



SAVE MANILA BAY

# MSMEs to showcase products in 'Kalakal Calabarzon 2019'

CALABARZON (PIA) – Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from the different parts of Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon) will once again showcase their products as the Department of Trade and Industry Region 4A holds its annual regional trade fair this December providing MSMEs a platform to expand their market opportunities.

In a statement, the DTI 4A said it will be holding its annual trade fair 'Kalakal Calabarzon' on December 4-8 at the Mega Trade Halls of SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

With around 180 expected exhibitors, the 6th

Kalakal trade fair according to DTI 4A, will focus on showcasing MSMEs products that have undergone various product development programs and interventions of the DTI.

It said consumers who would be joining the biggest trade fair event in the region could choose from a wide variety of personal gifts, consumer goods,

handicrafts, home décor, textiles, fashion, and other local and design driven goods.

Aside from the 'great finds and great buys' products, new and exciting features also awaits at the annual trade fair like the choko-cafeteria pavilion that will showcase the region's coffee and tablea products.

TURN TO PAGE3

## 5-Day Computer Literacy training at Bacoor computer center

The Bacoor Computer Center is now accepting registrants for its 5-DAY COMPUTER LITERACY TRAINING. (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and Basic PC Troubleshooting.)

To register, visit

the Bacoor Computer Center from Monday to Friday and fill up the registration form or call (046) 450-9293 for more information.

The training program is FREE, and LIMITED

TURN TO PAGE3



CITY GOVERNMENT OF IMUS: Distribution of Senior Citizens Subsidy headed by our Office of the Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) and Imus Senior Citizens Association, Inc. (IMUSCAI) conducted recently.

## Tax-free maternity benefits

MANILA -- Women workers and employees are entitled to receive tax-free maternity benefits under the expanded maternity leave law, according to the labor department.

In Department Advisory No. 01-A, Series of 2019, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the salary differential paid by the

private sector employer to women employees availing of the expanded maternity leave is exempt from income and withholding taxes.

The salary differential is the difference between the full salary of the female worker during her maternity leave and the actual cash benefits received

from the Social Security System.

The department advisory is pursuant to Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 105-2019 issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue which clarifies the proper tax treatment of maternity leave benefits under the 105-Day Expanded Maternity Leave Law.



Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III

According to the memorandum circular, the

TURN TO PAGE3

## Palace declares Nov. 26 a holiday in Dasmariñas City

DASMARIÑAS CITY, Cavite – Malacañang Palace declared November 26 (Tuesday) a special non-working day here.

Proclamation No. 825, dated November 12, states that "it is but fitting and proper that the people of the City of Dasmariñas be given full opportunity to celebrate and participate in the occasion with appropriate ceremonies."

The city is set to observe its annual butterfly-inspired "Paru-Paro" festival and founding anniversary on November 26, which city folks, tourists, and visitors are expected to participate in.

Mayor Jennifer Austria Barzaga and Congressman Elpidio F. Barzaga Jr. are expected to lead city officials, students and multi-sectoral groups in the annual celebration of the city's official



Mayor Jennifer Austria Barzaga

festival, created by virtue of City Council Resolution 069-s-2011 and Special Ordinance 02-s-2011.

The festival reflects the city's transformation from a small village in Imus City to its separation as a full-fledged progressive city, as well as Cavite's "university center" and one of the province's vital hubs dotted with various services, commerce, trade and industries. source(PNA)





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# PHO SUPPORTS INDANG RHU'S 1ST BUNTIS CONGRESS

Cavite Provincial Health Office supported Indang Rural Health Unit's 1st Buntis Congress dubbed as "Alaga si Mommy, Ligtas si Baby" held last November 12, 2019 at Poblacion 4 Covered Court, Indang, Cavite. The activity which aimed to improve the survival of women during pregnancy, delivery and post-partum was attended by al-

most 100 pregnant women. Indang Municipal Mayor Perfecto Fidel and Municipal Health Officer Rosa C. Alegre formally opened the program and welcomed all the participants. Mayor Fidel also promised that the local government will shoulder the expenses on child delivery of the first five pregnant women who joined the event.

Lecturers from PHO and RHU emphasized the importance of prenatal visits, facility-based delivery, nutrition during pregnancy, benefits of exclusive breastfeeding, family planning, responsible parenthood as well as oral health and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. PhilHealth membership and benefits were also tackled by the

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation representative.

Highlight of the program was the beauty pageant for pregnant women. Thirty lovely candidates vied for the title of Ms. Gandang Buntis 2019 wherein Ms. Lallaine Costello from Barangay Pulo got the title.

SOURCEPROVINCIAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

## PGC'S CONTINUOUS HEALTH ASSISTANCE TO TRECEÑOS



The Provincial Government of Cavite continues in giving health assistance to Treceños with the conduct of a series of medical and dental missions through the initiative of OPG-Extension and the Provincial Health Office. More than 600 indigent residents of Barangay Cabuco availed free adult/pediatric consultation and tooth extraction during the health outreach event sponsored by the provincial government on November 13, 2019. Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan together with the Sangguniang Panglungsod members were present and were able to communicate with their constituents to know their immediate health needs. The successful medical event was made possible with the help of some volunteers comprised of Inocencio Paramedics and Rescue Volunteers, Barangay Health Workers and Nutrition Scholars, officers of Southville Subdivision Homeowners Association, TMC Police Personnel – PSMS Manuel Docena and PSMG Junvi Melchor and members of the TMC Masonic Lodge No.350 headed by Worshipful Master Sunny L. Sepacio who also sponsored the food for the feeding program.

SOURCEPROVINCIAL INFORMATION AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT



## PhilHealth tightens rules against fraud

PhilHealth asserted that its recent actions against erring hospitals are to ensure more stringent measures in its fight against providers who defraud the Corporation. The State health insurance agency however, assures the public that measures are being done so that member's availment of services shall not be compromised.

The assertion was in response to a paid advertisement from an individual who claims to head a group of private hospitals alleging that several of their members in Mindanao were not given the opportunity to be heard in formal hearings of the cases filed against them.

"Our legal procedures follow strict rules on due process when cases are filed against our providers. These hospitals were properly asked to explain their side on their alleged involvements in fraudulent activities," PhilHealth President and CEO BGen. Ricardo C. Morales said, adding that they observed pertinent rules and procedures before arriving at these decisions. "Proper communications were also given so they can properly notify their patients of their situation," Morales added.

The PhilHealth Chief said that "many of his alleged member-hospitals disown his insinuations. I advise that he choose his words carefully in order not to compromise those who are in good standing and are in good partnership with PhilHealth." Morales advised hospitals to directly coordinate with PhilHealth's regional offices on any issues arising from their claims.

Last month PhilHealth announced the withdrawal of accreditation privileges of Dr Arturo P. Pingoy Medical Center and Allah Valley Medical Specialist Center Inc., and the suspension of General Santos Doctors Hospital due to alleged involvement in fraudulent activities based on its policy of withdrawing accreditation if cases have been filed in its Arbitration Office. Morales vowed that PhilHealth shall not tolerate filing of fraudulent claims by its providers.

"Much has been said of the criminal cases against WellMed that made headlines in June this year. We are not allowing this to happen again. We are now imposing more stringent if not uncompromising actions at the slightest sign of fraud," he stressed.

Member's welfare still a consideration

TURN TO PAGE 3

## 4 PNPA cadets facing raps for hazing

MANILA -- Four cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) had been criminally charged recently for allegedly maltreating a fellow cadet, the police confirmed.

In a report reaching Camp Crame in Quezon City, Maj. Resty Soriano of Silang, Cavite Municipal Police Station, said charges for violation of Republic Act 11053, or the anti-hazing law, were filed against Cadets 3rd class Jovan Sernat, Aaron Dahryl Villanueva, and Paul Birung; and Cadet 2nd class Clarence Cabucos before Assistant Provincial Prosecutor Emmanuel Rivera in Imus City, Cavite.

The four were allegedly involved in the physical abuse of Cadet 4th class John Rafael Desiderio, who was rushed to the hospital on October 29 for stomach pains which led to the discovery of the maltreatment.

Desiderio has already been discharged from the hospital.

Earlier, the PNPA said the five cadets allegedly behind the hazing would still face administrative charges.

However, the PNPA reiterated that the recent hazing incident was an isolated case. source:(PNA)

## Briones: Ensure ...from p4

shaping the learners who "can deal with the world" and "are good citizens of the country."

"It is our task to produce young people who are prepared to deal with the world. It is our task to prepare them for the real world. It is our task to prepare them how to be a Filipino," the Secretary said.

She likewise emphasized that one of the biggest challenges in education is the challenge of Generation Z. While dealing with this challenge, the Secretary reminded the teachers to observe proper online decorum and responsible netizenship, and to uphold the dignity of the teaching profession.

"Teachers are near-perfect models of what a good citizen should be. We should be mindful of what we post on social media – Facebook and Twitter, for example. Teachers must be teachers of confidence, faith, and honesty. Never denigrate your profession because what you do shapes our learners," Briones explained.

As the Department takes a pivot from access to quality, the Secretary likewise stressed the need to complement the teachings on analytics, data, and theories with the teaching of good moral values and humanity.

"We teach them [our learners] to be human and humane, and at the same time to be good citizens of this country. Education [after all] is our most important legacy," Briones concluded.

## PhilHealth...from p2

Notwithstanding the cases that are now on process with the agency, he announced that they have reached a modus vivendi, or an arrangement with the concerned hospitals so that members are not disenfranchised while there is continuing investigation on their suspicious claims.

He added that they are now instituting reforms to be more responsive and proactive in the early detection of irregular practices not just

of hospitals but also of members, employers and even their own officials and employees in order to protect the members' funds.

"Do not get us wrong. Our providers are our partners in service but once trust and respect are violated by any of the parties then it is incumbent upon us to investigate and enforce the law. This is what our members are expecting of us, no more, no less" stressed the Chief. END

## DTI eyes ...from p2

startups, 70 of which have graduated into full-blown enterprises.

"So this new Startup Act, we expect to be able to do more," he said.

Honasan said his department will create a Startup Philippine website which will serve as the primary source of an online database of information, such as events and programs that will benefit the startups, enablers, and related enterprises in the country.

"For three years, your DICT has been implementing and continuously developing programs aimed at promoting startups. The passage of RA 11337 will enable us to explore more ways to widen our reach in this area," he said. (PNA)

# Local products, delicacies and more at Kawit expo

KAWIT, Cavite -- If you are craving for "tapsilog" (beef, served with fried rice and egg) or taste a variety of "kakanin" (sticky rice cakes), or just considering buying metal works from blacksmiths for home use or unique gift this Christmas season, then bring your eco-bag, some cash and head out to this town's Liwasang Aguinaldo (Aguinaldo Shrine) located at Kaingen village here.

This town's four-day local expo, dubbed #OneLove-OneKawit, which offers a variety of things, events and leisure spots, food delicacies and much more, opened Wednesday with Mayor Angelo Emilio Aguinaldo leading other local officials in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Local Tourism Officer Rhouz Camposanto, in an interview, said the event is one of the town's aggressive approaches to make known the other interesting offerings, aside from the countless heritage and historical sites, with the iconic Aguinaldo Shrine serving as a backdrop.

The event will also "help promote these local products to a bigger, wider market and our way to pay tribute to local individuals who have worked so hard for economic sustainability," he said.

Currently on exhibit are Bisugo's Puto Bumbong (Filipino purple rice cake steamed in bamboo tubes), Aling Baby's Cassava and Rice Cake, Neng's Special Bibingka

(a type of baked rice cake), Hidden Tapsihan (beef tapa meal), Basag Ulo (fried spring roll), and Sagimis (thinly sliced bananas, dusted with brown sugar, rolled in square shape in a spring roll wrapper and fried).

There is also the noodle dish Henoy, Calandracas (a popular dish in Cavite cooked with either chicken, pork, beef and/or ham plus vegetables, potatoes and chickpeas, then seasoned with Patis Tanza), Chin-Chow (sago), Norma's Suman (glutinous rice cooked in coconut milk, often wrapped in banana or coconut leaves), Nanding Pandayan (blacksmith), Asin (salt) ng Kawit, Water Camp (Josephine Resorts), Josephine's Events Venue, Special Binatog (boiled white corn kernels) and Aguinaldo Merchandise.

The local govern-

## 5-Day...p1

SLOTS ONLY.

The Schedule of training is on November 25-29, 2019, 8AM to 5PM at the Bacoor Computer Center, Evangelista Road, Barangay Alima, Bacoor City.

The following are the Requirements for registration:

1. 18 to 50 years old
2. Barangay Clearance
3. 2 pieces 1x1 Picture

For barangay officials or employees to register, just present your government issued IDs and accomplish the registration form available at the Bacoor Computer Center.

## Tax free...p1

provisions of RA 11210 and its implementing rules and regulations jointly issued by the Civil Service Commission, Department of Labor and Employment, and Social Security System prescribe that workers availing of the maternity leave period and benefits must receive their full pay.

The advisory amends Department Advisory No. 01 Series of 2019 in so far as the tax treatment of salary differential is concerned. (aldm/DOLE)

## DTI eyes initial P125-M in venture fund for startups

MANILA -- The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is targeting an initial PHP125 million in venture funds to match investments from selected investors to Philippine-based startups as authorities have signed the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for the law providing incentives to these firms.

DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez said the amount, representing half of the projected PHP250 million to assist the first batch of 50 startups, will serve as a commercial

investment fund to scale up deserving startups.

Lopez said the DTI, in coordination with the government's investment arm, National Development Company, will administer the Startup Venture Fund.

"NDC can develop that fund now that the IRR is out," he told reporters. "Of course, they (startups) are open to solicit and pitch to other venture capitalists."

The IRR for Republic Act No. 11337, also known as the Innovation Startup Act,

was signed on Friday. Such legislation creates the Philippine Startup Development Program that is set to offer "programs, benefits and incentives" for both startups and enablers.

Aside from the investment fund, Lopez said the government will provide deserving startups with an accelerator program, training, and mentorship connecting them to the global market, among others.

"These are the other non-fiscal support, the benefits that we can grant the par-

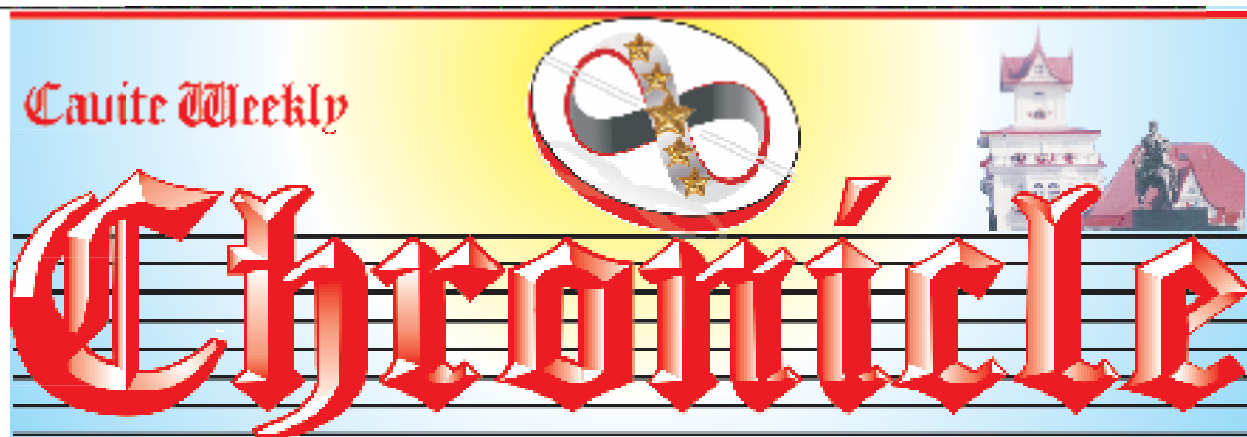
ticipants," he added.

Present at the signing of the IRR were Lopez, Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Fortunato dela Peña, Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Gregorio Honasan II, and QBO Innovation Hub (QBO) president Rene Meily, along with Filipino startup advocates, enablers, and communities.

Dela Peña said his department has incubated 220

TURN TO PAGE 3





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# Briones: Ensure educational continuity amid challenges

DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones reiterated the Department's commitment to ensuring educational continuity amid challenges; and to maintaining schools as zones of peace during the tripartite event – the Orientation-Workshop Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace (LSZOP), Conference for Youth Formation Coordinators and Volunteers for the Implementation of Last Mile School Program, and Conference on the Implementation of the Last Mile Schools in the Visayas on November 12-13 in Dumaguete City.

Addressing the approximately 1,000 participants composed of regional and division educational leaders, supervisors, school heads, youth formation coordinators and volunteers, and ALS Implementers, Briones emphasized that even in the midst of challenges education must continue.

## Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace

Pursuant to Executive Order 70, the Department through DepEd Order 32, s2019 or National Policy Framework on Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace committed to van-

guard safety of school and learners.

DepEd's programs like the Alternative Learning System (ALS), and Last Mile School (LMS) have scaled success in terms of access to guarantee educational continuity despite incidences of armed conflicts.

"Whatever is happening in the country; whatever challenges we are facing, education must continue. Education cannot wait; our learners cannot wait. We continue with the process so we can give hope and continuity, and contribute to the normalization of activities in the country," the Secretary recounted part of the speech on High-Level Social Development Goals Action Event on Education she presented at the United Nations in New York City on June 28, 2017.

Briones likewise emphasized that "for us to move forward", there is a need to address the physical battle which pertains to challenges in program implementation, calamities, or social unrest; and the challenge of quality – the battle which is fought inside the classroom.

DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis Briones addresses the educational leaders at the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) and Learners and Schools as Zones of Peace (LSZOP) Orientation Workshop in Dumaguete City.

## Last Mile School Program

Briones reported that "we have achieved so much in access." However, she admitted that the Department is facing challenges on resources and facilities especially those schools in geographically isolated and disadvantaged



DepEd Secretary Briones

and conflict-affected areas (GIDCA).

"It is true that we are having difficult times. I would like to appeal to each [and every one] of you to give attention to the Last Mile School, and other programs of the Department," the Secretary said.

In her presentation, Briones expressed the Department's resolve to prioritize the Last Mile School program to reach all Filipino learners nationwide whether they are in the mountains, hinterlands, or in the islands. The program complements the Department's policy that no child is left behind.

Acknowledging these gaps and the aftermath of the earthquakes that hit some parts of Mindanao recently, Briones reiterated the call to expedite the delivery of the needed services to the affected schools, and the last mile schools.

"We can rise from the ruins of our homes, of our school buildings. We will rise like a phoenix," she added.

## Youth Formation

Parallel to the mandate of 1987 Constitution which guarantees the rights of the citizens to quality and accessible education, the Education Chief urged educational leaders and teachers to teach Filipino learners critical thinking and humanity.

Briones stressed the pivotal role of teachers in

TURN TO PAGE 3

**Donate, don't hesitate**  
**Blood is meant to circulate**

# BLOOD DONATION PROGRAM

**Friday, November 29, 2019**  
**8:00am to 3:00pm**  
**General Trias Cultural & Convention Center**

**Free Medical Check-up and Blood Screening of Donors**

**GenTri**

# PHISGOC, PNP BARE "CLEAR BAG POLICY," BANNED ITEMS IN SEAG ARENAS

TO spare fans the inconvenience ahead of time, the Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee and Philippine National Police has announced a "clear bag policy" and a list of banned items that will not be allowed inside all the various competition venues of the 30th SEA Games.

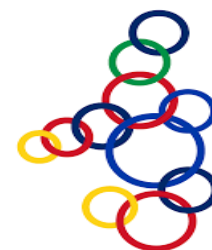
"With more than 11,000 athletes and officials from 11 countries for the SEA Games as well as the thousands more who will watch the games live, we adopted these added measures to ensure the safety and security of participants and fans," stressed PHISGOC chief operating officer Ramon "Tats" Suzara.

"We have to be extra careful considering the size and scope of the 30th SEA Games," explained Suzara, citing the 56 sports spread over the numerous arenas in Metro Manila, Cavite, Batangas, Bulacan, Pampanga, La Union and Zambales.

Fans have been forewarned not to bring backpacks because these items will not be allowed inside the sports venues, according to Suzara.

National Capitol Region police chief, Brig. Gen. Debold Sinas, reiterated this reminder during a press briefing held early this week.

Instead, each person will be allowed one plastic, vinyl or trans-



PHILIPPINES 2019  
30<sup>TH</sup> SEA GAMES

parent tote bag whose dimension does not exceed 12"x6"x12." Individuals will be allowed storage bags and freezer bags should not hold more than a gallon while clutch bags, including strap, should not exceed 4.5"x6.5."

The list of banned items are:

- Weapons and firearms
- Backpacks

TURN TO PAGE 3