

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXV NO. 36
ISSN: 2651-7450

DECEMBER 19- 25, 2024 P10.00

DA to launch cheaper, healthier rice

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to sell healthier and cheaper rice options called “Sulit” and “Nutri” rice in 2025.

In a recent interview, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said both options would be available in Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) stores to benefit more Filipinos.

The “sulit” rice, which

is 100 percent broken but white, will be sold at PHP35 per kg. to PHP36/kg. while “nutri” rice, which is neither white nor brownish local rice, will be sold at PHP36/kg to PHP37/kg.

“Pero yung (But) 100 percent broken comes from the good variety of rice, imported rice yan (that’s imported rice). Pero siyempre, kung may (But of

course, if there will be local sources, we may buy local,” Tiu Laurel said.

“Available na siya dito sa importer and kinakain namin sa DA ngayon iyan, masarap siya, puting-puti (It’s already available here from importers and we at the DA are eating it. It’s delicious, it’s really white).”

The DA chief, meaning

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NCSC urged to ensure amended Centenarians Law implemented by Jan.

MANILA – Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. on Wednesday urged the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) to ensure the implementation of Republic Act 11982 or the Expanded Centenarians Act by January 2025.

Under the law, elders will receive PHP10,000 upon reaching the ages of 80, 85, 90, and 95 which should be claimed from NCSC within one year after

reaching the milestone age.

Centenarians, or those who reach 100 years old after the law takes effect, will continue to receive a one-time cash gift of PHP100,000.

“The NCSC must not fail to implement this immediately. I trust they won’t disappoint our lolos (grandfathers) and lolas (grandmothers) who have been waiting for this since March,” Revilla

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CENTENARIAN GIFT. A Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) staff turns over PHP100,000 to a centenarian at the Pagudpud municipal hall in Ilocos Norte on March 19, 2024. Senator Ramon Revilla Jr. on Wednesday (Dec. 18, 2024) urged the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) to ensure the implementation of Republic Act 11982 or the Expanded Centenarian Law by January 2025. (Photo courtesy of the Pagudpud LGU)

PH enhances cooperation with host nations for OFWs' protection

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday assured overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) of his administration's steadfast commitment to strengthen the Philippines' cooperation with host countries to

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MEETING WITH OFWS. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., accompanied by First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, leads the hosting of “Pamaskong Handog Para sa Pamilyang Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)” at Malacañang Palace in Manila on Tuesday (Dec. 17, 2024). The Christmas gathering was held to honor the OFWs and their families. (Photo from MPC Pool)



CHEAPER, HEALTHIER RICE. Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretaries Arnel De Mesa (left) and Genevieve Guevarra inspect the PHP45 per kg. well-milled rice and PHP42/kg. regular rice at the Mega Q Mart in Quezon City on Nov. 11, 2024. The Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to sell cheaper and healthier rice options, called “sulit rice” and “nutri rice,” in 2025. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)

Cavite bettor bags P55-M Grand Lotto jackpot

MANILA – Christinas came early for a lone bettor from Cavite province who bagged the PHP55 million jackpot of Monday night's Grand Lotto 6/55 draw.

In an advisory Tuesday, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) said the winning ticket bearing the lucky numbers 21-40-15-55-10-54 was bought in Trece Martínez City.

The total jackpot prize is PHP55,648,009.00. Meanwhile, seven others won PHP100,000 each for hitting five out of the six winning numbers; and 499 bettors will get PHP1,500 each for getting four correct numbers and 11,104 bettors will get PHP60.

The winners have one year from the date of

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while, said that he's also consuming the nutri-type of rice, which he said he personally prefers due to its health benefits.

"To be honest with you, sa bahay ko, yan ang kinakain namin kasi mas okay. Ako, diabetic ako. When I eat it, hindi nagsa-spike ang sugar ko (At home, that is what we are consuming because it's better. I'm diabetic. When I eat it, my sugar level does not spike). Then, it's more filling," Tiu Laurel said.

Unlike the typical retail rice, which undergoes the "three pass" milling process, the nutri rice is only subject to one pass.

"Iyong pag three pass na yan, nawawala lahat ng minerals, nutrients, plus fiber, nawawala iyan. Sa one pass, lahat ng nutrients and fiber nandyan pa rin (In the three pass, all minerals, nutrients, plus fiber are gone. But in one pass, the nutrients and fiber are still there)," Tiu Laurel said.

It also poses a higher milling recovery of 78 percent, higher than the 63 percent recovery from the three pass milling of palay.

The DA is set to launch the sale of "sulit rice" in January and the "nutri rice" by mid-2025.

Cheaper rice for all

The DA is likewise set to use its PHP5 billion worth of approved fund for the KNP.

"I just found out na lumabas na iyong letter (the letter has been released) from the OP (Office of the President) allowing us to use the PHP5 billion for Rice for All at

P29," Tiu Laurel said.

"So, starting January, sabi ko (I said), latest Jan. 15, we will be buying rice from the traders, the farmers, farmer cooperatives, from the importers, and sell it through the Kadiwang Pangulo at hopefully PHP38, PHP39," he added, citing lower price target that the usual price of Rice for All in KNPs.

The Rice for All refers to the sale of PHP40/kg. mixed local and imported commercial well-milled rice; while the P29 is the sale of the aging but good quality stocks of National Food Authority (NFA) rice at PHP29/kg. to the vulnerable sector, including members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), senior citizens, solo parents, and persons with disabilities (PWDs).

Of the PHP5 billion, the DA earlier said it would allocate about PHP3 billion for Rice for All; PHP1.5 billion for P29 or the sale of PHP29/kg. of aging but good quality stocks of rice from the National Food Authority (NFA) for the disadvantaged sector; and PHP500 million for rehabilitation of warehouses and logistics cost.

To date, the DA targets to operationalize 170 KNP Centers and kiosks before the year ends, 300 by mid-2025, and 1,500 before the Marcos term ends.

To date, some KNP Centers and kiosks are operating in public markets and LRT and MRT stations in Metro Manila. (PNA)

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protect their rights and welfare.

Marcos made the vow, as he recognized the OFWs' contributions to the country's economy and sacrifice to give their families a better future.

"Upang masiguro na protektado at ligtas na naninirahan ang eating mga kapwa Pilipino sa ibayong dagat, mas pinapaigting din naming ang kooperasyon at pagkakaroon ng mabuting relasyon sa iba't ibang mga bansa (To ensure that our fellow Filipinos overseas live protected and safe, we are also strengthening cooperation and good relations with various countries)," he said during the Pamaskong Handog Para sa Pamilyang OFW at Malacañan Palace in Manila.

Marcos said the government will continue to implement programs aimed at improving the lives of the OFWs and their families, including scholarship grants for their children and livelihood assistance for returning migrant workers.

He also mentioned the recent inauguration of the Bagong Pilipinas Cancer Care Center of the OFW Hospital in the City of San Fernando, Pam-

panga, and the establishment of the OFW lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

"Narito kami upang isulong ang inyong mga karapatan at upang tugunan ang inyong mga pangangailangan, Narito ang ating Department of Migrant Workers, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), kasama ang iba't ibang sangay ng ating pamahalaan, kasama ang konsulada at embahada sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mundo upang siguruhin ang kapakanan ng ating mga OFW, kasama na ang skanilang mga pamilya (We are here to promote your rights and meet your needs. Here is our Department of Migrant Workers, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, together with the various branches of our government, along with consulates and embassies in various parts of the world to ensure the welfare of our OFWs, including their families)," Marcos said.

Marcos also hailed the OFWs' talent, compassion, and dedication to work, saying their values have helped shape the country's good image.

"Kaya napakaganda

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said in a news release.

"We ensured funding for this in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) or the 2025 National Budget. I coordinated with the Department of Budget and Management to secure the funds. Now, it's up to the NCSC to implement it and make sure no senior is left behind," he said.

The senator noted that approximately 200,000 senior citizens

stand to benefit from the law.

Early this month, the NCSC announced that senior citizens who turned 80, 85, 90, or 95 from March 17, 2024, or when RA 11982 became effective, until Dec. 31, 2024 may start their application.

However, their names would still be placed on the waiting list until the funds are released next year. (PNA)

ang naging reputasyon natin. Hindi ko na kailangang ipagmalaki ang Pilipinas. Ang mundo ang nagmamalaki sa Pilipino sa akin. Kayo ang naging katunayan na kayang-kayang makipagsabayan ng mga Pilipino sa talent, sa talino, sa husay ng mga pinakamagagaling sa mundo (That's why our reputation has become so good. I don't need to be proud of the Philippines. The world is proud of Filipinos, to me. You are proof that Filipinos can compete with the talent, the intelligence, the skill of the best in the world)," he said.

"Higit pa Riyan, ang tulong na inyong binabalik sa ating bansa sa pamamagitan nang pagpapadala ng mga remittance ay talaga naming hindi mapapantay (More than that, the help you give back to our country through your remittances is truly incomparable)," Marcos added.

Around 500 OFWs and their families went to Malacañan for the annual Pamaskong Handog para sa Pamilyang OFWs, which was expected to be a festive event.

During the event, Marcos presented certificates of recognition to several OFWs and led the ceremonial turnover of housing units under the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Program to five OFW beneficiaries.

Fifty beneficiaries also received financial assistance under the Livelihood Program for OFW Reintegration to enable to jumpstart their own small business as their reintegrate into their community upon returning to the country.

Noche Buena packages for the families and backpack bags for the OFWs' children were also given during the event. (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.**



Governor Athena Tolentino leads Women's Welfare Program in Tanza and Indang

Cavite Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino led a successful Women's Welfare Program recently, held in the municipalities of Tanza and Indang. The initiative, aimed at empowering and supporting women in the community, provided ₱2,000 in financial assistance to each beneficiary.

The program was made even more impactful with the support of 7th District Representative Ping Remulla, Board Member Abeng Remulla, and local officials. In Tanza, the event was joined by Vice Mayor SM Matro and the Sangguniang Bayan members, while in Indang, Mayor Perfecto Fidel and the municipal council extended their full support.

Governor Tolentino, in her address, emphasized the critical role of women in community development and reiterated her administration's commitment to ensuring programs that uplift and empower them.

Vice Mayor Matro and Mayor Fidel lauded the program for its immediate impact on their constituents, expressing gratitude to the provincial government and the 7th District leaders for their unwavering support.

The Women's Welfare Program stands as a testament to the provincial government's dedication to inclusive growth and the empowerment of women across Cavite, fostering resilience and unity within the community.---OPIO

Presentation and Discussion of Local Shelter Plan – Provincial Level

The Provincial Housing Development and Management Office (PHDMO) successfully hosted the Presentation and Discussion of Local Shelter Plan – Provincial Level on December 18, 2024, at the Ceremonial Hall of the old Provincial Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Attended by representatives of the Provincial Urban Development and Housing Board of the province of Cavite, the event provided an overview of what local shelter planning is and how to go about the process of crafting the Provincial Shelter Plan with insights from experts and actual experiences at the provincial level.

A Technical Orientation on Local Shelter Plan was provided by EnP. Lowieann Hinanay of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development Bureau, giving participants insights on what the plan is, its legal bases and the different components of the plan, as an introduction to the processes that the provincial board will undertake in the future.

For a more concrete presentation of the processes in the preparation of Provincial Shelter Plan, resource speakers from the Housing and Homesite Affairs Division for the Provincial Government of Batangas shared their experiences and milestones. Mr. Job Mario Balita, Housing and Homesite Regulation Officer II, and Ms. Carmina Jozcel Macaraig, Housing and



Governor Athena Tolentino's Women's Welfare Program Brings Hope and Smiles to the Women of Naic

In a significant step toward uplifting women in the community, the Municipality of Naic hosted the Women's Welfare Program on December 16, 2024, aimed at providing financial support and empowerment to local residents.

Held at the municipal grounds, the program distributed ₱2,000 cash assistance to 2,000 women, showcasing a strong commitment to fostering economic resilience and promoting gender equality within the community.

The event was attended by 8th District Congresswoman Aniela Tolentino, who emphasized the importance of empowering women as a way to build stronger, more inclusive communities and invest in the future of society.

Local government officials, community leaders, and beneficiaries praised the initiative for addressing the practical needs of women in Naic. The program serves as a clear demonstration of the provincial government's dedication to advancing women's welfare by providing vital resources and creating opportunities for a better quality of life.--- OPIO



Homesite Regulation Officer III, presented the Province of Batangas' Local Shelter Plan, offering a practical perspective on housing initiatives and policies.

Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent T. Bae also graced the program in full support of the initiative of the province to prepare for the housing and other basic services needs of the people of Cavite taking into consideration growing population as a result of continuous development and migration.

The discussion provided a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange, reinforcing the Provincial Government of Cavite's commitment to addressing housing challenges and ensuring the provision of safe, affordable, and resilient homes for its residents.

PHDMO head Ms. Karen Camañag-Tupas expressed her gratitude to all participants and resource speakers for their valuable contributions and insights, which will undoubtedly guide Cavite in formulating effective shelter strategies in the years to come.--- OPIO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 90
DASMARINAS CITY, CAVITE

File No. FC-DC-1534-24
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE
CORPORATION (NHMFC),

Mortgagee,

-versus-

JULITA S. BUENAVENTURA MARRIED TO
MOISES M. BUENAVENTURA,

Mortgagor,

X-----X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 by the petitioner/mortgagee, **NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC)**, a government owned and controlled corporation created under PD. No. 1267, with postal address at 104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against mortgagors, **JULITA S. BUENAVENTURA MARRIED TO MOISES M. BUENAVENTURA** with postal address at (1) Lot 25 Blk. 76 Cithomes-Dasmariñas PH-IV, BO., Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite and (2) Villa Catalina, Gate II and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of **SEPTEMBER 30, 2024** amounts to **SIX HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY PESOS AND 22/100 (PhP 643,370.22)**, exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **JANUARY 14, 2025** 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. 447014**

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

A parcel of land (Lot 25, Blk. 76 of the subd. plan Psd-04-053094, being a portion of lot 6191, Imus xxxx (Rs-04-000059), L.R.C. Rec No.), situated in the Bo. of Burol, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite, Is. of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., A along line 1-2 by lot 24; on the NW., along line 2-3 by lot 23, both of Blk. 76; on the NE., along line 3-4 by Rd. lot 35 and on the SE., along line 4-1 by lot 27, Blk. 76, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a pt marked "1" on plan, being N. 34 deg. 37'E., 2453.56 m. from Mon. No. 153, Imus Estate; thence N. 74 deg. 43'W., 4.00 m. to pt. 2; thence N. 15 deg 17'E., 9.5W. m. to pt. 3; thence S. 74 deg. 43'E., 4.00 m to pt. 4; thence S. 15 deg. 17'E., 9.50 m. to the pt. of beginning, containing an area of **THIRTY EIGHT (38) SQUARE METERS**. All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S. cyl. conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings true; date of orginal survey; July 27, 1905-June 11 1908 and that of the subd. survey; Sept. 10, 1991-Jan. 10, 1992 and was approved on Feb. 10, 1992.

is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of **JULITA S. BUENAVENTURA, married to MOISES M. BUENAVENTURA**, both of legal ages, Pilipino.

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 that the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **JANUARY 28, 2025**, at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Cavite, December 3, 2024.

ARLYN P. BARCELON
Sheriff IV

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

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: December 12, 19, & 26, 2024
Raffle Date of Judicial Notices: Nov. 15, 2024

Cavite provincial government honors excellence in service at 2024 PRAISE Awards

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) shone a spotlight on public service excellence during the 2024 Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Awarding Ceremony, held recently, at The Bayleaf Cavite, General Trias City. Spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Human Resource and Management Officer (OPHRMO), under the leadership of Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin, the event celebrated the invaluable contributions of Cavite's public servants in driving the province's success.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Rodel Vincent T. Bae, Provincial Administrator, commended the dedication of the awardees, emphasizing that Cavite's distinction as one of the leading provinces in the country is a testament to the collective efforts of its workforce. He added that Cavite's achievements are built on the commitment of every individual member of the PGC.

Recognizing Transformative Public Service, Mr. Jeffrey C. Cruz, Director of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Cavite Field Office, highlighted the transformative power of dedicated public service. Addressing the awardees, he emphasized that every act of commitment, no matter how small, contributes to the greater good and.

Mr. Cruz also awarded the CNA Certificate to the PGCEA Officers, led by Ms. Michelle Osorio, PGCEA President.

The event recognized 85 employees across four service categories: 14 recipients from 0-15 Years of Service; 29 recipients for 16-30 Years of Service; 12 recipients for 31-40 Years of Service; and, 11 recipients for 41 Years and above. Additionally, 10 posthumous awards were given to honor the enduring legacies of departed employees.

Awardees received plaques of appreciation, grocery packs, and cash incentives ranging from ₱5,000 to ₱20,000, with posthumous awardees receiving ₱20,000 as a heartfelt tribute to their contributions.

Exemplary offices were also honored for their commitment to organizational excellence through the Good Housekeeping Awards. Under Category I, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, Office of the Provincial Youth Development Officer, and Office of the Provincial Budget Officer were awarded. For Category II, the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, and Cavite Provincial Jail were recognized. For Category III, the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan bagged the award, and lastly, under Category IV, the Cavite Municipal Hospital was recognized. The awards for the Good Housekeeping were received by the respective heads of departments and units.



In her closing message, Ms. Maria Fe M. Satsatin expressed her gratitude to Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino, Vice Governor Shernan Jaro, Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent T. Bae, department heads, the secretariat, committees, and the Office of the Provincial Information Officer (OPIO) led by Ms. Denesse S. Cajulis, for their unwavering support in making the PRAISE activities successful.

"The services rendered by our awardees will remain in our hearts as a testament to Cavite's culture of excellence in governance," Ms. Satsatin said.

The ceremony concluded with a renewed commitment to fostering innovation, collaboration, and dedication in public service, as Cavite continues to set the benchmark for excellence across the nation."---OPIO



PGC Health Outreach Program extends in Noveleta

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, in coordination with the Noveleta Rural Health Unit (RHU), successfully conducted a medical and dental mission at the Noveleta Medicare Hospital on December 10, 2024.

The outreach program provided free healthcare services to a total of 289 beneficiaries, including 227 recipients of medical consultations and treatments, as well as 62 dental extractions. The initiative aimed to ensure accessible healthcare services for the residents of Noveleta, especially those in need.

The event was made even more significant with the presence and support of Mayor Denver Chua, who expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for their commitment to public health. This mission reflects the shared goal of prioritizing the well-being of the constituents.

The medical and dental mission highlights the provincial government's dedication to strengthening healthcare access across Cavite. Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino continues to champion health programs that address the needs of the community.---OPIO

Copy furnished
**NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE
FINANCE CORPORATION (NHMFC)**
104 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

**JULITA S. BUENAVENTURA MARRIED TO
MOISES M. BUENAVENTURA**
(1) LOT 25 BLK. 76 Cithomes-Dasmariñas PH-IV, BO., Burol, Dasmariñas, Cavite
(2) Villa Catalina, Gate II

Notice posted at:

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

PRC to open more testing centers in CALABARZON by 2025

LUCENA CITY (PIA) – The Professional Regulatory Commission (PRC) in CALABARZON is set to open additional testing centers in 2025 to accommodate the growing number of Filipinos taking board and licensure exams.

Reynaldo Cristobal, PRC IV-A Regional Director, stated that the city government of Lipa, Batangas expressed interest in hosting licensure examinations to support the commission's efforts to bring their services closer to the Southern Tagalog area.

"We are targeting to open additional testing centers in 2025. In fact, the city government of Lipa requested to be considered [as



a site]. I have met with the Mayor [Eric Afrika] of Lipa City and he signified the intention to host the examination in their city."

Once operational, the Lipa City satellite office will serve as a venue for licensure examinations for criminologists, nurses, and professional teachers.

Currently, PRC IV-A conducts licensure exams in Lucena City, Quezon, to accommodate examinees from CALABARZON and neighboring regions.

In addition, the PRC IV-A has established service centers in Dasmariñas City, Cavite and Santa Rosa City, Laguna. (PB/PIA4A)

CICC warns public vs. paid SIM registration services

MANILA – The Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) warned the public on Tuesday against using paid subscriber identity module (SIM) registration services found on social media.

In a statement, CICC Executive Director Alexander Ramos said there is a proliferation of "dubious social media accounts" that offer SIM registration services for a minimal fee.

He said third parties offering such services might use personal information for other purposes.

"The SIM registration process is not that complicated and



File photo

there is no need to hire a third party to do it for you. Do not be deceived by those offering to register your SIM," Ramos said.

He reminded mobile users to register their SIM cards personally with their networks, which require government-issued identification and selfie.

One social media page offering a paid SIM registration

service was named "DITO Telecommunity Corporation."

However, mobile service provider DITO disowned the social media account.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed Republic Act 11934 or the SIM Registration Act on Oct. 10, 2022. It took effect on Dec. 27, 2022.

As of July 30, 2023, there are 113,969,014

Make way for eLBeep microbus, UPLB's new green transport service

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) – Another eco-friendly transportation initiative was launched to promote green mobility inside the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) campus.

Known as eLBeep or Electric Light Bus for the Environment and Economy Partnership, the solar-powered electric microbus will transport students and the public along two key routes in-campus namely: the UPLB Loop and UPLB-UPRHS-Juvileeville route.

According to Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs Roberto Cereno, eLBeep is part of the university's Green Mobility Initiative (GMI) which aims to foster a green academic community and promote an alternative mode of transportation aligned with UPLB's future-proofing goal.

"This is what we are talking about, concrete action. At our level, this is the concrete action for sustainability because we are marching towards a green transport mode for our transport system. Transportation that is not reliant on fossil fuels but powered by renewable energy, so that we don't contribute to carbon emissions," he added.

Cereno said eLBeep was a product of extensive coordination between UPLB, the Land Transportation



The official launch of eLBeep was spearheaded by UPLB Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Vice Chancellor for Community Affairs Roberto P. Cereno, Climate Change Commission (CCC) Secretary Robert E. A. Borje, Laguna Provincial Administrator Atty. Dulce H. Rebanal, Los Baños Vice Mayor Josephine Sumangil-Evangelista, Assemblepoint Philippines Inc. Founder and CEO Takashi Miyashita, along with representatives from SNODLOB. (CO/PIA-4A)

Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), the Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Drivers at Operators ng Los Baños (SNODLOB), UP Rural High School and the local government of Los Baños.

He added additional eLBeep units will be deployed to accommodate more commuting students and passengers.

The microbuses will complement UPLB's current fleet of Tipaklong e-bikes and e-scooters that are currently in use for campus hopping.

During the eLBeep launch, Climate Change Commission Secretary Robert E.A. Borje emphasized the need for climate action to address global envi-

HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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VOL. XXV NO. 36

DECEMBER 19-25, 2024 P10.00

DOT fêtes top tourism industry players in Calabarzon region

LAUREL, Batangas (PIA) – The Department of Tourism (DOT) feted tourism industry players in the Calabarzon region through the Philippine Tourism Awards and Calabarzon Tourism Excellence Awards.

Considered as the highest and most prestigious citation in Philippine tourism, the PTA is part of the DOT's initiative to honor local government units, academe, private companies, and other stakeholders that have shown excellence in the development and promotion of the country's tourism sector.

According to DOT Regional Director Marites Castro, the PTA has two main categories: the Tourism Pillar Awards, which provide special recognition to individuals, enterprises, and destinations that have contributed to the Philippine tourism industry and the 50-year establishment of the Philippine Department of Tourism.

“Giving recognition plays a crucial role because it inspires people to strive more, it also changes their outlook when it comes to tourism. While some may think that tourism is easy, it actually



requires commitment, dedication, and the collaborative effort, especially from our LGUs,” Castro said.

On the other hand, the Tourism Industry Awards is a national recognition for both private and public sectors involved in the development and promotion of the Philippine tourism industry, further categorized into institutional, individual, media and tourism product.

Hailed as the Tourism Destination of the Year, Calamba City through its Cultural Affairs, Tourism and Sports Development Department (CATSDD) Head Karla Boholano said the local government recognizes the distinction as a testament to their relentless efforts in promoting the city's cultural heritage.

“It is an honor, a great privilege for the local government of Calamba, under the

leadership of our Mayor Ross Rizal. This is a proof that we continue to uplift the tourism industry in the city of Calamba,” she added.

Boholano said that when they were invited to join the PTA, they set their sights on heritage tourism and improved its health and wellness tourism sector to boost Calamba's claim as the hot spring resorts capital of the Philippines.

In addition to Calamba, the city of Biñan was also awarded as the Tourism Destination of the Year for its efforts in promoting the importance of embracing culture and heritage as a foundation for a progressive future.

Overall, 24 LGUs, hotels, resorts, and companies in the Calabarzon region have received PTA distinctions from the DOT Region IV-A. (CO/PIA-4A)

MPTC to Fortify Efforts in Promoting Safer Roads for Children

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) continues its commitment to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through its tollway operations by integrating child rights and road safety into its core initiatives.

Over the years, its business units — NLEX, MPT South, CCLEC, and MPT Mobility — have launched impactful programs, educational campaigns, and partnerships aimed at fostering a brighter future for young generations. “As a company and as individuals dedicated to fostering economic and social development in our communities while minimizing our environmental impact, we stand united with various socio-civic organizations and the private sector to further this mission. Together, we strive to uphold children's rights — ensuring they are heard, empowered, and provided with a safe and healthy environment. At MPTC, our goal is to create safer roads for our children, enabling them to pursue their future and lead healthy, happy, and productive lives,” stated Atty. Cynthia Casino, Chief Corporate Governance and Head of Sustainability at MPTC.

In line with MPTC Group's road safety efforts, NLEX Corporation launched a picture book titled “Ang Bida ng Kalsada” at the National Library of the Philippines to educate young minds on the values of responsible road usage. Featuring



engaging stories and illustrations, the book aims to teach children about road safety. NLEX Corp. has distributed 2,000 copies to Grades 3-6 students in 20 public schools within its host communities and to other organizations.

MPT South also launched an updated version of its “Bayani ng Kalsada” (Bayani Ka) book that teaches kids about road signs and familiarizes them with road safety, both in and out of expressways. The book has reached over 1,000 students, with over 420 copies of the updated book donated to participating schools, various libraries, and institutions.

On November 20, MPTC lit several of its key structures in blue to demonstrate its commitment to creating safer roads for children in celebration of World Children's Day. These structures included NLEX Corporation's headquarters in Balintawak, Caloocan; the NLEX Drive and Dine motorists' rest stop in Valenzuela; MPT South's LEED Gold-Certified South Hub in Imus City, Cavite; and the iconic Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway in Cebu. As part of this initiative, MPTC also

echoed the message of this year's World Children's Day by utilizing its expressway network assets through billboards that promote road safety for children and highlighting its shared commitment to provide a safer and empowered future for them. This message was also replicated on its online channels with the help of its business units.

MPTC took a significant stride this year to further integrate Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) across its organization and reinforce its commitment to child rights and safety. The company held a four-day workshop in partnership with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC), with key representatives from its sister companies PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc. To fortify its efforts, the organization is also preparing for its initiative to conduct a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) in 2025. MPTC Group's campaigns on child road safety have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Department of Health's Healthy Pilipinas Gold Award, the Asia CEO Awards, and the prestigious ESG Business Awards 2024.