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CAVITE PESO AND TESDA JOIN FORCES TO EMPOWER JOB SEEKERS THROUGH CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II TRAINING

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Year End 2024 RTEC Meeting cum S Year End 2024 Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony Showcases Progress and Innovation- story p.4

(Photo by Andrea Mei B. Resane, DOST-STII)



2024 SETUP PRAISE Awards Recognize Excellence in MSMEs Across Region 1- story p.4



Visitors of the 2024 National Science and Technology Week (NSTW) try the iSULAT pen technology developed by researchers from the University of Sto. Tomas. This project was funded by the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development. (Photos courtesy of DOST-PCHRD)- story p.4



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday led the inauguration of the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension Project (LICE) Phase 1, marking a significant milestone in modernizing the transport system in the Philippines. Photo courtesy of Presidential Communications Office- Story p.5



MEETING WITH OFWs. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos lead the "Pamaskong Handog Para sa Pamilyang Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs)" at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Dec. 17, 2024. Marcos awarded the first batch of 4PH units to the OFWs. (Photo courtesy of MPC Pool)- story p.11

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CAVITE PESO AND TESDA JOIN FORCES TO EMPOWER JOB SEEKERS THROUGH CONTACT CENTER SERVICES NC II TRAINING

In a bid to create opportunities for jobseekers, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, in partnership with TESDA Cavite Provincial Office, has successfully concluded the Community-Based Training on Contact Center Services NC II.

The program, held from November 27 to December 20, 2024, combined 13 days of online learning with 5 days of in-person training at the Cavite Provincial Capitol compound in Trece Martires City. Participants, including displaced POGO workers, OFWs, OFW dependents, and unemployed individuals, were trained to become certified customer service professionals, equipped with the skills to thrive in the fast-growing contact center industry.

Designed to address unemployment and skill gaps, the training program aimed to open doors to new career paths while fostering personal and professional growth. By empowering participants to meet industry standards, this initiative

serves as a stepping stone for many toward financial stability and meaningful employment.

The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on December 20, 2024, at the Ceremonial Hall which featured inspiring messages from key leaders, including Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, PESO Manager, Ms. Evangeline E. Plazo, TESDA Cavite Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Earl Jim D. Sumaoang, University and Community Partnership Supervisor - Foundever Philippines Corporation, and Mr. John Ray B. Malaca, President/TVI Head of IExcel School of Communication and Technical Skills, Inc., emphasizing the importance of education and perseverance in achieving success.

This collaborative initiative highlights the shared commitment of OPPEM and TESDA to uplift communities by providing life-changing opportunities through skill development and job placement. — R. Tanael (*Mula sa CPIO*)

DENR seeks inclusion of environmental compliance in 'Seal of Good Local Governance' criteria

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Calabarzon is pushing to incorporate environmental compliance as a critical criterion for local government units that undergo assessment for the prestigious Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) overseen by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

During the Kapihan sa DENR CALABARZON, Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria emphasized the significance of the initiative in driving LGUs toward better ecological management and accountability.

"The integration of environmental compliance into the SGLG reflects our collective commitment to sustainable governance. We are working closely with the DILG to ensure that LGUs adopt practices that protect and nurture the environment while fostering community development," said Tamoria.

SGLG is a prestigious award and recognition

program established to acknowledge the exemplary performance of LGUs in the country.

Serving as a benchmark for good governance, the SGLG is a progressive assessment system that encourages LGUs to excel in their responsibilities in providing exemplary service delivery, transparent governance, and sustainable development, while promoting local autonomy and sustainable development.

DENR believes that the inclusion of environmental compliance and stricter implementation of laws in the SGLG framework is a groundbreaking move that not only acknowledges LGUs' efforts in governance but also reiterate their role in fostering sustainable development.

"We strongly believe that good local governance is not only about adhering to the Local Government Code. Good governance includes taking care of the environment. When an LGU is not capable of fulfilling its environmental responsibilities, it cannot truly claim to be practicing

DSWD-Calabarzon disburses P5.13B in crisis aid in 2024

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna

— The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office 4-A (Calabarzon) has extended assistance totaling PHP5.13 billion to over 1.2 million clients under its Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) as of Dec. 9, 2024. The program provided aid for medical, food, burial, and educational needs.

Joseph Arceo, the public information officer of DSWD-Calabarzon, said in a statement on Thursday that the CIP offers financial

assistance and referrals to individuals and families in crisis who cannot meet their immediate needs.

"This includes individuals affected by economic shocks due to hospitalization, illness, job loss, death, or disasters, among other circumstances," Arceo said.

The amount of assistance granted to each client is based on the assessment conducted by a social worker, taking into account the individual's or family's specific crisis situation.

As the year concludes, the field office is engaged in the liquidation process for all financial transactions, including those under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) program.

"This process is integral to the field office's financial accountability report and ensures transparency in all financial transactions," Arceo said.

The DSWD-Calabarzon's CIP continues to serve as a lifeline for vulnerable populations in the region, addressing urgent needs and supporting recovery during challenging times. (*PNA*)

good governance," Tamoria stressed.

He added: "Good governance is holistic—it is about addressing the needs of the present while securing the future. Without environmental responsibility, true progress is impossible."

As the DENR and DILG finalize the inclusion of this new criterion, local leaders are urged to align their programs with national environmental goals, reinforcing their role in building disaster-resilient communities with efficient handling of sustainable resources. (*AM/PIA-4A*)

DHSUD to release more 4PH units to beneficiaries in 2025

MANILA — The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) on Wednesday vowed to deliver more units to Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program beneficiaries as the year opens.

"Sa mga susunod na linggo ay inaasahan namin ang sunud-sunod at tuluy-tuloy na turn over ng mga 4PH units sa ating mga beneficiaries (The continuous turnover of 4PH units to beneficiaries is expected in the next few weeks)," DHSUD Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar said in a statement. In December 2024, 4PH units in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija were turned over to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) during the Pamaskong Handog para sa OFWs at the Malacañan Palace. More than 1,000

applications under the 4PH are now being processed by the Pagtutulungan sa Kinabukasan: Ikaw, Bangko, Industria at Gobyerno (Pag-IBIG) Home Development Mutual Fund in at least four project sites.

The Pag-IBIG Fund supports the 4PH Projects in Palayan City, Bacolod City, and Bocaue town in Bulacan, among others. Meanwhile, the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) has two projects in the final phases of completion of some buildings.

These are the Crystal Peak Estates in the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, and the People's Ville in Davao City. Currently, there are 56 ongoing projects under the 4PH in various phases of construction and development in Luzon,

Visayas, and Mindanao.

Acuzar said the DHSUD's key shelter agencies continue with its regular housing programs.

It took two years for these 4PH projects to be realized due to the shift to vertical housing or the condominium-type development, and delays in documentary requirements on the part of private partners, he said.

"Sa 4PH, ang dating na-e-enjoy lamang ng mga may kaya sa buhay ay ma-e-experience na rin ng ordinaryo nating mga kababayan (Through 4PH, our ordinary fellowmen can now experience those enjoyed by the fortunate people," he said.

The DHSUD prioritizes condominium buildings to maximize the use of government lands in housing. (*PNA*)

DBM OKs guidelines on P7-K medical allowance for gov't workers

MANILA — Government workers may now receive their medical allowance as the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) approves the guidelines on the grant of the PHP7,000 medical allowance for 2025.

The DBM said Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman approved Budget Circular 2024-6, which lays out the guidelines, rules and regulations on the grant of the medical allowance.

The grant is in line with Executive Order (EO) 64 s. 2024, which also prescribed the salary increase for government personnel, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Aug. 2, 2024. "This is a promise fulfilled," Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said in a statement Thursday.

The annual medical allowance will be given to qualified civilian government personnel as a subsidy to avail of health

maintenance organization (HMO)-type benefits.

"Matagal ko na pong pangarap ito para sa ating mga kababayan. Pagpasok po ng 2025, maaari na po silang makatanggap ng medical allowance para makatulong sa pagkuha nila ng HMO para sa kanilang health-related expenses o gastusin (This has been my dream for a long time for our fellow public servant. By 2025, they can receive a medical allowance to help them get an HMO for their health-related expenses," Pangandaman said.

The DBM circular covers all civilian government personnel in the national government agencies, including state universities and colleges and government-owned and controlled corporations not covered by Republic Act 10149 and EO 150, s. 2021.

All government workers, regardless of appointment

status, whether regular, casual, or contractual; appointive or elective; and on a full-time or part-time basis, are eligible for the medical grant.

Employees in the local government units and local water districts are also covered.

The allowance may be granted in the form of HMO-type product coverage, which could be availed by either government agencies concerned or their respective employees' organizations/groups.

It can also be in cash form for those who will avail their own or pay/renew their existing HMO-type benefit. The Budget chief thanked the President for putting premium on state workers' health.

"This medical allowance is not just a benefit, it's a vital investment in safeguarding a healthy workforce and ensuring that they perform at their best," Pangandaman said. (*PNA*)

OBRERO, DEDO SA KAINUMANG NABURYO

DEDO 40-anyos na construction worker makaraang pagsasaksakin ng kainumang naburyo sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Naisugod pa sa ospital ang biktima na si alyas Mark, binata, ng Block 33 Lot 23, Brgy. St. Peter 2, Dasmariñas City, subalit namatay habang ginagamot dahil sa malalim na saksak sa katawan. Kinilala naman ang suspek na si alyas Arjhay, 30, binata, ng Block 15 Lot 1, Brgy. St. Peter 1, Dasmariñas City, na tumakas matapos ang insidente dala ang ginamit na mahabang kutsilyo. Sa ulat, bandang alas-12:10 ng hatinggabi naganap ang insidente kung saan kainuman ng suspek sa bahay nito ang biktima at ilang kaibigan na sa una ay maging masaya ang kanilang kuwentuhan. Subalit dahil nakarami na ng nainum ay kung anuano na ang kanilang naging kuwentuhan hanggang sa

hindi nagkaintindihan ang biktima at suspek na nauwi sa mainitang pagtatalo. Upang humupa ang pagtatalo ng dalawa ay lumabas ang biktima kasama ang ilang kainuman at nagkuwentuhan sa labas ng bahay. Pinaniniwalaang minasama ng suspek ang pagkuwentuhan ng biktima at ilang kainuman sa labas kaya lumabas din ito. Pero may dalang mahabang kutsiyo ang suspek at pinagsasaksak ang biktima sa tiyan na ikinabagsak nito. Bagama't may tama ang biktima ay tinangkang tumakbo subalit hinabol pa rin siya ng suspek at pinag-uundayan pa ng saksak. Matapos ang insidente ay tumakas ang suspek habang ang biktima ay isinugod sa ospital subalit namatay habang ginagamot. **(Gene Adsuara)**

2 indibidwal, tigbak sa Cavite

DALAWANG indibidwal ang namatay dahil sa pamamaril sa magkahiwalay na lugar sa Cavite. Namatay sa pinangyarihan ng insidente ang biktima na si alyas Norman habang hindi na umabot ng buhay sa Gen Trias City Doctor's Medical Center si alyas Jerome. Sa ulat bandang alas-12:30 ng tanghali naganap ang insidente sa Block 82, Brgy. San Esteban, Dasmariñas City. Nakatambay si Norman at nilapitan ng suspek at walang sabi-sabing pinagbabaril na nagresulta sa agarang kamatayan. Matapos ang pamamaril ay naglakad lang na tumakas ang suspek. Naglalaro naman ng games sa kanyang cellphone si Jerome sa harapan ng sari-sari store sa Tropical Village, Pabahay 2000 Sec E, Barangay San Francisco, Gen Trias City bandang alas-11:45 ng gabi. Nilapitan siya ng suspek at binaril sa dibdib. Naisugod pa siya sa ospital subalit idineklarang dead on arrival habang naglakad lang papatakas ang suspek

na bale-wala. Nagsasagawa naman ng backtracking ang pulisya sa Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) para sa pagkakakilanlan ng mga suspek at pag-aresto sa kanila. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Riding in tandem, namaril ng buko vendor

TINUTUGIS ng mga awtoridad ang riding in tandem na responsable sa pamamaril sa buko vendor sa Gen Trias City, Cavite. Sinusulat ito ay ginagamot sa Gen Trias City Hospital ang biktima na si Danilo Parado y Manino, 51, ng Block 19 Lot 8 ACM Paramount, Brgy. Navarro, Gen Trias City dahil sa tama ng bala sa katawan. Ang dalawang suspek ay sakay ng isang motorsiklo na ang back ride ay inilarawan na nakasuot ng pulang helmet at itim na jacket. Sa ulat, naglalakad ang biktima sa kahabaan ng Gen Trias Drive, Brgy

P.5-M paputok, sinira

TINATAYANG mahigit sa P.5 milyon halaga ng mga iligal na paputok na naunang kinumpiska ang sinira sa idinagawang Simultaneous Ceremonial Disposal of Illegal Firecrackers sa Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia sa Imus City, Cavite. Pinangunahan ang hosing down at water submersion ni Police Colonel Dwight Alegre, acting Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO) kasama ang command at provincial staff, mga miyembro ng Bureau of Fire Protection at mga representative ng Local Government Unit. Kabilang sa mga nakumpiskang mga illegal na paputok at pyrotechnic materials ay mula sa walong lungsod at 15 bayan sa lalawigan. Ang seremonya ay alinsunod sa Executive Order No. 28 o Providing for the Regulation and Control of the Use of Firecrackers ang other Pyrotechnic Devices at

Republic Act 7183 o An Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution and Use of Firecrackers and other Pyrotechnic Devices. Sa kabuuan ay may P503,853.00 milyong pisong halaga ng iba't ibang uri ng paputok na kinabibilangan ng Judas belt, whistle bomb, Fountain, kwitis, sawa, five star, fountains, baby rockets, crying cow, triangulo, lucis, piccolo ang nakumpiska sa buong lalawigan. Habang mahigit sa 1 libong mga boga naman ang nakumpiska din sa lalawigan at karamihan sa mga nahulihan nito ay mga menor de edad. "Ang lungsod ng Bacoor ang pinakamarami sa mga nahulihan ng mga iligal na paputok habang ang lungsod ng Dasmariñas naman ang may pinakamaraming boga na aming nahuli," ayon kay Col Alegre. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Bebot, inutas ng manliligaw?

BANGKAY na natagpuan ang 22-anyos na bebot sa kanal ng irigasyon matapos pagbabarilin ng umano'y manliligaw nito sa Gen Trias City, Cavite.

Ilang oras ng patay natagpuan ang bangkay ng biktima na si alyas Ness, may live-in partner, sa Bagong Silang Cyber Green Extension, Brgy. Santiago, Gen Trias City dahil sa tama ng bala mula sa kanyang 'manliligaw' na si alyas Muslim ng nasabi rin barangay na kasalukuyang pinaghahanap ng pulisya. Sa ulat, dinalaw ng suspek ang biktima sa bahay bandang ala-1:00 ng madaling araw subalit nakalipas ng ilang oras ay sunud-sunod na putok ng baril ang narinig bagama't walang nagtangkang umusisia sa malalayong kapitbahay. Bandang alas-7:00 ng umaga nadiskure ang bangkay ng biktima sa kanal ng irigasyon sa nasabing lugar. Sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya, may kaugnayan umano sa droga at pakikipagrelasyon ang motibo sa pagpatay bagama't hindi na idinetalye pa ang dahilan. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Editorial

Masarap sa laya

SA pagkakaupo ni Jesus Crispin Remulla bilang kalihim ng Department of Justice ay nasa mahigit 18,000 Persons Deprived of Liberty ang napalaya mula sa iba't ibang piitan sa bansa. Ngayon namang 2025 ayon kay Bureau of Corrections Director General Gregorio Cata-pang, Jr. ay target nila ang de-congestion sa mga kulungan. Ngayong taon din na ito ay maaari ng mapabilang para sa Good Conduct Time Allowance ang mga PDL na nahatulan ng heinous crimes batay na rin sa pahayag ng Supreme Court. Mapalad ang nakapagta-mo ng kalayaan lalo na bago pa man ang pagsapit nitong nakaraang kapaskuhan. Masarap sa laya dahil walang katumbas ang ligaya kapag kapiling ang pamilya. Sana ay maiakay ng gobyerno para sa pagbabago ang mga napapalayang PDLs gayundin sa panahon pa lamang ng kanilang pananatili sa loob ng kulungan.

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Year End 2024 RTEC Meeting cum S Year End 2024 Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony Showcases Progress and Innovation

December 27, 2024 — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 02 concluded 2024 on a high note with the Review and Technical Evaluation Committee (RTEC) Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony. The event celebrated the year's achievements while laying the groundwork for an impactful 2025.

One of the event's highlights is the awarding of P5.7 million in SETUP iFund support to three exemplary Micro, Smaal, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)- two from Cagayan Province and one from Isabela Province.

Additionally, the event recognized the contributions of RTEC members from various sectors for their invaluable efforts in the program's success. The iFund support and awards were presented by Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera and Assistant Regional

Director Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, who commended both the awardees and beneficiaries for their unwavering dedication to fostering innovation and excellence. The event also served as an opportunity to engage with RTEC members, discussing observations and recommendations to enhance SETUP implementation for even greater impact.

Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Services, opened the event with her welcome remarks, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in driving technological innovation. She highlighted how the evaluation of proposals plays a vital role in aligning SETUP interventions with the specific needs of MSMEs for sustainable growth. She further emphasized that the activity promotes meaningful collaboration with RTEC members, fostering the identification of challenges

and the development of effective strategies to enhance program implementation and ensure its ongoing relevance and impact. She also acknowledged the awarded SETUP iFund beneficiaries, showcasing the importance of DOST SETUP in supporting MSMEs to achieve innovation and business growth.

In her keynote message, Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera underscored the power of collaboration and sustained efforts in fostering economic development. "We are proud of how far we've come this year, but our journey doesn't end here. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones in advancing regional growth," she stated.

Dr. Bilgera also extended heartfelt gratitude to the RTEC members for their dedication and invaluable contributions. "Your expertise and commitment have been instrumental in the success of our programs," she added.

Ms. Mary Ann D. Carpio, Supervising Science Research Specialist and SETUP Center Manager, presented the accomplishments of the RTEC

2024 SETUP PRAISE Awards Recognize Excellence in MSMEs Across Region 1

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Regional Office 1 recognized the 2024 SETUP PRAISE Awardees during Regional SETUP & CEST Summit at the DMMMSU-International Convention Center in Bacnotan, La Union, on December 9, 2024.

The PRAISE Awards for MSMEs celebrate outstanding micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that have excelled and flourished through the support of the SETUP program.

Leading this year's winners is Costales Rice Mill from Magsingal, Ilocos Sur, hailed as the 2024 Regional SETUP PRAISE Awardee. The firm earned this prestigious recognition for its outstanding technological innovations, unwavering resilience, and commitment to sustainable practices. Costales Rice Mill's efforts in modernization and its significant contributions to the community made them the trend-setter of rice mill facility in the region.

The following winners were recognized in various categories:
Provincial Winners
Ilocos Norte: Bakers Ph
Ilocos Sur: Costales Rice Mill
La Union: Jaypee's Bakeshop
Pangasinan: Net Atlas Printers Plus
Most Productive
Ilocos Norte: Laring's Meat and Processed Food Products

Retailing
Ilocos Sur: Niks Printing Shop
La Union: Mae Wood Crafts Manufacturing
Pangasinan: Elisha Bay Dagupan Bangus and Seafoods

Most Resilient
Ilocos Norte: Citipoint Metalcraft

Ilocos Sur: Manang Cora Sugarcane Products

Manufacturing
La Union: JC Laroco Rice Mill
Pangasinan: Dizon's Welding Shop

Most Agile
Ilocos Norte: Lucky Theo Food Products

Ilocos Sur: Royal Maharlika Wellness and Livelihood Training Center, Inc.

La Union: Jaypee's Bakeshop
Pangasinan: Toning Digital Printing

Most Innovative:
Ilocos Norte: Nifia Leather Ph
Ilocos Sur: Wynn's Food Products

La Union: Calica's Fruit Products
Pangasinan: Net Atlas Printers Plus

Most Sustainable
Ilocos Norte: Adams Inuwayan Food Products

Ilocos Sur: Malakas Farm Livelihood Development Center

La Union: Dr. Ronald Alwit Farm
Pangasinan: Mama Cili Enterprises

(Alyzza Jane N. Gapuz and Ryan Christian A. Manzano)

Lipa students learn science storytelling basics

By Ryan Spencer P. Secadron, DOST-STII

"Effective storytelling is key to science writing," this was how Ingrid Espinosa, a science communication practitioner

in 2024 and outlined the new SETUP Guidelines for RTEC endorsement and approval.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Carpio thanked all stakeholders and participants for their vital contributions to the program's success.

"SETUP is a collaborative effort, and every success we celebrate today is the result of teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision. Let's continue this momentum and transform lives through science and technology," she said.

As the ceremony concluded, attendees reflected on the achievements of 2024 and shared their aspirations for the future. Through this year-end gathering, DOST Region 02 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering innovation, supporting MSMEs, and driving economic growth in Cagayan Valley. By emphasizing the importance of thorough evaluation and collaboration, the region looks forward to an even brighter future for its enterprises and communities.

sums up her lecture to student journalists from Lipa City Colleges (LCC) in Lipa City, Batangas.

Espinosa shared that whether browsing science alerts, doing investigative projects in school, or observing local communities, storytelling is always easy to understand, entertaining, memorable, and relevant.

Additionally, she also highlighted that human interest, recency, locality, surprise, the power elite, follow-ups, shareability/relatability, controversy, novelty, and bad/good news are what shape news stories.

The lecture was part of the Science Journo Ako (SJA) science communication caravan held in Lipa City, Batangas held last November. The SJA is a science communication advocacy of the Department of Science and Technology through its Science and Technology Information Institute. The program aims to expand science communication at the grassroots to capacitate young communicators to dive deeper into science and technology by creating awareness and communicating its benefits to the public.

She offered additional tips, such as focusing on positive notes and offering solutions, emphasizing the balance of compelling factors with accuracy, and the use of case studies to support data.

"The structure of a news story should be an inverted pyramid. Make sure to include quotations, further explanation, and the context of the topic," Espinosa said.

Additionally, Espinosa provided tips for student interviews: "It's important to

do your research and plan. Don't be afraid to ask simple questions. Summarize to confirm, recheck quotes, and keep questions short and easy to understand."

As part of the participants' immersion, Espinosa prepared a mini press conference for the students, allowing them to ask questions about Buddybetes, an application that helps manage blood sugar.

She commended the students for their active participation and ability to apply the interviewing techniques.

One participant asked whether quotations should be direct or paraphrased. Espinosa responded that direct quotations should be used when the statement is noteworthy and "magandang pakinggan" (pleasant to hear) in one sentence. Paraphrase when the quote is used for an explanation.

Another participant inquired about the ideal length of a news article. Espinosa explained that news articles are typically 300 to 500 words long, while feature articles range from 500 to 800. "Anything beyond that is considered a long-form article," Espinosa emphasized. When asked if there is a pattern in feature writing, Espinosa clarified that features do not follow the inverted pyramid structure of news articles and are usually free-flowing. "You can tease a bit more and be playful," she said.

Lastly, Espinosa reminded the students to consider various factors when writing articles, including diversity, background, power, interest, sensitivity, SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Expression), and stigma, as these aspects may affect readers' reactions.

She also reminded the participants to answer the questions, "Who is my audience?" and "What do I want them to do/feel?"

Espinosa was one of the three resource speakers that included Rosemarie Señora, Science Research Specialist I who discussed mobile photography and photojournalism, and Allan Mauro Marfal, Information Officer III both of the DOST-STII who lectured on the topic social media content creation. The second day of the event included a site visit, where participants gathered data and interviewed the beneficiaries of DOST Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program in Lipa, learning about the technologies, products, and services offered by these firms, which they could use to write science articles and produce photos and reels for the workshop.

Researchers eye more partners to test hand-writing tool research

By Claire Bernadette A. Mondares, DOST-STII

Local researchers have developed a handwriting assessment tool, are looking to get more partners to conduct more tests across the country. The Intelligent Stroke Utilization, Learning, Assessment, and Testing (iSULAT) is an intelligent pen that provides a practical solution for assessing children's handwriting to provide objective evaluation based on the most common handwriting tools, such as tests of Visual-motor skills, Minnesota handwriting assessment, and an evaluation tool for children's handwriting. The iSULAT has a microcontroller within the pen, which transmits data to a mobile application. The raw signal undergoes filtering, feature scaling, engineering data, and analyses before it is forwarded to the occupational therapist for diagnosis.

Through the pen, the occupational therapist can efficiently assess one's handwriting based on the alignment of letters, spacing, and consistency.

A separate report mentioned that the number of handwriting problems in developing children reached an approximate 5 to 25 percent range. Handwriting is still the most immediate form of graphic communication and failure to attain proficiency during the school-age year may result in far-reaching negative effects on both the academic success and self-esteem of a child.

This project was funded by the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine

Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD), with a budget of PHP3.2 million for its initial phase.

"Yung mga ganitong invention, kailangan niyan ng testing. Hindi lang isa. Dapat tine-test siya ng mas marami para mas ma-check kung accurate or kung maganda na yung pine-perform ng prototype," said Engr. Jomel Herras, Project Manager of iSULAT.

Engr. Herras added that his team is looking for more enthusiasts and partners who will help them promote iSULAT to gain more users from various locations.

The iSULAT is one of the technologies featured in the recently concluded 2024 National Science and Technology Week, held in Cagayan de Oro City from 26 November to 01 December 2024.

According to DOST-PCHRD, standardized assessments of children with developmental delays are quite expensive and must be done with the aid of an occupational therapist or handwriting experts. The therapy usually runs from 20 minutes up to one hour.

"Basically ina-address na problem ni iSULAT is yung kakulangan natin ng occupational therapists at mahal na cost ng therapy," said Engr. Herras. "Siguro yung pinaka rootproblem ay yung problema ng mga bata sa kanilang handwriting. They do it in their everyday lives. Nagsusulat sila even in Math, Arts, and English subjects. Yung ibang mga bata, hindi sila enthusiastic

Modernizing PH's transit system:
PBBM Inaugurates LRT-1
Cavite Extension Phase 1

MANILA — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. fulfilled his promise to enhance the country's transportation system by inaugurating the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) Cavite Extension Project (L1CE) Phase 1 on November 15, 2024. The extension, which began operations on November 16, introduces five new stations namely: Redemptorist-ASEANA, Manila International Airport Road, Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), Ninoy Aquino Avenue, and Dr. Santos (formerly Sucat). The new line is the first railway project completed under the Marcos administration. It reduces travel time between Baclaran, Pasay City, and Bacoar, Cavite, from 1 hour and 10 minutes to just 25 minutes, serving 80,000 additional passengers daily. Phase 1 of the extension adds six kilometers to the existing 20.7-kilometer LRT-1 line, bringing its total length to 26 kilometers. A Legacy Fulfilled In his speech, President Marcos paid tribute to his father, former President Ferdinand E. Marcos Sr., for laying the foundation of Metro Manila's first urban rail transit system. Despite early criticism, President Marcos Sr. pushed forward with the project, which has since transformed daily commutes for millions of Filipinos. The LRT-1 became Southeast Asia's first urban light rail system. "No one is happier than his son today, seeing my father's foresight validated as this system grows to serve more of our people," the President remarked. Decades in the Making The LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project has spanned multiple administrations, with contributions from various leaders over the years. "This project has been a long time coming—spanning five administrations, from President (Joseph) Estrada to President

(Gloria Macapagal) Arroyo, President (Benigno) Aquino (Jr.), President (Rodrigo) Duterte, and now my own," President Marcos said. "We owe its success to the hard work of my predecessors, and we recognize their efforts in making this dream a reality." Future Phases: Expanding Connectivity The next stages of the LRT-1 Cavite Extension are already in motion. The construction of Phase 2 and Phase 3 is scheduled to begin in 2026, according to the Department of Transportation. Phase 2 will include the opening of the Las Piñas and Zapote Stations, further extending the reach of the commuter railway system. Phase 3 will culminate with the Niog Station in Bacoar, Cavite, serving as the final stop in the extension project. Driving Economic Growth and Easing Traffic Once fully operational, the entire extension is expected to accommodate an additional 300,000 passengers daily and significantly ease traffic congestion in Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Bacoar. The project is part of the administration's broader vision for a seamless, modernized public transportation system, which includes other major rail projects like the MRT-7 and the North-South Commuter Railway, according to President Marcos. "The L1CE ensures a more efficient, reliable, and seamless mode of transport, benefiting commuters across Metro Manila, Cavite, and nearby regions," he said. The inauguration of the Phase 1 Cavite Extension project is a testament to the Marcos administration's commitment to build a transformative infrastructure that connects communities, boosts economic growth, and improves the lives of Filipinos. (PND)

Senior citizens thank Marcos
during year-end gift-giving event

MANILA, (PIA) — Norma Villanueva, a senior citizen from Bagong Barrio in Caloocan City, personally thanked President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during a year-end gift-giving event, praising his efforts to help many Filipinos, especially during times of calamity. "Marami siyang naitulong sa tao at hindi niya inuuna ng sarili niyang kapakanan. Biyahe siya nang biyahe para ipamudmod din sa atin 'yung mga nakukuha niya sa ibang bansa," Villanueva said, expressing her appreciation for the President's dedication. (He has helped many people and never prioritizes his own interests. He travels frequently to share what he receives from abroad with us.) Claro Facunto an elderly resident from Katuparan, Taguig City, expressed his gratitude to President Marcos, saying, "Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Pangulong Marcos. Sana mahaba pa po ang kaniyang buhay. Sana marami pa po siyang matutulungan, lalo na ang mga kagaya namin na mga senior citizen na wala nang magtatanggap sa amin ng trabaho." (I thank the President and hope he has a long life. I wish he can help many more people, especially seniors like us who no longer have anyone to offer us jobs.) Videos can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/PIAMetroManila> The gift-giving event took place at the Rizal Park Open Air Auditorium, following the commemoration of the 128th martyrdom of national hero Dr. Jose Rizal. In his message, Marcos highlighted the importance of the holiday season for families, particularly children, and expressed his hope that every Filipino could feel the holiday spirit. This initiative, organized by the Office of the President in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), aims to distribute assistance to 2,000 beneficiaries from various cities in the National Capital Region. Marcos also expressed

gratitude to the FIRM-24K group for their ongoing support of the Marcos family, which extends back to his parents. He noted that their support inspires him to continue working towards improving the lives of all Filipinos. The program began at 7:45 a.m. and was designed to spread holiday cheer and provide support to those in need as the year draws to a close. (JLN/PIA-NCR)

PH budget for 2025 'true' to constitution — DBM

MANILA — The national budget approved by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is true to the Philippine constitution, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) clarified on Monday, Dec. 30. DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman stressed the constitutionality of the newly-approved budget amid questions raised over some vetoed provisions of the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for 2025. The budget, initially amounting to P6.352 trillion, was reduced to P6.326 trillion following the veto of P194 billion worth of line items deemed "inconsistent with the administration's priority programs." Of the vetoed P194 billion, President Marcos directly vetoed P26.065 billion worth of projects under the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and P168.240 billion allocated under "Unprogrammed Appropriations." In his speech during the signing of the GAA, the President mentioned calls to veto the entire budget and revert to a reenacted one. "However, this is not an option we can afford," he said. According to the President, "a reenacted budget would set us back, delay our vital programs

PBBM gov't achieves major
strides in infra dev't

MANILA — The government under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has achieved significant progress in infrastructure development as it enters its mid-term in 2024, particularly in energizing power grids of the country. This year, the power grids of the country's three major island groups — Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao — were interconnected through the completion of multiple energy projects. Under the Marcos administration's aggressive approach to infrastructure development, the Mariveles-Hermosa-San Jose (MHSJ) 500-kiloVolt (kV) transmission line was inaugurated last July. Running from Bataan through Pampanga to Bulacan, the P20.94-billion project strengthened the reliability of the Luzon power grid. In addition, the Cebu-Negros-Panay backbone project, worth P67.9 billion, was completed in April, stabilizing the power situation and mitigated power outages — a perennial problem in Western and Central Visayas. On the other hand, the Cebu-Bohol Interconnection Project was fully energized in September, providing enhanced connectivity between Cebu and Bohol. These projects benefited not only Luzon and Visayas, but also Mindanao, with the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection activated. This development marked a "defining moment" for the power sector and the whole country, according to President Marcos during his third State of the Nation Address in July. The infrastructure links the Mindanao and Visayas grids via Dapitan, Zamboanga del Norte and Santander, Cebu, through a 184-circuit-kilometer high-voltage direct cable with a transfer capacity of 450 MW. The implementation of these electric infrastructures will lower the cost of electricity in due course. (PND)

LANDBANK remains financially strong, regulatory compliant

MANILA — LANDBANK reaffirms its financial strength and stability, following the Bank's P50-billion contribution to the Maharlika Investment Fund (MIF), and remains fully committed to its mandate as a reliable partner to the national government's inclusive development agenda. The state-run Bank has consistently met and exceeded the minimum requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)—a critical benchmark of financial health—as it stays financially robust with no urgent need for additional capital. Earlier this year, LANDBANK remitted P32.119 billion in

cash dividends to the National Government—the highest among all Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and in the Bank's history. This milestone reflects the Bank's sustained financial strength and ability to generate consistent revenues while fulfilling its developmental mandate. As of 30 November 2024, LANDBANK's CAR remains at a healthy level of 16.42% which is well above the 10% regulatory threshold, further demonstrating the Bank's resilience against financial and operational risks. Following the P50-billion seed capital allocation to the MIF in September

2023, LANDBANK's CAR stood at 16.20%, remaining comfortably above regulatory requirements and reflecting the Bank's commitment to financial stability. The Bank also clarified that regulatory relief was sought from the BSP as a proactive measure to maintain resilience. LANDBANK has consistently adhered to prudent financial management practices, effectively utilizing its resources to promote agriculture, fisheries and rural development, and empower key development sectors. (LANDBANK)

UMak students bag Best Short Film award in 50th MMFF



UMak Animation Students win Best Student Short Film in the 50th Metro Manila Film Festival



Photo courtesy of Makati City

MAKATI CITY, (PIA) — Good news! Students from the University of Makati (UMak) recently bagged the Best Student Short Film award in the recently held 50th Anniversary of the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Selina Claire Napano, Michael Glenn Santos, and Gabriel Seth Carson won the award with their animated film, “Saan Aabot ang 50 Pesos Mo?” which triumphed over nine other finalists from various higher education institutions across the Philippines.

Makati Mayor and UMa

Board of Regents Chair, Mar-Len Abigail Binay, and representatives from the Institute of Arts and Design Florabel Berenguela-Esteban and Eduard Riparip were present during the MMFF's Gabi ng Parangal.

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) held the Student Short Film Competition, a vibrant platform that showcased the talents and creativity of young Filipino filmmakers.

(JEG/PIA-NCR)

NCRPO: Collaboration with partners, stakeholders result in lower crime rate in December

QUEZON CITY, (PIA)

— Strong community partnerships and support from stakeholders resulted in a lower crime rate in Metro Manila in December 2024.

National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) chief PBGen Anthony A. Aberin stressed the significance of strengthening community bonds.

“Every arrest and every case resolved are steps towards building trust and fostering collaboration between the police and the people we serve. Let us continue this momentum in 2025 and together with the community, let us make Metro Manila a safe and secure place for all,” PBGen Aberin said.

The NCRPO successfully apprehended 1,248 wanted persons in December 2024, including 548 Most Wanted Persons (MWP) and 613 Other Wanted Persons (OWPs), which reflected a strategic prioritization of high-value targets and targeted operations in December 2024. These efforts underscore the NCRPO's dedication to delivering justice and ensuring safer communities through efficient and effective law



NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE OFFICE
Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig City

ABLE ACTIVE ALLIED

enforcement efforts.

According to the Metro Manila police force, the targeted operations contributed to a broader reduction in criminal activities, as evidenced by significant improvements in crime statistics.

The NCRPO recorded a decrease in the Total Number of Crimes (TNC), which dropped by 10.62%, from 10,323 incidents in November to 9,227 in December. Additionally, the eight focus crimes decreased by 11.94%, from 469 incidents in November to 413 in December. Notable declines were observed in crimes such as murder (-10.71%), homicide (-30.77%), and carnapping of motorcycles (-50.00%). These improvements

showcase NCRPO's effective implementation of crime prevention strategies and proactive measures to address public safety concerns.

Likewise, the NCRPO maintained high efficiency in addressing crimes. Crime clearance efficiency slightly decreased from 99.56% in November to 98.86% in December, while crime solution efficiency remained stable, with a slight decline from 96.36% in November to 96.03% in December. The results underscore NCRPO's swift and effective approach to resolving cases and delivering justice, further solidifying public trust and confidence.

To further strengthen public safety, NCRPO also intensified its focus

on dismantling illegal drug operations. In December 2024, NCRPO conducted 761 operations, resulting in the arrest of 1,120 individuals. These efforts led to the confiscation of 9,122 grams of shabu and 5,868.43 grams of marijuana, amounting to a total street value of ₱63,838,276.60.

The NCRPO's intensified campaign highlights its unwavering resolve to combat illegal drug activities and safeguard communities.

The NCRPO also targeted illegal gambling operations across the region in its continuing drive to eliminate illicit activities in Metro Manila.

Metro Manila police personnel conducted 900 operations against illegal gambling, resulting in the apprehension of 2,272 individuals and confiscation of ₱554,874.50 in gambling proceeds.

To further ensure public safety, the NCRPO conducted extensive operations to address gun-related crimes. In December 2024, the NCRPO conducted 198 operations, leading to the arrest of 202 individuals and confiscation of 212 firearms.

NCRPO's relentless focus on addressing the proliferation of loose firearms in preparation for the 2025 National and Local Elections. The success of these operations underscores the dedication and efficiency of NCRPO personnel in proactively preventing gun-related incidents.

Meanwhile, NCRPO maintained its commitment to upholding local ordinances, addressing millions of violations in December 2024.

NCRPO apprehended 6,232,135 violators during sustained operations enforcing local ordinances. These operations resulted in the collection of an impressive ₱3,256,096,143.00 in fines as penalties, emphasizing NCRPO's commitment to enforcing compliance with local laws while ensuring accountability. (JEG/PIA-NCR)

Complex is from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (JMP/PIA-NCR)

National Museum now open every day starting 2025



The National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) unveils the clay sculpture “Josephine Sleeping” of Dr. Jose Rizal. (Photo Courtesy of NMP)

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) — The National Museum of the Philippines (NMP) Central Complex in Manila and all its regional component museums in the country will now be open to the public daily starting January 2025.

“Universal access has always been our priority. By opening our museums every day and maintaining free admission, we aim to make our programs and services even more accessible to everybody,” said the NMP in an online post following the announcement.

The central complex or the main museums of the NMP in Manila is composed of the National Museum of Fine Arts, National Museum of Anthropology, and the National Museum of Natural History. Meanwhile, the NMP

maintains a total of sixteen (16) regional, area, and site museums outside Metro Manila which also comprise of equally important art collections in terms of its national artistic, cultural, and natural heritage significance.

One of the newest additions to the NMP National Fine Arts Collections is the “Josephine Sleeping” clay sculpture by Dr. Jose Rizal which was unveiled for the first time alongside the commemoration of the 128th anniversary of his martyrdom on December 30, 2024.

Dr. Jose Rizal created the clay sculpture of his last love, Josephine Bracken, during his exile in Dapitan. Dubbed as “Rizal’s Mona Lisa,” the NMP highlighted how this artwork offered a glimpse into the humanity of Rizal.

Rizal married Josephine Bracken in his death row cell a few hours before his execution at Bagumbayan on December 30, 1896. By exhibiting the clay sculpture which is believed to be one of the hero's final artworks, the NMP hopes to immortalize the legacy of Dr. Jose Rizal whose contributions to Philippine history and culture is unparalleled as a prominent figure in the realization of the Filipino propaganda movement in the late 19th century.

The “Josephine Sleeping” is exhibited at the Spolarium Hall together with the other artworks of Dr. Jose Rizal in Gallery V “Inspiring the Nation, Dr. Jose Rizal: The National Hero in Art” at the National Museum of Fine Arts.

The regular operating hours of the NMP Central



REPLIKA NG POONG JESUS NAZARENO BINASBASAN KABILANG ang mga replika ng Poong Jesus Nazareno na ito na binasbasan sa over pass ng Quiapo kaugnay para sa nalalapit na kapistahan ng Poong Hesus Nazareno kung saan ang ruta nito ng TRASLACION ngayong Enero 9 ay walang binago sa nakaraang taon 2024. **(REY NILLAMA)**



Thailand kampeon, Bacolod Tay Tung 1st placer sa RVL



NAKUHA ng Thai guest team ang tagumpay sa Rebisco Volleyball League Invitational matapos biguin ang katunggaling Bacolod Tay Tung. Binigyan ng Nakornnonthaburi Volleyball Club ang Filipina teenage spikers ng mahalagang kalidad para sa international competition nang makuha nito ang panalo laban sa Bacolod Tay Tung, 25 20, 20-25, 25-12, 25-16, upang pag hariang ang Rebisco Volleyball League Invitational Finals sa Gameville Ball Park sa Mandaluyong. Bumaon sa solidong simula ang Thailand based guest team bago napagtagumpayan ang

napapanahong tugon ng bagong koronang back to back RVL national champion sa second set na maghahari supremo sa invitational segment ng pinakamalaking 18 and under women's volleyball tournament ng Pilipinas na ngayon ay nasa ikaanim na taon na. Tinalo ng Kings' Montessori School ang University of San Jose-Recoletos, 25 21, 25 20, 25 22, sa bronze medal match ng six team invitational tournament kung saan tinanggap ng top four teams sa national finals, kabilang ang University of Batangas, ang foreign teams Northern California Volleyball Association Club of the USA at Nakornnonthaburi.



NAZARENO 2025 REV FR RUFINO JUN C SESCON JR **NAGING** tima para magaganap na Nazareno 2025 TRASLACION sa darating Enero 9, 2025 ay ang "Mas Mabuti ang Pagsuod kay Jesus" makaraang pahayag ni Rev. FR. Rufino "Jun" C. Sescon, Jr. katuwang ang iba't ibang ahensiya ng pamahalaan kabilang sina Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna, DOH, Comelec Chairman Jorge Erwin Garcia. Makaraang ganapin ang pag titipon sa dating Manuel L. Quezon at simbahan ng San Sebastian. **(REY NILLAMA)**

FIVB men's world championship 2025 sa bansa pinaghahandaan na

HIGIT na paghahanda para sa papalapit na countdown na siyam na buwan ang nalalabi para sa kauna unahang solo hosting ng Pilipinas ang kaganapang FIVB Men's World Championship (MWCH) 2025. Tatumpu't isa sa mga nangungunang volleyball nations sa buong mundo sa 32 team roster ang inaasahan na darating sa Pilipinas para sa September 12 28 world championship set sa SM Mall of Asia Arena at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"Ito ang panahon kung saan ang mga paghahanda at organisasyon ay nagsisimulang maging metikulo sa bawat solong araw, ito ang world championship year ng FIVB at bilang host country sa unang pagkakataon at solo host na pinaghusay na pagho host ng kaganapan," sabi ni Ramon "Tats" Suzara, pinuno ng Philippine National Volleyball Federation na noong 2024 ay nahalal na pangulo ng Asian Volleyball Confederation at executive vice president ng FIVB.

"Nagawa na namin ito dati at inaasahan na gagawin namin ito muli," dagdag ni Suzara, na nasa tuktok ng co host ng bansa sa FIBA World Cup sa 2023 bilang punong tagapagpatupad nito. Ang pagdaragdag ng tiwala sa isang potensyal na pinakamahusay na edisyon ng FIVB MWCH 2025 ay ang pangako ng Malacanang na nabuo sa unang top level organization meeting sa Palasyo noong Abril 30, 2024, na pinangunahan nina First Lady Liza



FIRST Lady Liza Araneta Marcos at William Vincent "Vinny" Araneta Marcos (pito at ikaanim mula sa kaliwa) kasama sina (mula kaliwa) Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) vice president Ricky Palou at secretary general Donald Caringal, Philippine Sports Commission chairman Richard Bachmann, Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, Volleyball World CEO Finn Taylor, PNVF president Ramon "Tats" Suzara at national team mainstay Bryan Bagunas ang gumawa ng victory sign matapos ang unang organizational meeting para sa world championship sa Malakanyang.

Araneta Marcos at William Vincent "Vinny" Araneta Marcos, co chair ng Local Organizing Committee (LOC) kasama si Senador Alan Peter Cayetano, din PNVF chairman emeritus, at Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco.

Lumawak ang pangako sa One Year Countdown and Drawing of Lots sa Solaire noong nakaraang Setyembre na sinundan kaagad ng "Concierto

sa Palacio," isang gabi ng musika na ginanap sa bakuran ng Malacanang na hindi naiiba na si Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., First Lady Marcos at ang batang Marcos na nagho host ng mga nangungunang opisyal ng FIVB at LOC.

Noon ay pinuri ni FIVB secretary general now president Fabio Azevedo si Pangulong Marcos at ang First Family dahil sa kanilang sigasig sa volleyball at sports sa kabuuan.

"Hindi kapani paniwala na makita kung gaano katapat ang Pangulo Marcos sa pag promote ng volleyball at kasing fantastic na makita ang volleyball euphoria sa Pilipinas," sabi ni Fabio, na nagbigay kay Pangulong Marcos ng isang painting ni Slaven Dizdarevic, isang Olympian

1st Winter Olympics sa Harbin Games lalahukan ng bansa - Tolentino

IPAPARADA ng bansa ang 20 atletang koponan sa ikasiyam na edisyon ng Asian Winter Games na pinagbibidahan ng China sa ikatlong pagkakataon mula Pebrero 7 hanggang 14 sa winter resort city ng Harbin.

Ang misyon? Upang simulan ang pagtatakda ng entablado para sa kauna unahang medalya ng Winter Olympics para sa Pilipinas.

"Nagawa na natin ang pangarap sa Summer Olympics tatlong gintong medalya sa magkakasunod na laro," ani Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino noong Bagong Taon Miyerkules. "At yung pangarap na gusto rin naming makamit sa Winter Olympics."

Walang available na tumpak na talaan kung gaano karaming mga atletang pampalakasan sa taglamig ng mga Pilipino ang nakipagkumpitensya sa unang walong edisyon ng Asian Winter Games, ngunit naniniwala si Tolentino na ang koponan sa Harbin ang may pinakamalaking sa ngayon. "At ang ating mga atleta ay nakikipagkumpitensya sa anim na 11 sports sa programang Harbin," Tolentino said.

Ang pagsisikap, na ngayon ay isa sa mga pinaka-napapanood na disiplina sa sports sa taglamig, ang magkakaroon ng pinakamaraming atleta sa Harbin na may 10 atleta—sina Marc Angelo Pfister, Enrico Gabriel Pfister, Christian Patrick Haller, Alan Beat Frei, Jessica Pfister, Benjo Delarmente, Kathleen Dubberstein, Leilani Dubberstein, Sheila Mariano at Anne Marie Bonache.

Itinatag ang Curling Winter Sports of the Philippines noong huling bahagi ng nakaraang taon upang maisaayos ang hanay ng disiplina sa bagong grupo na sumali sa Philippine Skating Union at Philippine Ski and Snowboarding Association sa POC roster.

Ang iba pang mga miyembro ng Team Philippines na pinamamahalaan ni chef de mission Richard Lim ay sina Paolo Borromeo, Aleksandr Korovin, Cathryn Limketkai, Isabella Marie Gamez at Sofia Lexi Jacqueline Frank sa figure skating; Francis Ceccarelli

decathlete mula sa Slovakia, noong panahon ng "Concierto."

Naging rolling din ang mataas na antas ng paglahok ng pamahalaan sa world championship sa kauna unahang Inter Agency Technical Working Group Meeting na sinimulan ng Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) noong nakaraang Nobyembre sa Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Ang Local Organizing Committee para sa FIVB MWCH 2025 ay binubuo rin nina Senador Pia Cayetano, Manuel V. Pangilinan, Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino at PSC chairman Richard Bachmann.

Ang mga makabuluhang aktibidad ay mauuna sa pandaigdigang kampeonato, kabilang ang International Road Show na kumalat sa unang kalahati ng taon at Mascot Contest and Launch, Trophy Tour, Media Broadcast Conference, Team Managers Meeting, Test Event at 100 Day Countdown sa Hunyo.

Nasa Pool A ang Pilipinas kasama ang 11 time African champion na Tunisia, kasalukuyang Africa titlist at Paris Olympian Egypt at 2024 Asian championship runner up Iran.

World No. 1 Poland wisas sa Pool B kasama ang Romania, Qatar at The Netherlands, habang ang Volleyball Nations League champion France ay nakagrupa sa Pool C kasama ang Korea, Finland at Argentina ang Estados Unidos sa Pool D kasama ang Colombia, Portugal at 2010 silver medalist Cuba, Slovenia sa Pool E kasama ang Chile, Bulgaria at 2014 bronze medalist Germany; 2022 world champion Italy sa Pool F kasama ang Algeria, Belgium at Ukraine; Libya, European league 2023 nagwagi Turkiye at Canada sa Pool G; at Brazil, 2024 Challenge Cup winner China, Czech Republic at Serbia sa Pool H.

pero napatunayan natin na kaya itong gawin," Tolentino vowed.

Ang Italya ay magho host ng ika 25 edisyon ng Winter Olympics sa Milan at Cortina d'Ampezzo mula Pebrero 6 hanggang 22 sa susunod na taon. Aninmapu't apat na mga kaganapan ang lalaban sa Harbin, na naging host noong 1996, sa ikalawang pagkakataon pagkatapos ng Changchun 2007 kung saan unang inorganisa ng Tsina ang mga laro.

Samantala ang Japan ang naging dominanteng koponan sa mga laro, kasunod ang China at Kazakhstan.



OFFICIAL AND MEMBERS OF TAYTAY RIZAL RESIDENCE

Pinangunahan ni Mhadz O. Pangulima ang tagapagsalita ng mga samahan ng NSPFMKI, UMCBHI, ANAS MASJED INC at BPNMMCI, President Sultan Alladin C. Bagundang NSPFMKI Nagkakaisang fun Samahang Pangkabuhayan ng mga Filipino Muslim Kristyano sa Sito Siwang President Sultan Alladin C. Bagundang, President Thing A. Alagasi UMCBHI United Muslim Christian Brotherhood Farmers Inc. Hinaing sa kanilang Mayor ng Taytay Rizal, ANAS MASJED INC. President Jainudin Morodan, Thing Balianwan President BPNMMCI Buklod Pagkakaisa ng mga Muslim Christian Inc. Kaugnay ng ginanap na pagpupulong kamakailan hinggil sa kanilang hinaing at isinisiyag na hindi sila "squatter syndicate huwag gibain" makaraang maganap kamakailan ang pag dimolish sa kani-kanilang mga kabahayan na naganap sa Taytay Rizal. **(REY NILLAMA)**

Climate justice group slams BFAR's inaction on removal of ban on commercial fishers within municipal waters

Quezon City, Philippines — The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), Oceana Philippines, Pangisda Pilipinas, Pangisingda Natin Gawing Tama (PANAGAT), and other groups, protested in front of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), December 30, condemning the latter for its inaction and failure to adequately represent small fisherfolk in a controversial case that sought the removal of the 15-kilometer delineation, which bar commercial fishing vessels from entering municipal waters. Last Friday, December 27, PMCJ joined a press conference, organized by Oceana Philippines, decrying the Supreme Court (SC)'s affirmation of Malabon Regional Trial Court (RTC)'s decision which allows Mercidar Fishing Corporation, a Malabon-based fishing company, to fish within 15-kilometer municipal waters, except in shallow areas that are less than 7 fathoms deep. The same resolution upheld the Malabon RTC in declaring provisions of the Philippine Fisheries Code otherwise known as Republic Act 8550, as amended, as unconstitutional. The resolution was issued by the Supreme Court First Division which is presided by Chief Justice Alexander Gesmundo. The ten-page SC resolution stated that the RTC's decision became final since concerned government agencies, such as BFAR, failed to file their appeal on time. "The resolution essentially declares our municipal waters 'free for all', by a mere technicality, pushing our small-scale fisherfolk to battle big corporations in catching fish," Atty. Aaron Pedrosa, Sanlakas Secretary-General said. Pedrosa, who heads PMCJ's Legal Team, stressed that allowing commercial vessels into the municipal waters would not only legitimize a grossly lopsided and unfair competition but would

result in a grave injustice; as the SC resolution in effect annulled relevant protections afforded to fisherfolk under the Philippines' Fisheries Code. "By declaring the 15-km municipal waters provisions unconstitutional, and removing the bar for commercial vessels to come in, relevant social justice measures enshrined in the Constitution will be severely diminished and eroded. Laws protecting the rights of the marginalized, especially the fisherfolk, considered the country's poorest, should be treated with supreme and utmost regard and not be simply overturned by default," Pedrosa lamented. PMCJ, together with various organizations, expressed their condemnation of BFAR, and other concerned agencies for letting this alarming situation happen, endangering the lives and livelihood of artisanal fisherfolk, who are the backbone of the country's fight against food insecurity. "Small-scale fisherfolk are the ones that put food on our tables, as big corporations, like Mercidar, operate to fish for export," said Laica Rayel, PMCJ's Food, Land, Water, and Climate Change (FLWC) campaign officer. Rayel emphasized that the PMCJ has 43 fisherfolk and coastal community organizations spread all over the country with an estimated membership of 140,000 families which will be greatly affected by the SC resolution. "These families are just a fraction of the 60 percent of the population living in coastal communities, where survival and livelihood depend on marine and aquatic resources. Allowing commercial fishers will exacerbate the destruction of many protected seascapes and marine biodiversity in the country," Rayel added. PMCJ sees this decision as a serious setback for hundreds of thousands of

fisherfolk and violates the constitutional guarantee of social and environmental justice. "This is clearly a rights issue, an issue of social and climate justice. It manifests the indifference of community-based solutions for climate justice, as the participatory process of the sectors who will be greatly affected by the resolution were absent," Rayel stressed. Groups call on the Government to actively pursue the case before the Supreme Court, instead of shifting the burden on fisherfolk and ordinary citizens. The SC Resolution may still be reconsidered upon proper motion by the Government. Pangisda Pilipinas also expressed their plea to BFAR to take action in a statement. If BFAR is truly serving the national interest and is dedicated to ensuring a fair and just resolution is reached, we demand the agency to take accountability for their concerning lapses and fast-track concrete actions to seek further review from the Supreme Court. PMCJ, together with other organizations, showed force that they will not take this sitting down. This should be pursued to attain justice however rigorous, and protect fisherfolks and other constituents' rights and livelihood.

Senator Loren Legarda's New Year's Message

As we step into the new year, let us look back with gratitude at the lessons and experiences that have shaped us — the challenges that strengthened us and the victories that inspired us to be better versions of ourselves. The year ahead brings renewed hope, new beginnings, and new opportunities to dream bigger and work harder for our families, our communities, and our beloved nation. Let us also hold close in our hearts those who are less fortunate — those we

call the least, the last, and the lost. By giving voice to the voiceless and giving strength to the vulnerable, we pave the way for stronger, more inclusive development that benefits all. Together, we can build a future where every Filipino has access to quality education, compassionate healthcare, livelihood, and opportunities for growth. May this year give you and your family abundant joy, good health, and peace. May we all find that spark, ignite the fire to make a difference, and live a life with meaning and purpose.

100 Paete farming families benefit from CCC Christmas outreach

LAGUNA — In the spirit of the holiday season and in line with the directive of the Office of the President, the Climate Change Commission (CCC) conducted an outreach program that benefited 100 farmers and their families in the municipality of Paete, Laguna. This initiative is part of the CCC's ongoing efforts to engage with communities affected by recent typhoons and promote resilience amid the impacts of climate change. Paete, a fourth-class municipality, relies heavily on agriculture for livelihoods, making it particularly vulnerable to climate-related challenges. One of the key sectors of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focuses on agriculture, fisheries, and food security. The NAP aims to achieve three key outcomes for agriculture: productive and resilient agriculture and fisheries, conservation of natural resources critical for agriculture and aquaculture, and protection of farmers' and fisherfolk's livelihoods amid climate change. The CCC continues to work closely with local governments through the development of Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP) to ensure that farmers and their communities have the resources and knowledge needed to build climate resilience. "This holiday season, we are undertaking this outreach program as part of our community-building activities, underscoring the reason for this season. We recognize that our farmers are at the frontline of climate impacts and we hope this outreach program helps ease the burden of those most

affected and empower them to not just survive, but thrive," said CCC Vice Chairperson and Executive Director Robert E.A. Borje. The Municipality of Paete submitted its LCCAP for 2021-2026 and Annual Investment Program (AIP) for 2023 to the CCC in May last year. The LCCAP outlines the LGU's strategies and actions to address climate change impacts on their community, infrastructure, and economy, while the AIP contains the programs, activities, and

projects (PAPs) of the LGU, including on climate action. As the CCC strengthens its efforts to combat climate change and strengthen adaptation measures, it continues to focus on helping vulnerable communities, ensuring no one is left behind in the journey toward a climate-resilient future. For more information on the CCC's climate mainstreaming activities, visit www.climate.gov.ph and www.facebook.com/CCCPhl. (CCC)

PSEi slips, peso stronger on 2024's last day of trading

MANILA — The local stock market slipped on the last day of trading of the year, while the Philippine peso further strengthened. The Philippine Stock Exchange index slid by 0.16 percent to 6,528.79, while All Shares improved by 0.45 percent to 3,748.51. Sectors were mixed during Friday's trading, with the winners including Mining and Oil, up by 3.98 percent to 7,829.66 points; Industrial, up by 1.64 percent to 9,308.15 points; and Holding Firms, up by 0.52 percent to 5,640.26 points. The losers for the day were Financials, down by 1.42 percent to 2,157.54; Property, down by 0.48 percent to 2,377.23; and Services, down by 0.21 percent to 2,081.72. "The PSEi ended 2024 lower, mirroring US market trends, as jobless claims fell to 219,000,

below the 225,000 forecast, while continuing claims rose to 1.91 million, the highest since November 2021," Regina Capital Development Corp. managing director Luis Limlingan said. The winners outnumbered the losers at 138 to 82, with 44 counters left unchanged. Meanwhile, the peso strengthened for four consecutive trading days as it finished Friday at 57.85 to the US dollar from a 57.97 close the previous day. Though it opened weaker at 57.85 from Thursday's 58.35 kick-off, the currency pair traded between a low of 57.70 and a high of 57.89 to the dollar. The average level for the day stood at 57.85 to the greenback. Volume of trade declined to USD1.52 billion from USD1.76 billion. (PNA)

ERRATUM

NOTICE is hereby given that the notice of extra judicial sale re **HDMF vs NELSIE O. MONTERO**, under **FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-875-23** was erroneously published in this newspaper "HANEP", dated January 8, 15 & 22, 2024, as "2548-C" should be read as "2545-C" and "martires" should be read as "**M**artires" as the correct entry.

Publication: HANEP January 6, 2025

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **PEDRITO PADERON BAGALAY** who died without any last will and testament on April 6, 2024 in the City/Province of Cavite left a real property specifically described as **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-12481510** containing an area of **FIFTY FIVE (55) SQUARE METERS** as the subject of the sole heir, affixed the seal by **PAOLA BELLE D. EBORA**, Vice Consul of the Republic of the Philippines at Philippine Consulate General, Dubai, United Arab Emirates last December 9, 2024 with Service No: 47044; Doc. No: 6281; Book No: 1: Fee Paid: 100 AED: O.R. No: 98447583.

Publication: HANEP Dec. 23, 30, 2024 & Jan. 6, 2025

More investments okayed in 2024 – DTI

MANILA — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported this month that approved investments under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. exceeded the target set for the 2024 target. In a statement, the DTI said investments approved by the Board of Investments (BOI) amounted to PhP1.62 trillion, surpassing the PhP1.5 trillion target. The figure is also higher than the PhP1.26 trillion approved investments in 2023. The BOI said the energy sector, specifically the renewable energy projects, recorded the biggest surge in approvals, totaling PhP1.38 trillion, up by 40 percent year-on-year. Other sectors which recorded the biggest increase include air and water transport, real estate activities (mass housing), manufacturing, water supply, sewerage, waste management, and remediation activities. Meanwhile, the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) recorded PhP214.17 billion in approved investments, surpassing the PhP200 billion target for the year. Trade Secretary Cristina Roque said these investments will fuel job creation, drive innovation, and foster dynamic economic progress. By focusing on international trade, the country is laying the foundation for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, she added. “As we approach 2025, we are determined to build on this positive momentum. We will continue to refine and implement forward-looking policies that attract investments in these key industries, ensuring that the Philippines remains a prime destination for innovation and growth,” Roque said. While those agencies did not say whether those approvals were a direct result of the foreign trips of President Marcos, notable achievements were recorded by the administration this year. Trade officials said the foreign trips of President Marcos, aimed at encouraging investors abroad to come to the Philippines, along with other promotional efforts by investment promotion agencies, have resulted in actual registrations and projects. They said the Philippines used to lag behind Thailand and Malaysia in terms of investments, but the current figures show, particularly in the first three quarters of 2024, the Philippines did better than its two Southeast Asian neighbors. The major factors for such success include the administration's aggressive promotional efforts overseas, as well as the policy reforms initiated by the Marcos government, which were laid out to investors. They cited, for instance, the change in the renewable energy policies that the

President instituted in November 2022, in addition to the Executive Order on Green Lane, among other reforms. Benefit to Filipinos President Marcos' visit to Japan early this year also paved the way for the forging of a partnership between a Japanese chocolate manufacturer with a Filipino chocolate company. Locally-owned Auro Chocolate and Japan's retail giant Mitsukoshi were set to partner in creating product lines to showcase Davao's cacao beans and Japan's traditional ingredients like matcha, hojicha, and miso. The partnership of Auro and Mitsukoshi is seen to benefit 1,000 families. More Filipinos were seen to feel the tangible benefits of the President's diplomatic and business meetings abroad with more investments coming into the country. Also, in his visit to Viet Nam last January, President Marcos was able to secure VinGroup Company's commitment to invest in the Philippines, particularly in electric vehicle (EV) battery production, which is significant to the government's modernization of public transportation. President Marcos also reaffirmed the Philippine government's commitment for business opportunity exploration, exchange of technology and capacity-building collaboration with Viet Nam, aiming to uplift the welfare of Filipino workers in various industries. In his visit to Melbourne, Australia, President Marcos secured 12 business agreements amounting to USD1.53 billion, or PhP86 billion worth of investments covering diverse sectors such as renewable energy, clean technology, and recycling solutions, housing, IT-BPM infrastructure, medical devices, and digital health services. He met with Australian business leaders and also launched the expansion of the Victoria International Container Terminal (VICT), a subsidiary of the International Container Terminal Services Incorporated (ICTSI) in the Philippines on the sidelines of his participation in the 50th ASEAN-Australia Special Summit. The PEZA, on the other hand, reported the approval of PhP2.84-billion investments for March 2024, almost half of which came as a result of the foreign trips of President Marcos, reflecting the country's bullishness to attract more investments under the current administration. PEZA noted the foreign trips of the President attracted more investments, with the latest from Germany and the Czech Republic, saying at that time, based on its running of figures, it could easily be at 43 percent of its PhP175.7 billion investments, or roughly PhP75 billion. **(PND)**

MANILA — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has been steadfast in his commitment to usher economic reforms that will result in better lives for Filipinos under its banner of Bagong Pilipinas. Among the key reforms are programs and initiatives that ensure liberalization, privatization, and globalization in the country. President Marcos started 2024 with a promise to further strengthen the country's economy, particularly boosting agriculture after the country's inflation rate settled to its lowest level in December 2023. Included in its commitment to strengthen the economy are strategies of implementing timely deployment of trade policy tools along with sustained investments in irrigation, flood control, supply chain logistics, and climate change adaptation. PH Standardization towards Globalization A contributor to economic reform are globalization strategies through standardization of economic activities in the country. In January, President Marcos ordered the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) to standardize Philippine maritime practices to align with global benchmarks. Among its core programs are the modernization and expansion of the Philippine domestic shipping, promotion and expansion of the Philippine overseas shipping, modernization of the Philippine shipbuilding and ship repair industry, and promotion of highly skilled Filipinos and a competitive maritime workforce. Also included in globalization are programs that enhance the capacity of Filipino workers to acquire globally-standard skills. In March, during his visit to Germany, President Marcos signed an agreement for the reskilling and upskilling of Filipino workers on digitalization and the green economy. Following the signing for renewal of the “Cooperation Program” between the two educational and training entities, TESDA and Germany's Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training (BIBB) carried out several measures for capacity building. Among the capacity-building measures include conducting thematic visits per year, with both entities providing workplace and technical facilities for free. Other measures include exchange on policy research and knowledge management, support evaluation for apprenticeship and dual training systems programs, and support evaluation and improvement of the Study on the Employment of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Graduates (SETG). Liberalizing restrictions on info transfer technology, ease of doing business PH A pillar of the country's economic reform is liberalization of restrictions on the economic system. One of those includes President Marcos' digital transformation agenda that prompted Google to expand its business in the Philippines. President Marcos met with executives of Google in April after his trilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden and Japan Prime Minister Kishida Fumio in

PBBM's economic reforms improved lives in 2024

Washington, where they discussed ways to strengthen economic and maritime cooperation between the three countries. He asked Google to increase the cybersecurity activity in the Philippines, particularly the country's regulatory efforts, and to come up with a system that will provide efficient digital services for all Filipinos across the country. Privatization cut the government's financial burdens through PPP towards a better economy Public-Private Partnership has been known as one of the government's options that can reduce its financial burden while still providing economic support to

its people. One of these PPPs that helped the country's economy reduce financial burden is the privatization of the Laguindingan Airport and turning it into an international aviation hub. Through the agreement, Aboitiz InfraCapital expanded Laguindingan's capacity from 1.6 million passengers annually to 6.3 million each year, thereby promoting regional growth, generating jobs and livelihoods, and creating investment opportunities. In April, efforts to make Batangas port perform multi-strategic roles propel economic development.

Maximizing the port of Batangas helps decongest the seaports in Manila, causing the dispersal of economic activities to places more than capable of housing entrepreneurial and industrial boom. Inaugurating the bigger and better passenger terminal fully unlocks the potential of the places and people being served by Batangas Port. The project implementation generated more than 1,100 jobs and is expected to further generate around 1,800 jobs through the commercial establishments in the Batangas Port Passenger Terminal Building (PTB). **(PND)**

PH investments surge: Agencies beat 2024 targets

MANILA – The country's major investment promotion agencies (IPAs), the Board of Investments (BOI), and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), have exceeded target approvals in 2024, signaling robust economic prospects for the year ahead. This year, the BOI targeted to attract PHP1.5 trillion worth of investments but ended with PHP1.62 trillion in pledges. PEZA surpassed its PHP200-billion target approvals and closed the year with PHP214.18 billion in investments. Compared to 2023 levels, the BOI approvals this year increased by 28 percent, while pledges in PEZA climbed by 22 percent. “Actual investments above official targets are good signals on the further growth and recovery of the Philippine economy, with more businesses and industries recover towards or exceeding pre-pandemic levels,” Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) chief economist Michael Ricafort told the Philippine News Agency. Ricafort said the government's efforts to position the Philippines on the higher end of global supply chain, offering a cost-effective alternative to developed nations with lower operating costs and a skilled workforce, have been attracting investors, especially foreign nationals, to establish their businesses in the country. “The country's attractive economic fundamentals and demographics, with the world's 12 largest population at more than 113 million and among the youngest in ASEAN at below 25 years old would make the country an attractive market for FDIs (foreign direct investments),” Ricafort added. The BOI reported that foreign investment approvals this year amounted to PHP383.13 billion, mostly coming from Switzerland at PHP289.1 billion, followed by the Netherlands at PHP44.5 billion, Japan with PHP14.67 billion, and South Korea with PHP12.73 billion. At PEZA, those projects with foreign capital reached PHP102.64 billion. “Increased FDIs could have also partly been brought about by some realized investment commitments made for more than a year already during the various foreign trips of the administration,” the bank's economist said. This year, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. had state visits in Vietnam, Czech Republic, and Brunei Darussalam; working visits in Germany, United States, Singapore, Laos, and United Arab Emirates; and an official visit in Australia. As of June 2024 alone, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported that President Marcos Jr.'s foreign trips had led to a pipeline of investments amounting to USD76.6 billion or

over PHP4 trillion. Raising investor confidence Moreover, Ricafort said the country's positive credit ratings have contributed to shaping the Philippines' image as an attractive investment destination. The Philippines has two “A-” credit ratings this year—one from Japan Credit Rating Agency (JCR) and the second from Rating and Investment Information (R&I). S&P Global Ratings also raised the country's credit outlook to “positive” from “stable,” while Fitch Ratings gave “BBB” and Moody's gave “BAA2.” “The continued affirmation of the country's favorable credit ratings of one to three notches above the minimum investment grade over the past four years despite the Covid-19 pandemic, as highlighted by the credit rating upgrade on the Philippines by Japan's R&I in August 2024 to A-, already the same as the rating given by Japan's JCRA in 2020 despite the pandemic, the first A rating for the Philippines that could help boost confidence on the country by international investors and creditors, thereby would help attract more FDIs into the country,” Ricafort said. CREATE MORE created more At a press briefing this month, PEZA Director General Tereso Panga attributed the surge in project registrations in his agency in the last two months of 2024 to the signing of the Corporate Recovery and Tax Incentives for Enterprises to Maximize Opportunities for Reinvigorating the Economy (CREATE MORE). Investors have been in a wait-and-see mode before the signing of the CREATE MORE, which provides better fiscal incentives for economic activities listed in the Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP). Marcos signed the CREATE MORE into law on Nov. 11. From January to October this year, PEZA's investment pledges amounted to PHP124 billion, 6 percent lower than the PHP132 billion approvals in the same period in 2023. But since the CREATE MORE was enacted into law, PEZA approvals made a turnaround, surpassing its PHP200-billion target as early as November at PHP202 billion and adding PHP13 billion more in December. According to Panga, the CREATE MORE “gives more leverage in promoting the Philippines as the best investment hub in Southeast Asia.” 2025 targets For 2025, PEZA is targeting to approve PHP250 billion investments, while the BOI is aiming to hit the PHP1.75 trillion mark. Ricafort said these targets could be supported by the CREATE MORE and if policy rates continue

to decline. “There would be more FDIs into the country for the coming months due to CREATE MORE and also due to the expected further rate cuts by the Federal Reserve that could be matched by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that could reduce borrowing costs that would increase demand for loans, including those to finance FDIs into the country,” he said. “However, offsetting risk factors for future FDI data would be possible more protectionist policies by a Trump presidency starting in 2025 that would discourage some US companies from investing and creating more jobs outside the US, as well as a potential trade war between the US and China and other countries that could slow down the world economy and global trade, which could be a potential drag on FDIs into the country,” he added. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Undersecretary and BOI Managing Head Ceferino Rodolfo has another perspective on the planned tariff hikes by US President-elect Donald Trump. “We believe that countries with which the US has a huge trade deficit—particularly those which worsened during the past four years—will be likely targets of additional US tariffs,” Rodolfo said. According to the trade official, the Philippines' trade deficit with the US only stood at USD4 billion in 2023, far smaller than the deficits the US faces with other Asian countries, including China (USD300 billion), Vietnam (USD109 billion), Japan (USD75 billion), South Korea (USD55 billion), India (USD47 billion), and Thailand (USD43 billion). “With the Trump administration's focus on reducing trade deficit, the Philippines can leverage the balanced and healthy Philippines-US trade, indicating a mutually beneficial trade relationship,” Rodolfo added. Diversifying markets Both the BOI and PEZA are also diversifying sources of foreign investments. For PEZA, the IPA is looking into attracting more investments from the Middle East while also exploring Africa. The DTI, on the other hand, is pursuing free trade agreements (FTAs) and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPA) to strengthen investment and trade relations across the world. On Dec. 31, the Philippines-South Korea FTA took effect. In March, the Philippines and the European Union (EU) jointly announced that formal talks for an FTA will recommence. A CEPA with the United Arab Emirates is also close to being finalized, and on Dec. 6, the country launched the same economic partnership deal with Chile, which will be the Philippines' first CEPA with a South American nation. **(PNA)**

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund),
Mortgagee,

-versus-

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118
FC Case No. 19264-24

ERICSON B. ALMERO married to
CHERRY M. ALMERO,
Mortgagors.

X ----- X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by **HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND)**, mortgagee, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against **ERICSON B. ALMERO married to CHERRY M. ALMERO**, mortgagors, with residence and postal address at Blk. 1 Lot 3 Goodwood Subd., Carsadang Bago II, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 18 Block 9 Pallazo Bello Subd., Barangay Calsadang Bago, Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 10, 2024 amounts to **FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN PESOS and 27/100 (Php 528,587.27)**, Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees, and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on **January 28, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus, Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following properties with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2013029036

“A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 18, BLOCK. 9 OF THE SUBD. PLAN PSD-04-188612, BEING A PORTION OF PCN-04-002067, L.R.C. REC. NO. 8843), SITUATED IN BARANGAY OF CALSADANG BAGO, MUN. OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE S., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 19; ON THE W., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 5; ON THE N., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 17, ALL OF BLOCK 9, OF THE SUBD. PLAN; AND ON THE E., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY ROAD LOT 9 (8.00 M. WIDE), PSD-167296.. xxx CONTAINING AN AREA OF FORTY (40) SQUARE METERS. xxx”

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **February 4, 2025** at 10:00 a.m. without prior notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the titles to the said properties and encumbrances thereon if any there be.

Imus City, Cavite, Philippines, December 9, 2024.

MARIA CHONA D. TANGUANCO
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:

ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

COPY FURNISHED:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(otherwise known as PAG-IBIG FUND)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building,
No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

ATTY. SIMEON P. MADRID
Attorney-in-Fact, S.P. MADRID & ASSOCIATES
5th Floor Bedrock Building, Kayumanggi Center,
Commonwealth Ave., Matandang Balara, Quezon City

ERICSON B. ALMERO and CHERRY M. ALMERO
Blk. 1 Lot 3 Goodwood Subd., Carsadang Bago II, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 18 Block 9 Pallazo Bello Subd., Barangay Calsadang Bago, Imus, Cavite

Publication: HANEP Dec. 23, 30, 2024 & Jan. 6, 2025

Proyekto't serbisyo, hatid ng pondo mula sa grants at ODA

LUNGSOD QUEZON (PIA)

— Matagumpay na nakakuha ang administrasyong Marcos, Jr. ng mga concessional official development assistance (ODA) financing at grants mula sa mga development partner nito ngayong taong 2024 upang pondohan ang mga makabuluhang proyekto sa ilalim ng Build Better More program at iba pang mahalagang proyekto sa bansa.

Sa kabuuan, umabot sa USD 5.67 bilyon (PHP 333.42 bilyon) ang halaga ng 12 financing agreements na nilagdaan ng Department of Finance (DOF) ngayong taon para sa mga proyekto sa imprastraktura, transportasyon, depensa, digital na teknolohiya, kalusugan, at agrikultura.

Kabilang dito ang ikatlong tranche ng pondo para sa Metro Manila Subway Project (Phase 1), ang kauna-unahang underground railway system ng bansa. Kapag natapos, ito ay magpapabilis ng pagbiyahe sa Metro Manila, magpapabawas ng trapiko, at magpapababa ng gastos sa transportasyon para sa mga manggagawa at commuter. Kasama rin ang mga proyektong Dalton Pass East Alignment Alternative Road Project, na magpapabuti ng kaligtasan at accessibility ng mga kalsada; at Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project, na magpapabilis ng koneksyon sa pagitan ng Luzon areas.

Kasama rin sa mga napondohan ang digital transformation programs na magpapalawak sa access ng mga Pilipino sa digital technology, gaya ng mas mabilis na internet at e-governance systems, na magpapadali sa pagproseso ng mga serbisyo publiko. Ang Build Universal Health Care Program ay magpapalakas sa sistema ng kalusugan ng bansa upang mas maraming Pilipino ang makakuha ng abot-kayang serbisyong medikal. Ang climate change action programs naman ay magbibigay ng mas ligtas na kapaligiran laban sa epekto ng pagbabago ng klima, tulad ng pagbaha at tagtuyot.

Bukod dito, nakapag-secure rin ang DOF ng USD 73.73 milyon (PHP 4.34 bilyon) na grants para sa

13 proyekto tulad ng flood forecasting systems gamit ang artificial intelligence (AI), urban climate action projects, at sewerage system development para sa Metro Cebu. Ang flood forecasting system ay makatutulong sa mas maagap na pagresponde sa mga sakuna, habang ang sewerage system ay magpapabuti sa kalinisan at kalusugan ng mga residente sa Metro Cebu.

Ang mga grant ay tulong na hindi kailangang bayaran at karaniwang nakatuon sa mga makabagong teknolohiya, kapayapaan, at climate adaptation. Sa mga proyektong ito, magkakaroon ang mga Pilipino ng mas malinis na kapaligiran, mas maayos na transportasyon, mas ligtas na mga komunidad, at mas maraming oportunidad sa trabaho.

Nagkaroon din ng mga government-to-government (G2G) na kasunduan ang Pilipinas sa France, Sweden, at South Korea upang magkaroon ng mas malawak na akses sa grants, teknikal na tulong, at blended financing para sa mga prayoridad na proyekto.

Sa pamamagitan ng maingat na debt management strategy ng DOF, nananatiling 77:23 ang financing mix ng bansa pabor sa domestic borrowings hanggang Nobyembre 2024, na nagresulta sa mas mababang foreign exchange risks at matatag na lokal na merkado. Dahil dito, nanatiling manageable ang debt-to-GDP ratio ng bansa sa 61.3% noong ikatlong bahagi ng taon.

“The Department of Finance takes the responsibility over our people's money very seriously. Dahil bawat piso na ipinagkatiwala ng Pilipino sa atin ay simbolo ng milyong-milyong pangarap, pagsisikap, at pag-asa. That is why we make sure that we enter into partnerships with very trusted partners and that the terms of our agreements are very concessional and cost-effective so we can deliver more projects that create lasting impact for generations,” ayon kay Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto.

(Seryosong tinatanggap ng Department of Finance ang responsibilidad sa pondo ng ating mga kababayan.

Bangkay sa bakanteng lote

NAGSAGAWA ng imbestigasyon ang Cavite police hinggil sa natagpuang bangkay sa bakanteng lote sa gilid ng kalsada sa Gen Trias City, Cavite.

Inalamangpagkakakilanlan sa natagpuang bangkay na bahagya ng inaagnas. Ayon kay Jhun Paul Gonzales, 27, gardener ng GT Federal Land, nagwawalis siya sa kahabaan ng Federal Land

Road sa Brgy Navarro, Gen Trias City, at napansin ang bangkay ng isang tao na naaagnas na. Agad nitong ipinaalam sa security guard ng Federal Land Development na siyang nagreport sa pulisya.

Pinaniniwalaang itinaapon lamang ang bangkay sa nasabing lugar na hindi masyadong dinadaan ng mga sasakyan. **(Gene Adsua)**

Salpukan ng 2 motor, 1 tepok

PATAY ang motorcycle rider na isang chef makaraang salpukin ng isa pang motorsiklo na minamaneho naman ng mekaniko sa Silang, Cavite.

Kapwa isinugod sa Silang Specialist Medical Center sina Marc Jandel Navarro y Balsamo, 26, chef, ng Munting Ilog, Silang; at alyas John, 27, mekaniko, ng 22 Kapitan Syas St., Sabutan Silang subalit idineklarang dead on arrival si Navarro dahil sa matinding sugat sa katawan. Sa ulat, bandang alas-6:30 ng umaga naganap ang insidente sa Corner Sito Kite Bry Iba, Silang.

Minamaneho ng biktima ang kanyang itim na motorsiklong Yamaha Mio na may plakang 6022 TK

2 ‘tulak’ swak sa kulungan

SWAK sa kulungan ang dalawang tulak na nasa litahan ng Street Level Individual (SLI) na tinangkang magdelihensiya ng pagkakaperahan sa araw ng Kapaskuhan subait naaresto sa isinagawang

Dahil ang bawat piso na ipinagkatiwala ng Pilipino sa atin ay sumisimbolo sa milyong-milyong pangarap, pagsisikap, at pag-asa. Kaya't sinisiguro namin na pumapasok lamang kami sa mga pakikipagkasunduan sa mga mapagkakatiwalaang katuwang at ang mga kondisyon ng aming mga kasunduan ay lubos na paborable at cost-effective. Sa ganitong paraan, mas marami kaming maipatatupad na proyekto na may pangmatagalang epekto para sa susunod na henerasyon.) **(DOF/AVS-PIA-NCR /**

buy bust operation sa Naic, Cavite.

Nasa kustodiya ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang mga suspek na sina alyas Albert at Rogelio. Sa ulat, bandang alas-8:15 ng gabi ay tinangkang magdelihensiya ng pagkakaperahan ang mga suspek at nakipagtransaksiyon sa mga posuer buyer na lingid sa kanilang kaalaman ay mga awtoridad.

Bunsod nito ay ikinasa ang buy bust operation ng mga operatiba ng Station Drug Enforcement Team (SDET) ng Naic Municipal Police Station sa Brgy Mabolo na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa mga suspek.

Narekober sa kanila ang tinatayang 4 na gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may street value na P13,600.00 at buy bust money. **(Gene Adsua)**

MANILA – The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) started the delivery of the first batch of housing units under national housing program before 2024 ended. Launched in September 2022, the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino Housing (4PH) Program was declared President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s flagship program by virtue of Executive Order (EO) 34. It shifted the national housing program to vertical or multi-story buildings to maximize land use. "Ang 4PH po ang nabuo nating formula para lutasin ang housing backlog. Kailangan lamang po na hanapan ng paraan para mas bilisan ang mga proseso at ma-maximize ang resources ng gobyerno (The 4PH's formula was created to solve our housing backlog. We just need to find ways to speed up the processes and maximize the government's resources)," DHSUD Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar said. The program primarily spends

private funds, receiving wide support from local government units, government financial institutions, private banks, and developers and contractors. On Dec. 17, Marcos awarded the first batch of 4PH units to overseas Filipino workers at Malacañan Palace in Manila, in collaboration with the DHSUD, Department of Migrant Workers, Presidential Communications Office and other concerned government agencies. "Simula na po ito ng tuluy-tuloy na turnover at delivery ng 4PH units. Sa mga susunod na buwan ay marami pang 4PH units ang ating i-aaward (This is the start of continuous turn over and delivery of 4PH units. More 4PH units will be awarded in the coming months)," Acuzar said. A total of 56 projects are simultaneously being developed and constructed in different parts of the country. Some condominium-type buildings are already completed and ready for distribution. Disaster response, urban renewal The DHSUD launched the

Integrated Disaster Shelter Assistance Program (IDSAP) and the distribution of housing materials and essentials (HOMES) to aid calamity victims. Under IDSAP, unconditional cash assistance of PHP30,000 are provided to families whose houses are totally damaged. Meanwhile, PHP10,000 are given to those with partially-damaged shelters due to calamity, either man-made or natural. As of Dec. 13, more than PHP130 million of the PHP200 million IDSAP fund have been utilized to assist disaster victims. Some 6,000 families received the cash assistance. HOMES were distributed to thousands of families in Bicol Region following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) in October. Each kit is composed of galvanized iron sheets, plywood, lumber and nails, amounting to about

PHP15,000 each. The DHSUD was also tasked to lead the Inter-Agency Council for the Pasig River Urban Development (IAC-PRUD), which is in-charge of the Pasig Bigyang Buhay Muli (PBBM) Project. It aims to bring back the glory of the waterway and maximize economic potentials through tourism and transportation connectivity. The rehabilitation of the Pasig River and its tributaries was declared one of the national government's priorities by virtue of EO 35. So far, the IAC-PRUD has opened the 500-meter showcase area at the back of the Manila Central Post Office up to the entrance of Intramuros near Plaza Mexico. The Pasay City Staging Area was completed to ensure there is no displacement of informal settler families applying for 4PH. It has amenities like playground, commercial stalls and a day care center. 'Planado' program

In February, the DHSUD launched its nationwide Plan and Do (Planado) Program to enhance the land use planning and urban development in the country. It focuses on two major outputs -- zero backlog on Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUP) and Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFP) by 2028, and to promote urban development for the next generation. It also aims to streamline and digitalize land use and urban planning and development processes to create smart, green, resilient and inclusive human settlements. From January to September 2024, the DHSUD issued license to sell (LS) to 367 projects, which equate to 143,301 residential units. The issuance of LS protects homebuyers from unscrupulous developers and transactions since it requires the conformance of these projects with the prescribed

standards. A cumulative data of 138 CLUPs and PDPFPs for sustainable and resilient human settlements have been processed by the department as well. Fifty-eight CLUPs and four PDPFPs were approved, while 65 CLUPs and 11 PDPFPs are for finalization, adoption and approval. Meanwhile, 26,307 registered homeowners' associations, 224 federations and 36 confederations are registered and monitored around the country as of September 2024. Acuzar said the department encountered challenges in terms of funding requirements and bureaucratic processes. "That is why we formulated concepts and programs that can attract private funds. The government alone cannot solve the decades-old housing woes and the massive urbanization," he said. (PNA)

Supreme Court in 2024: Clearance rate of 87%

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) disposed of 4,294 cases as of Sept. 30, 2024, with a clearance rate of 87 percent and a disposition rate of 22 percent. The clearance rate shows how many cases are resolved compared to the number of new cases filed; while the disposition rate is the percentage of cases resolved by the SC out of all existing cases. Here's a look back at some of the high tribunal's significant in 2024. Right to life, liberty, and security In *Deduro v. Vinoya*, the SC declared that red-tagging, vilification, labelling and guilt by association threaten a person's right to life, liberty, or security which entitles one to protection under the writ of amparo. The writ of amparo has also protected abducted environmental advocates, as in the case of *Castro v. Dela Cruz*, where the SC found elements of enforced disappearance. However, in *Roque v. House of Representatives Quad-Committee*, the SC turned down former presidential spokesperson Harry Roque Jr.'s prayer for the writ of amparo, holding that it is not the proper remedy against congressional contempt and detention orders. The SC clarified that the scope of amparo is limited to extralegal killings and enforced disappearances or such threats, which were not present in his case. In another case, *Besmonte v. Napolcom-NCR* (National Police Commission-National Capital Region), the SC found a police officer guilty of simple misconduct for using unnecessary force and violence during a buy-bust. It issued a reminder that it does not condone the indiscriminate use of force by police officers against persons under arrest. The SC also ruled in *Ridon v. People* that simply violating ordinances and regulations is not enough to justify a valid warrantless search and seizure, especially when the penalty does not involve imprisonment. In *People v. Agustin and Antonio*, the SC ruled that imprisonment beyond the maximum penalty is not only cruel and inhumane but also undermines the dignity of detainees. The SC stressed that the power of the courts to commit prisoners carries with it the duty to immediately release them in case of detention for a period equivalent to or longer than the maximum imposable penalty. Due process To ensure fair prosecution, the SC ensures strict observation of due

process. In *People v. Valencia*, the SC determined that even minor changes in the receipts documenting the transfer of seized drugs can undermine the integrity of the chain of custody in drug cases. The SC clarified in *Guinto v. DOJ* (Department of Justice) that the 2019 Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. (RA) 10592, or the New Good Conduct Time Allowance law, cannot exclude persons convicted of heinous crimes, repeat offenders, habitual delinquents, and escapees from the benefits of law. Meanwhile, the SC granted the request of the DOJ to move the venue of two criminal cases against religious leader Apollo Quiboloy from the Regional Trial Court (RTC) of Davao City to Quezon City. Free speech In *ABS-CBN Corporation v. Ampatuan Jr.*, the SC established the limits of free speech for participants in legal proceedings and clarified the guidelines for imposing the subsequent punishment of indirect contempt. It cautioned that while courts' contempt powers can limit the speech of the media and the public, they should not be broadly used to prevent the press from reporting on important public matters. The SC also recognized social media speech as a fourth type of regulated speech, acknowledging the influence of fake news online on public trust in the judiciary and its application of justice. Regarding the statements made by former Duterte administration official Lorraine Marie Badoy, the SC emphasized the importance of balancing free speech with the protection of judicial independence. It found that certain social media posts attacking a judge were contemptuous. While the SC ruled that expressing criticism of a court's decision in a pending case, when done in good faith, may be permitted, it made clear that accusing a judge of improper motives and trying to rally public support to pressure that judge is not acceptable. In *Labargan v. People*, the SC ruled that statements against public officers do not amount to oral defamation or slander when these concern their discharge of official duties, unless they are made maliciously. The SC recognizes that the right to free speech empowers citizens to hold public officers accountable, as public office is considered a public trust.

Right to privacy In *IBP* (Integrated Bar of the Philippines) *v. Purisima and Jacinto-Henares*, the SC upheld the right to privacy of professionals and their clients, invalidating a regulation from the Bureau of Internal Revenue that required self-employed professionals to submit their rates and register appointment books to monitor their tax compliance. In *People v. Rodriguez*, the SC reiterated that using online chat logs and videos as evidence does not violate the right to privacy when they are used to assess if a crime has been committed. RA No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act permits the processing of sensitive personal information to determine a person's criminal liability and to protect the rights and interests of individuals in court proceedings. In *Tria v. People*, the SC upheld the conviction of an accused for robbery for demanding money from his ex-girlfriend in exchange for deleting her nude photos posted on Facebook. Right to suffrage The SC ruled in *National Press Club v. Comelec* that the Commission on Elections may be compelled, via writ of mandamus, to allow the witnessing of the printing of ballots and disclose the complete transmission diagram and data/communications network architecture of vote counting machines (VCMs). The SC, however, clarified in *Rio v. Comelec* that the election body cannot be forced to either grant or deny requests for a ballot recount as this requires the exercise of Comelec's discretion or judgment, a ministerial duty that cannot be a subject of a writ of mandamus. In *Smartmatic v. Comelec*, the SC reversed the poll body's resolutions disqualifying Smartmatic TIM Corporation and Smartmatic Philippines, Inc. from participating in any public bidding for elections. However, the SC recognized that requiring the Comelec to conduct another round of public bidding would seriously disrupt its preparations for the 2025 elections, thus, the ruling would apply prospectively, or to future events or cases. In *Macalino v. COA* (Commission on Audit), the SC ruled that the Constitutional prohibition on appointing individuals to government positions within one year after an election applies to all losing candidates, and applies regardless of the position they seek or the place or jurisdiction of the office to which they are appointed.

For the *Sinsuat v. Ebrahim* case, the SC emphasized that the creation of new municipalities must be approved or ratified in a plebiscite by a majority vote of qualified voters from both the newly created municipalities and the original parent municipalities. Limiting the plebiscite to only those residing in the newly formed municipalities denies the voting rights of individuals from the original parent municipalities. In *Duterte Youth v. Comelec*, the SC held that the deadlines for substituting party-list candidates remain in effect even after the elections. The SC emphasized the importance of the timing for nominee substitutions, as it directly affects voters' right to know the identities of the nominees from party-lists. This knowledge allows voters to make informed and intelligent choices on election day. Right to autonomy and self-determination In *Province of Sulu v. Executive Secretary*, the SC upheld the validity of RA 11054 or the Organic Law for the BARMM (Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao), but declared the province not part of the region after the province rejected the law's ratification. Access to justice In *De Guzman-Lara v. Comelec and Mamba*, the SC pointed out that since technological advances now permit electronic filing, filings by email may be made even beyond office hours, as long as they are completed within the same day. Inclusivity The SC also reminded a judge and a prosecutor in *Yokogawa-Tan v. Tan* to use gender-fair language in the courtroom, consistent with promoting gender equality in the Judiciary. In *People v. ZZZ* (G.R. No. 266706), the SC ruled that in instances of rape committed through force, threat, or intimidation, there is no requirement to prove that the victim resisted. The SC clarified that previous decisions stating that a woman cannot claim to be a rape victim unless she fought back are inconsistent with the current legal framework. These earlier pronouncements often reinforce misguided stereotypes that contribute to gender bias and insensitivity. It is essential to recognize and respect women's rights to autonomy and bodily integrity. In *People v. Bragais and Tacuyo*, the SC highlighted that a person's ability to testify as a witness

depends on their capacity to relay their knowledge, regardless of any intellectual disability they may have. If their testimony is clear and understandable, it can be accepted. Separation of powers In *An Waray v. Comelec*, the SC upheld the Comelec resolutions cancelling An Waray's registration as a party-list organization. The SC held that under both the Constitution and the Party-List System Act, it is the Comelec that has exclusive jurisdiction to rule on the cancellation of party-list registrations. In *Magsasaka Party-List v. Comelec and Villamin*, the SC ruled that party-list organizations must be allowed to interpret their own internal rules on how to remove their officials, declaring that Soliman Villamin Jr. was validly removed from his position as national chairperson of the group. The SC also affirmed in *FEJODAP v. Manila City* the exclusive power of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority to enforce traffic laws, rules and regulations over local governments in the NCR. In *MWSS v. Bulacan*, the SC affirmed its decision that the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is not required to share its proceeds from using Angat Dam with the Bulacan government. Social welfare In *XXX v. People* (G.R. No. 252739), the SC ruled that in determining whether marital infidelity caused psychological violence under RA 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act, criminal intent is presumed in acts of marital infidelity. Protecting children's welfare, the SC in *CICL XXX v. People* set guidelines to streamline the process for determining discernment in crimes involving children in conflict with the law, recognizing there is a different standard in determining a minor's culpability for crimes. In *Dela Cruz v. Lanuza, Jr.* the SC ruled that decades-long unjustified absence from the marital home may be evidence of a spouse's psychological incapacity to comply with marital obligations. Labor The SC also ruled that it is illegal to dismiss an employee solely for testing positive for HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), declaring such termination discriminatory. It is likewise illegal for a school to suspend its unmarried teacher for being pregnant, as in the *Bohol Wisdom School et al v. Mabao*

case. The SC invalidated a series of quit claims after finding out that the employer tricked its workers into signing them. Additionally, it emphasized that compromise agreements and settlements between employers and employees that provide excessively low amounts to employees are invalid. In *Bartolome v. Toyota*, the SC ruled that demotion, verbal abuse, and indifferent behavior by an employer that forces an employee to resign constitute constructive illegal dismissal. It held that the standard for constructive dismissal is whether a reasonable person in the employee's position would have felt forced to give up their employment under the circumstances. Habitual negligence, however, is a ground for dismissal as held by the SC, and emphasized that under Article 297(b) of the Labor Code, employers may terminate employees for gross and habitual neglect of duties, including carelessness and inefficiency in their tasks. Cleansing the Bench and the Bar The court also made a number of administrative rulings against court officials, employees and lawyers. In one case, the SC dismissed three Court of Appeals employees for testing positive for shabu for the second time. In another, the SC dismissed a judge for gross misconduct after finding messages on his laptop asking for bribes from lawyers and litigants in exchange for favorable rulings in cases before him. The SC ordered the preventive suspension of a Pasay City judge and an acting branch Clerk of Court to ensure a thorough and uninterrupted formal investigation, while another judge was dismissed for falsification of official documents and serious dishonesty for making false certifications and misappropriating her staff's salaries. The SC dismissed a judge for manipulating the procurement of medical supplies for the City of Manila, emphasizing that judges must follow the highest standards of conduct and avoid any behavior that could seem improper. The SC disbarred a lawyer for grossly immoral conduct for engaging in extramarital affairs with at least three women, entering into a bigamous marriage, and sexually harassing his staff. It also found a private lawyer guilty of simple misconduct for committing impropriety when he sponsored the trips of IBP-Central Luzon officers. (PNA)



IKA-2 PANDAIGDIGANG KUMPERENSIYA SA NANGANGANIB NA WIKA, TAGUMPAY!

Matagumpay na isinagawa ang Ika-2 Pandaigdigang Kumperensiya sa Nanganganib na Wika na ginanap noong 9–11 Oktubre 2024 sa Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas, Maynila katuwang ang Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas-Sentro sa Pag-aaral ng Wika (PNU-LSC), Departamento ng Filipino ng Pamantasang De La Salle (DLSU-Filipino), at Departamento ng Linggwistiks ng Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (UP-Lingg).

Nilahukan ito ng 267 na kalahok mula sa iba't ibang katutubong pamayanan, lider ng indigenous cultural communities (ICCs), Indigenous Peoples Mandatary Representatives (IPMR), ahensiya, institusyon, mag-aaral, at mga organisasyon.

Sa unang araw ay nagtanggap ng ritwal ang Bugkalot. Nagbigay ng mainit na bating pagtanggap si Denmark L. Yonson, PhD, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services ng Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas.

Nagbahagi rin ng mensahe si Secretary-General Ivan Henares, PhD sa pamamagitan ni Gng. Kaye S. Nagpala ng Philippine National Commission for UNESCO. Nagtanggap naman ng katutubong sayaw ang PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe bilang pampasiglang bilang.

Matapos nito ay nagbigay ng panayam ang Pamaksang Tagapanayam na si Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, Direktor ng Tebtebba kaugnay ng karapatan na dapat tinatamasa ng mga katutubo. Sinimulan naman ni Tagapangulong Arthur P. Casanova, PhD, ang panayam sa plenaryong sesyon na tumatalakay sa “Estado ng mga Nanganganib na Wika sa Pilipinas at Programa sa Pagpapasigla ng Wika ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino.”

Sinundan ito ng paralel na sesyon tungkol sa dokumentasyon at mga pag-aaral sa wika mula sa iba't ibang institusyon.

Sa ikalawang plenaryong panayam naman ay tinalakay ni Anna Belew, PhD, Direktor ng Endangered Languages Project ang “Lumalaking Network ng Pagpapasiglang Pangwika sa Kabila ng mga Hanggahan.”

Sa ikalawang araw ay nagbigay ng mensahe si Deborah S. Anastacio, PhD, Tagapangulo ng Departamento ng De La Salle. Ibinahagi din ni Marites T. Gonzalo, Direktor, IP Education Ministry ang “Pagtuturo ng mga Katutubong Kaalaman” at ginagawa ng kanilang organisasyon para sa kanilang komunidad na Tagakawlo.

Sinundan ito ng pagbabahagi ni Frederick Barcelo, Bugkalot, sa “Pagsasalin ng Bibliya bilang Paraan ng Pangangalaga ng Wika” ng kanilang wika. Hinilawod Epic Chant Recording naman ang ibinahagi nina Felipe P. Jocano Jr., Unibersidad ng Pilipinas at Lord Jane Caballero-Dordas, PhD, Sugidanon. Nagkaroon din ng bahagian sa sesyong paralel kaugnay ng mga papel-pananaliksik pangwika. Ibinahagi naman ni Siripen Ungsitipoonporn, PhD, Mahidol University ang pag-a-archive ng mga wika (Language Archiving) at nagawang website at mga materyal.

Sa ikatlong araw, nagbigay ng mensahe si Maria Kristina Gallego, PhD, Tagapangulo ng Departamento ng Linggwistiks. Nagbahagi naman ng mga papel sa plenaryong sesyon ang mga tagapanayam mula sa katuwang na institusyon. Sinimulan ni John Amtalao, PhD, Pamantasang De La Salle ang “Ang Sampung Libong Salita ng Tuwali-Ifugao sa Lente ni Padre Hubert Lambrecht: Repleksiyon sa Pagbubuo ng Identidad ng Araling Kordilyera.” Sinundan ito ni Voltaire M. Villanueva, PhD Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas na “Pagtatampok sa mga Kalinangang Bayan sa Aralin at Pagsasanay tungo sa Preserbasyon ng Wika at Kultura (Bongabong).”

Nagkaroon din ng pagbahagi sa mga papel-pananaliksik

HANEP

Basahin Mo Ito!

Patay, nakahandusay sa harapan ng plaza

WALA ng buhay na natagpuan ang lalaking nakahandusay sa harapan ng plaza sa Rosario, Cavite.

Inilarawan ang lalaki na tinatayang nasa 40-anyos, may taas na 5 talampakan, nakasuot ng itim na jogging pants at gray na t-shirt. Ayon sa isang concerned citizen, bandang alas-10:40 ng umaga ay napansin ang

biktima na nakahandusay sa semento at wala ng buhay sa kahabaan ng Marsiella Road, Brgy Poblacion, Rosario.

Sa ulat ng pulisya, inaalam pa ang sanhi ng pagkamatay ng biktima na wala namang nakitang anumang sugat o palatandaan na sinaktan ito. Wala ring nakakakila sa biktima na pinaniniwalaang dayo lamang. **(Gene Adsua)**

2025, MAPAYAPA ANG PAGSALUBONG – PNP

ITINUTURING ng Philippine National Police na naging mapayapa ang pagsalubong ng 2025 sa bansa. Wala umangong naitalang malaking kaganapan o kaso ang kapulisan hanggang sa mismong araw ng Bagong Taon nitong Enero 1.

Maliban lamang sa naitalang 27 mga kaso ng indiscriminate firing, na bahagyang mas mataas sa 20 cases noong nakalipas na taon. Nagresulta ito sa pagkakasugat sa lima katao, na mas mababa naman kumpara ng nakaraang taon na pito.

Umbat naman sa 21 katao ang naaresto kabilang ang tauhan ng pulisya sa Region4-A at mula sa Bureau of Corrections sa Zamboanga Peninsula habang

iniulat na nasa 17 baril ang nakumpiska mula sa iba't ibang indibidwal. Kaugnay naman ng stray bullet ay anim ang sugatan at ang may kinalaman naman sa mga paputok ay nasa 297 ang naitalang kaso na umano'y isa ang namatay. Sinusulat ito ay tinatayang nasa P3,922,678 ang halaga ng iba't ibang iligal na paputok na nakumpiska na aabot sa 593,094 ang bilang at 73 katao ang nadakip.

Lumilitaw na epektibo ang inilatag na panuntunan ni PNP chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil para sa ligtas na pagsalubong sa panibagong taon ng publiko. **RUBEN LACSA**

Tinambangan pagtapos ng putukan

KAMATAYAN ang sumalubong sa pagpasok ng Bagong Taon sa isang lalaki habang sugatan naman ang kasama nito makaraang pagbabarilin ng hindi nakilalang mga suspek sa

Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Namatay sa pinangyarihan ng insidente ang biktima na si alyas Johnny habang ginagamot sa Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas si alyas Christopher dahil sa tama ng bala sa katawan.

Inaalam ang pagkakakilanlan nga tatlong suspek, isa rito ay armado ng kalibre ng baril, na tumakas matapos ang insidente.

Sa ulat, katatapos lamang ng putukan para sa pagsalubong ng Bagong Taon habang nakaistambay pa ang mga biktima sa harapan ng kanilang bahay sa Interfashion Brgy H2, Dasmariñas City, bandang ala-1:00 ng madaling araw ay sumulpot ang tatlong suspek.

Isa rito ay armado ng kalibre 38 na baril at walang sabi-sabing pinaputukan ang dalawa kung saan agad na nalagutan ng hininga si Johnny.

Nagtangka pang tumakas si Christopher upang humingi ng saklolo saka siya isinugod sa ospital.

Mabilis namang tumakas ang mga suspek sa hindi nabatid na direksiyon. **(Gene Adsua)**



Badyet

ANG 2025 General Appropriations Act ay nalgadaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos, Jr. dalawang araw bago ang pagtatapos ng 2024.

Dumaan naman umano sa matinding pagsusuri ni President Marcos bago ganap na nilagdaan ang 2025 national budget.

Sabi pa nga ni Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin ay lubhang naging maingat ang Punong Ehekutibo para makatiyak na ang pondo ay mapupunta sa mga karapat-dapat.

Aba ay dapat lang naman dahil napakaraming Juan dela Cruz ang mayroong ambag sa ating pambansang badyet.

Speaking of budget, kailangang bawat isa sa atin ay matutong humawak ng badyet para sa pang-araw-araw na gastusin o pangangailangan.

Enero ngayon at ilang buwan na lamang o 11 months ay Disyembre na naman.

Magugulat tayo ay nasa panahon na naman muli ng Kapaskuhan dahil lubhang napakatulin ng pagdaan ng araw o panahon.

Natapos na ang Pasko at Bagong Taon na ang perang ginamit ba sa pagselebra ng mga ito ay mula sa ipon o savings?

Baka naman para makasabay lamang sa mga bonggang selebrasyon ay

idinaan sa pangungutang pati ang pagbibigay ng mga regalo upang mawala masabi ang mga kaanak, kaibigan, kasamahan o sino pa man.

Hindi naman kaila na ang diwa ng Kapaskuhan bukod sa pagmamahalan ay ang pagbibigayan.

Walang masama sa pagbibigay kung ito ay sadyang nakalaan sa ating badyet.

Kaya ngayon pa lamang ay matutong humawak sa tamang badyet para mayroong maiimpok pagdating muli ng Kapaskuhan at hindi kung kelan gahol na sa panahon ay doon pa lang mag-iipon.

Sa mga mayayaman o sadyang nakakaangat sa buhay ay hindi problema sa kanila ang mga ganitong okasyon dahil sila ay hindi salat sa pananalapi.

Tayong mga ordinaryo o karaniwan lamang ang pamumuhay ay kailangang sasamahan ng tamang budget sa mga ginagastos upang hindi namomroblema pagsapit ng Kapaskuhan o ano mang okasyon.

Isama na rin natin ang mga biglaan at hindi inaasahang mga gastos tulad ng pagkakasakit at iba pa.

Kasama tayo sa national budget kaya isama na rin natin sa ating mga sarili ang mga tamang pamamaraan sa pagbabadyet.



Senator Loren Legarda's New Year's Message – story p.8