

Cavite warehouse yields P150-M worth of fake goods



MANILA — An inspection of a warehouse in Cavite on Thursday yielded fake apparel, appliances, and general merchandise estimated to be worth PHP150 million, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) said.

According to the BOC, a team from the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service-Manila International Container Port (CIIS-MICP), armed with a Letter of Authority (LOA) signed by Commissioner Yogi Filemon Ruiz, proceeded to Hong Yun Real Estate Group Inc. on M. Salud Road, Alapan II-A, Imus, to inspect the contents of the

warehouse.

The Customs agents found ready-to-wear garments from brands such as Dickies, Mossimo, Bench, Levi's, Puma, Fila, Mickey Mouse, Hello Kitty and others, as well as appliances and general merchandise.

"The implementation of this operation comes with reinforcement from different departments. It was also made possible by the coordination with the police and local barangay officials. This is what it means to work with one goal in mind, which is to put a stop to this menace," Ruiz said in a statement.

"From top to bottom, we are united in our aim to

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Arabic language, Islamic values institutionalization pushed

MANILA, Philippines — As the world observed World Arabic Language Day yesterday, Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian pushed for the institutionalization of the Arabic Language and Islamic Values Education (ALIVE) in all public and private basic education schools outside the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Gatchalian earlier filed Senate Bill 382 or the ALIVE Act to provide Muslim Filipino learners the appropriate and relevant educational opportunities while recognizing their culture,



Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian earlier filed Senate Bill 382 or the ALIVE Act to provide Muslim Filipino learners the appropriate and relevant educational opportunities while recognizing their culture, which includes the teaching of Arabic language and Islamic values.

which includes the teaching of Arabic language and Islamic values.

The measure will also ensure the contribution of Muslim Filipinos to national goals and aspirations aimed

at making them partners in nation-building.

According to Gatchalian, chairman of the Senate committee on basic education, the bill aligns with

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DOH, Fulbright ink deal for scholarships, research and exchange programs for HCWs



The Department of Health and the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF), the said "oldest" Fulbright Commission in the world, have inked deal for an upskilling program for healthcare workers.

MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Health and the Philippine-American Educational Foundation (PAEF) — said to be the "oldest" Fulbright Commission in the world — have inked deal for an upskilling program for healthcare workers.

Under the memorandum of understanding, the DOH and the PAEF will cre-

ate joint programs to help train healthcare workers. It also covers possibly establishing scholarships, and research and exchange programs to support the department's plans under the Universal Healthcare Law.

DOH vows to bring mental health services closer to communities

Philippines corrects course to meet global sea-

farer training standards

"Universal Healthcare is centered around supporting and uplifting people — not just the people who require healthcare services, but also the people who provide those services or those who toil to make those services effective, responsive, and accessible," Health officer-in-charge Maria Rosario Vergeire said during the signing ceremony.

Training programs may focus on Health Systems Management, Environmental and Community Health, Health Policy and Administration, Epidemiology and Disease surveillance and Infectious Disease Control.

Vergeire said the DOH also plans to make opportunities available to job order personnel, who make up 63% of its workforce. — Kaycee Valmonte

Pag-IBIG launches mobile app to mark 42nd anniversary



vices and benefits closer to every Filipino. In line with the unwavering commitment of this administration to digitize and streamline our services, be assured that this administration is committed to support you as you implement housing and development programs and initiatives," the president added.

Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Rizalino Acuzar, for his part, assured Pag-IBIG members that the agency will continue to make use of information technology to improve its services.

"This service innovation will significantly help in providing social benefits to our fellow Filipinos, in line with the call of Pres. Marcos to maximize the use of information technology in the delivery of public service," Acuzar said.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta demonstrated the service features and the user-friendly interface of the agency's mobile app during the launch.

Through the app, Pag-IBIG members could get their membership ID number, view the status of their housing or short-term loan, make online payments and create a virtual Pag-IBIG account.

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BAWAS ASUKAL AT IWAS SA MATATAMIS**Payo ni Doc Willie Ong**

MAY mga pasyente akong nagtataka kung bakit hindi sila pumapayat. Kapag tinanong ko sila, ang sabi nila ay isang mangga ang nakakain nila bawat kainan. Kaya naman pala!

Matamis at mataas sa asukal ang mangga. Oo, may tulong sa ating katawan ang asukal. Binibigyan tayo ng energy. Ngunit kung sobra ay nakatataba at puwede tayong magka-diabetes. Alam ba ninyo ang taglay na asukal ng mga pangkaraniwang pagkain? Tingnan natin.



1. Raisins 42.5 g ng Sunmaid Raisins (½ cup) = 7 ½ kutsarintang asukal (120 cal)
2. Mas mababa sa asukal ang strawberries kumpara sa ubas, mangga at dried fruits.
3. 8 baby carrots o half cup (85 g) = 1 kutsarintang asukal (30 cal)
3. 1 malaking orange = 5 ½ kutsarintang asukal (132 cal)

Kapag mas matamis at mas hinog, mas maraming sugar. Piliin ang mga prutas na bagong hinog lang. Huwag piliin ang mga overripe na prutas.

4. Three-fourth cup plain cereals = 1 kutsarintang asukal (120 cal)
- Pero ang three-fourth cup ng frosted cereals = 3 kutsarintang asukal (120 cal)
5. 1 regular na mais = 1 ½ kutsarintang asukal.
6. 1 ensaymada na may butter = 8 kutsarintang asukal at 5 kutsarintang butter
- Kung nagpapapayat, piliin na lang ang pandesal o monay.
7. 1 scoop ng regular ice cream = 5 ½ kutsarintang asukal (240 cal)
- Pero ang 1 cup unsweetened 6 oz yogurt = 3 ½ kutsarintang asukal (100 cal)
- Mas masustansya ang yogurt kaysa sa ice cream.

8. 1 coffee drink with whip cream (16 oz grande) = 12 kutsarintang asukal (380 cal)

At pagdating sa mga inumin na may whip cream, ice cream at tsokolate, sadyang mataas iyan sa asukal. Pero, okay lang naman kung ika'y payat at gusto mong magpataba. Ngunit kung ika'y diabetic at gustong pumayat, piliin ang mga pagkaing mababa sa asukal.

Mas healthy ang asukal ng prutas na kung tawagin ay fructose, kumpara sa white sugar. Kaya maging maingat sa mga nakatagong asukal sa ating pagkain. Good luck po!

Pormal nang ginawaran ang City of Bacoor bilang Seal of Good Local Governance (SGLG) Awardee para sa taong 2022. Ito ay ginanap kaninang umaga sa Manila Hotel na dinaluhan ng mga City Officials mula sa mga awardees ng buong bansa.



Tinanggap ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla at Congresswoman Lani Mercado Revilla ang parangal mula sa Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) na iginawad nila DILG Secretary Benhur Abalos, Senator JV Ejercito at mga DILG officers.

Binigyang-pugay rin ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Bacoor bilang isa sa 25 na SGLG Awardees mula sa buong Pilipinas at sa pagkamit ng parangal sa loob ng magkakasunod na 6 na taon mula nang inilunsad ang rekognisyon noong 2014. Ito'y isang bagay na tunay na maipagmamalaki ng lahat ng mga Bacooreño

Ang SGLG ay isang testamento na ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Bacoor at lahat ng bumubuo nito ay nagpapakita ng natatanging kahusayan at katapatan sa serbisyo't pamamahala. **Congratulations at mabuhay ang Lungsod ng Bacoor!**

**EDITORIAL****Walang katapusang pag-import ng bigas**

NAKADEPENDE pa rin ang Pilipinas sa pag-import ng bigas. Hindi na natapos ang pagbili ng bigas ng bansang malawak ang taniman ng palay. Patuloy pa rin na ang inihahaing kanin sa hapag-kainan ay imported na bigas? Kailan kaya makakakain ng kanin na mula sa palay na itanim sa sariling linang? Kailan kaya sasagana ang bigas na prodyus ng mga lokal na magsasaka para hindi na bumili ng bigas sa ibang bansa?

Ipinahayag ng Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) na posibleng umangkat ng tatlong milyong metriko tonelada ng bigas ang Pilipinas sa susunod na taon. Ayon sa FFF, posibleng magkulang ang bigas sa bansa sa third quarter ng 2023. Ang mahinang produksiyon at ang mataas na pangangailangan sa pagkain ang dahilan kaya mag-aangkat ang Pilipinas ng

tatlong milyong metriko tonelada.

Sabi ni FFF chairman Leonardo Montemayor, 321,000 tonelada lamang ng bigas ang maaaring maprodyus bago matapos ang 2022 at hindi ito sasapat kaya kailangang mag-angkat. Lumalaki rin umano ang populasyon kaya malaki ang panga-ngailangan sa pagkain.

Hinulaan naman ng United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), na 3.5 milyong metriko tonelada ng bigas ang iimportahin ng Pilipinas sa susunod na taon. Ito anila ay mas mataas sa dating- inangkat na 3.3 milyong metriko tonelada. Ang kakulangan ng bigas ay nag-ugat sa pananalasa ng bagyo sa mga nakaraang buwan.

Magpapatuloy ang pag-angkat ng bigas at hindi pa mangyayari ang sinabi ni President Marcos Jr. noong Hunyo na masakit sa kalooban niya ang pag-import nito. Ayon sa kanya, parang hindi niya matanggap na bumibili ng bigas ang Pilipinas. Ka-sabay nito, pinangako nga niya na magiging P20 per kilo ng bigas. Paano maibababa sa P20 ang kilo kung patuloy ang importasyon. Mangyayari lamang ito kung makapagprodyus nang maraming bigas ang bansa. Hangga't umaangkat, hindi maibababa ang bigas.

Isa pang problemang kahaharapin sa pag-angkat ng bigas ay ang pamamayagpag ng smugglers ng agri products. Dahil kulang ang suplay ng bigas, dadagsa ang mga puslit na bigas. Walang katapusang pag-import at wala ring katapusan ang pag-smuggle ng bigas.

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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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House approves bill on NCST, ROTC on final reading

MANILA – The House of Representatives on Thursday approved on third and final reading a measure that would establish a two-year mandatory National Citizens Service Training (NCST) program and an optional four-year Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program.

With 276 affirmative votes, four negative votes, and one abstention, the chamber approved House Bill (HB) No. 6687, or the proposed National Service Training Program Act, which was certified as urgent by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Marcos certified as urgent the passage of the bill to address the need to enhance the capacity of Filipino citizens to mobilize and perform their constitutional duty to render military or civil service to the State in times of calamities and disasters, national or local emergencies, rebellion, invasion, or war.

"This shall be made possible by the establishment of a unified, comprehensive, and holistic national citizens service training and mobilization system," Marcos said.

The certification of urgency has allowed the Lower Chamber to pass the measure on second and third reading on the same day.

The bill seeks to institutionalize an NCST program to be implemented by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) in all public and private higher education institutions (HEIs) and by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in all post-secondary technical-vocational institutions (TVIs), both in consultation with the Department of National Defense (DND).

The bill is authored by Speaker Martin Romualdez, Majority Leader Manuel Jose Dalipe, Tingog Party-list Representatives Yedda Romualdez and Jude Acidre, among others.

Romualdez thanked his colleagues for the swift but exhaustive deliberations on the measure.

"The House of Representatives has been working really hard—day in and day out—to pass many important pieces of legislation that we all believe will contribute immensely to nation-building. And the NCSTP bill is one of them," he said.

"I congratulate all my colleagues in the lower chamber, even the ones who expressed opposition to the measure, for the resulting bill is one that has undergone rigorous scrutiny. And for that, we accomplish our role here in the Legislature with flying colors," he added.

House Committee on higher and technical education chair Mark Go, sponsor of the measure, said the Civic Welfare and Training Service (CWTS) and Literary Training Service (LTS) components of the National Service Training Program (NSTP) Law shall be integrated in the NCST program.

The NCST program shall equip and organize the youth with necessary, essential, practical and pragmatic knowledge and skills for civic duty, emergency and disaster response and preparedness in the current frameworks



of law enforcement, peace and order, territorial defense and national disaster risk reduction and management for mobilization for military and civil services that produces reservists for the National Service Reserve Corps and Armed Forces of the Philippines' Citizen Armed Force (AFP Reserve Force).

The bill also proposes to establish an optional ROTC program for higher education students designed to produce officers for the Citizen Armed Force and Regular Force of the AFP.

The ROTC curriculum shall be designed by the Department of National Defense and CHED and administered by the AFP to train volunteer tertiary education students to be officers of the Regular and Reserve Force of the AFP.

"It shall be designed in such a way that graduates of the four year ROTC Program shall be capable of immediate deployment as commissioned officers of the AFP immediately after graduation from the ROTC even as they continue with their baccalaureate degree program," Go said.

He said the ROTC program of instruction shall include advanced military subjects and courses, practical exercises and field exercises necessary and appropriate for an entry level officer commission in the AFP.

"In keeping with the changing times it is incumbent upon us to promote the level of discipline, leadership, and patriotic character of every Filipino youth," he said.

He said the bill will promote, propagate, and protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the Filipino youth.

"With the passage of this bill, we endeavor to instill among the youth patriotism, love of country, moral and spiritual virtues, respect for human rights and adherence to the Constitution," he said. (PNA)



GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Magiging makulay ang araw sa mga taong maganda ang kalooban, tapat makitungo at masayahin. Iwasan ang magalit o mag-init ang ulo dahil madaragdagan lang ang wrinkles mo. Ingatan ang health. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 7, 36, 41 at fuchsia.

CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Magtatagumpay ang pagtitiyaga at pagsisikap at magsisimulang pitasin ang matamis na bunga nito. Happy ka! Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 2, 9, 14, 30 at red.

AQUARIUS: (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Iwasan na maging malikot ang isipan dahil maaaring pasukan ng hindi magandang ideya. Self-control ang kaila-ngan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 10, 13, 17, 24 at light green.

PISCES: (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) Taglayin ang mahinahon na pag-iisip dahil mapapasabak sa mental o pisikal na gawain. Magpakatag. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 9, 12, 30, 37 at yellow.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Maaaring makatanggap ng balita mula sa telepono o sa makabagong teknolohiya. Maganda ang palatandaan tungkol sa pag-ibig. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 2, 3, 9, 37 at brown.

TAURUS: (Apr. 20-May. 20) Ang tunay na pag-ibig ay hindi nasusukat sa materyal, kundi sa gawa at pag-uunawa. Sikaping matupad ang pangako. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 5, 10, 25, 36 at dollar green.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Jun. 21) Kung hindi mapagalalabanan ang pagkatamad, absent sa pinapasukan o walang magagawang trabaho. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 7, 32, 37 at indigo.

CANCER: (Jun. 22-Jul. 22) Huwag aksayahin ang oras sa walang kwentang tsismis. Kaligayahan ang madarama sa matatapos na gawain. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 4, 11, 25, 37 at jade green.

LEO: (Jul. 23-Aug. 22) Pakiramdaman ang kutob nang hindi magkamali sa desisyon. Ang nasimulang trabaho ay magiging maayos. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 3, 12, 26, 39 at carnilian.

VIRGO: (Aug. 23-Sep. 23) Iwasan ang mangako dahil hindi kayang tuparin. Ang usapan ay salamin ng pagkatao. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 5, 17, 25, 36 at agate green.

LIBRA: (Sep. 24-Oct. 23) Iwasan na maging matampuhin dahil walang mapapala kundi sakit ng damdamin. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 6, 10, 15, 32 at emerald green.

SCORPIO: (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Mabuti at makakasama ang isang payo. kaya suriin ng maigi bago magpahalaga sa payong matatanggap. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 2, 11, 25, 36 at royal blue.



2023 GAA to sustain economic growth, address pressing needs



MANILA – The signing of the 2023 General Appropriations Act (GAA) by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will mean a continuation of the government’s efforts to sustain economic growth and provide more opportunities for Filipinos.

Senator Sonny Angara, chair of the Committee on Finance, assured Friday that Congress worked hard to ensure that the PHP5.268 trillion national budget is signed within the year.

“While there were disagreements on some issues during the bicameral conference committee meetings, both panels found common ground in the need to ensure that assistance is given to those who require it the most and to keep the momentum going in the country’s move towards economic recovery,” he said in a statement.

Angara said the targeted aid for Filipinos most affected by the pandemic will continue citing the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps); medical assistance for indigent patients; *Libreng Sakay* (Free Ride) Program; scholarships; fuel subsidy for drivers and operators and farmers and fisherfolk; and pension increase for indigent senior citizens.

Benefits and allowances for health frontliners are also included in the 2023 GAA.

“*Malaking bahagi ng 2023 GAA, mahigit PHP170 billion, ay nakatugon sa sektor ng agrikultura kung saan ang ating Pangulo mismo ang personal na nakatutok (A*

huge chunk of the 2023 GAA, more than PHP170 billion, will help the agriculture sector which our President personally leads),” he said.

Angara said while deliberating on the 2023 GAA, Congress was well aware of the need for the government to make productive investments in human and physical capital in order to empower the people, generate revenues, and address the most pressing needs of Filipinos.

“As stated by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., this budget is anchored on an agenda for prosperity. We are no longer at a point where we are catching up and reacting to the developments just like the past two years,” he noted.

The lawmaker thanked his fellow lawmakers for their various contributions and efforts to make sure that the 2023 budget is approved without delay.

President Marcos, who arrived Thursday night from his official visit to Belgium, signed the 2023 GAA in Malacañang on Friday. (PNA)

TELCOS, NAGHAHANDA NA SA PAG-ARANGKADA NG SIM CARD REGISTRATION ACT NGAYONG DARATING NA DISYEMBRE 27

Inilabas na ng National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) ang mga Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) ng Sim Card Registration Act na nakatakdang pasimulan ngayong darating na Disyembre 17.

Nakasaad sa IRR na ‘required’ ang lahat ng mobile subscribers na i-rehistro ang kanilang SIM cards sa loob ng 180 araw o 6 na buwan simula nang maging epektibo ang nasabing batas.

Sakaling nabigo ang isang subscriber na ipa-rehistro ang kaniyang SIM card, awtomatikong made-deactivate ito at maaari niya itong i-reactivate muli ngunit bibigyan lamang siya ng 5 araw.

Isasagawa ang rehistrasyon sa isang ligtas na social platform o website na nilikha ng isang telecommunications company.

Para sa nagnanais magpa-rehistro ng kani-kanilang SIM cards, kailangan lamang ibigay ang buong pangalan, petsa ng kapanganakan, kasarian, tirahan at magpakita ng valid government ID o mga dokumento habang ang mga business users ay kinakailangang magpakita ng kanilang business name, business address at ang buong pangalan ng



authorized signatory.

Samantala, ang mga dayuhan naman sa bansa ay kailangan ding magbigay ng kanilang personal na impormasyon habang ang mga bisitang turista naman bibigyan ng SIM cards na kanilang magagamit hanggang 30 araw.

Isinabatas ang nasabing SIM Registration Act upang mas mabawasan ang mga panloloko at ilang criminal activities sa pamamagitan ng mga transaksyon sa mobile phones.

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Transport advocate slams delay in Grab PH ‘overcharging’ hearing

MANILA – A public transportation advocate on Friday criticized the delay in the hearing on the alleged overcharging practice of transport network vehicle service (TNVS) company Grab Philippines.

In a Laging Handa briefing, lawyer Ariel Inton, president of the Lawyers for Commuters Safety and Protection, said rescheduling the hearing from Dec. 13 to Jan. 10 will result in more passengers experiencing the alleged overcharging.

“*Aanhin mo pa iyang damo, kung wala na ang kabayo? Eh ang kailangan natin ay magkaroon ng desisyon, dahil ngayon po, ngayong Christmas season, dito maraming sumbong* (What’s the use of grass if the horse is gone? We need to make a decision because the Christmas season is when we’re getting a lot of complaints),” Inton said.

Grab filed a motion to cancel the hearing on Dec. 13 due to their representatives’ alleged exposure to Covid-19.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) issued a show cause order to Grab on Dec. 6 over allegations of charging PHP85 for short trips, or trips below four kilometers, a violation of the minimum flag down rate.

The approved base fare for TNVS as of September are PHP45 for taxis and Sedan-type, PHP55 for Asian or sports utility vehicle types, and PHP35 for hatchback types.

There will be no increase in the succeeding ki-



lometers.

“*Mataas iyon (PHP85). Hindi iyan nakapaloob doon sa fare matrix kaya shinow cause order sila* (That’s too much. That’s not what’s enclosed in the fare matrix so they were issued a show cause order),” he said.

Inton said a Grab lawyer clarified that the PHP85 minimum charge was meant to discourage short trips while Grab country head for mobility EJ dela Vega insisted they comply with guidelines.

Inton said such short trips occur in just one of 10,000 rides.

“*Hindi consistent iyang presentation nila na isa lang sa bawat sampung libong pasahero, idi-discourage mo. Sa tingin namin, hindi iyon, with all due respect sa mga abogado nila, hindi totoo* (Their presentation was not consistent because they’re discouraging one out of 10,000 passengers. In our opinion, that’s, with all due respect to their lawyers, not true),” he said.

In addition, he alleged that Grab is taking advantage of “surge pricing” or multiplying by two the per-minute charge and the per-kilometer charges.

“*Iyan ay pinapayagan ng LTFRB pero ang tanong, kailan mo ba dapat i-implement o singilin ang pasahero ng fare surge* (It is allowed by the LTFRB but the question is, when should you implement or charge passengers with fare surge)?” he said.

Due to the lack of parameters or policies, he said surge pricing is perpetually implemented.

“And that is the reason why *sinulatan namin ang LTFRB dito na dapat may parameters* (And that is the reason why we wrote to the LTFRB that there should be parameters),” he said. (PNA)

