

SCIENCE CHIEF LAUDS ZDN'S MSMES FOR RESILIENCE, CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY

Science and Technology Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña lauded a number of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Zamboanga del Norte for their resilience and big contribution to the economy during his visit in the province last 17-18 June 2022.

Sec. de la Peña was able to see how these enterprises were able to sustain business operations and provide employment especially during the pandemic. He expressed his delight that DOST was able to assist these businesses in improving their facilities, operations, and product quality.

The Secretary and his party visited four MSME proponents in the province of the agency's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Pro-

gram (SETUP). SETUP is DOST's flagship program assisting MSMEs to adopt technological innovations to boost their operation and improve productivity. The program offers a package of interventions such as equipment upgrading, human resource development, technical consultancy services and laboratory analyses, among others.

The enterprises visited included Laguerta Food Products in Katipunan; MDG Agri Aqua Enterprises and Celso Fish Production in Sibutad; and Balay ni SRB in Dipolog City.

Mechanizing Calamansi Juice Processing Located in the Municipality of Katipunan, Laguerta Food Products was able to mechanize its operation through DOST's assistance. This calamansi

processing firm was granted P999,936.00 to acquire semi-mechanized calamansi juice processing equipment and water purification system. Aside from equipment upgrading, the DOST also provided training on equipment operation and good manufacturing practices; technical consultancy on proper plant layout and compliance to FDA regulations; and laboratory analysis.

"Malaki talaga ang tulong ng DOST sa amin. Na-upgrade namin ang aming business", said proprietor Ardie S. Quiamjot. "We are indeed very honored and privileged to be visited by no less than DOST Secretary," co-proprietor Anita Quiamjot quipped to Sec. de la Peña during the latter's visit.

With the upgrading, the firm was able to increase their production by five times and was able to employ three more workers. They were also able to market their products in major supermarkets and grocery stores in the province. "We are now producing around 50 cases per day and we are already looking at expanding outside the province like the cities of Dumaguete and Cebu," Quiamjot added.

Efficient Bangus Production The Secretary and his party also visited two SETUP adopters in Sibutad -- MDG Agri Aqua Enterprises and Celso Fish Production. The two firms were granted P1,349,587.00 each. The assistance paved the way for the firms to upgrade their bangus (milkfish)

production business from using traditional bamboo cages to Norwegian-type cages.

The Norwegian-type cages are made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic pipes. The structure can last up to 30 years with very minimal maintenance required. In contrast, the bamboo cages can only last up to a maximum of two years that require heavy maintenance. The upgraded cages can also accommodate a bigger volume -- more than three times that using bam-

boo cages, from 15,000 to 50,000 fingerlings per cropping cycle.

"It requires investment at the start but in the long run the technology is very economical. We can save a lot of money," stated Miguel Lopez, proprietor of MDG Agri Aqua Enterprises.

Innovative crab fattening enterprise The last project visited by the Secretary was the Dipolog City-based Balay ni SRB for their crab fattening business. The firm was granted P578,880.00

to acquire the innovative recirculating aquaculture system (RAS). RAS employs "crab condo" with complete accessories and water recirculating system mimicking the natural habitat of crabs. The facility can accommodate 500 crabs at any given time. The crabs reared at RAS setup can triple its weight in just 15 days' cycle -- from an average of 300 grams to 900 grams. The facility is the first in the region.

Aside from visiting (Turn to page 9)

City Government of Carmona

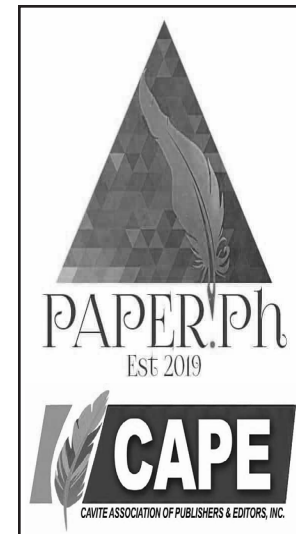
Municipal Health Office nanguna sa Voluntary Blood Donation Activity



Ngayong National Blood Donors Month ay matagumpay na isinagawa ang Voluntary Blood Donation Activity sa pangunahing ating Municipal Health Office (MHO Carmona).

Nasa 444 na bags ng dugo ang nakalap mula sa mga volunteer blood donors galing sa iba't-ibang barangay, organisasyon, at kumpanya. Taos-pusong pasalamat sa DOH CALA-BARZON, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, Philippine General Hospital, ABS-CBN, at Otsuka-Solar Phils. Inc. (Pocari Sweat) na naging katuwang sa nasabing programa.

Salamat din sa Kiwanis Club of Carmona, Rotary Club of Carmona, Carmona Sorteo Masonic Lodge No. 451, Carmona Sorteo Eagles Club, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), at Philippine Society of Medical Laboratory Scientists, Inc. (PSMLS) sa pakikiisa sa ating aktibidad.



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Big-ticket Projects to continue: Bonoan

"The current administration will continue to pursue big-ticket projects under the Build, Build, Build Program as instructed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr." Public Works and Highways Secretary Manuel M. Bonoan in a recent radio interview disclosed that the President has instructed the prioritization of infrastructure that would aid in the food security program of the government amid the rising inflation, as well as the interconnectivity of regions and convergence programs with other agencies.

Country's goal on fight against malnutrition achieved



According to global nutrition report (GNR), there has been slight progress towards achieving global nutrition targets in Asia. The report said that "the global target for overweight, stunting, and wasting among children under 5 years of age have several countries on course to meet it, including exclusive breastfeeding among infants aged 0 to 5 months, which has ten countries on course, while low birth weight and diabetes among women each have three countries on course.

However, not a single country in the region is on course to meet the targets in part to a nutrition program developed as a result of a national survey. The Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP), was launched where the concerns of young children 6-23 months and their mothers are being addressed through complementary feeding, nutrition education nutrition advocacy and capacity building of community workers.

The Philippines is among the countries that are 'on course' to meet one target for maternal, infant and young child nutrition

(MIYCN). This development may be attributed to reach out and help in nation-building. Any issue or complaint may be coursed through our social media pages, email, and hotline numbers," said Secretary Bonoan. Source: DPWH

Curbing malnutrition This "on course," is (Turn to page 3)

He added that DPWH will continue to improve the country's road network through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Program. Moreover, Secre-

tary Bonoan assured the public that he "will lead by example" in instilling professionalism amongst his colleagues, adding that the Department welcomes insightful public feedbacks and comments.

City Government of Carmona

Doctor to the Barangay

Nagsimula na ang programang "Doctor to the Barangay" kung saan ay nagsagawa ang mga medical officers mula sa Municipal Health Office ng libreng medical consultations para sa iba't-ibang Barangay Health Centers.

Nais nito na patuloy na manatiling ligtas at malusog ang lahat sa pamamagitan ng accessible health services. Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, maaaring i-contact ang inyong mga Barangay o magpadala ng mensahe sa MHO Carmona.



Country's goal on fight against malnutrition achieved

(From page 1) not achieved overnight, though. The country's fight against malnutrition has been around for decades, through the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) continuously develops food technologies which can help improve nutrition using scientific data.

The government's program in malnutrition, dubbed as the Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP) took off based on the 2008 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) results of the DOST-FNRI, which showed that the prevalence of underweight among Filipinos.

0-5 years old children was considered high in magnitude and severity based from the World Health Organization (WHO) cut-off points. This period is critical and proper nutrition intervention is needed to ensure proper physical and mental well-being of young Filipino children who will comprise the workforce in adult years.

In 2011, the DOST-FNRI came up with the Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP), a science-based nutrition strategy that has been helping address the high prevalence of underweight among infants and young Filipinos.

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It has been helping fight malnutrition, in partnership with the local government units, national government agencies, and private sector partners.

As part of the DOST's efforts in countryside development, which include improving the health and nutrition of children, the DOST-FNRI initiated a package of intervention for young children and their mothers.

This nutrition strategy comprised of complementary feeding of 6 months to below 3 years old children, and nutrition education of their mothers/caregivers that addresses child undernutrition, by encouraging the local gov-

ernment units (LGUs) and entrepreneurs to adopt the interventions in order to localize the production of complementary foods.

The strategy involves conduct of research and at the same time implementation of a social program that will help these young children in the countryside. The nutrition intervention was initially pilot-tested in four provinces with high prevalence of malnutrition among this group of young children. With the favorable results of the pilot testing in increasing the weight of children and improving the nutrition knowledge of mothers/caregivers after 120-days intervention, the MRP was rolled-out in various regions of the country with the slogan, "local technology works".

Introducing the eight new food technologies in its commitment to continuously develop food products that help improve the nutrition of the Filipinos and help in the liveli-

hood of entrepreneurs and in employment of community folks, DOST-FNRI came up with eight new food technologies that are ready for technology transfer. These food technologies are the following: The Coco Blend, Coco Bisc, Coco Puff; the Mea-Lusog in a pack with three variants (Pork Picadillo, Chicken Pochoero, and Mixed veggies Arroz); the Nutribunnets; Protein Food Bar; MNERK (Multi-nutrient extruded rice kernel) and MGM (Micronutrient growth mix), the latter two of which are both for pregnant and lactating women.

The DOST-FNRI is not into food manufacturing, but only into food technology development. Translating these food technologies into commercial products is the important role of local entrepreneurs, cooperatives, other groups who may be interested in manufacturing the product on a large scale and becoming the

supplier of these nutritious products in their community or provinces. The food manufactured by the private sectors are the ones that are government-subsidized and are given for free to mothers and children in selected areas where malnutrition is quite higher.

Since the MRP roll-out over ten years ago, a total of 16,448 children benefitted and have been a part of the complementary feeding component from 2011 to 2022. During President Duterte's administration, 5,370 children five years old and below benefitted from this program. Whatever improvements the country has made in the area of nutrition is a product of sustained government programs, based on sound data, and developed and implemented in collaboration with various government institutions, non-government organizations, civic groups, and private sector or industries. (Geraldine Bulaon-Ducosin, DOST-STII)

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Importance of remittances highlighted by Sec. Locsin

"Remittances do more than address basic human needs. They represent every migrant worker's dream of a brighter future and a better life," said Secretary of Foreign Affairs Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. in his keynote address during the commemoration of International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) at the Department of Foreign Affairs Bulwagan Apolinario Mabini on 28 June 2022.

In his speech, Secretary Locsin paid tribute to

(Turn to page 6)



"The ripple effects of remittances spreads beyond the immediate households they keep above water." Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr. in his keynote address during the 4th International Day of Family Remittances. Secretary Locsin led the campaign for the adoption of the UNGA resolution recognizing International Day of Family Remittances (IDFR) as an official UN observance every 16 June. (DFA-OPCD photo by Philip Fernandez)

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SCIENCE CHIEF LAUDS ZDN'S MSMES FOR RESILIENCE, CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMY

(From page 10)

SETUP-assisted projects in the province, the Secretary also turned over a replica of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the Filipino Scientist, to the Museo ni Rizal Dapitan in Dapitan City. Furthermore, the team also visited the Philippine Science High School-Zamboanga Peninsula Regional Campus (PSHS-ZRC).

Sec. Fortunato T. de la Peña (3rd from left) leads the turnover of a 3D-Printed replica of Dr. Jose Rizal to Rizal Shrine head curator Sofia Eguia-Bagolboc and Dapitan City Councilor Bin Balisado (5th and 4th from right).

The Secretary was joined by Dir. Richard Burgos of DOST's Science and Technology Information Institute, DOST-IX



Sec. Fortunato de la Peña inspects the equipment provided by the DOST with PD Nuhman M. Aljani.

Regional Director Martin Wee, ARD Mahmud Kingking, ARD Rosemarie Salazar, Supervising SRS Thelma Diego, Jean Ann Dagoy, and Provincial Directors Gerardo Parot and Jennifer Pidor and their staff from Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay provinces.

For more informa-

tion, kindly call (062) 991-2050 (Regional Office) or (065) 908-0117 (PSTC-ZDN) or email us at dost9info@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DOSTRegion9 (DOST-IX Press Release/ Nuhman M. Aljani and Herma Joyce T. Albuero)

Importance of remittances highlighted by Sec. Locsin

(From page 6)

sored by Algeria, Guatemala, Madagascar. The annual commemoration aims to raise awareness on the value of remittances to the global economy.

According to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), one in every seven persons worldwide is involved in remittances. The World Bank estimates global remittances to increase from US\$ 605 billion in 2021 to US\$ 630 billion in 2022. In the Philippines, around 11 million overseas Filipino workers contributed to US\$34.9 billion in remittances last

year, making the Philippines the fourth largest destination of remittances worldwide.

Because of the significant impact of remittances, UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalés urged governments and the private sector to work together in bringing down the cost of remittances so that migrant workers, their families, and countries of origin can maximize the benefits of these resources. According to Gonzalés, one way of doing this is through the increased use and widespread adoption of financial technology and financial literacy.

In the Philippines, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) has led various initiatives towards this end, including the development of a Digital Payments Transformation Roadmap, which aims to create an enabling regulatory environment to facilitate the digital transformation of financial services in the country. This year's commemoration was attended by members of the diplomatic corps and was jointly organized by the DFA's Office of the United Nations and International Organizations and the United Nations in the Philippines. Source: DFA

DENR hails Apo Reef Natural Park for bagging prestigious int'l conservation award

(From page 4)

area managers, and local protective protection of marine ecosystems.



"ARNP is the second platinum-level, the highest possible recognition, Blue Park Award recipient in the Philippines next to Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park, which was recognized in 2017."

It joins a growing network of 24 awarded Blue Parks around the globe that have met the highest science-based standards for conservation effectiveness.

Source: DENR

City Government of Bacoor

Malugod na tinanggap ni Mayor Strike B. Revilla ang mga kawani ng Bureau of Fire Protection-Bacoor sa pangunguna ni CINSP Alma Cassandra A. Gardose, City Fire Marshal

Katuwang ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ang BFP sa pagsisiguro na ligtas ang Bacooreño sa sakuna. Nagpasalamat si Mayor Strike sa agarang pagtugon ng BFP sa mga emergency situations, pati na rin sa kanilang handog na likhang sining.



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BACOOR

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
NAIC, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND
(Pag-IBIG Fund)
Mongagee/Petitioner,

-versus- FNC - 2022-36
For Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118

KARLO MAR D. CERIN,
Mortgagor/Respondent.

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/petitioner, a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679 with principal office at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, which mortgage against KARLO MAR D. CERIN, single, of legal age, Filipino citizen, with postal address at 4A TENGCO BRGY. 107 ZONE II, PASAY CITY, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of February 28, 2022 amounts to FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO & 28/100 (P 457,672.28) Philippine currency, inclusive of interest and other charges, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on August 2, 2022 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Regional Trial Court, Naic, Cavite, to the highest bidder, in CASH or MANAGER'S CHECK and in Philippine currency, the property with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. 057-2019010191

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain parcel of land situated in BARANGAY TIMALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF NAIC, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:

LOT NO: 20 BLOCK NO: 8 PLAN NO: PCS-04-031172

PORTION OF: CONS. SUBD. OF LOTS 2977 AND 2978, FLS-986-D (NAIC ESTATE) (VS-04-000597)

LOCATION: BARANGAY TIMALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF NAIC, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	SE	LOT 21, BLOCK 8, PCS-04-031172
2-3	SW	PATHWALK 11, PCS-04-031172
3-4	NW	LOT 19 BLOCK 8, PCS-04-031172
4-1	NE	LOT 19 BLOCK 8, PCS-04-031172

TIE POINT: MON. NO. 17, NAIC ESTATE, PROVINCE OF CAVITE

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
TO CORNER 1	S. 52° 13' E	1803.75 M.
1-2	S. 48° 35' W	8.00 M.
2-3	N. 41° 25' W	3.50 M.
3-4	N. 48° 35' E	8.00 M.
4-1	S. 41° 25' E	3.50 M.

AREA: TWENTY-EIGHT SQUARE METERS (28), MORE OR LESS

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

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves. the title herein above-described and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on August 9, 2022.

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

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,

-versus- FC Case No. 17372-22
EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135 AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

SPS. PEDRO PEREZ CEREGAL, JR. and JEAN CALICDAN CEREGAL represented by their Any-in-Fact JOSEPH C. CALICDAN,
Mortgagors.

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135 as amended by Act 4118 filed by BDO UNIBANK, INC., mortgagee, with principal office address at BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, against SPS. PEDRO PEREZ CEREGAL, JR. and JEAN CALICDAN CEREGAL represented by their Atty-in-Fact JOSEPH C. CALICDAN, with residence and postal address at Blk. 4 Lot 42 Phase 2, Lancaster Village, Brgy. Alapan 2-A, Imus, Cavite and/or 1705 Daisy Street, Bliss Hulo, Mandaluyong City, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of April 18, 2022 amounts to TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY EIGHT THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY THREE PESOS and 52/100 (P2,488,943.52) Philippine Currency, including interest and penalty charges but excluding attorney's fees, sheriff's fees and all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on August 23, 2022 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, 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. 057-2016060687

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 42, BLK. 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND SUBDIVISION PLAN PCS-04-026192, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. SUBD. OF LOTS 1633, IMUS ESTATE (RS-04-004080), 1634-A &

1634-B, PSD-04-034916; 1635, IMUS ESTATE, (RS-042109-001771); 1636-B, PSD-04- 082041 & LOT 2, PCS-04-020912) SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF ALAPAN 2-C, MUNICIPALITY OF IMUS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY ROAD LOT 13; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 41, BLK. 4 BOTH OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND SUBDIVISION PLAN; ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 1636-A, PSD-04-082041 AND ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 43, BLK. 4 OF THE CONSOLIDATION AND SUBDIVISION PLAN. x x x CONTAINING AN AREA OF EIGHTY FIVE (85) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, x x x"

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on August 30, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. without prior notice.

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

Imus, Cavite, Philippines, June 01, 2022.

ISRAEL S. MEDINA
Sheriff IV

APPROVED:

ARMIE A. FRANCISCO
Clerk of Court VI

Copy Furnished:

BDO Unibank, Inc.
BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

MS. ROWENA M. MANGILIMAN
11th Floor, BDO Towers Valero, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

PEDRO PEREZ CEREGAL, JR. married to JEAN CALICDAN CEREGAL
Blk. 4 Lot 42 Phase 2, Lancaster Village, Brgy. Alapan 2-A, Imus, Cavite and/or 1705 Daisy Street, Bliss Hulo, Mandaluyong City

CD-July 4, 11 & 18, 2022

DENR hails Apo Reef Natural Park for bagging prestigious int'l conservation award

(From page 4) said. He pointed out that the award will serve as an inspiration for the national government to strengthen its initiatives to conserve and protect marine protected areas in the country.

Naic, Cavite, June 6, 2022.

JANELLE V. LAGADON, MBA
Sheriff IV

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

CRISTINA A. ESTEPA
c/o ATTY. RAYMUNDO R. AQUINO
ANCHOR COLLECTION SERVICES INC.
Bldg. # 2 Malakas cor. Mapagmahal St., Brgy. Pinyahan, Quezon City

KARLO MAR D. CERIN
4A Tengco Brgy. 107 Zone II, Pasay City
Lot 20, Blk 8, Pasinaya Homes North, Phase 1, Timalan, Naic, Cavite

CD-July 4, 11 & 18, 2022

ARNP Protected Area Superintendent

Krystal Villanada and Portugal Celia Anna FERIA received the award on July 1.

"As ARNP is now being acknowledged globally, we are looking forward to expanding our networks and collaborations with different organizations to ensure a sustainable ocean for the future generation," Villanada said.

The Blue Park Award recognizes outstanding efforts by national government, non-profit organi-

(Turn to page 9)

DTI IDEA and ADVance program showcases 25 Filipino startup tech innovations

Twenty-five (25) Filipino tech startups showcased their innovations to investors on June 15 and 22 to culminate the IDEA and ADVance programs of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and PhilDev Foundation. The Incubation, Development, and Entrepreneurial Assistance (IDEA) and Accelerating Development, Valuation, and Corporate Entrepreneurship (ADVance) are 2 of DTI's pilot programs for startup capacity development launched to continuously strengthen the startup ecosystem in the country and foster an innovation-driven economy.

In his message, DTI Secretary Ramon Lopez reaffirmed the government's commitment "to boosting more opportunities and advantages for Filipino startups through [their] programs for Trabaho, Negosyo, and Kabuhayan." This includes fulfilling the mandates of the Innovative Startup Act enacted in 2019 according to Lopez.

The latest Global Startup Ecosystem Report revealed that Manila's startup ecosystem continued to prosper. Its value increased from USD 584 million to USD 2.1 billion, reflecting the steady growth of the ecosystem amidst challenges like the pandemic.

"[The report] shows that our startups and tech-inclined MSMEs continue to pursue their innovation ventures in line with DTI's startup programs and initiatives to empower and boost the potential of innovative enterprises," DTI – Competitiveness and Innovation Group Undersecretary Rafaelita Al-daba shared.

DTI and PhilDev welcomed the first cohorts of the programs beginning this year to improve their market and investment readiness. The programs provided each startup access to learning sessions, mentorship from experts and business leaders, financial and legal support services, and networking opportunities with key players in the ecosystem.

In a testimonial, Anihan Technologies (Ani-Tech) Co-Founder and CEO Gillian Santos spoke of how the program enabled her and the cohort to become better entrepreneurs, "Through programs like [IDEA] that actually help equip us with the fundamental skills and concepts, I now know that we have a better chance of surpassing the [valley of death] and creating a positive impact not just to the market we're serving but to the Philippines as a whole," Santos shared.

Cebu-based startup Hinulawanlab.com

also commended the program for the mentorship they received. They were matched with Guita Gopalan, General Manager and Chief Revenue Officer of Vivanti Advantage, for the mentorship benefits of the program.

"Our learnings went through the roof! From marketing strategies, financial management, human resources, [Guita] was very knowledgeable and understanding. Through her, we were able to connect the dots – the dots that were scattered all over before," Atty. Giovanni Gil, CEO of Hinulawanlab.com, described.

Joining AniTech and Hinulawanlab.com in the IDEA incubator program are 17 more early-stage startups from various industry verticals: Avodah Philippines, Bantay Chatbot, Basky, Bookuna, Britana Global Solutions, CarSurvey PH, Cleenvent, Dali Innovations, DigitizePH, Forent, Green Impact Global, iBoard Marketplace, Lifepreritice, Raffleexchange, SafeTravelPH, Sureplus, and Sociov.

On the other hand, the ADVance accelerator program supported 6 growth-stage startups with products and services aligned with the Philippine Development Plan's strategic priorities: health, food security, digital transformation, education, and regional development. The cohort comprises Edukasyon.ph, Empath, InsightSCS, Magwai, Nanotronics, and TakeFive Outdoors.

In an interview, Rach Viray, Empath's Special

City Government of Bacoor Mayor Strike B. Revilla sumabak agad sa trabaho

Sa kanyang unang araw bilang alkalde, sumabak agad sa trabaho si . Marami siyang programa at proyekto na gustong ipatupad para sa Bacooreño at magandang simulan agad ang mga ito.



Projects and Partnerships Manager, expressed that the ADVance program helped them set a clearer path in terms of investment readiness, "Steph has been bootstrapping since the start of the business. Now she's more open to talking to investors, but the direction is more strategic." Viray further shared that they are interested in talking to angel and impact investors to grow and sustain their enterprise.

PhilDev Chairman Dr. Francisco "Paco" Sandejas congratulated the startups that completed the programs. He also urged the demo day attendees to continue working together, "After the Demo Day, we want to see more collaborations and more growth opportunities for the ecosystem to thrive. Let's make it happen."

The demo days mark the culmination of the IDEA and ADVance programs, and the startups are seeking funding and partnerships to upgrade their technologies, increase market reach, and scale their businesses. PhilDev and DTI jointly encourage their investor partners to invest in these startups to enhance industries and sectors such as the agriculture supply chain, energy, health care, and environment, contributing to inclusive economic growth in the country.

Interested investors and potential partners can download the startup portfolios to reach the startups and learn more about them through the IDEA Incubator and the ADVance Accelerator websites.

Source: DTI

