

GSIS opens emergency loans for 'Kristine'-hit areas

MANILA – Members and pensioners of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in areas declared under a state of calamity due to Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) may now apply for emergency loans.



In a statement on Friday, GSIS said the program, which is already open in Albay and Naga City, would also be activated in areas declared under a state of calamity.

Members without an existing emergency loan can borrow up to PHP20,000, while those with existing balances can apply for up to PHP40,000.

The loan has an interest rate of 6 percent per annum and is payable in three years.

To qualify for the emergency loan, members must be actively employed, not on leave without pay, no pending administrative

or legal cases, with payment of at least six months' premiums, and a net take-home pay of at least PHP5,000.

Pensioners must also have a remaining net pension of at least 25 percent of their pension after loan amortization to qualify.

GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso urged members and pensioners to use the GSIS Touch in applying for loans for safe and quick transactions.

Veloso said the GSIS Touch offers a secure, seamless, fast, and more efficient way to ap-

ply for loans, keep track of premium remittances, loan and insurance payments, access membership, and pension records, and enables them to manage their accounts through their mobile phones.

GSIS said if any member or pensioner requires assistance in using the Touch mobile app, its customer service is available 24/7 to help.

Members may call the GSIS Contact Center at 8847-4747 (Metro Manila); 1-800-8-847-4747 (Globe and TM subscribers); or 1-800-10-847-4747 (Smart, Sun, and TNT subscribers). (PNA)

DBM OKs earlier release of gov't workers' year end bonus, cash gift



MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved the earlier release of government personnel's yearend bonus and cash gift. DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman on Oct. 22 issued Budget Circular 2024-3, which facilitates the early release of the year-end bonus and cash gift of government workers. The budget circular amends Section 6.1 of Budget Circular 2016-4 which provides guidelines on the grant of the yearend bonus and cash gift. The amendment was made to grant the

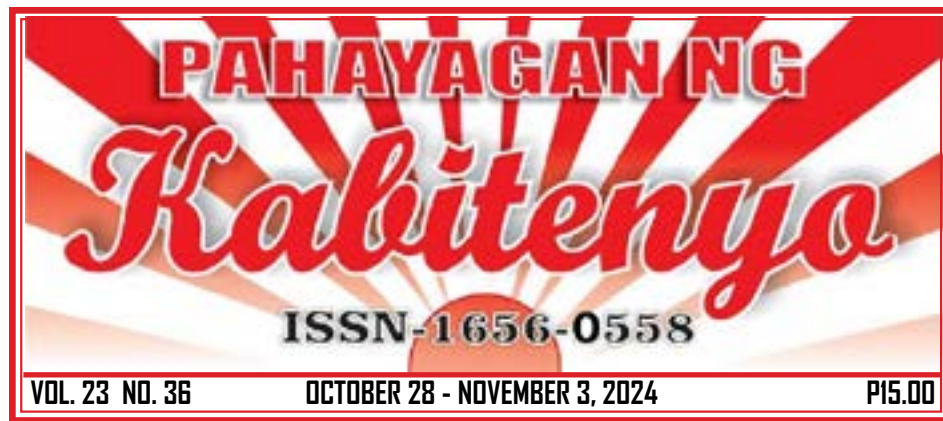
year-end bonus of government employees equivalent to one month basic pay as of Oct. 31 and a cash gift of PHP5,000 "simultaneously with the first agency payroll for the month of November of the current year" subject to conditions.

Pangandaman issued the new budget circular following the observation that "government personnel continue to experience delays in receiving bonuses and cash gifts, affecting their morale, motivation, and level of job satisfaction." "Corollary, the streamlining of the payroll process of each agency will mitigate the internal and external causes of delay in the payment of the benefits. A streamlined process will

increase productivity and efficiency, ensuring that the year-end bonus and cash gift will be

granted on schedule," the circular read. In previous years, the yearend bonus and cash gift are usually given to qualified government employees not earlier than Nov. 15.

Budget Circular No. 2024-3, which was made public on Friday, takes effect immediately.



PBBM eyes incentives to attract more investors in e-mobility sector



MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is pushing for investment incentives to promote the electric mobility (e-mobility) industry, Malacañang said Tuesday.

This, as Marcos raised with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) some of the chal-

lenges that hinder the development of the e-mobility sector.

During a sectoral meeting with the DOST and concerned agencies at Malacañan Palace on Tuesday, Marcos discussed ways to boost the Philippine e-mobility industry through science, technolo-

gy and innovation.

"We're always running into the same problem. It's the scaling, production design, then the investment. How do we (attract investments)? ... 'Yun ang (That's the) hardest part of this,'" Marcos said, as quoted by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

"We need investors to come in. Of course, we'll provide incentives from the government. That's what we need to do. We need incentives for investors to come in. Hopefully local. But we'll take anybody who's interested," he added.

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Reporting crime soon easier with policing app

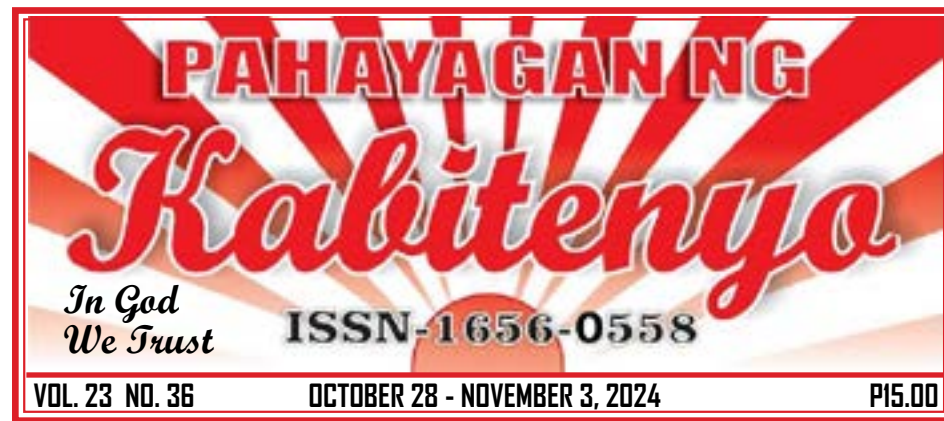
MANILA – A new policing app will soon be available allowing the public across Metro Manila to report crimes and incidents, the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) said Tuesday. NCRPO Director Maj. Gen. Sidney Hernia



said the agency has set in motion the shift towards a more efficient and technology-driven approach in policing. The fully centralized and digitalized crime reporting app, called the anti-crime super app, is through Philippine National Police Law Enforcement Reporting and Information System, E-Gov Super App.

Developed by the Department of Information and Communications Technology, it is being tested at NCRPO district offices. It will be fully operational by the end of the year. The NCRPO covers five districts –the Manila

Police District (MPD), Quezon City Police District (QCPD), Northern Police District (NPD), Southern Police District (SPD), and Eastern Police District (EPD). More than 15,000 residents, including household associations, are trained to navigate the digital platform for reporting crimes. A paperless reporting system is also developed across all police units in the NCR. "Through these advancements, we are not only improving our police response times but also ensuring a competent police force and safer Metro Manila," Hernia said. (PNA)



PGC ready to distribute immediate relief packs to Kristine affected residents

Trece Martires City – Early Friday, October 25, as the weather slowly improves, Cavite Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino inspects the emergency response logistics of the provincial government and the stock pile of emergency food packs ready for hauling and dis-



tribution to the families heavily affected by severe tropical storm Kristine that

hit the entire Luzon, leaving families displaced in Cavite.

Governor Tolentino was accompanied by Provincial Administrator Rodel Vincent Bae and Provincial General Services Officer Ferdinand Belamide as she made the rounds at the command center and warehouse to ascertain that relief packs including rice and canned goods are available and ready to be transported to

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Half-day gov't work, classes on Oct. 31 for Undas 2024

MANILA – Malacañang declared half-day government work and classes at all levels nationwide on Oct. 31 for the commemoration of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day on Nov. 1 and 2.

According to Memorandum Circular No. 67, signed by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin on Tuesday, work in government offices and classes at all levels will be suspended on Oct. 31, starting 12 p.m. to provide government

employees full opportunity to properly observe Undas tradition, allow them to travel to and from different regions in the country, and promote domestic tourism.

"However, those agencies whose functions involve the delivery of basic and health services, preparedness/response to disasters and calamities, and/or the performance of other vital services shall continue their operations and render the necessary services," Bersamin said in the mem-



orandum. Meanwhile, the suspension of work for private companies and offices is left to the discretion of their respective heads.

November 1, Friday is declared a special non-working holiday in observance of All Saints' Day. (PNA)

DepEd chief optimistic on benefits of AI for quality education

MANILA – Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Thursday expressed optimism on the possible benefits of the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to improve the quality of education in the Philippines.

In an ambush interview at the sidelines of the University of the Philippines' (UP) AI Horizons PH 2024 Conference, Angara said utilizing AI may advance efficiency in learning.

"Talagang pinag-aaralan namin ano iyong posibilidad diyan. Kasi nakikita natin, may pakinabang talaga diyan yung mga guro, meron din pakinabang sa mga estudyante (We are really studying the possibilities there. Because



we see that there's really a benefit for teachers, even for students)," he said.

In particular, Angara said the technology may assist teachers in dealing with learners.

"Parang matitipid ng oras ni teacher dahil makapag-focus siya doon sa mga nangangailangan. Tapos iyong mga advanced students, pwede na rin mauna kasi sa tulong ng

(Teachers can save time and they can focus on those in need. Then the advanced students, they can proceed with the aid of the) AI," Angara said.

To realize technological advancements and the use of AI, Angara said, there are still 2,000 schools needing electric power and 40,000 schools needing electricity upgrades.

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LTFRB grants special permits to 753 buses for Undas travelers



MANILA – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has granted special permits to 753 buses as it ramps up its preparations for the expected volume of passengers traveling for the observance of Undas this year.

LTFRB Chairperson Teofilo Guadiz III said the board has issued 272 special permits equivalent to 753 buses.

The figure may increase as more operators are applied for special permits on Tuesday, Guadiz added. He pointed out

that the special permits are valid from Oct. 25 to Nov. 10.

Additional special permits may also be issued if the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX) determines that additional buses are needed, he said.

"As early as Oct.

15, nag-approve po kami ng special permit para sa mga buses po na makabiyahe po sa mga hindi nila ruta, doon po sa mga mahabang ruta like Bicol, sa Cagayan, and Laoag (we approved a special permit for buses to travel routes that are not theirs – long

routes like Bicol, Cagayan, and Laoag)," Guadiz said in a news release on Thursday.

"Meaning to say, may special permits na po kaming binigay to as many as... as of now, may 1,200 bus na po kaming binigyan ng special permits, including mga UVs po na gustong bumiyaha nitong panahon ng Undas (we have already given special permits to as many as... as of now, we have already given special permits to 1,200 buses, including utility vehicles that want to travel during this Undas season)."

He said the move is to ensure the safety, comfort, and convenience of all passengers traveling to their provinces to be with their families for the All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

"In anticipation of the increased volume of

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Bakit humihilik?

Payo ni Doc Ong

Bakit Humihilik?

Ang paghilik ay isang karaniwang kondisyon na nakakaapekto sa maraming tao, na nagiging sanhi ng abala hindi lamang sa nag-hihilik kundi pati na rin sa mga taong nasa paligid. Mahalagang maunawaan ang mga sanhi, epekto, at solusyon sa paghilik upang mapabuti ang kalidad ng tulog. Narito ang detalyadong impormasyon tungkol dito.

Mga Sanhi ng Paghilik

1. **Anatomiya ng Bibig at Lalamunan**
 - o Kapag natutulog, ang mga kalamnan sa bibig, dila, at lalamunan ay nagiging relaxed. Kung ang mga kalamnan na ito ay masyadong nag-relax, maari itong magdulot ng pagharang sa daluyan ng hangin. Ang malalaking tonsils at sobrang timbang ay mga karaniwang salik na nagpapalala ng sitwasyon.

2. **Problema sa Ilong**
 - o Ang mga allergy at deviated nasal septum ay maaaring magdulot ng paghihirap sa paghinga. Kapag mahirap huminga sa ilong, ang tao ay kadalasang lumilipat sa paghinga sa bibig, na nagiging sanhi ng paghilik.

3. **Sleep Apnea**
 - o Ang obstructive sleep apnea ay isang seryosong kondisyon kung saan ang mga daanan ng hangin ay nahaharag sa panahon ng pagtulog. Ito ay kadalasang sinasamahan ng malakas na paghilik at pansamantalang paghinto sa paghinga.

4. **Pag-inom ng Alak**
 - o Ang pag-inom ng alak bago matulog ay maaaring makapagpahina sa mga kalamnan ng lalamunan, na nagiging sanhi ng paghilik at mas mababang kalidad ng tulog.

Epekto ng Paghilik

- Paghihirap sa Paghinga: Ang paghilik ay maaaring magdulot ng pansamantalang paghinto sa paghinga.
- Pananakit ng Ulo: Ang mga tao na humihilik ng malakas ay madalas na nakakaramdam ng pananakit ng ulo sa umaga.
- Sobrang Antok: Ang hindi magandang kalidad ng tulog dulot ng paghilik ay nagiging sanhi ng pagkapagod at sobrang antok sa umaga.

Mga Hakbang na Maaaring Gawin

1. **Iwasan ang Pag-inom ng Alak:** Subukan ang hindi uminom ng alak o bawasan ang pag-inom nito, lalo na bago matulog.
2. **Pagsasaayos ng Posisyon sa Pagtulog:** Subukang matulog sa tagiliran kaysa sa likod.
3. **Pamamahala ng Timbang:** Bawasan ang timbang sa pamamagitan ng regular na ehersisyo at balanseng diyeta.
4. **Kumonsulta sa Doktor:** Kung ang paghilik ay nagiging sanhi ng mga seryosong sintomas, mahalagang kumonsulta sa isang doktor para sa tamang pagsusuri at paggamot.

Sa Buod

Ang paghilik ay maaaring magdulot ng hindi pagkakaunawaan at masamang epekto sa kalusugan. Sa pamamagitan ng simpleng pagbabago sa lifestyle at tamang pangangalaga, maaaring mabawasan ang paghilik at mapabuti ang kalidad ng tulog. Kung ang problema ay patuloy, mahalaga ang kumonsulta sa isang eksperto para sa mas malalim na pagsusuri at paggamot.



BANTA SA CYBERSECURITY IGINIT SA PANUKALANG BATAS

MANILA, Philippines — Sa gitna ng mga pag-uusap para sa pagpasa sa isang panukalang batas, muling binigyang-diin ng mga security expert ang banta ng foreign cyber entities sa plano ng bansa na luwagan ang telco regulations.

Sa katatapos na Asian Defense and Security Exhibition 2024, nagpaalala si Stratbase ADR Institute president Prof. Dindo Manhit na ang "pinalakas na depensa laban sa cyber threats ay pinakamahalagang elemento sa pagsasakatuparan ng mapayapa, ligtas, at matatag na Indo-Pacific."

"Cybersecurity is a shared concern and responsibility by both the private and the public sector, as well as domestic and international players because it has the potential to affect regional stability, security, and prosperity," pahayag ni Manhit sa naturang event.

Isang aspeto ng cybersecurity na nakikilala sa Philippine digital space



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ay ang Konektadong Pinoy Act, o ang Senate Bill 2699, kung saan sinabi ng mga stakeholder na ang bill ay magkakaroon ng mas maraming negatibong epekto kaysa positibo kapag naisabatas.

Kapag naging batas, aalisin ng SB2699 ang pangangailangan para sa congressional franchise ng telecommunication companies, na ayon kay Manhit ay magpapaliit sa regulatory powers ng National Telecommunications Commission.

Si Manhit ay isang vocal critic ng Konektadong Pinoy Act. Iginiti niya na ang SB2699 ay maaaring maging gateway para sa mga abuser dahil layunin ng batas na dagdagan ang telecommunication companies sa bansa habang niluluwagan ang kanilang restrictions.

Ayon sa cyber intelligence company CY-FIRMA, ang Pilipinas ay pangunahing target para

sa cyber espionage activities dahil sa kawalan ng cybersecurity awareness at underdeveloped cybersecurity infrastructure, lalo na sa harap ng umiitig na tensiyon sa rehiyon.

Dagdag pa ni Manhit, dapat isulong ng Pilipinas ang cyber diplomacy sa ibang mga bansa upang makatulong na mapalakas ang cyber security ng bansa.

"The Philippines must pursue cyber diplomacy with like-minded countries and develop cybersecurity partnerships to expand its foreign policy strategy and deepen diplomatic engagement. Fortified defense against cyber threats is a key element in realizing a peaceful, secure, and stable Indo-Pacific," aniya.

Ang Konektadong Pinoy Act ay kasalukuyang nakahain sa Senado at naghihintay ng karagdagan delibersasyon at aksiyon.



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DSWD strategy program assures swift disaster response

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development on Thursday highlighted its Buong Bansa Handa (BBH) project that enabled it to swiftly respond to the immediate needs of families and individuals affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami).

Based on records, the DSWD has already distributed 71,514 family food packs (FFPs) and 2,134 non-food items (NFIs) worth PHP55.28 million as of 6 a.m. Thursday to Kristine-affected communities nationwide.

Leo Quintilla, Special Assistant to the Secretary (SAS) for Disaster Response and Management Group (DRMG) and Concurrent Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau (NRLMB), said this was accomplished through the BBH project, which employs two parallel supply chain mechanisms for disaster preparedness and response.

"The first one features a national and local government-driven supply chain, while the second supply chain forges partnerships with established large and small groceries, supermarkets, manufacturers, and distributors to leverage on their technical expertise and resources to create a private sector-driven supply chain," Quintilla said during a media forum at the DSWD Central Office in Quezon City.

"In just one day, we have already released around 17,000 FFPs. Ito po yung pinakamabilis (this is the fastest). Bakit po pinakamabilis (Why was it the fastest)? Number one ay nagkaroon tayo ng programa na tinatawag na (we launched a program called) BBH. This is a strategy of the DSWD, especially on the production and prepositioning of FFPs especially to different levels – what



we called the hubs, the spokes, and last miles," he said.

He explained that the hubs are the production areas of the agency which also serve as the central storage facilities.

These include three National Resource Centers (NROCs) located in the cities of Pasay, Valenzuela, and Paranaque in Metro Manila; and the Visayas Disaster Resource Centers (VDRC) in Mandaue City, Cebu province.

There are also four DSWD Field Office (FO) Central Luzon hubs in the provinces of Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, and Tarlac; and one DSWD FO Davao Region hub in Pantukan town, Davao de Oro province.

Another hub is currently being constructed in Butuan City in Caraga Region that will serve the whole of Mindanao.

He said each hub has the capacity to produce 10,000 to 15,000 FFPs a day.

Aside from the hubs, the DSWD has 75 spokes facilities nationwide which are provided by local government units (LGUs) in strategically located areas in cities as well as in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class municipalities.

"The spokes are the DSWD regional warehouses – owned, managed, or rented by the DSWD. Ito naman po ay may kakayahang mag-store ng (These can store) 5,000 up to 10,000 FFPs. These are usually situated in major cities and regional centers," Quintilla



said.

The last mile warehouses nationwide, meanwhile, are strategically located in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) or hard-to-reach areas, including 4th, 5th, and 6th class municipalities.

"Last mile warehouses have a capacity of less than 5,000," he said.

Through the BBH, the DSWD was able to preposition more than 2 million FFPS in the agency's different warehouses nationwide even before Kristine hit the country.

Sustained relief aid

DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian earlier assured Filipinos that the agency will sustain the provision of relief assistance through its BBH program to ensure that no one will go hungry amid the devastating impact of Kristine.

"Nais naming i-assure ang ating mga kabayan na naapektuhan ng Bagyong Kristine na nakahanda ang aming Departamento na mag-supply ng mga family food packs nationwide sa ating mga local government units na siya namang magdi-distribute sa ating mga residente. Makakaasa po kayo tuluy-tuloy din po yan dahil

"Pag bumaba na po ang tubig baha, ang mga cash relief at cash assistance ay magsisimula na sa mabilis na panahon (Once the floods subside, the cash relief and cash assistance will commence in the soonest time)," he added. (PNA)



GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) – Magpa-aura clean-sing para maalis ang sumpa sa kabiguan sa pag-ibig. Maaakit mo ang iyong perfect life partner. Dara-ting ang inaasam na opportunities. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 38, 28, 17, 32, 22 at tangerine.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) – Increasing ang mga donation sa community pantry mo, marami kang matutulungan. Ulanin ka ng pasasalamat. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 15, 31, 26, 56, 45 at lilac violet.

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) – Harapin ang mga pagkakamli. Merong blessing na matatanggap, feel mo na papabor sa'yo ang tadhana. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 47, 32, 58, 16, 22 at fuchsia pink.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) – I Inspire ka blessing na dumarating. Kaya kahit nahihirapan, buo ang iyong determinasyon. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 27, 36, 55, 45 at mustard yellow.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) – Karapatan mo ang maging maligaya. Ang event na darating ang magpaganap sa'yo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 47, 16, 22, 31, 52 at magenta red.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) – Makikilala ang bagong pag-ibig. May naglalandas na oportunidad sa abroad. I-update ang docs. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 16, 36, 47, 52, 22 at cinnamon brown.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) – Ang pagkatalo ay matutuklasan. Simulan ang mabuhay sa iyang tunay na pagkatalo. I-appreciate ang totoo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 16, 42, 25, 36, 55 at amethyst violet.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21) – Mananatili ang generosity mo kahit na madamot ang best friend. Ikaw ang makakatanggap ng maraming blessing. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 31, 16, 25, 46, 56 at satin white.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) – Matatag ang iyong kalooban. Simulan ang bagong negosyo. Ang psychic guide ang mahihingian ng payo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 31, 33, 16, 47, 55 at ice blue.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) – Ang mga supernatural opportunity ang maranasan. May mga surprise event na paparating. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 17, 45, 56, 26, 36 at shocking pink.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) – Time to shine ka nga-yon. Lahat ng experience ay nakakahawang inspiration. Happy ka. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 11, 21, 33, 46, 51 at dollar green.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) – Mararanasan ang financial freedom. Unti-unting m-tutupad ang lahat ng mga pangarap mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 15, 32, 25, 47, 55 at ruby red.

DepEd chief...

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"I think, as you all know, AI needs good power, good bandwidth. So we have to ensure that these systems can handle the technology of the future," he said in a separate speech during the conference.

Before AI, Angara said the DepEd has ongoing partnerships for the utilization of other innovative software and tools that help elevate learning systems including Khan Academy, I AM The Code, and Canva, among others.

AI in governance Experts from UP, meanwhile, said AI can also help address not only education but also the administration's top governance agendas.

"UP's AI-powered

Research and Innovation Conference is unique. It's different. Because in UP, we have AI expertise, but we also have AI-powered experts in agriculture, fisheries, and livestock for food security," UP Special Adviser to the President for Research and Innovation Giselle Concepcion said in a press conference.

"We think that these are the top priority areas of national development in the country. So, we think that UP and some members of academe from other universities can come together to make a difference, meet with government and academe and industry to come up with AI-powered solutions to the challenges we face to-

day."

AI may also be utilized in addressing some challenges in employment, disaster management, climate change, and local government operations, among others.

The UP's two-day AI Horizons PH 2024 Conference, which will run until Oct. 25, showcases various AI projects relating to education and governance.

Among the specific breakthrough projects cited in the conference are advancements in object detection, speech technology, environmental governance particularly on biodiversity databases, automated essay scoring systems, and road monitoring systems, among others. (PNA)

PBBM eyes ...

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Marcos acknowledged investors' role in undertaking the production design to scale up the e-mobility sector "to actually make a difference to the market."

DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. told Marcos that potential investors, as well as manufacturers and fabricators, are just waiting for a policy statement from the government.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is creating a strategic roadmap under the Electric Vehicle Industry Development Act (EVIDA) to formulate policies and come up with possible incentives to support electric vehicles (EVs). Another government initiative is the part-

nership with locally owned ToJo Motors to determine the necessary policies to make it conducive for locally manufactured EVs, specifically e-trikes and e-jeeps, to operate in the country.

Solidum said e-trikes would soon be mass produced in Isabela, noting that many customers are waiting for its availability in the market.

He said officials in General Santos City, as well as tricycle operators, are also interested.

Solidum said local agri-machinery manufacturers could help speed up the e-trike production, adding that the DOST has also developed a hybrid electric train and an electric boat.

The DOST has

been pursuing initiatives across the EV value chain, prioritizing local expertise and designs.

It is also implementing an e-mobility program map, which includes the conversion of conventional tricycles and buses into electric ones.

Solidum said the e-mobility industry will create more jobs on maintenance, after-sales service and other services.

As of Oct. 18, there are 25,196 registered EVs and 705 EV charging stations (EVCS) in the country, with 92 accredited EVCS providers.

The EVCS providers have so far generated 10,407 new jobs and some PHP1.99 billion in investments. (PNA)

PH to push for more funding for women, peace, security initiatives

MANILA – The Philippines will encourage its international development partners to invest more in initiatives that would advance women's participation and role in peace and security, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said Wednesday.

Pangandaman lamented that most projects from the country's development partners do not include women, peace, and security initiatives.

"If there is one, it's not that big. The pie doesn't show a big chunk of the budget on women, peace, and security. So, we would like to push that forward," she said during the Kapihan sa Manila Bay.

"More than anything else, we need the cooperation of the private sector, of the international community to help us fund these projects and programs. Hopefully, we would like to get a big chunk of the pie of those ODAs (Official Development Assistance) that we get in other countries."

Pangandaman said the Philippines, as the host of the International Conference on Women, Peace and Security (ICWPS), aims to bring together top leaders, practitioners, and advocates from around the world to create strategies and actionable commitments that prioritize women's participation in the peace process.

She noted that a study showed that agree-



ments with women participation "tend to last longer." "In conflict-affected areas, women have emerged as indispensable architects of peace, demonstrating that we are not just participants in the peace process," Pangandaman said. "The essence of the WPS (women, peace and security) conference is not just about dialogues. It is a global call to reaffirm our commitment to the principles of inclusivity, equity, and justice."

Pangandaman is set to lead the discussions on the impact of financing strategies during the ICWPS. She said the Philippines would take the chance to elevate women's voices and foster partnerships among governments, civil societies, and international organizations to promote gender security and sustainable development.

"Indeed, the Philippines is a pioneer in reshaping this building and conflict resolution... Women's voices are at the forefront. Our National Action Plan on WPS (NAPWPS) is a bold declaration of our

unwavering commitment to gender equality and women's crucial role in shaping our future," Pangandaman said.

The Philippines, through a collaborative effort between government and civil society, became the first Asian country to launch in 2010 a National Action Plan implementing United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

In 2023, the Philippines allotted PHP173.2 million to implement the NAPWPS.

The ICWPS, to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City on Oct. 28-30, will carry the theme "Forging Collaboration and Convergence for Advancing Women, Peace and Security."

The conference intends to highlight the power of inter-regional networks for exchanging experiences and best practices and overcoming challenges to meaningful and substantive participation, representation, and leadership of women in peacebuilding. (PNA)

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DBM okays DOH purchase of 173 medical vehicles



MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has granted the Department of Health (DOH) around PHP454 million for the procurement of some 173 medical vehicles.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman approved the issuance of an Authority to Purchase Motor Vehicle (APMV) for the DOH on Oct. 17, the DBM said in a statement Wednesday.

The DBM said the

APMV allows the DOH to procure 161 units of land ambulance, two units of mobile primary care facility or mobile clinics, four units of sea ambulance, four units of passenger van, one van serving as patient transport vehicle, and one van functioning as mobile blood donation van.

The approval of the APMV is chargeable against the DOH's Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) under the 2024 General Appropria-

tions Act, the DBM added.

The HFEP aims to address healthcare delivery gaps and make the country's facilities and services more accessible.

The latest APMV covers the second batch of motor vehicles (MVs) to be purchased by the DOH.

On June 11, Pangandaman also approved the issuance of the APMV amounting to PHP387 million for the procurement of the first batch of 141 units of medical vehicles.

Pangandaman said the purchase of motor vehicles would enable the DOH to provide Filipinos with better and more reliable health services.

"The purchasing of additional medical vehicles will surely augment the ongoing structural enhancements of our healthcare system," she said.

ROSARIO JOB FAIR 2024



Kabilang sa pagdiriwang ng 179th Rosario Founding Anniversary, ginangap ngayong umaga ang Rosario Job Fair 2024 na may temang "Sa Bayan ng Rosario, Lahat may Trabaho." Ang proyektong inorganisa ng pamahalaang bayan ng Rosario sa pangunguna ng ating butihing Mayor Voltaire Ricafrente, Vice Mayor Bamm Gonzales at Sangguniang Bayan Members katuwang ang SM City Rosario.

Humigit dalawangpung mga kumpanya mula sa ibat ibang panig ng Cavite ang dumalo sa nasabing Job Fair na dinagsa ng ating mga kababayan. Nakiisa din dito ang ilang sangay ng gobyerno na makatutulong sa ating mga manggagawa kabilang ang Philhealth, Pag-IBIG, SSS, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), NBI, PNP, TESDA, at BIR.

Pangako ng ating butihing Mayor Voltaire Ricafrente ang patuloy na pagsasagawa ng ganitong programa upang mas maraming mga kababayan natin ang makahanap ng trabaho na susuporta sa kanila at sa kanilang pamilya. Maaari ding magtungo sa ating Public Employment Service Office (PESO) para sa iba pang bakanteng posisyon sa iba't ibang kumpanya.

Cavite hosts 2024 RSTIW: A Leap Toward the Green Economy and Smart Education



The 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTIW), held from October 14-16 at the Carmona Community Center, City of Carmona, showcased scientific breakthroughs and innovations with a focus on building a sustainable future. The event with the theme "Siyensya, Teknolohiya at Inobasyon: Kabalik sa Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Kinabukasan, Providing Solutions and Opening Opportunities in the Green Economy," was organized by DOST-Calabarzon through the Provincial Science and Technology Office - Cavite headed by Provincial Director Gilda De Jesus. It featured exhibits, forums, and activities aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth.

A significant highlight of the event was the launching of the 21st Century Learning Environment Model (CLEM) Classroom at Angelo L. Loyola Senior High School (ALLSHS) in Carmona. The innovative initiative, led by DOST-Calabarzon in collaboration with local government units, is designed to enhance student learning by incorporating cutting-edge technologies and teaching practices, equipping learners with the skills needed for a sustainable economy.

Carmona Mayor Dahlia A. Loyola also praised the CLEM Classroom, noting its relevance to modern educational demands. The project aligns

with the city's vision of becoming a smart city through the Science for Smart Cities Program (SSCP), which encompasses governance, infrastructure, and education. DOST-Calabarzon Regional Director Emelita Bagsit highlighted Carmona's ambitious goal to evolve into Carmona International City, a move supported by the integration of smart technologies.

DOST Undersecretary Maridon Sahagun lauded the CLEM initiative as a key step in enhancing student engagement and collaboration, while DOST Undersecretary Dr. Teodoro Gatchalian outlined the five core goals of CLEM: bridging technological gaps, promoting STEM education, fostering 21st-century skills, improving teaching and learning, and boosting student outcomes.

The event also featured the turnover of the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) Plan and Smart City Roadmap to local officials, a vital step toward realizing Carmona's smart city vision. Other significant moments included the handover of the DOSTruck to LGU-Magallanes, recognition of BATUFA for securing FDA-LTO certification, and the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for projects such as the Natural Textile Fiber Innovation Hub and the Silkworm and Textile Waste Upcycling initiative.

Likewise, the inauguration of the Metals and Engineering Innovation Center underscored

DOST's commitment to advancing green and smart technologies, further highlighting the role of science, technology, and innovation in fostering resilient and forward-thinking communities across the region.

In addition to the focus on education, RSTIW also hosted a Forum on Sustainable AI Innovations towards the Green Economy. The forum discussed pivotal topics such as the Role of AI in Promoting Green Innovation and Emerging Trends and Opportunities to Accelerate Business Growth. The discussions brought together experts to share best practices on how businesses can leverage AI to promote sustainability and efficiency. The use of AI to optimize energy use, reduce carbon footprints, and streamline business operations was among the solutions highlighted.

The forum also explored how AI technologies are transforming industries, driving economic growth while reducing environmental impact. Participants engaged in knowledge-sharing sessions, where best practices were exchanged on how AI could be utilized in various business sectors to accelerate the transition to a greener economy.

This year's RSTIW not only showcased technological advancements but also laid the foundation for sustainable education and smart city initiatives, aligning with the region's pursuit of a greener, more prosperous future.--- OPIO

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Kabahaging BUHAY: Kabitenyo Bayanihan, Handog Gintong Buhay

The Office of the Provincial Health Officer organized the Post World Organ Donation Day event, themed "Kabahaging BUHAY: Kabitenyo Bayanihan, Handog Gintong Buhay." on October 16, 2024 at the Cavite Collaboration Center for Public Health, organized by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer. The event was a beacon of hope and generosity as it raised awareness about the Department of Health's organ donation program to inspire more people to become life-saving donors.

Key stakeholders and Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) in the province participated in meaningful discussions about organ donation.

Ms. Evangeline Caidoy, Health Education Promotion Officer II from DOH's Center for Health Development CaLaBarZon, took center stage with her enlightening talk on "Kidney Transplant Myths and Reality", wherein she addressed common misconceptions about organ donation, helping the audience better understand the medical, social, and ethical dimensions of kidney transplants. Ms. Caidoy also

took the opportunity to announce the upcoming Organ Donation Symposium of DOH CaLaBarZon on October 29, 2024, which will provide attendees the chance to engage directly with professionals, ask questions, and deepen their understanding of organ donation.

The event also featured testimonials from both sides of the organ donation journey. Ms. Rosita D. Ramos, an organ donor, shared her inspiring story. In contrast, Mr. Andrew Louie Cabrera, RN, an organ recipient, spoke about his life-changing experience and the second chance he received thanks to a generous donor. Their personal stories served as a powerful reminder of the life-altering impact of organ donation.

Through the initiative, OPHO continues to emphasize the importance of organ donation, fostering a community that values selflessness and the power of giving the ultimate gift—life. As Caviteños come together in bayanihan, they stand united in promoting health, hope, and the golden opportunity of organ donation. — R. Tanael

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased CARLOS DALO MERANO, who died on September 5, 2024 at Dasmariñas City, Cavite, that said deceased died intestate, without a will or testament, and without any outstanding debts in any person or entity, that the said decedent at the time of his death, left a real property situated in Blk. 47 Lot 8 Mabuhay Homes 2000, Paliparan Dasmariñas Cavite covered by TCT No. T-551559 with an area of Forty Three (43) Sqm., was the subject of this Extra-Judicial Settlement among the legal heirs of the said deceased in the said instrument, executed before Notary Public Atty. Pauline S. Dee, under Doc. No. 261 Page No. 53 Book No. 1 Series of 2024

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
OCTOBER 14, 21 & 28, 2024

CHED, 11 PH HEIs eye more partnerships in Australia

MANILA – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and 11 higher education institutions (HEIs) from the Philippines on Monday started the Higher Education Mission to secure more partnerships in Australia.

The five-day mission is in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to boost internationalization of Philippine HEIs.

"In the current administration, we are guided by the strategic instructions of the President continuing to produce world-class professionals in the fields in which the Philippines is well-known. So, that includes medicine, nursing, allied health sciences, engineering, and others," CHED Chairperson J. Prospero de Vera III said during the Philippine delegation meeting with the Philippine Ambassador to Australia Ma. Hellen De La Vega.

Included in the target areas of partnerships with Australian universities are agriculture, information technology (IT), tourism, hotel and restaurant management (HRM), accounting, mining engineering, cybersecurity, social sciences, and creative industries, among others.

De La Vega, meanwhile, lauded the participating HEIs as they "reciprocated" the first business mission in May 2024, adding up to the

"confidence-building" efforts with their Australian counterparts.

"So, kayo nire-eciprocate niyo iyon (You're reciprocating that) by coming here and telling them, that yes we are ready to do partnerships, whether it be in the putting up research institutions or partnerships or twining or obtaining dual degrees," she said.

Among the 11 participating HEIs are Arellano University, Asia Pacific College, Caraga State University, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Iloilo Science and Technology University, Mariano Marcos State University, Our Lady of Fatima University, Southville International School and Colleges, University of Northern Philippines, University of the Philippines-Manila, and University of the Philippines-Los Baños.

According to CHED, the Philippine HEIs will visit, engage in best practices discussions, and secure agreements with the Swinburne University, Chisholm Institute, La Trobe University, Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, Monash University, and Centre for Education Australia until Oct. 25.

The target partnerships also aim to secure student exchanges, collaborative research, and information-sharing, among others. (PNA)

PGC ready to...

from page 1

the heavily-impacted areas mostly in the coastal towns and cities of Cavite.

At the onslaught of severe tropical storm Kristine, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan immediately called for emergency session on October 24 for the declaration of State of Ca-

lamity through Resolution No. 3411 – 2024 to speed up the response and recovery operations.

The Governor personally oversees the response operations with the activation of the emergency operations center to ensure coordinated actions.

LTFRB grants...

from page 1

travelers, we have ramped up our preparations through intensified inspections at bus terminals nationwide," Guadiz said.

LTFRB is well-prepared Guadiz assured the public that the agency is well-prepared for the influx of passengers during the holidays when Filipinos are expected to travel across cities and provinces to pay their respects to their departed loved ones.

He said they are coordinating with bus operators to ensure safe travel for the riding public.

"We are working closely with bus operators to ensure that all units are roadworthy and compliant with safety protocols," Guadiz said.

"Also, we have deployed personnel to monitor the implementation of fare regulations and to assist passengers at terminals, ensuring that there are sufficient buses to accommodate the expected surge of commuters."

He also said the roadworthiness of the vehicles, including their papers and special permits, will be checked at terminals.

Road inspectors

will also check on drivers to ensure that they are not intoxicated as an on-the-spot alcoholic sobriety test will be done, he added.

He assured Filipino commuters that the LTFRB would deploy personnel to monitor the situation on the ground.

'Plan your trips'

Guadiz, meanwhile, told passengers to plan their trips early to make their travel more comfortable.

He likewise encouraged them to remain vigilant and report any irregularities during their trips to the authorities.

"Our team will be on the ground throughout the holiday period to ensure smooth and efficient transportation services, and we encourage the public to report any irregularities," Guadiz said.

"We urge everyone to plan their trips early and travel responsibly. Together, let us ensure a safe, peaceful, and meaningful observance of Undas."

He said the LTFRB remains vigilant in safeguarding the rights and safety of every passenger. (PR)

Manila senior citizens to get P1-K monthly allowance starting 2025

MANILA – Elderly residents in the country's capital city will see their monthly allowance from the city government double starting next year.

Manila Mayor Honey Lacuna on Thursday signed Ordinance 9081, increasing the monthly cash benefit of the city's senior citizens from the present PHP500 to PHP1,000 effective January 2025.

The payout will start in March 2025, as the cash allowance will be distributed every quarter.

During the rites for the signing of the measure at the City Hall, Lacuna said this is in response to the constant requests of senior citizens for a higher monthly allowance.

"Our grandfathers and grandmothers do not fail in asking for a hike in their allowance. Now, we have doubled it," she said.

The present PHP500 monthly cash allowance for the city's senior citizens is released every four months, equivalent to PHP2,000.

Present during the signing of the ordinance were its principal authors Councilors Philip Lacuna, Fa Fugoso, Uno Lim, Nino Dela Cruz, Jong Isip, Rod Lacsamana, Maile Atienza, Macky Lacson, Lei Lacuna, Charry Ortega, and



Marjun Isidro, as well as Office of Senior Citizens' Affairs chief Eilnor Jacinto and Secretary to the Mayor Marlon Lacson.

According to Councilor Lacuna, the ordinance was based on State policy to protect and serve the rights of the elderly is enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution, specifically under Article XIII, Section 11, which expressly provides that the State shall adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development, which shall endeavor to make essential goods, and health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost and further giving priority for the needs of the elderly, among others.

Isip, meanwhile, noted that with these provisions of the Constitution and the Local Government Code (LGC), it is ensured that the elderly are accorded primordial opportunity to have access to essential

Timeless Magic is Forever!

EK celebrates 29 years with a spectacular anniversary show Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, presented a night of magical storytelling, enchanting performances, and a timeless fireworks exhibition show to thousands of guests during its 29th anniversary celebration last October 19 in Santa Rosa, Laguna.



The Timeless Magic Anniversary Show featured world-class performances from OPM singer-songwriter Zack Tabudlo, OPM gem Janine Berdin, and powerhouse dance crew G-Force. EK's hometown talents — the ladies of Victoria's Way, gents of Kingsmen, and EK Circle of Artists — brought nostalgia to the festivities with their rendition of iconic EK songs.

EK's P-pop girl group SMS also charmed the crowd with their performance of their upcoming single, Meant 2 Shine.

The theme park's timeless character Eldar the Wizard, along with Princess Victoria and Madeline, accompanied the audience in this spectacular evening of fun and entertainment. Towards the end of the night, Eldar brought the magic to the sky with the new Timeless Magic Fireworks Exhibition Show. With the flick of his wand, dazzling lights burst into the sky in symphony to the tune of Timeless Magic, EK's 29th anniversary theme song composed and sung by SMS.

Timeless Magic is now available for streaming and download on Spotify, Youtube Music, Apple Music, Amazon Music, as well as on other social media channels.

The city's new allowance rate for the elderly matches the national government's social pension for indigents being disbursed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. (PNA)

Beyond the Timeless Celebration October is just the beginning of EK's celebration of 29 years of providing magical experiences and memories that last a lifetime!

EK's 29th Anniversary Chairman and Integrated Marketing Division Head Nico R. Mamon shared that the pioneering theme park is committed to serve timeless experiences to its multi-generational guests, leading up to its 30th year.

To make the most out of the holiday season, EK is now open five days a week, and

every day starting December 15 until the first week of January.

Get into the holiday spirit with EK's recently opened Food Fiesta Bazaar. Located at the Cultural Village's Agila Grounds, enjoy an array of Filipino and Korean street foods, fresh fruits, juices, hot meals, and delectable snacks.

This November, kids and the young-at-heart are in for a treat with EK's Halloween event! Feel the Filipino festive cheer as we bring back the proudly locally-made giant Parol and Christmas Tree. Embrace the magical spirit of the holidays with our Christmas shows and Christmastime Parade.

Lastly, get the perfect gift ideas to your loved ones as we launch our holiday catalogue. Bring home the magic with the newest set of EK merchandise like the Eldar Pop, Twin Princesses Rag Dolls, the six-piece set EK Christmas Baubles, and many more.

New ride and upgraded attractions

EK also shared that a new ride will be coming soon. The new family thrill ride will surely bring fun and excitement to guests with its exhilarating ride movement. The Rialto, a 4D motion simulator theater, will also start to feature a new film called Happy Family: Next Level at the end of October. And most recently, EK opened its newest gated attraction, the Midway Mirror Maze. Guests will step into a world of illusions, twists and turns as they navigate the labyrinth of mirrors and lights. Perfect for adventurers, the Midway Mirror Maze attraction promises a fun and immersive experience for guests of all ages.

Magical Partnership

EK and Coca-Cola Beverages Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) have renewed their partnership for another five

years, continuing 13 years of bringing magical moments together. "We are honored and grateful to celebrate Enchanted Kingdom's 29th anniversary with this significant milestone. At Coca-Cola, we are committed not only to refreshing the Philippines with our great beverages, but also to delivering timeless magical moments for Filipinos — a mission we proudly share with the entire Enchanted Kingdom family. On behalf of everyone at Coca-Cola, we look forward to many more years of growing our partnership and creating memories that will last a lifetime," says Chris Pesigan, CCBPI Commercial Vice President.

Since the beginning of this timeless partnership in 2012, the beverage company and the world-class theme park have made their mark as partners with the establishment of the iconic Coca-Cola tunnel welcoming guests at the entrance of the thrilling Space Shuttle rollercoaster ride.

The Timeless Magic Anniversary Show is made even more magical with our event partners, UMG Philippines and Coca-Cola. The following brand sponsors also extended their support for EK's 29th anniversary celebration: Bounty Fresh, Dove Body Wash, Dove Deo, Surf, Tony & Chippy, Cloud 9, Hello! Desserts, Piattos, C2, Acacia Hotel, ACT II, ByeByeFEVER, Ceelin Gummies, Dayzinc, DITO Telecommunity, Easy Life, Ellite Ads, Eurotel, fruitree, Fulitech, Galway Light Skin, Hawk Bag, Hunt's, King Sue, Maya, McCormick, Lucky Me Mi Goreng, Nina's Arts Enterprise, Nutri10Plus, Sip Plus Electrolyte Drink, Sip Purified Water, Yobick, Poten-Cee Plus, Philadelphi, Baby Flo, Cleene, Mediplast, Rhea, Reyes Barbeque, Tiny Buds, Tulip, and White Flower.