



ENCHANTED KINGDOM TREATS FILIPINOS WITH MAGIC AND FAMILY FUN AT ELДАР'S EASTER ADVENTURE

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, introduces yet another magical twist to the classic tradition of egg hunting at Eldar's Easter Adventure on April 20, Sunday.

As part of The Enchanted Story of Eldar the Wizard campaign from April and June, guests will embark on a fun-filled quest with EK's beloved characters — Eldar the Wizard, Benny, T-Tops, and Ogg — as they search for special egg stickers through exciting activities around the park.

Aside from trying out rides, attractions and spectacular shows, kids and the young-at-heart can channel their wit and creativity through edu-FUN, EK's very own educational and fun activities.

Exciting prizes and surprises await the lucky participants who will be able to complete Eldar's Easter Adventure. Those who stood out in their best on-theme attire will also receive special treats from the theme park's jolly and wise wizard.

In order to unlock this whole magical experience, avail the Eldar's Easter Adventure bundle, inclusive of Park access and event pass. Enjoy early bird rates when you book this limited-time offering at the EK Online Store on or before April 19, Saturday.

Early bird rates include: Regular Day Pass for kids 48 inches and taller at Php 1,300; Junior Day Pass for kids 32 to 47 inches at Php 900; and EKsperience the



Magic Card (EKMC) for Php 3,800. Existing EKMC members will also get access to this enchanting event with a special rate of Php 300.

Walk-in guests can avail the event bundle for its regular rate, subject to slot availability.

For more information and updates regarding Eldar's Easter Adventure 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 Instagram.

SMC expressways all set for Holy Week rush

SMC Infrastructure said it has rolled out preparations for the anticipated surge in vehicular traffic along its expressways beginning Monday, April 14, as thousands of Filipinos leave Metro Manila and head to the provinces for the observance of Holy Week.



The company said it has put in place traffic management plans for its tollways, namely the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), the Skyway System, NAIA Expressway, and the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), and coordinated this with various local government units.

The company said it anticipates heavy traffic particularly at interchanges linking its tollways to national highways and other expressways, and has advised motorists to plan their trips well for the upcoming holidays.

"Our instruction to our operations personnel is to make sure that our traffic management plans are in sync with the different towns and cities so that traffic flows smoothly along public roads.

When public roads are congested, motorists along our carriageways are also affected as traffic can extend to the exits and onto the main line," explained SMC chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

"We hope that through close and constant collaboration with traffic management teams of LGUs, we can help reduce traffic buildups especially at critical points of convergence within our towns and cities," he added.

The company's contingency measures include increasing the deployment of tollway personnel such as patrollers and emergency responders, to assist those in need.

It also reminded motorists of measures they can take to contribute to the overall improvement of the traffic situation along

expressways. This includes ensuring their Autosweep RFID accounts are topped, to avoid unnecessary queueing at toll plazas. Reloading Autosweep RFID accounts is widely available through online banking apps, e-wallets, over-the-counter desks, and payment kiosks.

For motorists who have yet to register for an Autosweep RFID account, the company reiterated that stickers remain free of charge, and users can load the exact amount of toll they will use.

Replacement of stickers which have deteriorated over time also remain free of charge.

The company also advised cash-paying motorists to switch to Autosweep RFID electronic toll collection, as this is a much faster, more convenient method of payment that also contributes to shorter queueing times at toll plazas.

Meanwhile, SMC Infrastructure stopped all roadworks and construction activities at expressways to help ensure traffic flow will not be disrupted.

This started 12:00 PM of Friday, April 11, and will end at 10:00 PM of Monday, April 21.

Further enhancing Holy Week preparations on major expressways is Petron Corporation's Lakbay Alalay program, the country's longest-running motorist assistance initiative.

Petron will provide free motorist assistance, clean restrooms, and limited freebies from brand partners at Petron Marilao (NLEX), Petron San Pedro (SLEX), and Petron TPLEX northbound

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Spike in AS charges leads to higher transmission rates in April electricity bill

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PREVENTIVE ORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN PRIMARY CARE FACILITIES, NOW AVAILABLE IN CALAMBA CITY

The Calamba City Health Office located in Brgy VII, Calamba City and Cebu Urban Health Center located in Brgy. Puno, Calamba City are now accredited as the first Dental Clinics nationwide to provide the preventive oral health services in primary care.

Through its Accreditation and Quality Assurance Section (AQAS) and Local Health Insurance (LHI), Calamba City PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A (PHO IV-A) has facilitated the accreditation of the said facilities with a validity period from February 18, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

This initiative ensures that members and their qualified dependents can avail themselves of routine preventive and curative services. This provision includes mandatory services such as:

- health examination or oral screenings
- dental prophylaxis (cleaning)
- fluoride varnish application

On the other hand, the pit and fissure sealant application or spot surface protection/Cross V restoration (limited to two teeth per year) and emergency tooth extractions can be availed on applicable only.

PhilHealth beneficiaries can avail themselves of the Preventive Oral Health Services through the Kumuhi Package Provider (KPP) where they are registered.

The KPPs that are direct service providers will provide oral health services to their PhilHealth Kumuhi clients within their catchment population through their own dental/oral health service at clinics. On the other hand, KPPs that are referring facilities shall assign and refer their clients to their affiliate PhilHealth-accredited primary dental care clinics for the provision of oral health services.

More dental clinics are anticipated to be accredited to provide preventive oral health services so that patients can easily and conveniently avail it. www.philhealth.gov.ph

HEALTHCARE PROVIDED TO THE CONSTITUENTS OF THE CITY OF IMUS



On April 16, 2025, a total of 285 Imuseños accessed the basic healthcare services, free of cost, in the medical mission program delivered by the dedicated professionals from the Provincial Government of Cavite at Brgy Alapan I-B, City of Imus.

This initiative continues to roll its wheels to serve and deliver healthcare services, ensuring healthy lives of the constituents across the province.--- J. Reyes

Cayetano mediates dispute between DENR and Masungi over contract cancellation

DTI 4-A KICKS OFF 2025 KMME-MME ONLINE PROGRAM IN CALABARZON



The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A, in partnership with the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE)-Go Negosyo, kicked off the 1st batch of 2025 KAPATID Mentor

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10 practical health tips to help you start off towards healthy living in 2025.

1. Eat a healthy diet

Eat a combination of different foods, including fruit, vegetables, legumes, nuts and whole grains. Adults should eat at least five portions (400g) of fruit and vegetables per day. You can improve your intake of fruits and vegetables by always including veggies in your meal; eating fresh fruit and vegetables as snacks; eating a variety of fruits and vegetables; and eating them in season. By eating healthy, you will reduce your risk of malnutrition and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancer.

2. Consume less salt and sugar

Reduce your salt intake to 5g per day, equivalent to about one teaspoon. It's easier to do this by limiting the amount of salt, soy sauce, fish sauce and other high-sodium condiments when preparing meals; removing salt, seasonings and condiments from your meal table; avoiding salty snacks; and choosing low-sodium products.

On the other hand, consuming excessive amounts of sugars increases the risk of tooth decay and unhealthy weight gain. In both adults and children, the intake of free sugars should be reduced. WHO recommends consuming less than 5% of total energy intake for additional health benefits. You can reduce your sugar intake by limiting the consumption of sugary snacks, candies and sugar-sweetened beverages.

3. Reduce intake of harmful fats



Fats consumed should be less than 30% of your total energy intake. This will help prevent unhealthy weight gain and NCDs. There are different types of fats, but unsaturated fats are preferable over saturated fats and trans-fats. WHO recommends reducing saturated fats to less than 10% of total energy intake; reducing trans-fats to less than 1% of total energy intake; and replacing both saturated fats and trans-fats with unsaturated fats.

The preferable unsaturated fats are found in fish, avocado and nuts, and in sunflower, soybean, canola and olive oils; saturated fats are found in fatty meat, butter, palm and coconut oil, cream, cheese, ghee and lard; and trans-fats are found in baked and fried foods, and pre-packaged snacks and foods, such as frozen pizza, cookies, biscuits, and cooking oils and spreads.

cont. on next issue

Spike...

Higher Ancillary Service (AS) charges led to an increase in transmission charges in consumers' April 2025 electric bill, according to NGCP.

AS charges for the March 2025 Billing Period increased by 16.05% at PhP0.8094/kWh, compared to PhP0.6975/kWh for the February 2025 Billing Period. This cost includes the 3rd tranche of the settlement of the remaining 70% AS cost from the Reserve Market for the March 2024 Billing Period whose recovery was deferred by the ERC.

Ancillary Services charges pertain to the cost for AS sourced from the Reserve Market and those for AS providers with bilateral contracts with NGCP.

As a pass-through cost, only generating companies benefit from the increased AS rates.

DepEd: Private schools may adopt school calendar reversion

MANILA — The Department of Education (DepEd) on Monday said private schools in the country may adopt the new academic calendar of public schools.

The DepEd returned to its original school calendar from June to March, with school breaks set from April to May, according to its Department Order (DO) No. 12, series of 2025.

The DO said classes for school year (SY) 2025-2026 will start on June 16 and will end on March 31 next year.

In a Viber message, DepEd Media Relations Chief Dennis Legaspi said the DO only applies to public schools but may also be used by private schools.

"Private schools may adopt DepEd's school calendar.

They may also set their start of classes, provided they comply with the School Calendar Law, which states that the school year shall start on

AS are support services provided by power generators to balance and stabilize the grid during power supply-demand imbalance.

"For the April 2025 bills of end consumers, NGCP charges only 55 centavos per kWh for the delivery of its services. The bulk of transmission charges is for AS, which is remitted directly to AS providers," the company explained.

Transmission wheeling rates, or what NGCP charges for its primary service of delivering power, slightly increased by 4.81%, from PhP0.5252/kWh in February to PhP0.5505/kWh in the March 2025 Billing Period.

Overall transmission charges for the March 2025 Billing Period is at PhP1.5240/kWh, up by 11.51% from February's PhP1.3668/kWh.

the first Monday of June but not later than the last day of August," he said.

Besides private schools, DO 12 stated that Philippine Schools Overseas (PSOs) and state or local universities and colleges (SUCs/LUCs) may also adopt the said multi-year implementing guidelines.

Overall, the return to the old public-school calendar will consist of 197 class days, including the End-of-School-Year (EOSY) Rites.

Under Republic Act (RA) 7797 or An Act to Lengthen the School Calendar from Two Hundred (200) Days to Not More than Two Hundred Twenty (220) Class Days, as amended by RA 11480 or An Act Amending Section 3 of RA 7797, school classes must not exceed to 220 class days. (PNA)



DEPED, DILG REINFORCE CREATION OF LOCAL LITERACY COUNCILS IN LGUS

Pasig City, Philippines — As part of their continued effort to support the Literacy Coordinating Council's (LCC) mandate to boost literacy efforts across the country, the Department of Education (DepEd), under the leadership of Secretary Sonny Angara, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), headed by Secretary Juanito Victor C. Remulla, officially signed Joint Memorandum Circular No. 1, Series of 2024, titled "Creation, Reconstitution, and Strengthening of Local Literacy Councils at the City and Municipal Levels".

The JMC, which took effect on February 27, 2025, provides key guidelines and procedures in creating, reconstituting, and strengthening Local Literacy Councils (LLCs) at the city and municipal levels. It also enumerates the roles and responsibilities of DILG and DepEd in the establishment of LLCs, and outlines the LLCs' powers and functions.

The newly signed JMC is the result of a thorough review process conducted by both agencies, including other LCC member agencies namely Philippine Normal University (PNU), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Senate Committee on Basic Education, House of Representatives Committee on Basic Education and Culture, and E-Net Philippines, as well as relevant stakeholders.

All local government units (LGUs) nationwide are enjoined to establish or strengthen their own LLC in line with the

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guidelines set forth in the JMC.

The LCC, established under Republic Act (RA) No. 7165, as amended by RA No. 10122, is mandated to serve as an inter-agency coordinating and advisory body that shall synchronize and strengthen efforts and policies towards the universalization of literacy in the country.

As member agencies of the LCC, DepEd and DILG are integral in the LCC's mission to strengthen support structures for literacy through the establishment of LLCs at local levels. These councils play a critical role in bridging the gap between national policy and local implementation to ensure that literacy initiatives address the specific needs of local communities.

The JMC marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts of LCC to universalize literacy in the country. Through this collaboration, both agencies aim to ensure that the national literacy programs have strong local foundations and that every Filipino has access to quality education and opportunities for lifelong learning.

For more information about the JMC, you may access it through this link: <https://rebrand.ly/LCC-JMC-NO-1-S-2024>.

To know more about LCC, you may visit its official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LiteracyCoordinatingCouncil> and official website at <https://lcc.deped.gov.ph/>.

You may also reach the LCC Secretariat via email at lcc@deped.gov.ph.



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ABOITIZ RENEWABLES' WATER ACCESS PROJECTS TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES



Kamog Waterworks Association President Jun Tad-o (right), together with a community member in Sablan, Benguet, showcase the community's improved water access. With a direct and reliable supply, the community resolved longstanding water collection challenges.

In a country of about 115 million people, 60 million or about 52% of Filipinos lack access to safe water, according to Water.org. In remote villages, families wake at dawn to fetch water from distant sources, farmers rely on unpredictable weather to irrigate their crops, and schools and health centers face sanitation challenges due to the limited supply. Without reliable access to water, public health and socio-economic well-being are at risk.

Recognizing the urgent need for practical and sustainable solutions, Aboitiz Renewables Inc., the renewable energy arm of Aboitiz Power Corporation (AboitizPower), has partnered with local governments and communities to improve water infrastructure in several communities across the Philippines. Through rainwater harvesting systems, water-impounding structures, and upgraded pipelines, Aboitiz Renewables is helping thousands of families finally gain reliable access to water, a resource critical for health, agriculture, and the environment.

Easing the Burden of Water Collection in the Community For decades, households in Benguet's remote areas struggled with limited water access. In Barangay Dalipey, Bakun, residents once relied on a single water pump located far downhill, requiring them to carry heavy containers over rough terrain. The burden was especially difficult for the elderly and young children. Residents of Baran-



The handwashing station at Mag Amihan Elementary School ensures reliable access to water, helping improve hygiene, reduce the risk of disease, and support the health and well-being of students.

gay Kamog, Sablan faced a similar challenge. For many years, families hiked nearly an hour downhill to collect water from a spring; a necessary but taxing chore.

Today, that reality is starting to change. Through the projects of Hedcor, the run-of-river hydropower operator of AboitizPower, newly installed water pipelines and dedicated storage tanks have been and are being built to provide clean water to over 1,200 households. The projects are part of the community development initiatives of Hedcor for its host communities.

Dalipey Barangay Captain Domingo Marcelo considers these projects a transformative one for their community. "Before, we had to travel far just to collect water. Now, with a better system in place, families can spend more time on productive activities instead of struggling just to meet the basic need for water," Marcelo shared. "Our children now have access to clean, safe water without having to undergo exhausting trips. It's a great relief for the entire community, especially for the elderly," added Sablan's Jun Tad-o, Kamog Waterworks Association President.

According to the National Water Resources Board, the Philippines has been experiencing water-stress — or when demand exceeds supply — since 2017. Water availability in 2020 declined to 1,300 cubic meters per capita per year nationwide, below the water stress threshold of 1,700 cubic meters per capita and the Asian average of 3,920 cubic meters per capita.

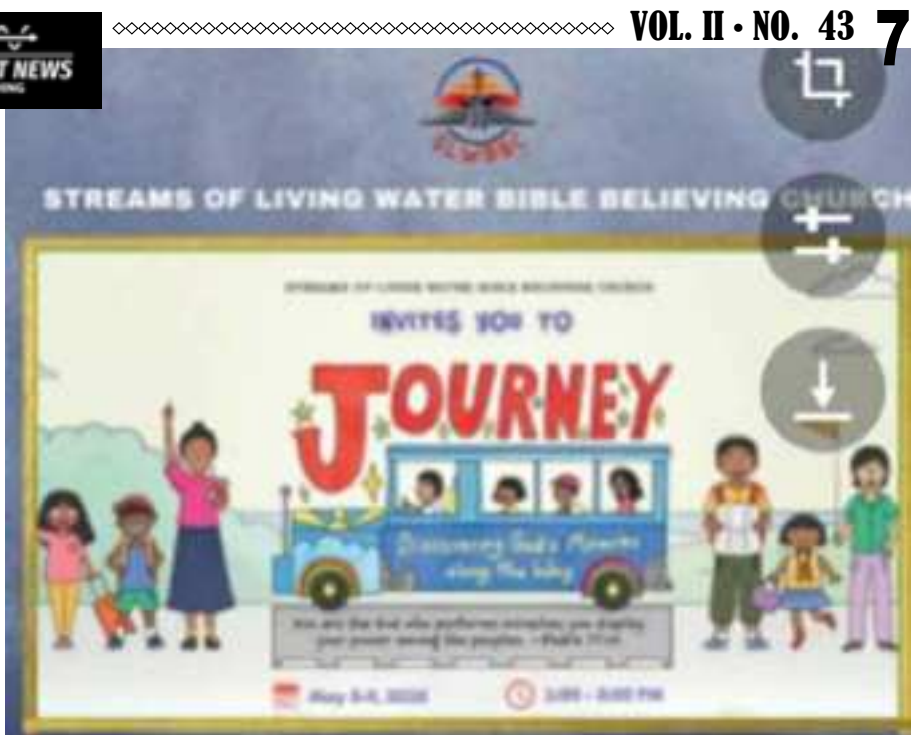
However, national averages tend to conceal greater cases of water-stress in certain areas,

with about 27% of Filipinos still living within these places.

Supporting Access to Water and Hygiene

Reliable access to water can also determine the success or failure of an entire farming season. In terms of water for consumptive use in the Philippines, about 80% is used for irrigation, making farmers the largest consumer and the likely experiencers of water-stress conditions. PV Sinag, AboitizPower's solar power facility in Pangasinan managed by Hedcor, donated materials for the construction of a water impounding system for barangay Cayanga, Bugallon to ensure continuous irrigation for its farmlands. A water impounding system is a resource management structure that collects and stores water for later use, particularly for irrigation during dry periods.

Once completed, farmers will have access to a steady water supply, leading to increased crop yields and reduced challenges caused by water scarcity. The infrastructure will allow farmers to withstand dry seasons and unpredictable weather patterns, benefiting over 200 farmers in addressing



Impasugong Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office Head Joy Obsioma (left) receives water tanks from Hedcor, represented by External Relations Manager David Tacder (right). This effort is meant to help the local residents, most especially during the dry season.



long-standing challenges that once put food production and livelihoods at risk.

"Without this water system, all our hard work as farmers would be wasted. Now, we have the security to continue farming even during the hottest months," said Labrador-Laguit Upland Farmers Association President Salvador Belingan. Meanwhile, another AboitizPower solar power facility installed handwashing stations in schools and health centers in San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, supported by donated water tanks and pumps.

In 2024, San Carlos Sun Power Inc. (SacaSun) sought to address the water shortages that hampered basic hygienic activities like handwashing. Reliable water access has transformed the schools and health centers, reducing the risk of disease and improving the overall well-being of the beneficiaries. "This initiative not only protects our children's health but also instills lifelong hygiene habits," explained Mag-amihan Elementary School Principal Maegen Limpio. "With a steady water supply, students can focus on their education."

The 2022 Annual Poverty Indicators Survey found that 22.6 million or 84% of Filipino families had basic sanitation service level, which, albeit progressing, is still below a target of 98.17%. According to a World Bank study, poor sanitation in the Philippines has an economic cost of about P77.8-billion per year, covering impacts on health, water resources, welfare, and tourism. Long stretches of drier periods and higher temperatures also exacerbate the shortfall in water supply.

When El Niño's drought hit Bukidnon in May last year, thousands of families struggled with severe water shortages, prompting Hedcor and the Aboitiz Foundation to install 13 rainwater harvesting tanks in affected barangays to provide immediate relief to over 9,000 households, including those in indigenous peoples communities.

The 13 rainwater harvesting tanks were strategically placed for easy access by the community, with locations identified and managed by the local government. The collected water was allocated mostly for household needs, with some used for small-scale farming, as well as for schools within the barangays. "Before, we had no choice but to endure long days without enough water. Now, we have a stable supply for cooking, cleaning, and

sustaining small farms," said Michael Mendoza, a local resident. "We deeply value our partnership with Hedcor and are grateful for their prompt response to our request for water tanks for our barangays. This demonstrates their genuine care for the well-being of our community here in the Municipality of Impasugong," added Mayor Anthony Uy.

Hedcor Vice President for Corporate Services Noreen Vicencio emphasized the importance of helping achieve the United Nation Sustainable Development Goal of "clean water and sanitation for all." "By ensuring stable water access, we are helping our host communities become more resilient to climate challenges, have improved health outcomes, and have more secure livelihoods. These initiatives create lasting solutions that empower people and support a sustainable future."

From far-flung villages to drought-affected towns, AboitizPower is Transforming Energy for a Better World. Beyond providing best-in-class operational and asset management services through its renewable energy facilities, it is helping its host communities have access to the critical resource of clean water. PR

DTI 4-A...

ME-Money and Market Encounter (KMME-MME) Online Multisectoral Launch and Orientation on March 19, 2025 via Zoom. 50 CALABARZON mentees from different industry clusters and sectors were selected to participate in the program.

The event began with a pre-program video and official call time, followed by the opening remarks from DTI 4-A Regional Director Marissa C. Argente and welcome statements from DTI-Regional Operations Group Undersecretary Blesila A. Lantayona and PCE-Go Negosyo Adviser Merly M. Cruz. Participants were introduced to the Go Negosyo KMME-MME Program and briefed on the pro-

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gram's rules by Mr. Rholan Christian S. Nuqui. A Q&A session and an AVP presentation of Region 4-A's selected mentees followed.

The event concluded with breakout sessions and closing messages from Provincial Directors Cleotilde M. Duran (DTI-Rizal) and Christian Ted O. Tungohan (DTI-Laguna).

The KMME-MME Online platform supports existing and aspiring MSMEs by offering mentorship, business strategy guidance, and capacity-building resources through webinars and KMME modules, helping them adapt to the current trends and build resilience during crises.

CAYETANO...

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Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Friday stepped in as a mediator during a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing seeking to resolve a dispute between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Blue Star Construction Development Corporation over a scrapped government housing development contract in the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal. In his opening statement, Cayetano set the tone to ease tensions by reading the preamble of the Constitution and a passage from the Bible. "In a time where there is so much waste and abuse of human rights, abuse of power, we are finally realizing that we cannot abuse nature. It is not sustainable. We are a country and people who are looking for good (environmental) models and examples," Cayetano also told the DENR and the Blue star panel on April 11, 2025.

The dispute arose from the DENR's termination of its 2022 Supplemental Joint Venture Agreement with Blue Star, citing the company's alleged failure to build 5,000 housing units in Masungi.

The senator also emphasized that the dispute presented an opportunity to address long-standing issues in the conservation area. "I felt this is an opportune time, but also a caution to all of us, including the Senate and the government, that people are watching. I [hope] we can conclude

this in a very sober way and find real models. If this is really a good model and mali ang pagka-cancel, then it should be resolved. Kung mali ang model na ito at may pagkakamali na nakita lang in hindsight, it should be cancelled," he said.

The dispute arose from the DENR's termination of its 2022 Supplemental Joint Venture Agreement with Blue Star, citing the company's alleged failure to build 5,000 housing units in Masungi.

The Masungi Georeserve Foundation, affiliated with Blue Star since 2017, claimed that the government failed to clear illegal settlers as promised and accused the DENR of evading meaningful dialogue. Given that the problems surrounding Masungi Georeserve span nearly three decades and multiple administrations, Cayetano expressed hope for clarity. "We are all made in the image and nature of God so we should all be good stewards [of his creation]... Whatever we do here will be a lesson to the next generation so I hope that we can really come up with not only finding the solutions and identifying issues, coming up with the facts, but really coming up with a sustainable solution," he said.

The senator also emphasized that the dispute presented an opportunity to address long-standing issues in the conservation area. "I felt this is an opportune time, but also a caution to all of us, including the Senate and the government, that people are watching. I [hope] we can conclude

SMC...

on April 16 and 17.

On April 20, Lakbay Alalay will be at Petron Bocaue (NLEX), Petron KM 44 northbound, and TPLEX southbound

To help mitigate any other possible delays to their trips, SMC Infrastructure also called on motorists to ensure their vehicles are roadworthy, with tires properly inflated and engines thoroughly checked before traveling.

Motorists are also reminded to adhere to speed limits along expressways, as well as to

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based and location-specific agricultural technologies, strategies, and enterprises.

The roster of other PAF-ESPs includes the Gourmet Farms (Silang, Cavite), Uma Verde Eco Nature Farm (Candelaria, Quezon), MoCa Family Farm RLeaning Center (Padre Garcia, Batangas), and Teofely Nature Farms (Silang, Cavite).

ATI CALABARZON Center Director Dr. Rolando Maningas led the billboard unveiling and awarded the certificate to Ret. Gen. Recaredo A. Sarmiento II, Ouan's farm owner.

Gatchalian Seeks Tough Penalties for Officials Behind Dismissed Cigarette Smuggling Cases

Senator Win Gatchalian wants administrative penalties imposed on government officials who were repeatedly negligent in following technical rules in raids and seizures of smuggling products that led to the dismissal of court cases.

The chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, Gatchalian, noted that a random review of court cases filed against smugglers showed some of these cases were dismissed due to technicalities, rather than on the merits of the case.

"Nagkaroon ngang operation at nasamsam ang mga smuggled na

FROM BACK PAGE

keep a safe braking distance, and to always wear their seatbelts.

SMC's at-grade or ground-level expressways have a maximum speed limit of 100 kph for Class 1 vehicles, and 80 kph for Classes 2 and 3 vehicles.

Elevated expressways such as the Skyway System and NAIA Expressway have a maximum speed limit of 80 kph, except at curved portions of the carriageway which have a 60 kph speed limit for safety reasons.

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Meanwhile, media organizations based in Quezon witnessed the said milestone and gathered for the second media conference Kapihan and Huntahan with ATI CALABARZON, where they talked about the accreditation of Ouan's as a new PAF-ESP, frontline services of the DA-ATI CALABARZON, and the Center's measurable impact on the agri-fishery sector.

Dr. Maningas and Asst. Center Dir. Sherylou Alfaro, Ret. Gen. Sarmiento, and Quezon LSA Pres. Michael Triviño served as resource persons during the conference.

DOST...

Prototype Deployable Mushroom Growing House as Complementary Technology to Enhance Livelihood and Food Security Project Resilience and Sustainability

Solar Isotropic Generator of Acoustic Wave (SIGAW)

B o a t B o x : Cost-Effective Tracking and Distress Message Sending System for Local Small Fish-ing Vessels (SFV)

Future Communities and Institutions

Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STAR-BOOKS)

Scholarship Programs and Services

One Health Invisible Threats: The Power of Clean Hands in Food Safety DOST-CALABARZON's Laboratory Testing and Calibration Services

STI Collaboration and Innovation

"Syensaya is more than just an annual celebration of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in Los Baños—it serves as a regional platform that strengthens collaboration among LBSCFI's 25 member-agencies. Through partnerships, we not only promote STI but also enhance its practical applications for the benefit of communities," said Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON.

He emphasized the importance of partnerships in advancing research and technology,

tively and penalized with appropriate sanctions, Gatchalian emphasized.

In at least two cases of random review conducted by his team, the senator said the warrantless search was deemed illegal and thus, the boxes of cigarettes seized were inadmissible as evidence. In another case, the prosecution failed to establish proper tracing of goods from import documents to the actual physical inspection and thus, the failure to prove guilt beyond reasonable doubt.

Dr. Camacho then officially closed the celebration by recognizing participating LBSCFI member-agencies which contributed to the Wonderama Exhibit and to the general program of the Sy-enSaya Science Festival. PR

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stating, "Collaboration is a cornerstone of progress, and through LBSCFI, a DOST-certified science foundation, we can work together not just to popularize STI but to ensure its meaningful impact to and for the people."

Awarding and Closing Ceremony

The celebration concluded during the Awarding and Closing Ceremony on March 13 at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) Umali Auditorium where Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr., Chancellor of UPLB and President of LBSCFI, expressed his appreciation to all member-agencies for their contributions to the event's success.

Furthermore, the winning research of the Youth Science Awards (YSA) and the M.S. Swamina-than Outstanding Research Award were recognized, after which was followed by an acknowledgment of member-agencies that participated in this year's Wonderama Exhibits.

The event also recognized outstanding research contributions, including winners of the Youth Science Awards (YSA) are following: first place is the Vehicle Accident Alert and Prevention System of students from the Bucal National Integrated School (BNIS); second place is the Citrus Peel Essential Oils (CPEO) Spray System of students from The Mabini Academy (TMA); and third place is the Safety Electrical Outlet, also from students from BNIS.

Additionally, Rhowell N. Tiozon, Jr., Alisdair R. Fernie, and Nese Sreenivasulu from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) were awarded the M.S. Swaminathan Outstanding Research Award.

Dr. Camacho then officially closed the celebration by recognizing participating LBSCFI member-agencies which contributed to the Wonderama Exhibit and to the general program of the Sy-enSaya Science Festival. PR

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EDITORIAL:

A survey conducted by polling firm Pulse Asia Research has found that controlling the prices of goods and services remains the most urgent concern of Filipinos, with 69 percent of respondents believing it to be an issue that requires immediate government action.

The survey was conducted between March 23 and 29, 2025 among 2,400 adult Filipinos across the country, chosen through multi-stage probability sampling.

Other issues deemed of utmost importance were increasing the pay of workers (36 percent), fighting graft and corruption in government (28 percent), fighting criminality (28 percent), reducing the poverty of many Filipinos (27 percent), and creating more jobs (20 percent).

Percentage point-difference between the most urgent and second-most urgent concern is telling. It is also consistent with the respondents' disapproval of the current administration's to control inflation (79

DOST-CALABARZON participates in LBSCFI's 16th Syensaya Science Festival



Organized by the (LBSCFI), the 16th Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. Baños Syensaya Science Festival showcased

Guided by the numbers

percent disapprove, 3 percent approve), fight graft and corruption (53 percent disapprove, 13 percent approve), reduce poverty (48 percent disapprove, 12 percent approve), and increase workers' pay (48 percent disapprove, 16 percent approve).

While it is worthwhile to mention that the administration gained a 51-percent approval rating in both protecting the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers and responding to the needs of calamity-affected areas, it is important to qualify these. The protection of OFWs figures in the three top concerns of just 3 percent of respondents, while calamity assistance does not even count as among the most urgent.

The same survey showed that administration figures had grim showing in their trust ratings.

It may well be that recent political developments and efforts to win the hearts and minds of Filipinos through false or misleading narratives could be responsible for the trust picture.

ence, technology, and innovation (STI) programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) and services last March 11-13, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON participated in the festival, at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Laguna.

DOST-CALABARZON's programs, projects, and services

Anchored to the DOST's National Sci-

But this is more certain: that the trust of the people is a function of how well their leaders address the issues they deem most important to their quality of life. The administration must thus take the cue from what the people are saying. Economic issues, over many others, remain their most pressing concerns. At the end of the day, and whoever is in power, the people want nothing more than to afford basic goods so that they can provide for the needs of their families. They want to be able to earn more money for the work that they put in. They want to see their taxes managed and spent honestly. They want to be able to rise above their poverty and contemplate a brighter future for their loved ones.

Filipinos have long been enslaved by personal loyalties and individual appeals to emotion. It is time to cut the histrionics and evaluate our leaders by the issues they address. They must do this not only in words but in decisions and sustained action. These latest numbers are telling us something — that whoever is able to allay people's economic apprehensions have a decent shot at earning their trust and approval.

ence, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW), the festival adopted the theme "Teknolohiya at Inobasyon: Kabalik sa Matatag, Maginhawa, at Pana-tag na Kinabukasan." One of its highlights was the Wonderama Exhibit, which showcased STI PPAs designed to engage and inspire high school students.

As part of the celebration, DOST-CALABARZON featured several

innovative programs, projects, technologies, and services, under the following focus areas:

Food Security and Sovereignty

Revitalization of the Makapuno Industry in CALABARZON Leveling-Up of Quezon's Bagsakan Agri-Processing Capability Through Adoption of the Smart Food Value Chain Framework Project

Fabrication of

DIVERSIFIED FARM IN QUEZON NAMED AS 5TH AGRI-EXTENSION SERVICE PROVIDER IN CALABARZON

To hasten and improve the delivery of agricultural and fisheries extension services in nearby communities, the DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON launched the Ouan's Worth Farm and Family Resort Corporation as Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Provider (PAF-ESP), held at the said farm in Lucena City, Quezon on Tuesday, April 15.

Prior to this, Ouan's is certified as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), showcasing a diversified farming system.



The farm is the second PAF-ESP in Quezon and fifth in the region,

which now plays a significant role in capacitating AFE clientele and en-

hancing farm productivity through showcasing need-

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Gracing the event were key leaders and partners in safety and operations:

Mr. Rafael T. Tejada – AVP for CRS, Ms. Minabel Llanes – Regional Operations Manager SM South 2, Mr. Charleston M. Tan – SAVP for SM Retail, Mr. John Jason T. Terrenal – SAVP for SM South Region, PLTCOL Rejeno Onate – OIC CCPS Dasmariñas City, Mr. Almus J. Alabe – Head of Security Affairs, SM Prime Holding Inc., Ms. Marjorie P. Ore-

liano – AVP for Customer Relations Services HO, and Ms. Kathleen Briones – President of Combined Blue Dragon Security Agency.

Their presence underscored the shared commitment to safety, operational excellence, and continued service to the community.

The event also highlighted the commendable work and dedication of these frontliners in ensuring safety and order within the malls.

***Summer just got sweeter at After Tree
SM City Trece Martires!***

Whether you're craving a refreshing soda, a tangy dessert, or a juicy snack, After Tree got the perfect mango treat to cool you down.

Order today and enjoy the best of the season! Don't miss out—taste the tropical goodness all summer long.

April 23-29, 2025

STRAIGHT NEWS
PUBLISHING

she has shown a keen interest in selling a variety of products, a passion inherited from her mother and nurtured over the years.

Initially from Batangas City, she thought of moving to her sister in Cavite after graduating from high school.

It was in Cavite where she further improved her selling abilities and crossed paths with her life partner, who shared the same interests and passions.

To start standing on their own two feet, they used their savings of PHP 10,000 to establish their

Their initial attempt did not immediately go smoothly. With a limited range of products, they struggled to meet all the needs of their customers.

"The income was very unstable at first. But because I put my mind into it, I never once thought of stopping. I know this is my passion, this is what I want to do in life," Sonia said.

Despite facing challenges, she main-

Optimistic about her chosen business, Sonia Torino remained steadfast and full of hope as she surpassed the challenges faced by her family and business. It was also a significant blessing for her to find a partner who shares the same passion as her.

assistance provided by CARD SME Bank to help them recover and stand back on their feet.

"I first learned about CARD SME Bank from friends. I was hesitant to join because the center meetings were held weekly, and I was reluctant to leave my children. However, when the opportunity struck again, I immediately applied for clientship," she said.

In the 15 years that Sonia has been a client of CARD SME Bank, all her loans were allocated to their sari-sari store until they grew their resources and expanded it.

The pandemic had minimal impact on their sales, as they focused more on selling vegetables.

Despite occasional delays on the deliveries, they made sure to sell promptly without waste.

Despite facing challenges such as her

child falling ill and nearly depleting their sav-

ings and investments on medical expenses, Sonia remained determined to keep their business running.

She persevered,
relying on the financial

MAYBANK PHILIPPINES INC.,
Mortgagee.

MORE OR LESS
BALCONY 1: 15.00 SQUARE METERS,
 MORE OR LESS
TOTAL AREA: 64.50 SQUARE METERS,
 MORE OR LESS

**CONDOMINIUM CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE NO. 167-2023000068**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the unit identified
and described as:
"ALEA RESIDENCES" – BUDI BUILDING
SERVICE AREA: 103
LOCATION: ROOF DECK
SERVICE AREA: 7.0 SQUARE METERS,
MORE OR LESS

"All sealed bid must be submitted 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 **June 10, 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, April 15, 2025

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

By:

(SGD) MARK ANTHONY S. DELA CRUZ
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
ROGER S. DIAZ
c/o Maybank, 2nd Floor Legaspi Towers 300 O. Ocampo St.,
corner Roxas Blvd. Malate, City of Manila

MAYBANK PHILIPPINES INC.
Maybank Corporate Center, 7th Avenue corner 28th Street,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

**JULI EMILLE PINEDA SAMILEY AND
ANGELO CHIRSTER DEOCAREZA UNABIA**
- #8 Kasoy Kanan St., Verdant Acres Subd., Pamplona II,
Las Pinas and Unit No. 103
- Drying Area No. 103, Budi Building, Alea Residences Las
Pinas-Talaba Diversion Road, Brgy. Zapote 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:
APRIL 23, 30 & MAY 07, 2025**

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by mortgagee, **MAYBANK PHILIPPINES INC.**, at Maybank Corporate Center, 7th Avenue corner 28th Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, and against the mortgagors, **JULI EMILIE PINEDA SAMILEY AND ANGELO CHRISTER DEOCAREZA UNABIA** at #8 Kasoy Kanan St., Verdant Acres Subd., Pamplona II, Las Pinas and Unit No. 103 and Drying Area No. 103, Budi Building, Alea Residences, Las Pinas-Talaba Division Road, Brgy. Zapote 3, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of March 18, 2025 amounts to **FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY FOUR PESOS & 76/100 (P 4,291,934.76)**, 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 **June 3, 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 properties with all the improvements thereon, to wit;

**CONDOMINIUM CERTIFICATE OF
TITLE NO. 167-2022000041**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the unit identified
and described as:
"ALEA RESIDENCES" – BUDI BUILDING
LOCATION: GROUND FLOOR
UNIT NO.: 103
UNIT DESCRIPTION: 2-BEDROOM (INNER UNIT)
UNIT AREA: 49.50 SQUARE METERS,

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