

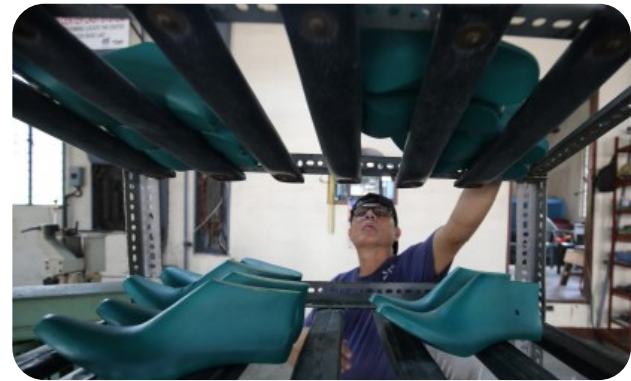
PH business sentiment improves as employment rate keeps momentum

MANILA – Business sentiment has improved in the Philippines under the Marcos administration as evidenced by the February 2024 jobs report, which shows encouraging signs of a consolidating jobs market, a House leader said on Thursday.

House ways and means committee chairperson Joey Salceda said the fastest-growing jobs are in more durable sectors, such as craft and related trade workers with 511,000 more jobs, plant and machine operators with 481,000 additional jobs.

He said declines were recorded among less durable sectors like skilled agricultural workers with 378,000 less jobs and elementary occupations with 782,000 less jobs.

He said this aligns with last year's Business Outlook Index, which showed generally high business confidence in the mining, construction, and energy sectors, compared



with agriculture and retail trade.

He noted that business sentiment in the country turned brighter as job quality improved.

"This job consolidation owes much to improved business sentiment under the Marcos administration. Growth in manufacturing jobs is especially a good sign for the Philippines amid global headwinds," he said in a statement.

He said with job quality improving, the key priority remains to be wage quality.

He said the price of rice will be the primary

factor determining how far current wages can go, considering that rice accounts for as much as 20.4 percent of the expenses of low-income workers, and the rising price of the staple is to blame for the price flare-ups of other goods.

"Without the global rice price shock, Filipino workers would be enjoying better jobs that offer enough discretionary income for other expenses – such as entertainment, household durables, and other basic comforts," he said.

"As it stands, the country's ability to generate more jobs in non-essential

DOTr approves higher penalties for erring car dealers, importers



MANILA – Vehicle dealerships and importers will soon face higher penalties for fraudulent vehicle registration following an amendment of an administrative order by the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

In a statement on Friday, LTO Chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza said the amendment, approved by Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista, would add more teeth in imposing sanctions against manufacturers, assemblers, importers, rebuilders,

dealers, and other entities (MAIRDOEs) that are authorized to import motor vehicles and its components.

These higher penalties will be imposed against those who commit fraud and misrepresentation in the filing of the application and its operations, including stock and sales reporting; and the submission of fraudulent, fake, or falsified stock/sales periodic reports as required by law.

The first offense for both violations would merit the suspension of their Certificate of Accreditation (COA) for not more than six months, a fine of PHP500,000, and cancellation of their Certificate of Stock Reported (CSR), sales report, and the registration of the involved ve-

hicles. For the second offense, violators will face cancellation of their COA, blacklisting for a year from the finality of the order of cancellation, and the cancellation of their CSR, sales report, and vehicle registrations.

"The LTO reserves the right to institute criminal actions against the concerned person or entities who committed the above serious offenses," Mendoza said.

Since both offenses are classified as "serious," he said the penalty also includes a 90-day preventive suspension that will start upon receipt of a show cause order from the LTO.

In the same administrative order approved by Bautista, less

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OCD: Engineering solutions, Building Code vital in quake preparedness

MANILA – The Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) has reiterated the importance of engineering solutions and compliance with Republic Act 6541 or the National Building Code as part of earthquake preparedness and mitigation efforts.



"I will say it again. Engineering solutions and compliance with the building code are the best preparedness measures for earthquakes. We really need to improve our efforts for these alongside other measures," OCD administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said in a statement over the weekend.

He also stressed the need to ensure that buildings and facilities are

resistant to strong earthquakes.

"Again, let us be reminded of the casualty projection for the magnitude 7.2 earthquake generated by the West Valley Fault. At least 30,000 to 48,000 individuals might die in the Greater Metro Manila Area. This is a very clear indication that there are a lot of things that we must do to advance our preparedness for earthquakes," he added.

The OCD chief, meanwhile, extended his sympathies to the people of Taiwan which was rocked by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake on April 3, killing nine people and injuring more than 900 persons.

"While we are seeing reports of the impacts of the said earthquake,

CLASSES ARE

ASYNCHRONOUS

APRIL 15 & 16, 2024

FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ADVISORY

In order to allow learners to complete pending assignments, projects, and other requirements as the end of school year is fast-approaching, all public schools nationwide shall implement **ASYNCHRONOUS CLASSES/DISTANCE LEARNING** on April 15 and 16, 2024.

Likewise, teaching and non-teaching personnel in all public

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH RESA ADVOCACY AKSYON KOLORUM MOVEMENT

Dinaluhan ng ating lokal na pamahalaan, sa pangunguna ng ating Mayor Kevin Anarna ang Akmove Advocacy Academic Conference na ginanap sa SMX Convention Center SM Aura sa Taguig City.



Ito ay isang makabuluhang usapan na inihanda ng Real Estate Service Act (RESA) Advocate Aksyon Kolorum Movement kung saan iniladnila ang mga naitalang ilegal na Real Estate Service Online sa ating bansa. Dito din ay nagbigay sila ng mga hakbang na maaaring gawin ang nakaka-alarmang pagdami nito.

Dumalo kasama ng ating Alkalde sina Atty. Irene Anama -Municipal Legal Consultant, Ms. Cherry Cuevas- Municipal Planning Development Coordinator. Nandoon din sina Aksyon Kolorum Movement Founder- Mr. Rem Ramirez at Aksyon Kolorum Movement President- Mr. Juleous Balila. Kasama rin sa mga ito ang distinguished panelist mula

sa Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) at DHSUD - 4A, PNP & SIL-ANG LGU, Philippine Real Estate Service Practitioners Inc (PHILRES), Philippine Association of Real Estate Boards Inc. (PAREB), Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (REBAP), National Real Estate Association (NREA) **see page 6...**

Coffee and milk tea making in the Livelihood Skills Training of CICLEDO



LOOK: The City of Imus Cooperative, Livelihood & Entrepreneurial and Enterprise Development Office (CICLEDO) conducted Livelihood Skills Training again on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at Barangay Hall of Malagasang 2-F.



Willbur Asehan shared his knowledge on coffee

and milk tea making to 40 people. SK Federation President Glian Ilagan and Kap. Edward Fauni were also included in the said training. Livelihood Skills Training is one of CICLEDO's programs

that aim to help Imuseños start their own business.

INAUGURATION AND BLESSING CEREMONY COMMEMORATES COMPLETION OF MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING IN ANIBAN 1

Aniban 1, April 12, 2024 - A momentous event unfolded in Aniban 1 as the community celebrated the inauguration and blessing ceremony of the newly constructed Multi-Purpose Building. Organized by the Office of Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, in collaboration with the Bacoor LGU led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, the event brought together esteemed guests, partners, and community members who played a pivotal role in making this project a reality.



The distinguished guests of honor included Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, Mayor Strike Revilla, Congressman Bryan Revilla of Agimat Partylist, Councilor Adriel Gawaran, and Barangay Kapitan Jose "Densing" Agcropa of Aniban Barangay Aniban 1. Their

presence underscored their commitment to the welfare and development of the community.

The event was graced by the presence of Renz Bautista, the City Engineer, as well as PWDs, senior citizens, daycare teachers, and members of the Brgy. and SK Council of Brgy. Aniban 1. Their active participation showcased the unity and support of the community towards this significant milestone.

The Multi-Purpose Building, a project

initiated by Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla and implemented through the initiative of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), stands as a testament to their dedication to improving infrastructure and facilities in the community. The building encompasses a daycare center and health center, providing essential services to the residents of Aniban 1.

During the ceremony, the highlight **see page 3...**

Google vows to improve PH cybersecurity, promote responsible tech use



MANILA – Multinational Internet service giant Google has pledged to strengthen cybersecurity, help micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and promote the responsible use of digital technology in the Philippines.

The commitment was made when President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. met with Google's top executives on the sidelines of the Philippines' trilateral summit with the US and

country, as he emphasized his administration's bid to ensure continued connectivity off the sea.

"I am trying to be concerned when we're off the sea. So, as I said, will try to pick that up and go on your organization and help us with that," Marcos said, referring to the government's cybersecurity programs, as well as initiatives, tools and framework to strengthen cybersecurity defense and contribute to a safer digital ecosystem in the country.

Google's Global Vice President on Government Affairs and Public Policy Karan Bhatia said Google is willing to help the Philippines in strengthening its cybersecurity, saying the company "would love to be part" of the government's efforts on

see page 7...

Mga pagkaing pampa lakas at pampatalino

Payo ni Doc Ong



Kapag gusto mong mag-ehersisyo o magtrabaho ng mabigat, kailangan mo ng sapat na lakas. Makukuha natin ito sa mga sumusunod na pagkain.

1. Saging – Napakaganda ng saging sa mga nag-ehersisyo dahil mayroon itong taglay na carbohydrates, vitamin B at potassium. Ang potassium ay kailangan sa normal na pagtubok ng puso at paggalaw ng muscled. Masdan niyo ang mga tennis players na palaging kumakain ng saging. Malakas sila.

2. Spaghetti – Nagbibigay ng lakas ang spaghetti dahil sa taglay nitong carbohydrates. Sa mga diabetic, mas mainam ang spaghetti kaysa sa kanin, dahil mas hindi tataas ang iyong asukal sa dugo.

3. Gatas – Ang gatas ay isang kumpletong pagkain dahil mayroon itong carbohydrates, protina at fats. May vitamin B pa ito na nagbibigay ng lakas. Piliin lamang ang low-fat milk para hindi tumaba.

4. Chocolate Bar – Para sa kabataan, puwedeng kumain ng tsokolate dahil mayroon itong asukal, gatas at cocoa. Maituturing itong energy bar. Pero limitahan lang ang kakainin sa isang maliit na hiwa at baka ikaw ay tumaba.

5. Pakwan – Ang pakwan at buko ay napakabisang natural energy drinks. Ang pakwan ay may 92% alkaline water na mabuti sa katawan. Punung-puno din ang pakwan ng vitamin B, potassium at electrolytes na kailangan ng taong laging pinapawisan. Maganda rin ang pakwan bilang panlaban sa heat stroke at init ng panahon.

6. Buko – Ang sabaw ng buko ay mayroong maraming electrolytes na maihahambing na sa suero na ginagamit ng doktor. Ang laman ng buko ay may carbohydrates na nagpapalakas at nakabubusog din.

7. Nilagang itlog – Ang itlog ay siksik sa protina, vitamin B at vitamin D. May sangkap pa itong Choline na kailangan ng ating utak. Limitahan lang ang pagkain sa 1 o 2 itlog sa maghapon.

8. Nilagang mani – Ang mani ay punung-puno din ng protina, minerals at good fats na nagbibigay ng lakas. Mas masustansya ang nilagang mani kaysa sa pritong mani dahil wala itong mantika at mababa sa asin.

Dagdag payo para lumakas: Kumain ng mas madalas pero katamtaman lamang. Ito’y para makakuha tayo ng tuluy-tuloy na suplay ng enerhiya mula sa pagkain. Sa umaga, kumain din ng masustansyang almusal para may lakas tayo.

Paalala: Huwag sosobrahan ang pagkain ng mga nabanggit dahil puwede tayong tumaba. Tandaan lamang na kapag mayroon tayong kinain, ay sasabayan ng ehersisyo para matunaw ito.

Mga pagkaing pampatalino (brain foods)

May mga pagkain na posibleng makatulong sa pagiging healthy ng ating utak. Kapag sapat sa bitamina at nutrisyon ang iyong pagkain, mas magiging matalas ang iyong pag-iisip at memoria kumpara sa mga taong hindi kumakain nito.

Alamin natin itong mga tinaguriang “brain foods”:

1. Mani – Ang mani ay may taglay na vitamin E at good fats. Ayon sa pagsusuri, kapag mataas ang lebel ng vitamin E sa iyong katawan, mas matalas din ang iyong pag-iisip. May tulong din ang mani para sa memoria. Puwedeng kumain ng nilagang mani, kasoy at walnuts. Huwag lang piliin ang pritong mani na may maraming asin. Limitahan din ang pagkain ng mani sa isang dakot lamang (30 grams) dahil mataas din ito sa calories.

2. Matatabang isda (oily fish) – Ang mga oily fish ay ang tuna, tilapia, salmon, sardinas, tamban at taba ng bangus. May taglay itong omega-3 fatty acids na nagpapaganda ng daloy ng dugo. Dahil dito, mababawasan ang tsansang magkaroon ng sakit sa stroke at atake sa puso. Subukang kumain ng 4 ounces ng isda tatlong beses kada linggo.

3. Itlog – Ang itlog ay mataas sa choline, isang kemikal na kailangan ng mga bata para mag-develop ang kanilang utak at memoria. Mataas din sa vitamin A, iron at folate ang itlog. Puwedeng pakainin ang bata ng 1 itlog bawat araw. Ngunit kung ikaw ay may sakit sa puso o mataas ang kolesterol, limitahan ang pagkain ng itlog sa 3 itlog bawat linggo.

4. Kape – Makatutulong ang kape para maiwasan ang Alzheimer’s disease at panghihina ng ating isipan. May sangkap na antioxidants at caffeine ang kape. May tulong din ang kape sa pag-memorya ng iyong inaaraal pero panandalian lang ang epekto nito. Puwedeng uminom ng 1 o 2 tasang kape sa maghapon. Huwag din sosobrahan at baka bumilis ang pagtubok ng iyong puso. At sana ay huwag nang lagyan ng whip cream at full cream milk ang kape para hindi nakatataba.

5. Abokado – Ang abokado ay mayaman sa vitamin B at healthy fats (monounsaturated fats) na nagpapaganda ng daloy ng dugo sa utak. May mga pagsusuri sa hayop na nagpapakita na ang abokado ay nakababawas sa stroke at nakakababa ng blood pressure. Bukod sa mga pagkaing ito, dapat din ay magkaroon ng healthy lifestyle para mapangalagaan ang ating utak. Matulog ng sapat at umiwas sa alak at sigarilyo.

LTFRB to award 8K motorcycle taxi slots outside Metro Manila

MANILA – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is looking to award 8,000 motorcycle (MC) taxi slots outside the National Capital Region (NCR).

In a press conference at the LTFRB headquarters in Quezon City on Monday, Chair Teofilo Guadiz III said the decision was made by Transportation Secretary Jaime Bautista and the House of Representatives’ Committee on Metro Manila Development.

“I am meeting the TNC (transport network company) operators to propose to them now that the slots will be given to areas outside Metro Manila like Regions 3 (Central Luzon) and 4 (Calabarzon and Mimaropa), and then Region 7 (Central Visayas) -- specifically Cebu -- and Region 11, which is Davao,” Guadiz said.

The decision was arrived at after the Coalition of Transport Sectors appealed to President Fer-

dinand R. Marcos Jr. to stop the expansion of the MC taxi study in NCR due to its adverse effects on traffic.

Initially, Guadiz said the 8,000 slots were supposed to be awarded to four new MC taxi companies in NCR to expand the current players in the study -- Angkas, JoyRide, and Move It.

“Ang kagustuhan namin sana ay dito muna (What we wanted is for the additional slots to be awarded within Metro Manila) because this is just a pilot study,” he said. “We would like to see exactly the saturation point before we can say that there is ample supply of MC taxis.”

In deference to the House committee and Bautista, Guadiz said all 8,000 slots will be outside of Metro Manila.

Guadiz also debunked allegations of irregularities in the awarding of slots, emphasizing that the pilot study is handled by the MC Taxi Technical Working Group, composed of the LT-

FRB, Land Transportation Office, Office of Transportation Cooperatives and the Department of Transportation.

“The last person to sign the resolution is the chairman of the LTFRB. So, the allegation of irregularities is highly suspicious and preposterous. Never po ako nagkaroon ng hand dito (I’ve never had a hand in this),” he said.

To date, he said TNCs that will receive the 8,000 slots are completing their applications.

They have until April 15 to complete their allocations.

“We’re still in the process of vetting or evaluating the application. But the order is it’s effective immediately. So, the moment we award the slots, they will be outside Metro Manila,” he said. Earlier, Bautista announced that there will be no more additional units of MC taxis allowed to operate within NCR following opposition from transport groups.



EDITOR’S NOTE: All comments and opinions submitted by our contributing writers and herein published shall remain as personal opinion of our column writers. Viewliner shall not be held liable to any legal issues related to any commentaries that may appear herein.



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Housing chief vows support to LGUs, coordination with gov’t agencies

MANILA – Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar has promised the Department’s firmer support to local government units (LGUs) and bolster coordination with other national government agencies (NGAs).

Acuzar made this remark as he expressed enthusiasm in the signing of the Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on Public Financial Management with LGUs and NGAs on April 3.

“This [signing] marks a significant step forward in our collective effort to empower LGUs and achieve stronger public financial management,” Acuzar said in a news release on Sunday. He said JMC “ushers in several significant changes to our existing policy guidelines.”

“This is another solid proof of the administration’s pursuit to Bagong Pilipinas brand of governance,” he added. He guaranteed the DHSUD’s commitment to “foster the improved coordination among oversight agencies, strengthen LGU support to equip them with



the necessary tools and knowledge for local land use and development planning.”

Acuzar also pledged to “ensure an efficient process for reviewing and approving plans while facilitating their alignment with regional and national priorities.”

The formulation of the JMC was spearheaded by the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) headed by Secretary Benhur Abalos Jr.

The JMC was primarily designed to enable better coordination among national government agencies led by the DILG, DHSUD, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Finance’s Bureau of Local Government Finance

procedures of land use or physical framework plans, up to the implementation process through review or ratification, monitoring and imposition of penalties. “We at the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development recognize the importance of effective resource utilization as it is the cornerstone of building resilient and sustainable communities,” Acuzar said.

It was likewise implemented to ensure that the agencies’ tools on policy development, manuals, guidelines, issuances, awards, and advice and guidance complement each other.

Under the JMC, the DHSUD is tasked to provide technical assistance, as well as formulate and prescribe standards, regulations and guidelines for the Climate and Disaster Risk Assessment, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan of LGUs.

The DHSUD is also mandated to ensure the LGUs’ compliance with the formulation or updating

of effective resource utilization as it is the cornerstone of building resilient and sustainable communities,” Acuzar said.

“The DHSUD stands ready to work with all stakeholders to ensure its successful implementation. I believe that through our collective commitment and action, we can build a brighter future for Better, Greener, Smarter Human Settlements, and Urban Systems in a More Inclusive Philippines,” he added.

The JMC covers the areas of local development planning, land use planning, investment programming, resource mobilization, budgeting, expenditure management, and performance monitoring and coordination in fiscal oversight of the DILG, DHSUD, NEDA, DBM and DOF-BLGF over provinces, cities, municipalities and villages. (PNA)

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Google vows to... from page 1

digital transformation.

Bhatia also expressed Google’s intention to expand its business and operation in the Philippines, considering the Philippines’ “impressive shift” to digitalize its services.

“Let me, first of all, say how impressed we’ve been with the leadership that you and your team have already shown on the digital transformation agenda. We know it is a very high priority for you, for the Philippines as a whole, but in particular for the government,” he told Marcos.

He said Google is excited about expanding its businesses and operations in

the Philippines where it has about 50,000 employees.

Upskilling of MS-MEs

Bhatia likewise assured Marcos of Google’s commitment to help MSMEs in the Philippines grow their businesses, citing its partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to upskill the sector in the digital landscape.

“I would flag the work we do with small- and medium-sized businesses. So, this is with the DTI. It’s to enable small businesses to get a presence online and figure out how do they connect with the rest of the world,” he said.

Google has part-

nered with the DTI in rolling out Google Career Certificates (GCC) in the department’s virtual campuses, covering more than 1,300 DTI Negosyo Centers in 16 regions nationwide.

This builds upon the 40,000 GCC scholarships Google previously distributed to equip Filipino youths, jobseekers, MSME entrepreneurs, and civil servants with in-demand skills in project management, cybersecurity, IT support, data analytics, UX design, and digital marketing.

Responsible use of digital technology Google pledged to conduct training on the responsible use of digital tech-

nology for more than 100,000 children and their parents who are considered “the most vulnerable sector in the society.”

“Because kids are often online for a long period of time and we need to make sure that they know how to use the technology. So, we thus far engage in training for 100,000 Filipino kids and are going to continue to grow that as well,” he said.

Google Philippines, which began operations in 2013, supports the Internet giant’s global operations by providing customer and operational support services in the country. (PNA)

GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) – Ikaw ay magkakaroon ng masaganang buhay. Matutuklasan hindi nakasalalay kasarian ang pagkatao, kundi sa asal mo sa mga nasa paligid mo. Baguhin ang dapat baguhin sa ugali para magtuloy-tuloy ang pagpapala. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 46, 59, 13, 21 at vanilla brown.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) – Kung nasaan ang a-tensiyon, nandon ang puso. Gawin ang dapat nang hindi nanlalamang. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 36, 59, 22, 11 at electric blue.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21) – Ang low of attraction ay kaganapan ng karanasan. Lahat ng feel good maaangkin mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 46, 39, 51, 14 at tulip pink.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) – Lalo kang magngangalit ang dibdib sa maritinig. Pero maghunos-dili baka nagkamali ka lang ng dinig. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 39, 59, 12, 31 at vanilla brown.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) – Kailangan maniwala sa iyong kakayahan. Dahil ang unang suporta ay manggagaling sa sarili. Kaya mo ‘yan! Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 26, 58, 13, 31 at cyan blue.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) – Huwag balikan ang nakaraan. Kalimutan mo na ang lahat. Piliin ang maging masaya para sumigla. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 49, 15, 51 at mint green.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) – Ngayon mo matitiyak na hindi lahat ay gaya ng iyong saloobin. Hangga’t na gagawa ang mabuti at tama, relax lang! numbers at color for the day ang 53, 46, 29, 31, 13 at ruby red.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) – Sa bawat sandal, matutupad ang iyong mga plano. Magiging masaya sa tagumpay ng isang mahal sa buhay. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 49, 15, 51 at ivory white.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) – Malungkot ka dahil na miss mo ang iyong partner. Pero ipinagpalit ka niya sa iba, move on na. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 46, 29, 51, 15 at dollar green.

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) – Bilangin ang pagpapala dahil hindi ito matutumbasan ng anumang halaga. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 49, 15, 51 at olive green.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) – Buin ang pagkatao, mahalin ang sarili. at ibahagi ito sa kapwa. Pipirma ka ng isang bagong project. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 46, 59, 12, 22 at turmeric yellow.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) – Ang ordinary sa iba ay special sa’yo dahil bigay ng mahal mo. Dahil inspired, matatapos ang gawain. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 49, 11 30 at fire red.

P200-M loan released for 'Pambansang Pabahay' projects

MANILA – The Home Development Mutual Fund or Pag-IBIG Fund has released PHP200 million in developmental loans for housing projects under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s flagship Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

The 4PH-Project Management Office (PMO) of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said the loans were issued to two private contractors currently implementing 4PH projects in Luzon and Visayas.

The contractors received PHP40 million and PHP160 million on April 5 and 8, respectively, according to a news release on Sunday.

During DHSUD's fifth anniversary on Feb. 14, Pag-IBIG Fund released PHP350 million for the Palayan City Township Project in Nueva Ecija, also under the 4PH Program.

Apart from these, Pag-IBIG Fund previously approved almost PHP13 billion revolving credit lines for the National Housing Authority and the Social Housing Finance Corporation to support their 4PH projects.

DHSUD Secretary

Bong Go, patuloy sa pagtulong sa mga nagigipit

MANILA, Philippines — Binigyang-diin ni Senador Christopher "Bong" Go ang kanyang patuloy na misyon na tulungan ang mga komunidad na nasa kagipitan matapos magsagawa ng relief activity ang kanyang Malasakit Team sa mga nasunugan sa Parang, Maguindanao del Norte. "Kahit anumang problema ang inyong hinaharap—sunog, lindol, baha, pagputok ng bulkan o kahit anumang klaseng krisis—



Jose Rizalino Acuzar said the loans would encourage private banks to join the 4PH.

"More than the actual value of the loan, it's the confidence that these releases build on our private partners, especially private contractors/developers that is huge for the success of our Pambansang Pabahay," he said.

Pag-IBIG Fund chief Marilene Acosta assured that 4PH proponents can rely on the DHSUD to finance their housing projects under the most secure and affordable terms.

"Pag-IBIG Fund remains capable and ready to provide funding for incoming 4PH proponents through our Direct Developmental Loan Program for the 4PH. More Pambansang Pabahay projects would mean more supply of quality homes at lower-than-market prices,"

handang tumulong at magserbisyo sa inyo sa abot ng aming makakaya. Huwag kayo mawawalan ng pag-asa dahil nandito kami na palaging nagmamalasakit sa inyo," ayon kay Go.

Idinaos sa Sitio Kanduli sa Barangay Moropoint, tinulungan ng Malasakit Team ni Go ang mga nasunugan at binigyan sila ng tulong pinansyal, grocery packs, lalagyan ng tubig, bitamina, kamiseta, at bola para sa basketball at volley-

Acosta said.

She said Pag-IBIG Fund stands as the single largest source of home financing in the country, but solving the housing backlog requires the participation of all stakeholders.

"We are happy to be able to work with developers, contractors, and fellow government agencies towards our shared commitment to empower Filipino workers in securing decent and affordable homes for their families," Acosta added.

More than 30 Pambansang Pabahay projects are ongoing throughout the country and currently in various stages of development and construction.

The 4PH-PMO, which is spearheading the nationwide rollout of the flagship program, is headed by Undersecretary Garry De Guzman. (PR)

ball. Kasabay nito, tinasa naman ng mga opisyal mula sa National Housing Authority ang mga biktima ng sunog upang matukoy ang kanilang pagiging kwalipikado para sa Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) nito.

"Sa pamamagitan nito, hindi lang natin sila tinutulungan na magkaroon ulit ng maayos na masisilungan, kundi binibigyan din natin sila ng bagong pag-asa," paliwanag ni Go.

PH business... from page 8

tial sectors is curtailed by rice inflation depleting disposable income," he added.

He said the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is exploring solutions that will diversify the country's rice sources, address its position as the world's largest

importer of rice, and endure the effects of El Nino.

"Cheaper rice means more and better jobs," he said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported on Thursday that unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent in February this

year from 4.5 percent in January.

The country's employment rate, meanwhile, went up to 96.5 percent in February from 95.5 percent in January and 95.2 percent in February this year. (PNA)

MEMORANDUM OF... from page 1

at Philippine Federation of Real Estate Service Professionals Inc (PFRESPI).

Nagpakita rin ng suporta sin REBAP Mandaluyong President- Mr. Ryan Cabalde, NREA National President- Mr. Rizalito Rosales, NREA Metro Rizal President- Ms. Cheryl San-guyo, PEMS Ruben Aligado-Senior Action PNP Of-

ficer for NPTFPSSS, Atty. Angelito Aguila- HREDRB Director 4 DHSUD, Atty. Jann Roby Otero- Regional Director DHSUD 4A, Ms. Edita Estigoy- DHSUD 4A, Engr. Rennee Son Bancud, DHSUD 4A.

Mag-aalok din ng mga libreng courses para sa mga interesadong maging tunay at lisensyadong real

estate broker para sa mga indibidwal na nagnanais na pumasok sa larangan ng real estate. Ang pagiging lisensyadong broker ay hindi lamang nagbibigay ng karagdagang kaalaman at kasanayan sa larangan ng real estate, kundi nagbibigay din ng tiwala at kredibilidad sa mga kliyente.

Engineering... from page 8

undeniably, Taiwan's preparedness improved a lot through the years. So much importance was put on interventions for earthquake-resistant buildings," Nepomuceno said.

The tremor is the strongest to hit the island in 25 years, since the magni-

tude 7.6 earthquake in 1999 which killed 2,400 and injured 10,000 individuals.

"The reported deaths and injuries caused by the recent earthquake are much lesser compared to the magnitude 7.6 earthquake that hit their country in 1999. That is exactly the

reason why we, in the Philippines, need to reinforce our measures, especially engineering solutions. We need to take action to minimize the possible effects of strong earthquakes, primarily, in terms of casualties," Nepomuceno said. (PNA)

BLESSING CEREMONY OF JS STRIKE GYMNASIUM

Kahapon, April 11, 2024 pinangunahann ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla at nila Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola, Councilor Alex Gutierrez, Coun. Karen Evaristo, ang Blessing Ceremony ng JS STRIKE GYM sa Barangay Dulong Bayan, City of Bacoor, Cavite.

Ang JS Strike Gym ay bagong renovate para mas maging maayos, maganda at mas mapakinabangan hindi lang ng mga residente ng Dulong Bayan maging ang ibang mga Bacoreño na nais gumamit nito. Isa ang JS Strike Gym sa pinaka matagal na Gym sa Lungsod ng Bacoor, ito na yata ang pangatlong pinaka malaking Gym na naipagawa ni Mayor Strike sa kanyang termino.

Dumalo rin ang punong Barangay na si Kap. Jade Emson Palma kasama ang kanyang mga kagawad sa pangunguna ni Kagawad Macky Atencio. Kasama rin sa dumalo si Mr. Arthuro Santos, Pres. Larry Agui, Senior Pres. Annabelle Monzon, Senior Pres Cluster Sally Pamuti, PWD Pres. Joseph Redondo, City Engr. Office Head Engr. Jicky Jutba, Engr. Renz Bautista, Sk Chairman Johnzell Aguilar, Zumba Ladies, 4PS, UGNAY Members at ibang NGO na sumuporta sa programa.

Sa mensahe ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla binigyang diin nito ang mga programa at proyekto na patuloy na ginagawa sa Lungsod ng Bacoor para

mas makatulong sa mga Bacoreño. Ipinaalala rin nito ang mga ordinansang ipinapatupad sa Lungsod ng Bacoor. Ibinida naman ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla ang mga proyektong parating sa Dulong Bayan isa nanga rito ang Housing Project na gagawin sa JS Subdivision kung saan libo-libong mga Bacoreño ang pweding mag apply para magkaroon ng sariling bahay.

Sa huli, nagpasalamat si Mayor Strike sa lahat ng dumalo at nakiusap na magkaisa para magiging maayos ang samahan at magkaroon ng maayos na serbisyo para sa mga Bacoreñong nangangailangan ng tulong. As We Strike As One, Dahil sa Bacoor at Home ka Dito!

Cavite Career Caravan

The Cavite Career Caravan, held at Robinson Place in the City of Imus, exemplified a joint endeavor led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), headed by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, in conjunction with the Provincial Sangguniang Kabataan Federation, under the leadership of Hon. Chelsea Jillian Sarno, and the local government of the City of Imus.

The event saw the esteemed presence of Vice Mayor Homer "Saki" T. Saquilayan, alongside City Councilors Lloren Dionella "Yen" G. Saquilayan, Jojie Lyn L. Maliksi, Darwin Marti M. Remulla, Sherwin L. Comia, and SK Federation President Glian Ilagan, highlighting a collective dedication to supporting job seekers in Cavite.

The primary objective of this collaboration was to offer comprehensive assistance and opportunities to job seekers through career coaching. Participants



were provided with the chance to engage with a diverse array of employers and government agencies, allowing them to gain valuable insights into different career fields and explore potential employment prospects.

Significant engagement was observed, with a total of 41 local companies and 2 overseas companies presenting job opportunities, thereby extending recruitment possibilities to attendees. The event, which attracted 244 applicants, with 17 individuals securing immediate employment, underscored its importance in addressing the employment needs within the region. Furthermore, representatives from national government agencies, including SSS, Pag-ibig, Philhealth, TESDA, PSA, BIR and NBI, were in attendance, providing essential information and assistance regarding government programs and services relevant to employment and social welfare.

The success of the Cavite Career Caravan was credited to the steadfast support and collaboration of all participating companies and government agencies. The Provincial Government of Cavite conveyed its sincere appreciation to all contributors for their commitment to empowering job seekers and nurturing economic growth and prosperity in Cavite.

INAUGURATION... from page 1

ments included the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the unveiling of the marker, and the ceremonial blessing of the Multi-Purpose Building. Additionally, Congressman Bryan Revilla highlighted the Revilla Law, emphasizing their commitment to enacting legislation that benefits the community.

The completion of the Multi-Purpose Building in Aniban I showcased

DOTr approves...

serious offenses were identified as failure to comply with standard requirements and other laws relating to MAIRDOE business operations, and allowing the use of its accreditation by non-accredited persons or entities. The penalty for a first offense is

ing in Aniban I signifies a significant milestone in the community's development. It stands as a symbol of progress and unity, providing a versatile space for various activities and services that will enhance the quality of life for the residents.

The inauguration and blessing ceremony of the Multi-Purpose Building in Aniban I showcased

PHP100,000, a second offense is PHP500,000 and for a third offense is PHP1 million. A fourth offense will merit the cancellation of their COA and a blacklisting period of one year.

These stricter penalties, he said, would help

the collective effort and commitment of the Office of Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, partners, and community members in creating a facility that caters to the needs of the community. This project signifies the fruitful collaboration between Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla, Mayor Strike B. Revilla, and the Bacoor LGU.

from page 8

compel MAIRDOEs to follow rules and regulations.

He cited the fraudulent transactions involving two Bugatti Chiron that served as an "eye-opener" to review existing policies and correct penalties that were found too low.

PAG-UUSAP PARA SA PLANONG PAGBUBUKAS NG RUTA NA MAGPAPALUWAG SA DALOY NG TRAPIKO SA PERPETUAL MOLINO

Naganap ang isang mahalagang pagpupulong na naglalayong talakayin ang plano para sa pagbubukas ng ruta na magpapaluwag sa daloy ng trapiko sa Perpetual Molino. Pinangunahan ito ng City Engineering Office.

Kasama sa pagpupulong sina Mayor Strike B. Revilla, na nagsusulong ng proyektong ito, Engr. Jicky Jutba na pinuno ng City Engineering Office, at Arch. Maricon De Castro.

Kabilang rin sa mga dumalo ang mga kinatawan mula sa University Of Perpetual Health System Dalta Molino, sina Mr. Bennyl Ramos, Mr. Eilfredo Leaña, Mr. Remo Rayel, at Ms. Rose Lara.

Ang pangunahing layunin ng pagpupulong na ito ay talakayin ang plano para sa proposed Solidarity Route mula Perpetual pa-tungong Pag-asa. Layunin



ng ruta na ito na magbigay ng alternatibong daan upang mapaluwag ang trapiko sa nasabing lugar.

Naganap ang pagpupulong ika-12 ng Abril, 2024, sa Strike Conference Room. Sa pamamagitan ng pag-uusap na ito, inasahang mabibigyan ng solusyon ang problema sa trapiko sa Perpetual Molino.

Pinasalamatan ng ating Mayor Strike B. Revilla ang mga dumalo, lalo na ang mga kinatawan ng University Of Perpetual Health System Dalta Molino, sa kanilang aktibong partisipasyon. Ang kanilang suporta ay mahalagang

bagahi sa pagpapaunlad ng trapiko sa ating komunidad.

Patuloy ang pag-sisikap ng City Government of Bacoor, sa pamumuno ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, upang matugunan ang mga suliranin sa imprastruktura at trapiko sa ating lungsod.

Naniniwala ang pamahalaang lungsod na ang pagbubukas ng proposed Solidarity Route ay magbibigay ng magandang epekto sa daloy ng trapiko at magpapabuti sa pangkalahatang karanasan ng mga mamamayan sa paglalakbay.

Libreng birth certificate, clearance ng PWDs, solo parents isinulong



MANILA, Philippines — Para mabawasan ang mga gastusin ng mga persons with disability (PWD) at mga solo parents sa paghahanap ng trabaho, maghahain ngayong Lunes ang mga PWD at Solo Parents sa nasabing panakalang batas.

Dagdag pa ng mambabatas, "karamihan sa PWDs ay may mga maintenance o therapy na binabayaran habang ang mga solo parents, mag-isa

nilang pinapalaki ang anak nila".

Certificate ay magiging libre na para sa mga PWD at Solo Parents sa nasabing panakalang batas.

Dagdag pa ng mambabatas, "karamihan sa PWDs ay may mga maintenance o therapy na binabayaran habang ang mga solo parents, mag-isa

"Any savings para sa kanila ay malaking tulong habang naghahanap sila ng employment," wika niya.

Sa kasalukuyan ay may batas na libre ang pagkuha ng mga requirements pero para sa mga first time job seekers.

Pahayag pa ni Cong. Tulfo, ang batas na ihahain niya ay everytime na mag-apply ng trabaho ang mga PWD at Solo Parent ay libre ang pagkuha nila ng mga requirements.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 128
City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

Regional Trial Court, Br. 128 City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

ATTY. MARCELA BAYBAY
Clerk of Court
Regional Trial Court-Office of the Clerk of Court
City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

Republic of the Philippines
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IN THE MATTER OF THE PROBATE
OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF THE LATE ALEX LIGPET ORBITO,

ALESSANDRA ROSE ORBITO,
Petitioner.
SPEC. PRO. NO. DC-1262-21

ORDER

In today's supposed Hearing on the Jurisdictional Re-
quirements In the Matter Of The Probate Of The Last Will And
Testament Of The Late Alex Ligpet Orbito, counsel for the peti-
tioner Atty. Jose Villanueva and Atty. Lynyrd Christian M. Cuizon
are not present. Likewise, petitioner Alex Ligpet Orbito is not present.

As per record, there is an Urgent Motion to Reset
Hearing, electronically filed and received on January 29, 2024,
manifesting that the petitioner have yet to comply with the publi-
cation requirement. The same is hereby GRANTED.

In view of that disclosure, reset the hearing on Jurisdic-
tional Requirement on May 23, 2024 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

In the event that in-court hearings would not be viable
on said date, all parties are hereby notified that the instant cases
are set for video conference hearing on the same date and time
as authorized by Admin. Circular No. 40-2020, 41-2020 and OCA
Circular No. 96-2020.

Let an Amended Initial Order and its corresponding
Notice of hearing be issued.

Let this Petition be included in the list of raffle for Publi-
cation before RTC-OCC. The Petitioner is directed to coordinate
with the RTC-OCC for the inclusion in the raffle of publication.

Notify the petitioners of this Order.

SO ORDERED.

Given in open Court, February 1, 2024,
City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

HELEN B. CONSTANTINO-BALBUENA
Presiding Judge

CC:
ATTY. JOSE P. VILLANUEVA
of J.P. VILLANUEVA & ASSOCIATES- Counsel for the Petitioner
14th Floor, SAguitariuis Bldg. H.V. Dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

ATTY. LYNYRD CHRISTIAN M. CUIZON
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ROSALINA HONRADO
B 17, Lot 57, Orchard Ave., Orchard Golf and Country Club,
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

ATTY. ROXANNE C. MILLORA
Clerk of Court V

IN THE MATTER OF THE PROBATE
OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF THE LATE ALEX LIGPET ORBITO,

ALESSANDRA ROSE ORBITO,
Petitioner.
SPEC. PRO. NO. DC-1262-21

AMENDED ORDER

Before this Court is the Petition for the Probate of the
Last Will and Testament of the Late Alex Ligpet Orbito filed by
petitioner Alessandra Rose Orbito, through counsel, on February
8, 2021, most respectfully praying that after due notice and hearing,
judgment be rendered, as follows:

1. Admitting, allowing, and approving into probate the
Last Will and Testament dated 28 January 2020 of the late ALEX
LIGPET ORBITO;

2. Issue Letters Testamentary to petitioner without need
of a bond, and thereafter;

3. Order the distribution of the estate of the late ALEX
LIGPET ORBITO in accordance with his Last Will and Testament
dated 28 January 2020.

On March 12, 2021, February 11, 2022, and February
24, 2022 the petitioner filed a Very Urgent Motion to Appoint Pe-
titioner Alessandra Rose Orbito as Executor/Administratrix, most
respectfully praying that the nomination made by Testator Alex L.
Orbito, in the latter's Last Will and Testament, be approved and
that herein petitioner Alessandra Rose Orbito be appointed as
Executor of the Last Will and Testament and Administrator of the
properties of the Testator, the late Alex L. Orbito.

Atty. Alfeo T. Siccuan filed a Notice of Withdrawal of Ap-
pearance on February 18, 2022. Subsequently, on April 6, 2022,
Atty. Lynyrd Christian M. Cuizon of CMJ & Associates filed a Formal
Entry of Appearance.

A Manifestation to Submit for Early Resolution [Motion
to Appoint Petitioner Alessandra Rose Orbito as Executor/Admin-
istratrix] was filed on December 6, 2022, praying that herein pe-
titioner Alessandra Rose Orbito be appointed as Executor of the
Last Will and Testament and Administrator of the properties of the
Testator, the late Alex L. Orbito, be now approved judicially with urgency.

A Notice of Appearance was likewise filed by Atty. Jose
P. Villanueva of J.P. Villanueva & Associates on March 20, 2023.

On September 27, 2023, petitioner's counsel filed an Ur-
gent Motion to Reset Hearing scheduled on September 28, 2023.
On an even date, the Court issued an Order granting the same.

On February 1, 2024, the hearing on the Jurisdictional
Requirements was set for hearing and the same materialized.
However, the petitioner and its counsel were not present as they
moved for resetting due to non-compliance of the publication re-
quirement. Hence, the Court directed that an Amended Initial Order
and the corresponding Notice of Hearing be issued.

Accordingly, the Court hereby orders the following:

1. The Very Urgent Motion to Appoint Petitioner Ales-
sandra Rose Orbito as Executor/Administratrix; the Notice of With-
drawal of Appearance filed by Atty. Alfeo T. Siccuan; the Formal

Entry of Appearance filed by CMJ & Associates; the Manifestation
to Submit for Early Resolution [Motion to Appoint Petitioner Ales-
sandra Rose Orbito as Executor/Administratrix] and the Notice of
Appearance filed by Atty. Jose P. Villanueva are hereby duly NOTED;

2. Finding the petition as well as the corresponding ax-
nexes sufficient in form and substance, let the instant petition be
set for hearing on MAY 23, 2024 at 1:30 in the afternoon at Dasmariñas
Community Affairs (DASCA) Bldg., Congressional Rd., Brgy. Buro I, City
of Dasmariñas, Cavite, at which date, time and place, all concerned
may appear to contest the allowance thereof;

3. Let this Order and its corresponding Notice of Hearing
be addressed to the designated or other known heirs, legatees,
and devisees of the testator resident in the Philippines at their
places of residence, and deposited in the post office with the post-
age thereon prepaid at least twenty (20) days before the hearing,
if such places of residence be known. A copy of the notice must in
like manner be mailed to the person named as executor, if he be
not the petitioner; also, to any person named as co-executor not
petitioning, if their places of residence be known. Personal service
of copies of the notice at least ten (10) days before the day of the
hearing shall be equivalent to mailing;

4. Let a Copy of this Order and Notice of Hearing be
published three (3) weeks successively, previous to the time ap-
pointed, in the newspaper of general circulation in the province, at
the expense of the petitioner;

5. The Petitioner is directed to furnish a copy of this Order,
Notice of Hearing and Petition to the Regional Trial Court - Office of
the Clerk of Court for the inclusion in the raffle of publication.

SO ORDERED.

City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, February 16, 2024.

HELEN B. CONSTANTINOS - BALBUENA
Presiding Judge

Copy furnished:

ATTY. JOSE P. VILLANUEVA
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IN THE MATTER OF THE PROBATE
OF THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT
OF THE LATE ALEX LIGPET ORBITO,

ALESSANDRA ROSE ORBITO,
Petitioner.
SPEC. PRO. NO. DC-1262-21

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: ALEMEL ORBITO
AMALIA ORBITO
BERNARDO ORBITO
BERNARDO ORBITO
IMELDA ORBITO
IRENE ORBITO
NINA E. ORBITO
86 Melchor St., Varsity Hills,
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ALEXANDRIA ROSE ORBITO
ALESSANDRA ROSE ORBITO
JOSEPH ORBITO
ROSALINA HONRADO
B 17, Lot 57, Orchard Ave., Orchard Golf and
Country Club, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

WHEREAS, a petition was filed with this Court by pe-
titioner, ALESSANDRA ROSE ORBITO, through counsel for the
Probate of the Last Will and Testament of the Late Alex Lig-
pet Orbito, most respectfully praying that this Honorable Court,
after due notice and hearing, judgment be rendered as follows:
(1) Admitting, allowing, and approving into probate the Last Will
and Testament dated 28 January 2020 of the late ALEX LIGPET
ORBITO; (2) Issue Letters Testamentary to petitioner without
need of a bond, and thereafter, and (3) Order the distribution of
the estate of the late ALEX LIGPET ORBITO in accordance with
his Last Will and Testament dated 28 January 2020.

GREETINGS:

You are hereby notified that the hearing of above-entitled
petition is set on MAY 23, 2024 at 1:30 in the afternoon.

WITNESS THE HON. HELEN B. CONSTANTINO-BALBUENA,
Presiding Judge of this Court this, February 16, 2024 at the City
of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

ROXANNE C. MILLORA
Clerk of Court V

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
APRIL 1, 8 & 15, 2024



Marcos cites JCCI's continued support
to sustain PH's economic growth

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday (Manila time) acknowl-
edged the continued support of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) to-
wards sustainable economic development in the Philippines.



“Grateful for the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Indus-
try's active role in promoting investments and fostering cooperation between the Philippines
and Japan,” Marcos said in a Facebook post, following a meeting with JCCI chairperson Ken
Kobayashi in Washing-
ton DC.

“Our govern-
ment remains dedicated to creating a friendly business environment through innovative
policies, welcoming

partnerships with the Japanese business com-
munity,” he added.

Marcos men-
tioned that since JCCI's economic mission, the Philippines started to increase its involvement
with the organization in infrastructure, manu-
facturing and other new industries, according to a statement posted on state-run Radio Tele-
vision Malacañang's (RTVM) official Face-
book page.

Kobayashi paid a courtesy call on Mar-
cos in Manila in Oct.

2023 when he led the JCCI's first foreign eco-
nomic mission since the pandemic, citing the importance of the Philippines in Asia, and
JCCI's renewed interest in strengthening their partnership with the country.

Marcos also urged Japanese com-
panies to continue sup-
porting the country at an even faster pace, as he reaffirmed his ad-
ministration's efforts to enhance the ease of do-
ing business in the Phil-
ippines to attract more

foreign investments, the Presidential Commu-
nications Office said in another Facebook post.

Also present during the meeting were JCCI's Hitoshi Takao; Filipino businessman Jaime Zobel de Ayala; Secretaries Alfredo Pas-
cual (Trade) and Ralph Recto (Finance); Phil-
ippine Ambassadors Mylene Garcia-Albano (Japan) and Jose Man-
uel Romualdez (US); and House Speaker Fer-
dinand Martin Romualdez.

JCCI is the largest business orga-
nization in Japan, hav-
ing 1.25 million mem-
ber companies ranging from big corporations to small and medi-
um-sized enterprises, and comprising 515 lo-
cal chambers across Ja-
pan. (PNA)

DSWD, UNICEF sign pact for more
effective disaster response

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Develop-
ment (DSWD) on Thurs-
day signed a memoran-
dum of agreement with the United Nations Chil-
dren's Fund (UNICEF) aimed at strengthening the government's capac-
ity to deliver effective social protection during emergencies and disas-
ters.

In a press release Friday, DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said the MOU is an innovation that would provide so-
cial protection assistance

fit for its intended benefi-
ciaries.

“We know that every single vulnera-
ble sector has distinct needs, especially in di-
saster response so this is something that is in-
novative, that is new. It is a template that we can also adopt, cascade, and expand, and we look forward to learning from it because it is new,” Gatchalian said.

For her part, UNICEF Country Rep-
resentative Oyunsai Khan Dendevnorov affirmed the partnership would

provide “life-saving as-
sistance to children and their families in times of emergencies.”

The signed MOU will serve as a basis for both parties to implement a Standby Agreement on Emergen-
cy Cash Transfer (ECT) that will ensure that di-
saster-affected families or households and their children will have access to financial aid.

The ECT is an adaptive strategy for bridging the gaps be-
tween immediate disas-
ter relief, humanitarian

response, and early re-
covery support through outright cash aid for di-
saster-affected families in areas under a state of calamity.

The signing was witnessed by DSWD Un-
dersecretary for Disaster Response Management Group Diana Rose Ca-
jipe, Assistant Secretary for Partnerships Building and Resource Mobiliza-
tion Ana Marie Rafael, and UNICEF Philippines Deputy Representative for Programmes Behzad Noubary. (Zaldy de Lay-
ola, PNA)