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Senior Citizens sa Lungsod ng Bacoor, Nakiisa sa selebrasyon ng Senior Citizen sa Lungsod ng Bacoor

By MIS-STAFF

IPINAGDIWANG ng mga Senior Citizen sa Lungsod ng Bacoor ang Elderly Filipino Week kaisa ang National Commission of Senior Citizens ng Office of the President sa pangunguna ni Mary Jean Loreche, M.D ( Chairwoman, National Comm of Senior Citizen ) Commissioner Ricardo Rainier G. Cruz III ( National Comm of Senior Citizen ) at ang ahensya ng Philhealth. Dito pinag usapan ang mga benipisyo na makakatulong sa mga Senior Citizen.

M a h a l a g a n g tinalakay sa selebrasyon ang kahalagahan ng Philhealth sa mga Senior Citizen kahit na ito ay hindi kasapi at bagong miyembro palang. Ipinaliwanag rin ng taga

pagsalita ng Philhealth kung ano ang sakop ng kanilang programa, dito nakapaloob kung pano magagamit ng isang senior citizen ang kanilang Philhealth.

Dumalo naman si Congresswoman Lani M. Revilla at nagbigay ng mensahe sa mga Senior Citizen na dumalo sa Strike Gym. Kasama ni Cong. Lani ang Sangguniang Panlungsod Members.

Sa huli, sinigurado ng OSCA sa pangunguna ni Atty. Venus De Castro na maibibigay sa mga Senior Citizen ang mga benipisyong kailangan nila.

Ang Lungsod ng Bacoor naman ay nagpapasalamat sa mga naging panauhin sa Elderly Filipino Week selebrasyon. (Bacoor.gov.ph)



Photo: Bacoor.gov.ph

DOLE sets aside P424-M for 72K TUPAD beneficiaries in Calabarzon

By Zen Trinidad

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) 4-A (Calabarzon) has allocated PHP424.4 million for the

beneficiaries of its Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) program across the region.

DOLE 4-A Director, lawyer Roy L. Buenafe, said

in a statement Wednesday that the agency has set aside the amount to mitigate the adverse effects of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) in the provinces

Continued on page 3...



WORKERS' AID. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Calabarzon personnel during a payout activity for beneficiaries of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged Workers (TUPAD) program in the region in this undated photo. The agency is again set to implement TUPAD for those workers displaced by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (International name Trami), setting aside PHP424.4 million for more than 72,000 beneficiaries. (Photo courtesy of DOLE 4-A)

DA: Insurance for 'Kristine'-affected farmers to be released soon

By Stephanie Sevillano

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday assured immediate release of insurance benefits to affected farmers following the onslaught of Severe Tropical

Storm Kristine (international name Trami).

In a phone interview, DA Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ordered the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC)

to expedite the claim process of around PHP667 million initial insurance fund.

"Ito ay ipapamigay as soon as matapos iyong validation ng insured affected farmers. So mabilis lang

Continued on page 3...

Comelec: Registered voters for 2025 polls now close to 69 million

By Ferdinand Patinio

MANILA – The country has now close to 69 million registered voters for the 2025 midterm elections, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) said Sunday.

Latest Comelec records showed that 68,618,667 registered voters nationwide may participate in the forthcoming polls, with Region IV-A or Calabarzon topping the highest number of voters at 9,764,170.

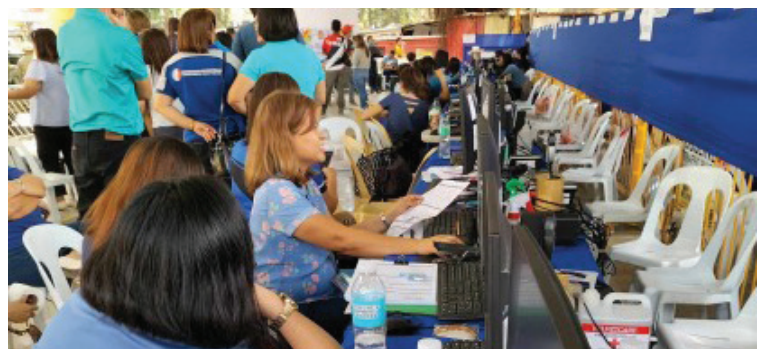
Region III (Central Luzon) came in second with 7,712,535 registered voters, followed by the National Capital Region (Metro Manila) with 7,562,858.

Regions VII (Central Visayas) and V (Bicol Region) came in fourth and fifth at 4,407,337 and 4,066,662, respectively.

On the other hand, the Cordillera Administrative Region with 1,111,859 voters and Caraga (Region XIII) with 1,889,616 voters posted the lowest number of registered voters.

The total is higher than the May 2022 national polls with 65,745,526 voters and the village and Sangguniang Kabataan (youth) elections in October last year with 67,839,861.

The nationwide voter registration for the 2025 polls concluded Sept. 30. (PNA)



(PNA file photo by PGLena)

## DepEd to roll out 'dynamic' program vs. learning loss

By Stephanie Sevillano

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday said it would roll out the dynamic learning program (DLP) this month to prevent learning loss due to class disruptions caused by Several Tropical Storm Kristine (Trami) and Super Typhoon Leon (Kong-Rey).

*"We're bringing resilience to the heart of learning so that no student's education has to pause when challenges arise,"* Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement.

The DLP will provide schools the needed flexibility

for make-up classes alongside the utilization of "simple and targeted" activity sheets, as well as temporary learning spaces.

It also provides features of parallel classes, activity-based engagements, and learners' portfolios with minimal homework loads.

The DepEd eyes affected schools in Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Bicol, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) as the DLP's pilot implementation areas.

As of Monday, 'Leon' alone has so far affected around 3,970,222 learners and 181,270 teaching and non-teaching

staff in 10,947 schools due to class suspension.

In terms of infrastructure damage, PHP396 million worth is needed for reconstruction and major repairs of at least 113 totally damaged classrooms and 227 partially damaged classrooms, not to mention the damaged toilets, wash facilities, furniture, and computer equipment, among others.

At least 13 schools reported flooding or landslides while 13 schools are being used as evacuation centers. (PNA)



AFTERMATH. Teachers of Siuton National High School of Magallanes, Sorsogon clean and check learning materials that can still be used in the aftermath of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine on Oct. 24, 2024. The Department of Education on Monday (Nov. 4) said it will launch a dynamic learning program to prevent learning loss because of consecutive weather disturbances in the country. (Photo courtesy of Aily Carillo-Pongasi /Turaok School Paper adviser, Siuton National High School)

### Drug...

and spreading false narratives to discredit our pursuit of accountability," he said.

Romualdez asserted that the probe would be difficult but necessary.

*"The forces of darkness will not relent easily. They will use every means at their disposal to obscure the truth, sow doubt, and weaken our resolve. But as long as we hold fast to our principles and remain united in purpose, we will prevail,"* he said.

To address gaps in existing laws that were discovered as a result of the ongoing probe, House leaders

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have proposed House Bill No. 10986, known as the Anti-Extrajudicial Killing Act which seeks to classify EJKs as heinous crimes, and House Bill No. 10987, or the Anti-Offshore Gaming Operations Act aimed at banning all forms of offshore gaming.

Romualdez also welcomed the recent submission of pertinent documents and a partial report to the Office of the Solicitor General to investigate Chinese nationals who fraudulently obtained Filipino citizenship to illegally acquire land and operate businesses in the

Philippines.

The report recommends initiating civil forfeiture proceedings against the Chinese citizens.

Romualdez urged his colleagues to focus on serving the public and ensuring accountability.

*"Today, we stand on the right side of history, not just as witnesses but as architects of change. The people are watching. History is watching. Let us not falter, for we hold the power to shape the destiny of our nation,"* he said. (PNA)

### Foreign...

from page 8

million) to the Philippine government as a "gesture of Taiwan's compassion and solidarity for Philippine individuals, families and communities" affected by the storm.

The aid was received by Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) chairperson Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil in a ceremony at the TECO office in Makati City.

Velicaria-Garafil noted that the donation was given at a time when Taiwan was also being pummeled by Kong-rey, locally named Leon.

*"This act shows the magnanimity of the people of Taiwan for extending help and assistance to Filipinos in the midst of their own personal battles and challenges,"* she said.

*"Let me express our deepest hope and prayer for the safety and well-being of the people of Taiwan, as well as our around 200,000 Filipino compatriots who are working and living in Taiwan."*

This fresh aid is on top of the 500 metric tons of rice Taiwan donated for calamity victims on Oct. 29.

TECO Representative Wallace Minn Chow said Taiwan is "committed to being a true friend and reliable partner to the Philippines."

*"Disasters like this remind us all of our shared humanity and the importance of standing together in times of trial,"* he said.

*"Together, let us stand united in our efforts to support the affected families in the regions as they rebuild their lives and communities."*

processes to deliver efficient, client-centered services" Sulit pointed out.

The recognition also serves as a testament to the DSWD's continuous efforts to improve and simplify government services, ensuring that they remain accessible and responsive to the needs of the public, according to the DSWD official.

Joining Undersecretary Sulit in the awarding ceremony were Assistant Secretary for Policy

The UAE government, meanwhile, is preparing to donate 33,000 boxes of family food packs to augment the local relief efforts.

The UAE Embassy in Manila will lead the deployment of relief supplies and prioritize the delivery of food packs and drinking water in the regions that bore the brunt of Kristine, particularly Bicol.

The transportation and distribution of the relief goods, on the other hand, will be led by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and its regional offices.

In a statement Wednesday, the DSWD said an initial 1,000 food boxes will be distributed to displaced families currently taking shelter at the Malanday Elementary School in Marikina City.

During its pass over Luzon, Visayas and northern Mindanao, Kristine caused widespread floods and landslides, which resulted in a high number of casualties and damage, affecting about 7 million people.

The death toll from the combined effects of Kristine and Super Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-rey) which battered most of Luzon has climbed to 141, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said Thursday.

The figure includes 14 confirmed fatalities and another 127 undergoing validation, according to the agency's latest situation report. (PNA)

and Plans Group Rodolfo Santos; FO-7 Director Shalaine Marie Lucero; FO-CARAGA Assistant Regional Director for Administration Tristan Telen; FO-CALABARZON Assistant Regional Director for Administration Alkent Bacolod; FO-11 OIC-Assistant Regional Director for Administration Mia Dulce Corazon Vergara, and other Anti-Red Tape Unit (ARTU) focal persons from participating DSWD FOs. (PR)

### ARTA...

from page 8

Satisfactory performance.

The DSWD FO-6 (Western Visayas) was previously recognized by ARTA for its significant contributions to process streamlining initiatives during the 2024 Ease of Doing Business Summit held in Iloilo City in August 2024.

Out of the 860

national government agencies (NGAs) surveyed by ARTA, the DSWD FO-11 stood out as the Top 3 performer in the NGAs category.

The FO-11 was also one of the nine NGAs to achieve the highest scores in the RCS 2.0, excelling in areas such as access, facilities, payments, and processes.

Additionally, the FO was among the 124 agencies to secure top marks across all four key government service aspects in the inspection checklist.

*"The accolades received by the DSWD is a reflection of our strong commitment to upholding the provisions of the EODB law and streamlining its*



RECOGNITION. The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) recognizes the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for its outstanding performance in anti-red tape initiatives during the ARTA Report Card Survey (RCS) Awards for the 2023 RCS 2.0 at the Conrad Hotel in Pasay City on Oct. 30, 2024. Among the eight DSWD offices assessed, seven were recognized for their exceptional performance. (DSWD photo)

## DA: High vegetable prices may be tamed in 2 weeks

By Stephanie Sevallano

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday said spiking vegetable prices may be tamed in two weeks with the recovery in the high-value crops sector.

This came as the DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Operations Center logged around PHP847.48 million worth of damage in high-value crops affecting 7,190 hectares of land during the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami).

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing, Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the impact of Kristine resulted in the decline in vegetable supply from the

Nueva Vizcaya Agricultural Terminal, Central Luzon, and Calabarzon, as well as the ongoing price spikes in Metro Manila and Kristine-hit areas.

*“Ito ay magtatagal normally, mga (This normally spans from) one to two weeks. Ang gulay naman, ang bilis niyang maka-recover after ng mga one to two weeks ay bumabalik din sa normal na presyuhan (The vegetables, likewise, will recover and be back to normal pricing within one to two weeks),”* he said.

He reported an over 28,000 MT decline in vegetable output delivery as the partial and total damage in high-value crops reached 35,616 MT.

De Mesa, however, assured that consumers still have alternative options

to access more affordable agricultural commodities.

He said the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service is coordinating with the regional field offices for “market matching.”

*“Mayroon tayong mga alternative na sources ng ating gulay galing sa (We have alternative sources of vegetables from) Visayas at Mindanao at dito rin sa Luzon na hindi naapektuhan masyado ng bagyong (and*

*from Luzon which are not affected by typhoon) Kristine,”* De Mesa said.

Besides market matching, the DA also deployed Kadiwa food trucks in storm-hit areas.

As of Oct. 31, the DA-Bantay Presyo (price watch) reported around a PHP15 to PHP80 increase in price per kilogram (kg.) of various highland and lowlands vegetables in just a week from Oct. 23.

In Metro Manila, these

include hikes in ampalaya at PHP180/kg from PHP100/kg. for the said period; string beans at PHP200/kg. from PHP140/kg.; tomato at PHP210/kg. from PHP160/kg.; pechay tagalog at PHP150/kg. from PHP100/kg.; eggplant at PHP130/kg. from PHP90/kg.; Baguio beans at PHP190/kg. from PHP160/kg.; carrots at PHP200/kg. from PHP180/kg.; and chayote at PHP85/kg. from PHP70/kg., among others. (PNA)



**RISING PRICES.** Fresh green vegetables are sold at the San Andres Public Market in Manila on September 6, 2024. The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday (Nov. 4) said the spiking prices of vegetables following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) may be tamed in two weeks. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

### DOLE...

of Calabarzon through the TUPAD program, benefitting more than 72,000 affected individuals.

*“This intervention is needed now more than ever to provide income-earning capacity for our disadvantaged workers, thereby allowing them to contribute to the efforts of the community in rehabilitation and recovery,”* Buenafe said.

Accordingly, the beneficiaries will work for 10 days, engaging in community clean-up, debris clearing, and rehabilitation of public infrastructure until next month. They will receive the highest prevailing minimum wage rate in the region.

The amount of assistance will be rolled out

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regionwide with the province of Batangas getting the biggest share of more than PHP172 million benefitting more than 29,729 workers; followed by Cavite with PHP87 million for more than 14,000 residents; Laguna, more than PHP87 million covering more than 14,000 workers; Quezon, PHP61.46 million for the benefit of 10,764 workers; and Rizal, PHP16.3 million for 2,816 disadvantaged workers.

*“With the declaration of state of calamity in some areas in Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), we hope that this intervention would help improve the vulnerability of the affected workers and the communities it serves,”* Buenafe said. (PNA)

### DA:...

*naman ito, normally in two weeks mare-release naman ito (This will be immediately given as soon as validation to insured affected farmers is completed. So, it will be fast, normally it takes two weeks to be released),”* de Mesa said.

At least 86,066 insured farmers in 10 regions are expected to be covered under the PCIC indemnification fund, with over half of the beneficiaries located in Central Luzon, Mimaropa, and Bicol.

Tiu Laurel earlier ordered PCIC to release the indemnification for insured farmers affected by Super Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-Rey).

De Mesa, meanwhile, said the DA has other available aid as it urges uninsured

farmers and fishers to register in the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA).

According to the DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Operations Center, affected farmers can access at least PHP541.02 million worth of agricultural inputs including rice, corn, and vegetable seedlings, as well as drugs and biologics for livestock and poultry.

The DA also has a PHP500 million loanable fund through the Survival and Recovery Loan (SURE) program of the Agricultural Credit Policy, which is equivalent to a PHP25,000 loanable amount per farmer, payable for three years with zero interest; and the PHP1

billion rehabilitation and recovery fund for affected regions.

In its latest report, the DA said around 131,661 farmers and fishers were affected in the Cordillera and Ilocos regions, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Soccsksargen, and Caraga.

### Rising agri damage

De Mesa, meanwhile, reported a continuous increase in agricultural damage, with the rice sector breaching its annual 500,000 to 600,000 metric tons (MT) production loss in palay (unhusked rice).

*“We can expect talaga*

*na mas mababa iyong output ngayon compared last year dahil sa laki ng (of a lower output this year compared to last year because of the extent of the) damage from El Niño, series of typhoons before Kristine, and itong si Kristine kahit nagkaroon tayo ng abiso na maagang mag-harvest... Malaki at malawak iyong epekto ni Kristine (despite our advisory for early harvest, the impact is huge and wide),”* he said.

As of Nov. 2, the DA-DRRM said Kristine has left 516,438 MT in losses in palay production thus far, amounting to PHP4.25 million. The overall agricultural loss was placed at around 557,851 MT,

valued at PHP5.75 billion.

Palay output for 2024 was projected to drop to 19.41 million metric tons (MT) from the earlier 20.4 million MT target.

De Mesa, however, assured stability in rice supply despite the expected drop in local palay output due to the arrival of imported rice procured under the lower tariff of 15 percent from the previous 35 percent, under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s Executive Order 62.

According to the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), around 3.79 million MT of rice imports arrived in the country as of Oct. 30. (PNA)



**FLOODED FIELDS.** A drone shot of rice fields submerged in flood waters following the onslaught of Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) on Oct. 23, 2024. The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday (Nov. 4) assured the immediate release of indemnification to insured farmers affected by Kristine. (Photo courtesy of Naga City Government)

# EDITORIAL

## Saving children from monsters

*“DIGITAL literacy programs should be integrated into the school curriculum and focus on teaching children about online safety, the responsible use of technology, and critical thinking skills.”*

It's a perverse twist of the digital age: A French man, ensconced in the comfort of his home, orchestrates the rape of Filipino children half a world away. Bouhalem Bouchiba, a former Pixar and Disney animator, was recently sentenced to 25 years in prison for his role in this horrific crime. But his conviction, while a victory of sorts, lays bare the depths of depravity and the systemic failures that have allowed such atrocities to flourish.

Alas, the Philippines, a nation known for its warmth and hospitality, has become a stomping ground for the Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC). The poverty and desperation of many Filipino families in the countryside and urban slums have apparently made them vulnerable to exploitation by international pedophiles. The government's tepid response to this crisis is a national disgrace.

It's as if we're living in a grotesque horror film, where the victims are innocent children and the villains are lurking in the shadows of the internet. The complicity of some parents, driven by poverty and desperation, adds a layer of tragic irony to this sordid affair. It's a stark reminder that even in the darkest corners of the world, there are people who would exploit the most vulnerable for their own twisted pleasure.

The Philippine government's response to the OSAEC crisis has been as feeble as a wet noodle. While there have been some efforts to strengthen law enforcement and victim support services, these measures are mere lip service. The real question is: Why has it taken so long for the government to wake up to this crisis? Why is it that a foreign court had to step in to deliver justice?

The Philippines should not be a haven for pedophiles. It's time for the government to get its act together and take decisive action to protect our children. This is not just a moral imperative; it's a matter of national survival. We must demand accountability from

our leaders. We must demand that they prioritize the protection of our children over political expediency.

At the very least, our government must invest in specialized units to investigate and prosecute OSAEC cases, equipping them with the latest technology and training to effectively combat cybercrime. Close collaboration between law enforcement agencies and internet service providers is, likewise, crucial to identify and apprehend perpetrators.

Providing comprehensive care to victims, including psychological counseling, medical treatment and economic assistance, is also essential. Victims often suffer from long-lasting trauma and require specialized care to recover. Thus, establishing dedicated support centers and ensuring access to mental health services are crucial steps in providing comprehensive support.

At the same time, widespread public awareness campaigns should be conducted through various channels, including television, radio, social media, and educational institutions. These campaigns should highlight the signs of exploitation, the legal consequences of engaging in such activities and the importance of reporting suspected cases.

The Philippines should collaborate deeply with other countries to dismantle transnational child exploitation networks, sharing intelligence, best practices and resources. Joint investigations and coordinated law enforcement efforts can be effective in disrupting these networks and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Empowering children and young people to recognize and avoid online risks is a must. Digital literacy programs should be integrated into the school curriculum and focus on teaching children about online safety, the responsible use of technology and critical thinking skills.

By equipping children with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves online, we can significantly reduce the risk of exploitation. For politicians and government leaders, the time for empty promises and half-hearted measures is over. The nation demands justice for its children.



Photo courtesy of [tribune.net.ph](http://tribune.net.ph)

# KAPIRASONG kritika

Ni Teo S. Marasigan

## Renan Catapang Agtay

### PART 2

Sa unti-unting paghina ng katawan, natanggap na niya ang kamatayan. Bago siya pumanaw, sabi niya patungkol sa anim na taong dialysis: “Hindi ba’t tagumpay na ang ganoon katagal sa isang lipunang malakolonyal at malapyudal?” Noon pa man, ramdam na ng mga kaibigan at kasama ang magiging bigat ng Sierra Madre sa pagpanaw niyang naglingkod sa bayan bilang aktibista, rebolusyunaryo at Hukbo.

Maraming kwento ang mga kaibigan at kasama tuwing mapag-uusapan si Renan – noong buhay pa man at kahit matapos siyang pumanaw. Ang bawat kwento, laging may kasamang tawanan. At bawat kwento, sa kung anong paraan, laging naglilinaw sa katangian niya bilang aktibista at rebolusyunaryo.

Bakla si Renan – bagay na tiyak niyang ikakagalit na ngayon lang nabanggit sa isang parangal sa kanya. Aniya, sa Kilusan na siya naglaladlad bilang bakla “dahil wala naman na talagang ibang samahan pang buong puso ang pagtanggap at pagpapahalaga sa mga maniningning at progresibong baklang kagaya ko.” Laging bahagi ng pagpapatawa niya ang mga “performances” – mga kwentong isinasadula niya mag-isa, mga kanta, pagrampa-rampa, mga tila madramang eksena sa pelikula – at walang kaibigan at kasama ang hindi makakaalala ng kahit isa sa mga ito.

Paboritong biro niya ang planong paglaladlad sa pamilya. Magtatalakay raw muna siya tungkol sa kalagayan ng lipunang malakolonyal at malapyudal at ang pagiging pyudal-patriyarkal nito – mapang-api sa kababaihan, mga bakla at lesbyana. Sa dulo, sasabihin niya. “Mama, Papa, ipagtatapat ko na po ang tunay kong pagkatao. (Yuyuko nang marahan.) Isa po akong, isa po akong (mahabang katahimikan, sabay marahang taas ng ulo)... pesante.” Ibig sabih’y maduduwag din siya sa dulo at ang magagawang aminin ay ang pagiging aktibista.

May kapansanan si Renan. Bingi siya at mahigit isang libo ang grado ng salamin. Paborito niyang kwento ang minsang pagsasalita sa klase para mag-imbata sa isang rali. Nanghikayat siya ng tanong mula sa mga estudyante. May nagtanong. Nakangiti niya itong tinitingnan. Nang matapos na ang pagtatanong, katahimikan. Nang mapansin niyang hinintay siyang sumagot, sabi niya, “Pwedeng pakiulit? Bingi po kasi ako.” Tawanan. Sa halip na mainsulto, tumawa rin siya nang bahagya at pagkatapos ay ibinigay ang pinakamatalas na sagot. Palakpakan ang klase.

B a g a m a t nananawagan ng pag-unawa para sa mga may kapansanan, sinikap niya itong pangibabawan sa pagkilos, sa kampus man o sa kanayunan. Sabi nga sa Facebook ng isa niyang kaibigan, patungkol sa

pagpapasyanamasmag-ambag sa rebolusyon, halimbawa siya ng mga kasabihang “Internal ang mapagpasya,” hindi ang mga eksternal na pumipigil. “Pangunahin ang kapasyahan, sekundaryo ang kakayahan,” lalo na pagdating sa pagsapi sa NPA. At ng mas pikon na bersyon ng mga ito, “Kung gusto may paraan; kung ayaw, maraming dahilan.”

May biru-birong sa NPA, naitalaga siyang eksperto sa bomba. Ang sabi ng mga kasamahan ang dahilan ay nakikita lang niya ang ganda ng pagsabog, at hindi ito naririnig. Ang totoo, sabi ni Renan, todo-alalay sa kanya ang mga kasama, at minsan, ang pakiramdam niya ay pabigat na siya sa mga ito. Pero dahil wagas ang pagtulong at pag-alalay, aniya, “tyinaga ko lang nang tyinaga. Kinarir ko mula pag-aaral ng lokal na wika, pagbubuhay ng mabibigat na gamit, pagpapakintab ng M-16 hanggang sa paghahanda at pagluluto ng pagkain.” Marami siyang nagawa lampas pa sa kakayahan ng mga walang kapansanan, at para sa bayan.

Sa likod ng lahat ng performances ni Renan, ang totoo’y isa siyang rebolusyunaryong intelektwal. Mahilig siya sa pagtuturo ng mga rebolusyunaryong aralin, at natutulungan siya ng kanyang matatas na Tagalog at malinaw na pananalita. Matatalas ang mga komento at mungkahi niya sa linya ng Kilusan sa iba’t ibang *Ipagpapatuloy...*

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# TOWN in FOCUS

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## OCD to LGUs: Maximize use of geohazard maps

By Priam Nepomuceno

MANILA – The Office of Civil Defense (OCD) urged local government units (LGUs) to maximize the use of geohazard maps to further improve their disaster management capabilities.

The geohazard maps are provided by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department

of Environment and Natural Resources.

In a news release Tuesday night, OCD administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said the maps are distributed to governors, mayors and local disaster officials to enhance their disaster preparedness.

The maps identify areas vulnerable to geological hazards such as landslides

and floods. The proper use of the maps can help protect lives and minimize property damage, Nepomuceno said.

*“They should be able to translate warnings into actionable responses,”* Nepomuceno said.

He said it is important to incorporate these geohazard maps, which are available online through the MGB website, into local disaster

management plans.

Nepomuceno urged residents and LGUs in the regions of Central Luzon, Calabarzon and Bicol to brace for the possible effects of now Super Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-

rey).

On Monday, Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. ordered mandatory evacuations in areas identified as high-risk due to the anticipated adverse weather conditions from Leon. (PNA)



OCD administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno (PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

If a colleague confides in you, Sanvictores recommends listening attentively and empathetically, without judgment.

This will help a colleague release what’s bothering them and promote validation.

### How does DOH help?

The DOH continuously provides interventions to help a mentally healthy community.

These interventions include training for Rural Health Unit (RHU) staff to help in the assessments, treatment, and management at the local levels.

DOH empowers mental health through mental health advocacy campaigns, which include lectures on mental health in the workplace.

DOH also caters to mental health concerns through the National Center for Mental Health (NCMH) crisis hotline or the Tara Usap Tayo! Hotline.

The public may contact them 24/7 to provide

support and address mental health concerns:

Landline: Call 1553 for free.

Cellphone: Call 02 1553, but there will be a charge per call.

Smart and TNT: Call 1800-1888-1553 with a one-time charge of P7.50 per call. Globe and TM: Call 0966-351-4518 or 0917-899-8727 (USAP).

Sanvictores reminded the public to practice self-care to protect everyone’s well-being from stressors and mental health problems.

*“Let us now prioritize mental health, and I hope that we can talk more about mental health moving forward,”* she added.

It’s everyone’s responsibility to promote a healthy workplace. However, in order to further promote mental well-being in the workplace, it is also imperative to learn self-care and to set boundaries. (MJTAB/REB/PIA Region 1)

# CAVITEVIEW

## How to achieve a mentally healthy workplace

By Rocky E. Bautista

Employees’ mental health is essential in today’s demanding work environment.

Distractions in someone’s mind can severely impact productivity and overall job satisfaction. Hence, prioritizing psychological well-being among employees stimulates productivity, innovation, and overall employee well-being.

In a Kapihan sa Ilocos episode of the Philippine Information Agency Region 1, Ena Rika Sanvictores, a psychometrician at the Department of Health-Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD 1), emphasized that mental health immensely impacts one’s productivity.

*“If we have a good mental health state, then everything will follow through, and we can ensure good quality work,”* she said.

Sanvictores enumerated causes of stress in the workplace. It can be from excessive workload, bullying from colleagues, and vagueness in instructions.

But how do we prioritize mental well-being since there’s still a stigma in this cause?

Sanvictores said it is true that there is still stigma; however, discussing and understanding that everyone goes through different problems is a must.

How can organizations foster a harmonious workplace?

Organizations play a crucial role in promoting mental health.

By taking proactive steps, they can create a supportive and productive work environment.

Sanvictores emphasized the importance of organizational responsibility in assessing the specific needs of employees and developing strategies to support their mental well-being.

By proactively addressing mental health concerns, organizations can foster a harmonious and productive work environment.

To achieve this, organizations should implement comprehensive mental health initiatives.

These initiatives may include providing access to mental health resources, offering employee assistance programs, promoting work-life balance, and fostering a supportive and inclusive workplace culture.

By taking these steps, organizations can significantly mitigate the negative impact of stress and mental health issues on employee productivity, job satisfaction, and overall organizational performance.

### What can I do as a colleague?

Stress can stem from various sources, including interpersonal relationships

with colleagues.

Changes in behavior, such as decreased productivity or increased absenteeism, may indicate underlying stress or mental health issues.

Sanvictores highlighted the significance of creating a safe and supportive work environment through compassion and kindness.

By demonstrating empathy, understanding, and active listening, supportive colleagues can significantly contribute to an individual’s well-being and job satisfaction.



Photo courtesy of PIA

Republic of the Philippines  
Fourth Judicial Region  
Regional Trial Court of Cavite  
Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff  
New Justice Hall, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Kaybagal  
South, Tagaytay City

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund),  
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

NO. TG-24-100  
FOR: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of  
Real Estate Mortgage under Act No.  
3135, as amended by Act No. 4118

-versus-

JANET P. PARREÑO,  
Borrower-Mortgagor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-judicial foreclosure sale under Act 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118, filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act. No. 9679, with principal office and place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Loan and Mortgage Agreement ("MORTGAGE") executed and notarized on November 19, 1999 by Borrower-Mortgagor, JANET P. PARREÑO, single, of legal age, Filipino citizen, with residence and postal addresses at (1) B9, L4, Phase 2A, Pacita 2 Complex, San Pedro, Laguna and (2) Lot 14, Block 5, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite, in favor of the Petitioner-Mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781 of the Registry of Deeds for Tagaytay City, in order to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the Borrower/Mortgagor in the amount of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND FOUR

HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX PESOS AND 99/100 (Php350,436.99), inclusive of interest and other charges, as of July 2, 2024, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru her deputy, Alex E. Martinez, will sell at public auction on December 4, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the New Hall of Justice of Tagaytay City, to the highest bidder, for Cash or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781  
Registry of Deeds for PROVINCE OF CAVITE

"IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Silang, Prov. of Cavite bounded and describes as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 14 Blk. 5 of the cons/subd. plan Pcs-04-014127, being a portion of the cons of lots 27-91 Blk. 1; lots 1-61, 30-79 & 88-101 Blk. 2; lots 1-29 Blk. 3, lots 10-41 Blk. 4; lots 1-60 Blk. 5; lots 1-51 Blk. 6, Blk. 7; Open Space lot 1; Alley lots 1,2 & 13 Rd. lots 1,3,4-10 & 24 all of Pcs-04-012899), situated in the Brgy. Tartaria, Mun. of Silang, Prov. of Cavite. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by lot 13; on the NW., along line 2-3 by lot 12, both of Blk. 5; on the NE., along line 3-4-5 by Rd. lot 9; and on the SE., along line 5-1 by lot 16 Blk. 5, all of the cons/subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan being S. 68 deg. 11'E., 4996.33 m. fr. BLLM No. 1, Cad-45-D, Silang Cad.; thence N. 31 deg. 11'W, 4.50 m. to pt. 2; N. 58 deg. 49'E., 10.50 m. to pt. 3; S. 31 deg. 11'E., 2.65 m. to pt. 4; S. 29 deg. 20'E., 1.86 m. to pt. of beginning, containing an area of FORTY SEVEN SQ.M. & TWENTY FIVE DECI. (47.25). All pts. referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the grd. by PS cyl. conc mons 15x60 cm; bearings true; date of roig. survey, Dec. 7, 1973 to Dec. 4, 1975 & Aug. 1-30, 1998 and that of the cons/subd survey, July 10-25, 1998 and was approved on

is registered in accordance with the provisions of the Property Registration Decree in the name of\*

JANET P. PARREÑO, of legal age, Filipino, single."

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on December 11, 2024 without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate and verify for themselves the TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-891794) 25781, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

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

Tagaytay City, Philippines, October 17, 2024.

ATTY. VARBRA ANN A. VARIAS-DIMAYUGA  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

ALEX E. MARTINEZ  
Sheriff-in-Charge

Copy Furnished:

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)  
Petitioner-Mortgagee  
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL  
c/o JEFFREY A. RAMIENTAS  
Attorney-in-Fact of the Mortgagee  
GREAT SOURCE CORPORATION  
2546 A. Bonifacio St., Bangkal, Makati City

JANET P. PARREÑO  
Borrower-Mortgagor  
(1) B9, L4, Phase 2A, Pacita 2 Complex, San Pedro, Laguna  
(2) Lot 14, Block 5, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly  
October 21, 28 & November 04, 2024

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
CITY OF IMUS, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(PAG-IBIG FUND),  
Mortgagee,

EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL  
ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT NO.  
3135, AS AMENDED, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4118

versus-

ROBERT P. PAREJA for himself and as  
Attorney-In-Fact, of his wife, IMELDA R. PAREJA,  
Mortgagors.

F.C. Case No. 19201-24  
X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), mortgagee, with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against ROBERT P. PAREJA for himself and as Attorney-In-Fact, of his wife, IMELDA R. PAREJA, mortgagors, with residence and postal addresses at Blk. 11 Lot 5 Prima Homes Subd., Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite and/or Lot 6 Blk. 9, Dreamville 4 Imus Subd., Alapan 1C,

Imus, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 10, 2024 amounts to SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FOUR THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY NINE PESOS & 71/100 (Php724,399.71), Philippine Currency, including interest but excluding penalties, attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned will sell at public auction on November 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., or soon thereafter at the main entrance of the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC-Imus, Bulwagan Ng Katarungan, Aguinaldo Highway, Imus City, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all the improvements therein, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2012034486

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 6 BLK. 9 OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-04-200927, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 1556-C-1, PSD-042109-065639, L.R.C. REC. NO. 8843) SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF ALAPAN-1C, MUN. OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE N.E., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 8 BLK. 9; ON THE S.E., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY ROAD LOT 11; ON THE S.W., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 4; AND ON THE N.W., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 5, BOTH BLK. 9, ALL OF THE SUBD. PLAN. X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF THIRTY SIX (36) SQUARE METERS. X X X"

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on November 26, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders/buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for

themselves the title to the said property and encumbrance therein if any there be.

City of Imus, Cavite, October 10, 2024.

(SGD) ROSVIDA C. NOCUM  
Sheriff IV  
Branch 22

APPROVED:

(SGD) ARMIE A. FRANCISCO  
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:  
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND)  
The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

ATTY. CAESAR S. EUROPA  
Attorney-In-Fact,  
24K ACCOUNTS CONSULTANT, INC.  
3F Fass Inteli College Bldg., No. 11, Pittsburgh St., Brgy. Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City

ROBERT P. PAREJA  
IMELDA R. PAREJA  
Blk. 11 Lot 5 Prima Homes Subd., Alapan 1-C, Imus, Cavite and/or  
Lot 6 Blk. 9, Dreamville 4 Imus Subd., Alapan 1C, Imus, Cavite

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly  
October 28, November 04 & 11, 2024



Address: Unit F 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Wilbincom Building J.P. Rizal Ave. Kaybagal  
 South, Tagaytay City, Cavite 4120  
 Email: [gensaicareercorp@gmail.com](mailto:gensaicareercorp@gmail.com)  
 Contact Number: 046 6862046

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- Communicate directly with clients to foster and encourage trusting relationships

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- Fluency in the Japanese Language, both spoken and written
- Should be able to travel to meet with clients
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Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumes to [gensaicareercorp@gmail.com](mailto:gensaicareercorp@gmail.com)

Shortlisted applicants will be notified for the next step in the hiring process.

**AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS**

Notice is hereby given that the estate of JOSEPH ANICETA LIBUTAN of legal age with residence address at Block 13, Lot 16, Tierra Nevada Subd. Brgy. San Francisco General Trias City, Cavite that on October 17, 2024 the receipt with Invoice no. 531288 issued by Waby Enterprises was lost under his custody and can no longer be found nor located that's why he executed this AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS as per Doc. No. 59, Page No. 12, Book No. XII, Series of 2024, Notary Public Atty. Gervacio B. Ortiz Jr.

Ang Caviteo Newsweekly  
 November 4, 11, & 18, 2024

**CSCO (PHILS) CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

PCAB License AAA / Email: [cscophils@gmail.com](mailto:cscophils@gmail.com)  
 Looking for qualified applicant:  
 Position: Business Development Manager

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain current client relationship and identifying area for potential clients;
- Developing goals for the development team and business growth and ensuring they are met;
- Review project contracts to ensure they meet legal and corporate guidelines;
- Planning and overseeing new marketing initiatives;
- Developing goals for the development team and business growth and ensuring they are met;
- Assist in preparation of technical and financial bidding documents;

Requirements:

- Bachelor's/college Degree of any related course, Engineering graduate is a plus;
- Minimum of 5 years proven experience in construction or engineering preferred;
- Exceptional communication and presentation skills, both written & verbal, in order to express technical and nontechnical concepts clearly and concisely;
- Technical skills required to create proposals and find solutions to meet clients requirements;
- Fluent in oral and written both in English and Chinese Language;
- Must be Mandarin speaking, excellent negotiation skills, excellent communication skills.

**CSCO (PHILS) CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

PCAB License AAA / Email: [cscophils@gmail.com](mailto:cscophils@gmail.com)  
 Looking for qualified applicant:  
 Position: Project Coordinator

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain and monitor project plans, project schedules, work hours, budgets, and expenditures.
- Scheduling stakeholder meeting and facilitating communication between the project manager and stakeholder throughout the project cycle.
- Ensuring projects adhere to frameworks and all documentation is maintained appropriately for each project.
- Participate in project design meetings and propose improvements if necessary.
- Assess project risk and issues and provide solutions where applicable.
- Communicate with clients to identify and define project requirements, scope and objectives.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's/college Degree in Commerce, Business Administration, Management, Engineering or related field
- Strong working knowledge of Project Management Software
- Proven work experience as a Project Coordinator or similar role
- Minimum of 5years contract experience in construction or engineering preferred;
- Fluent in oral and written both in English and Mandarin Language;
- Must be Mandarin speaking, excellent interpersonal skills, excellent communication skills, attention to detail and leadership skills

# Grateful PH officials send off Malaysia disaster management team

MANILA – Philippine officials sent off the Malaysian government disaster management team at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City on Saturday, expressing profound gratitude for the swift response to the country's cry for help.

The Philippine Air Force (PAF) led the departure ceremony to honor the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF), which played a crucial role in providing humanitarian assistance following the devastation caused by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami) last week.

The mission, conducted from Oct. 26, involved the deployment of a Eurocopter EC725 Caracal long-range transport helicopter, operated by a team of 16 crew members.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Malaysian government for their swift response to our request for assistance. Your support during this critical time has been invaluable in our recovery efforts following Severe Tropical Storm Kristine and it exemplifies our strong partnership in times of need," Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said in a news release.

Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Administrator Undersecretary Ariel Nepomuceno said RMAF's contributions made a significant difference in recovery efforts for the victims in the Bicol Region, hardest hit by the tropical cyclone.

"Their prompt and effective support has not only provided essential aid but also strengthened our ties as we work together to overcome this tragedy," Nepomuceno said in a statement.

The send-off was also attended by Lt. Gen. Stephen Parreño, PAF commanding general; Maj. Gen. Aristotle Gonzalez, Chief of Air Staff; Maj. Gen. Pablo Rustria Jr., commander of the Air Installation and Base Development Command; and Norjufri Nizar Edrus, deputy head of mission of the Embassy of Malaysia in the Philippines.

A Republic of Singapore Air Force C-130 also delivered 1,500 kitchen kits and 1,500 shelter-grade plastic sheets to Bicol International Airport; and

two Indonesian National Armed Forces helicopters (Mi-17V5 and H-225M) participated in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, including for victims of Super Typhoon Leon (international name Kong-rey).

"This collaborative effort underscores the strength of partnerships within ASEAN, reaffirming the commitment to regional stability and resilience in the face of natural disasters," the OCD said.

**Pouring aid**

Meanwhile, multibillion pesos worth of international aid poured in from the European Union (EU), United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Taiwan in response to the devastation left by Kristine.

The EU approved 1.5 million euros (approximately PHP94 million) in humanitarian aid to Bicol and Calabarzon; the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office has a donation of USD150,000 (approximately PHP8.7 million) as a "gesture of Taiwan's compassion and solidarity for Philippine individuals, families and communities" affected by the storm; and the UAE government will donate 33,000 boxes of family food packs and drinking water in regions that bore the brunt of Kristine.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said that as of Nov. 1, a total of 2,028,282 families (7,953,766 persons) residing in 11,414 villages in all 17 regions have been affected by Kristine and Leon.

Of the total, 81,716 families or 311,980 persons are in 1,980 evacuation centers while 88,304 families or 431,596 individuals, are receiving aid outside.

The damage to agriculture and infrastructure was placed at PHP4.43 billion and PHP6.82 billion, respectively, while 155,121 houses were damaged.

Government and non-government organizations have so far provided PHP996.6 million worth of assistance.

**Command center**

The NDRRMC has reactivated its Inter-Agency Coordinating Cell (IACC) to oversee emergency operations, under the leadership of Teodoro.

The IACC operates round the clock from the OCD Command Center in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

It serves as a one-stop shop for emergency operations, monitoring, and coordination with partners, stakeholders, and implementing agencies.


"We conduct daily briefings to ensure quick and appropriate action against disasters," Teodoro said. (PNA)



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# Foreign aid pours in for 'Kristine'-hit PH

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA – The Philippines is set to receive multibillion pesos worth of international aid from the European Union (EU), the United Arab Emirates, and Taiwan in response to the devastation left by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine (international name Trami).

The EU on Thursday said it has approved 1.5 million euros (approximately PHP94 million) in humanitarian aid to assist the most affected populations, especially in the regions of Bicol and Calabarzon.

*"I am sad to see that only a few days after my visit to Manila, the Philippines was, once more this year, severely struck by a disaster.*

*As I reiterated during my stay, the EU stands ready to help populations that are on the frontline of climate-related disasters,"* Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenarčič said.

This emergency funding comes in addition to the 4.5 million euros already allocated to the Philippines this year in humanitarian aid.

Nearly 2 million euros had previously been released following floods and tropical cyclones in Mindanao and other parts of the country in February, July and September 2024.

Also on Thursday, the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) announced its donation of USD150,000 (approximately PHP8.7 million). *Continued on page 2...*



**FLOOD SITUATION.** Local government personnel rescue residents in various barangays in Libon town, Albay province who were severely affected by massive flooding brought about by Severe Tropical Storm Kristine on Oct. 22, 2024. The Philippines is set to receive multibillion pesos worth of international aid from the European Union, the United Arab Emirates and Taiwan in response to Kristine's devastation. (Photo courtesy of Libon MPS)

## ARTA recognizes DSWD for outstanding anti-red tape initiatives

MANILA – The Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) has recognized the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for its outstanding performance in anti-red tape initiatives during the ARTA Report Card Survey (RCS) Awards for the 2023 RCS 2.0 at the Conrad Hotel in Pasay City on Oct. 30.

The recognition aligns with Section 20 of Republic Act 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Law, and Rule 12 of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

DSWD officials from the Central Office and participating Field Offices (FOs) led by Undersecretary for Policy and Plans Group (PPG) Adonis Sulit were present to accept the plaque of recognition.

*"These awards underscore our dedication to ensuring that our programs and services meet the highest standards of efficiency and effectiveness, in line with the government's drive to reduce red tape and enhance public service delivery,"* Sulit,

who is also the DSWD Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Anti-Red Tape (CART), said in a statement.

As part of the RCS 2.0, ARTA evaluated 860 government agencies on their compliance with the EODB law.

The survey measured key performance indicators, including the submission of compliance reports, client satisfaction, service provision, delivery and quality, and overall recognition of service excellence.

Among the eight DSWD offices assessed, seven were recognized for their exceptional performance.

The Central Office, along with FOs Calabarzon, 7 (Central Visayas), 11 (Davao Region), and Caraga, were honored with the prestigious RCS Gold Award for demonstrating excellent performance.

The DSWD FOs 5 (Bicol Region) and 12 (Soccsksargen) received the silver award for achieving Very Good performance. *Continued on page 2...*

## Drug war, POGO probe: House on right side of history

By Filane Mikee Cervantes

MANILA – The House of Representatives is "on the right side of history" in its probe into alleged extrajudicial killings (EJKs) linked to the previous administration's drug war and illegal Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators (POGOs).

In his speech during the resumption of session Monday, Speaker Martin Romualdez said the chamber would pursue the quad committee's probe "no matter the opposition" as they vowed to uncover the truth regarding EJKs and illegal POGOs.

*"Sa mga nagtatangka na pigilan tayo sa paghahanap ng katotohanan at katarungan, isa lamang ang sasabihin ko sa inyo: Hindi kayo magtatagumpay sa masamang hangarin ninyo (To those attempting to stop us from seeking truth and justice, I have only one thing to say: You will not succeed in your evil intentions),"* Romualdez said.

Romualdez said the House will "not yield to intimidation or pressure".

*"We will not be swayed by the attacks hurled against us. Instead, we will*

*press on with even greater resolve, knowing that the people are behind us, that history will remember our courage, and that our efforts are guided by the principles of justice and integrity,"* he said.

He noted that the House quad committee handling the probe faced efforts to discredit its "pursuit of accountability."

*"The quad comm and our young guns have become the target of those who prefer the shadows over the light. They attempt to undermine our work, casting aspersions against us. Instead, we will*



**RIGHT SIDE.** Speaker Martin Romualdez delivers his message during the resumption of session at the House of Representatives in Quezon City Monday (Nov. 4, 2024). Romualdez said the House will continue its probe into alleged extrajudicial killings during the previous administration's drug war. (Photo courtesy of House Press and Public Affairs Bureau)