

Miguel Food and Beverage, Inc. DA margin. (SMFB) began 2025 with strong momentum, posting robust first quarter redemand, improved effi-

cost management.

ending March 31, 2025, grew 11% to ₱28.6 billion, while income from operations rose 16% to

"Our results this quarter reflect the strength of our diversified portfolio on execution," said SMFB

For the period the rest of the year.

Our continued consolidated revenues investments in key growth rose 4% year-on-year to areas, from expanding ₱98.9 billion. Gross profit production capacities to strengthening our distribution network, are designed ₱15.2 billion. Net income of the Filipino consumer. 22% to ₱10.6 billion, re- to ₱8.2 billion, while net profitability. reached ₱11.6 billion, up With our strong brands 16%, with EBITDA in- and disciplined execution, creasing to ₱19.6 billion, we are well-positioned to translating to a 20% EBIT- sustain our growth trajec- 70% to ₱4.4 billion, while San Miguel Inc. posted tory in 2025 and beyond." Rusiness

Food: San Miand our continued focus guel Foods reported rev- ated sales of ₱36.3 billion, to reach a broader base enues of \$\mathbb{P}46.3\$ billion, up with domestic revenues of customers. Gross prof-Chairman Ramon S. Ang. 8% from the previous year. at ₱32.0 billion and inter- it increased 10% to ₱4.1

in poultry and steady performance across the Pure-

and flour.

flecting improved efficiencies and a favorable mix. Operating income grew

foods processed meats.

Magnolia dairy and coffee,

guel Brewery Inc. gener-

strong start to 2025, driv- million. Despite tempered rose 8% to ₱2.5 billion, en by high-teens growth market conditions, the while net income grew 11% to ₱2.1 billion. Beer business sustained healthy earnings through

The Spirits business continues to benefit from ongoing brand investments that strengthen market presence and drive

Looking ahead, SMFB continues to build on strong fundamentals, with ongoing investments focused on building scale, strengthening operations, and supporting its role in ensuring reliable access to essential food and beverage products for Filipino



Kaisa ang De- na may temang "Sarap ng partment of Agriculture Pagkaing Pilipino: Yaman IV-CALABARZON (DA- ng ating Kasaysayan, Kul-4A) sa pagbubukas ng tura, at Pagkatao" ay laytaunang selebrasyon ng ong maipakilala sa pama-"Buwan ng Kalutong Pilipi- magitan ng mga Pagkaing no" o Filipino Food Month Pilipino ang kasaysayan (FFM) na pinangunahan at kultura ng bansa. Bawat ni Pangulong Ferdinand putahe ay inaasahang Marcos, Jr. sa unang ling- sumalamin sa tradisyon go ng Abril sa bayan ng ng mga Katutubong Pilipi-Lucena City, Quezon.

no bilang pagpapakita ng

lokal na produkto.

Naging tampok din ang bagong logo ng FFM na nagtataglay ng mga kulay na bumubuo sa bandila ng Pilipinas habang kumakatawan sa pamanang kultura, partikular ang mga lutuin mula sa Luzon, Visayas, at Min-

Ayon kay Pan-Ang pagdiriwang respeto at suporta sa mga gulong Marcos, nagsisil-

bi ring paraan ang FFM upang mas paigtingin ang kanyang patuloy na adbokasiya ng pagkakaisa at masusing ugnayan sa pagitan ng mga ahensya ng DA, Department of Tourism (DOT), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), at ng Philippine Culinary Heritage Movement (PCHM).

Samantala, sa

pangunguna ni DA-4A Reing Assistance Division, agrikultural mula sa mga samahan ng magsasaof San Antonio, Quezon trade fair. PR

improved operating per-

formance. Gross profit

reached ₱13.9 billion. Op-

erating income rose 1%

revenues of ₱16.3 billion,

up 8% year-on-year, sup-

ported by sustained con-

sumer demand and efforts

Agriculture Cooperative, gional Executive Director Yakap at Halik Multi- Pur-Fidel Libao kasama ang pose Cooperative Quezon Agribusiness and Market- 2, Marylou Rejano Food Products, High Value Crops Marketing Cooperadad ang mga produktong tive of Quezon, Pinagdanlayan Rural Improvement Club MPC, at Tayabas ka na Flavors of Quezon, City Coconut Farmers Samahang Magsasaka ng Agriculture Cooperative Nieva, Ruminant Raisers na nakiisa sa ginanap na

Laguna (PIA) – To combat vote-buying and ensure Indigenous Peoples (IP) communities can exercise their right to vote in the 2025 National and Local Elections, the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) is intensifying its voter education campaign.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, Eddielito Sumangil, NCIP Provincial Officer, emphasized the agency's efforts to educate IP communities about the dangers of electoral exploitation "One of our strategies is to provide [IP communities]

with information on now they can help prevent vote CALAMBA CITY, buying. But of course, we cannot totally watch over them [since] politicians will do whatever it takes to win." Sumangil said. further

stressed the importance of empowering IP voters to report incidents of vote-buying. "We continue reminding our IPs not to let themselves be used, and keeping them informed on how they can report incidents [of vote buying] so we can properly address them," he added.

The NCIP has also partnered with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to expand its Information and Education

cont. on Page 6

NGCP contingency measures all set for upcoming midterm elections ISSN NO. 3028-1954



Bacoor City, May 8, 2025 - Mayor Strike B. Revilla joined the Max's Restaurant community today for the grand re-launching of their branch in SM Molino. The event, organized by Max's Restaurant, saw the Mayor participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the symbolic chicken slicing, marking a fresh start for the beloved

The re-launching was attended by various community leaders, Max's Village officers, customers, and Max's employees, all eager to celebrate the renewed dining experience. Mr. Joseph Forrosuelo, Mall Manager, and Mr. John Mendoza, Store Manager, welcomed the guests, highlighting the restaurant's commitment to providing delicious food and excellent service.

The event also saw the presence of Max's Restaurant officials, including Ms. Carlyn Trota Salud, Ms. Cristina Trota Garcia, Mr. Bill Rodgers, Mr. Paolo Salud, and Ms. Kay Lee, who joined in the celebration. The re-launching of Max's Restaurant in SM Molino signifies a renewed commitment to serving the Bacoor community, offering a familiar and comforting dining experience with a fresh new look.





AT SA PAG-ANGAT

ULAT SA UNANG 30 ARAW

DINALAWIC NA RENEDISYO DADA SA MGA MIYEMRRO



mergency Rolan (Ja: torudna ng 34 stati





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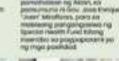
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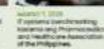




















10 practical health tips to help vou start off towards healthy living in 2025.

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, sov 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

CAYETANO...

tensions by reading the

preamble of the Constitu-

tion 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 (en-

vironmental) models and

examples," Cayetano also

told the DENR and the

Blue star panel on April 11,

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

senator

The



ber way and find real models. If this is really a good stepped in as a mediamodel and mali ang pagtor during a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearka-cancel, then it should ing seeking to resolve a be resolved. Kung mali dispute between the Deang model na ito at may pagkakamali na nakita partment of Environment and Natural Resources lang in hindsight, it should (DENR) and Blue Star be cancelled." he said. Construction Develop-The dispute arose from the DENR's ment Corporation over a scrapped government housing development contract in the Masungi Georeserve in Rizal. In his opening statement, Cayetano set the tone to ease

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, Cavetano 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. PR

people are watching. I [hope] we can

nand R. Marcos Jr. reaffirmed his commitment to providing efficient and accessible healthcare for all Filipinos through free urgent, ambulatory, and outpatient medical services non-life-threatening conditions.

During last Wednesday's Alyansa Para sa Bagong Pilipinas rally in Malolos City, Bulacan, the President announced plans to significantly expand the number of Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Service (BUCAS) centers.

"Ang karamihan naman po ay hindi kailangan mag-confine sa ospi-

nasa clinic lang, magtatahi

lang ng sugat o 'yung bali

ng paa o manganganak,"

President Marcos said. "Lahat po 'van av kaya naman nitong ating mga BUCAS center.

Kava't pararamihin po natin nang pararamihin." the President

Health Secretary Teodoro J. Herbosa said BUCAS centers play a critical role in improving healthcare accessibility. especially in areas where hospital services are limit-

The centers support hospitals in giving urgent medical attention to non-life-threatening condi-

NGCP...

NGCP is susactivities beginning 05 May 2025, in line with con-Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for the upcoming national and local elections on 12 May.

Construction and non-critical maintenance activities near substations and transmission lines are temporarily suspended from 05-16 May.

Maintenance works and construction activities inside substations and within 300 meters of energized power lines are suspended from 05-16 May. All transmission lines were cleared of vegetation and obstructions as of April 30, except for one line in South Luzon. Scheduled vegetation trimming along the said line is still being negotiated with the uncooperative

These contingency measures are set by NGCP to be consistent with the timeline of activities set by the COMELEC in its Resolution No. 10999 dated 24 May 2024 prescribing the calendar of activities and prohibited acts in line with the national elections, and Resolution No. 11055 dated 13 September 2024 setting the roles of different agencies in ensuring the peaceful and credible conduct of the mid-term

Local absentee voting started on 28 April 2025, while canvassing and proclamation of winners are set from 13-19 May 2025. Uninterrupted

These healthcare centers offer essential medical services, such as consultation, laboratory and diagnostic testing, dental care, and reproductive health services

As of March

May 14-20, 2025 FROM PAGE 1

and reliable transmission pending all maintenance of power must be ensured during this critical period, thus warranting maintetingency plans set by the nance works and shutdowns to be put on hold.

> "NGCP is strictly following its contingency measures and coordinating with concerned groups to ensure a power interruption-free election especially during the crucial periods prescribed by the COMFLEC," said NGCP.

> Based on the updated power outlook, there is sufficient supply on the critical election weeks Maintenance activities of power plants were also adjusted to ensure their availability during this pe-

NGCP will activate the 24/7 operations of its Overall Command Center from 11 May until 8:00PM of 14 May 2025, and its critical units, particularly System Operations (SO) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M), will remain fully staffed and

Line crews, engineers, pilots, maintenance and testing, and other technical personnel are also strategically positioned in substations to respond to line trippings, if any. Administrative and other support teams will also remain on duty.

As early as February, NGCP's Power Task Force Elections (PTFE). a special team formed to ensure the security and reliability of the transmission network across the country during the elections, already set out with preparatory activities.

2025. President Marcos said there are 51 BUCAS centers nationwide

A BUCAS center also brings medical services closer to communities, especially those in far-flung areas, decongesting hospitals. | PND



May 14-20, 2025

2025!



PGC proudly joins the nation in celebrating Ease of Doing Business Month

PGC affirms its commitment to efficient, transparent, and responsive public service. Together, let's champion a business-friendly environment that drives innova-



The Philippines' first e-jeepney assembly plant has opened its doors in Lima, Batangas, bringing the country one big step closer to eco-friendly, cleaner and greener commutes. Leading the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Ako Ilokano Ako partylist Rep. Richelle Singson, businessman and former llocos Sur governor Chavit Singson with LTFRB, DOTr and LCS E-mobility ON officials.

gas —It's full steam ahead support the country's Pubfor the mass production of lic Transport Modernizaelectric jeepneys of former Ilocos Sur governor vehicles.

Chavit Singson said the LCS manufacturing plant in Malvar, of producing 500 units of e-jeepney per month.

Recently, Singson led the inauguration of the assembly plant by the LCS Group of Companies, Technology Center Special Economic Zone in Malvar, Batangas.

Production of Chavit Singson e-jeepneys Paraguay has placed an is In line with the commit- order for 60 e-jeepney its market, Singson added.

tion Program (PTMP).

The LCS Group Luis "Chavit" Singson, will sell the basic e-J01 Chairman of LCS Group of model to members of Companies, the country's transport groups at a sigleading makers of electric nificantly reduced price of P1.2 million per unit from its market value of P2.5 million, and will come with zero down payment, zero Batangas is now capable collateral and zero inter-

> "Umpisa na ng pagkalugi (I'll start losing money)," Singson said.

"Ito naman talaga ang pangako ko, na tutuin partnership with Electric long ako sa mga tsuper at Mobili-ty ON (EMON), an sa modernization program outfit run by Korean au- ng gobyerno (This is what tomotive experts at Lima I promised, to help public transport drivers and the modernization program of the government."

MALVAR, Batan- ment of LCS company to units from his company at P2.5 million each.

> "At least, kahit papaano, kikita rin tayo pag may order mula sa ibang bansa (In a way, we will have profit if we have or-ders from other countries)," he said.

> Singson the factory can make 500 units per month, but can increase its output if there are more orders from transport groups across the country.

jeepneys are seen as an upgrade to the traditional ieepnevs in terms of passenger comfort, cost of maintenance and environ mental impact.

LCS-EMON, the country's only electric automobile manufacturer. will also produce electric scooters, tricycles and pick-up vehicles to generate income and broaden

Nagsagawa ng ern Mindanao (USM). Si monitoring sa proyek- Dr. Radji Macatabon ang Marcos State University tong Dokumentasyon ng project leader ng pangkat kasama sina Dr. Rosemarie Sison, Prop. Jovelyn Gesulga, at Prop. Normie Pahinal

······ VOL. II • NO. 46 🕇

KWF, NAGSAGAWA NG MONITORING

SA GRANT MANOBO DULUNGAN NG

Nakipag-ugnayan din ang mga mananaliksik mulang KWF sa Opisina ng Pangulo ng USM, tanggapan ng NCIP Sultan Kudarat Provincial Office, at pamahalaang on sa pagbuo ng mga paproyektong ito ay grant bayan ng Kalamansig, Sultan Kudarat.

Isa ang USM,

kasama ang Mariang (Isneg) at Confederation of Indigenous Peoples Organizations in Southern Negros Occidental (Binukianon/Binukidnon) sa tatlong institusyon na

Layunin provekto na makatuwang ang iba-ibang instistusynanaliksik hinggil sa mga katutubong wika ng ban-

pinagkalooban ng KWF ng

grant.

Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro (4th from left), Social Security Commissioner Eva B. Arcos (3rd from left), and Mayor Allan Martine S. De Leon of Taytay, Rizal (5th from left) officially open the new SSS Taytay Service Office on 28 April 2025, bringing better SSS services to the people of Taytay. Also in the photo are (from left) SSS Antipolo Branch Acting Head Richiel R. Madlangbayan, SSS Vice President for National Capital Region (NCR) East Division Benjamin M. Dolindo, Jr., SSS Executive Vice President for Branch Operations Sector Voltaire P. Agas, SSS Senior Vice President for NCR Operations Group Maria Rita S. Aguja, and Barangay Captain Rasel Z. Valera of Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, and (at the back, left) SSS Pasig Mabini Branch Acting Head Marivic M. Gorembalem and SSS Vice President for Public Affairs and Special Events Division Carlo C.

SSS President 2025, bringing better ser- Hilario Cruz, Barangay and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro, Social Security Commissioner Eva B. Mayor Allan Martine S. De

Wikang Manobo Dulan-

gan ang mga manana-

iksik mula sa Komisyon

sa Wikang Filipino (KWF)

Dannielle Laggui noong

23-26 Abril 2025 sa Dulan-

gan Village, Senator Ninoy

Aguino at Sityo Blanga,

Brgy. Nalilidan, Kalaman-

sig, Sultan Kudarat. Ang

na ipinagkaloob ng KWF

sa University of South-

na sina Kirt John Segui at

dubbed as the Garments Capital of the Philippines.

Arcos, and Taytay, Rizal Service Office is located Leon inaugurated the new ernment complex on the day. SSS Taytay Service Office 3rd floor of Manila East in Taytay, Rizal, on 28 April Arcade II Building, Don

vices to the municipality San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, It is ready to serve SSS members and employers The SSS Taytay in Taytay and nearby areas from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 within the municipal gov- p.m., Monday through Fri-

SSS President cont. on Page 6

MANII A - Home Development Mutual Fund ings. or Pag-IBIG Fund members can borrow up to 90 cap or maximum amount percent of their savings starting May 16.

"Mas pinadali at pinalaki na ang Pag-IBIG Multipurpose Loan sa pamamagitan ng 90 is also available for the percent loanable amount mula sa iyong savings, Loan Programs and the pinaikling 12-month eli- calamity loan. gibility, at mas maraming repayment options (The Fund Chief Executive Of-Pag-IRIG Multipurpose ficer Marlene Acosta said Loan has become bigger and more accessible with mains affordable at 1.4583 a 90 percent loanable percent monthly interest amount from your savings, shorter 12-month eligibility, and more repayment options)," the agency said fund released PHP70.3 and employers while enin a public advisory on billion in cash loans to Wednesday.

This enhancement is part of its goal to provide more members with accessible funds for future needs.

Members with loan since loan entitlement billion this year. (PNA)

GOVERNANCE CHAMPIONS

the Gender and Development (GAD) Seal Certifi-

cation Program. The GAD Seal Certification is a flagship initiative that promotes institutional gender mainstreaming within the DILG. grounded on three major components: Assessment are not conferred with the Criteria and Documentary Requirements, Scoring System, and Certification the DILG GAD Seal Gold

"Fach seal conferred today tells the story of a regional office that Regions II, VII, X, and XII. has translated gender-re- Silver awardees include sponsive governance into action.

These offices have implemented innovative programs, advanced inclusivity, and upheld the ROPA and Regions III, V, principles of equality and social justice " said DILG. Undersecretary Atty. Jon Paulo Salvahan.

dum, DILG Secretary Jon- issuance.

FROM PAGE 1

is based on their total sav-

Previously, the members could borrow was 80 percent of their savings after 24 months of contribution.

The cap increase Health and Education

Earlier, Pag-IBIG the multi-purpose loan rerate despite the enhance-

The state mutual more than 3.2 million members in 2024.

The figure is the highest amount of cash loans disbursed in a year.

It aims to assist about 3.6 million members upgraded Regular Sav- with projected cash loan ings can avail of a larger releases of up to PHP95.3

DILG FETES 16 GENDER-RESPONSIVE

In support of vic Remulla emphasized President Ferdinand R. that recognizing and in-Marcos Jr.'s call to elim- centivizing gender maininate gender-based dis- streaming efforts contribcrimination and uphold utes to a more coherent women's rights, the De- and nationwide approach partment of the Interior to gender equality, ultiand Local Government mately empowering wom-(DILG) recognized 16 of en and marginalized secits regional offices through tors across the country. The program

features a three-tier recognition system - Gold, Silver, and Bronze- based on performance scores. A minimum of 70 points is required to qualify for certification, while regional offices scoring below 70 GAD Seal

For this year, NCIP awardees are the regional offices of the Cordillera Administrative Region and the National Capital Region. CALABARZON. and Regions I, IX, and XIII. Bronze awardees are the regional offices in MIMAyet to register.

VI, VIII, and XI. The GAD Seal is awarded annually, with each certification valid for In a memoran- one year from the date of

SSS...

and Chief Executive Offi- of their location across the cer Robert Joseph Montes country. De Claro announced that the opening of the SSS Taytay Service Office is a ment of Taytay for provid-

STRAIGHT NEWS

tion's shift towards becoming more service-oriented. provide valuable services office. to its members and employers.

The Taytay office is the latest addition to a series of new local SSS offices being established across the country. These offices aim to facilitate transactions for members hancing access to SSS services.

"We are very excited to open our new SSS service office in Taytay. Rizal," De Claro stated. "This new office will bring SSS services closer to our members and employers in the municipality and surrounding areas, especially considering the presence of many micro and small businesses in the town. We are confident that this new SSS office will make a significant difference in their lives."

He reaffirmed that the new service office in Taytay reflects SSS's commitment to reaching and serving its members and employers, regardless

FROM PAGE 7

Service Office covers an area of 75 square meters and can handle more than 300 transactions each dav.

Program.

employers can also use the services offered by the service office's e-center. such as My.SSS registration, accessing My.SSS services, requesting the resetting of password and recovery of user ID My.SSS member and employer account, and updat-

Y IN I ENS...

Campaigns (IEC) on the and Disadvantaged Areas new election system. This collaboration includes webinars designed for IP representatives and community leaders. "This way, they can help us disseminate the information on the process of the upcoming elections," Sumangil

explained. Region IV-A estimates that 10,000 Indigenous Peoples voters in the region are expected to participate in the upcoming elections. However, this figure represents this issue, because we only a fraction of the eligible IP voters in CALABAR-ZON, as many individuals aged 18 and above have said.

Sumangil also highlighted the challenges faced by COMELEC in delivering Automated Counting Machines (ACM) to IP communities residing in Geographically Isolated

istration

Meanwhile, SSS thanked the local governkey part of the organiza- ing lease-free office space to SSS and even shouldering the renovation works He emphasized that the and internet connection SSS exists primarily to for the new SSS service

The SSS Taytay

Members and employers can perform a variety of transactions at this office, including member registration, issuance of employer certificates of compliance, submission of requests for membership amendments, updates to member records (for example, simple corrections and the addition of beneficiaries), and compliance with the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP) Members

ing of employer profile. PR

FROM BACK PAGE

(GIDA), such as General Nakar, Quezon.

According

NCIP. only two regions CALABARZON and Cagayan Valley - have been provided with Accessible Voting Centers (AVCs) to facilitate easier (COMELEC) announced voting for Indigenous Peothat it will open a more ples. "We are also workinclusive, safe and coning with the NCIP Central Office to provide Special senior citizens, persons Voting Centers for IPs. We with disabilities (PWDs) are talking with the central and pregnant women to office so we can address in the 2025 national and have many GIDA areas local elections that have not been provid-In an interview ed with AVCs," Sumangil

Additionally. NCIP noted that some Inprogram of the Philipdigenous Peoples encounpine Information Agenter difficulties in obtaining cv. lawver Marx Nicholai essential documents, such as birth certificates, which COMELEC in Calamba are required for voter reg-City, Laguna, stated that

SANTA ROSA the implementation of ear-CITY, Laguna (PIA) - The Iy voting hours is part of Commission on Elections the Commission's ongoing efforts to have an orderly election process.

May 14-20, 2025

lights the importance of

a strong enforcement of

occupational safety and

health rules, not just as a

legal obligation but as a vi-

tal element in building pro-

ductive safe and sustain-

they continue to observe

the Single Entry Approach

(SENA) as a standout

mechanism for dispute

resolution and in address-

ing labor complaints with-

out the need for costly and

time-consuming litigation.

are complaints [from the

workers] we immediate-

ly mediate or conciliate

conferences to resolve is-

sues quickly and properly

through Single Entry Ap-

proach or SENA," Aquino

done online, before filing a

case in court or with a labor

through a conciliation-me-

diation conference. The

issues within just 30 days.

without the need for a long

process and costs," the di-

"Through these programs.

added:

rector explained.

He

arbiter, it is first discussed

said.

remains hands-on in engoal of SENA is to resolve

efforts, the agency marked we ensure that work-

the World Day for Safe- ers' rights are protected,

ty and Health at Work on and at the same time we

April 28, bringing together strengthen labor-manage-

over 200 representatives ment relations for a stron-

able work environments.

The event high-

Aguino said that

"When there

"It can also be

DOLE PARTNERS WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

CALAMBA CITY, ment sectors.

Laguna (PIA) — The De-

partment of Labor and

Employment (DOLE) in

Calabarzon has strength-

ened its partnership with

key private sector players

in an effort to promote and

zon is actively coordinat-

ing with private companies

in various ways to ensure

that our workers are giv-

en the correct and lawful

benefits. This includes

regular labor inspections

and Technical and Advi-

sory Visits where we as-

sist micro-enterprise pro-

prietors in understanding

and properly implement-

ing labor laws—covering

correct wage computa-

tion, statutory benefits

like SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-

IBIG. and compliance with

Occupational Safety and

Health (OSH) standards,"

said DOLE Calabarzon

Regional Director Erwin N.

that the Labor department

suring that employees

across the region receive

fair wages, lawful benefits,

and a safe working envi-

He emphasized

As part of these

from labor and manage- ger industry."

Aguino.

"DOLE Calabar-

uphold workers' rights

Senior citizens venient voting option for PWDs, and pregnant women may cast their ballots on May 12 at their designated precincts as ensure their participation early as 5:00 am to 7:00

"For the first time in the 2025 National Elecduring the Ugnayan at tions, the Commission on Talakayan sa Laguna Elections will implement what we call early voting hours. This will be from 5:00 AM to 7:00 AM where Delmo, election officer of all our polling places will exclusively accommodate

cont. on Page 4

May 14-20, 2025

EDITORYAL:

What's wrong with our education system?

WHETHER you're a candidate for national or local proving the quality of life of our people and ensuring a better es. future for our country.

for the nation, then we must be concerned as well with improving the quality of the education of our youth.

A recent survey by the Philippine Statistics Authority called Functional Literacy, Education and Mass Media Study (FLEMMS) showed some 18.9 million Filipinos 2024 may be considered "functional illiterate" as they still have problems with reading comprehension despite years of schooling

According to Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian, chair of the Senate basic education committee, the results of the study should prod the national government to devise a strategy to address "the gravity of our situation now."

We agree. In fact, the lawmaker believes the failure tions positions in the May 12 polls or one of their supporters, you to achieve higher levels of basic literacy in the country is among should be concerned about how you can contribute to im- the factors behind the high poverty incidence in some provinc-

STRAIGHT NEWS

The country's poorest provinces, such as Tawi-Tawi And when we talk about achieving a better future and Davao Occidental, recorded the highest functional illiteracy able to perform complex tasks or acquire higher literacy Cavite and Bataan, have lower poverty incidence rates.

The senator estimated that based on the PSA data and available information, about 24.82 million Filipinos age 10 to 64 could be considered functional illiterate, or individuals who who completed secondary education between 2019 and could read, write and compute but could not understand what they have read.

That's not all. Another 5.86 million Filipinos belonging to the same age group are "basic illiterate," or unable to read, write and compute 14 QUI According to education experts, those who

are considered functional illiterate have very basic reading and writing skills but are unable to apply them in everyday situa-

For instance, they may know how to write their full names but cannot properly fill out job applications or understand complicated written instructions.

...... VOL. II · NO. 46 **2**

Moreover, the functional illiterate would be unskills and consequently have limited employment opportu-

They are also likely to remain poor and remain vulnerable to social exclusion.

The end-result of functional illiteracy is intergenerational disadvantage, or a situation where children who grow up in a low literacy household usually experience educational difficulties as well.

Do your candidates for national or local positions have clear positions on how they can help improve our educational system and prepare the youth to take an active part in nation-building?

If not, ditch them and vote for somebody else.

AGRI RENEWS CALL TO PROBE P11-B EXPIRED MEDICINES, VACCINES IN DOH WAREHOUSES, HEALTH FACILITIES AGRI Party-list portance of accountability billion worth of expired the reasons cited for such pamilya," AGRI Party-list ed and no longer respon-

Rep. Wilbert Lee reiteratworth of expired medicines and vaccines in Department of Health (DOH) warehouses, following a recent Senate resolution by Senator Joel Villanueva. Lee emphasized that the expiration of essential stressing the need for drugs, including over 7 proper government action million vials of COVID-19 to ensure public health vaccines, is a clear case of negligence and misuse tively. of public funds.

House Resolution No. Wilbert Lee reiterated his

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Body Text

Space

and efficient use of health comprehensive report on the expired supplies and the Commission on Audit the steps taken to address the issue. AGRI Party-list continues to push for free medicines and healthcare services for all Filipinos, resources are used effec-

AGRI Party-list 2117, highlighted the im- call to investigate the P11

PAPERPh

Buhay Na Tubig, Imus, Cavite

: Maria Victoria S. Soberano

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-- P160/col cm

Single space

probe the said issue. Lee, who filed Representative Manoy sa Senado ang malaking properly accounted for,

added.

Lee filed House of their mandate.

in DOH warehouses and nila; dagdag isipin ng may bration, BotiCARD offered and the official Facebook

medicines and vaccines wastage are inadequate earlier pointed out. ed his call for an investi- resources. He also called in Department of Health procurement planning and gation into the P11 billion on the DOH to submit a (DOH) warehouses and poor distribution and mon- has been pushing for free health facilities flagged by itoring systems.

> (COA). The Bicolano tion in the 2025 National lawmaker renewed his call and Local Elections underafter Senator Joel Villanueva recently filed Senate Resolution No. 1326 to the involved officials and

> "Buo ang suporta identify underlying sysnatin sa panawagang ito temic issues, and ensure va para imbestigahan din es are utilized efficiently, kapabayaan at malaking kasalanan na ito sa taum- and effective manner. bayan," Lee said.

> "Such negligence the DOH anew to submit is both unacceptable and a comprehensive report unlawful. Pondo ito na to Congress detailing the nasayang at serbisyong status of all expired supipinagkait para sa kalu- plies, including COVID-19 sugan ng mga Pilipino," he

> Resolution No. 2117 on December 2024, stressing that the expiration of these essential drugs. medicines and vaccines. which the DOH allowed to deteriorate without proper utilization or timely action. constitutes a clear derelic- lyon-bilyong pondo para tion of duty and a violation sa mga gamot pero bakit

According to the mili ng mga kababayan COA audit report for the natin sa labas ng ospital? year 2023, P11.18 billion Bakit kailangan pa nilang worth of drugs, medicines and medical supplies, in- kahit na sa charity wards cluding over 7 million vi- sila naka-admit? Isa pa CARD MRI's mission of als of COVID-19 vaccines ito sa dumaragdag sa that were unused, expired out-of-pocket expenses stated. As part of the celehealth facilities. Among sakit, dagdag pasanin ng free consultations, blood page, @boticardOfficial.

and distributed in a timely

vaccines, and the steps

that during the last House

on the DOH Budget last

September. Lee inquired

about the lack of medi-

kinakailangan pang bu-

gumastos para sa gamot

cines in public hospitals.

ation.

Plenary

taken to address the situ-

It also called on

It can be recalled

"Mavroong bi-

Deliberations

medicines and healthcare AGRI Party-list, which is running for reelecleadership, AGRI Party-list was the first to expose that the Philippine Health scored the importance of Insurance Corporation probing this issue to hold (PhilHealth) had billions tember 2023, which then personnel accountable. led to the implementation of PhilHealth's increased ni Senator Joel Villanue- that public health resourc- benefits after over a de- ang nakatava dito." AGRI cade that it was not updat- Party-list stated. PR

pressure monitoring, and

dental extractions to cli-

ents and the general pub-

lic who attended the event

pharmacy provided a 28%

BotiCARD opened its newest branch in Biñan City, Laguna, on January 8, 2025, to bring high-quality, affordable medicines closer to more Filipinos.

BotiCARD....

Rv establishing

BotiCARD Presimargins.

"We believe that expanding our services across the country and improving people's health is another way to support

AGRI Party-list cost of the beneficiaries. "Hindi magiging posible ang ipinaglala-

sive to the hospitalization

services. Through Lee's ban nating libreng gamot at libreng pagpapagamot kung magpapatulov ang kapalpakang ito sa gobyerno. Dapat may managot sa mga kapa of available funds in Sep- bayaan na nagkakait ng mga serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa mga Pilinino. Buhav at kabuhavan

FROM PAGE 5

In addition the

a presence in Biñan, the pharmacy reaffirmed its commitment to making essential healthcare accessible, providing more affordable alternatives, and delivering health education to the community.

dent Rosenda Aquino expressed the pharmacy's dedication to reaching more communities, particularly those living on the

discount on selected medicines and vitamins. During the open-109 individuals ben efited from the free medical services. Aside from medicines. BotiCARD offers basic medical sup-

plies, hygiene products

and other essential health

products

BotiCARD, the health wing of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), was established in 2011 to ensure the availability of affordable and quality medicines to CARD members. their families, and communities.

To learn more about BotiCARD, Inc., visit eradicating poverty," she its website at https://www. grass brooms, ensuring

the products were of good

quality and durability Now one of her children has

stepped in to help keep

brooms is a good business

decision for her, as it is an

everyday, practical, and

affordable cleaning tool for

and persistence, Domin-

ga not only sustained her

the land where her home

nomically challenged, but

with my skills and the sup-

port of CARD Bank, I start-

ed a business and learned

how to handle my finances

proved," she concluded,

highlighting how a skill

that is supported finan-

cially can create a positive

ga proves that resilience,

skill, and financial support

change in life.

Crafting grass

With patience

"I may be eco-

That is how my

the business alive.



From the gateway of Bicolandia, Dominga Perez continues to strive in life with the help of her grass broom business that started in 2011.

"Age is just a and determination. number." a phrase that rings true for 76-year-old is blessed with decades a miner, then as a house-Dominga Perez of Cama- of physical strength, and rines Norte, who pushes Dominga remains grateful forward in her business for the body that endured journey with relentless grit the test of time. She had a married, she learned to

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,

Mortgagee

-versus

Mortgagors.

Foreclosure No. 2025-70

For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure

of Real Estate Mortgage

Republic of the Philippine

Fourth Judicial Region

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT

City of Bacoor

Email: rtelberocpi@judiciary.gov.ph

Telephone No. 09273707489

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee. BDO

UNIBANK, INC. at 33 Floor BDO Corporate Center Or-

tigas, No.12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, and against

the mortgagors, SPS. JOSE G. OLIVA AND SISA D. OLIVA

Lot 6 Blk. 2 Cerritos Terraces, Brgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite,

to satisfy the mortgagee indebtedness which as of April 7.

2025, amounts to ONE MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINE-

TY EIGHT THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR

PESOS & 80/100 (P1.798.454.80). Philippine Currency, in-

clusive 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 17, 2025 at 10 o'clock in the morning or soon there-

after, 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 im-

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

NO. (057-2014082402) 167-2016025225

provements thereon, to wit,

at Lot 4 Block 2 Villa Vieja Molino IV, Bacoor, Cavite and

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act

SPS. JOSE G. OLIVA AND SISA D. OLIVA,

Not everyone

fair share of struggles, beginning with her days as keeper, and now as a mi-After aettina

husband. However, after 13 years together, her first mained strong and contin-

way back to her life when she met her second husblessed with six children. Mining remained their primary livelihood, as it was common in their community. Dominga has firsthand experience of the job. Un- a long-term solution, she ally paid for and acquired fazed by the dangers and hazardous environment, she would dig the ground and enter holes in search

Love found its

times when she was lucky enough to find a few grams of gold, but there were also times when all she gained from mining was exhaustion. Nevertheless. she continued doing this

Her initial loan LOCATION: BARANGAY OF MOLINO, MUNICIPALITY OF

> When her hus- can lead to success at any band was still alive, he age.

cial needs, senior citizens,

and pregnant women

group but are unable to

vote during the said voting

hours will still be accom-

ity lanes set up for them in

every polling precinct from

remain open throughout

the day to allow them skip

regular queues and vote

with great comfort and

convenience, the Com-

These lanes will

7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

mission reiterates.

LOT NO: 6 **BLOCK NO:** 2 **PLAN NO:** PCS-04-028103 PORTION OF: LOT 6930-A AND 6930-B, PSD-04-130592,

BACOOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON AREA: EIGHTY EIGHT SQUARE METERS (88) MORE OR

"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 June 24, 2025.

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 May 6, 2025

(SGD)MFLY C HERMOSURA-VISTA Clerk of Court VI

(SGD) ROBERT JON A. DELA CRUZ

Copy Furnished:

BDO UNIBANK, INC. REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT UNIT 33rd Floor BDO Corporate Center Ortigas #12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

SPS JOSE G OLIVA AND SISA D OLIVA

Lot 4 Block 2 Villa Vieia Molino IV. Bacoor, Cavite Lot 6 Blk 2 Cerritos Terraces, Brgy. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite

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

STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING: May 14, 21 & 28, 2025

In 1996, her hus-

·····

band had to stop working husband passed away. due to an injury. Dominga, too, had to leave mining behind. To support her family, she worked as a house helper while peddling grass brooms made by her neighbors. She travelled to Sta. Rosa Sur band, with whom she was and as far as Paracale, seizing every opportunity to sell grass brooms and earn a living.

Knowing that being a house helper was not business but also gradusought to build something In 2011, she

learned the craft of broom-making and turned it into a business. That same year she became a client of CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank that provided small loans to aspiring entrepre- life has constantly im-

was used to purchase raw materials needed to make the product, while her income as a house helper covered their daily

COMELEC ...

FROM PAGE 6

At 76, Domin-

persons with disabilities, cer then emphasized that this system upholds the senior citizens, and pregnant women along with right to suffrage of every their assistors. Only they Filipinos and to maintain will be served from 5:00 an organized electoral AM to 7:00 AM," Delmo process while safeguarding the welfare of the vul-Those with spenerable sectors.

Meanwhile, COMELEC has warned who belong to the priority the public to remain cautious and vigilant against false information circulating online claiming that modated through the prior- the upcoming election has been postponed and moved to another date. clarifying that such claims are fake and not true

Individuals spreading such false information may be held liable for an election offense under Section 261(z)(11) of the Omnibus Election The election offi- Code.

May 14-20, 2025

SMSUPERMALLS AND

ASPINK PARTNERSHIP FOR AUTISM-INCLUSIVE EMPLOY

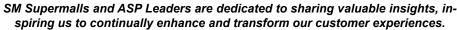
Strengthening our commitment to a more inclusive community, SM Supermalls and ASP sign the Memorandum of Understanding for Inclusive Hiring of talents on the spectrum.



Ms. Shereen Sy shares a thoughtful message that encourages proper understanding of each member of the community to be able to serve them better.



DA-ATI CALABARZON has officially partnered with RHUDARDA Integrated Agri-Coconut Farm, located in Polillo, Quezon, as a new Coconut-based Learning Site for Agriculture (CocoLSA). The partnership was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), led by Center Director Dr. Rolando V. Maningas. The event also featured the unveiling of the LSA billboard and the awarding of the LSA certificate. In his message, Dr. Maningas emphasized the significant contribution of cooperatives to development. The farm is the second Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in Polillo and the first CocoLSA in the entire Polillo Group of Islands (POGI). It was established to support the network in Polillo, Quezon.



portunities for individuals and help them succeed in nection, and belonging. the retail industry.

This collaboration reflects SM's endur- a space where everyone ing commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion Shereen T. Sy shared. across its operations.

partnership builds on that legacy, ensuring more meaningful. sustainable roles for talents on the spectrum within the SM ecosystem. SM Markets pioneered autism-inclusive hiring back in 2016.

ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was held at Book carving a space for Filipi-Nook in SM Podium. nos with disabilities in their marking the beginning of an inspiring new chapter businesses, allowing them in inclusive employment.

Book Nook, a flagship community learn- is part of SM Cares' broad-

Autism Society Philippines Book Nook concierges, (ASP) to create work op- bringing SM's inclusive vion the autism spectrum champions learning, con-"Book Nook

> feels they belong," Ms. "Through this initiative. we bring that vision into sharper focus—creating

not just a library, but a living story of inclusion, empowerment, and opportu-"The Autism Society Philippines is excited about this collaboration," said Ms. Mona Magno Veluz, Country Manager of ASP Autism Works. "We need more companies

The partnership

to contribute and grow."

MANILA. Phil- ing hub under SM Cares, er advocacy for inclusive ippines-SM Supermalls will soon welcome individ- employment, which aims has partnered with the uals on the spectrum as to create work environments where people with disabilities are welcomed sion to life in a space that and celebrated for their unique strengths.

is more than a policy—it's was always meant to be our purpose," said Mr. Steven T. Tan, President of SM Supermalls.

"This partnership with ASP reaffirms our commitment to being a 'Mall for All'—a place where everyone can succeed and feel they belona

SM Supermalls continues to redefine inclusive, compassionate public spaces—not just in its malls but in communities throughout the Philip-

nership with the ASP ensures that they are guided in best practices for re cruiting, developing, and retaining talents on the au-



(From left to right) Father Efren Montoya, BotiCARD President Rosenda Aquino, Micoinsurance Coordinator Elvira De Guzman, CARD MRI Managing Direccommunity by sharing skills and knowledge while strengthening the agricultural tor Aristeo Deguito, and BotiCARD Operations Director Florife Revnido led the opening of the BotiCARD Branch in Biñan, Laguna. cont. on Page 3