

DMW, DOT partner to provide OFWs opportunities in local tourism

MANILA – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and the Department of Tourism (DOT) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on Thursday to benefit overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who are planning to go back to the Philippines for good.

In a statement, DMW officer-in-charge Undersecretary Hans Leo Caceda said that through the "Balik Bayani sa Turismo" partnership program, returning OFWs and their families will be provided with free tourism-related skills development and enhancement training that would open jobs and business opportunities for them so they could continue to provide for their families even as they return to the country.

"Walang OFW na ayaw umuwi (No OFW would never want to go back) for good. Everyone has plans for their families and communities. That's why this partnership with the DOT is a huge help for our OFWs to come home



with their families while having a sustainable source of income in the local tourism sector," Caceda said.

Among the tourism-related training that may be provided for the OFW and their families include culinary tourism, farm tourism, homestay operations, and skills on how to become tour guides.

Meanwhile, those who have acquired foreign language skills or have extensive experience in tourism-related activities can become part of the DOT's pool of experts which would give them opportunities to become resource persons in various government programs.

In the same agreement, the DOT and the DMW will also provide

scholarship grants to qualified OFWs and their family members interested in becoming tourism front-liners and service providers or tourism enterprise owners, in cooperation with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

DOT Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco underscored that the OFWs are the best tourism ambassadors of the Philippines because of the competence and expertise they offer to the world.

Moreover, Frasco said OFWs have acquired rich experiences that can help promote the country's local tourism industry.

The Balik Bayani sa Turismo program is

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New Era University, Sputnik News Agency sign MOU

MANILA – The New Era University (NEU) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Sputnik News Agency and Radio, a Russian media company, to bring its educational programs in broadcasting and journalism to new heights.

Sputnik's International Cooperation Director Vasily Pushkov and NEU president Dr. Alberto Domingo Jr. signed the MOU in a virtual ceremony on Jan. 12 with the signing parties present at the NEU Boardroom in Quezon City and Sputnik Media Room in Moscow, Russia.

"The signing of a MOU with Sputnik is a monumental move towards internationalization of NEU's academic endeavors, especially along the College of Communi-



cation's aspiration to attain new level for the programs in Broadcasting and Journalism", Domingo said in a news release on Thursday.

"The cooperation between the New Era University and the Sputnik Radio Network started years ago although in a very informal framework," Dr. Carlos Tabunda, the dean of the NEU Faculty of International Relations, said.

"And this year, following my visit the Sputnik headquarters in Moscow, we managed to

finalize the agreement to formalize our collaboration and also come up with a series of activities that, I hope, would benefit both of us," he added.

New Era University is a private, non-profit educational institution which offers a varied range of educational programs for local and foreign students.

In 2021, the university officially launched its Russian Studies Center, which aims to develop partnerships with Russian educational institutions. (PNA)

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FDA warns public vs. use of glutathione



MANILA – Glutathione products with indications related to the treatment of "Cisplatin chemotherapy" are the only ones approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

"Other than that, kung ang produkto na ina-apply sa FDA ay hindi related sa treatment ng Cisplatin chemotherapy ay hindi namin inaaprubahan ito (we do not approve products submitted to the FDA that are not related to Cisplatin chemotherapy

treatment)," FDA Attorney III Pamela Angeline Sevilla said in a radio interview on Thursday.

Cisplatin chemotherapy is used for the treatment of advanced stage of cancer of the bladder, ovaries, or testicles. Cisplatin is an antineoplastic agent that interferes with the growth of cancer cells in the body.

The FDA and the Department of Health (DOH) have been warning the public against unapproved use of glutathione in previous years.

Nonetheless, the number of people using them seems to increase along with the increase of unregistered glutathione products sold online via social media platforms.

Sevilla noted the

online sellers of unregistered glutathione products may have not undergone the FDA authorization process or may have applied for authorization but did not meet FDA's standards.

In its Public Advisory No. 2019-182, the FDA warned the public against the dangers of injectable lightening agents such as glutathione which are usually offered at health and beauty salons, wellness spas, and beauty clinics.

The agency said such products could be toxic to the liver, kidneys, and nervous system. It can also open potential transmission of infectious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis B.

On Wednesday, DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa emphasized the

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GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY AND INAUGURATION NG CIUDAD KAUNLARAN HOUSING PROJECT SA LUNGSOD NG BACOOOR



Pinangunahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand "Bong-Bong" Marcos ang awarding at groundbreaking ng Ciudad Kaunlaran sa Barangay Molino 2, City of Bacoor, Cavite. Kasama ng Pangulo ang mga pinuno

ng Lungsod sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Cong. Lani M. Revilla, Sangguniang Panlungsod Members at iba pang Barangay Officials na silang nangunguna ni JOEBEN A. TAI - General Manager.

na mabibigyan ng pabahay. Ang Housing Project na ito ay pinangunahan ng National Housing Authority (NHA) sa pangunguna ni JOEBEN A. TAI - General Manager. see page 6...

Patuloy ang konstruksyon ng City of Imus Intregrated School



Patuloy ang konstruksyon ng City of Imus Intregrated School - Maharlika para sa patuloy na pagbibigay ng de kalidad na edukasyon para sa mga batang Imuseño.

Ayon kay Cavite Third District Representative, Adrian Jay Advincula, oras na matapos ang pagtatayo ng nasabing paaralan ay maiiwasan na ang overcrowding sa mga classroom sa lungsod, na siyang dahilan ng learning interruptions sa mga mag-aaral. Tiwala naman ang mambabatas na sa pamamagitan ng nasabing proyekto ay maisasakatuparan na ang mga pangarap at magandang kinabukasan para sa bawat batang Imuseño.

LTO eyes agency-to-agency deal as license cards run out by February

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) is looking to government printing offices for the supply of plastic cards for driver's licenses as these run out by the end of the month.

In a press conference at the LTO headquarters in Quezon City on Thursday, LTO chief, Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II, said government printing agencies have already submitted their quotations for the supply of 6 million license cards, with the Department of Transportation (DOT) now working on the processing and approval.

"This would be the fastest way and the most transparent and open to all. We're following it up so hopefully, we'll get those licenses out before Febru-



ary," he said.

To date, Mendoza said there are around 270,000 license cards left in LTO offices nationwide.

"Normal monthly demand for driver's licenses is around 550,000 a month. So, 270,000 is good for around two weeks or half a month. Hanggang end of the month po yan unless mag-wind down (That's only going to last until the end of the month unless it winds down)," he

said.

If LTO fails to provide license cards, Mendoza said, expired driver's licenses will automatically be extended until April 2024.

To avoid this scenario, he said, agency-to-agency procurement is one of the alternative modes of procurement under the Government Procurement Act and is the fastest way to procure more

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Pag-IBIG members' benefits to double under new rates – exec



ay dodoble – ang kanilang maturity benefit; iyon pong kanilang ipon ng 20 years dodoble po mula po sa PHP87,000 - ngayon magiging PHP174,000 po iyan (All the benefits of our Pag-IBIG members will double – their maturity benefit; their savings for 20 years will double from PHP87,000 to PHP174)," Pag-IBIG Fund Deputy Chief Executive Officer Alexander Hilario "Alex" Aguilar said during the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing.

Aguilar said members can use their mobile phones to file applications for emergency loans amounting up to PHP15,000.

He said Pag-IBIG Fund is also set to roll out easy access to health and education programs among members, using their PAG-IBIG savings, this year.

Members can apply for an education loan for tuition fees payment or health loan for medical needs emergencies, he added.

He said the additional PHP38 billion will also be used for the Pam-

"So, in the long run, mas maganda po ito para sa mga miyembro natin (it will be good for our members)," Aguilar said.

He said Pag-IBIG is set to launch new loan facilities, including the "Quick Loan", in the coming months.

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Pagkain Para Lumakas

Payo ni Doc Ong

Kapag gusto mong mag-ehersisyo o magtrabaho ng mabigat, kailangan mo ng sapat na lakas. Makukuha natin ito sa pamamagitan ng tamang 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 pagtibok ng puso at paggalaw ng masels. Masdan niyo ang mga tennis players na palaging kumakain ng saging.
 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 kung.
 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. Punong-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 maihambing 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 punong-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.
- Isang 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.



DA imposes temporary import ban on poultry products from Japan

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) has imposed a temporary ban on the importation of poultry and poultry products, including eggs and day-old chicks, from Japan due to an outbreak of avian influenza.

In a news release on Thursday, the department said Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. signed a memorandum order on Wednesday to immediately suspend the issuance of sanitary and phytosanitary import clearance for the inward shipment of wild birds, poultry, and poultry products from Japan.

“Only wild birds, poultry, and poultry products imported from Japan that are already in transit,



loaded, and accepted on or before Nov. 10 will be allowed entry to the Philippines,” the DA said.

Shipments after Nov. 10 will either be returned to Japan, or confiscated and destroyed.

The import ban was imposed after Japan’s Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries reported an outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza to the World

Organization for Animal Health on Nov. 28.

The Japanese agency’s report showed an outbreak of the H5N1 strain after wild and domesticated birds in Kashima City in Saga Prefecture on Nov. 24.

The import ban is necessary to protect the local poultry population from exposure to the H5N1 avian influenza strain, the DA said. (PNA)



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260K PWDs get P957-M aid from DSWD’s cash-for-work program in 2023

MANILA – Some 260,034 persons with disabilities (PWDs) across the country received more than PHP957 million in cash assistance in 2023 through the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Kapangyarihan at Kaunlaran sa Barangay Cash-For-Work (KKB-CFW) Program for PWDs, DSWD Assistant Secretary for Strategic Communications Romel Lopez reported on Friday.

The KKB-CFW is an initiative of the Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services (KALAHI-CIDSS), one of the DSWD’s flagship programs.

Lopez said the conduct of the CFW program is in keeping with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to also prioritize the PWD sector. “The CFW aims to provide short-term intervention by giving temporary employment to persons with disabilities, and low income or no income families with members who have disabilities,” he said.

“The DSWD has released more than PHP957 million to cover the cash aid of the CFW beneficiaries in exchange for the community work or service that they have rendered,” he added.

The beneficiaries or their family members



were given the opportunity to work for six to 10 days with the corresponding daily wage based on the 2022 regional daily wage rate of their respective regions.

Some of the tasks and community services conducted by the participants were communal gardening, tree planting, cleaning of public offices and surroundings, and coastal cleanup, among others.

“For 2024, the DSWD, through KALAHI-CIDSS, will continue to prioritize the empowerment of more communities and persons with disabilities around the country,” Lopez said. (PNA)

Pasig River rehab to focus on improving water quality, green spaces



MANILA – The newly inaugurated Pasig River Urban Development (PRUD) project will revitalize the Pasig River and its surroundings by improving water quality and building concrete structures with green spaces.

In his speech at the inauguration ceremony of the showcase area of the PRUD on Wednesday, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) acting Chairman Romando Artes said the project is a priority of the Marcos administration under the guidance of First Lady Marie Louise Marcos.

The project is funded with “minimum financial exposure” through assistance from the private sector.

It consists of initiatives that will rehabilitate and enhance the quality of life along the banks of the Pasig

River, its tributaries and surrounding communities.

“[The PRUD] sends a powerful message that we are committed to creating a metropolis where every resident can thrive and where nature and development can coexist harmoniously,” Artes said.

The project began through Executive Order (EO) No. 35, series of 2023 that constituted the Inter-Agency Council for the PRUD (IAC-PRUD) and was signed into law on July 25, 2023.

The IAC-PRUD is led by Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jerry Acuzar, Artes as vice chair, and its members consist of Marcos’ cabinet.

Earlier, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the MMDA announced the establishment of a housing area for informal settlers and a linear park along the easement of San Juan River—one of the tributaries of Pasig River.

The housing project is expected to benefit 3,000 families while the linear park in Barangay Batis will be used to sustain solid waste management practices along the waterways.

Aside from greeneries, the park will house material recovery facilities, rain harvesting facility and a sewage treatment plant that will ensure the water from San Juan River to Pasig River is clean. (PNA)



GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) – Iwasan ang get rich quick investment tulad ng pyramiding dahil maglalaho na parang bula ang iyong money. Ang balak na pagnenegosyo ay push pero tiyakin na napag-aralan ng mabuti ang papasuking business para walang pagsisihan sa huli. Lucky number at color for the day ang 1, 19, 33, 39 at dollar green.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) – Bigyang halaga ang sa-lita at tumbasan ito ng gawa. Epektibong hakbang para maibalik ang tiwala ng madla sa iyo. Lucky number at color for the day ang 9, 22, 29, 55 at violet.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) – Ipa-rehab ang kaanak na nalulong sa adiksiyon. Ipagpatuloy ang spiritual practice upang maa-kit ang blessings. Lucky number at color for the day ang 11, 19, 31, 51 hot pink.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) – Asikasuhin ang mga permit at buwis tungkol sa negosyo. Iwasan ang rush hours na deadline. Ingatan ang health. Lucky number at color for the day ang 11, 17, 29, 48 at coral red.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) – Makikilala mo ngayon ang totoo sa nagpapanggap lang na kaibigan. Pagbigyan ang hiling ng isang kaanak kung kaya naman. Lucky number at color for the day ang 7, 9, 31, 44 at violet.

GEMINI: (May.21-Hun. 21) – Financial management ang makakatulong sa iyong business. Ang gumugulo sa isip ay mabibigyang linaw ngayon. Lucky number at color for the day ang 7, 15, 39, 41 at neon blue.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) – Ayusin ng inyong performance evaluation sa trabaho. Ito ang paraan para maiwasan ang mapanirang inggit. Lucky number at color for the day ang 3, 25, 41, 44 at sun yellow.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) – Matatanggap ka sa trabaho na iyong inaaplayan. Pasiglahin ang relationship sa pagbabago ng venue ng iyong date. Lucky number at color for the day ang 7, 22, 31, 44 magenta.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) – Isang sorpresang panauhin ang dara-ting. Siya ang magiging mentor mo. Ituloy ang balak na pagnenegosyo. Lucky number at color for the day ang 11, 21, 37, 41 at pearl white.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) – Sundin ang kutob. Ito ang gabay sa hangaring magtagumpay. Makikilala ang helpful people sa isang social connection. Lucky number at color for the day ang 9, 17, 22, 35 at green.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) – Maaakit mo ang swerte kapag natutuhang mahalina ang taong gumawa ng hindi maganda sa’yo. Lucky number at color for the day ang 9, 15, 33, 13 at mustard yellow.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) – Bigyan ng sapat na panahon ang significant person ng iyong buhay. Isang surprise gift ang matatanggap ngayon. Lucky number at color for the day ang 18, 29, 27, 45 at maroon.

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O	G	N	C	K	C	D	S	E	L	F	L	O	V	E
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Z	H	W	S	A	V	I	N	G	S	D	F	Q	H	V

Comment your answers below!

GROUNDBREAKING...

from page 1

Itong kauna-unahang housing Project ni Pangulong Marcos sa taong 2024.

Napaka palad ng Lungsod ng Bacoor dahil mayroong (9) na building na may limang-palapag na gusali. Tinatayang aabot sa 540 housing units na may sukat na 24 sqm kada bahay. Sa konstraksyon ng Phase 2 sa Ciudad Kaunlaran inumpisahan ang (2) Building na may limang Palapag na gusali na bubuo ng 120 housing Units.

Hindi makakamit ng Lungsod ng Bacoor ang proyektong ito kundi dahil sa magandang samahan at pagtutulungan nila Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista - Mendiola, Cong. Lani M. Revilla, Board Member Ram Revilla, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Cong. Bryan Revilla, at ni Senator Ramon "Bong"

Mas lalamig pa ang panahon sa sunod na linggo - PAGASA



MANILA, Philippines — Tinaya ng PAGASA na mas lalamig pa ang panahon sa sunod na linggo. Ayon kay Joey Figuracion, climatologist ng PAGASA, ang kasalukuyang epekto ng panahon sa ngayon ay hihigitan pa ng malamig na panahon sa sunod na linggo dahil sa amihan surge o bumabang temperatura.

"Itong current na nararanasan natin na surge ay maaaring mag-last in two days pa. Bahagyang iinit ulit tapos meron na naman tayong aasahan na surge in the coming next week so... medyo lalamig pa ang ating temperature... sa sunod na linggo," sabi ni Figuracion.

Noong January 11 ay naitala ang pinaka malamig na temperatura na pumalo sa 12.1°C sa La Trinidad Benguet at mababang temperatura na 20.2°C sa Metro Manila batay sa tala sa Science Garden.

LTO eyes...

from page 1

license cards in the near future.

"Kung titignan mo yung capability at readiness, parang mas ready yung government printing offices (If you look at capability and readiness, it seems government printing offices are the most prepared)," he added.

After forwarding the quotations to the DOTr, Mendoza said, the next steps for the procurement process are technical tests on the thickness, weight and quality of the plastic by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and whether the security codes on the cards are correct.

"These would also be checked as part of procedure, whether to approve or not approve the agency-to-agency contracts. Pricing is just one of the components of the entire contract deal," he said.

In the meantime, Mendoza said the LTO is working on making sure the delivery of these li-

cence cards will reach LTO district offices in as little time as possible, as well as preparing licensing and registration caravans in barangays.

"Kasama na rin diyan yung ating mga outreach program. Wag na sila pumunta samin, kami na pupunta sa mga barangay (This includes the outreach program. They won't have to come to us, we're going to the barangays)," he said.

Currently, Mendoza said the 4 million license cards donated by the Philippine Society of Medicine for Drivers still cannot be used as they await the opinion of the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) on its legality.

"Umaandar pa naman yan, pero kung sa karera kung ano mauuna, mukhang itong agency-to-agency-- in terms of delivering the cards (That's still ongoing but if this was a race, looks like the agency-to-agency deal will be the fastest in terms of delivering the cards)," he said.

FDA warns...

from page 8

importance of health education and monitoring of clinics providing "unsafe" skin treatments.

This was in response to a report about a 96-year-old woman died after undergoing glutathione and stem cell intravenous infusion from a clinic in Quezon City.

Sevilla said that FDA has regulatory activities in coordination with the Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation, and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in response to death reports linked to glutathione product usage.

She reminded everyone to verify the product registration status of supplements, medicines, cosmetic products and devices, and food via the FDA's portal before consuming or purchasing them. (PNA)

DMW, DOT...

from page 8

expected to strengthen the collaboration between the national and local governments in the implementation of the full-cycle and comprehensive reintegration programs and services for OFWs and their families while promoting the vibrant local tourism sector of the Philippines.

"We are counting on our partnership with the DMW because the returning OFWs are so much valued in the tourism industries because of their experience and expertise," Frasco said. (PNA)

Pag-IBIG members...

from page 1

bansang Pabahay Para sa Pamilyang Pilipino (4PH) program, one of the flagship programs of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

He said once the condominiums and other high-rise buildings under 4PH program are constructed, Pag-IBIG Fund can offer more housing loans for its members.

Aguilar said Pag-IBIG Fund can also offer loans to the property developers under 4PH program.

"So, ito pong PHP38 billion at iyong mga susunod pang pondo ay malaki po ang maitutulong para sa katuparan pong mga proyekto na iyon (this PHP38 billion and additional fund will help a lot for the fulfillment of those projects)," he said.

Pag-IBIG Fund's new monthly rates were initially approved by its Board of Trustees in 2019, after obtaining the concurrence of stakeholders to implement a scheduled increase in 2021.

During that time, the agency saw the increase necessary as it projected that the amount of loans disbursed will eventually outpace the total collections from both loan payments and members' savings.

However, due to the difficulties brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 and 2022, the Pag-IBIG Fund Board deferred the increase of the agency's savings rates.

The agency again deferred the implementation of the increase in 2023, following the request of the Employers' Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) to provide the business community with time to further recover from the continuing financial challenges due to the health crisis.

The deferment was also the Pag-IBIG Fund's response to the call of President Marcos early last year, to alleviate the financial burden of fellow Filipinos. (PNA)

Liwanag project kina lolo at lola, aarangkada ngayong 2024

MANILA, Philippines — Sa pagpasok ng bagong taon, tinitiyak ng Senior Citizens Partylist ang patuloy na pagseserbisyo sa ating mga lolo at lola partikular para mapangalagaan ang kanilang mga paningin. Ito ay sa pakikipag-tulungan ng Senior Citizens Partylist sa VBE Eye Center.

Kabilang sa mga serbisyong ipagkakaloob ng Senior Citizens Partylist at VBE Eye Center ay ang libreng cataract surgery kasama na ang paggamit ng operating room complex at associated medicines sa operasyon sa ilalim na rin ng coverage ng PhilHealth Cataract Package; libreng basic foldable Intra-ocular lens; libreng post-operative eye drops and protective goggles; dalawang Post-operative check-up at iba pang ambulatory eye surgeries.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagsanib-puwersa ng Senior Citizens Partylist at VBE Eye Center, layon na mapabuti ang kalidad ng buhay ng bawat isa sa ating mga minamahal na senior citizens.

Para makuha ang serbisyong ito, kinakailangan ang endorsement mula sa opisina ni Cong. Rodolfo "Ompong" Ordanes at ang inyong Senior Citizens Partylist Membership ID.

Maaari ring makipag-ugnayan kay Miss Jane sa (0933) 820 0225 o sumadya sa kanilang tanggapan sa Rm. 306, 3rd Flr The One Executive Office Building West Avenue, Quezon City at Barangay Project 6, Barangay Hall Compound, Quezon City.

Medical and Dental services to locals of Silang



PGC extends medical and dental services to locals of Silang.

In a commendable demonstration of community-focused healthcare, the Office of the Provincial Governor-Extension in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), organized a medical and dental mission in Brgy. San Vicente II, Silang. The primary goal was to deliver essential medical and dental services to enhance the overall health

and well-being of the community. A total of 247 patients benefitted from the healthcare services, encompassing medical consultations, check-ups, and tooth extractions. Specifically, 197 individuals received medical check-ups, and 50 availed tooth extractions. The services were rendered by a team of medical and dental professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH).

The success of the

mission was the result of the collaborative effort of the provincial government with the local partners led by Brgy. Chairwoman Angelina S. Duguran, Sangguniang Kabataan Chairwoman Rachel Angela A. Dacanay, and other local officials. It reflects their strong commitment to uplift communities, promote healing, and prioritize the overall welfare of residents, ultimately contributing to a healthier and more resilient community.

Governor Jonvic Remulla, recently launched the "Ugnayan sa Barangay" program



The Provincial Government of Cavite, led by Governor Jonvic Remulla, recently launched the "Ugnayan sa Barangay" program to strengthen community ties and communicate the vision for a prosperous future. The initiative engaged residents of Barangay Paliparan III, Barangay Salawag, and Barangay Buro Main, in the City of Dasmariñas, on January 8, 10, and 11, 2024.

Governor Remulla showcased the government's comprehensive programs for 2024 during an interactive session, discussing key areas like healthcare, education, infrastructure, and social services. The event featured a raffle draw, adding excitement and fostering community spirit. Additionally, the government distributed rice to support local families, addressing

basic needs. The program reflects the commitment of the Provincial Government to inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance, aiming to positively impact the growth and well-being of Cavite residents in the coming year. The Ugnayan sa Barangay initiative stands as an exemplary model for actively involving and empowering local communities.

SOCIAL PENSIONERS NG BACOR NA-TANGGAP NA ANG KANILANG AYUDA



Nagiging matagumpay ang pamamahagi ng Social Pension sa mahigit isang libo limang daang senior citizen sa 21 Barangay na ginanap sa Sineguelasan Covered Court, Zapote 1 Covered Court, Molino 3 Covered Court, Queensrow Central Covered Court. Ito ang unang baba ng DSWD sa Lungsod ng Bacoor para ibigay ang pinansyal na tulong na hinihintay ng mga

senior pensioners.

Ang Pamahalaang Lungsod sa pangunguna ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola, Sangguniang Panlungsod at ng ina ng Lungsod Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla ay prayoridad ang kalusugan ng mga senior citizen sa Lungsod ng Bacoor.

Sa ngayon patuloy parin ang pag-sasaayos ng mga Data para mas matu-

gunan ng Pamahalaang Lungsod sa pangunguna ng City Social Welfare and Development (CSWD) ang mga social pensioners ng Lungsod.

Sa may mga katanungan tungkol sa social pension, makipag ugnayan lamang sa pangulo ng Senior Citizen sa inyong Barangay.

As We Strike As One, Dahil sa Bacoor at Home ka Dito.

INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS OF THE LIGA NG MGA BARANGAY - CAVITE CHAPTER

Ngayong araw, January 15, 2024, nagkaroon ng isang pagtitipon sa Cavite Provincial Capitol kung saan naganap ang panunumpa sa tungkulin ng mga bagong halal na opisyal ng Liga ng mga Barangay-Cavite Chapter.

Ang layunin ng pagtitipon na ito ay upang ipahayag ang kanilang panunumpa sa tungkulin at bigyang-pugay ang mga bagong halal na opisyal. Pinangunahan ang seremonya ng Liga ng mga Barangay-Cavite Chapter, sa pamumuno ni Hon. Rafael V. Paterno III, ang pangulo ng liga.

Kasama sa mga dumalo sa nasabing okasyon ang mga kilalang personalidad sa Cavite tulad nina Governor Jonvic Remulla na siyang nagpanumpa sa kanila, Vice Governor Athena Tolentino. Nagbigay rin ng kanilang suporta sina Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Konsehal Alde Bagulayan, at Konsehal Karen Sarino Evaristo. Ang kanilang presensya ay nagpapakita ng kanilang suporta at pagkilala sa kahalagahan ng mga halal na opisyal sa pamamahala ng mga barangay sa Cavite.

Kasama rin sa pagtitipon ang mga miyembro ng Board of Directors ng Liga ng



mga Barangay-Cavite Chapter. Ito ay sina Hon. Pedro A. Aricayos, Liga President ng Tanza Chapter; Hon. Fernando Laudato, Liga President ng Dasmariñas Chapter; Hon. Ireneo Hatid, Liga President ng General Trias Chapter; Hon. Leonardo R. Diroy Jr., Liga President ng Alfonso Chapter; Hon. Reymundo Ramirez, Liga President ng Imus Chapter; Hon. Mark Albert Montehermoso, Liga President ng Trese Martires City Chapter; Hon. Crispin Reyes, Liga President ng Silang Chapter; Hon. Rossell F. Arellano, Liga President ng Kawit Chapter; Hon. John Paulo Nazareno, Liga President ng Rosario Chapter; at Hon. Rommel Manalo, Liga President ng Maragondon Chapter. Sa pamamagitan ng seremonyang ito, ipinahayag ni Vice Governor Athena Tolentino ang kanyang malu-

god na pagtanggap sa Liga ng Barangay-Cavite Chapter President. Bilang mga bagong Board Member sa Kapitolyo o Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Cavite, inaasahang magiging mahalagang boses at tagapagtanggol ng mga barangay ang mga bagong halal na opisyal.

Ang pagtitipon na ito ay nagpapakita ng pagkakaisa at determinasyon ng mga lider ng Liga ng mga Barangay-Cavite Chapter na maglingkod sa kanilang komunidad. Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang panunumpa, inaasahan na lalo pang mapalakas ang mga programa at proyekto na naglalayong mapabuti ang kalagayan ng mga barangay at mamamayan sa buong lalawigan ng Cavite. Congratulations sa ating Liga ng Barangay Bacoor at Cavite Chapter Board Member Rafael V. Paterno III.

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
Branch 130, Trece Martires City
rtc1tmt130@judiciary.gov.ph
09198753023

IN THE MATTER OF: PETITION FOR
RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN JUDGMENT
(DIVORCE) OF

Luwela Bulawan Celikok,
Petitioner,
- versus -

THE REGISTER GENERAL AND THE
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY (PSA),
Respondents.

SPECIAL PROC. NO. TMSP-022-23

NOTICE OF HEARING

Filed before this Court is a verified Petition for Judicial Recognition of a Foreign Divorce Decree issued by the DISTRICT COURT OF HOFE in favor of GOKHAN CELIKOK and LUWELA BULAWAN CELIKOK.

Finding the aforementioned petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for initial hearing on April 11, 2024 and May 30, 2024 both at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, where any and/or all parties interested may oppose the petition.

Let a copy of this Notice of Hearing be published for three (3) consecutive weeks, at the expense of the petitioner, in a newspaper of general circulation and other copies be furnished to the Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar of Tanza, Cavite, Civil Registrar General, Office of the Solicitor General, petitioner, and her counsel.

The petitioner is directed to submit a copy of the petition with its annexes to the Office of the Municipal Civil Registrar of Tanza, Cavite and Office of the Solicitor General.

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

SO ORDERED.

Trece Martires City, Cavite, October 17, 2023.

GAYSOL C. LUNA
Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:

ATTY. MELVIN M. MONDIGO
MONDIGO OCBINA CULLA LAW PARTNERSHIP
Counsel for Petitioner
35/F & 36/F Penthouse, units 1,2 and 4, Eco Tower Building, 32nd Street, cor. 9th Avenue, BGC, Taguig City

LUWELA BULAWAN CELIKOK
Petitioner
35/F & 36/F Penthouse, units 1,2 and 4, Eco Tower Building, 32nd Street, cor. 9th Avenue, BGC, Taguig City c/o counsel

OFFICE OF THE CIVIL REGISTRAR OF TANZA, CAVITE
Tanza, Cavite

CIVIL REGISTRAR GENERAL/PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY
PSA Complex, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village Makati City

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
Trece Martires City, Cavite

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
JANUARY 15, 22 & 29, 2024

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

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(PAG-IBIG FUND),

Petitioner/Mortgagee,

-versus-

ANITA M. BASIJAN,
Respondent/Mortgagor.

File No. FC-DC-1260-24
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage under Act No.
3135 as amended by Act No. 4118

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No.3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act. No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against the respondent / mortgagor, ANITA M. BASIJAN, with postal address at Blk. 9 Lot 19, Mabuhay Homes 2000, Phase 5, Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite; Lot 2 Blk 7, Valle Verde Dasmariñas, Barangay Langkaan II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 8 January 2024 amounts to NINE HUNDRED NINETY ONE THOUSAND SIXTY SEVEN PESOS & 71/100 (Php 991,067.71), exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on February 9, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro 1, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
No. 057-2018012217

A parcel of land (Lot 2 Blk 7 of the subd. plan, PSD-04-220138, being a portion of Lot 3823, Imus Estate, L.R.C. Rec.

No. 8843), situated in the Brgy. of Langkaan II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the S., along line 1-2 by Lot 70; on the W., along line 2-3 by Lot 1 both of Blk. 7; on the N., along line 3-4 by Road Lot 8 (8.00 m. wide); and on the E., along Line 4-1 by Lot 3 Blk. 7, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 42-36'W., 1,274.94 m. from MON. 149, Imus Estate; Thence N. 89-53'W., 4.00 m. to point 2; thence N. 00-07'E., 15.00 m. to point 3; thence S. 89-53'E., 4.00 m. to point 4; thence S. 00-07'W., 15.00 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS, more or less. x x x

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

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

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on March 1, 2024 at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, January 19, 2024.

GERALD A. FARGAS
Sheriff IV

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

Copy furnished:

Home Development Mutual Fund (PAG-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

Atty. RIZALDY F. DE LEON
Attorney-In-Fact, BERNALES & ASSOCIATES
Suite 6, Third Floor, A. Francisco Gold Condominium I,
784 EDSA, West Kamias District, Quezon City

ANITA M. BASIJAN
Blk. 9 Lot 19, Mabuhay Homes 2000, Phase 5,
Salawag, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
Lot 2 Blk 7, Valle Verde Dasmariñas,
Barangay Langkaan II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

Notice Posted at

- 1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
JANUARY 22, 29 & FEBRUARY 5, 2024

Solon wants promo fares on top of mandated discounts for seniors, PWDs

MANILA – The chairperson of the House Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday said existing laws granting senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWDs) a 20-percent discount should be amended to cover promotional discounts offered by establishments.

During the motu proprio inquiry into the alleged refusal of some businesses to grant discounts and incentives to senior citizens in violation of existing laws, committee chair and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda said senior citizens and PWDs should also get the promo discounts on top of the government-mandated discount. "Discounts should still apply to the promo. The general public gets 30 percent and this special sec-

tor also gets 30 percent? So, where is the preference there?," he said.

He said the confusion regarding the application of discounts where promotional offers already apply should be clarified and corrected.

Republic Act (RA) 7277, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, as amended, RA 9994 or the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010, entitles PWDs, senior citizens, and solo parents with discounts, tax exemptions, and other incentives.

Salceda also pointed out the absence of a mechanism for availing the mandated discounts online on some shopping platforms.

Salceda proposed the creation of an office equivalent to the National

Council for Disability Affairs (NCDA) and the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) for solo parents.

He said sufficient revenue streams should be created to fund comprehensive social safety nets to address the needs of the identified sectors.

House Committee on Senior Citizens chair Rodolfo Ordanes stressed the need to address implementation gaps for "a more compassionate society that genuinely honors and cares for these valued members of our community."

Ordanes said several bills were already filed seeking to expand the coverage for items where discounts may be availed of.

Salceda reported

that his panel would tackle these measures to come up with a comprehensive enhanced benefits program for senior citizens, PWDs, and solo parents.

Speaker Martin Romualdez called for an investigation into reports of senior citizens and PWDs being denied of discounts under existing laws.

During the hearing, Starbucks Philippines apologized for the "erroneous signage" that limited the grant of the mandated 20-percent discount to senior citizens and PWDs to only one food item and one beverage per visit. "We fully acknowledge the error in the signage. We remain steadfast in extending privilege as intended," Starbucks Philippines operations director Angela Cole said. (PNA)

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

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

-versus-

ARMAN N. NIERRE married to
ARLYN P. NIERRE,
Mortgagors.

FC Case No. 18857-23
EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as PAG-IBIG Fund), mortgagee, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against ARMAN N. NIERRE married to ARLYN P. NIERRE, mortgagors, with residence and postal address #580 Brgy. San Jose Sitio III, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila and/or Lot 32 Blk. 7, The Legian South Subd., Carsadang Bago, Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 15, 2023 amounts to EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE PESOS and 81/100 (P889,435.81) 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 13, 2024 at 10:00 am. or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus, Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2017043194

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 32 BLK 7 OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN PCS-04-027645, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 1310-C-1. (LRA) PSD-403628, LOT 1311, (NOW RS-04-004658), LOTS 1317-A TO 1317-I, PSD-04-043289) SITUATED IN CARSDANG BAGO, IMUS, CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SW ALONG LINE 1-2 BY ROAD LOT 3, ON THE NW ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 30 BLK 7, ON THE NE ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 31 BLK 7, ON THE SE ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 34 BLK 7 ALL OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. x x x CONTAINING AN AREA OF THIRTY SIX (36) SQUARE METERS. 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 20, 2024 without prior notice.

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

Imus, Cavite, Philippines, January 2, 2024.

ISRAEL S. MEDINA
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:
ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Otherwise known as Pag-Ibig Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Building,
No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

ATTY. SIMEON P. MADRID
Attorney-In-fact, S.P. MADRID & ASSOCIATES
5th Floor Bedrock Building, Kayumanggi Center,
Commonwealth Ave., Matandang Balara, Quezon City
ARMAN N. NIERRE married to ARLYN P. NIERRE
#580 Brgy. San Jose Sitio III, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
and/or Lot 32 Blk. 7, The Legian South Subd.,
Carsadang Bago, Imus, Cavite

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
JANUARY 15, 22 & 29, 2024

LTO to apprehend unregistered jeepneys beyond Jan. 31



MANILA – Unregistered jeepneys, whether consolidated or not, will be apprehended beyond Jan. 31, an official of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) warned on Wednesday.

"Kapag hindi naka-rehistro, whether consolidated o unconsolidated, huli kayo (Unregistered jeepneys, whether consolidated or unconsolidated, will be apprehended)," LTO chief, Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II, said.

Starting Feb. 1, all jeepney drivers and operators who were not able to consolidate would not be allowed to ply their routes. For now, unconsolidated jeepneys can operate until Jan. 31.

Jeepneys and operators who did not comply with the consolidation deadline will be considered as "colorum" after Jan. 31.

About 70 percent of drivers and operators nationwide have consolidated.

Mendoza said several lots in different regions had been earmarked to be used as impounding areas.

"Meron tayong buksan na impounding area sa Carmona, two hectares sa MOA (Mall of Asia) area. Nasa [Region] 4A ako kahapon, meron tayo buksan na mga impounding area dito sa Lipa, San Pablo, at San Pedro (We are opening an impounding area in Carmona, two hectares in the MOA area. I was in Region 4A yesterday, we're going to open impounding areas in Lipa, San Pablo, and San Pedro)," he said.

Mendoza said the LTO in Region III is also planning on expanding impounding areas in Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

"Tingnan namin sapat na 'yun. Sana hindi mapuno, sana mag-comply na lang po ang mga tao. Sana mag-rehistro na po ng sasakyan ang mga nagreklamo sa modernization (We believe that will be enough. We hope they won't get full, that people will just comply. We hope that those complaining about modernization will register)," he said.

Mendoza said enforcement is the government's last option against those who do not comply with the consolidation requirement of the public utility vehicle modernization program (PUVMP).

"It's not part of what we want to do. We want them to comply and tulungan namin sila mag-comply (We're going to help them comply)," he added.

During the briefing, Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Jaime Bautista said the agency and its attached offices such as the LTO, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), and the Office of Transportation Cooperatives (OTC) remain open for a dialogue with transportation groups.

"Hindi ibig sabihin na nagkaroon na tayo ng deadline ay hanggang dun na lang. Kasi napag-usapan namin dito sa opisina na meron mga challenges. And kung meron problema, meron solusyon (It doesn't mean that there's a deadline, that it ends there. Because there are challenges. And if there is a problem, there is a solution)," Bautista said.

Commuters' feedback
Student John Vincent Bernardo, from Payatas, Quezon City, said modern jeepneys are convenient.

"Presko sa loob. Kaso 'yung siksikan, hindi naman

po maiiwasan 'yun, eh (It's cooler inside, but of course even the modern jeepneys get full with passengers at times)," he said.

Meanwhile, Carmelita Arañez, 63, acknowledges the benefits of modern jeepneys.

She said, "Mas komportable... kasi malamig eh. Siguro doon na sa modern. Kasi komportable din naman ang ano doon. At saka, okay naman sa byahe. Mas ma-ano yung takbo, 'di ka gaya ng [traditional] jeep na mabilis (Modern jeepneys are more comfortable because of aircondition. Travels are better because they are not that fast unlike traditional jeepneys)."

On Tuesday, transport groups Pagkakaisa ng mga Samahan ng Tsuper at Opereytor Nationwide (Piston) and Samahang Manibela Mananakay at Nagkaisang Terminal ng Transportasyon (Manibela) held a marching protest towards Mendiola near Malacañang and the Supreme Court against the government's PUVMP and its consolidation requirement that had its deadline last Dec. 31, 2023.

Earlier, the LTFRB issued a memorandum circular allowing unconsolidated PUVs in some routes to continue plying their routes beyond the deadline. This will end on Jan. 31.

Assistance ready
The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), meanwhile, assured it is ready to assist anew jeepney drivers and operators affected by the government's transport modernization program.

In a statement Wednesday, Labor Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma said each affected transport worker would get a minimum of PHP30,000 worth of in-kind livelihood assistance through the nationwide "enTSUPERneur" livelihood program.

Laguesma said they have a list of livelihood projects that the beneficiaries may choose from, including rice retailing, variety store and food stall establishment, animal raising, agricultural input provision and tailoring, among others.

"More than 4,500 na pong transport workers ang nabigyang ayuda, at iyon pong naibigay sa kanila ay umaabot na rin sa humigit-kumulang PHP123 million. Itong taon na ito, mayroon pong naka-lineup na 1,500 transport workers na nagnanais ding makakuha, na habang nagnanais silang sana tuloy-tuloy ang kanilang talagang pangunahing hanapbuhay, ay matulungan natin, magabayan natin na mayroon silang alternatibong pagkakakitaan (More than 4,500 transport workers have received financial aid which reached some PHP123 million in total. This year, some 1,500 transport workers are set to get assistance. While they continue with their primary means of livelihood, we also aim to help and guide them in finding alternative means to make a living)," he said.

Laguesma said the livelihood package also contains materials, inputs and market linkages to assist the beneficiaries.

The "enTSUPERneur" livelihood program is a joint initiative of the DOLE, Department of Transportation, Office of Transportation Cooperatives, and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board.

Asked whether the program will sufficiently cover the estimated 30,000 displaced jeepney drivers and operators who failed to consolidate, Laguesma said government agencies are joining forces to pool resources for the program per the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Meanwhile, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) has provided jeepney workers, especially those affected by the modernization program, with skills development training through its "Tsuper Iskolar" Program since 2019.

The program provides displaced drivers, operators and their family members free technical vocational skills training, assessment and certification, with a training allowance of PHP350 per day for a maximum of 35 days. (With Jherielou Eufemiano (trainee)/PNA)