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DSWD vows to keep social aid politics-free ahead of 2025 polls

LUCENA CITY (PIA) — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Calabarzon has assured the public that its social protection programs will remain free from political influence, especially ahead of the 2025 national elections.

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Senator lauds efforts to ease rice, pork prices, urges tighter checks

MANILA — Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday lauded efforts of the Marcos administration to ease the prices of rice and pork, as he emphasized the need for these decreases to benefit consumers directly.

“The expected reduction in rice and pork prices is welcome news for consumers, offering much-needed relief after months of elevated commodity

prices,” Gatchalian said in a statement.

On Wednesday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said rice prices have been dropping since December 2024.

This is attributed to the sharp tariff reduction on rice imports ordered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., various DA programs such as the Rice for All under the Kadiwa ng Pangulo, and the declaration of

a food security emergency that allowed the National Food Authority (NFA) to release its rice stocks to local government units.

Meanwhile, the retail prices of pork may start to drop in the middle of March due to a decline in farmgate prices, the cooperation of pork industry traders and retailers, and the expected implementation of a maximum suggested retail price

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EASING PRICES. Rice varieties sell from PHP40 to PHP65 per kilo at a retail store in San Andres, Manila, on Feb. 4, 2025. Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Thursday (March 6) lauded efforts of the Marcos administration to ease the prices of rice and pork to allow Filipino families to allocate more of their hard-earned income to other basic necessities. (PNA file photo by Yancy Lim)

102 senior citizens in Imus receive cash gifts

CITY OF IMUS, Cavite (PIA) — A total of 102 senior citizens in the City of Imus, Cavite, received cash gifts from the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) under the Expanded Centenarians Act of 2024 on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The cash gift distribution was part of a nationwide simultaneous event, with the main ceremony held at Malacañang Palace.

At least 51 senior citizens aged 80; 33 aged 85; 12 aged 90; and five aged 95 each received P10,000. Meanwhile, the lone



centenarian, Nanay Apolinaria Sapinoso, who passed away three days after her birthday, was represented by her daughter, Marissa Sapinoso Alejo, who

received the P100,000 cash gift from the NCSC.

The NCSC emphasized that this initiative is a small but heartfelt recognition of the gov-

ernment for the sacrifices and valuable contributions of senior citizens to the community, ensuring they receive sufficient support and care.

“The cash gift distributed today is a small yet heartfelt recognition from our government for your sacrifices and valuable contributions to our community. More than just financial assistance, we want to ensure that you receive adequate support and care,” the NCSC said in a statement.

The Imus City Government expressed gratitude to the national government and NCSC officials

for choosing the City of Imus as one of the first recipients of the Expanded Centenarians Act of 2024. They noted that all required documents were submitted in an organized manner, complying with NCSC requirements.

Senior citizens and their families also extended their gratitude to the government for the financial gift.

Marissa, daughter of centenarian Nanay

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(MSRP) for pork by March 10.

However, Gatchalian said the government must ensure that the price reductions are fully reflected at the retail level, "to allow Filipino families to allocate more of their hard-earned income to other basic necessities."

He urged the DA and the Department of Trade and Industry to intensify price monitoring efforts and crackdown on unfair market practices, in-

Gov't focusing efforts on early childhood dev't, education – Palace

MANILA – The government is prioritizing efforts to improve early childhood development as part of the thrust to uplift the country's overall educational standards.

In a press briefing in Malacañang Thursday, Presidential Communications Undersecretary and Palace Press Officer Claire Castro responded to concerns raised about the state of education in the Philippines.

This follows the viral social media story involving a noontime show contestant, who admitted she lacked knowledge about the Commission on Elections.

Many social media users have suggested that this incident highlighted a broader education crisis in the country.

In her remarks, Castro emphasized that the individual shortcomings of one person do not necessarily reflect the broader efforts of

cluding hoarding and price manipulation, to prevent consumers from being burdened by artificially inflated prices.

"I also call on retailers and suppliers to do their part in keeping food prices reasonable," he said.

Gatchalian also stressed the importance of strengthening support to farmers and livestock raisers to boost production and reduce costs to ensure the sustainability of lower prices. (PNA)

the government to improve the education system.

She further reassured the public that the administration is committed to addressing educational issues.

"Hindi po nababahalala ang ating Pangu-lo dahil sa atin po, sa panahon po ngayon, lahat po ng paraan ay ginagawa po natin para maingat po ang lebel ng ating edukasyon (We are not really alarmed because right now, we're doing every means possible to improve the quality of education)," Castro said.

One of the government's initiatives, according to Castro, is aimed at improving foundational education for young children as recommended by the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2).

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. recently approved the allocation of some PHP700

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pecially with the upcoming 2025 national and local elections.

DSWD Calabarzon Regional Information Officer Joseph Arceo said that they will strictly adhere to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) guidelines, which prohibit candidates from being present at payout areas during cash aid distribution.

"Kami talaga ang mismong nagbibigay at hindi namin pinapasa kung kanino man, at lahat po ng ating beneficiaries ay dadaan sa

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Apolinaria, shared that while it is saddening that her mother could not personally receive the recognition and assistance, their family remains grateful. She also hopes that more support will continue to be provided to the elderly.

Nanay Apolinaria celebrated her 100th birthday on January 5, 2025, but passed away three days later.

Mayor Alex Advincula commended senior citizens for their contributions in shaping the city into one that is more responsive to the needs and well-being of its residents.

In addition to receiving cash gifts, the beneficiaries availed themselves of free medical

million for the construction of child development centers in low-income municipalities this year.

K-12 program

Additionally, Castro addressed the K-12 education system, stating that the government continues to assess its

assessment ng social workers. Gusto natin straight payout ito at tayo po ang nagse-set ng mga schedules," Arceo told the media during the Kapihan sa PIA Quezon on Feb. 26.

He assured the public that no politicians will be involved in the distribution of cash aid, particularly for the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) and Ayuda Para sa Kaposang Kita (AKAP) programs, as mandated by the Comelec.

check-ups, medicines, and vitamins. They also received wellness packages, including free haircuts, massages, manicures, and pedicures, courtesy of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation also conducted a lecture on the benefits available to senior citizens under the Konsulta Package.

The Expanded Centenarians Act (R.A. 11982), signed by President Marcos on February 26, 2024, grants P10,000 to seniors aged 80, 85, 90, and 95 while maintaining the P100,000 cash gift for centenarians. (RBF, PIA Cavite)

effectiveness.

She also suggested a potential policy change that would require private companies to hire a certain number of Grade 12 graduates, noting that currently, hiring K-12 graduates is often vol-

(Turn to p. 3)

"Sinisigurado po namin na kami ang magbibigay at ina-assess po lahat ng aplikante. Ina-assess po natin 'yan para sigurado na kwalipikado sila at mayroon talaga silang pangangailangan."

Arceo also emphasized that DSWD Calabarzon has partnered with Land Bank of the Philippines and other digital financial institutions to ensure secure, efficient, and convenient aid distribution.

"With the help of Land Bank of the Philippines, we have digital partners handling the disbursement of payouts, ensuring that assistance reaches our clients safely, quickly, and conveniently," Arceo said.

In a memorandum issued last month, the Comelec granted

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian's request to exempt the AKAP and other social welfare programs from the 45-day spending ban for the May 2025 elections.

One of the three conditions that DSWD must comply with is ensuring that no candidate or politician is present during the distribution of aid in any form. The

Comelec also stressed that politicians should refrain from participating in the distribution of exempted DSWD projects and must not influence the conduct of the elections.

The DSWD assured the public that "mechanisms are in place to ensure that our programs will not be used for political activities." (RMO, PIA Quezon)

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Cavite celebrates Pista ng Sining 2025

The vibrant tapestry of Cavite’s artistic community was on full display during the Pista ng Sining 2025, a three-day workshop held on February 26 to 28, 2025 at the Alitaptap Artist Community in Amadeo, Cavite. This year’s festival showcased the remarkable talents of students from various schools and universities across the province, fostering creativity and collaboration through engaging arts workshops.

The energy was palpable as participants immersed themselves in a diverse range of artistic disciplines. Workshops offered included dance by Ms. Nina Ricci de Leon, theater by Mr. Soliman Cruz on the first day, the innovative field of crypto art by Mohini Ochangco, hand-build pottery by Ms. Cristy Ancanan on the second day, and the unique painting workshop “Sabayang Pahid” by Mr. Judie Garibay, Mr. Emmanuel Nim and Mr. Pula Ancanan followed by the cultural performances by Juan Isip Band, Malaya and Jovani, and Pablo Segundo Band, to cap the event on the third day. The festival fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and techniques, enriching the participants’ artistic journeys.

A key highlight was the collaborative spirit by Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino among students from different universities in the pottery workshop. They interacted, shared insights, and learned from each other, building a sense of unity and mutual respect. This cross-pollination of artistic perspectives broadened their understanding of Cavite’s diverse artistic landscape.

The festival culminated in a spectacular exhibition showcasing the participants’ creations. The artwork, reflecting individual styles and perspectives, served as a powerful testament to the workshops’ success.

Pista ng Sining 2025 transcended a mere festival; it was a celebration of artistic expression, collaboration, and Cavite’s rich cultural heritage. It underscored the importance of nurturing creativity and providing opportunities for young artists to grow. The event’s success sets a high bar for future festivals, promising continued growth and innovation within Cavite’s artistic community.--- OPIO/OPLO

GOV’T . . .FR. P. 2

untary.
This proposal aims to enhance the employability of students completing the K-12 program, she explained.
“Kung magkakaroon po ng batas na at least two Grade 12 gradu-

ates ang inyong i-hire ay mas magkakaroon po ng magandang solusyon o resulta itong mga nag-graduate po ng Grade 12 kasi po mas paiigtingin nila rin ang kanilang kaalaman (If there is a law that requires you

to hire at least two Grade 12 graduates, there will be a better employability for those who graduated from Grade 12 and they will also sharpen their knowledge),” she said. (PNA)



Bringing Smiles and Saving Lives: Health Outreach Program Reaches Ternateños

In a steadfast commitment of promoting health and wellness to the community, a collaborative health outreach program was conducted in Brgy. Sapang 1, Ternate on February 28, 2025, benefitting 129 residents.

Spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) through the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, in collaboration with the Tagaytay City Team, the initiative extended beyond healthcare – offering free haircuts, denture fittings, and even a comforting bowl of goto for attendees. Vice Mayor Jun Gubio graced the event, reaffirming the local government’s commitment to the holistic well-being of the Ternateños.--- OPIO



Medical & Dental Mission Benefits Malainen Bago Residents

On March 1, 2025, a total of 491 residents of Barangay Malainen Bago in Naic, Cavite, received free medical and dental care during a community outreach initiative organized by the Provincial Government of Cavite.

The event offered a range of essential services, including free medical consultations, dental check-ups, and tooth extractions rendered by medical professionals from the Office of the Provincial Health Office. Additionally, the PGC medical mission team distributed free prescribed medicines and vitamins to address the immediate health needs of the beneficiaries.

Adding to the event’s impact, Team Tagaytay extended their support by providing free dentures and haircuts, further enhancing the confidence and overall well-being of the beneficiaries.

The mission reflects a shared commitment in making healthcare accessible to all, proving that small acts of service can create a lasting impact in the community.---- OPIO

The one walking with the wise will become wise, But the one who has dealings with the stupid will fare badly.
Proverbs 13:20

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

File No. FC-DC-1656-25
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 4118

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND),

Petitioner/Mortgagee,

-versus-

RAMON T. JULAGTING, JR.

Respondent/Mortgagor,

X-----X

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (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 the respondent/mortgagor, RAMON T. JULAGTING, JR. with postal address at 609 M.V. Delos Santos St., Sampaloc, Manila, Lot 16 Block 22, Village Park Subdivision, Barangay Langkaan I, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 20 December 2024 amounts to **FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND SIXTY FIVE PESOS & 74/100 (Php 489,065.74)** exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **April 25, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter at the Ground Floor Lobby, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Brgy. Buro 2, 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. T-816406**

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

A parcel of land (Lot 16 Blk. 22 of the cons./subd. plan PCS-04-010634 being a portion of the cons. of Lots 6919, Imus Estate & Lot 6918-I, (LRC) PSD-296038, L.R.C. Rec. No.), situated in the Brgy. of Langkaan, Mun. of Dasmariñas, Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the NE., along line 1-2 by Lot 18 Blk. 22; on the SE., along line 2-3 by Rd. Lot 22; on the SW., along line 3-4 by Lot 14; and on the NW., along line 4-1 by Lot 17 both of Blk. 22, all of the cons. subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan, being N. 04 deg. 25'W., 3699.97 m from Mon. 99, Imus Estate; thence S. 17 deg. 52'E., 9.50 m. to pt. 2; thence S. 72 deg. 08'W., 4.00 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 17 Deg. 52'W., 9.50 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 72 deg. 08'E., 4.00 m. to pt. of beginning, containing an area of **THIRTY EIGHT (38) Sq. Meters.**

All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by PS cyl. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cm.; bearings true; date of orig. survey July 27, 1905-June 11, 1908 and that of the subd. survey Jan. 4-31, 1995 and was approved on July 28, 1995.

Propective buyers are/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 **May 9, 2025** at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, February 19, 2025.

GERALD A. FARGAS
Sheriff IV

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

Published at: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: February 27, March 6, & 13, 2025

Copy Furnished:
Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building,
No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City PGC Sportsfest
2025 kicks off with energy and excitement

DA: Pork prices to decline starting mid-March

MANILA – The retail prices of pork may start to drop in the middle of March, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Wednesday.

In an interview, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the high prices of as much as PHP480 per kilogram in February could be considered the peak price before it gradually eases.

“We can see na bababa. Iyong last na agreement ng pag-uusap ng agri stakeholders sa hog industry na dapat bumaba ang presyo (The last agreement upon the meeting with agricultural stakeholders of the hog industry include the drop of prices),” he said.

Even without setting the maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) for pork, De Mesa said prices should drop by at least PHP10 to PHP20.

As of March 4, the prevailing price of pork liempo (belly) in Metro Manila is set at PHP450/kg; while PHP380/kg for pork kasim (ham), according to the DA Bantay Presyo.

“Mayroon nang nakikita na pagbaba. Actually, una sa farmgate

natin, tumaas iyan ng (We are seeing a price decline. Actually, in our farmgate prices first, it went up to) PHP250 to PHP260/kg. Now we are seeing PHP220, PHP230. Ang maximum siguro natin (the maximum would be) PHP240,” De Mesa said.

Besides a decline in farmgate prices, he said “biyaheros” or those behind the logistics and transport layers agreed to help drop prices in the retail side through adjustments in their profit margins.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. earlier said they will come up with a final MSRP for pork on March 7 and implement it on March 10.

Like the MSRP for rice, the pork MSRP aims to tame spiking retail prices in the local markets.

Initial figures being considered are PHP380/kg for pork liempo; and PHP350/kg to PHP360/kg for pork kasim and pigue.

The DA, meanwhile, is scheduled to meet with the pork industry players, including traders and retailers, for the finalization of the pork MSRP on March 6. (PNA)

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- 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

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 130, Trece Martires City
rtc1tmt130@judiciary.gov.ph

LRC CASE NO. 5964-075-24

IN RE: PETITION FOR REPLACEMENT OF OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPY OF TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2018039282 IN LIEU OF THE LOST COPY

APOLINAR O. PANDATO III
REPRESENTED BY: ANGELICO ZENON M. DELOS REYES,
Petitioner,

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Filed before this Court is a verified Petition for Replacement of Owner's Duplicate Copy of Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2018039282 issued by the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite in the name of **APOLINAR O. PANDATO III**, the registered owner.

After being satisfied that the Petition is sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for initial hearing on **June 16, 2025 and August 4, 2025, both at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon**, at which date, hour, and place any and all interested persons are required to appear and show cause why the Petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Notice of Hearing be published for three (3) consecutive weeks, at the expense of the petitioner, in a newspaper of general circulation and be posted at the General Trias City Public Market, the City and the Barangay Halls where the property is situated, as well as on the land itself located at Wellington Place, Barangay Pasong Camachile, General Trias City, Cavite, and other copies be furnished to the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, petitioner, and his counsel.

The Sheriff of this Court is hereby directed to post copies of this Notice accordingly. The petitioner is likewise directed to submit a copy of the Petition with its annexes to the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite.

Send a copy of this Order to the Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) for raffle of the publication.

SO ORDERED.
Trece Martires City, Cavite, December 10, 2024.

GAYSOL C. LUNA
Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:

APOLINAR O. PANDATO III represented by **ANGELICO ZENON M. DELOS REYES**
Petitioner/Attorney-in-Fact
c/o Atty. Jetter Jones N. Mejia
3rd Floor Durawood Building, No. 177 Sumulong Hi-way cor. B. Soliven Ave., Barangay Mayamot, Antipolo City, Rizal

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REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE
Trece Martires City, Cavite

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (OCC)
Trece Martires City, Cavite

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Better is a handful of rest than two handfuls of hard work and chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:6

MPT SOUTH ACHIEVES 5 MILLION SAFE MAN HOURS

Following its recent achievement of securing triple ISO certification — including ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), and ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety) — MPT South, concessionaire of Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) proudly celebrates another significant milestone: achieving 5 million safe man-hours without a lost-time injury (LTI). This milestone is testament to the company's commitment to safety, quality and fostering a sustainable work environment for its workforce.

One of MPT South's safety efforts is focused on educating employees and turning them into road safety advocates. Recently, MPT South employees took part in the Drayberks Road Safety session in partnership with Cavite State University, where they learned important road



safety practices, defensive driving, and how to stay safe on expressways. This program extends beyond employees to include motorists, community partners, and government stakeholders, reinforcing the company's commitment to improving road safety for everyone.

“Our triple ISO certification, and this milestone reflects MPT South's collective effort in exhibiting its commitment to safety, health and well-being of our workforce. We are extremely proud of this achievement, and we remain focused on maintaining the highest safety standards and in con-

tinuing to improve our practices to provide A-class customer service to our employees and motorists alike” said MPT South Officer-in-Charge, Ms. Elnora D. Rumawak.

About MPT South MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). Aside from CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

LGUs now allowed to buy NFA rice on credit, Palace says

MANILA — Local government units (LGUs) can now purchase National Food Authority (NFA) rice on credit, Malacañang announced on Thursday.

This developed after Palace Press Officer and Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro met with Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. on Wednesday.

In a press conference, Castro said he conveyed to Tiu Laurel the sentiment of other LGUs that cannot afford to buy NFA rice in bulk.

Castro said LGUs with insufficient funds need to coordinate with the Food Terminal Terminal Incorporated (FTI) for the credit purchase of NFA rice.

“Ang sabi sa atin ni DA Secretary Laurel, puwedeng kumuha ng bigas, utang, kausapin

ang FTI (DA Secretary Laurel told us that LGUs can procure rice through loan and that they have to talk to the FTI),” she said.

“Puwede silang magbayad after. So ‘yun po ang good news. Hindi po kailangang maglabas ng cash ang LGUs na hindi po kakayanin na bumili kaagad ng NFA rice. So, makipag-ugnayan lang po sa FTI at sila po mabibigyan (They can pay later. So, that's the

Outpatient mental health package supports Pinoys' 'invisible' pains

MANILA — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on Tuesday reminded Filipinos experiencing “invisible” pains to avail of the outpatient benefits package for mental health.

The package covers conditions such as depression, psychosis, epilepsy, child and adolescent mental and behavioral disorders, dementia, and self-harm or suicide risks, among others.

PhilHealth Circular 2023-0018 states that members and dependents aged 10 and above can access services like initial assessments, follow-up consultations, diagnostic tests, and psychosocial support.

PhilHealth acting President and chief executive officer Edwin Mercado said the benefit package is aligned with the priorities set by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in “addressing the healthcare needs of Filipinos holistically.”

Individuals requiring specialized care are provided with access to interventions from

good news. LGUs that cannot afford to buy NFA rice right away do not need to come up with cash. So, just contact the FTI and they can avail of the rice,” Castro added.

Castro earlier advised LGUs to sell NFA rice at PHP33 per kg. instead of PHP35 to ease the consumers' plight.

The NFA is implementing various strategies to decongest



psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists.

The state insurer provides annual coverage of PHP9,000 for general mental health services and PHP16,000 for specialized care.

Members can access these benefits at any accredited facility that provides general mental health services.

These facilities include rural health units (RHUs), city or municipal health offices, level 1 and 2 hospitals, Department of Health (DOH) Medicine Access Program-mental health access sites, and stand-alone mental health clinics.

“We recognize the importance of accessible mental health services for every Filipino. Kaya naman, katuwang din natin ang Kagawaran ng Kalusugan sa patuloy

spaces in its warehouses for local palay (unhusked rice) procurement nationwide, amid the slow release of rice stocks to LGUs.

It earlier urged LGUs to hasten the procurement of NFA rice from the DA, through the FTI, under the food security emergency for rice.

Around 70 LGUs have signified their intent to purchase NFA

pang pagpapalawing ating mga serbisyo para sa kalusugang pangkaisipan (Hence, the DOH is our partner in expanding services for mental health),” Mercado said.

Specialized mental health services can be accessed at accredited Level 2 and 3 hospitals with specialized staff, custodial care facilities, and national specialty centers identified by the DOH.

“We are calling for more providers to participate and make these services within reach of Filipinos with mental health struggles,” he added.

Individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts or mental health distress are also encouraged to utilize the 24/7 crisis hotlines, including the National Center for Mental Health hotline at 0917-899 8727 or 989-8727, for immediate counseling. (PNA)

rice. To date, only San Juan and Navotas in Metro Manila and Camarines Sur in the Bicol Region have secured initial NFA rice release. (PNA)

**SAY NO
TO
DRUGS**

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A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

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PR - PGC Sportsfest - Badminton Competition

The Provincial Gymnasium was abuzz with excitement as the Badminton Competition of the Provincial Government of Cavite Sportsfest 2025 took place from February 25 to 27. The tournament showcased the agility, teamwork, and competitive spirit of the participating employees from various offices.

Participants battled it out across different categories, demonstrating their skills and determination. After three days of intense rallies and smashes, the winners emerged. In the Women - Beginners category, Ms. Kyla Ramos and Ms. Lyssa Rodriguez (OPCDO) claimed the championship title, followed by Ms. AJ Balanquit and Ms. Gretzel Ganaba (OPPDC) as 1st runners-up, Ms. Nikka Umipon and Ms. Jyzelle Tiongson (OPTO) as 2nd runners-up, and Ms. Ronalyn Ferrer and Ms. Karen Espiritu (PICTO) as 3rd runners-up. The Men - Beginners category saw Mr. Reynaldo Soberano and Mr. Jerald Gonzales (PICTO) emerging as champions, with Mr. Ace Bryan Salazar and Mr. Christian Rec-



to (PICTO) finishing as 1st runners-up, Mr. Niko Montenegro and Mr. Marco Marquez (OPIAS/OPENRO) as 2nd runners-up, and Mr. Antonio Naval and Mr. Mark Jhon Esguerra (OPYDO) as 3rd runners-up.

In the Women - Intermediate division, Ms. Alice Mojica and Engr. Carla Shane Riazon (PEO) secured the championship, while Ms. Pat Cubillo and Ms. Aina Romasanta (OPHO) placed as 1st runners-up, Ms. Lhen Agustin and Ms. Nerie Bravo (OPDRRMO/PICTO) as 2nd runners-up, and Ms. Inah Shyne Bendo and Ms. Rasheed Haim Mediran (OPYDO) as 3rd runners-up. Meanwhile, in the Men - Intermediate category, Mr. Joshua Calvo and Mr. Jero Macawile (OSP) triumphed as champions, with Mr. John Rey Guantero and Mr. Edison Bago

(OPENRO) taking 1st runner-up, Mr. Ral Rodriguez and Mr. Lloyd Perey (OPIO) securing 2nd runner-up, and Mr. Mark Louie Domani-co and Mr. John Paul Cania (OSP/OPGSO) placing as 3rd runners-up.

The Women - Expert category witnessed Ms. Mikha Piedad and Ms. Jelyn Espineli (OPG) winning the championship, followed by Ms. Edith Espineli and Ms. Jessica David (OPHO) as 1st runners-up and Arch. Erica Maye Viado and Engr. Carla Shane Riazon (PEO) as 2nd runners-up. In the Men - Expert division, Engr. Joselito Villa and Mr. Glenn Talatala (OPGSO/PEO) emerged victorious, with Mr. Marli Medenilla and Mr. Ephraim John Malimban (OPHO) finishing as 1st runners-up, Mr. Garry Sapin and Mr. Allen Bret Fortunado (PEO) as 2nd



PGC Sportsfest 2025 kicks off with energy and excitement

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) Sportsfest 2025 officially kicked off on February 25, 2025, with a high-energy Zumba Dance session participated in by PGC employees at the Provincial Gymnasium, Trece Martires City.

PGC Sportsfest is an annual event designed to promote health, camaraderie, and sportsmanship among government employees, featuring a lineup of exciting activities spanning several months.

Following the Zumba opening, the competition commenced with the Badminton matches which will take place from February 25 to 28 at the Provincial Gymnasium. The schedule for other events is as follows: Chess will be held on February 26, Darts will take place on March 5 to 6, and E-Games will be played on March 7, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Volleyball games will run from March 18 to May 16, while Basketball matches will be held from April 22 to June 19.

Each sporting event is set to bring out the competitive spirit of PGC employees while fostering teamwork and a sense of unity within the provincial government. Participants eagerly anticipate showcasing their skills, whether in physical sports such as basketball and volleyball or strategic games like chess and darts.

The Sportsfest serves as a platform for friendly competition and also a way to encourage employees to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. As the events unfold in the coming months, employees look forward to thrilling matches and unforgettable moments of sportsmanship.---OPIO

runners-up, and Mr. Joselino Villa and Mr. Jayson Dilig (OPHO) as 3rd runners-up.

In the Mixed Doubles - Beginners category, Mr. Jerald Gonzales and Ms. Lucia Pitagan (PICTO) claimed the championship, followed by Mr. Marvin Bravo and Ms. Roda Colasito (PEO) as 1st runners-up, Mr. Jose Madlangsakay and Ms. Nessa Sotberano (PEO) as 2nd runners-up, and Mr. Lloyd Perey and Ms. Ma. Gwendolyn Janohan (OPIO/OPCDO) as 3rd runners-up. In the Mixed Doubles - Intermediate category,

Mr. Ral Rodriguez and Ms. Lhen Agustin (OPIO/OPDRRMO) emerged as champions, with Mr. Teodulo Garcia and Engr. Carla Shane Riazon (PEO) securing 1st runner-up, Mr. Jero Macawile and Ms. Olive Mae Austria (OSP) as 2nd runners-up, and Mr. John Rey Guantero and Ms. Jesusa Abletia (OPENRO) as 3rd runners-up. Finally, Mixed Doubles - Expert Category, Mr. Ephraim Malimban and Edith Espineli of OPHO got the top spot as champion, 1st runner-up were Mr. Joselino Villa and Ms. Mikah Piedad

from OPG, Dr. Guina and Ms. Aina Romasanta of OPHO as 2nd runner-up and the tandem from OPPDC and OPHRMO, Mr. Errold Redillas and Ms. Kikay Capariño got the 3rd runner-up spot.

The competition fostered camaraderie and sportsmanship among the employees, further strengthening teamwork within the Provincial Government of Cavite. The successful event proved to be not just a showcase of talent but also a celebration of unity and perseverance in the workplace.---OPIO