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Maynilad to invest P3.2B for treatment plants in Cavite

Imus City kicks off 2023 National Arts Month celebration

Imus City Tourism and Development Office, headed by Dr. Emanuel R. Paredes launched the 2023 National Arts Month celebration in the City of Imus on February 3, 2023. It will showcase the talents, the artworks and crafts of Imus local artists, with food bazaar and performances. The month-long Love ARTfair formally opened with a ribbon-cut-

>> P3



The Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (Maynilad) is spending some PHP3.2 billion for the construction of four modular treatment plants (ModTPs) which will serve its customers in Cavite province.

>> P2

"Cavite is the farthest point of our concession area so there are portions that do not yet receive 24-hour water supply. The new ModTPs will draw wa-

Public warned: Beware of dubious messages online

Eight "presidential appointees" rushed to the Malacañang Palace for their supposed oath-taking on Friday, January 27, after receiving an invitation and paying huge sums of money to secure positions in the government. According to the victims, a certain Undersecretary Eduardo Diokno and Assistant Secretary Johnson See, both from the Office of the Executive Secretary, instruct-

>> P2

GM Laylo captures National Open chess title

Grandmaster Darwin Laylo of Mandaluyong City ruled the Philippine National Chess Championships at the Malolos City Hall on Monday.

Laylo held International Master Daniel Quizon of Dasmariñas, Cavite to a draw in the ninth and final round of the tournament known as the Battle of the Grandmasters.

Laylo, a member of the Philippine Army chess team under Special Service Center (SSC) Director Col. John Oliver F. Gabun, had a total of 6.5 points (four wins and five draws) and bagged the PHP100,000 top purse.

"I am happy for winning the Philippine National Chess Championship Grand Finals. I wish that my luck would remain the same in my next tournament," said

>> P3

PGCEA officers formally sworn into office



In a solemn but historic induction ceremony, the first set of elected officers of the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees Association (PGCEA) for 2023 to 2025 formally took their oath officiated by Provincial Administrator for Internal Affairs, Mr. Renato A. Abutan, on January 31, 2023 at the Ceremonial Hall, Provincial Capitol Building, Trece Martires City.

PGCEA officers are composed of Ms. Michelle S. Osorio - President, Mr.

>> P3

Awardees recognized at ATI's 36th Founding anniversary



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) - The Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON held its 36th Founding Anniversary on January 31, 2023 at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Compound, Barangay Lapidario with officers and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, the city government of

>> P3

Team PH chef de mission to Paris Olympics named



Cavite Governor Jonvic Remulla will serve as chef de mission (CDM) of Team Philippines to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, Philippine Olympic Committee President Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino announced on Tues-

>> P3

Ilang Kaganapan sa CDA at BFAR

Nakikiusap ngayon ang pamunuan ng CDA - Public Utilities Cluster partikular si Assistant Secretary Abad Santos na isama sa mga pag-uusap ang liderato ng bawat tansport cooperative kaugnay sa pataas na pataas na presyo ng mga unit ng modernized jeep.

sa panayam ko sa kanya, mula aniya sa isa punto anim na milyong piso bawat unit, ngayon ito ay halos tatlong milyong piso na. nakiusap din ito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na hayaang makapili ng kani-kanilang unit dahil iba-iba ang unit na iniaalok ng iba't ibang supplier na may kani-kaniya ding presyo na iniaalok sa mga transport cooperatives.

sinang-ayunan naman ito ni Dr. Estrellita Baustista, aniya, halos lahat ng transaksyon na gaya nito at laging may sobra na labis din ang nagiging epekto sa mga end users... sabi ni Bautista, kadalasan nasa mga L-G-U ang desisyon sa mga ganitong usapin at ang mga supplier naman ay sumusunod lamang sa kung ano ang gusto ng kanilang mga end users.

kung maaari aniya, buong Pilipinas, isang presyo na laang para hindi mahirapan ang mga nais pumasok sa Jeepney Modernization Program...

kapuwa naniniwala ang mga ito na may sabwatan sa isang bahagi ng usapin kung kaya suhesityon din nila na panghimasukan na ito ng Senado upang malaman kung saang parte ng usapin nagkakaroon ng sabwatan at aling ahensiya ng pamahalaan ang responsible dito.

Pinondohan ng pamahalaan ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ng halagang 6.956 bilyong piso para sa mga programa at proyekto nito ngayong 2023.

sa ilalim ng nasabing pondo, magpapatuloy ang mga programa ng BFAR na kinabibilangan ng Fisheries Development Program, Fisheries Regulatory and Law Enforcement Program, Fisheries Extension Program at Fisheries Policy Program.

kabilang din sa proyektong ito ay ang plano nilang pagbuhay sa mga inland bodies of water sa bansa na kinabibilangan ng mga ilog, batis, bukal, lawa at iba pa.

ayon kay Nasario Briguerra, Hepe ng Information Office ng BFAR, sa ilalim ng programang balik sigla sa mga ilog at lawa, muli nilang payayabunin ang mga likas yaman sa mga anyong tubig tabang gaya ng paglilinis, paglalagay ng mga katutubong uri ng mga isdang tabang tulad ng biya, kanduli, hito, ayungin, martiniko maging ang isdang tabios na sa Buhi, Camarines Sur matatagpuan.

liban sa paglalagay ng mga semilya ng mga netibong isda sa mga tubig tabang, patuloy din ang kanilang livelihood assistance sa mga mamamayan sa paligid ng naturang mga katubigan.

sabi pa ni Briguerra, sisimulan din ng BFAR ngayong Hulyo ang Philippine Fisheries Postal Resiliency Project mula sa World Bank at sesentro din sa livelihood assistance para sa mga piling lalawigan sa bansa, kabilang din dito ang S-A-

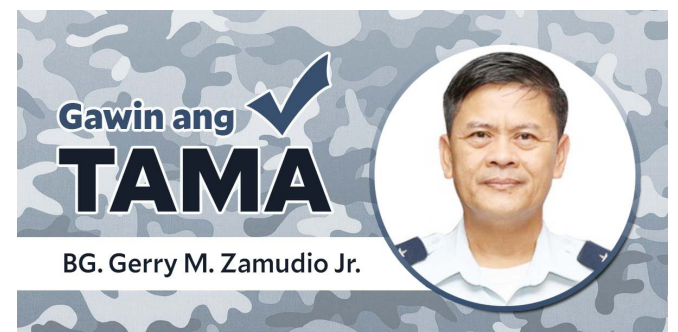
A-D o Special Area for Agricultural Development na kapuwa magpapalakas sa mga regular program ng pamahalaan para sa sektor ng pangisdaan.

Nakatakang mamahagi ang Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources ng 271.6 - milyong semilya ng isda ngayong taon ayon kay BFAR Information Office Chief, Nasario Briguerra.

Sabi ni Briguerra sa panayam ng UP UP Pilipinas... sa ilalim ng National Brewstock Development Program, sisiguruhin ng pamahalaan na may sapat na bilang ng mga inahing isda na siyang pagkukunan ng mga semilyang ipamamahagi.

kabilang sa mga ito ay mga inahing bangus, tilapia at iba pang klase ng isda na inaalagaan, na siyang nais palaguin ng gobyerno sa ilalim ng naturang programa.

katuwang ng BFAR ang kanilang mga colaborators na South East Asian Fisheries Development Center o SEAFDEC at ang mga aktibong private sektor na naglungsad ng proyektong hatchery tulungan na nagsisilbing network system ng mga fishfarmers na siyang communication systems nila para malaman kung saan may available na mga fingerlings kung kaya nagiging madali ang pagkuha ng mga semilya ng isda saan man dito sa bansa.



BG. Gerry M. Zamudio Jr.

samantala, maaaring mag-aral ang mga interesadong indibiduwal o grupo sa larangan ng fish farming sa National Fisheries Technology Center ng B-F-A-R... ito ay isang pasilidad kung saan maaaring pag-aralan ang iba't ibang teknolohiya sa larangan ng pangisdaan kabilang ang National Fisheries Technology Center sa Muñoz Nueva Ecija... dito ay matutunan ang lahat ng teknolohiya tungkol sa pagpapalago ng mga isdang tabang, meron din silang National Brackish Water Fisheries Technology Center na matatagpuan sa Pagbilao, Quezon na nagtuturo ng fish farming sa katubigang alat-tabang o brackish water... dito ay matutunan ang pag-aalaga at pagpapalago ng mga fishery products gaya ng sugpo at bangus.

librea ang malaking bahagi ng training na ito samantalang may ilang bahagi na kailangang sagutin ng mga participants... para sa mga karagdagan detalye at impormasyon, makipag-ugnayan lamang sa DA-BFAR sa inyong lugar.

59th death anniversary of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo



General Emilio Aguinaldo's 59th death anniversary was commemorated through a holy mass and wreath laying ceremony at his tomb on February 6, 2023 at the Aguinaldo Shrine, Kawit, Cavite.

The ceremony was led by 1st District Representative Jolo Revilla, Board Member Davey Chua on behalf of Governor Jonvic Remulla, Mr. Alvin Alcidi, Deputy Executive Director of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, local officials of the municipality of Kawit, and kin of Gen. Aguinaldo headed by Ms. Emilie A. Pulido.---PICAD

Public warned: beware of dubious << P1

ed them to proceed to the Palace for their supposed swearing-in rites to be administered by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. However, Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Hubert Guevara said there was no oath-taking ceremony scheduled on Friday afternoon, and the "appointees" obviously

fell victim to fraudsters. The positions that they are supposed to assume include ambassadorial post to The Netherlands, Department of Transportation assistant secretary, Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) board member, Clark International Airport Corporation (CIAC)

president and chief executive officer (CEO), Early Childhood Care and Development Council executive director and vice chairperson, Clark Development Corp. (CDC) director and Port of Batangas manager. The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) is probing the incident and the Palace appealed to the

victims to cooperate with authorities. The public is also warned not to entertain dubious individuals communicating with them online or through correspondence offering positions in the government using the names of government officials. Verify the source and immediately report to the authority.

Maynilad to invest P3.2B for << P1

ter from adjacent dams and serve as a dedicated supply source that can lengthen supply availability for these underserved areas," said Maynilad chief operating officer Randolph Estrellado in a statement Monday.

The four ModTPs, which will be located in the cities of Bacoor and Imus in Cavite, will have combined water output of 47 million liters per day (MLD).

The volume is enough to supply the daily needs of some 200,000 custom-

ers in the area. "Maynilad's PHP3.2-billion investment will also cover the cost of pipelines that will distribute the treated water to nearby areas," Estrellado added.

The new facilities will use "ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis" technology to treat raw water from nearby dams and rivers, and are targeted for completion between 2023 and 2024.

The Bacoor City ModTPs will be drawing water from the Molino and Ligas dams that are fed by the

Zapote River. On the other hand, the ModTPs in Imus City will source water from the nearby Julian and Imus rivers.

The ModTPs are among the small-scale treatment plants that form part of Maynilad's service enhancement program, which aims to address water security challenges.

The water firm is the largest private water concessionaire in the country in terms of customer base.

It is the concessionaire

of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System for the West Zone of the Greater Manila Area, which is composed of the cities of Manila (certain portions), Quezon City (certain portions), Makati (west of South Super Highway), Caloocan, Pasay, Parañaque, Las Piñas, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas and Malabon, all in Metro Manila; the cities of Cavite, Bacoor and Imus; and the towns of Kawit, Noveleta and Rosario, all in Cavite province. (PNA)

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Covid-19 slows down NPA recruitment: Army

The Philippine Army on Thursday said recruitment by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) could intensify now that movement restrictions due to the health pandemic have eased up.

Philippine Army Visayas commander, Lt. Gen. Benedict Arevalo, said they are now assessing and analyzing the effects of the pandemic in terms of the conduct of recruitment. "We feel that Covid-19 also was able to slow down their recruitment," he said. Arevalo said roughly the strength of the CPP-NPA in Panay island is between 200 to 250.

Apart from the pandemic, Arevalo also credited the efforts of the Regional Task Force to End Local Armed Conflict (RTF-ELCAC) in the drop of the CPP-NPA recruitment.

With the slowdown in recruitment, the PA Visayas commander ordered his men to fast-track the neutralization of the armed component of the communist movement.

"Let us not wait for our enemy to die of old age, let us not wait for them to just fade away. We really have to exert pressure on our operations and be able to convince them to go back to the folds of the law if not be captured," he said.

Visayas-wide there are nine guerrilla fronts; four are within the area of responsibility of the 3rd Infantry Division (3ID), where the 301st Brigade belongs, and five are in the 8th Division in Samar and Leyte provinces, Arevalo added.

The four guerrilla fronts under the 3ID have been weakened and longer capable of launching camp and detachments attacks. With a strength between 200 to 250, they are into target liquidation and assassination such as in some parts of Negros island, he said.

Arevalo also attributed the weakening of the rebel group to the military operations in the municipality of Miagao, Iloilo province back in 2021 when at least nine NPA members including a high official of the Southern Front (SF) operational command were killed.

Apart from anti-insurgency operations, Arevalo also reminded the government troops not to let their humanitarian assistance and disaster response, especially since Visayas is

prone to disasters. Arevalo was in Iloilo to preside over the change of command ceremony between outgoing 301st Infantry Brigade commander B/Gen. Marion R. Sison and acting commander Col. Michael G. Samson at Camp Adriano D. Hernandez in Dingle. Col. Samson, in an interview, said he will try to assess and evaluate areas that should be improved as he expressed confidence that his predecessor has done a lot of accomplishments.

Sison, meanwhile, will assume as assistant commander of the 3ID based in Jamindan town, Capiz province. (PNA)



Awardees recognized at ATI's << P1

Trece Martires, and partner agencies in attendance.

The event themed "ATI LEADS: Innovate, Transform, Empower Embracing Extension Modernization for a Progressive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries," gave tribute to the employees and staff who were recognized by the DA-ATI Central Office for their dedication to the agency.

"Ngayong araw, hindi lamang ang pagkakatag ng DA-ATI ang ating ipinagdiriwang dahil pagkilala rin ito sa mga makukulay na tagumpay ng iba't ibang ahensya at mga private extension partners na patuloy naming kasangga at kaagapay sa pagpapaunlad ng kabuhatan ng ating mga magsasaka at mangangisda. Ang buong DA-ATI ay kaisa ninyo sa selebrasyon na ito!"

said Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, Center Director of DA-ATI CALABARZON in his speech. This year's Loyalty Awardees and their years in service are: Arnold Venzon, Renz Rocas, Jeffrey Mapalo – Five years; Edwin Cerrado – seven years; Lovely Ravelo – eight years; Mervin Vitangcol – nine years; Renato Ferrer – ten years; Ma. Isabel Lim – twelve years; and Gregorio Flores – twenty years in service.

The agency also recognized Ms. Soledad E. Leal for the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Program, and Mr. Roy Roger Victoria for the Seed of Hope Program.

Meanwhile, three (3) Urban Agriculture (UA) Seminar Series were conducted namely: "Producing Organic Fertilizers" by Mr. Mervin B. Vitangcol; "Natu-

ral Pesticides" by Ms. Janine L. Cailo; and "Gardening Using Water" by Engr. John M. Mendoza which were broadcasted live on DA-ATI CALABARZON's official Facebook page. As part of the celebration, KADIWA Retail Selling was conducted in collaboration with the DA-Agriculture and Marketing Assistance Division (DA-AMAD) led by Ms. Editha M. Salvosa with five (5) Farmers' Cooperative and Association (FCAs) from different parts of the province participating to showcase and sell their products. The said FCAs are the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Pacheco Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Yakap at Halik MPC-Cavite, Daine 1 & 2 Farmers Association Inc. and Bublod Unlad Multi-Purpose Cooperative. (RBF/PIA-Cavite)

PGCEA officers formally sworn << P1

Joseph M. Avecilla – Vice President, Ms. Angelica Joy A. Balanquit – Secretary, Mr. Paul Mark M. Feranil – Assistant Secretary, Ms. Myrachel P. Cuadra – Treasurer, Ms. Karen Dela Cruz – Assistant Treasurer, Ms. Josefina M. Ayon – Auditor, and Mr. Walter M. Pereña and Ms. Genevieve B. Rogado – Public Relations Officers.

The historic event was attended by Atty. Annaliza Mercene-Pulmones, Provincial Legal Officer who also served as one of the advisers of the organization during its inception. In her welcome message, she expressed her appreciation to everyone who has been instrumental in the successful creation of PGCEA for the benefit and welfare of PGC employees,

especially to PA Renato Abutan who has been very supportive of the organization. After administering the oath of office of the elected officers, Provincial Administrator Abutan then thanked all the interim officers for their hard work and dedication in ensuring that all the tasks are carried out, from employee orientation up to the conduct of an orderly election. He also congratulated the newly-elected officers and challenged them to take the responsibility to heart as the oath-taking is only the beginning of more work ahead. He reiterated his full support to the organization saying that he was immensely delighted as it was his dream to organize an employee association in the Provincial Govern-

ment of Cavite. Ms. Maribel S. Bernal, PGCEA Interim President, led the turnover activity to the new officers by handing over the ceremonial key, which symbolizes the opening of new roles and responsibility, the gavel, which connotes authority and order, and the constitutional by-laws that serves as the guide of PGCEA. She also extended her heartfelt gratitude to her co-interim officers and the members of the ELECOM including the volunteers for their unparalleled support and commitment.

PGCEA President-elect Michelle S. Osorio, delivered her acceptance speech wherein she affirmed their gratefulness for the opportunity entrusted to them by their fellow PGC employees.

She then asked for their continued support and guidance as the new PGCEA officers embark on their journey. She left the message "Simulan na natin itong challenge na ito, itong trabahong ito at kakayanin natin ito sa tulong ng ating mga co-member," as she ended her speech.

In closing, Ms. Maria Fe Satsatin, head of Human Resource and Management Office, and also one of PGCEA's advisers, wished that the establishment of the employees' organization serves as guide and bond to unite the PGC employees. Thereupon, PA Abutan extended his generosity by donating seed fund for the operation of the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees Association (PGCEA).

GM Laylo captures national << P1

the 42-year-old Laylo, who is supported by Dasmariñas Mayor Jenny Barzaga, Rep., Elpidio "Pidi" Barzaga Jr., Atty. Nikki De Vega and lawyer Krisanto Karlo Nicolas.

Laylo, who won his first national title in 2006, will be playing with the Magic Mandaluyong Tigers at the Pro-

fessional Chess Association of the Philippines (PCAP) tournament on Feb. 18.

De Vega, team owner of the Magic Mandaluyong Tigers congratulated Laylo for his victory, hoping he would bring more honor for the country.

IM Jan Emmanuel Gar-

cia also had a draw with WGM Janelle Mae Frayna to finish second with 6.0 points. The Ateneo de Manila University chess team program manager had three wins and six draws and pocketed PHP80,000.

IM Michael Concio Jr. of Dasmariñas, Cavite placed

third with 5.5 points followed by IM Paulo Bersamina of Pasay City (5.0 points); Frayna, NM Mark Jay Bacojo and Quizon (4.5 points); GM John Paul Gomez and GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. (3.5 points); and WIM Marie Antoinette San Diego (1.5 points). (PNA)

Imus city kicks off 2023 << P1

ting ceremony led by City Tourism Officer Dr. Paredes and head of the Provincial Tourism and Cultural Affairs Office, Ms. Rozelle Sangalang, together with other local officials. In the opening program, guests and participants were welcomed by Dr. Paredes. Meanwhile, Mr. Jose Rafael C. Alarcon, Supervis-

ing Administrative Officer of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, revealed that it was the first time the City celebrated National Arts Month since its declaration in 1991. He emphasized that it gives a chance for the local artists to gain recognition not only in their city but also across the province of Cavite. Likewise,

he reiterated the city government's support especially for the new generation of artists, in showcasing their skills and creativity. Ms. Sangalang expressed her gratitude to the City Government of Imus and City Tourism Office for hosting the Arts Month celebration and noted that "arts and culture are some-

thing unique in a locality, in a city or municipality, in a community, in a province." Hence, their office greatly appreciates LGUs' efforts and initiatives to preserve, promote, and develop culture and arts in the communities. City Councilor Jelyn Maliksi was also present in the event to support the Imus local artists.

Team PH Chef << P1

day. Remulla, the honorary chairperson of the rowing association, replaced Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) president Al Panlilio, who begged off due to leadership responsibilities and obligations at the SBP, PLDT and Smart.

"We understand Al's [Panlilio] situation so we decided to appoint a new CDM for the Paris Olympics, somebody who has a great passion for sports, a true sportsman, somebody who has leadership, a workhorse and that's Governor Jonvic [Remulla]," Tolentino said in a news release. Remulla, 55, is the team manager of the University of the Philippines Fighting Maroons, who won the men's basketball title in the UAAP last year.

"The POC wanted a dedicated sportsman or personality who could live up to the responsibilities and obligations as CDM to Paris," said Tolentino, who noted the significance of Paris to the Philippines, which is celebrating its 100th year of participation in the Olympics in the same venue in 1924.

The POC chief said the

appointment of a CDM who is not a national sports association president has its precedent, citing the role given to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo when the Philippines hosted the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

"He [Remulla] accepted the position without hesitation and he's really happy and excited about his role as Paris Olympics CDM. We, at the POC, are confident that he can get the job done.. he's a true sportsman and very dedicated to helping athletes," Tolentino said.

Tolentino also announced the appointment of wrestling association president Alvin Aguilar as CDM to the World Combat Games and rugby federation head Ada Milby to the 2024 Winter Olympic Youth Games.

Both the Paris Olympics (July 26 to Aug. 11) and the Winter Olympic Youth Games (Jan. 19 to Feb. 1) in Gangwon Province, South Korea are scheduled next year, while the World Combat Games will be held from Oct. 21 to 30 this year in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. (PNA)



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New measures needed to speed up projects, says DPWH

The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in Eastern Visayas has called on contractors to adopt new measures that would fast-track the construction of infrastructure projects despite frequent rains.

DPWH Eastern Visayas regional director Edgar Tabacon noticed that contractors in the region are heavily dependent on favorable weather to fast-track their civil works.

"It's time to think out of the box. What if there will be rain for one year? Would they stop their construction activities? Tabacon said in an interview with reporters Thursday.

Frequent heavy rainfall, especially in Samar provinces is the most common reason why several projects are delayed despite the availability of funds.

"Even if the workers are already there, some contractors must suspend work for several days due to rains. I hope they will acquire new equipment to continue their work regardless of the weather condition," Tabacon added.

Among the delayed projects is the Korean-funded PHP1.12-billion Samar Pacific Coastal Road project in Northern Samar province.

The DPWH and Korean embassy broke the ground for the road and bridges project in May 2018 and the original completion was March 12, 2020.

The contractor failed to meet the revised completion target of Dec. 31, 2021, prompting them to seek a second extension to June 30, 2022, and another extension to Dec. 31, 2022.

As of Jan. 25, 2023, the project is just 81.30 percent complete after nearly five years of construction, according to the DPWH.

In its September 2022 report, the DPWH said about 29 typhoons affected the project since it started in May 2018, hindering the work of its contractor IISUNG Construction Co., Ltd. of Korea, and local partner Pacific Concrete Products.

In 2022, the DPWH has implemented 1,246 projects with a budget of PHP43 billion. The regional office is still waiting for the submission of accomplishment reports from its district offices in six provinces.

For this year, the agency is tasked to carry out 1,398 projects with a budget of PHP5.22 billion. (PNA)



RCEF trainers undergo enhancement training



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON conducted an enhancement training for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Farmer Field School (RCEF-FFS) trainers last February 1 to 5 at the ATI Training Center in Trece Martires City.

Around twenty-five (25) trainers from the provinces of Laguna and Quezon participated in the five-day enhancement training entitled "Refresher Course on Rice Integrated Pest and Nutrient Management for RCEF-FFS Implementers." Mr. Darren B. Bayna, Project Officer of the training explained that the

training aimed to further develop the skills and give additional knowledge in Pest Management and Rice Nutrients of the participants.

Experts from the Provincial Agriculture Office of Cavite, Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) IV and the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) served as speakers to training with discussion on topics such as Key check 5 or Nutrient Management, and Key check 7 or Pest Management.

In addition, there was also a discussion on the Balance Fertilization Strategy (BFS) Program.

Ms. Agatha Cristie Gonzales from Sweet Nature Farms in

Sta. Maria, Laguna said, "This training is a great help to someone like me as a trainer because I have gained a lot of knowledge that will help our fellow farmers more. My heartfelt thanks to DA-ATI Calabarzon under the leadership of our Center Director, Dr. Rolando Maningas, and the whole group for being a part of this program. I promise to share all of this as much as possible."

In closing, DA-ATI CALABARZON Center Director, Dr. Rolando V. Maningas expressed his gratitude to the participants, and to the implementing agencies of the RCEF program. (RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from DA-ATI Calabarzon)

Naic LGU kicks off Bio Remediation Project

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The local government of Naic thru the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO) Naic held the Bokashi or better known as Mabuhay Balls which are made of fermented clay soil and minerals that contain millions of micro-organisms.

This innovative method uses Bokashi or better known as Mabuhay Balls which are made of fermented clay soil and minerals that contain millions of micro-organisms that will revive rivers to make them conducive for all kinds of fish and marine life. It also helps to multiply plankton which is a natural food of fish as well as to remove the unpleasant smell of the water.

On his official FB page, Mayor Dualan was quoted as saying that the purpose of this program is "to revive and beautify the rivers and creeks in the locality with the help of innovative methods to address problems concerning the environment."

The LGU officials and other concerned agency representatives are optimistic about the success of the program and appeal to the residents to be heroic, disciplined, and an environmentalist. (RBF/PIA-Cavite with reports from the Municipality of Naic)



No Premium Increase in 2023, PhilHealth Reiterates

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on Thursday reiterated its commitment to provide financial relief to Filipinos in light of socio-economic challenges brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic as it recognized the need to review the current contribution schedule to make it more affordable to many of its Direct Contributors.

PhilHealth had previously affirmed compliance with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s earlier directive to suspend this year's scheduled premium rate of 4.5% and income ceiling of P90,000.

"Siniseguro po ng PhilHealth na patuloy ninyo kaming magiging kabalikat sa pagsulong ng kalusugan para sa lahat. Ngayong taon at sa mga susunod pa ay makakaasa po kayo sa patuloy na pagbuti at paglawak ng mga benepisyo para sa mamamayang Filipino," PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel R. Ledesma, Jr. said.

Ledesma remarked that with the suspension in this year's increase, the premium rate remains

at 4% with income ceiling of P80,000. "A separate Advisory will be issued to provide the guidelines implementing the said directive particularly for the direct contributors," he said.

Meanwhile, during the Senate Committee on Health hearing on amending Republic Act No.11223 or the UHC Act, specifically on premium contributions, PhilHealth said it agrees to the proposals of setting fixed premium rates for some member categories especially in view of the guiding principles of the National Health Insurance Program on equity and social solidarity – particularly on risk sharing among all income groups.

"These are just some of the provisions that PhilHealth is presently reviewing in support of improving the law," Ledesma said. "Regardless, we would like to assure the public that PhilHealth wants nothing but to serve the Filipino with benefits that are of quality, responsive, and equitable in support of achieving Universal Health Care in this country. We continue to call for the support in Congress and enjoin everyone to help PhilHealth be the program that we aim and envision it to be," the PhilHealth chief added. ###