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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.

CAVITE PESO • 5

Game over for POGOs; high-profile fugitives fall

At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Day, it's game over for Philippine offshore gaming operators (POGOs) which became a bane to society over its links to a string of criminal activities.

Pursuant to Executive Order (EO) 74 signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in November, Philippine law enforcement agencies launched a crackdown against POGOs to ensure that they cease operations before the end of 2024.

This resulted in the closure of the country's biggest POGO compound located at the former Island Cove resort in the province of Cavite on Dec. 17, led by Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, Presidential Anti-Organiza-



GAME OVER. Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla (center) and other government officials lead the formal closure of the Island Cove resort-turned Philippine offshore gaming operator facility in Kawit, Cavite on Tuesday (Dec. 17, 2024). The POGO facility, located on a 33-hectare property, is the biggest in the country. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

GAME OVER • 5

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. 2024 SETUP • 6

NEWS

From Bar to Bistro: The Inspiring Journey of Alcoh Bistro

Antipolo City, 26 December 2024 – Nestled in the heart of Rizal, Alcoh Bistro stands as a testament to resilience, transformation, and family values. The brainchild of Florey Serrato, a mother of four and a Mass Communication. Alcoh Bistro is more than just a dining spot—it's a legacy in the making.



Florey's entrepreneurial journey began in 2009, alongside her husband, Arnel, with the opening of Alcoh Bar. The

establishment became a local favorite for its lively atmosphere, cold beer, and videoke nights. However, like many busi-

nesses, the pandemic in 2019 forced its closure, putting a pause on their dreams.

In 2022, Florey and



Arnel reopened their doors with a renewed purpose and a new name: Alcoh Bistro. Transitioning from a bar-centric identity, the couple envisioned a family-friendly restaurant where great food and exceptional customer experience would take center stage.

"When people hear 'Alcoh,' they often think of beer or videoke," Florey shared. "But as a mother watching my four boys grow, I began to reflect deeply on why I do what I do. I wanted Alcoh to be more than just a business—I wanted it to be something we could proudly pass on to our children."

With no formal education in Business Management, Florey faced challenges in running the bistro. Seeking to grow her knowledge, she turned to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Rizal Provincial Office. A social media post about the Kapatiid Mentor ME (KMME) program caught her attention, sparking a journey that would redefine her business.

Florey joined KMME, submitted her requirements, and went through a mentorship process. Presenting her Business



Improvement Plan to a panel of experts, she not only gained invaluable insights but also earned the distinction of Best Presenter.

"The program taught me the importance of value in our business," she recalled. "Before, my focus was just on generating sales to cover expenses. But KMME gave me a bigger vision for Alcoh Bistro and for our family."

Since completing the KMME program, Florey and Arnel have made significant strides in improving Alcoh Bistro. The air-conditioned dining area has been transformed into a cozy, inviting space perfect for small events and celebrations. Their menu now boasts upgraded dishes and new recipes, reflecting their commitment to offering only the best to their patrons.

Alcoh Bistro still re-

tains its videoke charm, inviting customers to sing their hearts out while enjoying Filipino favorites. But the Serratos' focus is clear: creating a dining experience where families can come together, enjoy great food, and make lasting memories.

Florey's journey is a testament to the power of determination and adaptability. With a renewed vision and the support of programs like KMME, she has not only redefined Alcoh Bistro but also inspired others in her community.

"Through KMME, we've dared to dream bigger for our business and our family," Florey said with pride.

Today, Alcoh Bistro isn't just a business—it's a symbol of resilience, reinvention, and a family's unwavering commitment to building a brighter future.

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Editorial

Garbage left behind: The need to foster a culture of environmental responsibility

The day after we welcomed the new year, an all-too-familiar sight confronted us: mounds of garbage in public spaces. Year after year, New Year's Eve celebrations leave public spaces littered with various forms of plastic packaging for food and beverages, firecracker debris, paper wrappers, and food waste.

It is a troubling sign of an environmental problem and the absence of an anti-littering mindset as a duty of every citizen.

Although authorities have not yet stated the number of tons of garbage hauled from parks and other public places after the New Year's Eve celebrations, the videos on social media showing thousands of families welcoming the new year with food and drinks showed the beginnings of the thrash that will be left behind.

In 2023, the Manila local government unit reported that after Christmas Day it collected 41 tons of trash in Luneta Park. In past years, the volume of garbage collected after New Year's celebrations has been staggering. For instance, in 2020, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) reported collecting 55 tons of garbage from Metro Manila alone within just 24 hours after the festivities.

Although this annual waste problem highlights the broader solid waste management challenge the Philippines continues to grapple with, it shows the need to inculcate the value of anti-littering as the duty of every citizen. This behavior has a slogan – CLAY-Go—which means “clean as you go.” A citizen should be responsible for cleaning up thrash from an activity. It is not only the government's duty to run an efficient solid waste management system.

The Philippines produces between 60,640 and 61,000 metric tons of solid waste per day. With an estimated 2.7 million metric tons of plastic waste generated each year, of which nearly 20 percent ends up in the ocean, the Philippines is ranked as one of the world's

MONEY
SITUATION
AFTER
CHRISTMAS



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top contributors to marine plastic pollution. A significant portion of the New Year's waste comprises single-use plastics, including bottles, cups, and utensils, as well as non-biodegradable fireworks debris.

Studies have shown how this unmanaged waste impacts the environment. Plastics, in particular, have devastating effects on marine life. A 2021 study found that approximately 36 percent of fish in Philippine waters contained microplastics in their digestive systems, a sobering reminder of how pollution infiltrates the food chain. Additionally, plastic waste in soil disrupts nutrient cycling and plant growth, further compromising agricultural productivity.

Solving this waste crisis requires a multi-pronged approach from both government and private sectors. The implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Republic Act 9003), which mandates proper waste segregation and disposal, has been in-

consistent across cities and municipalities. Local governments need to enforce stricter penalties for littering and bolster their waste management systems, particularly during events like New Year's Eve.

Private sector initiatives can play a significant role. Businesses should reduce their reliance on single-use plastics and adopt circular economy models where materials are reused or recycled. Collaborative efforts, such as community cleanups and public awareness campaigns, can also foster a culture of environmental responsibility.

Ultimately, the future generations bear the brunt of today's waste problem. A polluted environment diminishes the quality of life, limits access to clean water and arable land, and accelerates climate change.

It is time for collective action to ensure that the joy of welcoming a new year does not come at the expense of the planet's future.

Mata at Paningin

Kapag tayo'y nagkaka-edad, humihina din ang ating mata. Tumitigas ang lente ng mata at lumalabo ang ating paningin. Ano ba ang mga bagay-bagay na nakasasama sa ating mata?

Ang mga payong ito ay itinuro sa akin ni Dr. Manuel Agulto, isang tanyag na espesyalista sa mata sa U.P. Si Dr. Agulto ay tumulong din sa pag-papa-opera sa mata ng maraming mahihirap na pasyente sa Philippine General Hospital.

Heto ang payo ni Dr. Agulto:

1. Umiwas sa nakasisilaw na bagay. Huwag tumitig sa araw at maliwanag na ilaw. Ayon kay Dr. Agulto, ito ang pinakamahalagang payo para hindi masira ang ating mata. Subukan ding diliman ang ating computer screen at telebisyon para hindi tayo masilaw.

2. Huwag magbasa sa dilim. Mahihirapan ang ating mata sa pagbabasa sa madilim. Gumamit ng katamtamang puting ilaw (at hindi dilaw). Huwag idirekta ang liwanag sa mata.

3. Huwag magtrabaho ng mahabang oras sa harap ng computer o TV. Subukan ang payong “20-20-20”. Ano ito? Bawat 20 minutos sa harap ng computer o TV, tumingin sa malayong lugar (mga 20 feet ang layo) ng 20 segundo. Makababawas ito sa pagod ng ating mata.

4. Isang tip: Ang madalas na pagkurap ng mata ay may benepisyo din para basain ng luha ang ating mata. Masama kasing matuyuan ang cornea (ang harapan ng mata). Minsan, sa sobrang sipag

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



magtrabaho ay nakakalimutan nating kumurap at ipahinga ang mata.

5. Ihinto ang paninigarilyo. Umiwas din sa usok ng ibang naninigarilyo. Napakasama ng paninigarilyo sa mata dahil puwede itong magdulot ng katarata at pagkabulag. Ang katarata ay ang panlalabo ng lente na nangangailangan pa ng operasyon.

6. Umiwas sa maalikabok at maduming lugar. Napapansin mo ba na kapag nasa mausok o maalikabok kang lugar ay namumula ang iyong mata? Kapag sumakay ka ng jeep o nag-inuman sa bar, hindi ba namumula ang iyong mata? Ito'y dahil nakakairita ang usok at alikabok sa ating mata. Nakasama po ito sa katagalanan.

Para maalagaan ang mata, magpa-check up ng mata bawat 1-2 taon. Maraming sakit sa mata (tulad ng glaucoma) ang walang sintomas. Akala mo ay maayos ang iyong mata pero may diprensiya na pala. Lalo na kung ika'y may diabetes, kailangan mong ipa-check ng maaga ang iyong mata. Nakabubulag ang diabetes. Alagaan natin ang ating mata!

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NEWS

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, Panginisda Natin Gawing Tama (PANAGAT), and other groups, protested in front of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) today, 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 Mercidair 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.

tive 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.

Ms. Mary Ann D. Carpiso, Supervising Science Research Specialist and SETUP Center Manager, presented the accomplishments of the RTEC in 2024 and outlined the new SETUP Guidelines for RTEC endorsement and approval. In her closing remarks, Ms. Carpiso thanked all stakeholders and participants for their vital contributions to the program's success.

"SETUP is a collabora-

"Small-scale fisherfolk are the ones that put food on our tables, as big corporations, like Mercidair, 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 sea-

scapes 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 recon-

sidered 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. #ProtectOurSeas #DefendPHFisherfolk #ClimateJusticeNow

Lipa

from page 8

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 Buddybites, 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 photo-journalism, 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.

(By Ryan Spencer P. Secadron, DOST-STII)

Year End

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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 grati-

tude 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. Carpiso, Supervising Science Research Specialist and SETUP Center Manager, presented the accomplishments of the RTEC in 2024 and outlined the new SETUP Guidelines for RTEC endorsement and approval.

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

"SETUP is a collabora-

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Game over

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nized Crime Commission (PAOCC) Executive Director Undersecretary Gilbert Cruz, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) chairperson Alejandro Tengco and Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil.

The Remulla family sold the resort to a real estate developer in 2017. The facility then started operations as a POGO hub in 2019.

The POGO facility on the 33-hectare property is the biggest in the country with 30,000 employees, half of whom were Filipinos.

The compound consists of 57 buildings, including employee dormitories, gaming hubs, cafés, groceries, clinics, restaurants, spas and beauty salons.

Meanwhile, the PAOCC is intensifying the campaign against guerrilla POGO operations throughout the country.

Law enforcers would also mount inspections of special class business process outsourcing (BPO) facilities to ensure that no POGO hubs are concealing operations.

Guo, Quiboloy fall

The year 2024 also saw the downfall of two high-profile individuals linked to a string of crimes -- dismissed Bamban, Tarlac Mayor Alice Guo and Kingdom of Jesus Christ (KOJC) leader Apollo Quiboloy.

Guo was deported to the country after being arrested in Indonesia in September.

The dismissed mayor, her siblings Wesley and Shiela, and their parents were earlier ordered arrested by the Senate for their refusal to appear in its investigation into the operations of the Zun Yuan Technology Inc., the Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGO) hub in Bamban which was raided by authorities in March.

The investigation also led to questions on the nationality of the dismissed mayor, after the Philippine authorities revealed that her fingerprints matched that of a certain Chinese national identified as Guo Hua Ping.

In an Aug. 12 order, the Ombudsman dis-

missed Guo from the service for grave misconduct and perpetually banned her from holding public office.

This was in connection with the charges filed by the DILG against Guo for her alleged involvement in the operations of POGO.

Guo and her co-accused face charges of qualified human trafficking in connection with a June raid on a POGO hub in Bamban, Tarlac, where 800 Filipino and foreign workers were rescued.

In September, non-bailable criminal charges for qualified trafficking were filed before the Pasig Regional Trial Court (RTC) against dismissed Guo and 13 others.

Aside from Guo, the DOJ also charged Dennis Cunanan and 12 other executives and founders of three companies, who are allegedly Guo's business partners.

Meanwhile, Quiboloy was arrested on Sept. 8 at the KOJC compound in Davao City after more than two weeks of operation.

Quiboloy is currently facing a non-bailable qualified human trafficking charge. He is also accused of child and sexual abuse, along with five of his aides.

Following the arrest, his lawyers immediately sought a hospital or house arrest due to his medical history, including two previous heart-related procedures.

The court denied the petition after the Philippine National Police General Hospital declared that his condition is not life-threatening.

Last November, Quiboloy was transferred to the Pasig City Jail from the Philippine Heart Center where he is confined after being granted a medical furlough.

Bloodless anti-drug drive gains

The Marcos administration's anti-drug campaign has so far netted PHP51.14 billion worth of narcotics and arrested 119,022 drug suspects for the period of July 2022 to Oct. 31 this year, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported.

Records also showed that among those ar-

rested were 7,567 high-value targets in 87,802 operations across the country.

A total of 1,217 drug dens and 2 clandestine shabu laboratories were dismantled during the same period.

Meanwhile, 29,211 out of 42,000 villages have been declared "drug-cleared" while 6,292 are in the process of being cleared.

During his third State of the Nation Address in July, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. pledged to continue the bloodless anti-narcotics drive, emphasizing that extermination is not a part of his administration's anti-drug campaign.

Meanwhile, the PNP Drug Enforcement Group (PDEG) seized nearly PHP2.4 billion worth of narcotics from Jan. 1 to Dec. 18, 2024.

PDEG chief Brig. Gen. Eleazar Matta said the amount includes 168 kg. of shabu, 3,866,600 fully grown marijuana plants, 1,830 kg. of dried marijuana leaves, 48.672 kg. of ketamine, 36.9 kg. of kush, 1,343 tablets of ecstasy and 90 grams of cocaine.

The illegal drugs were seized in 698 operations, including buy-busts, service of search warrants, and marijuana eradication drive which also led to the arrest of 809 drug suspects and 232 wanted persons.

Matta said efforts now focus on interdiction and that the PDEG remains proactive in executing coordinated, high-impact operations and ensuring integrity and transparency in all operations, consistently using body-worn cameras.

He said actions are documented, with airtight cases prepared to ensure the prosecution of offenders.

Matta also paid tribute to police operatives who died in the line of duty.

"The heroism of these operatives inspires the entire force to press on, ensuring that their sacrifices were not in vain," Matta said.

He noted this milestone achievement underscores the PNP's recalibrated Anti-Illegal Drug Campaign Roadmap 2024-2028 which embodies a human-rights-focused and community-driven approach to tackling the nation's drug problem. (PNA)

DTI Rizal

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The Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) program, previously known as the Livelihood Seeding Program – Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (LSP-NSB), is an initiative by DTI aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and fostering economic development at the grassroots level. The program's primary goal is to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by bringing business resources, services, and information directly to the barangay level. This ini-

tiative helps reduce poverty and encourages sustainable economic growth by equipping local businesses with the skills and resources needed for success.

Ms. Sharon F. Dioco, DTI BDD Chief, delivered an inspiring message to the attendees, emphasizing the department's commitment to supporting local entrepreneurs. "Nandito lamang po ang DTI Rizal para umalay sa inyo. Hangad po namin na makatulong ang programang ito para mas lalo pa ninyong

mapalago ang inyong mga negosyo," she said.

The event also featured discussions on various DTI programs and services by Mr. Jerome Montealegre, while Ms. Faye Javier gave an overview of the Barangay Micro Business Enterprise (BMBE), lastly, Ms. Leah Clemente provided in-depth insights into the opportunities and benefits of the NSB program.

The orientation session concluded leaving the participants with valuable knowledge and resources to help grow their businesses and contribute to their community's economic development.



Cavite PESO

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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 OPPESM and TESDA to uplift communities by providing life-changing opportunities through skill development and job placement. (R. Tanael)

LEGAL NOTICES

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**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**

**JASON A. PALENCIA,
Respondents-Mortgagors,
F.C. Case No. 19269-24**

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 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 **JASON A. PALENCIA**, mortgagor, with residence and postal address at #2161 (A2) Pres. Aquino, Pandacan, Manila City and/or Lot 8 Block 5, Greentown II Village, Brgy. Toclong, Imus, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 19, 2024 amounts to **EIGHT HUNDRED NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE PESOS and 81/100 (Php 809,233.81)**, 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 **February 04, 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-
2014061093**

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 8, BLOCK 5 OF THE SUBDIVISION PLAN, PSD-04-166046, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 770, IMUS ESTATE, LRC RECORD NO. 8843), SITUATED IN BRGY. TOCLONG, MUNICIPALITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 7, BLOCK 5; AND ALONG LINE 2-3 BY RIGHT OF WAY 2; ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 11, BLOCK 5; ALL OF THE SUBDIVISION PLAN; AND ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 4-5 BY LOT 769-H, PSD-04-026536; AND ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 5-1 BY LOT 4, BLOCK 5 OF THE SUBDIVISION PLAN. xxx CONTAINING AN AREA OF **FOURTY NINE SQUARE METERS AND FORTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (49.40) xxx**

All sealed bid 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 11, 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 04, 2024.

(Sgd.) **BRYAN C. CERVANTES**
Sheriff IV

APPROVED BY:

(Sgd.) **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. AIRISA FE ESPERANZA D. MOLAER-NIGRO
Attorney-in-Fact, ALEXIS A. MOLAER LAW OFFICES
Lex Citadel Bldg., No. 7 La Salle St. Brgy. Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City

JASON A. PALENCIA
#2161 (A2) Pres. Aquino, Pandacan, Manila City and/or Lot 8 Block 5, Greentown II Village, Brgy. Toclong, Imus, Cavite

Publication: PMC Pulso ng Makabagong Caviteño News Publication
Dates: December 16, 23, 30, 2024

2024 SETUP

from
page 1

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



Researchers

from
page 8

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 kaya akala natin tamad lang sila magsulat."

With the help of iSULAT, children with handwriting problems can undergo si-

Most Innovative:
Ilocos Norte: Niña 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)

multaneous testing in batches or groups.

During phase I, the project team conducted pilot testing for children ages 6-10 in three sites across Luzon namely Villa Maria Elementary School in Porac, Pampanga; Juan Sumulong Elementary School in Metro Manila; and Bulacan Montessori School Inc. in Bulacan.

Herras said that phase I of the project started in 2022 and ended last 31 October 2024.

"Hopefully by 2026 ay mayroon nang phase II na kung saan ay maiaapply na natin ito hindi lang para sa mga bata," Herras explained. He added that the project targets those with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD and autism. This year, the project team has secured a partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) Division of Metro Manila for future testing.

(By Claire Bernadette A. Mondares, DOST-STII)

MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Huwag mong pansin ang mga reklamador dahil baka mahawa ka lang sa kanila. Ito ang mensahe ng kapalaran mo. Masuwarteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-4-19-20-38-40-41.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Kumilos ka ayon sa gusto mo. Hindi makakabuti kung ang mga kilos mo ay ayon lang sa dikta ng iba. Huwag na huwag kang magpapaimpluwensya. Ito ang bilin ng iyong kapalaran ngayon. Masuwarteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto-18-21-23-27-30-42.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Kung ano ang utos sa iyo, iyon ang sundin mo. Masuwarteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-6-19-20-29-39-41.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Huwag mong paghaluin ang problema sa bahay at trabaho. Ang pinakamagandang gawin mo ay kumilos na para bang wala kang inaalala. Masuwarteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-2-17-22-23-38-40.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Hindi maganda kung magpapaapekto ka sa iba. Ituloy mo lang ang pagiging masinop mo. Ito ang payo ng iyong kapalaran. Masuwarteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-15-17-24-25-30-40.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Huwag mong pabayaan ang sarili mo lalo na kapag may nararamdamang kung pagtingin sa iba. Masuwarteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-4-18-21-28-30-32.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Lumalago ang maliit na halaman hanggang sa maging mayabong na punongkahoy. Huwag kang mag-alala ang maliit mong suwerte ngayon ay lalaki rin 'yan. Masuwarteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-13-15-29-39-40-41.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Lagyan mo ng saya ang mga kilos at pagsasalita mo. Ang saya, kahit pa gaano kaliit ay nagsisilbi ring pang-akit sa mga suwerte nasa paligid. Masuwarteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-15-21-22-24-33-42.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Magplano ka muna bago ka kumilos. Naabot mo na ang kalagayan mo ngayon dahil sa kakaibang galing at husay mo sa pagpaplano. Masuwarteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-9-10-14-16-27-33.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Sa langit ka kumapit at huwag sa mga taong walang pagpapahalaga sa kabuhayan. Ito ang paalala sa iyo ng iyong kapalaran. Masuwarteng kulay-brown mocha. Tips sa lotto-15-20-21-25-31-34.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Kumukupas ang lahat. Pero para sa iyo, ang mga kumupas ay muling mananariwa. Masuwarteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-12-29-30-38-40-41.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Hawak-hawak mo ang kapalaran nila. Sa biglang tingin, ito ay maganda, pero ang payo ay nagsasabing turuan mo silang mabuhay sa sarili nila. Masuwarteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-7-17-20-22-24-37.

SUDOKU

3			8	5		1		
				3			4	
7			6	2		8		
1	5	7		9				
2				1			6	
				5	7	8		
9			4				8	
	3				6			
8							3	

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 21 #43

9	2	7	1	5	8	4	6	3
3	1	6	9	4	7	8	2	5
4	8	5	2	3	6	7	9	1
1	4	3	7	2	5	9	8	6
2	5	8	3	6	9	1	7	4
6	7	9	8	1	4	3	5	2
5	9	1	4	7	2	6	3	8
7	6	4	5	8	3	2	1	9
8	3	2	6	9	1	5	4	7

HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku puzzle is made up of a 9-by-9 grid with nine 3-by-3 sub-grids called boxes. There are 9 rows, 9 columns and 9 boxes in every puzzle. The object of the game is to fill all squares in the grid with the correct number.

- The rules are:
 - Every row, column and box must contain all the digits 1 to 9.
 - Each number can only appear once in every row, column or box.
 - Every puzzle has only one correct solution!

Did You Know?



THERE'S A
SECRET VAULT
THAT HOLDS
NEARLY EVERY
TYPE OF CROP
SEED?

It's the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, located in one of the coldest corners of the world: an island on the Svalbard archipelago, between Norway and the North Pole. This remote location allows the natural permafrost cooling necessary for proper storage of the world's largest collection of crop diversity. If the zombie apocalypse were to become a reality, or just if farmers' fields start to dry out, this seed vault would come to the rescue.

WORD HUNT

Martin Luther King

L	D	O	C	H	C	E	E	P	S	C	T	S	E
P	S	T	D	F	P	T	T	E	T	M	S	S	S
A	A	L	K	U	L	O	R	A	U	E	D	N	T
A	A	I	I	N	P	H	A	T	H	T	L	S	I
R	I	A	N	E	O	S	B	S	S	E	A	O	N
R	D	J	G	R	L	E	A	T	N	A	L	T	A
E	T	E	O	A	I	N	R	S	R	A	E	Y	S
S	G	S	L	L	C	N	O	D	A	P	B	E	H
T	R	N	K	L	E	D	A	U	G	H	T	E	R
E	D	A	R	T	I	T	H	Q	U	O	T	E	S
D	L	O	T	I	E	K	N	I	T	R	A	M	M
I	B	O	M	B	E	D	S	I	H	P	M	E	M
T	R	S	L	U	T	H	E	R	R	O	I	I	E
C	O	R	E	T	T	A	S	C	O	T	T	C	S

YEARS
BOMBED
KING
CORETTA SCOTT
DAUGHTER
SHOT
ATLANTA
SPEECH
KILLED
STATUE
JAIL
LUTHER
MEMPHIS
ARRESTED
POLICE
MARTIN
QUOTES
SONS
FUNERAL

Year End 2024 RTEC 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, Small, 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.

YEAR END • 4

DTI Rizal hosts Successful Orientation for Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) Program

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – Rizal successfully conducted the Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) Program Orientation for 34 beneficiaries from the municipalities of Tanay, Jala-jala, Pililla, Baras, Morong, and Cardona.



The event, held on December 19, 2024, at the MSWD Activity Area of Tanay Municipal Hall, brought together sari-sari store owners from marginalized sectors of these municipalities. The activity was attended by DTI Business Development Division Chief Ms. Sharon F. Dioco, Trade-Industry Development Specialist Ms. Noralyn Halimao, and Negosyo Center Business Counselors (NCBC) Ms. Faye Javier (Cardona), Ms. Leah Clemente (Morong), Ms. Karla Reyes (Tanay), Ms. Cristine Joy Padayao (Sampaloc-Tanay), and Mr. Jerome Montealegre (Pililla/Jala-jala).

DTI RIZAL • 5



Researchers eye more partners to test hand-writing tool research

Local researchers have developed a handwriting assessment tool, are looking to get more partners to conduct more tests across the country.



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)

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. RESEARCHERS • 6

Lipa students learn science storytelling basics

"Effective storytelling is key to science writing," this was how Ingrid Espinosa, a science communication practitioner sums up her lecture to student journalists from Lipa City Colleges (LCC) in Lipa City, Batangas.



Student journalists from Lipa City Colleges convened as the two-day Science Journo Ako went to Lipa City to enhance their skills in creating science content across multimedia platforms on 21-22 November 2024. (Photos by Andrea Mei B. Resane, DOST-STII)

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. LIPA • 4