

COMELEC STARTS PRINTING OF 350K BALLOTS FOR CAVITE SPECIAL POLLS

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) on Wednesday started printing over 350,000 official ballots at the National Printing Office in Quezon City for the special polls in the seventh legislative district of Cavite on Feb. 25.

Comelec chairperson George Erwin Garcia said they are looking to finish the process including verification among others in over a week.

“The printing process including the verification will be done in 10 days,” he said at the press briefing before the kick-off ceremony of the printing of the



ballots in Quezon City. A total of 355,184 ballots will be printed, the same number of registered voters in four areas in the province. (see page 4)

Solon bats for hazard pay, insurance for journalists

MANILA – To further safeguard the welfare of media workers, Deputy Speaker and Las Piñas Representative Camille Villar has filed a measure seeking to mandate a number of significant benefits to every practicing journalist.

In filing House Bill No. 6543, Villar said there is a need to safeguard the welfare of journalists in their news coverage.

“During important assignments, journalists face the most dangerous situations like typhoons, disasters, floods, riots, war and conflicts, to name a few, in order to deliver the news to the public,” said Villar in a statement.

The lady solon also noted that some front-

line journalists “accept field assignments bringing only their passion sans insurance or hazard pay although they risk their lives in the name of journalism.”

Under the HB 6543, which was filed on Dec. 6 last year, all practicing journalists are entitled to insurance, tax-exempt hazard pay, and other incentives.

whether they are permanent, temporary, contractual or casual journalists being employed by media entities in the Philippines.

Freelance journalists are also entitled to insurance benefits, with the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System being mandated (see page 4)



GROUNDBREAKING NG 3 BAGONG PAARALAN SA IMUS, ISINAGAWA

Sa pamamagitan ng pondo ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Imus at ng Ikatlong Distrito ng Cavite, isinagawa ang groundbreaking at unveiling ceremony ng Malagasang I Elementary School (ES) Annex, Malagasang II ES Annex, at City of Imus Integrated School - Maharlika sa Imus nitong Martes, Enero 10, 2023.



Staff Jeffrey Purisima, City Administrator Hertito Monzon, homeowners' association officers, at department heads.

Pinangunahan nina City Mayor Alex “AA” L. Advincula at Congressman Adrian Jay “AJ” C. Advincula ang pagpapasinaya kasama sina City Vice Mayor Homer “Saki” Saquilayan, mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlungsod, SDS Dr. Rosemarie Torres, Chief of

Nakatakdang itayo ang Malagasang I ES Annex sa 5,000 sqm na lupain sa Jade Residences na ipinagkaloob ng Shang Land Development Corp.

Manggagaling naman sa lokal na pamahalaan ang 5,000 sqm na lupain sa Greengate para sa Malagasang II ES Annex at 1.8 ektarya para sa City of Imus Integrated School - Maharlika.

Nagbigay-tulong din si Sen. Francis Tolentino sa pagpapatayo ng 16 na silid-aralan sa City of Imus Integrated School - Maharlika na nagkakahalagang 50 milyong piso. #AAngatAngImus

Libreng Sakay tuloy, P1.285 bilyong pondo inilaan



MANILA, Philippines — Tuloy ang libreng sakay ng EDSA Busway System ngayong taon.

Ito’y matapos paglaanan ng gobyerno ng P1.285 bilyon ang Libreng Sakay program.

Ayon kay Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, aprubado na ang Service Contracting program ng Department of Transportation base na rin sa Republic Act 11936 o Fiscal Year 2023 General Appropriations Act na nilagdaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Ang programang Service Contracting ang nagbibigay daan sa pagpapatuloy ng Libreng Sakay para sa publiko, kabilang ang mga bus commuter sa kahabaan ng EDSA.

Sinabi ni Pangandaman na naiintindihan ng gobyerno ang kalagayan ng commuting public kaya binigyan sila ng Pangulo ng direktiba na gawin ang lahat upang makatulong sa pagpapagaan ng kanilang pasanin.

Malaki aniyang tulong ang libreng sakay sa publiko

upang makatipid at mabawasan ang kanilang pasanin sa mataas na gastusin dahil sa inflation.

Ang matitipid sa pamasahang araw-araw ay maaaring magamit sa iba pang pangangailangan gaya ng pagkain, kuryente, tuition fee at iba pa.

Ang Libreng Sakay ay pinagsamang programa ng DOTr at Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) para tulungan ang mga commuter sa gitna ng pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihan at serbisyo.

Natapos ang libreng sakay noong katapusan ng Disyembre 2022 at itutuloy ngayong 2023.

Noong Disyembre 27, 2022, nakapagtala ang LTFRB ng 164,966,373 pasahero na nag-avail ng Libreng Sakay sa kahabaan ng EDSA.



TAMANG PAGLIGO PARA KUMINIS ANG BALAT

Payo ni Doc Willie Ong

AYON kay Dr. Katty Go, isang dermatologist sa Manila Doc-tors Hospital, may tamang paraan ng pagligo. Sundin natin ito.



1. Huwag lalampas sa 7 minuto sa shower. Ang agos ng tubig ay nakatutuyo ng balat. Pagmasdan mo ang iyong kamay kapag matagal ng nakababad sa tubig. Kumukulubot hindi ba?

2. Magkuskos lang ng bahagya. Alam kong gusto natin maging malinis. Pero kung hindi naman tayo ganoon kadumi sa maghapon, huwag nang magkuskos ng mala-kas. Hindi rin pinapayo ni Dra. Katty Go ang pag-gamit ng hilod o lufa. Kapag sobra ang pagkukuskos, matatanggal ang oil (o moisture) na nagpapakinis sa ating balat.

3. Maglagay ng lotion o bath oil agad pagkatapos maligo. Ayon kay Dra. Katty Go, ito ang pinakamagandang panahon ng paglagay ng lotion o bath oil (mabibili ito sa supermarkets) dahil nakabukas pa ang ating mga pores sa balat. Lagyan ng lotion ang mga dry na parte ng katawan tulad ng siko, kamay, paa, tuhod, tainga at batok. Kung nalalagkitan ka sa lotion, subukan ang bath oil.

4. Kung masyadong dry ang iyong balat, maglagay ng pangalawang pahid ng lotion. Sa unang pahid ay na-a-absorb na ng ating balat ang lotion. Kaya puwede mo pang lagyan pa ng isang pahid ng lotion.

5. Sa pagpili ng lotion at sabon, umiwas lang sa mga may matatampang na pabango, na puwedeng magdulot ng allergy. Maganda ang tulad ng Ivory soap (walang pabango) at Dove soap (na may oil). Kung gumagamit kayo ng Dove soap, mapapansin ninyo na may natitirang oil sa iyong balat kapag ika'y nagbabanlaw na. Ayon kay Dra. Go, huwag mo nang pilingit alisin itong oil dahil nakatutulong ito sa pagpapalambot ng iyong balat.

6. Tandaan: Huwag gumamit ng sabon panlaba para sa iyong kamay o katawan. Matapang ito at nakasisira ng kutis.

7. Pagkatapos maghilamos ng mukha, puwedeng gumamit ng lotion para sa mukha. Lagyan ng lotion ang ilalim ng mata para mabawasan ang wrinkles sa eye bags.

8. Okay lang kung gusto ninyong maligo ng malamig o mainit na tubig. Para sa akin, mas gusto ko ang maligamgam na tubig.

9. Sa pag-shampoo ng buhok, siguraduhing basang-basa ang iyong buhok bago ito lagyan ng shampoo. Huwag gamitin ang sabon bilang pang-shampoo, Hindi ito angkop (mali ang Ph) para sa buhok. Kung may balakubak, gumamit ng mga anti-dandruff shampoo. Dapat mo lang iwan ng 5 minuto ang shampoo sa iyong buhok at anit para mabawasan ang dandruff.

10. Puwede kang gumamit ng astringent tulad ng Eskinol para linisin ang iyong mukha ng mga 2 beses kada linggo. Dahil may sangkap itong alcohol, natatanggal nito ang mga dumi na hindi kaya tanggalin ng sabon. Ngunit, paminsan-minsan lang ito gamitin dahil nakaka-dry ito ng balat. Mag-lotion pagkatapos.

Tandaan ang aming 10 tips para gumanda ang iyong kutis. Good luck po!

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EDITORIAL

NAIA glitch: sampal sa turismo ng bansa

ISA sa matinding tinamaan ng nangyaring aberya sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) noong Enero 1 ay ang turismo ng bansa. Nakakahiya ang nangyari na habang ipino-promote ng Department of Tourism (DoTr) ang ganda ng Pili-pinas ay biglang nagkaproblema sa NAIA at nataon pang Bagong Taon na maraming turista at bakasyunista ang nag-uuwian at nagdaratingan. Nakita ang kapalpakan ng airport at hindi kayang itago. Hindi kayang pagtakpan ang 72 hours na aberya na naging dahilan nang pagka-stranded ng 56,000 na pasahero. Apektado ang 361 flights. Hanggang sa ka-sa-lukuyan, dama pa rin ang problema sa mga naapektuhang flights bagama't sinabi na ng Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) na naibalik na ang normal operations.

Nag-ugat ang problema nang mawalan ng kur-yente ang air navigation facility ng CAAP. Ang pag-kawala ng power ay nagresulta sa pag-down ng komunikasyon, radio, radar at internet sa NAIA. Nagka-domino effect at nag-offline sa dalawang terminal ng NAIA at hindi makakonekta sa backup commercial power supply ng Meralco. Hindi maipaliwanag ang pagkawala ng kuryente at iti-nuturong dahilan ay ang mga lumang kagamitan umano ng CAAP. Kailangan na umanong palitan ang air navigation facility ng CAAP. Ang problema ay napakamahal ng gamit na ito—umaabot daw sa milyong piso ang halaga. Wala raw pondo para sa pagbili ng nasabing equipment.

Hindi naitago ang pagkadismaya sa maraming pasahero. Ngitngit na ngitngit dahil sa pagkaantala ng kanilang flight. May pabalik ng Maynila at paalis. Mayroong patungo sa ibang bansa. Maraming flight na parating ang bumalik sa kanilang orihinal na pinanggalingan. Pagod at puyat ang sumalubong sa kanila sa pagpasok ng 2023.

Ang aberya ay damang-dama ng mga dayuhan na ngayon lamang nakayapak sa bansa. At malaking katanungan ngayon kung gugustuhin pa nilang magbalik sa Pilipinas dahil sa naranasan. Hindi biro ang nangyaring ito. Kinakailangan ang puspusang pagsasaayos sa NAIA bago pa tuluyang mawalan ng gana ang mga bibisitang dayuhan. Sayang ang pagpo-promote sa bansa kung ang airport ay palpak.



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Comelec 'Register Anywhere' expands coverage

MANILA – The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has expanded its coverage of the Register Anywhere Project (RAP) being held in selected malls in Metro Manila, the Bicol Region and Central Visayas.

Applications will now be accepted from overseas voters relocating to the Philippines, residents of the city or district where the RAP sites are located, and senior citizens and persons with disability who are new registrants or will update their records.

All required application forms are available free of charge at RAP sites or may be downloaded from www.comelec.gov.ph.

Meanwhile, the RAP site at SM Southmall in Las Piñas City has been transferred to SM Sucat in Parañaque City beginning Saturday.

RAP will accept registrations from



8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekend until Jan. 20 and 21.

Registration in Comelec offices nationwide is ongoing until Jan. 31 and there is no talk of an extension yet.

The Comelec is targeting around 1.5 to 2 million new voters who will be eligible to cast their ballots in the *barangay* (village) and Sangguniang Kabataan (for voters at least 15 years old but not more than 30 years on election day) polls on Oct. 30. (PNA)

Strike as One sa serbisyong inklusibo, maging sa mga PWDs! Naganap ang Kalinga sa PWD bilang pagmamalasakit sa mga Bacooreñong may kapansanan. Bukod sa distribusyon ng cash gifts, may libreng gupit at masahe mula sa City Livelihood Office, at may Nutrition Talk din isinagawa ang CSWD.

Nagpalaro at nagpa-affle din si Konsehala Karen Evaristo na mas nagpasaya pa sa aktibidad.

Nagbigay ng mensahe si Kap. Jowrin Bautista, presidente ng PWD Association, dumalo din ang mga city councilors ng District 2 at si Miss Khei Sanchez na kumatawan kay Mayor Strike B. Revilla. #StrikeSaSerbisyo #SaBacoorAtHomeKaDito



Pinangunahan ng Office of the City Building Official ang isang open forum para sa ipinapatupad na "No Building Permit, No Construction Policy" sa Imus nitong Miyerkules, Enero 11, 2023, na ginanap sa Function Hall ng Imus City Government Center.



Dinaluhan ito ng 97 barangay sa Imus, kung saan tinalakay ang usapin ukol sa proseso ng pagkuha ng building permit, certificate of occupancy, at certificate of final electrical inspection. Napag-usapan din dito ang setback

firewall and safety, electronic business one-stop shop, at iba pang mga katanungan ng mga punong barangay kaugnay sa tamang proseso ng pagpapatayo ng mga gusali sa Lungsod.

Ang "No Building Permit, No Construction Policy" ay batay sa Presidential Decree No. 1096 o ang National Building Code of the Philippines.

(Photos by: Imus CIO) #AAngatAngImus

LRT-1, LRT-2 fare hike still up for approval

MANILA – The Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) and 2 (LRT-2) are awaiting the approval of the fare hike from their board of directors and regulators.

In a statement Thursday, Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) Administrator Hernando Cabrera said the fare increase "will go through the proper process" and noted that the recent approval of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for the fare hike is just one of nine different members of the LRTA Board of Directors.

"The fare increase must be approved by the LRTA Board of Directors, and must likewise pass through the required regulatory process which includes public consultation/hearing," Cabrera said.

On Wednesday, the LTFRB approved a resolution from the LRTA to increase its boarding fare by PHP2.29 plus PHP0.21 per



kilometer or distance fare.

Once approved, the boarding fare of the LRT-2 will increase to PHP13.29 plus a distance charge of PHP1.21 per kilometer — compared to the current boarding and distance fare of PHP11 and PHP1 respectively since 2015.

The other board members of the LRTA — the operator and maintenance provider of the LRT-2 — are the Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, Department of Budget and Management, National Economic Development Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, and two appointed directors.

These appointed LRTA directors are Cabrera and lawyer Dimapuno Datu.

On the other hand, Light Rail Manila Corporation (LRMC) Spokesperson Jacqueline Gorospe said the fare adjustments for the LRT-1 are still being finalized and awaiting the approval of regulators.

"LRMC is ready to implement whatever new fares will be approved by our regulators," Gorospe said. (PNA)

SIM registration, walang extension – NTC

MANILA, Philippines — Naniniwala ang National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) na hindi na kailangan pang palawigin ang SIM card registration sa bansa.

Ayon kay NTC Director Imelda Walcien, kumpiyansa silang matatapos ng mga telecommunication companies ang pagrerehistro sa halos 169 milyong SIM cards hanggang sa deadline nito na Abril 26.

Matatandaang alinsunod sa itinatakda ng batas, mayroon lamang 180 araw ang mga telcos upang irehistro ang mga SIM cards o mula noong Disyembre 27, 2022 hanggang sa Abril 26.



Iniulat din ng NTC na hanggang nitong Enero 5, 2023, mayroon nang 14.86 milyong SIM cards ang nakarehistro. Ito ay 9% ng kabuuang 168.98 milyong SIM cards na ginagamit sa bansa.

Sa naturang bilang, nasa 7.21 milyon ang SIM na nairehistro ng Smart Communications Inc., nasa 6.39 milyon naman ang nairehistro ng Globe Telecoms habang nasa 1.26 milyon ang

Dito Telecommunity Corp..

Ani Walcien, sa bilang na ito, inaasahan nilang makukumpleto ang SIM card registration sa takdang panahon.

Gayunman, kung ma-bigo aniya ang mga telcos na maisagawa ito, maaari namang palawigin ng Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) ang procedure ng 120 araw.



Senate reso vs pakikialam ng China sa West Philippine Sea, ipinadala na kay Pangulong Marcos

MANILA, Philippines — Ipinadala na ng Senado kay Pangulong Bongbong Marcos ang kopya ng resolusyon na tumutuligsa sa panghihimasok at pakikialam ng China sa West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Ayon kay Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri, isinumite nila ang kopya ng resolusyon ng pagkondena sa pambu-bully ng China bago ang ginanap na state visit ng Pangulo sa Beijing.

Sinabi ni Zubiri na ginawa nila ito para maipakita sa Pangulo ang kanilang pagkadismaya o disgusto at para malaman din ng Presidente ang posisyon ng Senado sa isyu sa pagpunta nito sa China.

Idinagdag pa niya na kailangan na may 'good cop, bad cop' at silang mga senador ay handang gumanap na 'bad cop' at handa rin umano silang magbigay ng 'unsolicited advice' sa Pangulo para maingat na maiparating sa China ang saloobin ng bansa.

Nilinaw naman ni Zubiri na hindi inaaway ng Senado ang China ngunit kailangang panindigan ang ilang mga isyu tulad na lamang ng ginawa ng Vietnam na nagpakita na hindi uulong sa China para sa kanilang karapatan sa teritoryo. Matatandaang sa paghaharap ni Pangulong Marcos at Chinese President Xi Jinping sa China, nagkasundo ang dalawang mga lider ng bansa na mag-compromise at humanap ng mga pamamaraan na magiging kapaki-pakinabang sa mga Pilipinong mangingisda.

Bong Go sa Pilipino: Malasakit Centers -lapitan, gamitin

MANILA, Philippines — Ipinaalala ni Senate committee on health and demography chair, Senator Christopher "Bong" Go sa publiko na unahin ang kanilang kalusugan at hinimok niya silang gamitin ang serbisyo ng alinman sa 153 Malasakit Centers na nakakalat sa buong bansa. Ayon kay Go, higit sa pitong milyong Pilipino na sa ngayon ang naserbisyuhan o natulungan ng Malasakit Centers. "Lapitan n'yo lang po ang Malasakit Center. Handang tumulong po 'yan sa ating mga kapwa Pilipino," ani Go. "Basta Pilipino ka, poor and indigent patient ka, qualified ka sa Malasakit Center. Lapitan n'yo lang po ang Malasakit Center diyan po sa inyong lugar at tutulungan po kayo na mabayaran ang inyong billing," idinagdag niya.

Ayon sa DOH, mula nang itatag ito noong 2018, ginawang mas accessible ng Malasakit Centers sa mga mahihirap na Pilipino ang tulong medikal mula sa gobyerno.

Partikular na rito ang Medical Assistance for Indigent Patients Program ng DOH na maaaring ma-avail sa alinmang Malasakit Centers. Ang programa na may kabuuang budget na P50.8 bilyon ay nakatulong na sa 7,481,333 pasyenteng mahihirap. Noong 2022 lamang, mahigit 1.4 milyong pasyenteng benepisyaryo ang nakatanggap ng P14.6 bilyong halaga ng tulong ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng Malasakit Centers program.

Ang Malasakit Center ay isang one-stop shop kung saan ang mga mahihirap na pasyente ay madaling makakuha ng tulong medikal mula sa DSWD, DOH, PhilHealth, at PCSO. "Hindi niyo na kailangan pumila o umikot pa sa iba't ibang opisina para humingi ng tulong pampagamot. Nasa isang kwarto sa loob ng ospital na po. Pera n'yo yan, ibinabalik lang sa inyo sa pamamagitan ng mabilis at maaasahang serbisyo," ayon kay Go.

Gobyerno inaasahan P100/kilong sibuyas 'pagdating ng imports'

MANILA, Philippines — Umaasa ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na bubulusok pababa ang presyo ng sibuyas ngayong nakatakdang dumating ang mga iaangkat ng gobyerno mula ibang bansa — umaabot kasi ito sa halos P600/kilo habang "may problema sa suplay."

Martes nang isapubliko ang utos ng DA — na pinamumunuan ni Marcos Jr. — na maglabas ng import clearances para sa 21,060 metrikong toneladang sibuyas, bagay na dapat dumating na raw bago ang ika-27 ng Enero.

"We are looking at the P100-150 (per kilo) cap," wika ni DA deputy spokesperson Rex Estoperez, Huwebes, sa panayam ng CNN Philippines.

"These are estimates only because we have to get first the final price of the importers and the second is that we have to consider also the cost of production of our farmer."

Disyembre lang nang sumirit pa ang presyo ng sibuyas sa P720/kilo, na nasabay sa 8.1% inflation rate noong buwan na 'yon. Ang mga ibinebentang sibuyas sa bansa ang sinasabing pinakamahal sa buong mundo.

Ani Estoperez, hindi pwedeng dumating ang imported onions nang lagpas sa itinakdang panahon upang "maprotektahan" ang mga lokal na magsasaka. Inaasahan daw kasi ng gobyernong magpi-peak ang anihan sa panahong iyon.

'Wrong timing kayo'

Una nang sinabi ni ACT Teachers Rep. France Castro at ng Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura na "wrong timing" ang importasyon lalo na't Enero hanggang Marso madalas ang harvesting period sa Pilipinas. Maganda raw sanang ginawa ito noong patapos ang 2022 habang 2% pa lang ang nag-aani.

Aniya, paliliitin daw ng imports ang kita ng mga magsasaka lalo na't inaasahang bababa ang mga presyo kapag nagsimula nang mag-ani.

"Kung bumaba yan ng 240 farmgate price, lugi na ang magsasaka. Yung 240 is around, per hectare mga 2400,000 ang makukuha lang nila pero ang puhunan

Solon bats

to create a special coverage for them, specifically when they are covering war zones, conflict-stricken areas, and calamity affected places.

Additionally, journalists on the front lines or those on field assignments are entitled to disability benefits of up to PHP300,000 for total or partial disability, PHP300,000 in death benefit and reimbursement of medical costs of up to PHP200,000 for those needing medical assistance in the performance of their duty.

"It is time that journalists deserve the respect not only for the type of work that they are doing but also in the form of benefits that are long overdue. While some may not enjoy decent wages, it is necessary that journalists enjoy these perks as they have families that rely on them," Villar said. (PNA)



umaabot ng ₱650,000 per hectare so malulugi ang magsasaka," ani Rosendo So, presidente ng SINAG, sa hiwalay na panayam.

Tiniyak naman ni Estoperez na "calibrated" ang importation pagdating sa panahon at dami nito, sapat para masabi ng DA na "hindi ito makaaapekto" sa local harvest.

Mga magsasaka duda

Muling idiniin ng Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) na aaray lang ang farmers at consumers sa planong importasyon lalo na't "mga importer, trader at smugglers" lang daw ang makikinabang dito.

"Importing in the middle of the harvest season is the height of callousness and inutility. Walang suplay shortage sa sibuyas," tugon ni KMP chairperson emeritus Rafael Mariano.

"Hindi importasyon ang solusyon at lalong hindi awtomatikong bababa ang presyo ng sibuyas sa mga palengke pagdating ng imports."

Una na silang sinabing absurdo na nangyayari itong lahat lalo na't bagsak-presyo ang sibuyas, nabubulok at itinatapon dahil hindi mabenta sa dami noong 2021 hanggang maagang yugto ng 2022.

Tinatawagan nila Mariano ang DA at Department of Trade and Industry na mahigpit na ipatupad ang Price Control Act dulot ng mataas na presyo ng bilihan, ito habang nangangako ng malalaking protesta pababain si Marcos Jr. sa pwesto bilang DA secretary.

COMELEC STARTS....

These are the capital Trece Martires City with 29,171 voters, and the municipalities of Amadeo, 29,172; Indang, 46,552; and Tanza, 159,950.

The district has 116 barangays and 75 voting centers.

The special polls will be automated as they will be using vote counting machines (VCMs) numbering 852, including backup machines.

Four aspirants are vying for the position to represent the district in the House of Representatives — Jose Angelito Domingo Aguinaldo, Melencio Loyola De Sagun Jr., Michael Angelo Santos and Crispin Diego Diaz Remulla, who is running under the National Unity Party.

The position was declared vacant after former Representative Jesus Crispin Remulla accepted his appointment by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. as Secretary of Justice. (PNA)

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 4-FC
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE**

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,
-versus-
MARCHI C. MALABANAN married to
LAURICE ELEANE R. MALABANAN,
Mortgagors,

**EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF
REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER
ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118
FC Case No. 17676-22**

x-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by **BDO UNIBANK, INC.,** mortgagee, with principal place of business at BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City, against **MARCHI C. MALABANAN** married to **LAURICE ELEANE R. MALABANAN,** mortgagors, with residence and postal address at Blk 6 Lot 19 Pallas Athena Classique, Brgy. Anabu 2-D, Imus City, Cavite and/or Lot 2390-A, Road, Barrio Malagasang 1st (now Malagasang 1-C), Imus City, Province of Cavite and/or Lot 2240, Road, Barrio Malagasang 1st (now Malagasang 1-C) Imus City, Province of Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of November 16, 2022 amounts to **SEVEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY PESOS AND 87/100 (Php7,336,720.87),** Philippine Currency, including interest and penalties, but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned will sell at public auction on **February 14, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus, Hall of Justice, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following properties with all improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2015019673

"A parcel of land (Lot No. 2390-A of the subd. plan Pls-2875-D, being a portion of Lot No. 2390 of Imus Estate, GLRO Rec. No. 8843), situated in the Bo. of Malagasang 1st, Mun. of Imus, Prov. of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the North, East, and South by Lot No. 2390-B of the subd. plan; and on the West by Lot No. 2240 of Imus Estate. **x x x containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED FOUR (504) SQ. METERS more or less. xxx"**

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2015020571

"Lot No. 2240 of the Imus Estate subdivision province of Cavite, Case No. 8843 of the Court of Land Registration. Bounded on the North, by Lot No. 2239; on the East, by Lot No. 2390; on the South, by Lot No. 2241; and on the West, by Road. **Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED SEVENTY ONE SQ. METERS (371), more or less."**

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **February 21, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said properties and encumbrance therein if any there be.

City of Imus, Cavite, Philippines, November 29, 2022

EMMANUELLE H. FRANCISCO
Sheriff IV

APPROVED

ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

COPY FURNISHED:

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City

MARCHI C. MALABANAN married to
LAURICE ELEANE R. MALABANAN
Blk 6 Lot 19 Pallas Athena Classique,
Brgy. Anabu 2-D, Imus City, Cavite
Lot 2390-A, Road, Barrio Malagasang 1st (now Malagasang 1-C),
Imus City, Province of Cavite
Lot 2240, Road, Barrio Malagasang 1st (now Malagasang 1-C),
Imus City, Province of Cavite

**PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
JANUARY 9, 16 & 23, 2023**

**Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor**
Email: rtc1bcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph
Telephone No. 09273707489

METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY,
Mortgagee,

-versus-
**SPOUSES PASCUAL L. REBARTER, JR.
AND MARY GRACE P. REBARTER,**
Mortgagors.

**Foreclosure No. 2022-234
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure
of Real Estate Mortgage**

x-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, **METROPOLITAN BANK & TRUST COMPANY,** of Metrobank Plaza, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, and against the mortgagors, **SPOUSES PASCUAL L. REBARTER, JR. AND MARY GRACE P. REBARTER** of Blk. 25 Lot 44-45 Morales Street, Lessandra Heighths, Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite, and Blk. 9 Lot 2, Avida Settings Cavite, Phase 2, Brgy. Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of June 15, 2022, amounts to **FIVE MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY THREE PESOS & 03/100 (P5,228,163.03),** Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest and penalty charges, but exclusive of other fees incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on **January 26, 2023 at 10:00 o'clock** in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 167-2016034576

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 2 BLK. 9 OF THE SUB-DIVISION PLAN, PSD-04-215583, BEING A PORTION OF BLOCK 51, PSD-04-191878), SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF MOLINO, MUNICIPALITY OF BACoor, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. **X X X, CONTAINING AN AREA OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR (254) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS."**

"All sealed bid must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date."

"In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **February 2, 2023,** without further notice."

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

City of Bacoor, December 19, 2022.

MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA
OIC-Clerk of Court V

By:
ARTHUR T. SAN MIGUEL
Sheriff

Copy Furnished:
**CORPUZ EJERCITO MACASAET
RIVERA & CORPUZ LAW OFFICES**
16/F Unit 1602 Centerpoint Building, Julia Vargas Avenue
corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center Pasig City

**SPOUSES PASCUAL L. REBARTER, JR.
AND MARY GRACE P. REBARTER**
-Blk. 25 Lot 44-45 Morales Street, Lessandra Heighths,
Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite
-Blk. 9 Lot 2, Avida Settings Cavite, Phase 2,
Brgy. Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

**PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO
December 26, January 2 & 9, 2023**

DFA 'di nagustuhan ang -diplomatic practice ng Ukraine



MANILA, Philippines — Hindi nagustuhan ng Department of Foreign Affairs ang ginawang hakbang ng Ukraine na idaan pa sa embahada ng Malaysia ang isyu tungkol sa pagnanais ni Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky na makausap sa telepono si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Ginawa ni DFA Undersecretary Carlos Sorreta ang pahayag matapos mapaulat ang hirit ni Denys Mykhailiuk, Charges d'Affaires of the Embassy of Ukraine sa Malaysia na noong Hunyo 2022 pa nais ng Ukrainian President na makausap si Marcos.

"If he wants this to happen, we have to discuss it. These things are arranged, talking points are discussed...It's not good diplomatic practice to be doing it the way he did," ani Sorreta sa press briefing sa Malacañang.

Sinabi pa ni Sorreta na hindi nagustuhan ng DFA na ipinangalandakan pa sa media ni Mykhailiuk ang naturang usapin.

Pero nilinaw ni Sorreta na maganda naman ang relasyon ng Pilipinas at Ukraine.

"Ukraine is a country we have a good relationship with but when matters like these are vented by representatives of another government...it's not something we appreciate," ani Sorreta.

Matatandaang binatikos na ni Pangulong Marcos ang Russia sa panggiyera sa Ukraine.

Idinagdag ni Sorreta na dapat mag-iskedyul ang Ukraine ng appointment kay Marcos bago matuloy ang pakikipag-usap sa telepono kay Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky

Nauna nang sinabi ni Mykhailiuk na nakipag-ugnayan ito sa Malacañang "dalawang beses sa isang buwan" mula noong Hunyo noong nakaraang taon, ngunit hindi ito tumugon sa kahilingan ng Ukraine para sa isang dayalogo sa pagitan nina Marcos at Zelensky upang talakayin ang digmaan laban sa Russia.



Inflation lumala lalo sa 8.1% dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng pagkain – PSA

MANILA, Philippines — Walang humpay ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga biling matapos bumilis ang inflation rate sa 8.1% nitong Disyembre 2022 — ito kasabay ng pag-abot ng presyo ng sibuyas sa P720/kilo.

Mas mataas ito kumpara sa 8% nitong Nobyembre, na pinakamabilis na pagtaas ng mga presyo sa Pilipinas sa loob ng 14 taon.

“This is the highest inflation rate reported for 2022 and the highest since November 2008,” wika ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), Huwebes.

“The higher inflation in December 2022 than in November 2022 was primarily brought about by the faster year-on-year growth rate in the index of food and non-alcoholic beverages of 10.2 percent, from 10.0 percent in November 2022.”

Representatives from the ASEAN Business Advisory Council Philippines led by its chair Joey Concepcion paid a courtesy visit to Tourism Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco at the Department of Tourism (DOT) office on Tuesday (January 10). Concepcion is also the founder of the non-profit organization Go Negosyo which advocates for Philippine entrepreneurship.

The industry leaders discussed their collaborative ventures on how the tourism industry will recover from the setbacks of the pandemic in terms of strengthening tourism-related activities for the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

The tourism chief specifically mentioned the importance of boosting the participation of the local government units as well as the regional offices.

Secretary Frasco identified that the capability to market tourist offerings is one of the most important training sessions needed in the tourism industry. She said the Department is open to the expertise of the mentors of Go Negosyo.

Since 2016, the organization has mentored



Sinundan ang presyo ng pagkain at hindi nakalalasing na inumin ng:

restaurants at accommodation services - 7%

pabahay, tubig, kuryente, gas atbp. panggatong - 7%

Malayong-malayo ang December 2022 inflation rate kumpara noong December 2021, na noo’y nasa 3.1% lang.

Ang average inflation rate para sa taong 2022 ay napanatag sa 5.8%, eksakto sa projection ng gobyerno. Matatandaang ni-revise ito ng gobyerno mula sa dating 4.5% hanggang 5.5%.

Ang lahat ng ito ay nangyayari habang hindi pa rin natutupad ang campaign promise ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na ibaba ang presyo ng bigas sa P20/kilo.

Kamakailan lang nang palawakin ng administrasyon ang mga Kadiwa stalls upang makapagdala nang mas murang halaga ng agricultural goods sa publiko gaya ng sibuyas at bigas.

Gayunpaman, karamihan dito ay nasa Luzon habang nananatili ang mataas na presyo sa palengke.



12,100 entrepreneurs, to which Frasco commended the idea of training tourism stakeholders through the 3M (money, market, and mentorship) on wheels and its mall-based mentoring program.

The possible collaborations discussed include the conduct of a Tourism Summit in May, with Cebu as the pioneer location. Similar efforts will be replicated outside the province, according to the tourism chief.

The organization will also offer NegoSem, a mentorship program targeting tourism MSMEs and its workforce, with the DOT in-charge of the areas which will be part of the said program.

Secretary Frasco said the Department is eyeing to train 100,000 tourism workforce across all 16 regions in the country.

Amend procurement law to expedite air system upgrade: DOTr



MANILA – The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Tuesday said amendments must be made to the procurement law to expedite the upgrade of facilities and acquisition of crucial air traffic management equipment to prevent a repeat of the technical glitch that shut down the country’s airspace last New Year’s Day.

During the hearing of the House Committee on Transportation on the technical glitch that resulted in suspended flight operations in several of the country’s major airports, DOTr Secretary Jaime Bautista said around PHP13 billion would be needed to upgrade the country’s air traffic management system.

“We are thankful for the cooperation of other agencies who share similar sentiments about the need to amend existing procurement laws to expedite acquisition of vital technical equipment such as those of CAAP (Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines),” he said.

“We hope to highlight technical and financial support in upgrading the facilities in CAAP, NAIA (Ninoy Aquino International Airport) and other regional airports,” he added.

He said the government is committed to providing a permanent solution to improve the air traffic system, as he apologized to the passengers affected by the technical glitch.

“We sincerely apologize to those who were affected by the technical glitch which affected hundreds of flights and inconvenienced thousands of passengers,” he said. “We hope to convey to our lawmakers and to the riding public that we are committed in coming up with a permanent solution affecting passengers and commuters.”

He said the agency is considering proposals to have a backup system to prevent a repeat of the incident, while an intra-agency investigation is being conducted to determine the source of the glitch.

“We are also addressing reports to set the record straight on what really happened,” he added.

On Jan. 1, the CAAP Air Traffic Management system and its backup failed, stranding hundreds of flights and thousands of passengers at the Ninoy Aquino Inter-

national Airport, Clark, Mactan, Davao and other CAAP-operated airports.

The incident was the result of a loss of power due to a problem in the system’s electrical network and the failure of its uninterruptible power supply that served as the backup power supply.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday apologized for the New Year’s Day air traffic management system glitch at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) that led to numerous flight cancellations affecting around 56,000 passengers.

“I’m sorry. Of course, we have to apologize to our *kababayans* (countrymen), especially those who came from abroad. *Limitado ang kanilang bakasyon. Nawala iyong dalawa o tatlong araw eh* (Their vacation was limited. They lost two or three days because of this),” said Marcos following an inspection at the NAIA Terminal 3.

“*Kaya kami’y humihingi ng inyong paumanhin at gagawin namin ang lahat nang hindi na maulit ito* (We are asking for your understanding and we will do everything so that this will not happen again),” he said.

Marcos conducted an ocular inspection at NAIA Terminal 3 and discussed with transport officials several measures to prevent a repeat of the air traffic system mess.

Among the measures, he said, is the emergency procurement of two uninterruptible power supply units.

He said the government also plans to install a backup system.

“Beyond that, is to have a proper backup system so that if the whole system fails, like it did on January 1, we have a complete system ready to go. *Yun lamang* (However), that might take a little time, but that is something that we will try to fast-track as quickly as possible,” Marcos said.

The President noted that the government has extended assistance to affected passengers.

“*Hindi naman sila basta pinabayaan na lang at* (They were not just simply abandoned and) left them to their own devices. We tried to support them in every way,” he said. (PNA)

Quality teachers' education part of PDP 2023-2028

MANILA – The Marcos government has manifested its commitment to provide quality teacher education with its inclusion in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023-2028.

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian, in a news release on Saturday, said Republic Act No. 11713 or the Excellence in Teacher Education Act, signed into law last year, is highlighted in the PDP 2023-2028.

The law revamps the Teacher Education Council (TEC) by strengthening the coordination among the Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission.

Under the law, the TEC is mandated to set basic requirements for teacher education programs and ensure the coherence of teacher education and training from pre-service to in-service.

Gatchalian, chair of the Committee on Basic Education, said the teacher is the most crucial factor in



education but lamented the poor results of licensure examinations over the past years.

From 2014 to 2022, the average passing rate for Licensure Examination for Teachers in the elementary level was only 34 percent, and 40 percent in the secondary level.

The World Bank's Philippines Public Education Expenditure Tracking and Quantitative Service Delivery Study also showed that elementary and high school teachers in the country are inadequately trained to teach considerable portions of the K to 12 curricula.

With the exception of English elementary teachers, the average elementary

or high school teacher could correctly answer fewer than half of questions on subject content tests.

"Kasabay ng pag-angat natin sa kalidad ng edukasyong natatanggap ng ating mga kabataan, mahalagang tutukan din natin ang edukasyong natatanggap ng ating mga guro. Ngayong meron na tayong batas para sa pag-angat sa kalidad ng teacher education, kailangang tiyakin natin na maipatutupad ito nang maayos dahil ang ating mga mag-aaral ang lubos na makikinabang dito (With the improvement in the quality of education, it is imperative that we also focus on the quality of teaching. Now that we have a law to

address it, we should make sure that it is implemented properly because it will be for the benefit of our students)," Gatchalian said.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. approved the PDP 2023-2028 on Dec. 16, 2022, with the aim to bolster deep economic and social transformation, reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction.

Gatchalian, also the co-chairperson of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), assured that further reforms in the education sector will be pursued.

The EDCOM II, created by Republic Act No. 11899 or the Second Congressional Commission on Education Act, is mandated to conduct a national assessment to evaluate the education sector's performance.

It will recommend transformative, concrete, and targeted reforms to make the Philippines globally competitive in both education and labor markets. (PNA)

Senate sees need to reform, upgrade cultural education



MANILA – There is a need to amend Republic Act 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 to integrate cultural mapping and living traditions from the community level up to the branches of the national government.

Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, chair of the Committee on Culture and the Arts, led a hearing on Tuesday to tackle various bills that seek to strengthen the protection and conservation of the Philippine cultural heritage.

Legarda emphasized the importance of a cultural education program because it will give meaning to what being a Filipino means.

"We believe that this is one step in our goal of harmonizing our diverse identities and building a nation that is rich and proud," she said during the hybrid hearing. "I believe that culture is the narrative that binds us as a nation, and it is something we owe to our ancestors and heroes who built the Philippines as it is today."

Sen. JV Ejercito lamented that Filipinos lack a love of

history, culture and heritage.

"There are significant in strengthening patriotism and our identity as Filipinos," he said.

Dr. Ivan Henares of the University of the Philippines-Asian Institute of Tourism agreed that there is a need to standardize cultural mapping procedures, especially among local government units (LGUs).

"While we have received a lot of cultural maps, there's still a need for more training among our local government units in order to standardize our cultural maps," he said.

Henares noted that the country has no definitive categories or inventories of its cultural assets.

"We don't have an exact number. There has always been a debate as to what the exact number is and I think it is about time that we come up with a definitive list of all our cultural groups, languages, designations for cultural properties both tangible and intangible," he said.

Henares proposed to grant every LGU the right to build their heritage sites or establish intangible heritage practices.

Legarda likewise proposed to include natural heritage to cultural mapping, saying many cultural communities are located in protected areas.

Among the measures tackled were Senate Bills No. 622 by Legarda, No. 117 by Senator Nancy Binay and No. 1094 by Senator Bong Revilla that call for the integration of cultural mapping and cultural heritage education program in the National Cultural Heritage Act; and Legarda's No. 624 to establish an institute for living traditions and No. 242 to institutionalize cultural education in schools. (PNA)

GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19) Ang iyong kutob ang gabay sa pagdedesisyon. Ang bagong social connection ang magpapasaya sa'yo. Ingat ang mga mahahalagang gamit. Kung hindi importante ang lakad, pumirmi lang sa bahay. Lucky number at color for the day ang 39, 52, 32, 45 at sky blue.

AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18) Magkakaroon ng dynamic impact sa madla. Ang iyong negosyo ay kukuha ng atensiyong hinahangad. Lucky number at color for the day ang 55, 26, 37, 48 at yellow belle.

PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20) Dadaloy ang enerhiyang kailangan para malampasan ang hamon ng buhay. Kung mananati-ling tapat, uunlad ka. Lucky number at color for the day ang 19, 43, 38, 25 at vermilion red.

ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19) Ito ang takdang panahon para paangatin ang career. Favorable para mag-apply ng trabaho. Lucky number at color for the day ang 18, 31, 22, 39 at cinnamon brown.

TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20) Huwag mainis sa delay at red tape sa pagpa-follow up. Kailangan makisama ka sa iyong mga boss. Lucky number at color for the day ang 34, 21, 42, 18 at lilac violet.

GEMINI: (May.21-Hun. 21) Tatanggap ka ng helpful feedback mula sa iyong adviser. Patuloy ang paglago ng negosyo. Lucky number at color for the day ang 51, 32, 27, 35 at blueberry.

CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22) Masaya ka na nakaka-tulong sa iyong friend, na tumulong din sa'yo dati. Darating ang iyong kaanak mula sa abroad. Lucky number at color for the day ang 31, 42, 29, 59 at opal white.

LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22) Mag-o-overtime ka ngayon para paangatin ang iyong career. Iwasan ang debate kaugnay sa religion o politics. Lucky number at color for the day ang 43, 37, 14, 21 at meringue green.

VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23) Merong bagong social connection na makakatulong sa pag-angat ng negosyo. Iwasan lang ang sobrang pu-yat. Lucky number at color for the day ang 32, 23, 43, 52 at pink.

LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23) Haharap ka sa livelihood opportunities. Ang bagong friendship ang magpapaangat sa iyong social status. Lucky number at color for the day ang 53, 22, 44, 31 at scarlet red.

SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22) Magiging sensitive ka sa feelings ng kapwa. Isang business negotiation ang magpapalawak ng iyong influence sa madla. Lucky number at color for the day ang 21, 32, 54, 19 at ice blue.

SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21) Mabubuksan mo ang career opportunities. Ang moderate behavior ang magpapalago sa kabuhayan mo. Lucky number at color for the day ang 53, 41, 32, 25 at jade green.

DBM OKs release of P14-B fund for 137K military pensioners

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has released PHP14 billion to finance the monthly pension of more than 137,000 eligible military retirees for the first quarter of 2023.

Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman approved on Thursday the release of a Special Allotment Release Order (SARO) amounting to PHP14,025,351,666 to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), which operates under the supervision of the Department of National Defense.

The SARO and its corresponding Notice of Cash Allocation cover the regular pension requirements of military retirees from January to March this year.

“The fund is chargeable against the Pension and Gratuity Fund (PGF) under the 2023 General Appropriations Act,” the DBM said.

The PGF is one of the several items in the 2023 budget placed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. under conditional implementation to ensure conformity with existing laws, policies, rules and regulations.

Under the 2023 budget, the PGF shall only cover the arrears for the period during which the military veterans were entitled to the total administrative disability pensions, among others.

As of Dec. 31, 2022, about 137,649 pensioners are covered by the monthly pension requirement for the first quarter of 2023,



according to AFP payroll records.

Pangandaman said the timely release of funds for the pension requirements of military retirees signifies the government’s recognition of their critical role in the security and stability of the country.

“It is our responsibility to make sure that our retirees, as well as their families, always get the benefits entitled to them,” the budget chief said.

“*Malaking tulong ‘yan sa kanila. Matagal na panahon silang nagsilbi para tulongan at protektahan ang ating bayan.* (That’s a big help for them. They served for a long time to help and protect our country.) This is the least we can do to show them our sincerest gratitude and respect,” she added. (PNA)

PAHAYAGAN NG
Kabitenyo
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RP/Japan collab for market driven vegetable sector

Department of Agriculture (DA) Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Chief Representative to the Philippines Sakamoto Takema signed on December 23, 2022 the Minutes of the Meeting to Amend the Records of Discussion for the technical cooperation project of DA and JICA on Market Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MVC2).

frastructures and irrigation systems.

He added that as JICA recognizes the importance of addressing the development needs in other aspects of the food value chain.

“This technical cooperation is a testament to this move, as JICA considers that this market-oriented approach is also essential to to address the issues related to income generation, job creation and disparity mitigation among others,” he said.

Sakamoto added that the signing is a good Christmas gift to the Philippines.

“We envision our project to provide solutions to the pressing issues on food value chain, and eventually contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of Filipino farmers,” he said.

The signing was witnessed by Bureau of Plant Industry OIC-Director Glenn Panganiban, Field Operations Services OIC-Director U-Nichols Manalo, Chief of Special Project Coordination and Management Division Angelita Martir, JICA Senior Representative Shimizu Mikako, and First Secretary for Agriculture of the Embassy of Japan Jumpei Tachikawa.



The project, which commenced in early 2022, aims to strengthen vegetable value chain models in selected municipalities of Benguet and Quezon provinces, as well as in Metro Manila.

The signed minutes of meeting contained modifications, including an updated project framework based on the detailed planning survey conducted last August to September, as well as pilot projects for implementation.

According to Panganiban, the MVC2 project will develop inclusive business models that will contribute to increasing the income of vegetable farmers in the country.

Aligned with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. the project will focus on rebuilding value chains in order to achieve food security and sufficiency.

“With the increasing food prices and inefficiencies in the food supply chain due to high cost of logistics and food distribution, we need to find ways by which we can lower the production costs, deliver goods to the markets, and make it ore affordable to the consuming public,” Panganiban said.

For his part, Sakamoto explained that the long withstanding cooperation for agriculture between the Philippines and JICA has focused on the production side of value chain, which includes the establishment of agricultural in-

mercury drug
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