

MPT South kicks off its 2025 “Bayani ng Kalsada” Caravan

Bayani ng Kalsada” was developed to educate young students on road safety practices and ensure the safety of children as they travel to and from school. Through the activity’s interactive workshops, engaging presentations, and practical demonstrations, students can learn essential skills, including the importance of traffic signals, safe pedestrian behaviors, and how to recognize potential road hazards.

“Educating our children about road safety is crucial. We believe that instilling these lessons at a young age can create lifelong good habits and a positive attitude towards

keeping themselves and others safe as they grow,” said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, MPT South. “We are committed to making our community safer by empowering our youth with the knowledge they need to form a culture of safety starting with themselves, their family and neighbors.”

“Our learners had a blast during this very worthwhile and interactive reading session, as they enjoyed the stories shared through the ‘Bayani Ka’ material. The fun didn’t stop there, they received free school supplies and were also treated to free



snacks to complete the experience! Buenavista Elementary School is beyond grateful to be chosen as a recipient of this rare and valuable initiative. We thank MPCALA for the opportunity to educate our young learners about the importance of road safety in such an engaging way,”

said Ms. Helen Catanaoan, Principal of Buenavista Elementary School.

Buenavista Elementary School also received a total of 100 “Bayani Ka” books to reinforce what the students learned during the program and to encourage ongoing conversations about road safety at home. Aside from “Bayani Ka” books, MPT South also gave school supplies and meals for the participating

students. MPT South will continue to cultivate students across Cavite and Laguna, giving emphasis to the importance of community partnerships in promoting safe habits among children.

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). Aside from CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC’s domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

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



OPPAT taps DOST quezon, SLSU, for smart Food Processing

By John Maico M. Hernandez



With the interest in using the vacuum frying technology to process organic produce into vacuum fried chips, the Organic Producers and Promoters Association of Tiaong (OPPAT) had a benchmarking visit at the DOST Smart Food Value Chain (SFVC) Facility in Southern Luzon State University (SLSU)-Lucena Campus this February 28, 2025.

OPPAT is an organization focused on organic agriculture which is interested in adding value to their products. Meanwhile the SFVC Facility is focused on



smart ways of adding value to agricultural produce.

The SFVC facility features the vacuum frying technology which uses low-pressure and low-temperature frying to retain nutrients in raw food materials. It is currently managed and operated by DOST CALABARZON in partnership with the Sentrong Pamilyan ng Produktong Agrikultura ng Quezon Foundation Inc. (SPPAQFI) and SLSU-Lucena.

AKAP, 11 other DSWD projects exempted from poll spending ban

ISSN NO. 3028-1954

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING

TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND

VOL. II • NO. 38• March 19-25, 2025 • P 10.00

Escudero: Senate probe on Duterte arrest must not fuel discord



NEW BENEFIT IN FOCUS: PHILHEALTH OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH PACKAGE TO SUPPORT “INVISIBLE” PAINS OF FILIPINOS

PhilHealth 30 Pangatlong kami dito!

Magandang Pebrero 2025 ay BUWAN NG SEGURONG PANGKALUSUGAN

at 3ka-30 Anibersaryo ng PhilHealth

PhilHealth is committed to holistically addressing the healthcare needs of every Filipino.

“Nais naming ipaabot na kahit hindi nakikita ang inyong daing, may PhilHealth na magbibigay ng suporta at alaga sa inyo. Ito po ay alinsunod sa mga prayoridad ng ating Pangulong Marcos,” said Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, PhilHealth Acting President and CEO.

TEAM IMUS 2025 IBALIK ANG PUSO SA PAGSESERBISSYO

SAMA-SAMA NATING IPAGLABAN ANG IMUS!

MAKATARUNGANG SINGIL, ABOT-KAYANG BUWIS PARA SA LAHAT!

MAKATARUNGANG PAMAMAHALA, HINDI PANGGIGIPIT!

TURISMO AT KULTURANG IMUSEÑO, IBALIK AT PALAKASIN

MASIGLANG NEGOSYO, HINDI DAPAT PERWISYO!

MALAYOS AT MAUNLAD NA IMUS, HINDI NAPAPABAYAN!

TUKAY NA PROGRAMANG, HINDI LAMANG AYUDAN!



HEALTH HINTS FOR ELDERS FROM AGES 45 TO 100 YEARS

non-toxic personal care and beauty products (see our specific recommendations on deodorant, sunscreen, and green beauty products).

7. take a probiotic daily

Maintaining a healthy gut has significant impacts on digestion, skin health, immunity, mental health and more. Taking a daily probiotic with a glass of water each morning is one of the simplest things you can do to boost your gut health (which, in turn, boosts overall health in many ways too). Learn more about the health benefits of probiotics (and all the ways to get them in your diet), and shop our favorite probiotic supplement here.

8. eat real food

Aim to eat real food that's made of whole food ingredients you would have in your own kitchen pantry, or that your grandmother would recognize. (Yup, this rules out most packaged food, sorry!) This is a little different than suggesting you eat only "health foods" (many of which are increasingly processed!). "Real food" includes unprocessed foods like an apple, a cucumber, soybeans or a steak, as well as foods loosely processed from one (or few) real-food ingredients, like butter, olive oil, yogurt, tofu, etc. In other words, aim for foods that could be reasonably made in your own kitchen and avoid foods that can only be made in a lab.

9. stand up every 30 minutes while working
Reduce the harmful effects of sitting (like at your desk job) by standing up and moving around for a minute or two every half hour.

10. get sunlight every day

Vitamin D is one of the most important nutrients for overall health, and sunlight is one of our best sources of it. Aim to get at least 30 minutes of sunlight each day—preferably in the afternoon, and without sunscreen (read more about that here). Not much sunlight in the winter where you live? It might be worth supplementing with a vitamin D supplement and/or other food sources of this essential nutrient.

11. fill your home with houseplants

Houseplants help to cleanse your indoor air (sadly, it probably needs it!), they're pretty, and research even shows they improve mood, creativity and problem solving!

12. sweat every day

Aim to sweat in some way each day—whether that's via running, biking, dancing, hot yoga, or any other physical activity you enjoy. See our Fitness Guide for more workout ideas, as well as tips and tricks for building regular physical activity into your daily life and a downloadable fitness planner you can use to outline your own custom fitness plan to stay on track.

AKAP...

MANILA — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) has exempted 12 programs of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) from the ban on the release of public funds ahead of the May 12 mid-term elections.

Memorandum No. 25-01080, made public Tuesday, allows the release of public funds for the Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) and 11 other social services projects.

Elective officials and/or candidates are banned from attending distribution activities of the covered projects from March 28 to May 11, the duration of the election spending ban.

Also covered by the exemption are the Sustainable Livelihood Program; Services for Residential and Center-based Clients; Supplementary Feeding Program; Social Pension for Indigent Senior Citizens; Protective Services for Individuals & Families in Especially Difficult Circumstances Proper; and Recovery and Reintegration Program for Trafficked Persons.

The Assistance to Persons with Disability & Senior Citizens; LAWA and BINHI Project (Local Adaptation to Water Access-Breaking Insufficiency through Nutritious Harvest for the Impoverished); KALAHI-CIDSS-KKB for Community Driven and Development projects and Cash for Work programs; Philippines Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project; and Liwanag at Tubig Assistance Welfare are also exempted.

The projects must not, in any manner, influence the conduct of the polls.

The DSWD must invite city or municipal election officer to witness the distribution activities to ensure compliance with the guidelines.

DSWD is required to submit a periodic written report of the disbursements made in relation to the exempted projects to the Office of the Regional Election Director concerned.

The Omnibus Election Code prohibits the release and spending of public funds within 45 days before an election. (PNA)

PHILHEALTH...

PhilHealth provides annual coverage of Php 9,000 for general mental health services and Php 16,000 for specialized care.

Members can access these benefits at any accredited facility that provides general mental health services. These facilities include rural health units (RHUs), city or municipal health offices, level 1 and 2 hospitals, Department of Health (DOH) Medicine Access Program-mental health access sites, and stand alone mental health clinics.

On the other hand, specialized mental health services can be accessed at accredited Level 2 and 3 hospitals with specialized staff, custodial care facilities, and national specialty centers identified by DOH.

"We recognize the importance of accessible mental health services for every Filipino. Kaya naman, katuwang din natin ang Kagawaran ng Kalusugan sa patuloy pang pagpapalawig ng ating mga serbisyo para

March 19-25, 2025

sa kalusugang pangkaisipan. We are calling for more providers to participate and make these services within reach of Filipinos with mental health struggles," added Dr. Mercado.

Beyond the Mental Health package, PhilHealth encourages individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts or mental health distress to utilize readily available 24/7 crisis hotlines, including the National Center for Mental Health hotline at 0917-899 8727 or 989-8727, for immediate counseling.

PhilHealth remains committed to strengthening the nation's mental health service infrastructure and ensuring that quality care is accessible to all Filipinos needing them. For more questions on the MH benefit package and other benefits, members can call the following 24/7 touch points: (02) 866-225-88; mobile numbers 0998-857-2957, 0968-865-4670, 0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812.

March 19-25, 2025

VETERAN ACTOR JAIME FABREGAS ENDORSES AGRI PARTY-LIST ANEW

Veteran actor, composer and musical director Jaime Fabregas expressed his full support for AGRI Party-list which is running for reelection in the 2025 National and Local Elections.

Fabregas has an illustrious career in the movie and television industry who is also known for his characters as General Delfin Borja in "FPJ's Ang Probinsyano" and Don Facundo Caballero in "FPJ's Batang Quiapo."

In the pilot episode of "AGRI Tayo! Tambayan at Kwentuhan LIVE!" aired on AGRI's various social media platforms, Fabregas said: "Napaka-importante ng food security sa isang bansa. Kasi kung nangu-gutom ang taumbayan, kapag nag-aangkat tayo ng pagkain, walang mang-yayari sa atin."

"Napaka-importante na natutulungan natin ang ating mga mag-sasaka, ang ating mga mangingisda para maging mas productive at hindi masayang ang mga produktong kanilang inaani."

"Kaya mahalaga sa akin na matulungan ang AGRI Party-list na magkaroon ng boses sa ating Kongreso, sa ating pamahalaan, na nakakagawa ng mga batas, ng mga solusyon para sa ikauunlad ng ating agrikultura," he added.

The actor who hails from Iriga City, Bicol has supported AGRI Party-list in past elections. He then called on

the Filipino electorate to scrutinize the track record, background and performance of the current leaders and candidates in the upcoming elections.

"Hanapan ng resibo ang inyong iboboto, tingnan po ninyo kung ano ang mga nagawa, tulad ng mga resibo na nagawa ng AGRI Party-list," he said.

"Lakas po natin ang ating loob dahil ang ipinaglalaban natin ay nasa tama, para sa kinabukasan ng ating mga anak at mga apo. Walang pagtayo ng ikakahiya."

"Ilan ba ngayon ang talagang nagtatrabaho at lumalaban para sa agrikultura, para sa kalusugan na nang-agaw pa ng mic?" Fabregas asked.

AGRI Party-list, under Manoy Wilbert Lee's leadership, filed more than 600 bills and resolutions to protect the livelihood of farmers, fisherfolk and local food producers whom it considers as "food security soldiers", to provide long-term solutions to rising prices of food and achieve food security.

Among AGRI's principally authored legislations that passed into law this 19th Congress are Republic Act (RA) 11953 or the "New Agrarian Emancipation Act", RA 11985 or the "Philippine Salt Industry Development Act", and RA 12022 or the "Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act."

AGRI Party-list, likewise, continues to push for the passage of the "Cheaper Rice Act,"



BATCH 6 OF SAFETY TRAINING READY TO INSPIRE KNOWLEDGE AND EMPOWERMENT (STRIKE): "FREE STUDENT DRIVERS PERMIT FOR BACOOREÑOS"

Bacoor City, March 11, 2025 - The City Government of Bacoor, under the leadership of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, in partnership with the SK Federation and Liga ng Barangay (LnB), successfully concluded the sixth batch of its "Free Student Drivers Permit for Bacooreños" program today. The program, held at the Revilla Hall, provided training and seminars to over 180 Bacooreños who aspire to obtain their student driver's permits.

The training, conducted by experienced instructors Mr. Garry Vilanueva (LTO Imus), Mr. Morry Daep (LTO Dasma),

and Mr. Jonathan Medina (LTO Silang), focused on imparting essential knowledge and skills to aspiring drivers. The program's goal is to empower Bacooreños with the necessary knowledge and skills to become safe and responsible drivers.

SK President Palm Angel Buncio, in her address to the participants, emphasized the importance of responsible driving and the program's role in fostering a culture of road safety in Bacoor. The program's success is a testament to the City Government's commitment to promoting road safety and empowering Bacooreños

with the knowledge and skills to become responsible drivers.

The City Government of Bacoor remains committed to providing this valuable program to its residents. The program is a testament to the City Government's dedication to promoting road safety and empowering Bacooreños with the knowledge and skills to become responsible drivers. The "Free Student Drivers Permit for Bacooreños" program will continue to provide opportunities for Bacooreños to obtain their student driver's permits, ensuring a safer and more disciplined driving culture in the city.

A DART TOURNAMENT THRILLS PGC EMPLOYEES



As the PGC Inter-Department Sportsfest continues, employees from various offices participated in a Dart Tournament held at the Provincial Gymnasium on March 5, 2025.

The players formed teams to showcase their stability and focus while throwing darts, aiming for the bullseye.

Among the 20 teams that competed, the winners stood out with impressive performances.

The Office of the Provincial Administrator, consisting of Mr. Jeeve Cambel, Mr. EA Miranda, and Mr. Julieto Nabelon, claimed the Champion title. The 1st Runner-up position went to the Office

of the Provincial Youth Development Officer, represented by Mr. Mark Jhon Esguerra, Mr. Jay-R Rodil, and Mr. Antonio Naval. The 2nd Runner-up was awarded to the Office of the Provincial General Services Officer, with Mr. Mark Ersando, Mr. Richie Montoya, and Mr. Kim Cuesta as team members. Finally, the Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office, comprised of Mr. Ryan Tũaño, Mr. Jojit Hermeno, and Mr. Arhel Del Barrio, secured the 3rd Runner-up position.

The event highlighted the employees' unique way of connecting with their colleagues while fostering friendly rivalry through darts. - J. Reyes

Profriends and Meralco: Celebrating A Strong Partnership

Property Company of Friends, Inc. (Profriends) recently handed over the title for the 5,400 sq.m. lot donated to Meralco where the latter's substation now stands in Lancaster New City. The infrastructure services the electricity requirements of the over 24,000 families presently in Lancaster, over 60 commercial locations, and even surrounding communities.

In 2014, Profriends collaborated with Meralco in anticipating the progressive needs of its residents and loca-

tors. Five year later, the state-of-the-art sub-station came into fruition, providing switching flexibility in case of outages, translating to fewer and shorter power interruptions. "It was a timely partnership between Meralco and Profriends... having the substation in Lancaster New City, since we were able to have reliable electric service in the community at the height of the pandemic from 2020 to 2022," avers Roberto 'Jojo' Isip, SAVP and Head of Meralco's Network Planning & Design, who

was part of the team that worked with Profriends from the beginning. "A lot of people were working from home during that time, and we were happy that we could provide uninterrupted electricity to the residents."

In her remarks, Profriends President Kathleen Choa underscored the importance of the partnership, "The close collaboration with Meralco will continue and we are already working on our future plans. I'm happy that they are very supportive in our community-building efforts, even with our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects."





March 19-25, 2025

GSIS earmarks P1.5 B for emergency loans in calamity areas

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has allocated close to P1.5 billion in emergency loans for 62,514 active members and pensioners residing or working in areas recently declared under a state of calamity.

In Negros Oriental, which was affected by the eruption of Mt. Kanlaon, and in Biliran, where the deterioration of Biliran Bridge disrupted connectivity to Leyte, the deadline is on March 12. Applications from Carranglan and Licab in Nueva Ecija, which bore the brunt of Typhoon Kristine, will be accepted until March 13.

Residents of Siargao and Bucas Grande Islands in Surigao del Norte, where prolonged brownouts have caused major disruptions, may apply until March 18. Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, which experienced torrential rains, has a deadline of March 19, while applications from Aborlan and Iwahig Penal Colony in Puerto Prince-

sa, also affected by heavy rains, will be accepted until March 23.

Applying for the emergency loan is made

Escudero emphasized that an ongoing court case should not prevent the Senate from exercising its oversight function, citing previous Supreme Court rulings that affirm Congress' authority to conduct inquiries independent of judicial proceedings.

He reiterated that under Senate rules, committees have the power to initiate hearings motu proprio, or on their own initiative.

Marcos' committee hearing will summon key officials and agencies from the Philippine National Police, Office for Transportation Security, Department of Justice, Department of Foreign Affairs, National Security Council and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, among others. (PNA)

(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

ERRATUM

This is to correct then error made in the publication of NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE filed by L & R CORPORATION versus AMILYN M. MOTHERSOLE married to PETER MOTHERSOLE published in STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING dated Feb. 26, Mar. 05 & 12, 2025. In the NOTICE OF SALE it was written as LRC Rec. No. 8873 but the fact is when we double check in the original Title it should be read as LRC Rec. No. 8843 and not as published .

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING:
March 19, 2025

Escudero...

MANILA – Senate President Francis Escudero on Monday expressed support for the Senate's authority to investigate the arrest of former president Rodrigo Duterte but stressed that the inquiry must serve as a means for national unity, rather than deepening political divisions.

The Committee on Foreign Relations, chaired by Senator Imee Marcos, set a hearing on Thursday to clarify the involvement and the roles of the International Criminal Court, International Criminal Police Organization and other government agencies in the arrest of former president Rodrigo R. Duterte (FPRRD) on March 11.

Marcos' committee wants to find out if "measures were taken to ensure that the rights of FPRRD under domestic laws and relevant treaties were properly protected throughout the process," the hearing notice said.

"Kung ang con-

cern ni Senator Imee ay grabe na 'yung divisiveness o pagkawatak-watak natin, eh di sana ang maging dulo ng kanyang pagdinig ay maghilom tayo at magkaroon ng pagkaka-isang muli at hindi lalo pang dagagan 'yung divisiveness o pagkakaaway-away natin (If Senator Imee's concern is that our divisiveness is getting worse, then I hope the result of the hearing is for us to heal and unite again, and not worsen the divisiveness)," Escudero said in a press briefing at the Senate.

"Kung 'yun ang pakay niya, sang-ayon ako sa pakay na 'yun para mabigyang linaw ang ilang katanungan na meron ang ilan sa ating mga kababayan at alinlangan o pangamba na meron sila marahil kaugnay nito (If that is her goal, I agree with that goal to clarify some of the questions that some of our countrymen have, and the doubts or fears that they may have in relation to this)," he added.

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. SEBREÑO
married to JAY-VEE B. SEBREÑO,
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. SEBREÑO married to JAY-VEE B. SEBREÑO 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. HERMOSA-VISTA
Clerk of Court VI

By:

(SGD) MARK ANTHONY S. DELA CRUZ
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND

March 19-25, 2025

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 Pilfergae 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-



In a vibrant display of community engagement and commitment to public safety, the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Cavite launched Fire Prevention Month 2025 with a grand kick-off ceremony at the Imus Track & Field Oval and Grandstand.

The event opened with an impressive motorcade that set an energetic tone for the day's activities. FCINSP Joel A. Elefante welcomed attendees with remarks that highlighted the importance of fire safety, setting the stage for a day dedicated to community awareness and proactive measures.

Engr. Danilo A. Nobleza, Provincial Director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government – Cavite, delivered a compelling advocacy message, emphasizing the critical role of preventive strategies in mitigating fire hazards.

The ceremony further honored community leaders with FSSUPT Gay Faltado Florentino, who, as the Guest of Honor and speaker, stressed the significance of rigorous safety protocols and preparedness.

Adding to the day's inspirational spirit, Mr. David "KAP AJ" Sapitan Jr., representing the Imus City Mayor Alex "AA" Advincola, shared an uplifting message urging residents to embrace fire safety practices as a collective responsibility.

The program also featured a mass singing of the BFP Hymn, a captivating turret display, and concluded with the judging of creatively themed floats, symbolizing the unity and innovative spirit of the community in promoting fire prevention. - H. Villa

ADVERTISING RATES	
COMMERCIAL	----- P200/col.cm
LEGAL/NOTICES	----- P160/col.cm
Font Size:	
Heading	: 10
Body Text	: 8
Space	: Single space

Published Weekly by: STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING



Threat to public safety

ized.

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.

Rooted in Sweetness



Teodora Calingacion found a sweet venture in her Ube Halaya business.

Desserts are deeply ingrained in Filipino culture, and no matter where you travel in the Philippines, you will always find something sweet to try. In San Pablo City, Laguna, one local delicacy stands out: Ube Halaya - a Filipino dessert made from boiled and mashed purple yam.

Among the skilled artisans making this popular treat is Teodora Calingacion, a 57-year-old entrepreneur with a story of resilience and determination. She is the fourth of six siblings.

Teodora may have only completed high school, but that does not limit her dream of having a good life.

At 18, she began selling kakanin in Calamba City as a vendor. A year later, she returned home,

married in 1987, and with her husband - a security guard - worked hard to support their children's education.

In 2016, with her husband's retirement, the couple decided to invest their full energy into making and selling ube halaya. Her husband, who had prior experience in Ube Halaya production, uses his learnings as a foundation for their growing business.

Confident that Filipinos' love for sweets would drive demand, Teodora rented a small roadside space to sell their product. Over the past eight years, they have built a loyal following.

To ensure freshness, all their Ube Halaya is made to order. During festive seasons like Christmas and New Year, their products became especially popular, helping to balance out the quieter months.

Teodora has also received support from CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank, which has helped her grow her business. A client since 2003, she now uses a PHP 80,000 loan exclusively for her ube halaya production.

"Through the years, I have seen how CARD has continuously improved their products and services, and I am satisfied," she said.

In addition to her classic ube halaya, she also sells leche flan and ube lecheflan that reach neighboring towns and even overseas.

Looking ahead, Teodora intends to expand her market while maintaining the quality of her products. PR



SMthing sweet awaits our loyal bills pay customers! Enjoy a P100 coffee or tea voucher from The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf for any valid bills payment transaction at the SM Store Molino's Customer Service. Terms and conditions apply! For more information please visit SM Store Customer Service or The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf inside the SM Store. SM Store, Your Every Day Store



Sunglasses aren't just an accessory, they're a statement! With Buy 1 Get 1 on all sunglasses from Executive Optical, you can switch up your style anytime. Swipe on the SM Malls Online app now to redeem and frame your look!

Redeem the deal here:
<https://click.smmallsonline.com/DFqS/EO>



The best deals are waiting just for you this Women's Month! Time to treat yourself to something special.

Check out Lucky 7 Eau De Parfum for only P899 available at Miniso, Nivea 10 Super Vitamins & Skin Foods Serum for only P475 available at Watsons, Maru Hanabi MTB 2.0 for only P5,100 available at Tobys, and have your Eyebrow Shaping Organic w/ Make-up for only P190 available at Hey Sugar - SM Molino.

Discover #AweSMDDealsEveryday on the SM Malls Online app <https://www.smmallsonline.com/>

Calabarzon Dev't Council Welcomes PIA as regular member

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — The Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) welcomed the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and six other agencies as new voting members during its First Quarter Full Council meeting on Thursday, March 6.

Among the new regular member-agencies of Calabarzon's RDC are the Department of Energy, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Migrant Workers, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine Information Agency, and the Office of Civil Defense.

The inclusion aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order No. 82, which reorganized the RDCs to strengthen their role in advancing regional socio-economic development.

“We are grateful for the inclusion of other national agencies as regular members of the RDC, pursuant to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order 82, which seeks to accelerate socio-economic development in all regions,” Arzadon said.

Since its inclusion in the RDC, PIA IV-A has actively leveraged its platforms to raise awareness of government programs aimed at enhancing the region's socioeconomic landscape.

“The PIA, even as a non-voting member, had been in full support of the RDC's pursuit of regional socio-economic

transformation under the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. Now, as a regular member, we will further strengthen our role as government communicators to ensure that the message of socio-economic development reaches the grassroots.”

EO 82, signed on Jan. 28, 2025 repealed EO 325 issued in 1996 and designated 13 government agencies and offices as additional members of the RDCs.

The Regional Development Council serves as the highest planning and policy-making body for socio-economic development in all regions of the country.

The RDCs are composed of local government units, regional line agencies, the academe, and the private sector, which oversee the allocation of public and private investments to support regional development objectives, policies, and strategies.

DOE calls for energy, water conservation on Earth Hour 2025

MANILA, (PIA) — In anticipation of Earth Hour 2025 on March 22, the Department of Energy (DOE) is urging the public to adopt responsible energy and water conservation practices.

“Using energy judiciously is not just about reducing consumption; it's about preserving life itself,” Energy Secretary Raphael P.M. Lotilla said.

Lotilla stressed the interdependence of energy and water and that every kilowatt-hour of electricity consumed requires water—whether for cooling processes in thermal power plants, hydropower systems, or the energy needed to pump and distribute water.

The DOE said every watt saved contributes to preserving water resources.

With the theme “Switch Off and Secure Water for All,” this year's Earth Hour aims to highlight the vital connection between energy conser-

vation and water security.

He called for embracing energy efficiency and conservation as essential components of environmental protection.

Earth Hour is not merely as a symbolic event but as a global movement calling for collective action.

“Through small but consistent actions, individuals, businesses, and communities can make a significant impact on energy and water conservation, enhancing climate resilience and promoting a more sustainable way of life,” Lotilla added.

The DOE has been consistently encouraging practical actions, such as turning off non-essential lights and appliances when not in use and utilizing energy-efficient technologies like LED bulbs and invert-

er appliances. The agency urges the public to focus on energy-saving practices, especially during peak hours, which typically run

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends.

On March 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Secretary Lotilla is inviting everyone to join in by switching off non-essential lights and making meaningful individual commitments to water and energy conservation. He emphasized that everyone can play a part in fostering a more sustainable future.

The government remains dedicated to establishing a more sustainable and resilient energy system. By implementing progressive policies and innovative measures, the DOE continues to advocate energy efficiency and the integration of renewable energy into the nation's power landscape.

As Earth Hour 2025 approaches, the DOE is encouraging proactive participation in this important initiative, highlighting the urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of generations to come.



DOST-CALABARZON and DICT IV-A Strengthen Ties for Digital Innovation and Future Partnerships

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON, through its Management Information System (MIS) Unit, hosted a coordination meeting with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Region IV-A and UBX on February 24, 2025, at the DOST-CALABARZON Regional Office, ORD Conference. The meeting focused on the eVerify Pilot Integration and strengthening future partnerships.

A major highlight of the meeting was the discussion on the eVerify System, a digital identity verification solution launched by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). This system enables secure and efficient identity authentication of individuals using the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) national ID System database for various government and private sector transactions.

As one of

the pilot participants, DOST-CALABARZON explored how eVerify can enhance its processes. Ms. Trisha Martin-Manguiat, UBX Project Manager, spearheaded the agenda in front of Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director and the rest of her team by presenting an overview of eVerify, its objectives, scope of work, and roles and responsibilities of pilot participants. Meanwhile, Mr. Felix Martinez, UBX Business Analyst and Business Process Engineer, elaborated the identification of eVerify Use Case and process discovery.

As the meeting progressed in the afternoon,

Ms. Bianca R. Pantoja, DOST-CALABARZON Science Research Specialist II, and MIS Unit Head, led discussions on the upcoming 2025 Regional Hackathon.

The meeting began by sharing insights from the success of Hack4AProgress, a DOST-CALABARZON-initiated regional

hackathon that began last 2024. Furthermore, the team dialogued and sought the ICT expertise and network of DICT IV-A to further strengthen this year's regional hackathon.

Present during the meeting were key representatives from DICT IV-A, UBX, and DOST-CALABARZON. From DICT IV-A, attendees included Ms. Maria Graciela R. Bucad, Technical Operations Division Chief; Ms. April Rose Clemeno, Information Technology Officer I; Mr. Bryan Zeos Basco, Project Development Officer I; and Mr. Aries Delos Reyes, NIIPPB Focal. Representing DOST-CALABARZON were Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations; and Ms. Mariel Caling, MIS Project Technical Assistant IV.

The meeting strengthened collaboration between DOST-CALABARZON and DICT IV-A, encouraging idea exchange and digital innovations that can benefit the region.

DSWD IV-A, Cavite Strengthen Supplementary Feeding Program through review and evaluation workshop

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A, in partnership with the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, successfully conducted a three-day Review and Evaluation Workshop from March 12 to 14, 2025 to strengthen the implementation of the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) across the region.

The initiative brought together nutritionists, social workers, and child development officers from various local government units (LGUs) to enhance transparency and efficiency in the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) and the SFP.

The workshop focused on procurement processes, program management, and nutritional impact, providing a platform for sharing best prac-

tices and innovative strategies to improve feeding programs in local communities.

Ms. Myrna A. Maglahus-Lamug (EPAHP Regional Program Coordinator, DSWD IV-A) and Ms. Carol Mae P. Martinez (SFP Nutritionist-Dietician III, DSWD IV-A) shared insights on hunger alleviation strategies and program implementation.

Mr. Diego M. Salas (Budget Officer, Quezon Province / TSO GPPB Recognized Trainer) provided key insights into community-driven procurement processes for greater transparency and efficiency.

Best practices in local fund utilization and program monitoring were highlighted by Ms. Emilia Tiasim (MSWDO, Ibaan, Batangas), Ms. Daisy Garcia (SFP Focal, Batangas City), and Ms. Lerma M. Laylo (CSWDO, Lipa City).

On the final day,

participants explored the SFP Case Management Model (SFP-CM), led by Mr. Ser August Perpetua (Social Welfare Officer II, DSWD IV-A), and received an orientation on the Harmonized Electronic License and Permits System (HELPS), presented by Ms. Jill Bernice Sta. Ana (Social Welfare Officer III, DSWD Central Office). The event concluded with a strategic planning session facilitated by Mr. John Paul Garrido (Project Evaluation Officer II, DSWD IV-A), ensuring that insights gained during the workshop translate into tangible program improvements.

This initiative underscores DSWD's commitment to food security, child nutrition, and efficient resource management. By strengthening inter-agency collaboration and enhancing procurement transparency, the department aims to sustainably combat hunger and improve the well-being of children across communities. — W. Batuampo