a more thriving and welcoming community for everyone.

LA Tenorio reveals battle with colon cancer

MANILA – Lewis Alfred “LA” Tenorio revealed last Tuesday that he has been diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer.

The Ginebra point guard admitted that his battle with cancer is the real reason why he had to sit out the rest of the PBA Governors' Cup after the league's "Iron Man" streak that lasted for 744 games since he turned pro, apologizing to everyone for keeping his real health situation a secret.

"I would like to issue a statement about my health status by firstly apologizing to my teammates, some coaches, the PBA, the fans, the media and even some friends. As most of you are aware I have been nursing a minor injury since the Finals last January. I used that as the reason for my sudden absence. My sincerest apologies to all. With my profession in sports tied in health and entertainment, it will be very difficult to keep the real reason a secret

any longer and will only lead to unnecessary gossips, fake news and misinterpretations. I was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 colon cancer. The initial testing three weeks ago led me to instantly miss practices and games," Tenorio said in a statement.

The "minor injury" pertains to an apparent groin injury he suffered during the Gin Kings' Commissioner's Cup Finals battle against the Bay Area Dragons.

Ginebra coach Tim Cone later said when Tenorio decided to take a break from playing that he aggravated it, defining it as sports hernia, only for the point guard to finally come clean.

Tenorio, however, said he has already gone surgery and is now about to start getting further treatment.

"I have completed my surgery last week and will soon undergo

treatment for the next few months," he added.

The 38-year-old playmaker, though, reiterated that he is still not calling it a career, and he hopes that he can still make a return to the PBA very soon.

"I have given not only 17 full years to the PBA, but have dedicated my whole life to basketball. I have committed my body and health for the love of the game. It has been my passion and love," he said.

"Sadly, there are things beyond one's control. But with my faith, I am lifting everything to God now and I believe there is a higher purpose as I go through this part of my life. I am not yet retiring from the game I love, and with the help of the best doctors in the Philippines and Singapore, I believe I can touch a basketball once more and return stronger," Tenorio further said. "I will see everyone very, very soon." (PNA)

SM CITY BACOOR CONDUCTS FIRE DRILL WITH BACOOR CITY BFP

SM CITY BACOOR, CAVITE – In partnership with Bacoor City's Beureau of Fire Protection, SM City Bacoor recently conducted a fire drill to better equip its tenants, employees, and agency personnel on the prevention of fire incidents and the proper conduct shall fire accidentally happen in the mall. Equipped with fire truck and equipments, the Bacoor City BFP carefully inspected the mall's Fire Brigade and Emergency Response Team as they guide 185 participants in evacuating the premise during the drill, ensuring that the assigned personnels are prepared in case of fire emergencies. The tenants also joined the early morning drill to ensure the safety of the shoppers.

Aside from this, SM City Bacoor also conducted the recently concluded National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill where 253 participants including the tenants, employees, agency personnel and security forces joined to ensure that shoppers will be safe in the mall in case an earthquake happen. True to its promise to welcome shoppers with care, SM Supermalls also conduct regular trainings and seminars to strengthen their Business Continuity Management System which aims to keep their employees equipped in case of any emergency.



CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXIII NO. 49 MARCH 23-29, 2023 P10.00

ISSN: 2651-7450 Entered as Second Class Mail at the Imus Post Office under Permit No. 2003-11 dated August 29, 2003

House grants President power more to suspend PhilHealth premium hike

MANILA – The House Representatives on Tuesday approved on third and final reading a bill giving the President the power to suspend the scheduled increase of premium payments of “direct contributors” to the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) and adjust

Batangas solon says bayanihan needed in oil spill cleanup

MANILA – House Representative Gerville “Jinky Bitrics” Luistro (Batangas, 2nd District) on Tuesday called for a “bayanihan” to address the worsening effect of the oil spill from the sunken MT Princess Empress that has started to affect all the towns in the second district of Batangas.

“It is time for us to unite in bayanihan and be aggressive in containing and cleaning up the oil spill. I am

the period of implementation during national emergencies or calamities, or when public interest so requires.

Passed on the strength of 273 affirmative votes, three negative votes, and no abstentions, House Bill 6772 seeks to further amend Section 10 of Republic Act 11223,

otherwise known as the “Universal Health Care Act.”

Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, the bill’s principal author, said the suspension of the increase would result in some savings for millions of government and private sector workers, professionals, self-employed, and

other PhilHealth contributors who are still recovering from the pandemic.

He said under the measure, daily wage earners and many employees, who comprise the majority of PhilHealth members, would save at least PHP50 a month or PHP600 a year from their health insurance premium payment if the adjustment were suspended.

(Turn to p. 2)

Luistro, who authored House Bill No. 6089, which seeks to declare the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as an ecotourism zone, feared that contamination of this so called “most diverse marine ecosystem on Earth” is so imminent and something aggressive to clean up the approaching oil spill has to be done.

Already affected in Batangas are the towns

Up to 140K daily travelers expected at NAIA during Holy Week

MANILA – Passenger influx at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is expected to reach 140,000 daily during the Holy Week, up from the current 120,000 at the country's main gateway, an official said Tuesday.

Bryan Co, Manila International Airport

Authority (MIAA) senior assistant general manager, said in a public briefing that many would want to enjoy the holidays as this is the first Holy Week since 2020 that domestic and international borders are open.

Passenger surge is expected to last until

May or the tailend of the hot dry season, Co said.

"We are almost at the pre-pandemic level. In 2019, we were processing around 48 million passengers (at the NAIA) annually. Last year, we had around 31 million passengers, and this

(Turn to p. 2)



other PhilHealth contributors who are still recovering from the pandemic.

He said under the measure, daily wage

earners and many employees, who comprise the majority of PhilHealth members, would save at least PHP50 a month or

PHP600 a year from their health insurance premium payment if the adjustment were suspended.

(Turn to p. 2)

this purpose.

Luistro, who authored House Bill No. 6089, which seeks to declare the Verde Island Passage (VIP) as an ecotourism zone, feared that contamination of this so called “most diverse marine ecosystem on Earth” is so imminent and something aggressive to clean up the approaching oil spill has to be done.

Already affected in Batangas are the towns

of Mabini, Bauan, Lobo, San Luis, San Pascual and Tingloy -- all municipalities in the 2nd district of the province represented by Luistro. It has already reached Oriental Mindoro and is now threatening the Verde Island Passage.

Marine experts and conservationists refer to the Verde Island Passage as the “center of the marine shore fish biodiversity”. It is in the

(Turn to p. 2)



Verde Island Passage (Photo courtesy of PCG)

Displaced Workers Assistance for Individuals in Crisis Situations (DSWD – AICS), among other government funds for

Development

HOUSE . . . Fr. p 1

Those earning more will naturally save more, he said.

Majority Leader Jose "Mannix" Dalipe, Senior Majority Leader and Ilocos Norte Rep. Ferdinand Alexander Marcos, and Representatives Yedda Marie Romualdez and Jude Acidre of party-list group Tingog Sinirangan co-authored the bill.

The authors said President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. himself has supported calls to defer this year's increase in PhilHealth premiums.

RA 11223 defines "direct contributors" as "those who have the capacity to pay premiums, are gainfully employed, and are bound by an employer-employee relationship, or are self-earning, professional practitioners, migrant workers, including their qualified dependents, and lifetime members."

The term "indirect contributors" refers to "all others not included as direct contributors, as well as their qualified dependents, whose premium shall be subsidized by the national government, including those who are

subsidized as a result of special laws."

The law also states that contributions will increase from 4 percent last year to 4.5 percent this year, or from the minimum monthly premium of PHP400 to PHP450. The rate will further go up to 5 percent starting next year.

Based on PhilHealth's computation for this year, they said those earning PHP10,000 and below would pay a premium of PHP450, those with an income of more than PHP10,000 up to PHP89,999.99 would contribute PHP450 to PHP4,050, while those making PHP90,000 or more would chip in PHP4,050.

"While PhilHealth only aims to fulfill and remain faithful to its mandate, imposing a higher premium on Filipinos in these current conditions where most of them are grappling with the pandemic will definitely enforce a new round of financial burden to its members," they said. (PNA)

BATANGAS... Fr. p. 1

heart of the Coral Triangle, which is located in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Timor-Leste. In it are 500 species of reef-building corals and one-third of all coral-reef fish species in the world. The Verde Island Passage is the most diverse marine ecosystem on earth.

According to Luistro, the Verde

Island Passage is not just a must-see destination for local and foreign tourists, especially for divers and marine enthusiasts as it is rich in marine life. It is likewise the main source of livelihood and fish catch of local and commercial fishermen, she added.

"After the Covid 19 pandemic, which closed our hotels, resorts and tourist destinations, resulting

year, we are expecting around 41 to 43 million passengers. So that's a big increase from the seven million passengers we had at the NAIA in 2021," he said.

Co said MIAA has enough manpower and is in close coordination with airlines and various agencies operating at the NAIA to avoid delays and manage the queues.

Additional closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras have been installed to help the management get clear views of congestion points and processing areas.

There are plans to put up more CCTV units to address possible incidents or complaints since recordings can be easily reviewed and serve as evidence against unscrupulous acts.

Co advised passengers to allot at least three to four hours prior to an international flight and at two hours before a domestic flight.

Travelers must also consider the traffic condition on the way to the airport and take advantage of the online payment system for travel tax to lessen the need to queue.

Help desks will be in the loss of thousands of jobs and livelihood, now comes the oil spill. We need everyone's help to clean up and contain this oil spill. We need to preserve this wealth of marine resources, highly diverse coral reefs,

placed across airport terminals where passengers could ask their concerns, he said. **Addressing congestion**

Co said that as part of the continuous initiative to address congestion at the NAIA, Terminal 2 will be made an all-domestic terminal by July 1.

Immigration officers assigned at Terminal 2 could then augment the manpower at Terminals 1 and 3 which will both cater to international flights.

By June 16, all remaining Philippine Airlines (PAL) international flights will be transferred to Terminal 1.

PAL has been the sole airline using Terminal 2 for its domestic and international flights.

Its flights to and from the United States, Canada and Middle East have been transferred to Terminal 1 since December 2022.

"By doing this, we are making the terminal design more efficient, and will increase the Terminal 2's capacity by 20 to 25 percent since this will be dedicated for domestic flights," he said. (PNA)

pristine waters, mangrove forests, seagrass meadows and coastal environs in the Verde Island Passage," said Luistro, who is also the vice chairperson of the House Committee on Tourism. (PNA)

Labor groups seek P1,140 minimum wage in NCR

MANILA – Several labor groups in Metro Manila on Tuesday asked the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board (RTWPB) - National Capital Region (NCR) to double the PHP570 minimum wage rate in the region.

"There is an urgent and compelling ground for the review of the last wage order and petitioners' (call) for the implementation of the living wage enumerated in this petition of PHP1,140. Wherefore, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed by the herein petitioners that the much-needed living wage in the region of PHP1,140 be implemented as the new minimum wage,"

organizations represented by the Unity for Wage Increase Now! (U4WIN) said in a wage hike petition. "The petition was made so that the workers/employees in the region can eventually enjoy to live in their appropriate living wage and to enjoy the fruit of their labor as embodied in the Philippine Constitution."

The wage hike petition was signed and supported by 25 national and local trade unions and workers organizations in Metro Manila.

They said it is time for a new wage hike since no wage order has been issued between

(Turn to p. 3)

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING
WEEKLY NEWSPAPER
raquel.caviteneews@gmail.com
09974094932/09329770888

RAQUEL M. MAGTIBAY
Publisher

JESSIE 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.

PAPERPI
EST. 2010

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.

Farmers will suffer if seized sugar given for free -- Palace

MANILA – The government has decided to sell confiscated smuggled sugar at affordable prices rather than give them out for free as this could result in an artificial drop in price that may affect small sugar farmers, Malacañang said yesterday.

In a statement, the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) confirmed that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. approved the recommendation of the Sugar Regulatory Authority (SRA) to sell confiscated smuggled sugar at PHP70 per kilo in Kadiwa stores.

Sugar is currently priced at around PHP86 to PHP110, based on the Department of Agriculture's (DA) latest price monitoring report

The PCO said Marcos also directed DA and SRA to coordinate with the Bureau of Customs (BOC) and other agencies to ensure that the confiscated sugar complies with current international standards for safety and quality.

Citing Sec. 1141 of the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act of 2016, the PCO said seized agricultural products such as confiscated sugar may be donated to another government agency or declared for official use, or sold at a public auction.

They may also be donated to the Department of Social Welfare and Development. The PCO, however, said doing so would lead prices of sugar to drop and harm the local sugar industry. "Naisin mang ipamigay ito ng libre direkta sa mga nangangailangan, kailangang isaalang-alang ang industriya ng asukal, kasama ang mga maliliit na magsasaka. Ang pagbigay ng libre ng mga asukal ay mageresulta sa artipisyal na pagbagsak ng presyo na ikalulugi ng mga kababayan nating nasa industriya ng asukal (Although we want to give it away for free directly to the needy, one has to consider the sugar industry, including the small farmers. Giving away sugar for free will result in an artificial drop in price that will cost our countrymen in the sugar industry)," the statement read.

The PCO said selling the seized sugar at a lower price was the best option available. "Ang Kadiwa Center ay programa ng



CHEAP SUGAR. White sugar is sold for PHP70 per kilo in a Kadiwa ng Pangulo center in this undated photo. The Kadiwa ng Pangulo pop-up stores remove middlemen in the movement of agricultural products from farms to consumers, allowing food and agricultural products to be sold at cheaper prices. (File photo)

DA. Isa sa mga layuning programang ito ay ang makapaghatid sa publiko ng mas abot-kayang mga pangunahing bilihan kumpara sa presyo sa mga karaniwang pamilihan (Kadiwa Center is program of the DA. One of the objectives of this program is to provide the public with more affordable basic goods compared to the price in the common markets)," the PCO said.

Launched in November last year, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo pop-up stores remove middlemen in the movement of agricultural products from farms to consumers, allowing food and agricultural products to be sold at cheaper prices. Kadiwa stalls were a branchchild of Marcos' parents, the late former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr. and former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos. Earlier, SRA board member and planters' representative Pablo Luis Azcona said a total of 12,000 metric tons

BFAR: Retain fishing ban in oil spill-affected areas, aid fishers

MANILA – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Tuesday recommended the continuous suspension of fishing activity in some oil spill-affected areas in Oriental Mindoro, alongside the sustenance of aid to fishers.

In a statement, the BFAR said it has conducted initial water and fish sample tests in Naujan, Pola, Pinamalayan, Bansud, Gloria, Roxas, Mansalay, Bongabong and Bulalacao.

"The DA (Department of Agriculture)-BFAR recommends the continuous suspension of fishing activities in the aforementioned areas in Oriental Mindoro for public safety. The bureau advises LGUs (local government units) concerned to heed this science-based recommendation," it said.

The BFAR's initial sampling showed there are oil and grease in water samples.

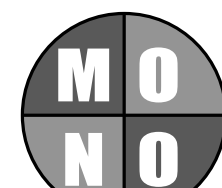
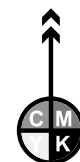
"Preliminary findings showed that traces of petroleum products, particularly oil, and grease, were detected in water samples — equivalent to <5 mg/L. The figure

(MT) of smuggled sugar can be sold at Kadiwa outlets. Of this number, at least 8,000 tons of

sugar were confiscated in Batangas while around 4,000 tons of sugar were seized in Subic. (PNA)

public safety and address the concerns of over 19,000 affected fisherfolk," it added. The DA-BFAR earlier turned over 10,000 canned goods, 5,000 noodles and a thousand 25-kg sacks of rice to the regional office of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan) intended to benefit around 5,000 families. However, the BFAR said it shall still determine the status of food safety of the sea foods considering the initial data is "not yet conclusive." This, as the BFAR shall continue to evaluate the situation, especially now that the oil spill reached other bodies of water in nearby provinces. "Further sampling and analyses are being conducted to establish time-series results on the effect of the oil spill on fish concerning food safety, taking into account the magnitude of the oil spill which has reached neighboring areas like Caluya, Antique and some municipalities of Palawan," the BFAR said. To date, fishing activities in Caluya, Antique are also halted following the spread of the oil spill. On Feb. 28, the MT Princess Empress sank off the coast of Naujan town which caused the leakage of oil to the waters of Oriental Mindoro and to its nearby provinces. (PNA)

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE



Divorce bill to make PH conform to global norm: solon

MANILA – The committee approval of the bill reinstating absolute divorce for plenary debates will put the country at the "threshold of joining the universality of absolute divorce in the community of nations", a lawmaker said on Tuesday.

Representative Edcel Lagman said the divorce bill will give spouses, especially wives, the option of getting out of an "irremediably broken marriage" and a chance to start over as the House Committee on Population and Family Relations gave its thumbs up to the proposal.

"While it is said that marriages are solemnized in heaven, the fact is some marriages plummet into hell because of human frailty and imperfections. The Divorce Act seeks to redeem couples, particularly the abused or abandoned wives, from infernal agony," Lagman said.

He noted that the proposed law would be for the exceptional circumstances of married couples who are "marooned in toxic, dysfunctional and even abusive marriages, particularly for wives who suffer the torment of irreversibly dead marriages."

"Divorce is not the worst thing that can happen to a family. Enduring years of physical violence, suffering emotional abuse, tolerating infidelity, allowing children to live in a hostile home and witness daily discord and constant conflict –

these are far worse than divorce," he said.

The bill provides that a divorce petition will undergo a judicial process where proof of the cause for the divorce is established and that the marriage has completely collapsed without any possibility of reconciliation.

Quickie, notarial, email and other speedy drive-thru divorces are prohibited, it added. There is a cooling-off period of 60 days after the filing of the divorce petition wherein the judge shall exert earnest efforts to reconcile the parties.

The public prosecutor is mandated to conduct an investigation to assure that there is no collusion between the parties or whether one party coerced the other to file the divorce petition.

At any time during the proceedings, if the parties agree to reconcile, the petition is dismissed. Even after

the issuance of an absolute divorce decree, when the parties decide to reconcile, the divorce decree shall be nullified, according to the proposed law.

The bill proposes harsh penalties for those who collude to secure a divorce decree or of one spouse coercing the other to file for divorce. The penalties consist of an indivisible punishment of five years imprisonment and a sizeable fine.

"Divorce is an option. An aggrieved party can seek in the proper cases annulment of marriage, legal separation or dissolution of marriage based on psychological incapacity under the Family Code, all of which are expensive and involve a lengthy process, unlike divorce which is mandated to be expeditious, reasonable, and inexpensive," Lagman said. (PNA)

101 of 191 cases recover from oil spill-related illnesses - DOH

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday reported 14 more individuals who were affected by the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro.

In a media briefing, DOH officer in charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said the dates of data collection were from March 2 to 20, 2023.

"Last week we had a total of 176 cases, ngayon po mayroon na po tayong total na (now we have a total of) 191

cases," she said. The most common symptoms among the cases include dermatological concerns, dizziness, respiratory issues and stomachache.

"We have 101 out of the 191 cases have recovered already from their symptoms pero 'yung iba po continuous ang monitoring natin (but we have continuous monitoring for others)," Vergeire said.

Pag-IBIG releases P53.76-B cash loans in 2022

MANILA – Pag-IBIG Fund disbursed PHP53.76 billion in cash loans, otherwise known as short-term loans, benefitting a record-high 2,612,491 members in 2022, agency officials reported Tuesday.

For 2022, the amount of short-term loans released by the agency increased by 21 percent or PHP9.46 billion compared to the PHP44.30 billion released in 2021.

With this amount, the number of members assisted through the program rose by 24 percent or more than half a million more than the 2,090,851 members in 2021.

"We at Pag-IBIG Fund exert all efforts in providing our members with assistance on their financial needs. We are happy to note that through our short-term loan program, we were able to aid more than 2.6 million Filipino workers gain added funds last year. All our efforts are in line with the call of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to provide the best service to the Filipino people," Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar, who heads the

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the 11-member Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said in a statement.

Pag-IBIG Fund's short-term loan program includes its multi-purpose loan (MPL) and calamity loan.

Under the Pag-IBIG MPL, qualified members can borrow up to 80 percent of their total Pag-IBIG Regular Savings, which consists of their monthly contributions, their employer's contributions, and accumulated dividends earned.

The calamity loan, on the other hand, is made available to members residing or working in areas declared under a state of calamity.

Of the total amount of cash loans released by the agency, PHP49.85 billion were in the form of Pag-IBIG MPLs, which helped 2,313,143 members, while PHP3.91 billion were in the form of calamity loans, which in turn aided 299,348 members.

Pag-IBIG Fund chief executive officer

Marilene Acosta cited the reliability and ease of access in availing the Pag-IBIG's MPL and calamity loan as the main drivers for its strong growth.

"We at Pag-IBIG Fund are aware that millions of our members rely on our MPL for their immediate financial needs and our calamity loan to help rebuild their lives. That is why we have made these loan programs more accessible and easier to avail for our members," Acosta said.

"Recently, our members can easily and conveniently apply for these loans through many channels, which include their employers, our more than 200 branches and services offices nationwide, or online via the virtual Pag-IBIG or the virtual Pag-IBIG mobile app. What's more, we also have our Lingkod Pag-IBIG On Wheels, which are currently going around the country, ready to receive loan applications from members, particularly those from underserved and calamity-stricken areas." (PR)

specimen tests have been conducted by concerned agencies.

Last Feb. 28, MT Princess Empress, a tanker carrying 800,000 liters of industrial oil capsized and caused a spill in the waters of Oriental Mindoro. (PNA)

Only one case was hospitalized due to exacerbation of asthma during the first week of the oil spill.

The case was discharged a day after admission to the hospital.

Air quality monitoring, water sampling and oil

Ang masayang puso ay mabisang gamot, Pero ang pagkasira ng loob ay nakaubos ng lakas.

The Committee on Finance, Budget, and Appropriations holds a budget preparation seminar-workshop for LGUs.

In order to help the local government units advance in the alignment and preparation of programs and budget, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Cavite, together with the Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Budget Office, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Cavite Province Association of Local Budget Officers,



League of Local Planning & Development Coordinators of the Philippines, Inc., held a Seminar-Workshop on Annual Investment and Local Expenditure Programs Preparation last March 15, 2023 at Twin Lakes Hotel, Tagaytay-Nasugbu Highway, Laurel, Batangas.

At the beginning of the activity, Engr. Mildred Purification, President of LLPDCPI, acknowledged the presence of guests and participants from the cities and municipalities in the province of Cavite. Hon. Aidel Paul Belamide, 5th District Board Member and Chair of Committee on Finance, Budget, & Appropriations, then delivered a welcome remark saying "We hope that this event would be fun, engaging and enjoyable for all of us."

8th District Board Member Hon. Irene Bencito thanked everyone for their time and effort in attending such an important activity to help local government units in undertaking financial planning and providing effective and efficient public services for the benefit of their people. "Ang mga gawaing ito ay para sa ating probinsya, gagawin natin ito para sa pag-unlad," she outlined. (AIP preparation)

Onion Harvest in Cavite



The Office of the Provincial Agriculturist led by its Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Lorna Aviñante with Asst. Provincial Agriculturist, Ms. Ana Pamela Nova, spearheaded the first Onion Harvest Festival at the Techno-Demo farm for Onion Production located in Brgy. Biga, Tanza, Cavite owned by farmer cooperater, Mr. Edwin Ferrer.

OPA team conducted a crop cut activity to gather data which will provide information on the growth and yield performance of the two varieties planted in the area – the Chia Tai Red Thunder and the East West Super Pinoy.

A short program was participated by the local farmers from Tanza and



Free health services in Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias City, Cavite

Last March 17, 2023, the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension provided free health services to three hundred eighty-four (384) adults and children in Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias City, Cavite. Services include medical consultations and provision of maintenance medicines, multivitamins and vitamin C supplement.

Medical team from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital composed of Dr. Mat Roderno, Dr. Ma. Theresa Y. De Rama, and Dr. Rieynna O. Guerra rendered the free consultations and check-up.

The outreach event was successfully accomplished with the assistance of Barangay Kagawad Edna Reyes, SK Kagawad Joemar Martinez, Barangay Health Workers and organizations including Alpha Epsilon, Alpha Kappa Rho and CFCGI. They were led by Barangay Chairman Walter Tey Martines who also sponsored a feeding program.

LABOR... FR. P. 2

November 2019 and June 2022.

"Notedly, the NCR wage board did not issue a wage order in the region for more than two years," they said.

Another petition filed in December 2022 by the Kapatiran ng mga Unyon at Samahang Manggagawa (Kapatiran) is pushing for a PHP100 wage

hike. Meanwhile, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma sees nothing wrong if multiple wage petitions have been filed before the wage boards.

"The RTWPB (is not prevented) from looking at the petition and rule accordingly on the basis of existing circumstances and

justification being advanced by the petitioner," he said in a phone interview. "The general rule is only one minimum wage adjustment can be granted in a given year.

The latest wage increase approved by the NCR wage board was in May 2022, which took effect the following month. (PNA)

farmers' organizations from nearby municipalities. They were joined by guests from the Department of Agriculture Region IV-A headed by Engr. Redeliza Grueso, Regional HVCDP Focal Person, Mr. Domingo Austria, OIC-Tanza Municipal Agriculturist, Councilor Emilio Torres, Chairperson-Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries, and Mr. Felix Joselito H. Noceda, of Agricultural Program Coordinating Office – Cavite.

The techno-demo for onion production was a collaboration project among the farmer-cooperator, the Cavite Farmers' Association, OPA, and the private companies that provided the seeds and fertilizer. CFA purchased the Red Thunder seeds from Chia Tai Corp. while the Super Pinoy variety was purchased by Mr. Edwin Ferrer. OPA provided technical assistance and vermicast while Gemini Agri-Farm Solutions Corp. company provided free foliar fertilizer. These partner private companies likewise provided technical assistance in monitoring the growth of the onions.

Other techno-demo farms for onion production in Cavite are located in the municipalities of Silang, General Mariano Alvarez and Maragondon. --PICAD