

Japan inks P12.8-M grants for school building, youth center in PH

MANILA – The Japanese government has awarded PHP12.8 million in grants for constructing a school building in Pura, Tarlac and a youth community center in Cebu City.

Japanese Ambassador Endo Kazuya on Thursday signed the grant contract awarding PHP8.3 million to the Bidlisw Foundation, Inc. for the Cebu City community center, which will provide essential support to children and youth in low-income communities, as well as victims of drug-related crimes and sexual abuse.

He signed with Pura Mayor John Paul Balmores the PHP4.4 million grant contract for constructing a one-story six-classroom school building for the Maungib Elementary School.

"I'm certain that these projects will serve as a catalyst for hope and resilience and inspire future



generations," Endo said.

"Today's ceremony is a celebration of our unity and joint commitment to addressing the challenges we face. As we look to the future, Japan stands ready as always to support the Philippines on this journey towards sustainable and inclusive growth."

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Education Secretary Sonny Angara and Department of Social Welfare and Development Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay-Villar.

Extending his gratitude, Angara said the

school building grant is an "appreciated addition" to Japan's long list of support to the Philippine education system.

"This new school building is a testament to our enduring friendship, our shared successes, and continuing commitment to progress. On behalf of the Department of Education, we thank you for decades of strengthening our system, we look forward to many more years of fruitful development cooperation," he said.

In an interview,

see page 4...

Remulla hails PNP as crime rate drops 62% under Marcos admin



MANILA – The Philippines' crime rate dropped 62 percent during the first two years of the Marcos administration, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said Thursday.

In a statement, DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the Philippine National Police (PNP) recorded 83,059 incidents from July 1, 2022 to July 28, 2024, way lower compared to 217,830 incidents reported in the same period

unrelenting commitment of the PNP to continuously serve and protect the public from criminality and lawlessness," Remulla said.

"With this positive development, the DILG urges the PNP to continuously fulfil their sworn duties as vanguards of peace and order towards a safe and peaceful Bagong Pilipinas."

Remulla also cited the PNP's crime clearance efficiency rate and crime solution efficiency rate, which improved at 27 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

The DILG chief lauded the police force for these achievements, which he said were reached through hard work and dedication of law enforcement officers across the country.

"These significant feats are a testament to the



PhilHealth now covers readmission for same illness within 90 days



MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has lifted its single period of confinement (SPC) policy, allowing members readmitted due to the same illness in 90 days to claim benefits.

"After extensive evaluation, we have lifted

the rule of Single Period of Confinement to ensure continuous coverage for patients with recurring conditions," PhilHealth Chief Emmanuel Ledesma said in a news release Thursday.

The SPC rule imposed that admissions and readmissions due to the same illness or procedure

within a 90-calendar day period should only be compensated once.

In 2023, it resulted in the denial of 26,750 claims including community-acquired pneumonia, acute gastroenteritis, urinary tract infection, and chronic kidney disease.

Ledesma noted that the initiative applies to medical conditions and surgical procedures under the All Case Rate payment scheme.

"We understand that health is not just a privilege but an essential right for every Filipino. In these challenging times, we stand with them, and always **see page 4...**

LandBank offers support for calamity-hit sectors

MANILA – Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) has announced the availability of immediate financial assistance to businesses and individuals affected by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami)

Under the LandBank CARES Plus (Community Assistance and RE-integration Support Plus) lending program, various sectors, including farmers, fishers, cooperatives, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), large corporations, and electric distribution utilities, can access financial aid to rebuild, restore operations, and recover from disaster-related losses.

"LandBank stands ready to provide accessible, responsive, and immediate financial assistance to sec-

tors severely impacted by the typhoon. We are fully committed to doing our part in helping our kababayans and communities recover from this adversity while accelerating recovery efforts," LandBank president and chief executive officer Lynette Ortiz said in a news release Sunday.

Eligible borrowers can use the loans to cover essential expenses, such as working capital, capital expenditures, and the repair or acquisition of disaster-damaged equipment, facilities and structures.

Electric distribution utilities may also avail of short-term working capital to address increased generation and distribution costs following the typhoon.



for Emergencies" feature for LandBank credit card holders, allowing them to convert their available credit limits into emergency cash with flexible repayment options of up to 36 months.

Eligible cardholders will receive a text message and email from LandBank confirming their eligibility for the credit limit conversion.

Customers with an available credit limit may also reach out to the bank to request for cash conversion.

The funds will be credited to their LandBank **see page 4...**



DepEd, Canva PH sign pact for interactive learning

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) has partnered with Canva Philippines for free access and training for public school teachers nationwide that will aid them with tools to provide a more interactive learning experience for students.

DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara formalized the partnership for Canva for Education on Wednesday in a signing ceremony in Pasig City, attended by Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Hae Kyoung Yu PSM, Canva Philippines Country Lead Yani Hornilla-Donato, and Canva Philippines Marketing and Content & Discovery Lead Maisie Littaua.

The initiative aims to equip teachers with user-friendly tools that promote creativity and col-



laboration in the classroom and integrate digital design into Philippine education.

"The President himself said in his SONA that classrooms should be incubators of creativity and innovation. With this partnership, we're building those incubators, one design at a time," Angara said.

Canva for Education provides a comprehensive suite of digital tools and resources that may be accessed for free by K-12

educators and students, allowing them to create visually engaging materials.

Teachers can access thousands of templates, interactive presentation tools, and other resources designed to support effective teaching and learning.

Yu meanwhile commended Angara's quick action in formalizing the collaboration which she called a milestone in Philippine-Australian relations. **see page 4...**

PAGBATI NI PANGULONG BONG BONG MARCOS SA KAARAWAN NI KAPATID NA EDUARDO V. MANALO - ANG TAGAPAMAHALANG PANGKALAHATAN NG IGLESIA NI CRISTO

Malugod na pagbati sa kaarawan ni Kapatid na Eduardo V. Manalo! Noong Oktubre 31, 2024, nais kong ipahatid ang aming pasasalamat at paghanga sa inyong dedikasyon sa pamumuno at pag gabay sa Iglesia ni Cristo.

Nawa'y patuloy kayong biyayaan ng lakas at karunungan upang magamit sa inyong patuloy na paglilingkod at pangu-una sa loob ng Iglesia. Mula sa aming pamilya, pinapanalangin namin ang



patuloy na paglago ng inyong gawain at magandang adhikain para sa bayan at sa buong mundo.

Mabuhay kayo, Ka Eduardo, at ang Iglesia ni Cristo!

171 Mercury Drugs stores to start accepting DSWD-issued GLs on Nov. 4

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Tuesday said its clients in need of assistance for medications may use agency-issued guarantee letters (GL) to buy their "maintenance medicines" from any of 171 branches of Mercury Drug nationwide starting Nov. 4.

In a statement, DSWD Undersecretary for Operations Monina Josefina Romualdez said, "This partnership is a testament to the efforts of the DSWD to prioritize the welfare of individuals in crisis situations by ensuring a more efficient way to address their medical needs."

Among the Mercury Drug branches that will accommodate the



DSWD-issued GLs from the Central Office are Fairview-Commonwealth; Ever Gotesco Commonwealth; Tangang Sora-Visayas; and Marikina-J.P. Rizal.

The DSWD-issued GLs from the DSWD Field Office-National Capital Region (NCR) are only accepted at the Quiapo-Plaza Miranda branch.

Clients in crisis from other regions may

contact or visit any DSWD Field Office in their area of residence for the complete list of Mercury Drug stores or pharmacies accepting DSWD-issued GLs.

Agency clients may also check the pharmacy for the signage "DSWD Guarantee Letter is accepted here" if the branch is accepting agency-issued GLs.

A guarantee letter **see page 4...**

MPT South teams up with LRMC Plant for Life at Ipo Watershed



As part of its commitment to environmental sustainability, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), participated in the Plant for Life: Tree Planting Activity organized by Maynilad Water Services Inc. in partnership with Bantay Gubat of Ipo Watershed on September 27, 2024.

The event focused on the reforestation of the vital Ipo Watershed in Bulacan, which plays a crucial role in the water supply for Metro Manila and other parts of Cavite. MPT South, along with Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) employees and volunteers, planted a total of 800 native tree seedlings in this collective effort. This is a part of Maynilad's 2024 environmental target, which seeks to plant 220,000 trees across 660 hectares of forested land.

Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President

for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South, stated, "It is an honor to help Mother Nature thrive alongside our kapatids of LRMC. Together, we can do more in protecting our environment and strengthening the consciousness of our teams that what we do is for the good of our future generation."

MPT South's involvement in



the Plant for Life Tree Planting Activity is part of the company's broader commitment to environmental sustainability. Through initiatives like tree planting, the company hopes to foster a culture of sustainability and inspire communities to join the mission of protecting and preserving the environment.

Mga dahilan kung bakit numinipis ang buhok

Payo ni Doc Ong



Ang pagnipis ng buhok ay isang karaniwang isyu para sa maraming tao at maaring sanhi ng iba't ibang mga kadahilanan...

1. Hormonal Imbalance
Ang pagbabago sa hormones ay isang malaking salik sa pagnipis ng buhok. Sa mga lalaki, kadalasang nagdudulot ito ng "male pattern baldness..."

2. Genetics
Ang genes ay may malaking papel sa kondisyon ng buhok. Kung may kasaysayan ng pagnipis o pagkapanot sa pamilya, mataas ang tsansa na maranasan din ito ng susunod na henerasyon.

3. Pag-Edad
Habang tumatanda, ang siklo ng buhok ay nagiging mas maikli. Hindi na kasig-bilis ang pagtubo ng bagong buhok matapos ang bawat paglagas.

4. Stress at Trauma
Malaking dahilan din ng pagnipis ng buhok ang stress, lalo na ang matinding emosyonal o pisikal na trauma tulad ng pagkamatayan ng mahal sa buhay...

5. Kakulangan sa Nutrisyon
Ang tamang nutrisyon ay mahalaga para sa malusog na buhok. Ang kulang sa protina, bitamina, at iba pang sustansya ay maaaring humantong sa pagnipis ng buhok.

6. Mga Sakit sa Anit
Ang mga fungal infection tulad ng ringworm ay nagdudulot ng mga patse-patseng bahagi ng kalbo sa anit. Ang mga bahaging ito ay maaaring mapula, makati, at nagbabalat.

7. Hindi Tamang Pag-aalaga ng Buhok
Ang sobrang pag-brush, paghila, at pagtali ng buhok sa mahigpit na estilo tulad ng ponytail at braids ay maaaring magdulot ng pagnipis ng buhok.

Para mapanatiling malusog ang buhok, mainam na gumamit ng protein-based conditioners, maging gentle sa paghawak ng buhok, at umiwas sa mga istilong nakakasira nito.



HANDBOOK ON NAT'L ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE, SECURITY LAUNCHED

MANILA - Accountability among stakeholders and continuous learning through data-driven analysis are vital in implementing the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda.

Philippine Commission on Women chair Ermelita Valdeavilla said this could be achieved with the Indicator Handbook for the Philippine Action Plan on WPS 2023 to 2033.

"The new plan and its indicators help us become effective custodians of the NAP (national action plan), WPS implementation process," she said during the launch of the handbook on Wednesday at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City.

"The MEAL (monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning) plan and indicators will have measures, instead of progress achieved, which informs stakeholders when their performance is strong or weak. This becomes the



basis for corresponding decisions and actions by the National Steering Committee on WPS (NSCWPS)," she added.

The MEAL plan and indicator framework produce data and statistics drawn from women. These are expected to serve as evidence to transform women's actions, ideas, and opinions into facts.

The enhanced monitoring plan will enable the NSCWPS to continuously track and assess the progress of WPS agenda implementation - ensuring that interventions are inclusive and responsive to the unique needs of women

and girls in conflict-affected communities, she added. "As we advance our WPS agenda, the PCW will ensure that these initiatives and milestones are reflected in the national reports submitted for international stocktaking," she said.

The handbook launch falls part of the three-day International Conference on Women, Peace and Security 2024.

The conference provided a platform for the assessment of WPS agenda progress and resolution of current challenges to women's significant participation in peace and security.



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



An English-Filipino newsweekly published every Monday by Pahayagan ng Kabitenyo with Editorial and Business Office at Unit-D 147 Panapaan IV, P.F. Espiritu IV, Bacoor, Cavite 4102. Email: pahayagangkabitenyo@yahoo.com

ERNA BALAGTAS ANCHETA Publisher

DIOSDADO ARIEL F. ALTO, JR. Editor-In-Chief
DIOSAN MARUAL KCEE NACION Marketing & Circulation Manager

ATTY. EVELYN R. DOMINGUEZ Legal Counsel
SUBSCRIPTION RATE : P1,000.00/year
Advertising Rate : P200.00/col. cm.
Legal Rate : P160.00/col. cm.

Comelec: Cayetano can still appeal junked voter record transfer bid

MANILA - Former Taguig mayor Lino Cayetano and his wife Fille can still exhaust legal remedies on the dismissal of their application to transfer their voter registration.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairperson George Erwin Garcia, however, declined to further tackle the case.

"It's premature to answer. May mga remedies pa na pwede nilang mavail (Some remedies can still be availed of), hence, it's improper to speculate at this point," he said in a Viber message on Thursday.

The Comelec, in a 24-page resolution, said the Election Registration Board (ERB) denied the couple's request to transfer their voter registration from the 2nd District of Taguig-Pateros, where Lino is running for a congressional post.

The ERB noted that it thoroughly reviewed the couple's claim that they have been residing in Pacific Residences, Barangay Ususan, Taguig City for two years and five months but found the evidence submitted as insufficient.

It noted the absence of standard identification documents usually submitted as proof of residence, such as a Philsys ID, Postal ID, Driver's License, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance, Government Service Insurance System/Social Security System (GSIS/SSS) or Unified Multi-purpose ID (UMID) or barangay ID.

The only proof of identification presented by the couple were their passports, but these did not support their residency claim, as well as a PLDT billing statement dated October 2024.

The ERB could not determine if other billing statements existed before October 2024, making it unclear if this was their first bill, thus failing to establish long-term residency.

The Comelec also gave no weight to the alleged sublease of the couple at Pacific Residences. In its final remarks, the ERB clarified that its resolution does not revoke the Cayetano couple's right to vote in the elections.

It said the decision only denied their request to transfer their registration to Barangay Ususan, as they are not residents there. The two remained



voters of Barangay Fort Bonifacio. COCs and CON-CANs available online

On the other hand, the Certificates of Candidacy (COCs) of all 183 senatorial aspirants, as well as the Certificates of Nomination and Certificates of Acceptance of Nomination (CON-CANs) of the 156 party-list organizations are now posted on the Comelec website via: https://comelec.gov.ph/?r=2025NLE/COC2025.

The public may now access online the redacted COCs and CON-CANs of senatorial aspirants and party-list organizations running in the midterm polls.

"Know your candidates," Garcia said. Earlier, Comelec spokesman John Rex Laudiangco said the online posting of the COCs and CON-CANs is part of their effort to be transparent and give the people the chance to check the background and qualifications of the candidates. (PNA)

2024.

The ERB could not determine if other billing statements existed before October 2024, making it unclear if this was their first bill, thus failing to establish long-term residency.

The Comelec also gave no weight to the alleged sublease of the couple at Pacific Residences. In its final remarks, the ERB clarified that its resolution does not revoke the Cayetano couple's right to vote in the elections.

It said the decision only denied their request to transfer their registration to Barangay Ususan, as they are not residents there. The two remained

voters of Barangay Fort Bonifacio. COCs and CON-CANs available online

On the other hand, the Certificates of Candidacy (COCs) of all 183 senatorial aspirants, as well as the Certificates of Nomination and Certificates of Acceptance of Nomination (CON-CANs) of the 156 party-list organizations are now posted on the Comelec website via: https://comelec.gov.ph/?r=2025NLE/COC2025.

The public may now access online the redacted COCs and CON-CANs of senatorial aspirants and party-list organizations running in the midterm polls.

"Know your candidates," Garcia said. Earlier, Comelec spokesman John Rex Laudiangco said the online posting of the COCs and CON-CANs is part of their effort to be transparent and give the people the chance to check the background and qualifications of the candidates. (PNA)

The ERB could not determine if other billing statements existed before October 2024, making it unclear if this was their first bill, thus failing to establish long-term residency.

The Comelec also gave no weight to the alleged sublease of the couple at Pacific Residences. In its final remarks, the ERB clarified that its resolution does not revoke the Cayetano couple's right to vote in the elections.

GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) - Increasing ang income mo. Mababayaran ang dues, makakapag-save ka na rin for future. Pagsikapan maisakatuparan ang business para makita ang potensiyal nito bilang source of income. Pagtuunan ang health. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 58, 21, 41, 31, 12 at amethyst violet.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dic. 21) - Masidhi ang dahilan para i-push namatulyo ang daloy ng malaking income. Maaakit mo ang mga supporter. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 32, 55, 15, 45, 23 at ice blue.

CAPRICORN: (Dic. 22-Ene. 19) - Baguhin ang out took sa issue ng buhay. Ma-a-attract mo ang makakatuwang sa pag-asenso, tinayakin na hindi ilegal. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 47, 58, 23, 36, 15 at dollar green.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) - Maki-kilala mo ang iyong soulmate. Magsisimula kayo ng bagong Negosyo. Increasing ang iyong income. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 12, 23, 27, 31, 40 at sunflower yellow.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) - Maakit mo ang support system na kailangan mo sa karerang pinili. Maging matalino kung sino ang pakikinggan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 36, 45, 26, 12, 52 at cyan blue.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) - Sunud-sunod ang daloy ng salapi. Mag-ikapa para magpatuloy ang mga blessing. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 35, 47, 28, 51, 15 at sandalwood brown.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) - Lakasan ang loob. Simulan ang project. Huwag dedmahin ang kalusugan, magpa-check up. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 16, 42, 56, 21, 33 at sapphire blue.

GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21) - Nasa responsibility mo ang kabuhayan. Palaging isaikip ang greater good para sa humanity. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 41, 36, 52, 23, 12, at cobalt blue.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) - Tanggap mo ang remission ayon sa medical report. Mag-celebrate para sa iyong second life. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 52, 23, 47, 36, 15 at satin white.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) - Ang iyong tiwala sa kapwa ang mag-aa-ngat ng mga customer. Patuloy ang daloy ng income sa iyo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 42, 38, 17, 26, 55 at shocking pink.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) - Increasing ang income. Mga rare plant varieties ang matatanggap. Ki-kita ang iyong business. Happy ka! Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 55, 16, 45, 28, 35 at lavender.

Safe Trip Mo Sagot Ko 2024 MOTORIST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. Includes logos for Metrobank, PLDT, Smart, and Caltex. Services include FREE TOWING SERVICE and CHECK YOUR BALANCE AND RELOAD YOUR RFID.

Iwas Basag-Kotse Tips. Includes tips like 'Huwag mag-iwan ng mahalalagang gamit sa loob ng sasakyan' and 'Lagyan ng alarm ang sasakyan'. Encourages using #Alistomusenyongang para sa inyong kaligtasan.

LandBank offers...

from page 8

deposit accounts upon validation of application.

For employees of government agencies and companies with LandBank payroll services, the Electronic Salary Loan (eSL) offers quick access to funds.

Eligible borrowers may apply for the eSL by contacting their human resources departments or visiting their LandBank servicing branch.

Existing eSL borrowers may apply for early renewal if they have completed at least one month of

paid amortization. LandBank is waiving the servicing fee for eSL applications from Oct. 28 to Dec. 31.

LandBank encourages its customers to maximize the use of its digital banking channels, such as the LandBank Mobile Banking Application (MBA), iAccess, weAccess, Link.BizPortal, and electronic Modified Disbursement System (eMDS), to safely complete banking transactions. (PNA)

PhilHealth now...

from page 8

make sure to deliver all the benefits they deserve," he said.

Last month, Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa said the SPC was developed during the time of Philippine Medical Care Act of 1969 to avoid fraudulent benefit claims.

Herbosa said current technologies against fraud are better and that the Universal Health Care Act of 2019 ushers an era of

affordable and accessible healthcare services for all Filipinos.

Ledesma reminded members and qualified dependents that they are entitled to a maximum of 45 days coverage for room and board per year.

However, this does not apply to the hemodialysis benefits package as it has a separate 156 sessions allocated per year. (PNA)

Japan inks...

from page 8

Angara said he welcomes projects like this as the DepEd could only do so much in addressing classroom shortages across the country.

"We only can budget for 6,000 classrooms a year and our deficit is 165,000 so palalim nang palalim - that's why nag-present na kami kay president for PPPs (public-private partnerships).

For official development assistance, hindi pa but we're already telling our existing partners who are helping us (We only can budget for 6,000 classrooms a year and our deficit is 165,000 - that's why we

have presented to the pres-projects like this as the DepEd could only do so much in addressing classroom shortages across the country.

"Ako, equal opportunity tayo kung sino man ang pwedeng tumulong (For me, it is equal opportunity. We are open to receiving help from whoever offers). We just need to invest in education."

The two Japanese projects are funded through the Grant Assistance for Grass-Roots Human Security Projects implemented by the Embassy of Japan. (PNA)

FREE PRESCRIPTION GLASSES, OPTOMETRIC SERVICES LEE FOUGHT FOR TO BENEFIT MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS

Cong. Manoy Wilbert "Wise" Lee who has been fighting for free optometric services and free eyeglasses since early this year, welcomed the inclusion of said services in PhilHealth benefit packages starting this November as announced by the state health insurer.

Free optometric services and prescription glasses are among the health commitments secured by Lee and signed by Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Ted Herbosa and PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Ledesma Jr. before the approval of the DOH budget last September 25, 2024 at the House of Representatives.

"This is long overdue. Masaya po tayong nalalapat na ang katuparan nito kung saan mahigit 40 milyon Pilipino ang makikinabang, mula bata hanggang sa ating mga senior citizens," said Lee who is now in Bicol leading the relief operations for fellow Bicolanos who were

heavily affected by the onslaught of severe tropical storm Kristine. The lawmaker is also distributing relief goods in other parts of the country affected by the calamity.

"Malaking tulong ito lalo na sa mahihirap nating kababayan na tinitii sa lang ang malabong paningin o lumalala ang problema sa mata hanggang mabulag dahil walang pera para magpacheck-up at magpagawa ng salamin," he added.

The said pronouncement from the PhilHealth complies with the deadline that Lee set in the commitment letter to cover pediatrics and adult prescription glasses not later than November 30, 2024.

Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists (IPAO) President Dr. John Nakpil said that the commitment of the DOH and PhilHealth spearheaded by Lee led to the creation of a technical working group (TWG) to develop the guidelines for the implementation of free

prescription glasses and optometric services.

It can be recalled that as early as March 5, 2024, Lee filed House Resolution (HR) No. 1623 urging PhilHealth to include optometric services in its benefit package.

According to IPAO Chairman Dr. Charlie Ho, Lee's HR 1623 "paved the way and advocated for Filipinos' right to comprehensive optometric services and free prescription eyeglasses to improve productivity and reduce the financial burden of Filipinos."

A staunch health advocate, Lee described the move as a significant step towards achieving broader healthcare access as part of the Universal Health Care Law, particularly for Filipinos struggling with vision problems.

"Malaking tulong ito sa productivity ng ating mga kababayan. Magbibigay liwanag ito hindi lang sa paningin, kundi pati na sa pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay at kinab-

ukasan ng milyon-milyon nating kababayan," he said.

Other health services included in the commitments from DOH and PhilHealth, among others, are: Free diagnostic tests such as Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scan, Computed Tomography (CT) scan and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) as part of outpatient services not later than December 31, 2024;

At least 80% coverage for cancer treatments such as chemotherapy and procedures for heart diseases not later than December 31, 2024;

50% cross-the-board PhilHealth benefit increases effective November 2024;

"Patuloy po nating bantayan ang pagtupad ng DOH at PhilHealth sa mga ipinangako nilang serbisyong pangkalusugan na kailangang-kailangan at matalag nang inaasam ng ating mga kababayan. Huwag natin itong tantanan. Laban natin itong lahat!" Lee stated.

PAGCOR partners with DepEd, DPWH to build classrooms, health centers

MANILA - The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) has launched its newest flagship infrastructure projects on health and education.

PAGCOR chair and chief executive officer Alejandro Tengco announced the details of its new projects during the signing of a joint memorandum circular with its partner agencies, the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), on Oct. 23.

"In four years, we hope to build at least 1,200 classrooms or about 300 classrooms per year under this new infrastructure push as part of our commitment to nation-building," Tengco said in a news release Sunday, adding that they will prioritize far-flung and remote communities.

Aside from the school buildings, Tengco said PAGCOR will also build 200 e-learning centers which will be built in areas with a high concentration of learning institutions.

Each e-learning center will have 48 computer stations with internet connection, making them ideal hubs for online research and even for computer literacy courses.

A third leg of the flagship projects will be health and wellness centers which will feature doctors' offices and consultation rooms, dental clinics, vaccination rooms, treatment rooms and a multipurpose area.

Tengco said PAGCOR will build at least 100



health centers nationwide to help bring quality care, especially in poor communities.

PAGCOR will likewise build 50 socio-civic Centers which beneficiary local government units can utilize as seminar and training venues as well as for hosting social and community gatherings that could potentially generate revenues.

The multi-purpose centers can also be used as evacuation facilities during calamities and disasters.

"We want these projects to benefit as many Filipinos as possible because we believe that laying the groundwork for a stronger nation is not the sole responsibility of the education sector but should be a collective effort of agencies and organizations," Tengco said.

Under the memorandum circular, the DPWH will undertake the construction of the new PAGCOR flagship projects, while the DepEd will administer the schools and e-learning centers, including providing teachers and other staff.

DPWH Secretary Manuel Bonoan and DepEd

Secretary Sonny Angara also signed the agreement.

Angara said PAGCOR's commitment to build more classrooms will be of great help to the education sector.

"Currently, our classroom deficit is at 165,000. Napakalaking bagay po na ang PAGCOR ay magpapatay ng ilan daang classrooms (It's a big help that PAGCOR will build hundreds of classroom)," he said.

"Nagpapasalamat kami sa PAGCOR at DPWH (We thank PAGCOR and DPWH) because these projects will definitely improve the learning experience our students."

Bonoan expressed his appreciation to PAGCOR for its "trust and confidence in DPWH to spearhead the construction school buildings and other facilities in various parts of the country."

"This is going to be challenging but we are committed to face the challenges and complete these noble undertakings with PAGCOR and DepEd," he said. (PR)

ARMY NAVY
BURGER + BURRITO

MOU offering 50% grad studies scholarship to OFWs, families forged

MANILA - OFW Party-List Rep. Marissa "Del Mar" Magsino and the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA - Las Piñas (UPHSD) on Tuesday forged a partnership that offers partial graduate studies scholarships to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families, furthering educational opportunities in business, education, nursing, and public administration.

The partnership, contained in a memorandum of understanding (MOU), was signed by Magsino and Dr. Eduardo C. Zalacita, UPHSD Dean of Graduate School, at the OFW Tulong at Serbisyo Center in Parañaque City.

Under the partnership, the OFW Party-list will endorse qualified students who want to take up graduate programs in business, education, nursing, and public administration at the Las Piñas campus.

All endorsed appli-



cants holding a bachelor's degree from the Commission on Higher Education-recognized institutions will be given a 50 percent scholarship by the UPHSD once they pass the entrance exams and other requirements.

"We are grateful to UPHSD for opening the opportunity to our OFWs and their families to take up further studies," Magsino said.

"Mayroon tayong mga OFWs at kanilang kapamilya na nais itaas pa ang kaalaman at makakuha ng master's degree subalit mabigat ito sa balsa. Kaya malaking tulong ang 50 per-

cent scholarship na kanilang ibibigay (We have OFWs and their families wanting to upgrade their knowledge and get a master's degree, but it is a big financial burden for them. A 50 percent scholarship is thus a great help)."

She said this collaboration embodies the OFW Party-list's advocacy for expanded education and empowerment for OFWs and their families, as well as her commitment to providing affordable education and brighter futures for Filipino communities at home and abroad. (PNA)

GSIS launches new accessible loan program for members

MANILA - The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has launched the Multi-Purpose Loan (MPL) Lite program to help its members quickly bridge or cover unexpected expenses and temporary budget gaps.

"As we reaffirm our commitment to deliver meaningful and significant products and services to our members, the GSIS has developed this program to provide accessible and affordable financial solutions that aim to honor their contributions," GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso said in a news release late Monday.

"With e-crediting, hassle-free way to access funds and streamlined application process, govern-

ment workers have a safe and reliable financial option at their fingertips," he added.

According to the GSIS, the MPL Lite offers accessible financing that ranges from PHP5,000 to PHP50,000 (multiple of five) with flexible repayment terms of six, 12, 18 or 24 months.

It has a competitive interest rate of 6 percent or 7 percent, based on years of service.

It includes a one-time loan redemption insurance fully deducted upfront without fees for early repayment, and without service fee for those who have active MPL Flex.

MPL Lite is available in the GSIS Touch mobile app, which simplifies

the application process.

Once approved, funds are credited within three days.

If any member requires assistance in using the GSIS Touch mobile app, the GSIS dedicated customer service is available to assist 24/7.

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

For more information about the MPL Lite program and other GSIS product offerings, members may visit the GSIS website at www.gsis.gov.ph, follow the GSIS Facebook page (@GSIS.PH), email gsiscares@gsis.gov.ph or contact the numbers provided in the website. (PNA)

Comelec: Cayetano can still appeal junked voter record transfer bid

MANILA – Former Taguig mayor Lino Cayetano and his wife Fille can still exhaust legal remedies on the dismissal of their application to transfer their voter registration.

Commission on Elections (Comelec) chairperson George Erwin Garcia, however, declined to further tackle the case.

“It’s premature to answer. May mga remedies pa na pwede nilang maavail (Some remedies can still be availed of), hence, it’s improper to speculate at this point,” he said in a Viber message on Thursday.

The Comelec, in a 24-page resolution, said the Election Registration Board (ERB) denied the couple’s request to transfer their voter registration from the 2nd District of Taguig to the 1st District of Taguig-Pateros, where Lino is running for a congressional post.

The ERB noted that it thoroughly reviewed the couple’s claim that they have been residing in Pacific Residences, Barangay Ususan, Taguig City for two years and five months but found the evidence submitted as insufficient.

It noted the absence of standard identification documents usually submitted as proof of residence, such as a Philsys ID, Postal ID, Driver’s License, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Clearance,



Government Service Insurance System/Social Security System (GSIS/SSS) or Unified Multi-purpose ID (UMID) or barangay ID. The only proof of identification presented by the couple were their passports, but these did not support their residency claim, as well as a PLDT billing statement dated October 2024.

The ERB could not determine if other billing statements existed before October 2024, making it unclear if this was their first bill, thus failing to establish long-term residency.

The Comelec also gave no weight to the alleged sublease of the couple in Pacific Residences.

In its final remarks, the ERB clarified that its resolution does not revoke the Cayetano couple’s right to vote in the elections.

It said the decision only denied their request to transfer their registration to Barangay Ususan, as they are not residents there.

The two remained



DSWD provides psychosocial aid to families of ‘Kristine’ fatalities

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Sunday said its Calabarzon Field Office (FO-4A) has started providing psychosocial services and financial aid to families of those who perished during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm (STS) Kristine in the region.

DSWD-CALABARZON Regional Director Barry Chua said the region recorded 24 deaths and 23 missing at the height of the tropical cyclone across the region.

On Saturday, Chua said social workers from their regional office have already provided counseling and psychosocial aid to the families of seven fatalities in Talisay, Batangas.

“We are aware of the mental stress caused by the onslaught of STS Kristine, especially to families and individuals who lost their loved ones. Our social



workers are ready to provide them with counseling and psychosocial sessions to help them cope with their traumatic experiences. We also condole with the families and offer our prayers to them,” Director Chua said.

Aside from the psychosocial services, the FO-4A also extended PHP200,000 in financial assistance to the families.

Of those who died, 18 were from Batangas province, three from Laguna and one each from Cavite, Rizal and Quezon.

Some of the casualties drowned, a number of them were hit by falling trees or debris, while others

were electrocuted. The FO continues to coordinate with the families and with the concerned local government units for the provision of other appropriate services that they may need as they go through these difficult times in their lives.

In a related development, the FO-Bicol Region provided PHP10,000 each in financial assistance to the families of four landslide victims in Caramoran, Catanduanes.

The four died Oct. 23 when a landslide buried their home during a heavy rainfall. (PNA)

ANNIVERSARY CARD PARTNERSHIP 10% OFF on REGULAR DAY PASS Based on Published Rate UNTIL DECEMBER 15, 2024

Children’s Council steps up campaign on responsible parenting



MANILA – The Council for Women and Children on Friday underscored the importance of equipping parents with knowledge that would further protect their children from harm, particularly from abuses and violence online.

As part of the National Children’s Month (NCM) celebration, CWC Executive Director and Undersecretary Angelo Tapales said they would conduct a conference to aid parents how to better protect their children.

The CWC, an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), formulates policies and monitors and evaluates the implementation of laws, programs, or projects for children and youth below 18 years old.

The council will

hold its 7th Conference on Parenting in the Digital Age on Nov. 25. This is in line with this year’s celebration of the 32nd National Children’s Month (NCM).

“Tuturuan kasi talaga natin ang mga magulang kung paano bangayan ang mga bata kaya kailangan din nilang matuto sa Internet at sa mga gadgets (We need to teach parents how to protect their children so they must also learn about [the use] of the Internet and gadgets),” Tapales said.

The CWC called for a unified approach to Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC), pointing out that the government, parents, families, communities, and power holders must work together to ensure that children’s rights are respected and upheld at all times.

In 2023, the Phil-

ippine National Police’s Women and Children Protection Center logged 19,756 reports of child abuse.

It did not say, however, how many of these cases occurred online.

Meanwhile, Tapales said the council has lined up several activities to celebrate Children’s Month.

A kick-off ceremony will be held in Cebu City from Nov. 5 to 7.

The CWC will also join the House of Representatives’ NCM celebration on Nov. 18-21 and set up booths featuring the council’s mandate, the Makabata Helpline, and informative materials relevant to advocating for safe spaces for children and youth sectors.

It will also launch the 4th National Plan of Action for Children (NPAC), which will contain the comprehensive government policy document for 2023 to 2028.

The NPAC will feature a multi-sectoral, rights-based approach aimed at progressively advancing children’s rights to survival, development, protection, and participation across the Philippines.

May eGov ka na ba? Government services in one app! eGOVPH

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PACKAGES FROM CONG JOLO REVILLA, DELIVERED TO CAVITE CITY



Our countrymen in Cavite City have finally received their rice, variety store, and frozen goods business packages as part of the Help Livelihood Program of our office.

We have no other desire than to improve the quality of life of our countrymen so we hope that this start-up business can grow and help your needs.

Until Cong. Jolo Revilla is here, hope that you will always have a companion and partner in your dreams of giving your family a better life. Because of the First District, we want everyone to feel the continuous progress!

Presidential chopper mobilized for ‘Kristine’ relief delivery

MANILA – A presidential helicopter is being used to deliver essential relief supplies to communities battered by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami), the Philippine Air Force (PAF) said Saturday.

The PAF said it mobilized the Bell 412 presidential helicopter on Oct. 26 to support ongoing emergency relief operations in Bicol, upon the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The helicopter transported goods from Tactical Operations Group 5 in Legazpi to Libon, Albay, facilitating rapid aid distribution to isolated areas impacted by Kristine. A PAF Black Hawk and Huey helicopters were also used



in the mission.

In a statement, the PAF said this operation highlights its “commitment and readiness” to use all available air assets for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.

Marcos on Saturday presided over a situation briefing at the Naga City Hall and pledged non-stop assistance to affected communities in Bicol until

conditions return to normal.

He added that the Department of Health would send teams to augment the medical manpower in the region.

Since the storm hit, the Department of Social Welfare and Development has so far released more than 277,000 family food packs across the country. (PNA)