

# MPT SOUTH KICKS OFF ROAD SAFETY MONTH WITH 'DRAYBERKS: READY 4 SAFETY' CAMPAIGN

May 22, 2025—  
With the goal of building a safer future on Philippine roads, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) marked Road Safety Month by unveiling its latest theme for their road safety advocacy campaign “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety,” in a ceremonial launch held at the Golden Phoenix Hotel in Pasay City.

Over 100 stakeholders from both the public and private sectors attended the celebration, in partnership with national agencies including the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), PNP Highway Patrol Group Region IV-A, Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), and PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC).

Local government units in Metro Manila and CALABARZON also joined the celebration, including representatives from Taguig, Parañaque, Pasay, Las Piñas, Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, General Trias, Dasmariñas, Silang, Santa Rosa, and Biñan.

The following major transport and terminal partners also attended the event: Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), One Ayala Terminal, and advocacy organizations like ACTO; bus companies such as TAS Trans Corp., Erjohn & Almark Transit Corp. Co., Don Aldrin Transport Inc., Saulog Transit, and Jasper Jean Services Inc.; UV groups such as DIP-TA-MOA, United 12 Corp., TVTAP; modern and traditional jeepney groups such as Paliparan 3, Kapit Bisig Transport, PABODA, CAMBIO, and Universal Transport; and Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association Inc. as a representative for the logistics sector.

Mr. Jose Ma. K. Lim, the President and CEO of Metro Pacific Toll-



MPT South 'Ready 4 Safety' Grand Launch at Golden Phoenix Hotel, Pasay City



MPTC President and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim leads the signing of pledge of commitment for road safety

ways Corporation (MPTC), delivered the welcome remarks. He emphasized the critical role expressway operators play not just in building infrastructure, but also in promoting a culture of safety on and beyond their roads.

He stated, “This project is just one of the many ways MPTC demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the safety of all road users.

We believe that true progress in road safety comes through collaboration—by working hand-in-hand with government, private partners, and the communities we serve.”

The main event was the unveiling of the new Road Safety Campaign of MPT South, “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety” Campaign, which was led by Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano, MPT South Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Man-

agement.

The Drayberks program, first introduced in 2018, has evolved into a well-regarded platform for promoting road discipline.

Now in its sixth year, Drayberks has been recognized as a model road safety program, most recently earning a Bronze Stevie® Award in the Innovation in Communications/Public Relations category at the 2025 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.

With the refreshed Ready 4 Safety campaign, MPT South aims to reach drivers of all classifications—from public utility drivers and logistics operators to private motorists—through updated modules grounded in four key points: Responsible driving, expressway rules, pre-trip vehicle inspection, and practicing discipline on the road.

“Ready 4 Safety” strengthens our promise

to equip every driver with the knowledge and values needed to navigate roads safely—not only for their own benefit, but for everyone’s,” Capistrano shared during the unveiling.

The event culminated in a powerful moment as participants stood together to recite the Drayberks Pledge, led by MPT South OIC Elnora D. Rumawak.

This collective commitment to safe, disciplined, and responsible driving was further solidified with a symbolic pledge signing, uniting government agencies, transport groups, and local leaders under one shared goal.

As the curtains closed on this milestone celebration, MPT South reaffirmed its mission: that beyond building roads, it is building a culture of safety, accountability, and readiness—one driver, one community at a time. PR



MPTC President and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim leads the signing of pledge of commitment for road safety



# Launching of Farmers Fields School project in Naic, Cavite

ISSN NO. 3028-1954

STRAIGHT NEWS  
PUBLISHING

TODAY'S NEWS AND BEYOND  
VOL. II • NO. 49 • June 04-10, 2025 • P 10.00

## PROVINCIAL AGRI TRADE FAIR CUM KADIWA NG PANGULO



In a collective effort to further enrich and promote the agricultural industry in the province, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), spearheaded a two-day Provincial Agri Trade Fair and Exhibits cum Kadiwa ng Pangulo, themed “Masiglang Negosyo at Maunlad na Kalakalan, Susi sa Pagkamit ng Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita”, at the OPA Compound, Trece Martires City, on May 15-16, 2025.

The event kicked off with a mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Ross Layugan, celebrating the feast of the patron saint of farmers and agriculture, Saint Isidore the Labrador.

The program proper commenced with the welcome mes-

sage from Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, Officer-in-Charge of the OPA, for everyone who made time and effort to participate in the activity.

She underscored the significance of agriculture as it provides food security for the community.

Engr. Nova-Cruz was joined by representatives from various partner agencies – Dr. May Magno, Cavite Provincial Veterinarian; Dr. Nellie Ilas, PAFC Chairperson; Ms. Lilibeth Chavez, OIC-Provincial Director of DTI-Cavite; Ms. Marivic Martinez, Director II of DOLE; Mr. Jaypee Patricio of ATI; Ms. Marren Bautista of DILG-Cavite; Ms. Lorena Jimeno of APCO-Cavite; and Ms. Antonette Ariole, representative of Board Member Paolo Crisostomo, displaying their enthusiasm and cooperation in providing assistance and

space to the farmers, fisherfolks, and agri-exhibitors across Cavite.

The event culminated with a message from Vice Governor Sherman Jaro, commending the farmers for continuously striving for the benefit of Caviteños, “Binabati ko ang mga magsasaka na patuloy na lumalaban para itaguyod at ma[i]bigay ang masusustansya at murang pagkain para sa ating mga kababayan.”

The Agri Trade Fair and Exhibit booths lined up in the venue, showcasing wide-range of fresh goods and produce, boosting the marketing opportunities and productivity of the agricultural industry, and building strong connections among the stakeholders. - J. Reyes



CEOs ROCK: Go Negosyo founder and RFM Corp. Chairman, President and CEO Joey Concepcion and wife Marissa, join Ovation Productions President and CEO Renen de Guia, and VP and CFO Celinda de Guia at the sidelines of the concert by legendary American rock band Toto. The power couples rocked with thousands of fans at the SM Mall of Asia Arena last May 4, 2025 to relive the Toto songs that marked the '70s through the '90s, such as “Africa,” “Rosanna”, and “Hold the Line”. “The songs reminded us of the days when we were younger, when Renen and Cel were still building the company that would bring the biggest foreign and local artists to perform here in the Philippines,” said Concepcion. “They’ve also become great supporters of Go Negosyo and now join us when we mentor micro and small entrepreneurs at our 3M on Wheels events and our national summits for MSMEs.”

## SMC Q1 net income jumps to Php43.4B, core earnings up 31%

## PHILHEALTH AND DEPED FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL LEARNERS



In a significant step towards ensuring the health and well-being of public school students, the Philippine Health Insurance Cor-

poration (PhilHealth) and the Department of Education (DepEd) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 8, 2025 at the Department of

Education head office in Pasig City.

The partnership aligns with the mandate of President **cont. on Page 2**





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

**6. Check your blood pressure regularly**  
Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is called a “silent killer”. This is because many people who have hypertension may not be aware of the problem as it may not have any symptoms. If left uncontrolled, hypertension can lead to heart, brain, kidney and other diseases. Have your blood pressure checked regularly by a health worker so you know your numbers. If your blood pressure is high, get the advice of a health worker. This is vital in the prevention and control of hypertension.

**7. Follow traffic laws**  
Road crashes claim over one million lives around the world and millions more are injured. Road traffic injuries are preventable through a variety of measures implemented by the government such as strong legislation and enforcement, safer infrastructure and vehicle standards, and improved post-crash care. You yourself can also prevent road crashes by ensuring that you follow traffic laws such as using the seatbelt for adults and child restraint for your kids, wearing a helmet when riding a motorcycle or bicycle, not drinking and driving, and not using your mobile phone while driving.

**8. Take antibiotics only as prescribed**  
Antibiotic resistance is one of the biggest public health threats in our generation. When antibiotics lose their power, bacterial infections become harder to treat, leading to higher medical costs, prolonged hospital stays, and increased mortality. Antibiotics are losing their power because of misuse and overuse in humans and animals. Make sure you only take antibiotics if prescribed by a qualified health professional. And once prescribed, complete the treatment days as instructed. Never share antibiotics.

**9. Clean your hands properly**  
Hand hygiene is critical not only for health workers but for everyone. Clean hands can prevent the spread of infectious illnesses. You should hand-wash using soap and water when your hands are visibly soiled or handrub using an alcohol-based product.

**10. Have regular check-ups**  
Regular check-ups can help find health problems before they start. Health professionals can help find and diagnose health issues early, when your chances for treatment and cure are better. Go to your nearest health facility to check out the health services, screenings and treatment that are accessible to you.

## General Trias to get new Super Health Center, says Mayor Jon-Jon Ferrer

General Trias Mayor Jon-Jon Ferrer shared the good news that the city will get its second Super Health Center. Ferrer said this will be located in Barangay Pasong Kawayan II.

This will serve a variety of health needs of residents of nearby communities, he said. The health of General Trias residents is a priority of the city government, he said.

### PHILHEALTH

Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.’s over-all accessibility of government services to learners, teaching and non-teaching personnel in academic institutions. Under the agreement, DepEd will adopt mechanisms necessary for PhilHealth registration, transforming schools into health-promoting learning environments and school clinics into efficient providers of primary care.

By making sure that all enrolled learners are properly registered with PhilHealth, affordable and quality health services will become more accessible to children.

Moreover, PhilHealth commits to facilitate the registration of not only the learners but also their families to a Konsulta Package Provider for them to access primary care services.

“The future this landmark partnership offers is one with healthier children that will transition to adults with better health-seeking behavior,” said PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado.

## Pag-IBIG Fund, NHA, SHFC Partner to Build Nearly 8,000 Homes Under 4PH Program

The Pag-IBIG Fund, National Housing Authority (NHA) and the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC) signed an agreement on Labor Day to construct almost 8,000 housing units in major cities as part of the government’s flagship Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino or 4PH Program.

Under the agreements, Pag-IBIG Fund will provide project financing to support the construction

This strategic shift towards preventive care for students also aims to improve overall learning and productivity with lesser absences and lower medical costs for children with chronic conditions.

DepEd Secretary Juan Edgardo M. Angara expressed the agency’s support for the initiative, “This is what we envisioned when we passed the Universal Health Care. Importante ay may tiwala ang tao na makakakuha sila ng serbisyo.”

This partnership aligns with the government’s broader goals of achieving Universal Health Care.

In ensuring we provide quality healthcare for our children, we set the stage for improving the health and well-being of all Filipinos.

For more details, members may call PhilHealth’s 24/7 touch points at (02) 866-225-88 or at mobile numbers (Smart) 0998-8572957, (Globe) 0968-8654670, (0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812.

of housing developments by NHA and SHFC in strategic locations in Valenzuela City, San Fernando, Pampanga, Davao City and Manila.

“We are happy to report that the Pag-IBIG Fund, NHA and SHFC continue to forge strong partnerships in support of the 4PH Program’s goal of providing quality yet affordable homes, especially to underserved families,” said Secretary Jose Rizalino L. Acuzar, who chairs

## Cayetano: New Senate Building project moving forward at ‘least cost, soonest time’

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday assured the public that the construction of the New Senate Building (NSB) is proceeding without delay and with an emphasis on cost efficiency.

“Full steam ahead, hindi madi-delay at ibinababa y’ung presyo [ng gusali],” Cayetano said in a media interview at the Senate on April 30, 2025.

Cayetano, who chairs the Senate Committee on Accounts overseeing the project, said preparations are underway for a briefing and site visit, possibly next week, depending on the schedule of Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero.

“I’ll try to get his schedule next week... But kung hindi man, I’ll just give you a one-pager so that you know the direction [of the project],” he told reporters.

The senator also expressed appreciation to former senator Panfilo

support the implementation of the 4PH Program.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta said the agency is fully aligned with the administration’s housing vision and emphasized Pag-IBIG Fund’s role in both institutional and individual housing financing.

“This initiative is part of our unwavering commitment to uplift the lives of Filipino workers by providing them with access to safe, decent, and affordable homes,” Acosta said.

“Through our continued collaboration with NHA and SHFC, we are helping build inclusive communities and contribute to the broader goal of national development.”

Through its partnership with shelter agencies, Pag-IBIG Fund will not only finance the construction of these projects but also offer end-user housing loans under affordable terms for eligible beneficiaries in line with 4PH guidelines. (END)

### SMC Q1...

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) posted first-quarter earnings of ₱43.4 billion, rising sharply from ₱8.9 billion a year earlier, supported by one-time gains from the partial sale of power assets and foreign exchange gains.

Core net income, excluding these non-recurring items, grew 31% to ₱19.0 billion, driven by disciplined cost management and solid performance in most of its core businesses.

Revenues declined 8% to ₱360.9 billion, mainly due to weaker crude prices affecting the Fuel and Oil segment, and lower contributions from the Power business following the deconsolidation of the Ilijan Power Plant. Stronger sales re-

sults from the Food, Hard Liqueur, and Infrastructure units helped offset the decline.

Operating income rose 13% to ₱45.6 billion, supported by margin expansion across the Power, Food & Beverage, and Infrastructure segments. Consolidated EBITDA increased 17% year-on-year to ₱64.2 billion.

“We had a good start to the year. Despite some challenges, our businesses remained resilient and continued to perform well.

We will keep moving forward, grow responsibly, and make sure more Filipinos benefit from the progress we are making,” said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

## Launching...

On May 22, 2025, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office IV A and Naic Municipal Agriculture Office, officially launched the Farmers Field School on Production of High Quality Inbred Rice Seeds and Farm Mechanization at Gracita Johnson’s Residence, Malainen Bago, Naic, aiming to equip Cavite farmers with advanced agricultural methods and modern mechanisms.

Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, OIC-Provincial Agriculturist, together with Ms. Pamela Cordero, Naic Municipal Agriculturist; Ms. Chilina Beato of RFO IV-A; and Mr. Ruben Perlas of APCO-Cavite, graced the event, expressing their support and commitment to empowering farmers with in-depth knowledge to foster a sustainable and resilient farming sector amid the challenges of the modern economy.

Punong Barangay Lito Catibayan of Malainen Bago warmly greeted attendees, stating that he was pleased to have learned that their barangay was chosen for such a meaningful project as this would strengthen the capabilities of the farmers.

Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, OIC-Provincial Agriculturist, together with Ms. Pamela Cordero, Naic Municipal Agriculturist; Ms. Chilina Beato of RFO IV-A; and Mr. Ruben Perlas of APCO-Cavite, graced the event, expressing their support and commitment to empowering farmers with in-depth knowledge to foster a sustainable and resilient farming sector amid the challenges of the modern economy.

## Spike and Conque: OPHO and OPHRMO reign supreme in PGC volleyball finals

The Provincial Government of Cavite’s Sportsfest 2025 ignited the Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City with electrifying volleyball matches, showcasing the athletic prowess and camaraderie of PGC employees. Commencing on February 25, 2025, the tournament culminated in thrilling victories and commendable performances across both men’s and women’s divisions.

Demonstrating exceptional teamwork and strategic play, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) emerged as the champions in the men’s division. Their journey to the top was marked by resilience and skill, setting a high standard for future competitions.

The Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer (OPHRMO) showed unparal- leled determination and coordination, earning them the championship title. The OSP team displayed commendable effort, finishing as first runner-up, while OPHO and OPG secured the second and third runner-up positions, respectively.

Individual brilliance shone through as well, with Mr. Gabriel Hernandez of OPHO being named the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in the men’s division for his pivotal role in leading his team

### FOOD AND BEVERAGE

San Miguel Food and Beverage, Inc. (SMFB) reported consolidated revenues of ₱98.9 billion, up 4% year-on-year. Gross profit grew 11% to ₱28.6 billion, while operating income rose 16% to ₱15.2 billion. Net income increased 16% to ₱11.6 billion, with EBITDA reaching ₱19.6 billion.

San Miguel Foods posted ₱46.3 billion in revenues, 8% up on strong poultry sales and steady demand for processed meats and dairy with net income growing by 83% to ₱3.0 billion.

San Miguel Brewery reported ₱36.3 billion in sales, with net income inching up 1% to ₱6.6 billion. Ginebra San

## FROM PAGE 1

Ms. Lilian Telmo then provided the thirty-six (36) participating farmers with a deeper understanding of the Farmers Field School by delivering an overview of the project, highlighting its scope and expected outcomes.

In addition, a pre-test was administered to gauge the farmers’ current understanding and align their expectations regarding rice production.

The FFS project is initiated not only to teach the ABCs and know-how of rice production, but also to provide on-hand experiences and practices for a long-term impact to the farming sector. — J. Reyes



Miguel generated ₱16.3 billion in revenues, also up 8%, while net income grew 11% to ₱2.1 billion.

**POWER**  
San Miguel Global Power posted ₱42.5 billion in revenues, down 4% year-on-year due to the deconsolidation of the Ilijan Power Plant. The decline was partly offset by strong contributions from its other power facilities and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

Operating income rose 21% to ₱10.7 billion. Reported net income reached ₱26.4 billion, including a ₱21.9 billion gain from the asset sale. Excluding the gain, net income was still up 188% to ₱4.5 billion.

**FUEL AND OIL**  
Petron Corpora-

tion grew its net income by 2% to ₱4.0 billion, backed by strong domestic sales, steady operations, and improved margins. Operating income stood at ₱9.5 billion, while EBITDA remained stable at ₱13.4 billion.

Revenues declined to ₱194.4 billion from ₱227.6 billion a year earlier, mainly due to lower crude prices and softer export sales. Despite this, domestic performance remained strong, with Philippine retail sales rising 14% and commercial sales up 2%, driven by higher demand and stronger customer engagement.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**  
SMC Infrastructure reported a 7% rise in first-quarter revenues,

### FROM PAGE 1

driven by the continued growth of its toll road operations. Operating income increased 10% to ₱5.3 billion, while EBITDA rose 6%, with margins steady at 78%.

**CEMENT**  
SMC’s Cement business—including Eagle Cement, Northern Cement, and Southern Concrete Industries—reported consolidated revenues of ₱8.9 billion, down 4% year-on-year due to lower average selling prices amid heightened competition from imports and soft demand.

Despite these challenges, the group posted a 1% increase in sales volume. Operating income stood at ₱1.6 billion, while EBITDA declined 5% to ₱2.5 billion.

## FPA to celebrate 48th anniversary with a commitment to smarter regulations and innovation

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) will be celebrating its 48th Anniversary on 30 May 2025, with the theme: “Smarter Regulations, Nurturing Innovation.”

Executive Director Glenn DC. Estrada explained the theme captures the agency’s ongoing efforts to modernize its regulatory framework, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and embrace new technologies in support of Philippine agriculture, during the press conference held at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) on 16 May 2025.

Dir. Estrada emphasized that the FPA, established under Presidential Decree 1144, continues to play a vital role in ensuring access to safe to victory. In the women’s division, Ms. Ditas Matira of OPHRMO earned the MVP accolade, a testament to her exceptional performance and leadership on the court.

The PGC Sportsfest 2025 not only highlighted the athletic talents of its employees but also fostered a spirit of unity and sportsmanship, reinforcing the values that drive the Provincial Government of Cavite forward. - R. Dones

Two ongoing projects were spotlighted: the Composting Facility for Biodegradable Wastes Program – supports LGUs in waste-to-compost initiatives through provision of composting facilities. On the other hand, the Drones4Rice Program — promotes the use of drones in agriculture through the development of protocols, standards, and monitoring systems.

As part of its long-term strategy, Dir. Estrada, who recently took office as head of FPA in

April 2025, presented his Ten Strategic Initiatives that will guide FPA’s future actions.

One major institutional goal is to amend Presidential Decree 1144 by advocating for a Republic Act that would expand FPA’s authority to include research, development, and extension services that will enable the agency to adapt to modern agricultural needs.

FPA announced key projects and activities for 2025, such as the enhancement of drone application policies, further digitalization of licensing and accreditation processes, intensified first-border inspections, and continued updates to the Fertilizer and Pesticide Regulatory Policies (Bluebook and Greenbook).

Public engagement efforts such as regional information caravans will also be expanded, particularly in Regions 8, 4, 5, 2, Caraga, 11, 9, and 10.

“We reaffirm our commitment to serve as a partner in nation-building,” said Dir. Estrada. “By combining smarter regulations with responsible innovation, the FPA remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard agricultural productivity and sustainability.” (DA-FPA Press Release)





# DOLE QUEZON SPURS BETTER WORKPLACES



Thirty-seven employees of Johanna's Chicken Processing Center in Lucena City participated in an Orientation on the Family Welfare Program (FWP) led by the Department of Labor and Employment – Quezon Provincial Office (DOLE QPO) on May 13, 2025. The activity aimed to raise awareness among workers and employers on how promoting family welfare can lead to a more harmonious, healthy, and productive workplace, in line with DOLE's advocacy for worker-centered development.

## Life Builder Fellowship to subsidize the SSS contributions of church volunteers



Photo shows Social Security System (SSS) Vice President for Luzon Central 2 Division Gloria Corazon M. Andrada (4th from left) and Life Builder Fellowship Head Pastor Jesus L. Bagasin Jr. (3rd from left) sealed an agreement in Calumpit, Bulacan last 9 May 2025, making the church organization the first contribution subsidy provider in Central Luzon. Joining them are (from left) Elder Jovito J. Calalang, Elder Frederick C. Candelaria, SSS Malolos Branch Acting Head Chelin Lea D. Nabong and Assistant Branch Head Ellen M. Arellano.

CALUMPIT, BULACAN – The Social Security System (SSS) and Life Builder Fellowship formally sealed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) under the Contribution Subsidy Provider Program (CSPP).

SSS Vice President for Luzon Central 2 Division Gloria Corazon Andrada said that Life Builder Fellowship pledged to sponsor the monthly SSS contributions

of an initial group of ten dedicated volunteers for a minimum of six months, with plans to extend the support to more volunteers in the future.

"Many volunteers generously give their time and effort without any compensation," Andrada said. "Through partnerships like this, we ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to social protection," she added.

Once the CSPP

beneficiaries meet the qualifying conditions, they will now gain access to SSS benefits such as sickness, maternity, disability, retirement, death and funeral, including loan privileges such as salary and calamity loan.

"Life Builder Fellowship's effort reflects the church's holistic mission—providing not only spiritual guidance but also the long-term financial stability of its members through ac-

# STRONGER FAMILIES,

The session, organized by DOLE Quezon, sought to educate employees and employers on how the welfare of families directly contributes to a more harmonious and productive working environment.

The orientation was spearheaded by Mr. Franz Raymond J. Aquino, Senior Labor and Employment Officer of DOLE Quezon, who gave a comprehensive discussion on the objectives and implementation of the Family Welfare Program, in line with Department Order No. 56-03. According to Mr. Aquino, "The FWP is not just a program—it is a transformative strategy

that sees every worker not just as a laborer, but as a mother, a father, a spouse, or a child.

When we support the family, we empower the worker."

The program emphasizes the formation of a Family Welfare Committee (FWC) within workplaces—a collaboration of labor, management, and health representatives—to institutionalize family-focused policies and initiatives such as health programs, child education assistance, and financial wellness.

Also present was Ms. Jelly Ann Avila, Labor and Employment Officer III, who discussed

General Labor Standards, reminding participants of the foundational laws that safeguard worker rights.

"Labor standards and family welfare go hand in hand. When both are present in the workplace, we see not just compliance—but compassion," Ms. Avila stressed.

The Family Welfare Program continues to be a beacon of DOLE's commitment to holistic labor development. By aligning corporate goals with family well-being, DOLE Quezon promotes not just better workers—but better lives.

Because when families thrive, workplaces flourish. PR

## POLLO MASTER CORP. UNDERGOES REFRESHER SEMINAR ON FOOD SAFETY HAZARDS



Pollo Master Corporation underwent a refresher-seminar on food safety hazards to strengthen the awareness of its personnel on hazards that may affect food safety during processing, handling, and distribution conducted at its production plant, Brgy. Aya, San Jose, Batangas, April 08.

The training, facilitated by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas, covered discussion on

the three main categories of food safety hazards: biological, chemical, and physical. Ms. Jessica Navarro, food safety team member of the agency, explained how these hazards can enter the food processing chain and outlined preventive measures to control them.

Real-life examples and case scenarios were presented to help participants identify potential hazards in their operations. Topics included

hygiene practices, allergen control, foreign object prevention, and the role of sanitation in minimizing risks.

Participants engaged in interactive discussions throughout the session, sharing insights based on their daily work in the processing facility. The session also highlighted the importance of consistent implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) to ensure food safety.

The CSPP is a key initiative of the SSS designed to extend social protection to informal workers, low-income earners, and other vulnerable sectors. The program works by engaging individuals, organizations, or institutions willing to subsidize contributions on behalf of these members. PR



## EDITORIAL:

TECHNOLOGY now affords us the opportunity to view elections results, partial or complete, a few hours after the close of polling. And so it came to pass that before Filipinos went to sleep on Monday, the day they voted the next set of national and local leaders, they already had a good sense of what the outcome would be.

There were several surprises.

Foremost, poll surveys on which many relied in the days leading to the elections did not completely predict the results. In the senatorial race, for instance, some of those leading the surveys performed dismally in the actual race. Meanwhile, those with modest expectations fared better, even dislodging the early frontrunners.

Perhaps the methods could be improved. Or that people really just thought hard, changing their minds at the last minute.

The party-list contest also offered surprises, with groups carrying nominees deemed truly worthy of being legislators performing better than expected.

# LANDBANK DECLARES P33.53-B CASH DIVIDENDS TO NATIONAL GOV'T ON STRONG EARNINGS

Driven by its robust financial performance in 2024 and sustained momentum into 2025, the Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) has declared ₱33.53 billion in cash dividends to the National Government — the highest in the Bank's history.

This record-setting cash dividend is expected to fund priority infrastructure and socio-economic programs, reaffirming LANDBANK's critical role in advancing national development.

"LANDBANK's record-breaking dividend reflects the institution's solid fundamentals and strategic financial management.

This contribution will help power President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s infrastructure push, investments in education and healthcare, and food security agenda.

And it does all this while staying true to its core mission: delivering accessible and responsive financial services to Filipinos across the country," said Finance Secretary and LANDBANK Chair-

man Ralph G. Recto.

"I commend LANDBANK for consistently delivering strategic value—not only to its stakeholders, but to the entire Filipino nation," he added.

In 2024, the Bank remitted ₱32.12 billion in dividends — the highest among all Government Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs). With this year's ₱33.53 billion declaration, LANDBANK maintains its standing as the top dividend contributor among GOCCs for the second consecutive year.

"The ₱33.53 billion dividend underscores LANDBANK's unwavering support for government priorities that uplift lives and communities across the country.

It also reflects our strong financial foundation and vital role as a pillar of inclusive growth, ensuring that our sustained performance translates into real and lasting impact," said LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz.

Q1 2025 net income rises 11% to ₱13.29-B

LANDBANK posted a solid ₱13.29 billion net income for the first quarter of 2025, up 11% from ₱11.98 billion year-on-year and 32% above its Q1 target.

LANDBANK's total assets grew to ₱3.426

trillion, up 5% year-on-year from ₱3.268 trillion, driven by expansions in both loan and investment portfolios. Customer deposits also rose by ₱136.63 billion or 5% to ₱3.02 trillion, reflecting sustained trust in the Bank's services.

Its gross loan portfolio climbed by 8% to ₱1.58 trillion, while investments surged by 14% to ₱1.50 trillion, supported by growth in both trading and non-trading portfolios.

LANDBANK's financial strength was recently reaffirmed by Fitch Ratings, which upgraded its Viability Rating (VR) to 'bb+' from 'bb', citing stronger capital buffers, enhanced profitability, and its policy-driven mandate.

₱844.61-B in loans for agriculture and

rural development

Leveraging its solid financial footing, LANDBANK expanded its Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development (AFRD) loan portfolio to a record ₱844.61 billion as of Q1 2025 — representing 53.4% of its total gross loan portfolio of ₱1.58 trillion.

The Bank supported nearly 28,000 new small farmers and fishers during the period, bringing total beneficiaries assisted to 4.04 million nationwide.

This was accomplished through a mix of direct lending, credit conduits, and capacity-building interventions, spanning the entire agricultural value chain.

LANDBANK ranks 5th in Forbes' 2025

Best Banks in the Philippines

LANDBANK climbed to 5th place in Forbes' Best Banks 2025 survey in the Philippines, up from 8th last year.

It was also recognized among the World's Best Employers for the second year in a row, ranking 4th in the Philippines in 2024 — the only government institution on the list.

Now in its seventh year, the Forbes' global ranking — conducted in partnership with Statista — surveyed over 50,000 individuals across 34 countries, evaluating banks on customer satisfaction, trust, terms and conditions, digital services, customer support, and financial advice.

## SERBISYONG PANGKALUSUGAN PARA SA KABABAIHAN OUT IN CAVITE

As part of the post Provincial Women's Month celebration, an activity dubbed as Serbisyong Pangkalusugan para sa Kababaihan was successfully conducted through the initiative of the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OP-SWDO) in partnership with the Provincial Council for Women (PCW). The medical caravan were held on May 6 in Maragondon; May 7 in Naic; May 8 in Ternate; May 23 in Tagay-

Thousands of women from various sectors across the province benefited from the free medical services, which included blood chemistry, electrocardiogram (ECG), chest X-ray, and eye check-up. These services were rendered by Health Bridge Medical Services, Inc. The activity aimed to promote the importance of women's health and well-being, providing accessible medical care and encouraging preventive health practices among

women, especially those in far-flung areas.

This initiative is a testament to the continued efforts of the Provincial Government of Cavite through the OPSWDO, and the PCW, to recognize and support the vital role of women in society by ensuring that their health needs are addressed.

Through programs like these, women are empowered to take charge of their health and are reminded of their significance as pillars of strong families and communities. - OPIO

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**ADVERTISING RATES**

COMMERCIAL ----- P200/col.cm

LEGAL/NOTICES ----- P160/col.cm

Font Size:

|           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| Heading   | : 10           |
| Body Text | : 8            |
| Space     | : Single space |

Published Weekly by: **STRAIGHT NEWS PUBLISHING**



# SM Group Job Fair City Dasmariñas



Jerramae Perrera proudly displays her new status after being hired on the spot at the SM job fair.



A job searcher engages with recruiters at the May 1 SM Labor Day Job Fair at the SMX Convention Center Manila, seeking new career prospects.



The SM Group Job Fair brings a wide range of career opportunities to jobseekers.



A bustling Labor Day job fair organized by SM fills SM City Davao, connecting numerous applicants with potential employers.

tail, logistics, real estate, banking, and more—making it a true one-stop shop for career opportunities. What to Expect: Fast-Track Hiring with On-the-Spot Offers. Jobseekers can apply for over two dozen positions, including: Sales Associates, Store Crew, Cashiers, Merchandisers, and Personal Shoppers. Whether you're into fashion, food, banking, retail, or anything in between—there's something for everyone. This special job fair gathers powerhouse brands from the SM Group across re-

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## 24 FCAs sa CALABARZON, tampak sa Farmer's and Fisheriolk's Month Trade Fair sa Laguna

Tampok ang 24 samahan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda mula sa rehiyon ng CALABARZON sa Farmer's & Fisherfolk's Month Celebration Trade Fair and Exhibit cum KADIWA na isinagawa noong ika-17 hanggang ika-18 ng Mayo sa Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Ipinagmalaki sa naturang aktibidad ang mga de-kalidad at sariwang produktong lokal mula sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na direktang naipagbili at nailapit sa merkado sa pamamagitan ng KADIWA. Layunin nito na gawing abot-kaya at madaling ma-access ang pagkain habang pinaalakas ang kita ng mga lokal na prodyuser. Kabilang din sa

Council Jobs, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. —all united in helping Filipino jobseekers find meaningful employment. Participating companies include: Our Home, SM Appliance Center, SM Home, Ace Hardware, Watsons, Alfamart, SM Store, SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket, Save-more, Waltermart, Surplus, Stationery, Toy Kingdom, Pet Express, BDO Network Bank, Chinabank, National University, Goldlocks, and more. Hired on the spot: Real stories, real success “Organisado po siya, mabilis ang processing. Maraming nag-aassist. Komportable dito, masaya.” – Ladylyn Montaez, Hired as Merchandiser, Waltermart “Maraming salamat po sa SM, sa Department of Labor and Employment at sa government po sa pagbibigay ng opportunity sa aming mga nangangailangan ng trabaho. Malaking bagay po ito.” – Asmayer Abdullah, Hired as Service Crew, The French Baker More

mga isinagawang aktibidad ang oryentasyon ukol sa akreditasyon para sa mga nais maging KADIWA Program Consolidator at Supplier. Isa ring mahalagang bahagi ng programa ang presentasyon ng Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Information System na naglalayong palawakin ang kaalaman ng mga lumahok sa pag-nenegosyo at paggamit ng datos sa pagpapaunlad ng kanilang kabuhayan. Pinangunahan ito ng #DAlabarzon Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division, at dinaluhan nina Farmer Regional Executive Director G. Gauden-

# on May 29 at SM

job fairs this June: Independence meets opportunity Can't make it to SM City Dasmariñas on May 29? SM Supermalls has a full lineup of Job Fairs this June, including the Kalyaan Job Fairs on June 12 across 27 SM malls nationwide, in celebration of Philippine Independence Day. Your next big break starts here Whether you're a fresh graduate, a seasoned pro looking for new challenges, or a returning Overseas Filipino Worker seeking a fresh start—SM Job Fair is where jobs meet purpose. Just bring your resume, valid IDs, and pen—and be ready to meet your future employer. Follow SM Supermalls on Facebook or visit [www.smsupermalls.com](http://www.smsupermalls.com) for full updates.

About SM Job Fairs SM Job Fairs are nationwide hiring events organized by SM Supermalls in collaboration with government and private sector partners. These job fairs empower jobseekers by bringing together diverse employment opportunities and essential services in one convenient, inclusive space. SM Group Job Fair on May 29 at SM City Dasmariñas



# MI HEALTHCARE MICRO HMO



(From left to right) Pioneer Group Head Lorenzo O. Chan, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto, MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento, and Operations Associate Medical Director Lordan Carreon were present during the launching of KayaMed Micro-HMO.

MI Healthcare Inc. (MHI), a member institution of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), introduced

KayaMed, a micro-HMO product, on January 31 and February 4, 2025, at Maharlika Square Events Place, San Pablo City, La-

guna. KayaMed, the first micro-HMO registered with the Insurance Commission in the Philippines,

## PGC EMPLOYEES PARADE IN GLAMOUR AT SANTACURZAN 2025 CELEBRATION



In a dazzling celebration of faith and Filipino heritage, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) staged the Santacruzán 2025 on May 26 at the New Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Spearheaded by the Workplace Organization Committee, the event was part of the Monthly Theme celebration, aiming to foster unity, cultural appreciation, and spiritual reflection among PGC employees. The iconic Filipino religious-cultural tra-

dition came to life as various PGC participate with representatives dressed in glamorous gowns, embodying the grace and elegance of the “Reynas” they portrayed. The event featured a grand parade of Reynas, each symbolizing virtues and biblical characters, such as Reyna Elena, Reyna Delos Flores, Reyna Emperatriz, and Reyna De Las Virgenes, among others. They gracefully walked through the aisles of the Provincial Capitol

and offered flowers to the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a solemn act symbolizing devotion and reverence. Another highlight of the event was the Bara Alta turnover ceremony, a cherished tradition signifying the passing of leadership and commitment. Ms. Emily Rivera of the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), who served as Hermana Mayor 2025, formally handed over the responsibilities to Ms. Imelda Dimaranan of the

assists clients with their medical needs and facilitates cashless hospital payments for those covered under their annual benefits. During her opening remarks, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto expressed her excitement about launching their product, “KayaMed provides affordable healthcare products for all Filipinos.” The annual membership fee costs PHP 2,300.00, including the following benefits: In-Patient PHP 10,000.00, Out-Patient PHP 5,000.00, Emergency PHP 15,000.00, Surgical PHP 10,000.00,

Cavite Municipal Hospital (CMH), the designated Hermana Mayor 2026. The turnover signified the continuation of dedication to faith-based and cultural activities within the workplace. The program was graced by inspiring messages from Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide, OPGSO Head and WOC Chairperson, Atty. Rodolfo D. Uy III, Provincial Administrator, Board Member Chelsea Jilian G. Sarno, SK Federation President and the Reyna Elena 2025, and Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Quality Management Representative and Pasada Hermana 2018.

# INC.LAUNCHES

and Maternity PHP 2,500.00. During the event, six raffle winners received the KayaMed micro-HMO. The winners were microinsurance coordinators and CARD MRI clients: Lanie Zambales, Julieta Panergayo, Victoria Jutic, Marie Grace Seballe, Nerissa Galang, a CARD SME Bank client, and Thelma Dalisay, a CARD Bank client.

As part of the program, MHI Sales and Partnership Cath Piad provided a brief orientation about KayaMed. In addition, Pioneer Operations Associate Medical Director Dr. Dan Carreon provided some tips on how to avoid illness and take care of oneself. Pioneer Group Head Lorenzo O. Chan, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto, Pioneer Insurance FVP—Marketing Head Len Pozon, MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento, MI Healthcare Inc. Operations Head Atty. Aiza Mercader, and CCAS President Dr. Roderick Belen, some of CARD MRI's key officers and staff, microinsurance supervisors, microinsurance coordinators, and CARD clients attended the event.

Starting March 1, 2025, KayaMed will be available to CARD clients and their legal depen-

dents in Laguna 1, 3, and 4, Cavite, Manila, and the Bulacan Provincial Office. Soon after, MHI plans to make it available to the public. Micro HMOs are a more micro approach to regular HMOs, which means affordable premiums with acceptable health coverage. Unlike regular HMOs, micro-HMOs are more affordable for clients with tight budgets. “It is crucial that we address and take action on the health and well-being of the Filipinos. With the introduction of the Micro HMO, we believe that we will be able to provide our clients with an HMO at a more affordable price, aligning with our overall mission of eradicating poverty,” MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento stated.

CARD MRI and Pioneer Insurance established MHI in February 2024 to become one of Filipinos' leading health benefits providers by offering affordable healthcare products. MHI has affiliated accredited hospitals, clinics, and laboratories, which clients can conveniently access when needed. The institution plans to expand its reach by affiliating with more hospitals and gradually covering all of CARD MRI's provincial offices. PR

They commend the efforts of all participants and organizers. They emphasized the importance of keeping cultural and religious traditions alive within government institutions, as a way to not only uplift the spirit of public service but also to strengthen camaraderie and unity among employees. The celebration

concluded with a spirit of joy and reflection, as the PGC community came together to honor both cultural identity and shared values. Santacruzán 2025 was a beautiful reminder of how traditions can thrive even in professional spaces, inspiring devotion, pride, and a deeper connection to Filipino roots. — OPIO

