

Senator Pia Cayetano Visits Cavite, Highlights Support for Healthcare, Education, Sports, and Women

Senator Pia Cayetano continued her provincial visits today with a stop in Cavite, where she met with Cavite Governor Athena Tolentino at the Provincial Capitol in Trece Martires. During the courtesy visit, Senator Pia was warmly welcomed by local officials, including Board Members and Mayors, as well as capitol employees present.



As the youngest and first female governor of Cavite, Governor Tolentino and Senator Cayetano also took the opportunity to exchange insights on their shared advocacies for women empowerment and the importance of having more women in leadership roles—a fitting conversation this Women's Month.

The senator then headed to Cavite State University (CvSU) in In-



students, the Senator also challenged them: "I'm very excited kasi the College of Medicine is my project. But it remains in paper until you bring it to life."

In addition to the College of Medicine building, Senator Pia has also championed several other initiatives in CvSU, including the construction of dormitories, sports facilities for racket sports, the establishment of its Veterinary Biomedical Research Center, and the development of a smart campus—underscoring her commitment to holistic development in education, health, and sports. PR

dang to check on the ongoing construction of the University's College of Medicine building—a key project she supported to help expand CvSU's capacity to train future doctors.

The Senator recalled the collective effort

put into the establishment of CvSU's College of Medicine, saying "It's not easy to get accredited, and it's also not easy to find the funding. But I'm so happy that it's happening now and we have our first batch of graduates coming up." Addressing the

Sweet as Pineapple



Anna Roselle A. Garcia can attribute the success of her business to the sweetness of the pineapple fruit, a famous local produce from her hometown in Calauan, Laguna.

The town of Cauan in Laguna has a thriving agricultural industry, with the local pineapple trade holding a special place in its economic activities. It has been known for its sweet pineapple harvests, attracting locals and tourists alike whenever the fruit is in season.

For many, pineapple is not just a source of livelihood—it is a symbol of resilience and creativity. One such entrepreneur who harnessed the potential of Calauan's iconic fruit is Anna Roselle A. Garcia, a 41-year-old businesswoman who turned her passion for business and her love for local produce into a thriving enterprise. As the eldest child and breadwinner, Anna worked

abroad to support her parents and meet the needs of her family. Anna spent five years in Taiwan, gaining skills in baking cakes and pastries, and later worked as a farmer in Japan.

However, due to financial struggles, she returned home in 2016 through the government-initiated "Balik Pinas Program". Through this program, she received assistance in the form of an oven, which she used to launch her cake and pastry business in 2017—the same year she started her own family.

Anna's innovative spirit emerged in 2018 when she saw the rising popularity of gourmet fish in a bottle and decided to

add her twist by incorporating Calauan's famous pineapple. Her first batch, tested by family and sold by her sister at the market, doubled her initial capital. This success inspired Anna to continue and expand her product lines, such as pineapple concentrate, pineapple bars with flavors like purple yam, chocolate, and bukayo pandan, and even a pineapple champoy—a candy made from the pineapple's eye. Her innovative and entrepreneurial mindset aimed to maximize the use of pineapple.

With her business flourishing under

the name Piñana, Anna showcased her products at trade fairs, product exhibits, and seminars, eventually gaining media attention.

But the path to success was not easy. She faced financial difficulties, struggled with marketing and promotions, and more. Despite these setbacks, she remained optimistic, driven by her passion, faith, and dedication. As Anna shares with aspiring entrepreneurs: "Don't let your challenges define you; let them strengthen you. Your passion and perseverance are your greatest assets."

As her business grew, Anna received support from CARD Bank, Inc.,

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Cavite records 409% spike in dengue cases

PHILHEALTH EXPANDS COVERAGE FOR HEART SURGERIES UP TO P1 MILLION

MPT South Achieves Triple ISO Certification, Strengthening Commitment to Excellence and Sustainability

MPT South, the concessionaire of the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, was recently granted three International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certifications. The company achieved certifications for ISO 9001 (Quality Management), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management), and ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety), showcasing its commitment to operational excellence and sustainable business practices.

To celebrate this milestone, an awarding ceremony was held on January 27, 2025, at Sequoia Hotel, where certifying body, DQS Certifica-



Abot sa 5,612 residente ng Majayjay, Laguna ang mabibigyan ng sapat at ligtas na patubig ngayong sinisimulan na ang konstruksyon ng isang level II potable water system (PWS) ng Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project



"This achievement reflects MPT South's unwavering commitment to excellence, sustainability, and the safety of every motorist we serve," said Ms. Rumawak.

For inquiries about this press release please email us at: corpcomm@mptsouth.com



HEALTH HINTS FOR ELDERLY FROM AGES 45 TO 100 YEARS

Sometimes it can feel like maintaining a healthy lifestyle is an overwhelming challenge that doesn't fit within the realities of daily life. It's tough to hold down a full-time job, eat well, train for a marathon, make homemade green juice, spend quality time with your family/partner, and meditate for an hour each day. □

Of course, healthy living can incorporate all of these things (if you want it to), but it doesn't have to be defined by grandiose displays of health and fitness.

So much of healthy living is really made up of small things we do daily—things that are so small they don't feel momentous, but that, done consistently over time, add up to produce big results.

31 wellness tips for healthy & happy living

Here are 31 tips to live a healthier, happier lifestyle—all simple, easy things that can be seamlessly incorporated into your daily life:

1. drink a glass of water first thing in the morning

Coffee's great too, but it's best to start your day by re-hydrating with a full glass of water. Hydrating first thing in the morning helps to aid digestion, enhance skin health and boost energy.

2. take the stairs

Taking the stairs instead of the elevator is a simple way to get a little more physical activity in your daily life. It also strengthens and tones your legs and core while you're at it!

3. make half your plate veggies

A simple hack for healthy eating (and portion control) is to make half your plate veggies at each meal. The veggies pack in essential vitamins, minerals and other phytonutrients important for health and longevity. And, because they're rich in fiber, they help to aid digestion (aka keep you regular!) and keep you feeling full longer.

4. get a fitness tracker + track your steps

Using a fitness tracker (like a Fitbit or Apple Watch) to track your steps is an easy way to make sure you're getting enough physical activity each day. We aim for 10,000 steps daily, which has significant physical and mental health benefits. A fitness tracker will also remind you to get 250 steps each hour (another important measure of health—see tip #9!). Here are our favorite fitness tracker smartwatches of 2021.

5. switch to non-toxic household cleaning products

Conventional household cleaning products are full of harmful chemical ingredients that are not good for our health (or the health of our kids or pets!). Switching to healthier alternatives is a simple way to reduce your exposure to environmental toxins in your home. See our Healthy Cleaning Guide for a complete list of recommendations, and what to look for when choosing safer household cleaning products.

6. use non-toxic skincare + personal care products

Similar to cleaning products, conventional skincare and personal care products are formulated with toxic ingredients we should not regularly let absorb into our body's largest organ. Reduce the toxic burden on your body by switching to Cont. Next week issue
March 19-25, 2025

Cavite...

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite — Dengue cases in Cavite province have surged by 409 percent in 2025, prompting all 23 localities in the province to go on high alert, according to the Provincial Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit (PESU).

From Jan. 1 to Feb. 22, PESU recorded 3,379 dengue cases at General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Medical Hospital in Barangay Luciano -- a sharp increase from the 664 cases reported during the same period in 2024, according to Dr. Nelson Soriano, Cavite Provincial Health Officer.

Ten localities reported over 100 cases each, with Imus leading at 501 cases, followed by Bacoor (456), Dasmariñas (416), General Trias (394), Tanza (335), Cavite City (223), Naic (219), Rosario (141), Kawit (124), and Carmona City (112).

Of the total cases, 33 were severe, 2,126 (63%) showed warning signs, and 1,220 (38%) had no warning signs.

Eight fatalities were recorded, with three from Trece Martires City, two from General Mariano Alvarez, and one each from Silang, Carmona,

KONSTRUKSYON...

(DA-PRDP) at ng lokal na pamahalaan. May halaga itong Php 90,181,808.71.

Isinagawa ang nasabing proyekto upang matulungan ang mga residente ng Brgy. Bakia, Bitao, Botocan, Gagalog, Isabang, Piit, Rizal, at Taytay na matagal nang umaasa sa pagpapakulo ng tubig o pagbili ng mineral water sa kanilang pang-araw- araw na gamit. Layon nitong maisaayos at mapalawak ang water system sa kanilang lugar sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng water tanks, transmission at distribution lines, valves, communal tap stands, at isang 40-meter hanging bridge.

Sa groundbreaking ceremony ng proyekto, binati ni DA-PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office CALA-BARZON Project Director Engr. Redelliza Gruezo

and Bacoor. Imus Mayor Alex Advincula said the Imus City Health Office and City Environment Office are conducting misting, fogging, and cleanup drives in communities to combat the outbreak.

"I remind every barangay to maintain cleanliness. We've distributed lotions to schools and are working together to reduce dengue cases," Advincula said.

Other localities, including General Trias, have also intensified efforts to address the outbreak.

The Department of Health reported a decrease in dengue cases at 14,460 from Jan. 26 to Feb. 8. The figure is 7 percent lower compared to the 15,550 cases recorded from Jan. 15 to Jan. 25.

Still, the number is 64 percent higher than during the same period in 2024.

Overall, there have been 52,008 reported cases this year as of Feb. 22.

The three regions with the highest number of cases are Calabarzon, where Cavite belongs, with 10,759; National Capital Region with 9,302; and Central Luzon with 8,652. (PNA)

ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Majayjay sa kanilang tagumpay. Aniya, patuloy na makikipagtulungan ang DA-PRDP pati na ang DA sa lokal na pamahalaan sa mga proyektong para sa sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan.

Pinasalamatan naman ng punong bayan na si Romeo Amorado ang DA-PRDP sa kanilang tagumpay. Aniya, umaasa siyang maiiwasan na rin ang pagkakasakit ng mga mamamayan dulot ng maruming tubig sa tulong ng proyekto.

Tinatarget na matapos ang PWS sa Enero 2026. Bago sinimulan ang konstruksyon, pinag-usapan ng DA-PRDP, lokal na pamahalaan, at contractor ang mga pamantayan ng DA-PRDP Scale-Up at construction methodologies ng proyekto. PR

Retaking of Corregidor Island in line with the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Philippines

The Provincial Government of Cavite, in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO), the City Government of Cavite, and the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), commemorated the historic Retaking of Corregidor Island, under the theme, "Liberation's Legacy: Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future" on February 16, 2025.

The solemn ceremony, held at the Pacific War Memorial, Corregidor Island, Cavite City, marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Philippines from Japanese forces and paid tribute to the heroes who fought for the nation's freedom.

The event began with the National Anthem, followed by a Wreath Laying Ceremony, where representatives from key institutions honored the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice: Ms. Catherine E. Sta. Clara, Corregidor FTEZ Administrator, representing Mr. Mark T. Lapid, Chief Operating Officer of TIEZA, Councilor Jesus Jet Barrera II, representing Cavite City Mayor Denver Christopher Chua, Capt. Jason Letho, US Coast Guard Attaché, and Mr. Chad Kinnear, Deputy Director of Public Engagement, Public Affairs Section, representing the US Embassy, Asec. Domingo Carbonel Jr., representing Undersecretary Reynaldo Mapagu of PVAO, Asec. Christine Joy Cari, representing Secretary Christina Frasco of the Department of Tourism, Mr. Regalado Trota Jose Jr., Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Atty. Rodolfo D. Uy III, Provincial Administrator of Cavite, representing Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino, accompanied by Col. Julius T. Yncierto of the Philippine Navy Marines General Staff Corps.

A tour of the Corregidor Island was also held during the commemoration to provide a deeper appreciation of its historical legacy.

The Provincial Government of Cavite expressed gratitude to all participants and attendees for joining this meaningful gathering, uniting to honor the past, celebrate the hard-won peace, and inspire future generations to uphold the ideals of democracy and unity. — H. Villa

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day on January 5, 2025, but passed away three days later.

Mayor Alex Advincula commended senior citizens for their contributions in shaping the city into one that is more responsive to the needs and well-being of its residents.

In addition to receiving cash gifts, the beneficiaries availed themselves of free medical check-ups, medicines, and vitamins. They also received wellness packages, including free haircuts, massages, manicures, and pedicures, courtesy of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation also conducted a lecture on the benefits available to senior citizens under the Konsulta Package.

The Expanded Centenarians Act (R.A. 11982), signed by President Marcos on February 26, 2024, grants P10,000 to seniors aged 80, 85, 90, and 95 while maintaining the P100,000 cash gift for centenarians.

Konstruksyon ng patubig ng DA-PRDP sa Majayjay, Laguna, sisimulan na



Aabot sa 5,612 residente ng Majayjay, Laguna ang mabibigyan ng sapat at ligtas na patubig ngayong sinisimulan na ang konstruksyon ng isang level II potable water system (PWS) ng Department of Agriculture – Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) at ng lokal na pamahalaan. May halaga itong Php 90,181,808.71.

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Carmona Advances Transportation with Signing of South-Luzon Integrated Terminal Exchange (SLITX) Partnership

CARMONA, CAVITE – A pivotal moment in the future of transportation for Carmona and South Luzon was celebrated today with the signing of successful negotiations and the granting of Original Proponent Status (OPS) for the South-Luzon Integrated Terminal Exchange (SLITX) project.

The event, held alongside a press conference, was graced by Hon. Congressman Atty. Roy Loyola, Hon. Mayor Dahlia Loyola, officials from Megawide OneMobility Corporation, distinguished public officials, and members of the Carmona community. This strategic partnership is set to transform regional transportation and enhance mobility for commuters traveling between Carmona, Metro Manila, and nearby prov-

inces. In her address, Mayor Loyola underscored the significance of SLITX: "This initiative is more than just an infrastructure development; it is a commitment to efficient, safe, and modern mobility for commuters. This project exemplifies our vision of Carmona as a progressive and connected city."

SLITX aims to revolutionize transportation in the region, integrating a world-class terminal with commercial spaces, office buildings, and logistics facilities. Beyond enhancing travel efficiency, the project is expected to generate economic opportunities, create jobs, and drive local business growth.

Mayor Loyola extended her gratitude to all

collaborators, stating: "My deepest appreciation goes to our partners at Megawide OneMobility Corporation, our city officials, and everyone involved in bringing this project closer to reality. This partnership reflects the power of a shared vision and commitment to public service."

The signing of this public-private partnership marks a milestone in Carmona's journey towards becoming a model Smart City, prioritizing sustainability, connectivity, and economic development. SLITX promises to be a game-changer, aligning with the city's goals of building a more efficient and progressive future for its people. (Edjun Mariposque)

Metrobank posts record earnings of PHP48.1B in 2024Strong asset expansion drives income growth

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.'s (Metrobank) net income rose by 14.0% year-on-year to a record PHP48.1 billion in 2024, supported by robust asset expansion and improving asset quality.

This translated to a 13.0% return on equity, higher than the 12.5% recorded in the same period last year.

The Board also approved a total cash dividend of PHP5.00 per share for the year. Aside from the regular dividend of PHP3.00 per share that will be paid out on a semi-annual basis, a special cash dividend of PHP2.00 was declared. The first payout of PHP3.50 will be given to shareholders on record as of March 6, 2025.

"The hard work that all Metrobankers put in growing our corporate, middle market, retail and wealth segments as well as our investments in technology and human resources and risk management initiatives continue to bear fruit," said Metrobank President Fabian S. Dee. "This positive momentum and our strong balance sheet set us up very well to continuously meet the growing needs of our clients and to pursue our medium-term strategies," he added.

The Bank's net

interest income rose 8.7% to PHP114.1 billion on the back of a strong 17.0% expansion in gross loans, outpacing industry growth of 12.5%. Commercial loans surged by 17.7% as corporates continued to increase capital spending. Consumer loans grew by 14.4% driven by an 18.6% rise in net credit card receivables and 18.2% growth in auto loans.

Total deposits rose by 8.0% to PHP2.6 trillion from a year ago, of which low-cost Current and Savings Accounts (CASA) accounted for 57.8%.

Fee and trust income edged up to PHP18.1 billion supported by growth in consumer business. In addition, the Bank booked a combined trading and foreign exchange gain of PHP5.6 billion in 2024, a 39% year-on-year improvement.

Operating costs grew 11.0%, year-on-year, to PHP77.2 billion driven by transaction related taxes as well as manpower, technology and marketing costs as the bank continued to invest for growth.

Metrobank's non-performing loans (NPLs) ratio further eased to 1.43% from 1.69% in 2023, which enabled the Bank to reduce provisions by 29.2% year-on-year. NPL cover, nonetheless,

remains high at 163.5%, providing a substantial buffer against any emerging risks to the portfolio.

Metrobank's total consolidated assets stood at PHP3.52 trillion, maintaining its status as the country's second largest private universal bank. Total equity reached PHP385.5 billion.

The Bank's fortress balance sheet remains evident with capital adequacy ratio at 16.7% and Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) ratio at 15.9%, all well above the BSP's minimum regulatory requirements. Metrobank's Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) is also high at 256.1%.

Metrobank was thus, recognized by the Asian Banker as the country's Strongest Bank for the fourth consecutive year. During the Euromoney Awards for Excellence 2024, it was also named as the Best Bank for Corporate Responsibility for its efforts via Metrobank Foundation to support the country's education, arts and social sectors. The Asian Banker also noted Metrobank as the Most Recommended Retail Bank in the Philippines, based on the results of The Asian Banker's Annual BankQuality™ Consumer Survey in January 2024.

PHILHEALTH...

Effective today, March 1, 2025, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation's (PhilHealth's) significantly expanded Z Benefits Package for open heart surgeries and newly developed package for heart valve repair and replacement reaffirm the social health insurance's commitment to provide financial protection for cardiovascular health

1. Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) ranging from P660,000 to P960,000 (previously at P550,000)

2. Closure of Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) from P498,000 to P614,000 (previously at P250,000)

3. Total Correction of Tetralogy of Fallot (TOF) up to P614,000 (previously at P320,000)

Additionally, PhilHealth has launched its new Z Benefits Package for Heart Valve Repair and

PhilHealth substantially increased the packages for the following open heart surgeries:

Replacement ranging from P642,000 to P810,000. It also includes cardiac rehabilitation packages at P15,000 and P6,500 for adult and pediatric cases, respectively.

Meanwhile, patients with rheumatic fever/ rheumatic heart disease undergoing these treatments may be enrolled in the outpatient benefit package for secondary prevention in accordance with PhilHealth Circular 2019-0005.

Qualified PhilHealth members and dependents can avail of

DOT banking on faith tourism to improve visitor traffic in Calabarzon

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Tourism (DOT) in Calabarzon plans to intensify the promotion and development of faith tourism to cater Catholic pilgrims that will visit the region this Lenten season.

DOT Calabarzon Regional Director Marites Castro shared that they are working on improving pilgrimage tourism in the region.

This initiative aims to attract more people to visit various Catholic churches and historical sites in Calabarzon, especially during Lenten season where Filipinos often take time to observe religious and cultural traditions.

"We really want to intensify our pilgrimage tourism, or faith tourism, which is why we are coordinating with local tourism officers and the churches to create local tour packages that include the churches," Castro said during an open forum with local media on the weekly Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas.

Castro mentioned that DOT Calabarzon is providing ongoing training for tourism workers as well as with churches to offer guidance.

She added, "We also introduced the Virgenes Coronadas de Calabarzon with the aim of attracting more visitors. This initiative is coordinated with the churches to give people the opportunity to see the original religious

images, which are not often seen by many."

For this year's Holy Week, Batangas Province will offer a pilgrimage tour to the public. To further encourage people to join the tour, the Tourism department has coordinated with tour operators to maximize the promotion of visiting churches for Visita Iglesia.

"This coming Holy Week, in Batangas they already have a pilgrimage tour. So, with our proposal to the tour operators, we need to ensure that in one day, there are many places we can promote, and many churches to visit," the director explained.

In addition to coordinating with local government units, tourism offices, and churches, DOT will also collaborate with other government agencies, including the Department of Health, Philippine National Police, and Office of Civil Defense, to ensure the safety and security of visitors to the region.

In anticipation of the influx of tourists, Castro added that they will seek the assistance of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) in mobilizing local DRRM offices to ensure safety measures and preparedness plans are in place including traffic schemes.

Updates and tour recommendations will also be posted by DOT on their social media platforms to guide visitors during Holy Week, as well as for other summer destinations in Calabarzon.

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government for the sacrifices and valuable contributions of senior citizens to the community, ensuring they receive sufficient support and care.

"The cash gift distributed today is a small yet heartfelt recognition from our government for your sacrifices and valuable contributions to our community. More than just financial assistance, we want to ensure that you receive adequate support and care," the NCSC said in a statement.

The Imus City Government expressed gratitude to the national government and NCSC officials for choosing the City of Imus as one of the first recipients of

the Expanded Centenarians Act of 2024. They noted that all required documents were submitted in an organized manner, complying with NCSC requirements.

Senior citizens and their families also extended their gratitude to the government for the financial gift.

Marissa, daughter of centenarian Nanay Apolinaria, shared that while it is saddening that her mother could not personally receive the recognition and assistance, their family remains grateful. She also hopes that more support will continue to be provided to the elderly.

Nanay Apolinaria celebrated her 100th birthday. **cont. on Page 2**



Starkson Logistics and Processing Center Inc. received awareness training on Halal

In response to the request from Starkson Logistics and Processing Center Inc., PSTO Laguna facilitated an Awareness Training on Halal for Starkson Logistics and Processing Center Inc. The training covered two key topics: Halal Concepts and Principles and Internal Halal Audit.

Ms. Hanimah M. Marwar from the Regional Standards and Testing Laboratories (RSTL) of DOST CALABARZON initiated the training with a discussion on Halal Concepts and Principles. Ms. Marwar began by defining and distinguishing Halal (permissible) and Haram (forbidden) according to Islamic Law (Shari'ah). Ms. Marwar also provided an overview of the 10 Halal Principles. She elaborated on Halal food

guidelines, including permissible animals, plants, slaughter methods, and the importance of avoiding prohibited substances such as pork and alcohol.

The second topic, Internal Halal Audit, was presented by Ms. Jasmin C. Hamid from RSTL-DOST CALABARZON who explained that an Internal Halal Audit (IHA) is a systematic process that ensures the proper implementation and effectiveness of the Halal system across the supply chain in compliance with Shari'ah. The Halal System Approach has outlined which include Input, Process, and Output. Ms. Hamid also highlighted the benefits of IHA, such as strengthening internal Halal controls, enhancing efficiency, verifying the accuracy and integrity

of the Halal assurance system, minimizing risks, and ensuring compliance. Accordingly, the three (3) requirements of IHA: Authority, Scope of Work, and Competent Auditors. Ms. Hamid then detailed the IHA process, covering Planning and Preparation, Audit Execution, and the Review of Audit Findings. It was emphasized that auditors must cross-check their findings, prepare an audit report, and present it to the auditee at the end of the audit.

To conclude the training, the speakers conducted a mock audit to assess the conformity and nonconformity of the cold storage warehouse. Following the mock audit, the auditors discussed their findings and suggested improvements, as the company aims to obtain

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EDITORIAL:

ILLEGAL connections of electricity, like using jumpers or direct tapping, remain a problem in the Philippines and are made illegal by the Anti-Electricity Pilferage Act of 1994.

This law punishes illegal service connections with possible imprisonment and fines starting from P10,000, and any person caught stealing electricity or engaging in activities like meter tampering, illegal connections, or the destruction of transmission lines are subject to criminal and civil liabilities.

We know illegal connections – in the cluster of households or in public areas – are a threat to public safety, reason we join Meralco in its proactive campaigns against these so-called jumpers.

That's good for the books. Beyond which there are brazen activities related to these illegal connections, and none, the letter of the law despite, has apparently been brought to trial, charged and penal-

Threat to public safety

The least that had been seen, flagrantly in fact, is disconnection of electricity service, which is just one side of the coin, the other being the long and mind-numbing Supreme Court-ordered refund which customers paid previously.

The Supreme Court ordered Meralco to refund its customers for overcharges, specifically an additional charge of 13.27 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) collected from June 2004.

As chaser to that, the Energy Regulatory Commission ordered Meralco to refund an initial P987.16 million to its customers, an amount charged at 22 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh) and intended for expenses related to the regulatory rate reset process.

In an earlier statement, the ERC said it previously allowed power distribution firms to collect up to 47 centavos per kWh to tap technical experts for the regula-

tory rate reset.

Meralco is the largest electricity distributor in the Philippines with about eight million consumers in Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Rizal, and select areas in Pampanga, Laguna, Batangas and Quezon.

There have been instances when Meralco sent during weekend its representatives to areas where customers purportedly have not paid their monthly dues to disconnect electricity service.

Knocked senseless by the sudden appearance of the Meralco representatives, with their cutting tools at the ready, some are forced to participate, stealthily, in a corrupt practice that will at least give give the customers a few days breathing space.

In July 2023, the Supreme Court ordered Meralco not to disconnect electricity service to any of its customers without serving them notice of "at least 48 hours" to comply with due process.

We hope this process is being done, and add a higher hope that customers will soon, if the process has not been on the roll yet, get their refund.

Enchanted Kingdom kicks off its 30th year with a new thrilling ride, EKlipse, the first of its kind in Southeast Asia

Gear up for a new enchanting adventure with EKlipse!



From Page 1



Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, is bringing more magic and fun in 2025 and beyond with the launch of EKlipse, its newest family thrill ride this March 30, Sunday.

As the latest addition to EK's more than 30 rides and attractions, EKlipse boasts of being the first of its kind in Southeast Asia and was hailed as one of the best rides by International Association of Amusement Parks

ensure that all our multi-generational guests have something new to enjoy with their loved ones every time they visit EK by offering more inclusive rides and attractions like EKlipse," Mr. Mamon added.

Last January, the theme park released

Chairman Cesar Mario O. Mamon shared that a huge part of their decision to acquire EKlipse lies on its inclusivity features. Built and designed by renowned Italian manufacturer Zamperla, EKlipse is perfect for the whole family, catering to Park guests of various ages, including pre-teens and teenagers.

"We want to ensure that all our multi-generational guests have something new to enjoy with their loved ones every time they visit EK by offering more inclusive rides and attractions like EKlipse," Mr. Mamon added.

Last January, the theme park released a visual teaser for EKlipse as part of the Name That Ride Campaign, which allowed the Park's guests and followers to vote for the ride's name online. Among three pre-selected options, EKlipse was chosen by the thousands of voters as the name of this new family thrill ride.

EK is set to reveal more enchanting events and offerings that will happen alongside the grand launch as part of this quarter's New Year, New Ride campaign.

TREAT TO SUKI PROMO

Feel the combined magic of 30 years of fun and 80 years of care!

In joint celebration of EK's 30th anniversary and Mercury Drug's 80th anniversary, Eldar the Wizard has prepared an enchanting treat for all of the pharmacy giant's loyal customers this March.

Suki Card holders will enjoy Php 110 off of Regular Day Passes from March 1 to 30. Plus a special treat when you book via the EK Online Store, get a chance to win an Eldar the Wizard plushie and Php 300 worth of Mercury Drug gift certificates.

For more information and updates regarding these and EK's other upcoming events and offers, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and Tiktok, and @ek_philippines for Twitter and Instagram.

Sweet...

a microfinance-oriented rural bank providing financial and non-financial services to its clients. For 14 years of clientship, Anna has taken loans to support her business where she started with a modest loan worth PHP10,000.00 and eventually reached up to PHP100,00.00.

Additionally, her partnership with CARD Bank is beyond financial support, her business was introduced to Mga Likha ni Inay, Inc. (MLNI), the marketing arm of CARD MRI. In 2022, her products also became a part of CARD MRI Hijos Tours' Bayong Tour, a tour program that showcases the craftsmanship and products of CARD clients.

Today, her Piñana products—including pineapple bars, champoy candies, gourmet fish, and pineapple concentrate—are priced between PHP 50 to PHP 200, and can be bought in her shop located in 327 Ruillig, Purok 4,

From Page 8

Barangay San Isidro, Calauan, Laguna.

Anna's story proves that with passion, resilience, and a strong connection to your roots, even the simplest of beginnings can lead to great success. Through her hard work, she has not only improved her own life but also uplifted her community and inspired others to pursue their dreams through passion and entrepreneurship. **PR**

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YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AND SAFE AT SM



The Security and Maintenance workforce of SM Supermalls in Cavite - South 1 participated in the Joint Tactical Inspection held at SM City Bacoor. The event recognized outstanding security guards and janitorial personnel, including those who demonstrated commendable acts such as returning lost personal belongings. This initiative

highlights SM's commitment to creating a safe, secure, and welcoming environment for its community and stakeholders. PCOL DWIGHT E ALEGRE, Acting Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, along with SM Supermalls Security Affairs Consultant were also present to commend the security force and remind them to teams in ensuring the safety of

malgoers, tenants, and employees. During the event, top-performing personnel were awarded certificates of recognition for their exemplary service, including those who went above and beyond their responsibilities to assist customers and maintain order within the mall premises. These recognitions reinforce SM Supermalls' dedication to



excellence and customer care.

SM City Bacoor, along with other SM Supermalls in the region, continues to prioritize security measures through rigorous training programs, inspections, and collaborations with local authorities. The presence of PCOL Dwight E. Alegre and other key officials underscores the strong partnership between SM and law enforcement agencies in upholding safety and security standards.



SM Supermalls remains committed to providing a secure and welcoming environment, ensuring that everyone who visits feels safe and valued.

SM Malls in cavite Enhance safety Preparedness with coordinated Fire Drills

The drills were meticulously planned in collaboration with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) and local emergency response teams. Key components of the exercises included the activation of fire alarms, systematic evacuation procedures, first-aid scenarios, and practical firefighting demonstrations. Such comprehensive drills are integral to assessing and enhancing the efficiency of mall personnel, tenants, and security teams in real-life emergency scenarios.

Active participation from shoppers and employees was a pivotal aspect of the drills. By engaging in the evacuation processes, participants became more acquainted with designated exit routes and emergency protocols. Additionally, the BFP facilitated hands-on training sessions, allowing selected mall personnel to operate fire extinguishers and other firefighting equipment effectively.

Regular execution of these emergency drills is a testament to SM Supermalls' unwavering commitment to safety and



disaster preparedness. By fostering a culture of vigilance and readiness, SM aims to provide a secure environment for all its visitors and employees. Local authorities have lauded this initiative, emphasizing the critical importance of fire safety awareness in commercial establishments.



In a concerted effort to bolster safety measures and emergency readiness especially in celebration of the National Disaster Preparedness Month, SM City Bacoor, SM City Molino, and SM Center Imus recently conducted simultaneous fire drills along with other SM Supermalls across the country. These exercises underscore SM Supermalls' dedication to ensuring the well-being of both patrons and staff across its establishments.



Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
City of Bacoor
Email: rtc1bcrocc@judiciary.gov.ph.
Telephone No. 09273707489

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

Foreclosure No. 2025-21

For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage

-versus-

BERNADETH R. SESBREÑO
married to JAY-VEE B. SESBREÑO,
Mortgagors.

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), at The Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., No 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City and against the mortgagors BERNADETH R. SESBREÑO married to JAY-VEE B. SESBREÑO at Lot 13, Block 22, Villa Primarosa Village, Phase 2, Camia St., Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite and Lot 47, Block 2, Acapulco St., Greatwoods Highlands, Barangay Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgagee indebtedness which is as of January 17, 2025, amounts to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY PESOS & 22/100 (P 1,475,670.22), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fee incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on April 22, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon to wit;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NI. 057-2017007911

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 47, BLK. 2 OF THE SUBD. PLAN PSD-04-209400, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 6795, IMUS ESTATE (RS 04-004749), LRC REC. NO. 8843), SITUATED IN BRGY. OF MOLINO, MUN. OF BACCOOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. X X X. CONTAINING AN AREA OF FIFTY FIVE (55) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS."

"All sealed bids 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 April 29, 2025, without further notice."

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

City of Bacoor, March 4, 2025

(SGD) MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA
Clerk of Court VI

By:

(SGD) MARK ANTHONY S. DELA CRUZ
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

(otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund)
The Petron Mega Plaza Bldg., No 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

PAULINO E. CASES, JR.
6th Floor JELP Business Solutions Building,
409 Addition Hills Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

BERNADETH R. SEBREÑO married to JAY-VEE B. SEBREÑO
Lot 13, Block 22, Villa Primarosa Village, Phase 2, Camia St., Buhay na Tubig, Imus, Cavite
Lot 47, Block 2, Acapulco St., Greatwoods Highlands, Barangay Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

STRAIGHT NEWS WEEKLY PUBLISHING
MARCH 12, 19 & 26, 2025

102 senior citizens in Imus receive cash gifts

CITY OF IMUS, Cavite (PIA) — A total of 102 senior citizens in the City of Imus, Cavite, received cash gifts from the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) under the Expanded Centenarians Act of 2024 on Wednesday, Feb. 26.

The cash gift distribution was part of a nationwide simultaneous event, with the main ceremony held at Malacañang Palace.

At least 51 senior citizens aged 80; 33 aged 85; 12 aged 90; and five aged 95 each received P10,000. Meanwhile, the lone centenarian, Nanay Apolinaria Sapinoso, who passed away three days after her birthday, was represented by her daughter, Marissa Sapinoso Alejo, who received the P100,000 cash gift from the NCSC.

The NCSC emphasized that this initiative is a small but heartfelt recognition of the **cont. on Page 6**

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
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L & R CORPORATION,
Mortgagee.

Foreclosure no. 2025-14
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of
Real Estate Mortgage

-versus-

AMILYN M. MOTHERSOLE married to
PETER MOTHERSOLE,
Mortgagors

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, L & R CORPORATION at 5th Floor Ablaza Building, 117 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila, and against the mortgagors, AMILYN M. MOTHERSOLE married to PETER MOTHERSOLE at No. 106 Ilang-Ilang Street, Ligas 3, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of February 7, 2025, amounts to EIGHT MILLION ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO & 87/100 (P8,170,572.87), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fees incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on March 25, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-1333501

"A parcel of Land (Lot No. 4973-G-2, of the subd.

PHILHEALTH...

these benefits without co-payments if admitted in ward accommodations of PhilHealth contracted facilities nationwide.

These initiatives reinforce PhilHealth's commitment to making essential healthcare services more accessible to all Filipinos, in support of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s thrust to expand access to medical care for all communities. In his first State of the Nation Address, PBBM stated that "We must bring medical services to the people and

From Page 7

not wait for them to come to our hospitals and health care centers.",

As of December 2023, there are 131 specialty centers established nationwide.

Kaisa ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. ang PhilHealth sa layuning mailapit ang mga benepisyo, lalo na ang mga specialty services sa mga Pilipino sa lahat ng rehiyon," said PhilHealth President and CEO, Dr. Edwin M. Mercado. "Ito ay naaayon sa layunin ng Department of Health na pagbutihin ang antas ng mga ospital sa buong bansa.", he added.

For further inquiries on benefits and services, members may call PhilHealth's 24/7 hotline at (02) 866-225-88 or at mobile numbers (Smart) 0998-857-2957, 0968-865-4670, (Globe) 0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812.

plan, (LRC) Psd-258168, being a portion of Lot 4973-G, LRC Psd-257494, LRC Rec. No. 8873), situated in the Bo. of Ligas, Mun. of Bacoor, Prov. of Cavite. xxx Containing an area of THREE HUNDRED FIFTY NINE (359) SQUARE METERS, more or less."

"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 April 1, 2025, without further notice."

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

City of Bacoor, February 17, 2025.

(SGD) MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA
Clerk of Court VI

By:

(SGD) TRISTAN C. MIRANO
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

ABLAZA LAW OFFICES
5th Floor Ablaza Building, 117 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila

L & R CORPORATION
5th Floor Ablaza Building, 117 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City, Metro Manila

AMILYN M. MOTHERSOLE married to
PETER MOTHERSOLE
No. 106 Ilang-Ilang Street, Ligas 3, Bacoor, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING
Feb. 26, Mar 5 & 12, 2025