

PANGILINAN-LED LUZON TOLLWAYS STEPS UP HOLIDAY TRAFFIC PREPARATIONS, OFFERS FREE TOLL

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), concessionaire of NLEX, SCTEX in cooperation with BCDA, NLEX Connector, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) in cooperation with PRA-PEATC, and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), has intensified its holiday traffic and road safety preparations across its Luzon expressway network to ensure a smooth and safe journey for motorists during the Christmas and New Year peak travel period.

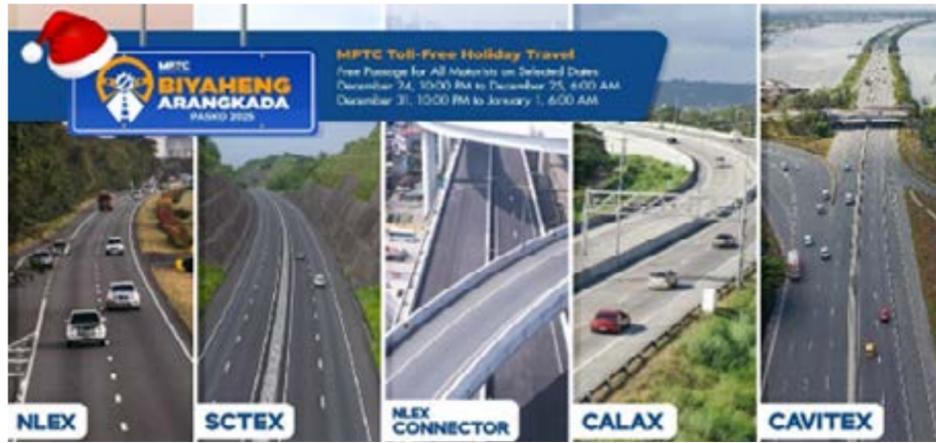
Through early preparations, full manpower deployment, and initiatives such as counterflow, barrier-up operations, free towing services, and toll-free passage, MPTC aims to provide safer and more convenient travel experience to its motorists.

"Our goal this holiday season is to have motorists spend less time on the road and more time with their families," said MPIC and MPTC Chairman Manuel V Pangilinan.

"We've prepared early, deployed full manpower, and have initiated barrier-up operations, counterflow measures, free towing services, and toll-free passage. The toll-free initiative is our way of giving back to motorists. We hope it helps ease their travels during this holiday season," Pangilinan added.

To manage increased traffic volume, all roadworks and lane closures will be suspended from 6:00 AM on December 19, 2025, until 12 noon on January 5, 2026, except for emergency safety repairs. Additional traffic, toll, and emergency and medical response teams will be deployed, and all lanes in major toll plazas will remain open to accommodate peak traffic.

To further ease congestion along NLEX, Express Lane (counterflow lane) will be activated subject to traffic conditions. These lanes will be accessible to Class 1 RFID-only vehicles, with northbound operations on Fridays from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM (entry at Balintawak



Expansion Plaza) and southbound operations on Sundays from 2:00 PM and early Mondays from 5:00 AM (entry at Bocaue Expansion Plaza).

Free passage in the MPTC Luzon expressways
Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) is pleased to announce a toll-free initiative for motorists during select hours over the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

Motorists can enjoy free toll passages on NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CAVITEX, and CALAX during the festive hours:

- December 24, 10:00 PM to December 25 at 6:00 AM
- December 31, 10:00 PM to January 1 at 6:00 AM

Trip planning is made easier with the MPT DriveHub app, which provides traffic updates, toll fee calculation, RFID reloading, and access to emergency roadside assistance.

Motorists are encouraged to ensure their RFID accounts are active and sufficiently loaded prior to their travels. Cash-paying customers are advised to shift to RFID for faster transactions. Visit Easytrip's website www.easytrip.ph for more information.

For regular updates and road safety tips, motorists can check out MPTC expressways' official Facebook accounts @NLEXexpressways and @OfficialCALAX, as well as its 24/7 hotline at 1-35000.

NNIC TO LAUNCH BIOMETRIC IMMIGRATION E-GATES, NEW FOOD HALLS AT NAIA TERMINAL 3



Immigration eGates



The Dignitaries Lounge



Mezzanine Food Hall



All-Filipino Food Hall and Tambayan

New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) will officially launch new passenger facilities and systems at Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3, including the biometric Immigration e-Gates, the All-Filipino Tambayan Food Hall, the Mezzanine Food Hall, and a new Dignitaries Lounge, as part of the continuing upgrades being implemented across the airport.

A total of 78 biometric Immigration e-Gates are being deployed across NAIA under a phased rollout, with systems already operational at Terminals 1 and 3, where international flights operate. Delivered and funded by NNIC as part of its airport modernization program, the rollout allows new technology to be implemented more quickly at the country's main gateway.

The system enables eligible passengers to complete immigration clearance in about 20 seconds, helping ease congestion during peak travel periods. It uses biometric identity verification and document authentication to streamline processing while meeting the

security requirements of border authorities.

The platform is powered by Amadeus, a global travel technology company that provides advanced solutions to airports, airlines, and border authorities worldwide, supporting secure and seamless passenger processing across major international hubs.

NNIC will also open two new food halls at Terminal 3, significantly increasing dining capacity and choice for passengers. The All-Filipino Food Hall, called Tambayan — a Filipino word for a place where people naturally gather — is a 6,200-square-meter dining space that can welcome up to 2,000 guests.

It features 17 homegrown brands, showcasing

regional flavors and local products from across the Philippines. The concept allows travelers to experience Filipino cuisine at the airport, whether as a first introduction upon arrival or a final stop before departure.

The Mezzanine Food Hall, which spans 6,801 square meters, accommodates up to 600 guests and offers 22 stand-alone restaurants and cafés, providing a broader mix of quality dining options.

Together, the two food halls reflect NNIC's efforts to improve comfort and choice for passengers, and to make dining a more integral part of the Terminal 3 experience.

Meanwhile, NNIC is preparing to open a new Food Village (airside) at Terminal 3, which will expand dining options for departing passengers after security clearance. It will feature a mix of well-known local and international brands, including Bebang Halo-Halo, The Cozy Kitchen, Lechon Diva, Bo's Coffee, Mamak, Pho Hoa, Aristocrat, Cinnabon, Potato Corner, among others. Additional outlets will open progressively as preparations are completed.

Similar passenger facilities and system improvements are also being developed in other terminals to improve operational flow and consistency across the airport.

"This shows how this partnership with the government is delivering improvements that the public can actually see and feel. As we enter the new year, we look forward to continuing this work and building on what is already in place," NNIC President Ramon S. Ang said.

The NAIA public-private partnership has generated over P57 billion in NNIC remittances to the government to date, supporting other public priorities. More upgrades are expected to be rolled out by the private operator in the coming months as work continues across the country's primary gateway.

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2025 PGC PRAISE Awards shines a spotlight on public excellence

COA FLAGS SSS FOR EXCESSIVE P13-MILLION TISSUE PAPER PURCHASE

Philippine Flag soars as Cavite's young innovators shine in World Robotics Games 2025

MERCURY DRUGSTORE BLESSING AT WALTERMART BACOR ATTENDED BY MAYOR STRIKE REVILLA, SHOWCASING CITY'S SUPPORT FOR INVESTORS

REMULLA: PBBM ORDERS END TO CORRUPTION, WALANG KAIBIGAN, WALANG KAKAMPI

GSIS UNVEILS NEW SERVICE DESK IN CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA



Waltermart Bacoor Boulevard, December 18, 2025 – Mercury Drug officials celebrated the blessing of their new branch in Waltermart Bacoor today, with Mayor Strike Revilla attending to show the City Government of Bacoor's support for investors in the city. The event was graced by the presence of key figures including Mayor Strike Revilla, Councilor Noly Galvez, Waltermart Mall Manager Mr. Ian Reyes, Building Admin Officer Mr. Kurt Balmores Jr., Mercury Drug Vice President Martin Gumayan, Assistant Vice Presidents Edwin Rosario, Ms. Asuncion, and Mr. Jaime Espiritu, District Manager Mr. Wynemar Maliabo, and Reverend Father Nards Bagos, who led the blessing ceremony. Mercury Drug staff and Bacoreños also attended the event. Mayor Revilla's attendance highlights the City Government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and supporting economic growth by welcoming new businesses and investors to Bacoor. The new Mercury Drugstore will provide convenient access to pharmaceutical products and healthcare services for Bacoreños.

Cavite Empowers 525 Student Innovators at the 2025 Entrepreneurship Students Conference

DA-4A, IBINIDA ANG YUMAYABONG NA ORGANIKONG PAGSASAKA SA CALABARZON

CAYETANO: K-12 LOST ITS FOCUS AND MISSED ITS BULLSEYE



Declaration of the Prime Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (PAPER.PH), Inc. Against Corruption

Preamble: The Light in the Darkness
We, the Publishers, Editors, and Reporters of the Philippines under PAPER.PH, unite under a solemn declaration. We bear witness to a truth etched in the soul of our nation: a free and fearless press is the bedrock of democracy and the sworn enemy of corruption. Where shadows of graft, abuse of power, and deceit seek to thrive, we commit to being the unwavering light. Corruption does not merely steal wealth; it steals justice, opportunity, dignity, and hope. It poisons institutions, betrays public trust, and impoverishes the spirit of the people. We stand not as a fourth estate, but as the first line of defense.

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27 Natural Health and Nutrition Tips That Are Evidence-Based

25. Avoid restrictive diets

Diets are generally ineffective and rarely work well long term. In fact, past dieting is one of the strongest predictors for future weight gain (85Trusted Source).

This is because overly restrictive diets actually lower your metabolic rate, or the amount of calories you burn, making it more difficult to lose weight. At the same time, they also cause alterations to your hunger and satiety hormones, which make you hungrier and may cause strong food cravings for foods high in fat, calories, and sugar (86Trusted Source, 87Trusted Source).

All of this is a recipe for rebound weight gain, or “yo-yo” dieting.

Instead of dieting, try adopting a healthier lifestyle. Focus on nourishing your body instead of depriving it.

Weight loss should follow as you transition to whole, nutritious foods — which are naturally more filling while containing fewer calories than processed foods (14Trusted Source).

26. Eat whole eggs

Despite the constant back and forth about eggs and health, it’s a myth that eggs are bad for you because of their cholesterol content. Studies show that they have minimal effect on blood cholesterol in the majority of people, and they’re a great source of protein and nutrients (87Trusted Source, 88Trusted Source).

Additionally, a review involving 263,938 people found that egg intake had no association with heart disease risk (88Trusted Source).

27. Meditate

Stress has a negative effect on your health. It can affect your blood sugar levels, food choices, susceptibility to sickness, weight, fat distribution, and more. For this reason, it’s important to find healthy ways to manage your stress (88aTrusted Source).

Meditation is one such way, and it has some scientific evidence to support its use for stress management and improving health (89Trusted Source, 90Trusted Source).

In one study involving 48 people with high blood pressure, type 2 diabetes, or both, researchers found that meditation helped lower LDL (bad) cholesterol and inflammation compared with the control group. Additionally, the participants in the meditation group reported improved mental and physical wellness (91Trusted Source).

The bottom line

A few simple steps can go a long way toward improving your eating patterns and wellness.

Still, if you’re trying to live a healthier life, do not just focus on the foods you eat. Exercise, sleep, and social relationships are also important.

With the evidence-based tips above, it’s easy to introduce small changes that can have a big impact on your overall health.

Just one thing

Try this today: There are lots of suggestions on this list that can help you improve your health, but it’s best to put just one or two into practice at a time so you do not get burned out. As more of these healthy actions become habits, you can add more into your routine.

GSIS...



In its continuing mission to provide convenience to members and pensioners in availing government insurance services, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) Laguna has officially opened its new GSIS Service Desk in Calamba City, Laguna on Monday, December 15.

The newly opened service desk located at Lower Ground of Calamba City Hall aims to bring GSIS programs and services closer to pub-

Cayetano...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the government’s K-12 education program is a clear example of what happens when good ideas lose focus and fail to meet their goals.

In the latest episode of his vlog “CIA 365 with Kuya Alan,” Cayetano said K-12 started with the right vision but was not backed with enough funding and proper implementation.

“Maganda ang intensyon, maganda ang K-12. Pero ang problema, hindi pinondohan nang husto ng gobyerno,” he

2025...

On December 10, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer and the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee, successfully organized

the 2025 PRAISE Awards at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, recognizing the exemplary commitment and contribution of Cavite’s public servants towards the province’s success.

During the awarding, ten PGC Best Organizations were recognized and one was awarded with plaque of appreciation. For the service awards, a total of 68 employees were recognized for their dedicated service to the government, and nine (9) posthumous awardees were honored

for the legacy they have engraved to the provincial government. Atty. Judith A. Dongallo-Chicano, Assistant Commissioner for Professionalization and Cooperation of the Civil Service Commission graced the occasion giving her profound insights on government service. Also in attendance were Board Member

lic sector employees and retirees in Calamba and nearby cities and municipalities, reducing travel time and ensuring faster, more convenient transactions. Among the services offered are inquiries and processing related to membership records, loan applications, retirement and separation benefits, survivorship benefits, and pension-related concerns.

GSIS Executive Vice President Atty. Jason C. Teng emphasized

that the establishment of the service desk is part of the agency’s commitment to improving accessibility and service delivery, particularly for pensioners who may find it difficult to travel to their provincial office located in Pagsanjan, Laguna.

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Calamba City Mayor Roseller Rizal then welcomed the initiative, noting that the presence of a GSIS service desk in Calabarzon’s regional center strengthens collaboration between national

quality of learning. “Sa highly urbanized cities, more than 2,000 schools na ang two shifts. K-12 ka nga, half day ka naman,” he said.

He added that even the best education reforms can fail if leaders lose sight of their real purpose.

“Ang ganda ng objective, pero hindi makafocus. Walang masamang proposal sa education, pero kung hindi fully funded, hindi maaabot ang target,” the senator said.

Cayetano pointed out that the government’s failure to support the reform has forced many schools to operate in shifts, reducing the

FROM PAGE 01

for the legacy they have engraved to the provincial government.

Atty. Judith A. Dongallo-Chicano, Assistant Commissioner for Professionalization and Cooperation of the Civil Service Commission graced the occasion giving her profound insights on government service. Also in attendance were Board Member

Morit Sison, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Chair of the Committee on Personnel Affairs, and Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert Gandia, who both extended their felicitations to the awardees.

The 2025 PRAISE Awards was capped off with a continued commitment and dedication of Cavite’s public servants in delivering public service with integrity, compassion, and professionalism. - J. Reyes

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government agencies and local government units, while also ensuring that public servants receive timely and efficient support.

The GSIS Service Desk in Calamba City is expected to serve more than 25,000 members and 9,000 pensioners around Metro Laguna reinforcing GSIS’ mandate of ‘Ginhaba for All’ under the Bagong Pilipinas governance agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. PIA CALABARZON

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ing, and align education reforms with their original goals.

He also stressed that fighting corruption must go beyond policies and should start with personal values.

“Lahat naman ng pwedeng idagdag sa anti-corruption [drive,] gagawin. Ang problema ay y’ung values. Kailangan maging core value natin ang integrity at honesty,” he said.

‘CIA 365 with Kuya Alan’ is Cayetano’s daily vlog where he discusses real-life issues and public concerns through biblical principles

quality of learning. “Sa highly urbanized cities, more than 2,000 schools na ang two shifts. K-12 ka nga, half day ka naman,” he said.

DA-4A...

Nakiisa ang Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa ika-labing isang Organic Agriculture Month na may temang, “Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK: Halina at Kumita sa Organikong Agrikultura!” noong ika-25 ng Nobyembre sa Lipa Culture and Arts Center, sa Lipa City, Batangas.

Dito ay ibinahagi ang mga napapanahong update mula sa National Organic Agriculture Board, mga programa ng Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) para sa mga kabataan at kababaihan, at mga oportunidad sa pagmamarkat ng organikong produkto hatid ng Luntiang Republika mula sa Alfonso sa Cavite.

Ibinida rin ng ilang kabataang magsasaka at miyembro ng samahan ang kanilang mga karanasan sa organikong pagsasaka. Parte rin ng



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Remulla...

Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Friday said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has given clear and uncompromising instructions to ensure that no one will be spared in the government’s intensified campaign against corruption, amid ongoing investigations into alleged flood control ghost projects and budget insertions.

Speaking during the 277th founding anniversary and 10th cityhood celebration of the City of General Trias in Cavite, Remulla stressed that the President’s directive is firm and non-negotiable. All individuals involved, regardless of position or affiliation, will be investigated and held accountable.

ATIng...

“Kailangan pong ang korapsyon, ayon kay

PBBM, ay matapos na at matuldukan sa panahong ito. Ang utos sa amin, walang kaibigan, walang kakampi. Kung sino ang makasalanan ay siyang makukulong,” Remulla said.

The DILG Chief acknowledged that enforcing this mandate has come with personal costs, including strained friendships built over many years. However, he said these are sacrifices that come with choosing public service over personal comfort.

“Napakahirap na tatawag ang mga kaibigan na hindi mo puwedeng sagutin ang kanilang tawag at baka sabihin, ‘tumawag na ako, ayos na.’ Hindi po ganon ang utos ng Pangulo,” he said.

Remulla also addressed criticisms directed at him and his brother,

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Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla, emphasizing that their shared commitment to justice and public accountability remains unchanged. He added that the coming week would be critical as developments in the investigation are expected to surface. “Abangan ninyo na lang,” he said.

The DILG Secretary underscored that the decisive reforms being implemented in Cavite, which have driven real progress on the ground, should serve as a model for governance nationwide.

He said the fight against corruption must be consistent, fearless, and felt across all levels of government, in line with the President’s vision of a government that works for the people.

FROM PAGE 03

Winner: Faye D. Abadilla, RAg (OPA Quezon)

Nominees: Roderick R. Rosales, RAg (Catanauan, Quezon); Carmina M. Altovar, RAg (Atimonan, Quezon)

Winner: Julie Ann E. Ceraos, RAg (Cabuyao City, Laguna)

Nominees: Mico B. Comia, RAg (Guinayangan, Quezon); Lavenia N. Pakingan, RAg (Pagbilao, Quezon); Cynthia C. Perez, RAg (OPA Cavite)

Winner: Christian A. Castillo (Candelaria, Quezon)

Nominees: Jennifer M. Bascoguin, RAg (OPA Quezon); Vilner L. Ilagan, RAg (Batangas City); Jayson H. Reyritan (Guinayangan, Quezon)

Winner: Lilibeth A. Macalagay, RAg (OPV Laguna)

Nominees: Marjo P. Mojica, RAg (OPV Cavite); Mark Angelo C. Buhat, RAg (OPV Batangas); Leoncio V. Orca, Jr. (OPV Rizal); Carlo M. Palima, RAg (Guinayangan, Quezon)

Winner: Bounty Harvest Farm OPC (Cavite)

Philippine...

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite (PIA)—Cavite’s young tech talents once again took the global spotlight as the Salty Bots Club proudly waved the Philippine flag at the recently concluded World Robotics Games (WRG) 2025 in Taiwan, where more than 500 participants from around the world gathered to compete in this impressive event.

The Cavite-based student robotics team delivered an outstanding performance, bringing home an impressive collection of medals that underscored the capability, creativity, and determination of Filipino youth on the international stage. Organizers, coaches, and fellow competitors

alike witnessed how these students—armed with courage, talent, and an unwavering fighting spirit—held their own in one of the world’s most challenging robotics arenas.

Behind each victory were months of preparation marked by late-night debugging sessions, repeated trial runs, and meticulous strategy-building. Despite juggling academic responsibilities, the young innovators proved that age and circumstance are no barriers to achieving world-class excellence.

Carrying the banner of Caviteño brilliance, the team secured multiple honors: Gold Award: Kelvin Caisser D. Javier — iBeam SR; John Macklein D. Valdez — iBeam

SR; Andrei Jiggerson Samaniego — iBeam SR, Silver Award: Bryzen Vilanueva — iBeam SR; Kylie Mathew M. Gaudiel — iBeam SR; Claude Ron R. Abriol — iBeam SR, Bronze Award: Kelvin Caisser D. Javier — iBeam SR, Copper Award: Solenn Quejado — iBeam SR; Kylie Mathew M. Gaudiel — Beam Battle; Fiona Nathalie J. Rosga — Beam Battle, and Merit Award: Sean Adrienne Santos

For the students, these medals represent more than triumph, they symbolize the growing presence of Filipino talent in global innovation and tech-driven competitions. The team credited part of

their success to generous sponsors whose support ensured that the young competitors had the tools, training, and confidence needed to excel.

Equally vital were the dedicated coaches—Ma’am Cyra, Ma’am Jhing, Ma’am Amy, Kuya Justin, and Sir Rolan—whose guidance and tireless mentorship shaped the team’s discipline and technical mastery from the brainstorming stage to the final match.

The victory of the Salty Bots Club extends beyond their school or

FROM PAGE 01



Cavite...

A total of 525 student participants from 30 schools across Cavite gathered for the 2025 Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Conference themed “Empowering Future Entrepreneurs through Digitalization, Sustainability, and Innovation” held on November 27, 2025, at the City of Imus Sports Complex. The event aimed to empower the next generation of Caviteño entrepreneurs through discussions on digitalization, sustainability, and innovation.

Spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Cooperative Development Officer (OPCDO), the conference opened with messages from provincial and local leaders, highlighting the important role of youth in shaping the future of business and community development.

One of the event’s key highlights was

COA...

The Commission on Audit (COA) has called the attention of the Social Security System (SSS) after discovering what auditors described as an “excessive and impractical” procurement of tissue paper worth more than P13 million. The finding, released in COA’s latest audit report, has sparked questions about the agency’s procurement practices and its stewardship of members’ contributions.

According to state auditors, the quantity of tissue rolls purchased was far beyond the SSS’ projected consumption for a two-month supply. COA noted that the supply ordered was so large that it could not even fit inside

their success to generous sponsors whose support ensured that the young competitors had the tools, training, and confidence needed to excel.

Equally vital were the dedicated coaches—Ma’am Cyra, Ma’am Jhing, Ma’am Amy, Kuya Justin, and Sir Rolan—whose guidance and tireless mentorship shaped the team’s discipline and technical mastery from the brainstorming stage to the final match.

The victory of the Salty Bots Club extends beyond their school or

the keynote speech delivered by Hon. Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV, Senator and Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology.

His address inspired the students to embrace creativity, social responsibility, and innovation in pursuing entrepreneurial ventures.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in learning sessions featuring industry professionals, including discussions on the Start-Up Mindset by Dr. Leo Manansala, Vice Dean, College of Professional and Graduate Studies of DLSU-D, Sustainable entrepreneurship led by Mr. Julius Tibayan, Owner of Cocidadocan on el Corazon, and Digital transformation in Entrepreneurship: Harnessing Technology for Growth by Prof. Ronilo M. Balbieran, Vice President of Research and Institutional Development

One of the event’s key highlights was

the SSS’ storage facilities, indicating that the procurement did not match the agency’s actual operational needs. This mismatch, auditors said, suggests poor planning, lack of proper assessment, and a failure to follow prudent spending standards required of government offices.

COA emphasized that the SSS, being a fund built from workers’ mandatory contributions, must be especially careful in ensuring that every expenditure directly supports its mandate and benefits its members. “It is crucial that SSS funds are used judiciously. These are contributions entrusted by members who rely on

province. It echoes the aspirations of countless Filipino children who dream of building, competing, and innovating at a global scale. Their achievement stands as a powerful reminder that with support, passion, and courage, excellence knows no age.

As they look toward future international challenges, the young robotics champions carry with them the proud message of a new generation of innovators: “Filipinos can do it. Youth can do it. We can do it anywhere in the world.”

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(REID) Foundation.

The event culminated with the awarding ceremony for the Search for the Most Innovative and Sustainable Products, showcasing student-led business concepts that reflected creativity, eco-consciousness, and market viability.

Swizzle Sparks of the City College of Tagaytay secured the first place; Peelicious of De La Salle University–Dasmariñas ranked second; and Tammies Brites of Cavite State University Imus Campus completed the roster as third place.

The 2025 Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Conference successfully strengthened the province’s commitment to nurturing young innovators and building a community of future-ready entrepreneurs dedicated to sustainable development. — R. Tanael

FROM PAGE 01

the system for financial protection and social security,” the report underscored.

The discovery has triggered public concern, with members and citizens expressing alarm that resources meant to support retirement, disability, and other benefit programs may be mismanaged or wasted on non-essential office supplies. Advocacy groups have also urged the SSS to review its internal controls and provide a clear explanation on how such a procurement was approved.

In response to the findings, COA recommended that the SSS strengthen its supply and demand assessments, improve inventory monitoring, and implement stricter procurement guidelines to prevent similar issues from occurring in the future. Auditors also advised the agency to ensure that all purchases are adequately justified and aligned with realistic consumption patterns. As of this writing, the SSS has yet to issue an official statement addressing the audit observations.

The controversy adds to the ongoing public call for greater transparency and accountability in government agencies, especially those entrusted with managing billions in members’ contributions for long-term social protection.



NAIC, CAVITE Jin-Navitas Solaris Inc. (SOLARIS), the renewable energy arm of the Joy-Nostalg Group, officially turned over the Community Assurance Support projects to residents of Pasinaya Homes Prime Central in Naic, Cavite, marking a key milestone in the world-first NING*NING model, the first in the world, grid-connected, utility-scale solar power through socialized housing rooftops and translates that progress into direct, sustained support for the host community.

Implemented in partnership with Extraordinary Enclaves and the Joy-Nostalg Foundation, the initiative reinforces SOLARIS' commitment to ensuring that clean energy development creates shared value where it is built.

The Community Assurance Support under NING*NING is a contract-anchored package of community benefits provided annually in exchange for rooftop use, enabled through a long-term usufruct agreement. It includes enhanced safety and security measures, along with other community improvements, ensuring that while solar power feeds the grid, tangible and lasting value flows back to homeowners and the community.

This ceremony marks the first turnover under the 50-year term.

The turnover builds on the project's growing national prominence following President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s visit to the site recently, which highlighted NING*NING as a model for advancing renewable energy alongside inclusive community development.

Community leaders and representatives from key government agencies, including the Department of Energy (DOE), Department of

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 1. Truth as Duty: We serve no political master, no corporate interest, and no personal agenda. Our sole allegiance is to the verifiable truth. We will pursue it with rigor, present it with context, and defend it with courage.
 2. The People as Sovereign: Power resides in the people. Our primary mission is to arm the public with the knowledge necessary to exercise that power—to hold leaders accountable, to make informed choices, and to demand ethical governance.
 3. Fearlessness in the Face of Intimidation: We will not be silenced by threats, legal harassment, online trolling, or violence. The memory of colleagues who paid the ultimate price for this duty fuels our resolve, not our fear. We stand in solidarity, protecting one another as we protect the public's right to know.
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Practice: We combat corruption by rooting it out of our own house. We pledge transparency in methodology, vigilance against misinformation, correction of errors, and clear separation between fact and opinion. We reject any form of "envelope journalism" or covert influence.
 5. Solidarity as Armor: As an Alliance, we are interconnected. An attack on one publisher, one editor, one reporter—whether through libel, cyber-libel, red-tagging, or physical threat—is an attack on all. We will respond with one voice, one legal defense, and one unbreakable front.
A Call to Conscience and Action:
 To those in power: Your dealings are our duty. Your declarations will be fact-checked. Your secrets are our subject. We will scrutinize not with malice, but with the profound responsibility our roles demand.

To the public: Trust must be earned. Hold us accountable. Engage with our work. Support independent journalism. Share credible information. Be critical consumers of news. In this fight, you are not spectators; you are essential allies.

To our fellow journalists: Join this alliance of conscience. Uphold this standard. Let our collective byline be a mark of credibility and courage.

This declaration is not merely a statement of intent. It is a declaration of war—a war against the corruption that cripples our nation and the silence that enables it.

We are PAPER.PH. We remember. We resist. We report.

For Truth. For Accountability. For the Philippines.

Signed,
 The Prime Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (PAPER.PH), Inc.

trols, radios, CCTV systems, and other safety enhancements.
 - Health and Education - including daycare improvements, school supplies, and health center upgrades.
 - Community and Leisure - including clubhouse enhancements, play areas, and programs that strengthen community life.

A representative of the Pasinaya Homes Prime Central Homeowners Association welcomed the turnover, calling it "a clear and concrete set of commitments", and reaffirmed the HOA's readiness to work with Solaris and its partners to sustain programs so families benefit long-term.

"Without a grid-connected solar facility built on rooftops like this, especially in socialized housing, this scale of clean energy and community benefit simply wouldn't happen the same way," Miras said.

Adrian Cantor, COO of Extraordinary Enclaves, noted the project respects both people and place: "On behalf of the homeowners, we sincerely thank SOLARIS for subsidizing the profitability of Pasinaya Homes."
About Jin-Navitas Solaris
 SOLARIS is the renewable energy platform of Joy~Nostalg Group, developing clean energy projects designed to deliver reliable power while creating measurable community impact.
About Joy Nostalg Foundation
 Joy~Nostalg Foundation advances community-based initiatives that strengthen well-being, resilience, and inclusive development in areas where the Group operates.
About Extraordinary Enclaves
 Extraordinary Enclaves is the property development arm within the Joy~Nostalg Group ecosystem, committed to building communities that balance livability, inclusivity, and long-term value-working closely with partners and host communities to ensure developments support both people and place. **PR**

December 24-30 2025

EDITORIAL: Unfounded allegations

WITH his Philippine passport now canceled by the Department of Foreign Affairs after the filing of various graft charges against him, the former chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations and resigned Ako Bicol Party-List Rep. Elizaldy Co must be worried sick about the prospect of deportation from his hiding place abroad to face justice in this country and spend the rest of his life in jail if found guilty.

The Office of the Ombudsman has filed graft and malversation of public funds cases against him and others over an allegedly irregular P289.5-million flood-control/road-dike project in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro.

He is also charged under Section 3(h) of the same law for allegedly receiving "unwarranted financial or pecuniary benefits."

But the former legislator and now wanted fugitive from the law appears unrepentant and wants to evade culpability for the charges against him by dragging no less than President Marcos Jr. and former House Speaker Martin Romualdez into the mess of his own making by claiming the two top officials allegedly received kickbacks from budget insertions for anomalous public works projects.

President Marcos Jr. and Rep. Romualdez have both stoutly denied Co's baseless allegations.

While the President can defend himself should an impeachment complaint be filed against him, Leyte Rep. Romualdez, a lawyer and Constitutionalist, can defend himself in any judicial forum should formal charges be lodged against him.

As things now stand, Romualdez has already appeared before the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) The ad hoc body has no adverse finding against the former Speaker nor recommended the filing of charges against him.

In fact, there is no sworn testimony, document, or credible evidence that has directly linked Romualdez to any irregular flood control project transactions or kickbacks He has repeatedly emphasized this and highlighted his clear conscience, which remains the foundation of his defense.

Romualdez has also declared his full cooperation with investigative bodies, appearing voluntarily before the ICI, remaining in the country, and submitting relevant documents and statements.

The former Speaker has also underscored his trust in the independence of the Ombudsman and fairness of the legal system.

Reaffirming faith in an impartial, thorough evaluation by constitutional bodies supports his stance that justice will prevail through evidence-based scrutiny, not political pressure.

In defending himself, Romualdez can challenge statements not made under oath or lacking evidence, as he has done regarding unsubstantiated allegations from contractor testimonies and accusations. His defense remains fact-driven, respectful of due process, and focused on legal arguments rather than emotions or political rhetoric.

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The DA - Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON once again recognized the remarkable role of various partners across the sector in delivering excellent and quality agricultural extension services to farmers and fishers in the region during the triennial ATIng Parangal 2025, held at SEARCA Auditorium, University of the Philippines Los Baños, on December 12.

As the catalyst, knowledge bank, and capacity builder of the Philippine agriculture and fisheries extension system, ATI in CALABARZON continuously forges partnerships with what are known as the pillars of responsive and competitive extension—national government agencies, local government units, state universities and colleges, and the private sector. Through this, knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and skills development along the agricultural value chain are delivered more efficiently and effectively to farmers and fishers toward achieving "Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya."

In his message, Center Director Dr. Rolando V. Maningas underscored that the milestones of ATI CALABARZON would not be possible without the partners who have been committed to helping implement ATI CALABARZON's programs, expressing his sincere appreciation and tribute to their passion for achieving a prosperous sector.

"Kaya't sa inyong dedikasyon at malasakit, kami ay buong-pusong nagbibigay-pugay at sumasaludo sa inyo," said Dr. Maningas.

Anchored on the theme "Pagkilala sa Kahusayan, Pagsaludo sa Serbisyo," ATI CALABARZON awarded the following agencies, organizations, and individuals who have become part of its success from 2023 to present:

- Partner Provincial Agriculture and Veterinary Offices**
- Province of Batangas
 - Province of Cavite
 - Province of Laguna
 - Province of Quezon
 - Province of Rizal
- Partner State Universities and Colleges (SUCs)**
- Cavite State University (CvSU)
 - Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU)
 - Batangas State University, The National Engineering University (BatStateU, The NEU)
 - University of Rizal System (URS)
 - Southern Luzon State University (SLSU)
 - University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
 - Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Mulanay
 - Philippine Normal University (PNU) South Luzon
 - Partner National Government Agencies (NGAs)
- DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) CALABARZON
 DA-Regional Crop Protection Center (RCPC) IV-A
 DA-National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) IV-A
 DA-Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) UPLB
 DA-National Dairy Authority (NDA)
 South Luzon Department
 DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region IV-A
 DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Los Baños
 DA-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech)
 DA-Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSMW)
 DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) IV-A
- Partner Organizations**
- Philippine Agriculturist Association, Inc. (PAA)
 - Sierra Madre Chapter
 - CvSU Bee Research, Innovation, Trade, and Extension (BRITE) Center
 - Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources Research, Development and Extension Consortium (STAARRDEC)
 - Villar Foundation Farm School and Tourist Farm
- Special Citation INSPIRE Program**



Silang Livestock Agriculture Cooperative
 Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA) Interns
 Matthew B. Profeta
 Rey Anthony S. Lamac
 Christian T. Fernandez
 Francis B. Cuento

Organic Agriculture Program
 Costales Nature Farm
 Brian A. Belen

Rice Program
 Masaganang Bukid Agricultural Learning Center
 FarmEx Corporation
 Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES)

Quezon Provincial Agriculture Office
 Partners in Empowering Women in Agriculture
SUC: Dr. Almira G. Magcawas
NGA: Marietta C. Perez, RAgR
PLGU: Dr. Ana Clarissa S. Mariano
LGU: Nerissa P. Marquez, RAgR
 Private Sector: Gloria Pontejos-Morris

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Content Creators for Agriculture
 Albert Anthony "Ben" Z. Francia
 Jeremy Mindanao, CPA (The Off Duty Accountant)
 EAsY Agri Scholarship Batch 1 Graduates with Latin Honors
 Adrian M. Averion (Magna Cum Laude, LSPU)
 Don Wesley M. Manalo (Magna Cum Laude, SLSU)
 Clarice Bleza (Cum Laude, SLSU)
 Winners at ATI EnGAgE 2.0: Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Innovation Symposium 2025
Best Project Poster: Scaling Sustainability: Promotion of Wood Vinegar (Mokusaku) for Resilient Rice Production through Technology Demonstration - OPA Cavite
Best Ongoing Project Paper: PINYA: Product Innovations for Nurturing Yields and Agro-Enterprises (Dried Pineapple) - OPA Quezon
Best Completed Project Paper: Ko Extension: Bridging the GAP towards a Biosecure Farm (Disease Surveillance System: Bridging the Gap in Animal Health Response) - OPV Rizal

ATIng Kaagapay na Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW)
Organic Agriculture Program
 Winner: Engr. Reymanan L. Garcia (Antipolo City, Rizal)
 Nominees: Maria Pilar C. Pablo, RAgR (OPA Rizal); Arvin A. Broncano, RAgR (OPA Rizal); Melanie B. Cortez, RAgR (Sto. Tomas City, Batangas); Dario M. Maunahan (Tanauan City, Batangas); Marites S. Malijan, RAgR (San Pablo City, Laguna); and Sheryl T. Peña, RAgR (OPA Quezon)

Rice/RCEF Program
 Winner: Engr. Jenno B. Ambrocio (Sta. Maria, Laguna)
 Nominees: Rafael Romulus A. Catada, RAgR (Lobo, Batangas); Jovencio S. Reyes, RAgR (Tanay, Rizal)

National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP)
 Winner: Delaiza S. Rabanes, RAgR (Bacoar City, Cavite)
 Nominees: Mia Lyn A. Ogana, RAgR (Lucena City, Quezon); Juliana M. Lanip, RAgR (Calamba City, Laguna)
 Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP)



Snooky A. Sardan, a proud CARD Bank client from Oriental Mindoro, stands fulfilled and driven beside the filled LPG tanks of Sardan LPG Trading.

Success doesn't happen instantly. It is built one step, one commitment, and one brave decision at a time. For Snooky Sardan, becoming successful in their business venture wasn't about luck, but about being hands-on, working hard every day, and never being afraid to take a significant risk. What began as a simple effort to support her family soon grew into a thriving business.

Snooky grew up in Antique in a family of seven siblings with farmer parents. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2006 from the University of Antique. After studying, she worked as a customer service representative, then as a cashier, and later as a supervisor in a membership shopping warehouse in Manila.

In 2014, she married the love of her life, Rex L. Sardan. When they had their first child in 2015, she left her work in Manila and moved with her family to Oriental Mindoro to focus on raising their child. However, things did not go as smoothly as hoped. Even with her attention focused on their growing family, financial challenges arose as they struggled to meet their needs. It took them two years to move into their own home.

How the flame started

In 2019, they decided to start a business. Little did they know that this

step would spark growth in both their livelihood and their dreams. They established a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) trading business with a single primary brand. Aside from the practicality of LPG not being perishable, they also wanted to provide for the daily household needs of their community. With PHP 150,000 as their initial capital, drawn from the savings they had accumulated over the years, they purchased 100 cylinders to get started. And with that, Sardan LPG Trading was born.

The beginning was far from easy. To ensure they always had stock and could continue serving customers, they worked hard and marketed persistently, using face-to-face, door-to-door, and person-to-person methods. They introduced and promoted their services across their municipality in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. And it worked! Households, stores, bakeries, eateries, and roasting businesses regularly bought tanks and refills from them.

Later, they added two more LPG brands to serve a broader market. Each year, they also added approximately 80 cylinders to their inventory, thereby strengthening their supply availability across various areas in the municipality. They eventually established multiple outlets as well.

But growth is not always smooth. They

faced several uncontrollable challenges, including inflation that affected their profit margins and competition from new LPG dealers in their area. This pushed them to lower their prices beyond their ideal rate.

Still, because they had already earned

the trust of their community, customers stayed loyal. Many even recommended them to others, helping their business continue to grow despite the challenges.

What Fuels the Flame More

In 2021, Snooky became a client of CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank, along with her mother-in-law. She availed a PHP 10,000 loan to expand their LPG business further and invest in mobile financial services such as money transfers and load selling. This helped support their household as they continued to grow.

The following year, they hired a delivery staff to assist with operations. Yet, they remained very hands-on with the business, still passionately doing their part and taking their role in the management. Because the business involves flammable products, they also invested in safety measures, including fire extinguishers, BFP inspections, and compliance with risk-reduction requirements.

In 2024, CARD

Bank offered them a PHP 200,000 loan, which they used to start another business supplying calamansi fruits. Each harvest earns them around PHP 70,000, in addition to their continuously growing LPG business.

Snooky is deeply grateful for the support that helped her family grow and explore new business opportunities. With financial assistance and benefits such as savings and insurance, she hopes others can experience the same level of guidance and opportunity that transformed their family's journey.

Keeping the fire burning

For six years, their business has enabled them to make significant progress. They have acquired motorcycles, tricycles, and an elf truck, which they also use for deliveries. Today, they sell around 300 to 350 cylinders per month, or roughly 3,600 cylinders a year. But they are not stopping there. They plan to expand their LPG outlets beyond District 1 in Oriental Mindoro and increase their

storage capacity.

They are also planning to establish a gasoline station to provide affordable fuel services in their community, building a long-term business that their children can inherit.

When asked about their secret, Snooky emphasizes the importance of focus, consistent monitoring, and hands-on supervision. She also advises exploring additional businesses that you can manage well.

Snooky and her husband are living proof that aspiring entrepreneurs should not be afraid to take a chance.

As long as there is an opportunity, grab it and manage it wisely. And, of course, always be a responsible payer to those you have credited in investment.

Today, with their three children, they continue to work hard and keep the flame of persistence burning.

Who would have thought that filling tanks would not only fuel the kitchen stoves of their customers, but also their dreams and visions? **PR**

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
 REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
 FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
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**RURAL BANK OF LUISIANA, INC.,
 Petitioner,**

-versus- **CASE NO. LRC-C-GMA-2025-63**
 For: Writ of Possession with Damages

**SPOUSES EFIFANIO INFANTE
 CADION, JR. and ALMA GASPARD
 CADION,
 Respondents,**
 x-----x

NOTICE OF HEARING

There is a petition filed by petitioner through counsel for the issuance of writ of possession with damages on Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-645562 on the grounds alleged therein.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that said petition has been set for hearing on **February 5, 2026 at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon**, before this Court, on which date, time, and place, any person interested is cited to appear and show cause why the same should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Notice be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite.

Further, let a copy of this Notice and that of the pe-

tion be furnished the Registry of Deeds, Trece Martires City, Cavite, Land Registration Authority, and the Office of the Solicitor General and the same be posted by the sheriff of this Court in three (3) conspicuous places in the Municipality of Carmona, Cavite, where the property is located.

Witness my hand under the seal of this Court this
 17th day of November 2025 at Carmona, Cavite, Philippines.

(SGD)CATHERINE A. PERAN
 Officer-In-Charge
 Court Legal Researcher

Copy Furnished:

Office of the Provincial Prosecutor -OPP, Hall of Justice Bldg, Brgy. Maduya, Carmona Cavite
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 Rural Bank of Luisiana, Inc. - Brgy. Halang, Calamba City, Laguna
 Sps. Epifanio I. Cadion & Alma Cadion - Blk 43 Lot 23, Brgy. Memije, General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite
 Office of the Solicitor General - 134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
 The Registry of Deeds-Cavite - LRA Bldg., Capitol Cmpd, Trece Martires City, Cavite
 Land Registration Authority - East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Diliman 1128 Quezon City
 Sheriff Joseph Diokno - RTC Br. 109, Hall of Justice Bldg, Brgy. Maduya, Carmona Cavite

**STRAIGHTNEWS:
 Dec. 17, 24 & 31, 2025**



No more waiting! It's the season to bring that big purchase home, smartly and within your budget.

If you spent the whole year always saying "next time," this is the season to actually say "I deserve it." You've worked hard all year, juggling deadlines, responsibilities and everything in between, and now it's finally time to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

With your Christmas bonus in hand, there's no excuse left not to treat yourself. So, SM Supermalls is making that even easier with deals that let you score high-value purchases without hurting your budget.

No need to wait for another 'next time,' because the deals are right here, and they won't be here for long. Make sure you have the SM Malls Online app to score the Happiest Gifts this Christmas!

Worthy gadget upgrade



Has your phone been slowing you down lately? A new smartphone is indeed a well-deserved reward this Christmas. Not only will it cater to your entertainment needs, but it will also make your professional or student life easier. Tech101 is offering a P4,000 discount on the Apple iPhone 16e, making this the perfect moment to finally grab it. The 128 GB model is now priced at P35,990, down from P39,990, while the 256 GB is available for P42,990 from the original price of P46,990. no time to think twice.

These deals are only available while stocks last at SM branches of Tech101.

Smart phone reward



Still dreaming about the iPhone 13? Beyond the Box makes it achievable with massive savings of P28,100. Thanks to BPI Credit Card's FlexipayZero, the iPhone 13 128GB can be yours for just P26,890. If you're worried about the upfront cost, you can pay in easy monthly installments of P1,120.42 for 24 months, or choose FlexipayLater and pay up to three months later. It offers you flexibility that makes a big upgrade stress-free. Why wait longer when the deal is this good? The promo is valid until December 27, 2025 only, at all SM branches.

Game-changer Laptop



For anyone ready to step up their game with a powerful new laptop, the LEGION 5i 15IRX10 83LY-00LUPH Gaming Laptop is arguably the best Christmas gift (whether it's for someone special or a treat for yourself.) It comes equipped with an Intel Core i7-14700HX, a 15.1" WQXGA display with a 165Hz refresh rate for ultra-smooth visuals, an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 5050 with 8GB VRAM, 16GB DDR5-5600 RAM, and a 512GB SSD, plus Windows 1 Home and MS Office Home 2024 pre-installed. All these features come packed into one starting at P93,995 at the Legion store in SM City North EDSA. So, if you've been longing for smooth gameplay, quick load times, and a laptop that won't give up when you need it the most, this laptop is absolutely worth putting on your wishlist this year.

Timeless Timepiece



Make this Christmas unforgettable with a meaningful timepiece. If you're gifting someone special or just wanting to elevate your everyday look, a Citizen watch offers the perfect blend of precision, style, and craftsmanship. For a limited time, you can enjoy a P1,000 discount on any regular-priced watch at participating Citizen Stores in SM Malls. The promo runs until December 31, 2025 only, so there's no better time to pick the piece that will last a lifetime.

Holiday-ready Kicks



Eyeing a stylish yet affordable addition to your wardrobe this holiday? The Lacoste Women's Carnaby Cup Leather Sneakers might be exactly what you're looking for. This fresh take on the classic design features a monochrome leather upper, subtle suede panels, and a metallic crocodile detail. The good news? You can grab a pair in White or Light Pink for only P6,540 at all SM Lacoste stores. After all, this is the season to feel good every step of the way.

Adorable Personalized Charm



The most meaningful gifts are those that feel personal, don't you agree? The Pandora Engravable Pink Stone Heart Charm lets you engrave a special message in sterling silver, featuring a flush-set pink crystal that sparkles beautifully. Starting at P3,950, this gives you a sweet way to celebrate love, friendship, or even yourself.

Wearing it is a daily reminder that some things, like moments and memories, are truly priceless.

Everyday-ready lenses



If you've been holding off your eyewear upgrade, now's the time to make it happen. Ideal Vision has a deal you'll actually love: get a free pair of anti-glare or MC lenses when you purchase frames from top brands like Calvin Klein, Converse, Lacoste, Police, and Victoria's Secret. Having a clearer vision, upgraded style, and zero extra cost on the lenses make this the perfect opportunity to refresh your look. Remember: eyewear isn't just an accessory, it's also a statement.

All these deals let you treat yourself to what you truly deserve, without any guilt. So, what are you waiting for? Now's the time to indulge in a well-earned treat. Swipe, shop, and enjoy the rewards of your year!

Download SM Malls Online to discover the Happiest Gifts you can redeem in-store with Swipe Coupons.