



PAMPERED PINAY: PEACE, JOY & PROMEGRANATES

HEALTHFUL TIPS TO SHARE
EMPOWERMENT | P2



ENROLLING NOW FREE CLASSES

ONLINE AND IN PERSON
EDUCATION | P10



WE HAVE JOBS AVAILABLE

VISIT/APPLY AT THE STORE
WEEKLY SALES | P12



Filipino PRESS

CHRISTMAS EDITION



San Diego's No. 1 Source of News & Information for the Filipino Community • An Award-Winning Newspaper

Since 1986

December 23, 2022 - December 29, 2022

www.thefilipinopress.com • (619) 434-1720

Pres. Marcos seeks satellite data mobilization to improve gov't services

MANILA -- President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is advocating the use of satellite mapping in all government offices to improve their services and operations, Malacañang said on Tuesday.

Marcos pitched the idea when he convened the inaugural meeting with members of the Philippine Space Council (PSC) at the Philippine Space Agency's (PhilSA) conference room at CyberOne Building in Eastwood, Quezon City on Monday, Undersecretary Cheloy Garafil, officer-in-charge of the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) said in a statement.

Marcos, who concurrently serves as chair of the PSC, stressed the importance of giving government agencies access to satellite data that could have multiple uses, specifically in improving the agriculture and business sectors and in protecting the environment.

"So, that's why I was asking you that we have to make sure that the data we give [in] each different department is in a form that they can use," Marcos, as quoted by the OPS, told the PSC.

Marcos, Garafil said, sees the need to conduct a mapping of the entire country "in a slightly different way from what was being done before."

"During Monday's inaugural meeting of the Philippine Space Council, President Marcos particularly highlighted the importance of satellite mapping which could have multiple



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. meets with officials of the Philippine Space Council (PSC) where advocated using satellite mapping to help improve agency operations, including agriculture, business, and the environment. The President, who chairs the PSC, directed the council to guarantee that the data provided to relevant departments are helpful and will leverage the Philippines' partnerships with international imaging agencies.(MNS photo)

application," she said.

To date, PhilSA and the Department of Science and Technology's Advanced Science and Technology Institute (DOST-ASTI) have jointly developed the Space Data Dashboard which features

an interactive Philippine map that shows data from different satellite projects.

The dashboard is designed to provide information from satellite images, which include traffic monitoring, air quality, water quality,

night lights, land cover, flood maps, landslides and disaster incidence.

Marcos is seeking the further development of a Philippine satellite map to guide both the government and its partners, Garafil said.

He believed that the use of

mapping data can help potential investors such as carbon producers in "balancing their activity" as they could be provided with the necessary information in terms of developing a particular bio-diverse area in a certain location.

"The reason we are signing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Space Council is so that we can do mapping because... as I was explaining to you earlier, in terms of green, in terms of bio assets, there is now a way to quantify your nice fisheries, your agricultural activity," he said.

"All of that. It is in terms of how much carbon you're putting out into the air. But the beginning, the first step of that, will be to map," Marcos added.

International cooperation

Marcos also advised the PSC to maximize the Philippines' tie-ups with international imagery and mapping agencies, Garafil said.

This, as Marcos wanted to make sure that the government offices will have access to satellite data according to their needs, the Office of the President (OP) said in a Facebook post.

"The President, who chairs the PSC, directed the council to guarantee that the data provided to relevant departments are helpful and will leverage the Philippines' partnerships with international imaging agencies," the OP said.

National Space Week

Meanwhile, PhilSA recommended the issuance of a resolution declaring the annual celebration of the National Space Week from Aug. 8 to 14, Garafil said.

Garafil said the proposal to observe National Space Week,

See **PRES MARCOS** on **9**

\$3.4 million in congressional funding coming to San Diego Community College District

Funds benefiting Dreamers, LGBT students, and former foster youth obtained by Representatives Sara Jacobs, Juan Vargas, and Scott Peters



San Diego Mesa College recently opened its Dreamer Resource Center to serve undocumented students, DACA students and others (Photo: Mesa College).

Federal funding totaling \$3.4 million that will benefit more than 100,000 students at San Diego's four community colleges is included in the FY 2023 Omnibus Appropriations Bill. The bill, the result of negotiations by House and Senate leaders, is expected to get President Biden's signature before the current Continuing Resolution expires at midnight on Friday, December 23.

The funding comes from three grants that the San Diego Community College District requested:

- \$1.2 million to better serve lesbian, gay, and transgender students
- \$1 million for an initiative to expand service at the San Diego College of Continuing Education to youths who have recently aged out of

the foster care system

\$1.2 million for new and expanded centers serving undocumented students.

"These funds will support the academic success of our students, particularly students who face unique challenges as they pursue their education," said Carlos O. Cortez, chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. "I want to thank Representatives Sara Jacobs, Scott Peters, and Juan Vargas for championing this funding on our behalf to support these students and our colleges."

The \$1.2 million grant obtained by Rep. Jacobs to support LGBTQIA+ students will be used to create or expand Pride Centers at San Diego

City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College and San Diego College of Continuing Education. The Pride Centers offer a safe space for persons of all sexual or gender identities and provide education, dialogue and research on issues related to sexuality and gender.

The grant will also be used to hire a regional coordinator who will act as a liaison among the many local agencies that provide services for LGBT students. It will also fund an annual leadership academy that encourages students to support the LGBT community, along with a weekly program that develops leadership for LGBT high school and junior high school-aged youth.

A \$1 million grant backed by Rep. Peters will fund the Gateway to College and Career Program at the San Diego College of Continuing Education for former foster care youth. Studies show that 47% of youths who have just aged out of foster care are unemployed, and 33% are or have been homeless. More than 1,500 former foster care youths live in San Diego County.

For the past six years, the Gateway to College and Career program has offered services, learning opportunities, job training and internships to former foster care youth. The program collaborates with social service agencies to provide food, education, and connections with employers for former foster youth.

See **\$3.4 MILLION** on **9**

Filipino Holiday Kick off delivers goods on merry making and fun

By Brin Balboa & SdS

NATIONAL CITY, CA-- Despite the cold chilly weather, December is a warm and joyous time of the year, especially for the Filipino community. To kickstart the Holiday festivities, Westfield Plaza Bonita hosted a free Filipino Holiday Kickoff in collaboration with the Filipino Press and Gerry's Grill on December 10th where 800 people were in attendance. Crowd turnout was an array of different groups; from Filipino veterans, nurses, educators, youth, and families, to other cultures, races, and identities, the National City community came out to show support and admiration towards Pinoy traditions.

Situated in the mall's food court, the kickoff started at 1pm, jam packed with performances from the Prime Ladies by House of The Philippines, Samahan Philippine Dance Company, and Olympian High School Dance Club and more, as well as keynote speakers, photobooths, raffles, cultural fashion show, and a parol-making competition. Decorating the event were paper parols, provided by the students of Montgomery High School and Mar Vista High School and more; a bahay kubo in front of the stage, and cheerful event goers dressed in traditional Filipino garments and cozy Christmas sweaters. Not only was this event a wonderful display of Filipino beauty and excellency, but it was also able to pay homage to integral parts of our community, such as our Filipino educators, frontline responders, nurses, and community leaders.



Prime Ladies of SD courtesy of House of the Philippines

In attendance was National City Mayor Alejandra Sotelo-Solis, who spoke during the event. "We are here to celebrate the beauty and diversity that is here in our National City," said Mayor Sotelo-Solis. "[The parol] recognizes the special day of Christmas and the coming together and I just want to say thank you on the behalf of the city of National City."

Also in attendance were Vice Mayor Marcus Bush who exclaimed it was an amazing event and newly elected District 3 council Ditas Yamane.

Westfield Plaza Bonita is a comfort place for many Pinoys – with familiar spots such as Gerry's Grill Restaurant, Potato Corner and an AMC that is often playing Filipino cinema, many folks from the community dwell at the mall to hang out and relax. Holding the

event at Westfield Plaza Bonita was intentional to garner more turnout, and was successful. It is important to host these events where community members feel like they are welcomed and celebrated – Westfield Plaza Bonita is that place for many Pinoys.

"The Filipinos love the Westfield Plaza Bonita Mall," emcee of the night, Jun Guzman jokes with the audience, but there is a lot of truth in that joke. Filipinos love shopping, watching pinoy movies, eating filipino food and care for their health by walking as a form of exercise and where else to safely to do that all in the one and only Plaza Bonita Mall. The mall is conveniently located in National City which is home to 80 percent of the Filipino own businesses in San Diego. Gerry's Grill is currently the largest filipino

See **FILIPINO** on **2**