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November 7 is,
National Food Fortification Day

Dahil sa Food Fortification Law, mas madali na makumpleto ang micronutrients na kailangan mo araw-araw. Para masigurong pati macronutrients ay kumpleto't wasto, sundin ang Pinggang Pinoy!



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Sapat ba ang bitamina sa kinakain mo? Kailangan natin ng panlaban sa micronutrient deficiency! Mandato ng Food Fortification Law ang pagdagdag ng bitamina sa iba't ibang produkto tulad ng kanin, asin, asukal, at harina. Basahin ang nutrition labels para sa dagdag na proteksyon laban sa micronutrient deficiency. Ang mga produktong may dagdag na bitamina ay dapat na kasama sa pagkain mo at ng pamilya dahil Bawat Buhay Mahalaga!



BOC CEBU CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL DRUG TESTING TO UPHOLD A SAFE AND DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

PUBLIKO REPORTORIAL TEAM

Cebu City, Philippines-In a continued effort to foster a secure and healthy working environment, the Bureau of Customs (BOC) Port of Cebu, in partnership with the Philippine National Police (PNP) Region 7, successfully conducted a randomized drug testing on October 23, 2024. This initiative is part of the Bureau's broader commitment to maintain a drug-free workplace, ensuring the safety and well-being of its employees. *(turn to page 4)*

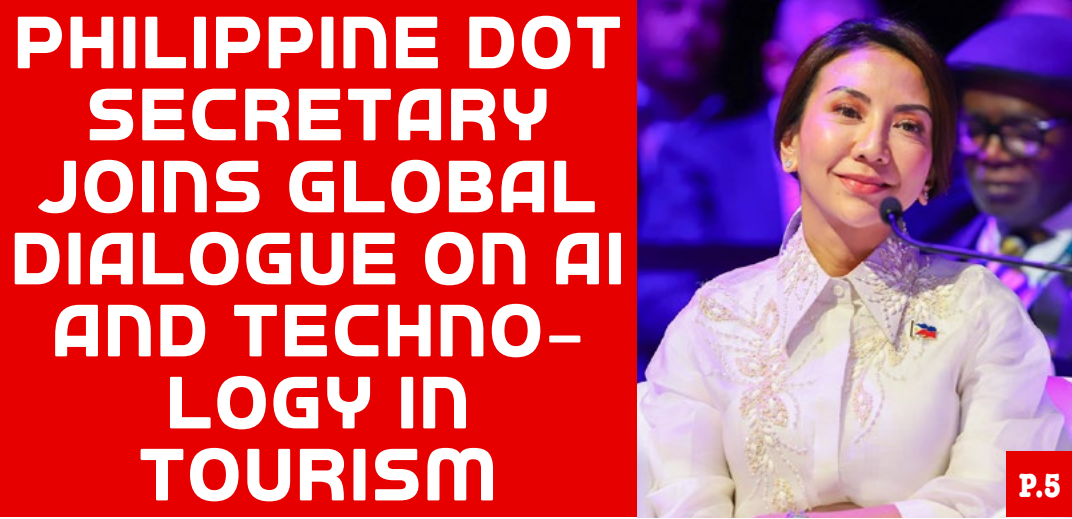
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ACCEPTING PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES

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EDITORIAL

PRIORITIZING CHILD STUNTING PREVENTION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

The growing issue of child stunting in the Philippines remains one of the most critical challenges to our nation's health and future prosperity. Senator Alan Peter Cayetano's call during the recent Senate budget debate to prioritize stunting prevention in the 2025 national budget is not only timely but essential. Stunting, caused by chronic malnutrition in the early years of life, has lasting consequences, affecting children's growth, cognitive development, and, ultimately, their potential to contribute

to society.

Cayetano's argument that addressing stunting will reduce future healthcare costs is sound. If we invest in nutrition and early childhood development today, we can save far more in the long run by preventing lifelong health issues and fostering a stronger, more productive workforce. The senator rightly points out that stunting affects not just individual children but the nation as a whole, as it holds back economic and social progress.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) must heed this call by allocating

sufficient funds for nutrition and health programs aimed at preventing stunting. The focus should be on integrating stunting prevention into the national development agenda, ensuring that it is addressed across all government departments.

As a nation, we cannot afford to overlook the health and well-being of our children. By prioritizing the fight against stunting, we are investing in the future of the Philippines—one where our children can thrive, our communities prosper, and our economy grows. The time to act is now.

ture where technology, adaptability, and resilience are crucial.

The Philippines has taken meaningful steps to promote inclusive and fair workplaces, evidenced by its recent ratification of two important International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions. Convention 190, which targets violence and harassment in the workplace, and Convention 81, focusing on labor inspection, are critical in reinforcing workplace safety and workers' rights. These conventions aim to secure a work environment where every individual can feel safe and supported, a stance that reflects a profound respect for worker dignity. **(turn to page 5)**



PHILIPPINES' DEMOGRAPHIC SWEET SPOT: A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY, IF MANAGED WELL

Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto's announcement of the Philippines' dropping unemployment rate—now at a historic low of 3.7% in September—is undeniably positive. This achievement, paired with the country's uniquely youthful population, places the Philippines in

an ideal position to fuel long-term economic growth and strengthen its position within the ASEAN region. But beyond the optimistic numbers lies a critical question: how do we make sure that this "golden moment" truly benefits the future of the nation?

With a median age of just 25, the Philippines boasts the youngest demographic profile among ASEAN-6 countries. This youthful population, which translates to 49.87 million employed Filipinos as of September 2024, represents an unprecedented opportunity. Every additional person in the labor market adds to our productive capacity, drives consumption, and enhances innovation. However, harnessing this "demographic dividend" isn't just about keeping unemployment numbers down; it's about ensuring that jobs are meaningful, stable, and contribute to the skill development needed for an evolving economy. **(turn to page 6)**



PHILIPPINES' COMMITMENT TO DECENT WORK AND INNOVATION AT THE ASEAN+3 LABOR MINISTERS' MEETING

At the recent ASEAN Plus Three Labour Ministers' Meeting in Singapore, the Philippines, led by Labor Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma, underscored its commitment to strengthening resilience, innovation,

and inclusivity within its labor sector. As labor markets adapt to a rapidly changing landscape, the Philippines is pushing for policies and reforms that not only protect workers but also prepare them for a fu-



CONQUERING OUR GIANTS: LEARNING AND APPLYING LESSONS ON DEFEATING STRUGGLES FROM THE LIFE OF DAVID

MANY OF US TODAY ARE FACING "GIANTS" IN OUR LIVES—Discouragement, financial needs, fears, failures, pride, addictions, and more. When these giants

feel far too great for us to defeat, what should we do? Let's learn from the life of a young shepherd, David, the future king of Israel, as he faced his giant enemy, Goliath.

CONSECRATION READ 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13

David was not the most obvious choice for a king, but God chose the young shepherd David to be king because he had consecrated his heart to the Lord.

Consecration means that we are in a fully committed relationship with Jesus Christ. It's like a committed relationship in marriage—you belong exclusively to your spouse.

We can't ever expect to see "the giants fall" in our lives if we are not in a committed relationship with Jesus! **(turn to page 5)**



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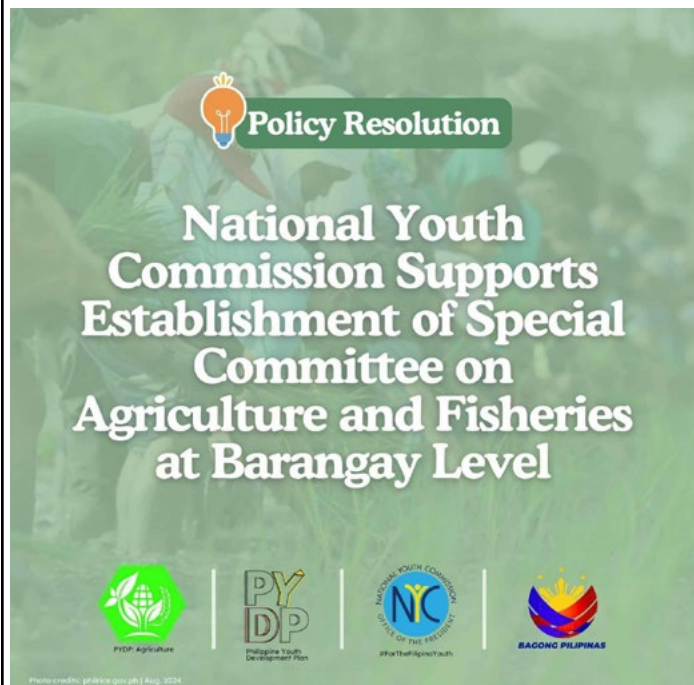
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NYC SUPPORTS FORMATION OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE IN BARANGAYS TO EMPOWER YOUTH



Manila, Philippines—The National Youth Commission (NYC) has passed a landmark resolution endorsing the formation of a Special Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries under the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Council at the barangay level. This move aims to empower young Filipinos and foster their active engagement in the agricultural and fisheries sectors, tackling pressing issues such as food security, climate change, and rural development.

Sponsored by Commissioner ASec. Christine Joy E. Cari, who represents Visayas and chairs the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) Committee on Agriculture, the resolution highlights the pivotal role of the youth in addressing the challenges faced by these sectors. Commissioner Cari emphasized that involving young people can infuse fresh ideas and foster resilience in the agricultural and fisheries industries, which are crucial to national development.

“This resolution aims to empower our Filipino youth in harnessing their potential to drive sustainable agricultural and fisheries development,” Cari stated. “By involving our youth in decision-making processes and providing them with opportunities to participate in practical

projects, we can create a more sustainable and resilient future for our country.”

The NYC initiative envisions the Special Committee as a platform where young leaders can actively contribute innovative ideas, engage in skill-building projects, and work closely with local farmers and fisherfolk. By establishing this committee at the barangay level, the resolution seeks to ensure that youth voices are integrated into grassroots policies, allowing for a more inclusive approach to local agricultural and fisheries development.

The resolution also calls upon key stakeholders, including National Government Agencies, local government units, youth organizations, and private sector partners, to collaborate and provide support for this initiative. Their combined efforts are expected to nurture the next generation of leaders in agriculture and fisheries, empowering them to shape a sustainable future for these vital sectors.

With this resolution, NYC strengthens its commitment to youth development, seeing young people not only as beneficiaries but as active agents in fostering rural progress and addressing national concerns related to food security and environmental sustainability. (PRT)

CPD TO CELEBRATE POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT WEEK HIGHLIGHTING PEOPLE AS THE HEART OF PROGRESS

Manila, Philippines — The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) is gearing up to celebrate Population and Development (POPDEV) Week from November 23 to 29, 2024, under the theme, “TAO ang puso ng pag-unlad,” or “People are the Heart of Progress.”

This year’s theme emphasizes the pivotal role of the Filipino population in driving sustainable economic and social development. CPD highlights that understanding population demographics is key to assessing the country’s development condition and unlocking its demographic window of opportunity — a phase where the work-

ing-age population is at its peak, potentially leading to accelerated growth.

The week-long celebration aims to bring attention to the importance of policies and programs that focus on enhancing people’s development. CPD underscores that a population composed of healthy, resilient, and economically productive individuals is vital to attaining national progress.

Through POPDEV Week, CPD hopes to encourage initiatives and collaborations across sectors that will contribute to the nation’s advancement by placing the Filipino people at the core of development efforts. (PRT)

CHR OFFICER JOINS DOLE-NCR EVENT ON GUIDELINES FOR FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND WORKER RIGHTS

Manila, Philippines — Atty. Christian Jeff Episcopo, Officer-in-Charge of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) — National Capital Region, served as a resource person at the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region’s (DOLE-NCR) Regional Roll-Out of the Omnibus Guidelines on the Exercise of Freedom of Assembly and Civil Liberties. The event took place on August 14 at the Manila Prince Hotel.

In his presentation, Atty. Episcopo discussed essential principles of human rights and the legal framework governing freedom of assembly and workers’ rights. He emphasized the importance of balancing civil liberties with public order, aiming to foster a climate where workers can exercise

their rights peacefully and without fear of reprisal.

The roll-out gathered officials from DOLE-NCR, representatives from various government agencies, local government units, labor groups, and private companies. This collective participation underscored the commitment to protecting labor rights while maintaining responsible practices in managing public assemblies and labor protests.

The event marks a significant step in ensuring that both government agencies and private sector entities are well-versed in supporting workers’ rights to assemble and express their views. Through initiatives like these, DOLE-NCR and CHR continue to work collaboratively to strengthen the framework protecting workers’ civil liberties in the Philippines. (PRT)

ANO ANG AU PAIR PROGRAM?



Ito ay isang programa na kung saan naglalayong linangin ang kaalaman ng mga kalahok sa kultura ng ibang bansa sa pamamagitan ng paninirahan kasama ang kanilang mga Host Family at paglahok sa mga gawaing magpapalawak ng kanilang kaaalaman tulad ng pagdalo sa language class.

Ang Au Pair ay maaring mag-aral ng linguahe o sumali sa iba pang mga gawain upang mapag-ibayo ang inyong mga kaalaman hinggil sa kultura, tradisyon, mga kinagawain at pang-araw-araw na buhay sa kanilang komunidad.

Ang mga Host Family ang tumatayang mga magulang ng mga Au Pair hanggang matapos ang kanilang programa. Bilang mga magulang, ang Host Family ang nangangalaga sa Au Pair sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay suporta tulad ng pocket money at maaayos na tirahan para sa kanila.

Nais lang naming linawin na ang Au Pair program ay hindi trabaho. Ang pagtulong sa mga magagaan na gawaing bahay ay huwag isiping isang trabaho. Bagkus, maaari itong tingnan na isang obligasyon bilang miyembro ng pamilya.



SEN. IMEE MARCOS URGES NEDA TO TACKLE RISING RICE INFLATION DESPITE TARIFF REDUCTION

Manila, Philippines-Senator Imee Marcos has called on the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) to urgently address the accelerating inflation in rice prices, expressing concern over the limited impact of recent tariff reductions. The call to action came during the Senate's deliberation on House Bill No. 10800, the pro-

posed 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) amounting to PHP 6.352 trillion.

During the session on November 6, Marcos highlighted the sharp increase in rice inflation, which spiked from 5.7% in September to 9.6% in October. This rise occurred despite the government's decision in August to lower the rice import tariff from 35% to 15% in an ef-

fort to stabilize prices. The continued surge, she noted, points to the need for more comprehensive interventions from NEDA and other concerned agencies.

"So when will the NEDA board conduct its review of the rice tariff under the comprehensive tariff program for 2024 to 2028, given that clearly, the rice inflation continues at record pace?" Marcos asked,

emphasizing the urgency for a reevaluation of current policies.

Senator Grace Poe, speaking on behalf of NEDA, assured Marcos that the agency is actively monitoring the situation and will submit a report to President Marcos later this month. This report will analyze the effects of the executive order that lowered rice tariffs and provide policy recom-

mendations to address the persistent inflation in rice prices.

The issue of rice inflation has been a significant concern for Filipinos, as rice remains a staple in the Filipino diet. The government's initial tariff reduction aimed to offset high prices by allowing more affordable imports, but the recent inflation figures indicate the need for additional measures

to ensure that these benefits reach consumers.

As Senate discussions on the 2025 GAA continue, Sen. Marcos urged that measures to stabilize food prices, particularly rice, be prioritized in the budget allocations, with hopes that NEDA's forthcoming report will offer actionable insights for managing inflationary pressures on essential commodities. (PRT)

BOC CEBU...

from page 1

A total of 95 employees from various offices, divisions, and units at the Port of Cebu participated in the random drug testing, which was carried out under the guidance and protocols established by national standards. This collaboration with PNP-RQ7 reinforces the Bureau's adherence to strict measures to ensure transparency and compliance with government regulations.

The drug testing initiative is in line with Customs Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio's Five-Point Priority Program, which focuses on employee welfare and development. One of the key objectives of this program is to protect BOC employees from the harmful effects of dangerous drugs while maintaining a safe and secure working environment for all.

District Collector Romeo Allan R. Rosales, who oversaw the successful implementation of the drug testing, emphasized the importance of the program in promoting professionalism and integrity within the Bureau. "This initiative is vital not only in compliance with national regulations but also in upholding the values of professionalism and integrity within the Bureau of Customs," Rosales stated. "Through this effort, we continue to prioritize the well-being of our employees and reinforce the importance of a safe and drug-free envi-

ronment."

The Port of Cebu's proactive approach to ensuring a drug-free workplace reflects the Bureau's unwavering commitment to uphold national laws and maintain the highest standards of professionalism. The program also highlights the Bureau's zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs, supporting its goal of creating a secure and efficient customs service across the country.

Commissioner Bienvenido Y. Rubio, in guiding the initiative, reiterated the Bureau's commitment to employee health and safety, as well as to the protection of public welfare. The Port of Cebu's efforts contribute significantly to enhancing the Bureau's operations, ensuring that employees are fit and capable of performing their duties with integrity and accountability.

As part of its continuous efforts to strengthen employee welfare, the BOC aims to make the drug testing program a regular part of its workplace safety protocols, ensuring a conducive and responsible environment for all its employees across the nation.

The BOC Port of Cebu remains steadfast in its dedication to safeguarding the health and safety of its personnel, further solidifying its role in ensuring efficient, law-abiding customs service in the Philippines.

NHMFC ANNOUNCES TOP BIDDERS IN SUCCESSFUL ONLINE HOUSING FAIR 2024

Manila, Philippines-The National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC) has announced the most responsive bidders in its successful second round of the 2024 Online Housing Fair. Sixty out of 192 bidders were recognized as top performers in the event, which took place on October 30 via Zoom and was streamed live on NHMFC's official Facebook page. The bidding period, which ran from September 25 to October 24, garnered a total of PHP 66,585,359.30 in bids for 180 foreclosed properties.

In his opening remarks, NHMFC President Renato L. Tobias highlighted the corporation's dedication to expanding housing access for Filipinos. "We stand committed to supporting you in your journey to the realization of your dream of owning a home. Our dedicated team is focused on turning this vision into reality, and this Online Housing Fair is an essential part of our efforts," Tobias said.

The event was led by Officer-In-Charge of the Asset Management Department, Irene F. Nario, alongside Ms. Mercedita Lorenzana and Catherine R. Genita, Officer-In-Charge of the Acquired Assets

Division. Executive Vice President Livia Alicia R. Ramos, chairperson of the Acquired Assets Bids and Awards Committee, presided over the bid opening.

The NHMFC brought together key officials to oversee the fair, including Securitization Group Vice President Maria Luisa M. Favila, Fund and Assets Management Group Vice President Carolina C. Cortez, Collection and Accounts Management Group OIC-Vice President Paz Divina A. Caballero, Acting Corporate Secretary Atty. Joshua Emmanuel L. Cariño, and Corporate Planning and MIS Department Manager Ra-

jewen C. Zabala.

To ensure transparency, representatives from the Commission on Audit and the NHMFC's Internal Audit Department served as observers throughout the bidding process.

The NHMFC Online Housing Fair 2024 is part of the corporation's broader effort to provide affordable housing opportunities for Filipinos, with ongoing support to those striving toward homeownership. The fair also underscores NHMFC's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and community-centered housing initiatives. (PRT)

SAMCHEONPO SEOUL HOSPITAL DELEGATION VISITS PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE TO DISCUSS HEALTHCARE SUPPORT FOR FILIPINO VETERANS

Manila, Philippines-A delegation from Samcheonpo Seoul Hospital, led by Chairman Seung Yeon Lee, is visiting the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) today to explore potential healthcare collaborations aimed at enhancing medical services for Filipino veterans. This meeting marks a significant step in strengthening bilateral efforts to recognize and support the sacrifices of the veteran community.

During the visit, discussions focused on identifying ways to improve healthcare accessibility and services for Filipino veterans, particularly those who have dedicated their lives to defending the country. The exchange

emphasized the need for sustainable healthcare solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of veterans, ensuring that they continue to receive the care and attention they deserve.

Chairman Seung Yeon Lee expressed his commitment to supporting the veterans, noting that the hospital is eager to collaborate with the Philippine government and PVAO in creating initiatives that provide effective medical care. "We recognize the immense contribution of Filipino veterans, and through this partnership, we aim to ensure that they have access to the best healthcare possible," said Lee.

The PVAO, which manages the welfare and benefits of Filip-





no veterans, welcomed the visit and expressed optimism about the potential partnership. The agency emphasized that enhancing the quality of care for veterans is a priority and that international collaborations such as this one can help bridge gaps in healthcare services.

Both parties are expected to discuss long-term plans and the implementation of various healthcare programs that will address

the pressing medical needs of veterans, with a focus on accessible and specialized care.

This partnership between Samcheonpo Seoul Hospital and the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office represents a commitment to honoring the service and sacrifices of the veteran community, ensuring that they continue to receive the medical care and support they have earned through their service to the nation. (PRT)

ISABELO'S GHOSTS

an exhibition by CHAD MONTERO
JERICHO MORAL
HANNAH NANTES

November 7- 30, 2024
NCCA Gallery
Intramuros, Manila
Mon-Sun; 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM

[/NCCAofficial](#) [gallery@ncca.gov.ph](#)

Explore the echoes of history and identity in Isabelo's Ghosts, the November offering of the NCCA Gallery, where the assemblage art of Chad Montero, Jericho Moral, and Hannah Nantes challenge oversimplified narratives. This exhibit invites us to question and reimagine our past, inspired by Isabelo De Los Reyes'

unfinished vision. Exhibit opens on November 7 and will run until November 30, 2024. NCCA Gallery is open on the ground floor NCCA Building, 633 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Admission is free and open to the public. NCCA Gallery is open from Mondays through Saturdays, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. For inquiries, send an email to nccagallery09@gmail.com.

CONQUERING OUR...

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COMMEMORATION READ 1 SAMUEL 17:33-37

David's courage was not self-talk; his basis for it was God's faithfulness in his life. Throughout the Bible, we see David commemorating God's faithfulness to him.

To commemorate something means to recount the faithfulness of Jesus in our lives. We ought to be intentional in remembering that Jesus is the giant-slayer in our lives.

COURAGE READ 1 SAMUEL 17:1-32

Goliath was a Philistine giant who challenged and mocked the army of Israel to send a champion to face him in battle. At a time when Israel's army ran away because of how gigantic the enemy was, David was focused on the reputation of God. He courageously vol-

unteered to fight for His name's sake.

To have courage means we trust and obey Jesus in all circumstances. Our courage is based on Jesus, who is the Truth. Because we trust Him, we obey Him.

CONQUEST READ 1 SAMUEL 17:38-50

David was not passive in his battle with Goliath. He approached the giant in an amazing display of God-confidence with the goal of giving glory to God, and so he killed Goliath without even a sword in his hand.

In our own battles, conquest is necessary. Conquest means to take action and give the glory to God. We may not have "swords" to fight our "goliaths", but what we have is the sword of the Spirit, the word of God.

PHILIPPINE DOT SECRETARY JOINS GLOBAL DIALOGUE ON AI AND TECHNOLOGY IN TOURISM

London, United Kingdom-Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco joined global tourism leaders at the prestigious World Travel Market (WTM) Ministers' Summit in London on November 6 to discuss the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies in tourism. Organized in partnership with the UN Tourism and the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTTC), this year's summit focused on the theme "AI for Good in Tourism," exploring how advanced technologies are reshaping travel and tourism worldwide.

In her address, Secretary Frasco highlighted the Philippines' ongoing commitment to technology integration within the tourism sector, framed within the country's National Artificial Intelligence Strategy (NAIS). "In 2021, the Philippines articulated the NAIS, positioning our nation among only 50 countries worldwide to have a dedicated AI strategy," Secretary Frasco said. "Our President has since underscored the need for inclusive technology, leading to the launch of Roadmap 2.0 in 2024, which supports AI-driven development in areas crucial to our nation's progress, such as sustainable agriculture, disaster resilience, and urban planning."

Secretary Frasco noted that the DOT has aligned its efforts with the national AI framework by integrating a technology-focused approach in its National Accreditation System for accommodation establishments. "Our tech-driven star rating program has

been welcomed by private stakeholders, with establishments adopting AI solutions for virtual assistance, smart hotel functionalities, and efficient food waste management," she shared.

Beyond accommodations, the DOT has actively embraced digitalization to improve visitor experiences. New initiatives include the Hop-On Hop-Off bus tours with mobile app integration and GPS tracking, the Tourist Assistance Call Center, and the Travel Philippines App—an all-in-one platform that aims to enhance the convenience and quality of travel for tourists in the country.

While emphasizing innovation, Secretary Frasco underscored the need to retain the human touch in tourism. She pointed out that Filipino hospitality remains at the heart of the nation's tourism appeal, noting, "Tourism in the Philippines employs 6 to 9 million individuals, contributing over 8.6 percent to our GDP. We are committed to preserving the human element in our tourism industry, especially as Filipino hospitality is renowned worldwide and serves as the greatest asset of Philippine tourism."

The WTM Ministers' Summit gathered tourism ministers and key industry players from around the globe, providing a platform for leaders to exchange insights on leveraging AI for sustainable and efficient tourism. Through this collaboration, the Philippines remains at the forefront of integrating AI and other technological advancements into its tourism strategies while staying true to the essence of Filipino warmth and hospitality. (PRT)



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PhilHealth
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PHILIPPINES' COMMITMENT...

from page 2

Moreover, the country has moved to address specific industry challenges through groundbreaking legislation. The Magna Carta for Seafarers, the Caregivers Act, and new regulations for workers in the movie and television industry are pioneering frameworks designed to meet the unique needs of these sectors. This kind of targeted legislation is essential for improving working conditions, safeguarding vulnerable workers, and demonstrating that labor policies are not one-size-fits-all.

Secretary Laguesma's emphasis on "decent work" as a cornerstone of regional labor policy is a forward-thinking approach that deserves recognition. Every worker, regardless of industry or background, deserves fair wages, safe working conditions, and the opportunity for growth. By focusing on these principles, the Philippines is not just enhancing the well-being of its workers but also building a resilient and competitive workforce that can thrive amid global challenges.

But there's more that can be done. If the Philippines truly wishes to lead in creating a future-ready workforce, it must invest even more in

upskilling, digital literacy, and technological adaptation. Training programs, particularly in emerging fields, will empower Filipino workers to embrace change rather than fear it. This approach not only enhances their value in the workforce but also fortifies the country's competitive edge in the regional labor market.

It's heartening to see that the Philippines is pushing for cooperative dialogue and shared goals within ASEAN+3. However, as Secretary Laguesma rightly pointed out, decent work must be central to these efforts. Each member state has a responsibility to uphold these values, ensuring that economic growth does not come at the expense of workers' rights or dignity.

In a world where labor challenges are becoming increasingly complex, the Philippines' commitment to innovation, inclusivity, and decent work is a model worth emulating. This dedication to safeguarding worker welfare, while fostering adaptability and technological progress, is not just about policy—it's a vision for a more humane and equitable future for every Filipino worker.



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PHILIPPINES' DEMOGRAPHIC...

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The Philippines must actively work to address persistent challenges that underlie the labor market: quality of employment, skills mismatch, and the looming threat of underemployment. While underemployment is relatively low at 11.9%, this figure still represents millions who are either working fewer hours than they'd like or in roles that do not utilize their full potential. Addressing underemployment through targeted skill-building programs and employment initiatives is vital to prevent this hidden problem from undermining the quality of employment.

Moreover, while

recent gains in employment are promising, the Philippines must ensure that its education and training programs are aligned with the demands of a rapidly transforming global economy. The increasing automation of jobs and the shift toward a digital economy necessitate skills in technology, critical thinking, and adaptability. Investment in upskilling is an urgent need—particularly for the younger workforce that constitutes the country's demographic advantage.

The government must also enhance job creation in sectors that are both sustainable and offer high-value employment. The

country's efforts to encourage manufacturing, technology, and green jobs will be essential to driving a resilient labor market that can withstand economic shocks and sustain growth. Infrastructure investments, public-private partnerships, and incentives for businesses that offer high-quality jobs will also play a pivotal role in creating an economy where young Filipinos can thrive.

Lastly, it's crucial that the current demographic dividend doesn't just benefit the present generation but builds a foundation for sustainable economic growth that benefits future generations. The window of opportunity

provided by our youthful workforce will not last forever, and a short-sighted approach could result in missed opportunities that affect the country's long-term trajectory.

While the drop in unemployment and the young demographic are both promising signs, realizing the potential of this "golden moment" requires thoughtful planning, investment in human capital, and a commitment to improving the quality of jobs available. We are at the threshold of a remarkable opportunity, but the real test will be in how well we nurture and deploy our country's most valuable resource—our people.

PHILIPPINE NAVY SAILORS AND MARINES LEAD COASTAL CLEAN-UP AT PAG-ASA ISLAND

West Philippine Sea-Sailors and Marines stationed at Pagasa Station, Kalayaan Island Group (KIG), in the West Philippine Sea, took proactive steps beyond their primary duty of safeguarding the nation's territory by leading a successful coastal clean-up operation. In collaboration with personnel from the Philippine Coast Guard, the group focused on removing plastics and debris along the island's shoreline to protect the marine ecosystem.



NAVAL FORCES WEST: THE DEFENDERS OF THE WESTERN FRONTIER.

The clean-up initiative, which took place on Pagasa Island, was part of the military's ongoing commitment to preserving the environment while fulfilling its territorial defense responsibilities. The removal of waste not only helped restore the island's natural beauty but also highlighted the Philippine Navy's dedication to environmental protection.

"We are not just defenders of our country's territorial integrity, but also stewards of our environment," said one of the participating sailors. "Through this clean-up, we are contributing to the well-being of our marine ecosystem, which plays a critical role in the lives of our people and future generations."

The collected waste, consisting primarily of plastics and other debris, will be transported back to mainland Palawan during the next Ro-

tation and Reprovision, where it will be disposed of properly, ensuring that it does not contribute to further environmental damage in the region.

The clean-up operation also served as an inspiration for local communities, encouraging them to take part in similar environmental preservation efforts. The military's action demonstrated how unity and cooperation can go beyond defense duties and create a lasting impact on preserving the natural resources of the Philippines, particularly in areas like the West Philippine Sea, which is crucial to the country's biodiversity.

By blending national security with environmental responsibility, the Philippine Navy continues to set a positive example in protecting both the land and the sea. (PRT)

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE LATE CESAR DIONISIO SABALLEGUE WITH WAIVER AND TRANSFER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late CESAR DIONISIO SABALLEGUE, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 16; Page No. 04; Book No. CXLXI; Series of 2024 before Atty. Gary Camitan Aure, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late AGUSTIN M. MANGONA, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 292; Page No. 59; Book No. IV; Series of 2024 before Atty. Titus C. Borlas, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS and DONATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late TEODULO M. MISLANG, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 405; Page No. 81; Book No. CXVII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Gary Camitan Aure, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ANUNCIACION S. FERNANDEZ, was extrajudicially settled as per Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate, executed by her heirs in Austin, Texas, USA before Notary Public Tami Sue Atkins on 20 January 2024 with Apostille No. 12374360 dated 14th day of February 2024, and Atty. Anthea Niña B. Medina as per Doc. No. 458; Page No. 93; Book No. 07; Series of 2024.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE MARLON S. BORJA WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MARLON S. BORJA, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 2; Page No. 2; Book No. CXVIII; Series of 2023 before Atty. Israel Conia Soguilon, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

PMGEN SIDNEY S. HERNIA DENIES EXTORTION ALLEGATIONS: "ABSURD AND UNFOUNDED"

Manila, Philippines-National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Police Major General Sidney S. Hernia has strongly refuted allegations of extortion made against him and 14 other NCRPO officers, calling the claims "absurd and unfounded." The accusations stem from a recent operation carried out by the PNP Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) at Century Peak Tower in Ermita, Manila, which targeted online scammers and illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operator (POGO) operations.

The raid, which has been described as a significant blow to illicit online activities, was conducted under cyber warrants, a fact confirmed by Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief, General Rommel Francisco D. Marbil. The operation has been dubbed the "mother of all scam hubs" by authorities due to the scale of the illegal operations uncovered.

In his statement, PMGEN Hernia firmly dismissed the allegations, asserting that they lacked any factual basis. "I will not tolerate any wrongdoing within our ranks, and I firmly urge the accusers to substantiate their claims in the proper forum. The NCRPO fully welcomes any investigation into this matter, as it will

provide a great opportunity to prove the regularity and legality of our actions," Hernia said.

The NCRPO Director emphasized the willingness of the NCRPO to cooperate with any formal inquiry, underscoring the importance of transparency in addressing the issue. He reiterated that the raid was conducted lawfully and in accordance with the established legal procedures, and he expressed confidence that any investigation would exonerate the officers involved.

"This is a chance for the truth to prevail, and I am confident that the investigation will reveal that all procedures followed were lawful and proper. The NCRPO remains steadfast in its mission to combat criminality and protect the public from fraudulent activities. We stand ready to clear our names and reinforce our dedication to integrity and service," PMGEN Hernia concluded.

The allegations of extortion have sparked significant attention, but Hernia's firm stance on the matter and his call for an impartial investigation aim to clear any doubts surrounding the operation. The NCRPO's transparency in handling the case is expected to reinforce public trust in its leadership and commitment to fighting crime. (PRT)

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ROBERTO ZACARIAS, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 322; Page No. 65; Book No. CXVII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Gary Camitan Aure, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late BERNADETH MORDA PAN-GANURON, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 2145; Page No. 342; Book No. 02; Series of 2024 before Atty. Emerson T. Ceria, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CRISTINA P. AÑES

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late CRISTINA P. AÑES, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 414; Page No. 84; Book No. XXXVIII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Gervacio B. Ortiz Jr., Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRA-JUDICIAL PARTITION AND SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE EMILIO B. RILLERA WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late EMILIO B. RILLERA, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 479; Page No. 97; Book No. 81; Series of 2024 before Atty. Ricardo A. Castillo, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF LATE DONATO C. ENDENCIA

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late DONATO C. ENDENCIA, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 489; Page No. 99; Book No. III; Series of 2024 before Atty. Ricardo A. Castillo, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late NANCY N. BRETANA, was extrajudicially self-adjudicated by a sole heir as per Doc. No. 140; Page No. 29; Book No. 05; Series of 2024 before Atty. Meldrick John M. Mendoza, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH DONATION AND PARTITION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late REBECCA RAYMUNDO POSADAS, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 454; Page No. 92; Book No. 01; Series of 2024 before Atty. Anthea Niña B. Medina, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

ADDENDUM TO THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that this ADDENDUM TO THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH ABSOLUTE SALE, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 396; Page No. 80; Book No. CXIII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Gary Camitan Aure, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
BRANCH 106, QUEZON CITY
rtc2qzn106@judiciary.gov.ph / 8639-6019

CONNIE BUGTONG-CATANES,
Petitioner,

- versus -

Civil Case No. R-QZN-23-04441-CV
For: Declaration of Nullity of Marriage

WINSLEY CARIAS CATANES,
Respondent.

DECISION

WHEREFORE, the petition is **GRANTED** and the marriage between Connie Bugtong- Catanes and Winsley Carias Catanes solemnized on April 29, 2006, is declared **NULL AND VOID AB INITIO** pursuant to Article 36 of the Family Code, as amended.

The Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City is directed to indicate the nullification of the marriage, filed in its office, between the petitioner and the respondent.

The decision shall become final upon the expiration of the fifteen-day period from notice to the parties and from the time he corresponding Entry of Final Judgment has been made if no motion for reconsideration or new trial, or appeal, is filed by any of the parties, the Public Prosecutor, or the Solicitor General.

Thereafter, the petitioner is directed to submit a certified true copy of this Decision and Entry of Judgment to the Local Civil Registrar of Quezon City and to the Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City, where the marriage was registered, and the Philippine Statistics Authority, after which the Court shall issue a Decree which should likewise be registered with the aforementioned offices. Furnish the parties, their counsels, the Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the City Prosecutor, Quezon City, Local Civil Registrar of Baguio City and the Local Civil Registrar of Quezon City subject to the rules on confidentiality, with copies thereof. **The respondent being summoned by way of publication and having failed to appear in this instant action, the dispositive portion of this Decision shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation. The petitioner is directed to submit a compliance within a period of thirty (30) days from publication.**

SO ORDERED.

QUEZON CITY, November 5, 2024.

(SGD.) NOEL L. PAREL
Presiding Judge

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 2024

PANANAWAGAN



SHAIRA MAE CANDINATO was approximately five (5) months old when her birthmother, Joan Diez Candinato, entrusted her to Sps. Darlita and Rodolfo Casallo at Brgy. Baccuit Sur, Bauang, La Union on 26 May 2015. The child is placed under foster care and is presently under the supervision of the National Authority for Child Care (NACC) - Regional Alternative Child Care Office (RACCO) 1, Bauang, La Union.

In this regard, we earnestly request the public, especially those who know the whereabouts of the child's biological parent, **Joan Diez Candinato**, or any relatives to relay this information. Failure to appear would mean disinterest on their part hence, the DSWD will initiate legal proceedings for the child's declaration of abandonment and adoption.

Interested parties may contact Ms. Ryan Alyssa D. Duclayan, Social Welfare Officer II of NACC - RACCO 1, 2/F Ordoña Bldg., MacArthur Highway, Brgy. Quinavite, Bauang, La Union with telephone number (072) 712-1262.

HIYASMIN JOY O. NIEVA-RABELAS
OIC - Regional Alternative Child Care Officer

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 2024

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED SPOUSES LOLITA MAYOR VERA CRUZ AND NICANOR LLENA VERA CRUZ WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SPOUSES LOLITA MAYOR VERA CRUZ and NICANOR LLENA VERA CRUZ**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 437; Page No. 89; Book No. LVIII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Generoso S. Fulgencio, Jr., Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

Ang SSS PENSION LOAN, maaari nang gawin ONLINE!

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- Walang kailas sa monthly pension o existing advance pension sa ilalim ng SSS Calamity Loan Assistance Package;
- Regular na tumatanggap ng monthly pension at ang status ng pension ay "Active"; at
- May valid disbursement account na nakatutal sa Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM).

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED SPOUSES LEONARDO FRANCISCO AND ESTELITA CARANGLAN FRANCISCO

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **SPOUSES LEONARDO FRANCISCO and ESTELITA CARANGLAN FRANCISCO**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 212; Page No. 44; Book No. LVII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Generoso S. Fulgencio, Jr., Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE WITH WAIVER AND RENUNCIATION OF RIGHTS

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **AQUILINO TONGCO**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 131; Page No. 28; Book No. XI; Series of 2024 before Atty. Jessamine Jared S. Nas, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MARINA PATON-OG ARAS**, was extrajudicially self-adjudicated by a sole heir as per Doc. No. 467; Page No. 95; Book No. XV; Series of 2024 before Atty. Al Whilan A. Baljon, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF ADORACION SANTIAGO-GUTIERREZ

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **ADORACION SANTIAGO-GUTIERREZ** who died on 12 January 2024 at Quezon City, Metro Manila, have been settled extra-judicially among the heirs; She left no known debts without any Last Will of Testament. Entered into the Notarial Register of Notary Public, Atty. Conrado Pineda Sajor on 16 October 2024 at Marilao, Bulacan, as Doc. No. 458; Page No. 93; Book No. 48; Series of 2024.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE CARLOS O. RAMOS WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE OF A PORTION OF PARCEL OF LAND

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CARLOS O. RAMOS** who died on 09 June 2009 in Quezon City, have been settled extra-judicially among the heirs; He left no known debts without any Last Will of Testament; Said Carlos O. Ramos left a real property and further sold, conveyed and transferred a portion thereof to Sps. Menandro Flores Ramos and Fe Ombao Ramos. Entered into the Notarial Register of Notary Public, Atty. Fernando C. Cunanan on 28 October 2024 at Meycauayan City, Bulacan, as Doc. No. 215; Page No. 44; Book No. 23; Series of 2024.

Publiko News Publishing: November 11, 18 and 25, 2024

AFFIDAVIT OF SELF ADJUDICATION BY A SOLE HEIR WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **FRANCIS LOWREN ENCALLADO MUÑOZ**, was extrajudicially self-adjudicated by a sole heir as per Doc. No. 340; Page No. 68; Book No. VIII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Ma. Cecilia T. Abayon, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 4, 11 and 18, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF VIRGILIO PINEDA AQUINO WITH DEED OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **VIRGILIO PINEDA AQUINO**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 165; Page No. 34; Book No. XXVIII; Series of 2024 before Atty. Ricardo M. Perez, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 4, 11 and 18, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT JOSE M. ZALDARRIAGA

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSE MAGALONA ZALDARRIAGA**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 488; Page No. 99; Book No. 54; Series of 2024 before Atty. Sherluck Jun C. Villegas, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 4, 11 and 18, 2024

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT WITH WAIVER OF RIGHTS AMONG THE HEIRS

OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE **MARIETTA NAVARRO NELSON** NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **MARIETTA NAVARRO NELSON**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 504; Page No. 102; Book No. XV; Series of 2024 before Atty. Phoebeilyn S. Carreon, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 4, 11 and 18, 2024

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PEDRO J. TAN OF MOTORIZED VEHICLE WITH SIMULTANEOUS DEED OF SALE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **PEDRO J. TAN**, was extrajudicially settled among heirs as per Doc. No. 424; Page No. 86; Book No. XV; Series of 2024 before Atty. Al Whilan A. Baljon, Notary Public.

Publiko News Publishing: November 4, 11 and 18, 2024

SENATOR CAYETANO...

from page 8

"Stunting is a significant barrier to the Philippines' progress, and if we do not tackle this issue now, it will continue to affect the future of our children, our workforce, and the entire nation," Cayetano said. "Prevention is key, and it is imperative that we prioritize it within the budget." The senator's call for action comes

at a time when studies show that approximately one in three Filipino children under the age of five are affected by stunting, making it one of the most pressing public health issues in the country. Stunted children are more likely to suffer from poor health, developmental delays, and lower educational attainment, which in turn affect

their ability to contribute productively to society.

Cayetano's statement was backed by experts who have long argued that effective stunting prevention programs, which focus on improving maternal health, promoting nutrition for young children, and ensuring access to proper healthcare, can have far-reaching positive effects.

As lawmakers prepare to review the DBM's proposed 2025

budget, Senator Cayetano's advocacy is expected to drive discussions around the allocation of funds for child health programs and the urgent need for a more comprehensive approach to stunting prevention.

By prioritizing these interventions, Cayetano believes that the Philippines can not only improve the health of its children but also build a more resilient and prosperous future for the nation. **(PRT)**

BUILDING A...

from page 8

In contrast, the EBET Framework Act is designed to provide Filipinos with practical, industry-aligned training through a cohesive structure involving apprenticeships, mentorships, and dual training systems. The law's objective is to foster career advancement by equipping participants with real-world skills that can lead to immediate employment, professional growth, and even entrepreneurship. Unlike the TESDA-K-12 model, the EBET framework puts private sector partnerships at the core of its structure. This ensures that training programs are directly tailored to industry needs, allowing participants to learn specific skills that companies currently require, which improves job readiness and minimizes the skills mismatch issue.

A significant advantage of EBET is its inclusivity and accessibility, offering targeted training for both foundational and mid-level skills that can prepare participants for the workforce within six months. This rapid deployment capability is essential for a nation with a young, growing population and an evolving economy. By consolidating multiple training approaches, EBET also eliminates redundancy and creates a clear pathway for students, workers, and employers to engage in a unified system, making it more agile than the TESDA-K-12 integration.

Moreover, EBET's focus on professional growth and entrepreneurship sets it apart as it isn't just about filling jobs but also about empowering Filipinos to

build careers or start businesses. This goes beyond TESDA's model, which has traditionally focused on preparing students for immediate entry-level positions. The EBET Act aligns better with the Philippine government's goals of creating sustainable and quality employment that can drive economic growth.

TESDA's K-12 integration, while beneficial for early workforce exposure, may require an upgrade to stay relevant. In a world where industries and technologies evolve rapidly, TESDA's curriculum and delivery methods must become more dynamic and directly linked to employer needs, or it risks being overshadowed by EBET's robust and responsive framework.

The EBET Framework Act, therefore, represents a progressive step toward workforce development that TESDA alone could not fully address.

By emphasizing private sector engagement, real-time skill alignment, and comprehensive career pathways, EBET holds the potential to transform the Filipino workforce. However, to maximize its impact, the government should ensure that both TESDA and EBET operate cohesively, using their respective strengths to offer a seamless pipeline of skill development, from secondary education through lifelong professional advancement.

TESDA's K-12 program has laid the groundwork, but the EBET Framework Act offers a far-reaching solution that could address the demands of a rapidly evolving job market. This partnership between education and industry might be precisely what the Philippines needs to fully harness its "demographic dividend" and secure a prosperous future for its people.



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Wise Words to Ponder
Anger doesn't solve anything. It builds nothing, but it can destroy everything.

-Lawrence Douglas Wilder



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babaeng estudyante naman ay maililigtas sa cervical cancer. Kunin ang proteksyong hatid ng ligtas at epektibong bakuna, dahil Bawat Buhay Mahalaga! [#DOH](#) [#BagongPilipinas](#) [#GetVaccinated](#)



BUILDING A SKILLED WORKFORCE: TESDA'S K-12 PROGRAM VS. THE NEW ENTERPRISE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING LAW

The signing of the Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) Framework Act by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. introduces a pivotal shift in workforce development, aiming to reduce skills mismatch and foster a globally competitive Filipino workforce. While TESDA's integration into the K-12 curriculum has provided technical-vocational education to high school students, the new

EBET law offers a broader, more industry-focused approach that could serve as a game-changer for employment in the Philippines.

TESDA's K-12 integration focuses on providing technical and vocational skills to students while they complete secondary education, preparing them for immediate entry-level jobs. This model ensures that students, especially those not pursuing college, acquire foundational skills in fields like welding, electronics, and IT. However, it has faced limitations in terms of industry alignment. While TESDA offers students valuable exposure to skills, the program often lacks direct ties to industry requirements, resulting in graduates who may not meet the specific, evolving demands of employers. *(turn to page 7)*

SENATOR CAYETANO CALLS FOR PRIORITIZATION OF CHILD STUNTING PREVENTION IN 2025 BUDGET

Manila, Philippines-Senator Alan Peter Cayetano urged lawmakers to prioritize the prevention of child stunting in the upcoming 2025 budget debate, highlighting its long-term impact on the nation's health and economy. During a Senate session on Wednesday, Cayetano stressed the importance of focusing on stunting prevention programs as part of the national budget, calling it a "reality" that addressing the issue would result in reduced costs for future generations.

Cayetano emphasized that the Philippines continues to face a growing stunting crisis, particularly in rural and underserved areas, where children suffer from poor nutrition that affects their physical and cognitive development. "It's a reality that we'll spend less if zero ang stunted sa atin," Cayetano

remarked. "If we go to the programs of all departments, makakatulong tayo," he added, noting that a national commitment to addressing stunting would not only improve health outcomes but also contribute to economic productivity in the long run.

The senator's remarks came as he raised concerns over whether the issue of child stunting has received enough attention in the gen-

eral appropriations for the 2025 national budget, particularly within the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Cayetano questioned whether adequate funding has been allocated for programs designed to combat stunting, stressing that child nutrition and development should be seen as central to the country's sustainable growth. *(turn to page 7)*

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