

Disaster relief led San Miguel Foundation's nationwide initiatives in 2025



Malasakit prepared hot meals for typhoon Uwan victims in Quezon City, under Better World Diliman's food rescue initiative.

San Miguel Foundation (SMF), the social development arm of San Miguel Corporation, said disaster relief accounted for the largest share of its activities in 2025 following a series of major calamities, even as it sustained community programs in health, nutrition, education and food security nationwide.

The foundation reported reaching about 192,000 marginalized and displaced Filipinos during the year, with disaster response generating the highest number of beneficiaries due to the scale of its relief operations.

SMF's nationwide Team Malasakit employee-volunteer network distributed food, water and other essential supplies to at least 156,760 people affected by multiple typhoons, earthquakes in

Cebu and Bacolod, and a major fire in Tondo, Manila. "We deployed as much assistance and volunteers as we could to respond to our countrymen in times of need, while continuing to strengthen programs designed to provide longer-term support," said SMC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang.

Participation increased across SMF's Better World Centers, which anchor its community programs in some of the country's most underserved areas.

At Better World Tondo and Better World Smokey Mountain, SMF delivered food assistance alongside education, livelihood and health interventions for families in urban poor communities, including learning support for children and skills training

for parents.

At Better World Cebu, the foundation ran year-long programs for women, including learning sessions, mental health discussions and digital literacy classes, supported by volunteer engagement. The center also hosted medical and laboratory services for women through the government's Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Services (BU-CAS) Center, operated in partnership with Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

"This helps close gaps in access to healthcare for underserved communities," Ang said, noting that a fully operational BU-CAS Center is now serving patients at Better World Smokey Mountain.

Healthcare services expanded nationwide, with SMF's Better World Clinics growing to nine sites

in 2025 and serving active patients through consultations, diagnostics and medicine distribution.

Nutrition programs were sustained through the First 1,000 Days initiative for mothers and infants, implemented with local governments, while food security efforts continued through the Backyard Bukid program, which supports community-based food production.

SMF also continued programs in institutional settings, including at the New Bilibid Prison, where meals and learning support were provided during the year.

Volunteer engagement across SMC's business units totaled about 57,000 hours in 2025, supporting hundreds of outreach activities nationwide.



CARD MRI launches its four-decade celebration, marking 40 years in 2026

CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), a group of 34 institutions that provide social development services to over 9.7 million Filipinos and insure more than 31 million individuals, will celebrate its 40th founding anniversary in 2026. On December 12, 2025, the organization launched its year-long celebration during the 2025 CARD MRI's Year-End Business Planning.

Its 40th year is themed "CARD MRI Four Decades of Legacy: Integrating Traditional and Modern Approaches to Poverty Eradication." This milestone highlights the organization's combination of hands-on and people-centered approaches

with innovative technologies in its continued commitment to the mission of social development and poverty eradication.

"For almost four decades, the recognitions given to me for empowering Filipinos and marginalized communities have always been because of CARD. They are a proof of our collective efforts and shared commitment," said Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI. He also recalled the organization's humble beginning 39 years ago, and how it has grown into 34 different social development institutions today united by a single mission to eradicate poverty. He highlighted how these initiatives have



Bente Productions President Marilyn M. Manila (front, left photo) hosts the launching of CARD MRI's Four-Decade Celebration for 2026, while CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip (right) highlights the institution's ongoing mission and journey, holding a copy of the Five-Year Corporate Strategy 2026-2030.

transformed the lives of CARD clients one by one, and emphasized the need to continue this work.

Looking ahead, Dr. Alip confirmed the five-year strategic plan of the institution that was previously

discussed during the year-end planning by Mr. Noli Martinez, Vice President for CARD MRI Corporate Planning, Product Development, and Corporate Advocacy. The plan highlights bringing together

initiatives from different institutions to create synergy within CARD MRI. It focuses on strengthening microinsurance and disaster resilience, as well as expanding health services through CARD Care

Network Inc. (CCNI), a newly launched network of healthcare-focused institutions under CARD MRI. It also includes scaling enterprise development through value chain part-

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DPWH taps Church for monitoring infra projects

PGC Medical Mission brings free care to Imus



On January 30, the Provincial Government of Cavite's medical mission team conducted a successful program at Pallazo Bello 1, Brgy. Carsadang Bago II, City of Imus, offering free medical and dental services. Mayor Alex Advin-

cula and Congressman AJ Advincola attended, showing their support for the initiative.

With support from medical professionals from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and Imus City Health Office, 416 patients received

consultations and medicines, while 73 received dental care. The program also provided free FBS, ECG, and X-rays. The event was well-organized, and patients expressed gratitude for the free care they received. — A. Sarte

Ngayong Palangin ay Ika-31 Anibersaryo ng PhilHealth at National Health Insurance Month

Micara Estates: A Community Shaped by Prof-friends' Vision for Cavite



Cayetano intensifies call for gov't to decide on PH K to 12 implementation

DOST-CALABARZON introduces Project LO-DixR to student-developers in CALABARZON

DepEd strengthens ties with Church for inclusive learning

PGC medical and dental mission continue in Buho, Amadeo

Cavite PESO Managers hold 1st quarter meeting, elect new officers



OFFICIAL TURNOVER OF FUND



Opisyal nai-turn over ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) ang unang Bahagi ng kabuuang P75 milyong pisong pondo sa Pamahalaang Lungsod ng General Trias sa pangunguna nila Mayor Luis "Jon-jon" Ferrer at Vice Mayor Jonas Labuguen at iba pang opisya para sa pagpapaganda ng relocation site sa Brgy. Santiago. Ilalaan ito sa pagpapatayo ng mga pasilidad sa Kalinga Village Elementary School gaya ng covered court, parke, playground, at school building, pati na ang pagpapaayos ng supply ng tubig at kuryente para sa mga pamilyang apektado ng LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project.



Inflation is under control

IN AN era when economic missteps across the region have exacted a heavy toll on ordinary citizens, the Philippines offers a quieter but more reassuring story—one built on discipline, data, and institutional independence.

Recent headlines show inflation ticking up to 2.0 percent in January, ending a long stretch of unusually low price growth. Yet this figure remains squarely within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' 2-4 percent target band, and comes after inflation averaged just 1.7 percent in 2025, the slowest pace in nearly a decade. That context matters. A modest uptick within target is not a policy failure; it is evidence that inflation expectations remain anchored.

This outcome reflects the steady hand of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and its governing Monetary Board, whose decisions over the past three years were guided less by political pressure and more by hard numbers.

When inflation surged to a painful 8.7 percent in Jan. 2023, the BSP acted early and forcefully. Interest rates were raised decisively to prevent price pressures from becoming entrenched. That decision was unpopular at the time, but it spared Filipino households from a prolonged erosion of purchasing power. Inflation, after all, is the most regressive tax of all—one that hits wage earners, retirees, and the poor first.

Just as important, the BSP knew when not to overdo it. As inflation cooled, policy shifted carefully. The central bank cut rates by a cumulative 200 basis points, bringing the policy rate to 4.5 percent, while making clear that further easing would be cautious and data-driven. This avoided the boom-and-bust cycles now confronting some ASEAN neighbors that eased too early and are again battling price pressures.

The broader economy benefited. Growth held up at 5.6 percent in 2024, and multilateral institutions project around 6 percent growth in 2025 and 2026. Disinflation did not come at the cost of collapsing demand or mass unemployment. Jobs were preserved, consumption remained resilient, and businesses continued to invest—proof that price stability and growth are not opposing goals when policy is calibrated properly.

Currency management tells a similar story. The peso was allowed to adjust to global forces, but without panic or policy theatrics. The country ended 2025 with about US\$110.9 billion in gross international reserves, providing a strong buffer against external shocks and helping keep prices of imported essentials—from fuel to medicine—in check. Unlike in economies that burned through reserves defending unsustainable exchange rates, the Philippines preserved both credibility and capacity.

Perhaps the clearest benefit to the common man lies in financial stability. Philippine banks remain solid, with capital adequacy ratios around 15-16 percent, well above regulatory minimums. Bad loans are contained, with the gross non-performing loan ratio at 3.32 percent as of November 2025, down from a year earlier. While bank failures made headlines in the United States and Europe, Filipino depositors faced no runs, no rescues, and no taxpayer-funded bailouts.

Modernization, too, has been managed with care. Digital payments now account for 52.8 percent of retail transactions, reducing costs and improving access for small merchants and consumers alike. Crucially, this shift was accompanied by tighter cybersecurity and compliance rules, avoiding the disruptions seen in countries where fintech growth raced ahead of regulation.

Compared with several ASEAN peers still correcting policy errors, the Philippines' experience stands out. Inflation is under control, growth remains intact, the currency is stable, banks are sound, and innovation is advancing responsibly. These are not abstract achievements. They translate into steadier prices at the market, safer savings in the bank, and greater confidence about tomorrow.

Good economic management rarely makes for dramatic headlines. But for the economy—and for the common good—the BSP and the Monetary Board have shown that discipline, independence, and respect for data remain the most reliable path forward.

CARD...

nerships. Additionally, the plan aims to upgrade digital operations by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide better support, improve staff efficiency, and enhance the client experience.

The four-decade celebration launch begins with a short film depicting the story of Dr. Alip meeting his younger self 39 years ago, when he was just starting CARD MRI by drafting a business proposal using his father's old typewriter and a twenty-peso bill.

"Hanggang sa muli, batang ako... (Until next time, younger me...)" was the final line of the short film, delivered by

DEPED...

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Education (DepEd) is strengthening its partnership with the Church and civil society organizations to ensure inclusive and holistic learning outcomes. Speaking at the 42nd National Social Action General Assembly (NASAGA) hosted by Caritas Philippines last February 3, Secretary Sonny Angara lauded the Church for its commitment in extending its services to underserved communities.

"DepEd and parishes all over the country work very well together, dahil 'yung mga efforts ng DepEd you have been doing on the ground for many decades. We take our inspiration from all of you. Your stories and successes drive us towards meaningful reforms." Known as the

happier management tells a similar story. The peso was allowed to adjust to global forces, but without panic or policy theatrics. The country ended 2025 with about US\$110.9 billion in gross international reserves, providing a strong buffer against external shocks and helping keep prices of imported essentials—from fuel to medicine—in check. Unlike in economies that burned through reserves defending unsustainable exchange rates, the Philippines preserved both credibility and capacity.

DOST...

DOST-CALABARZON successfully conducted the orientation of the Project League of Developers' Initiatives by the Regions (Project LODIxR) on February 2, 2026, at the RFSQAC Multipurpose Hall, DOST-CALABARZON, Los Baños, Laguna.

The activity was attended by student-developers from two state universities and colleges (SUCs) in CALABARZON, namely Laguna State Polytechnic University-Los Baños (LSPU-LB) and Southern Luzon State University-Lucena Campus. Moreover, LSPU-LB will be the first batch of student-developers under Project LODIxR.

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the present-day Dr. Alip after he encouraged his wary, hopeful younger self to continue pursuing their dream of building a bank owned by underserved Filipinos.

The film was followed by the entrance of Dr. Alip himself, dressed as a pilot, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Aniceta D. Alip, senior adviser for the research unit of the institution, dressed as a flight attendant. Their attire symbolizes CARD MRI's 40-year journey and the path ahead. "Our responsibility is to sustain the legacy we have built for the next 40 years and beyond, for the generations to come," said Dr. Alip.

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humanitarian, development, and advocacy arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Caritas Philippines and its 86 diocesan social action centers coordinate the Church's social action, emergency response, and poverty alleviation programs across the country. Caritas Philippines also partners with DepEd to implement programs focusing on lifelong learning and values formation, including its feeding programs and early childhood care.

"Many would agree that the partnership between DepEd and the church is most valuable in the ALS or the Alternative Learning System. These are children coming from backgrounds [who might have] dropped out because they had to work for their families."

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Project LODIxR aims to improve the development of information systems that support the operational needs of DOST at the regional and provincial levels. Guided by DOST Central Office software development standards, the project delivers efficient and sustainable digital solutions for the government. It also gives IT students hands-on, real-world experience through on-the-job training at DOST Regional Offices, helping them build skills, understand government systems, and contribute to nation-building.

Dir. Cezar R. Pedraza, Director IV of the Planning and Evaluation Service, delivered a comprehensive orientation on Project LODIxR discussing the project's background and rationale and outlining its objectives, implementation guidelines, and expected outputs. Dr. Pedraza highlighted the role of standardized software development practices in ensuring the delivery of efficient, secure, and sustainable information systems that address the operational needs of DOST at the regional and provincial levels.

Meanwhile, Dir. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, emphasized the role of the regional office in facilitating the success of this project. She further stated, "Through the guidance of DOST-CALABARZON, qualified students are endorsed to the Planning Evaluation Services (PES), where they receive initial supervision and hands-on guidance."

Interested in real-world IT experience and government innovation? Follow DOST CALABARZON for more updates.

CAYETANO...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday intensified his call for the government to clarify its education targets, demanding a decisive choice on the full implementation and funding of the K to 12 program.

Speaking on the National Education and Workforce Development Plan 2026-2035 (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8) which includes the recommendations of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2), Cayetano supported the ten-year framework but identified the unresolved status of the K to 12 as the "big elephant in the room."

"Mr. President, I rise today to put this on record. Maganda ang 10-year plan, I support it. Maganda po ang findings ng EDCOM 2 - 'yung first, second, and third publications. But the big elephant in the room is if we decide to fully fund it (K to 12)," the Minority Leader said.

"Baka naman po 'yung tinatarget natin sa K to 12 ay target ng USA, ng Europe, at ng Japan. Pero sa Pilipinas, kailangan natin linawin ang ating target," he urged.

Citing the EDCOM 2 report, Cayetano said the K to 12's effectiveness in the Philippines requires reassessment as curriculum revisions alone are insufficient without addressing critical support systems, evidenced by stark outcomes where only 0.4% of Grade 12 students are proficient, with 74% failing to meet minimal skills.

A longtime critic of

gional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, emphasized the role of the regional office in facilitating the success of this project. She further stated, "Through the guidance of DOST-CALABARZON, qualified students are endorsed to the Planning Evaluation Services (PES), where they receive initial supervision and hands-on guidance."

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DPWH...

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — With over 30,000 ongoing projects all over the country, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has called on the Catholic Church and civil society organizations to serve as 'watchdogs' who will help improve transparency and responsiveness of government programs.

Speaking at the 42nd National Social Action General Assembly (NASAGA) hosted by Caritas Philippines on February 3, Secretary Vince Dizon admitted that the sheer volume of projects under its belt—over 30,000 ongoing nationwide—surpasses the department's monitoring capacity.

"Aaminin ko na hindi namin mababantayan lahat 'yan nang tama dahil sa sheer number. [At] sa dami natio, kailangan namin ang tulong ng mga diocese, mga civil society organization, [at] ng Car-

itas." The DPWH is collaborating with Caritas Philippines, the social action arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), to oversee its projects. "Apart sa imbestigasyon, kailangan rin natin ang tulong ng simbahan sa pagmo-monitor ng mga report, mga ospital. Ang problema po, the DPWH does not have the capacity to monitor everything. So we really need the support of the church and civil society in the local areas to help us out."

Beyond monitoring, the CBCP also advocates for projects responsive to community needs. "Needs-based ang ating budget. Anu-ano po ba ang mga project na kailangan ng ating mga kababayan? At dyan po napakarami ng ating pakikipag-usap sa CBCP at sa Caritas."

Dizon also credited the CBCP and Caritas, along with various

organizations, to ensure a multi-sectoral approach in monitoring infrastructure projects. "Mayroon tayong Memorandum of Cooperation kasama ang CBCP at Caritas. Kailangang kailangan natin 'yung tulong nila kasi hindi naman kayang i-monitor lahat ng DPWH ang libu-libong projects. Kailangan natin ang tulong ng simbahan at ng NGOs para mag-monitor."

"Halos 300,00 ang proyekto ng DPWH from 2016, at halos 30,000 ang ongoing. Aaminin ko, hindi namin mababantayan 'yan ng tama dahil sa sheer number, sa dami nito kaya kailangan namin ang tulong ng mga diocese, mga civil society organization, ng Caritas."

To recall, the DPWH launched a transparency portal designed to grant public access to information on over 247,000 infrastructure projects dating back to 2016.

Last February 1, the Naic MPS reported bomb threat incidents in Cavite Community Academy, Centro de Naic National High School, Pueblo del Mar National High School, Immaculate Concepcion School, and Cavite State University-Naic Campus.

In coordination with the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and K-9 units, the Naic MPS conducted comprehensive clearing operations and inspections in the schools

KWF fetes former director and important 20th century writer and scholar

The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) celebrated the life and works of its former director and important writer-scholar Julian Cruz Balmaseda this 28 January 2026 at the auditorium of the Philippine Information Agency, Quezon City.

Julian Cruz Balmaseda (1885-1947), whose 141st birth anniversary is observed today, is an important writer and scholar whose works in Filipino captured the spirit and essence of a precarious time in Philippine history.

With a writing career spanning the recently-ended Spanish occupation and the aftermath of World War II, Balmaseda wrote about Filipino life in a wide spectrum ranging from the patriotic to the romantic and personal.

According to sources, Balmaseda penned about 820 poems and 44 plays. Some of his books of poetry include Ang Bayan ni Plaridel (1913), Pangarap Lamang (1915), and Naku, ang Maynila! (1923-1924). KWF, under its Aklat Bayan program, reissued Naku, ang Maynila! in 2015.

His plays and stories like Sangkuwintang Abaka (1922) and Ang Tala ng Bodabil (1936-37) have been restaged and adapted into films. As a scholar of Philippine literature, his important works include Ang Tatlong Panahon ng Tulang Tagalog (1938) and Ang Dulang Pilipino (1947).

Balmaseda, originally from Orion, Bataan, was a teacher, municipal clerk, and government employee. He served as director of the National Institute of Language (now known as KWF) from 1938-1947.

Since 2015, KWF has been paying tribute to Balmaseda by staging the Gawad Julian Cruz Balmaseda during his birth anniversary. The award recognizes outstanding theses and dissertations

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CAVITE...

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) successfully hosted the 1st Quarter Meeting and Election of Officers of Cavite PESCO Managers, Inc. on January 28, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The meeting gathered PESCO managers from cities and municipalities of the province and discussed the plans, programs, and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening employment facilitation and workforce development in Cavite. It also served as

Naic Police warn public against making bomb threats

identified in the threat.

NAIC, Cavite (PIA) — Making malicious bomb threats is punishable by law through fines and even imprisonment, the Naic Municipal Police Station (MPS) warned the public following reported bomb threats in five schools.

Last February 1, the Naic MPS reported bomb threat incidents in Cavite Community Academy, Centro de Naic National High School, Pueblo del Mar National High School, Immaculate Concepcion School, and Cavite State University-Naic Campus.

In coordination with the Explosives and Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and K-9 units, the Naic MPS conducted comprehensive clearing operations and inspections in the schools

"We strongly condemn this irresponsible act of sowing fear and disrupting peace in the Municipality of Naic, especially among parents, students, and teachers. Their safety and peace of mind remain our top priority."

The Cavite Provincial Anti-Cybercrime Unit is investigating said incidents and continues to

Chairperson Sheryl H. Loyola delivered the opening remarks setting the tone for a forward-looking agenda, while cooperative officers, and management prepared to map out plans for the year ahead. Highlights included committee evaluation of past year accomplishments and the presentation of 2026 plans, and awarding of laptops, printers, and bond papers to PGCECC's small brother cooperatives, equipping them to strengthen opera-

a venue to align priorities and reinforce coordination among PESCO offices.

A key highlight of the activity was the election of new officers who will lead the Cavite PESCO Managers, Inc. for the current term. Dr. Abraham D. De Castro, Bacoar City PESCO Manager was elected as President, while Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, Provincial Public Employment Service Manager was chosen as Vice President. The PESCO Manager of Silang, Mr. John Christian Paolo M. Belen was elected as Secretary, Ms. Lynette M. Bayot, PESCO Amadeo

identified in the threat. The local police reported that no explosive devices were found in any of the institutions. In a statement, Police Colonel Ariel Red, Provincial Director for Cavite Provincial Police, condemned the spread of bomb threats, especially in schools.

"We strongly condemn this irresponsible act of sowing fear and disrupting peace in the Municipality of Naic, especially among parents, students, and teachers. Their safety and peace of mind remain our top priority."

The Cavite Provincial Anti-Cybercrime Unit is investigating said incidents and continues to

identify and hold the individuals responsible for the bomb threat accountable. Red also commended the school personnel who handled the bomb threats and ensured that students and their parents remained calm during the ordeal.

"I also commend the school principals and teachers for remaining calm, vigilant, and united in ensuring that learners and their families were kept safe and reassured."

Making bomb 'jokes' is a criminal offense under Presidential Decree No. 1727 (s. 1980). Violators may be penalized with imprisonment of up to five (5) years, a fine of up to P40,000, or both, at the discretion of the court.

PGCECC charts 2026 cooperative roadmap

Chairperson Sheryl H. Loyola delivered the opening remarks setting the tone for a forward-looking agenda, while cooperative officers, and management prepared to map out plans for the year ahead.

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as Treasurer, Mr. Jon P. Gozo, PESCO City of General Trias as Auditor, and Mr. Edwin E. Tolentino, PESCO City of Carmona as Public Relations Officer (PRO).

The newly elected officers expressed their commitment to further enhance cooperation among PESCO offices and to actively support employment programs and services for Caviteños. The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to continue working together in advancing inclusive and responsive employment initiatives across the province. — OPIO





Wilcon's Carmona branch augurs continued growth in Cavite

Wilcon Depot officially opens at Governor's Drive, Carmona, Cavite, on January 23, inspiring new building possibilities and spurring growth in the new year. This is in line with its enduring promise to deliver quality home improvements and exceptional services to Filipino homeowners and builders to Caviteños. Wilcon in Carmona is the 9th in the province with the other branches located at Naic, General Trias, Bacoor, Silang, Kawit, Paliparan, Tagaytay, and Pala Pala.

Given Carmona's proximity to Manila and its location along highways and bridges to CALABARZON, building construction and home improvement are vital to neighboring residents. Areas with emerging firms and lodging have a strong demand for plumbing supplies, home furnishings, sanitary ware, tools and hardware, and DIY items. With Wilcon locally available, the delivery and supply of Filipino household items and building materials are more convenient.

In addition, Wilcon offers a wide selection of farming and agricultural products that can support Carmona's agrarian sector. This expansion provides locals with a one-stop destination for tools and equipment to cultivate their fields—particularly in the municipality's rich production of rice, sugarcane, pastureland, fruit, and vegetables. Wilcon acknowledges that husbandry is as fundamental as homebuilding; for a builder to have the energy for their craft, sufficient sustenance is pivotal.

When it comes to the environment, like Carmona's surrounding fields, Wilcon is committed to producing more sustainable products for both customers and the planet. Guided by a sincere goal of continuous improvement, the company offers

ated to a component city status due to the conversion of industrial areas. This led to a range of firms and retail businesses, boosting economic growth.

Ms. Rosemarie Bosch-Ong, SEVP and COO, and Ms. Lorraine Belo-Cincochan, President and CEO, attended the opening program together with representatives of the LGUs.

Carmona is recognized as the newest city in the Philippines. Its land is blessed with fertile soil that sustains crops, pastures, and livestock. This abundance provides ample resources for the city's residents. Within a brief period, Carmona was ele-



Building dreams closer to home! Wilcon Depot officially opens its doors at Governor's Drive, Barangay 8, Rosario, Carmona, Cavite on January 23, bringing quality home improvement products and trusted service to homeowners and builders. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, from left to right, were (L-R) Wilcon Depot – AVP for Sales and Operations Ms. Catherine Guingab, Limson Marketing President and CEO Mr. Carl Lim, KENT Floors & Décor President Mr. Jerry Tiu, Wilcon Depot Ambassador Ms. Tessa Prieto, Wilcon Depot SEVP and COO Ms. Rosemarie Bosch-Ong, President and CEO Ms. Lorraine Belo-Cincochan, Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. William T. Belo, Congressman for the 5th District of Cavite Hon. Congressman Roy Loyola, Carmona Mayor Hon. Dahlia A. Loyola, Vice Mayor Hon. Cesar Ines Jr., HCG Senior VP for Sales and Marketing Mr. David Chang, Kohler Co. Country Manager Mr. Pio Enrique Gutierrez, and Matimco VP for Sales Mr. Jeffrey James Go.

a comprehensive array of building and practical solutions, thoughtfully designed to provide a lasting, cost-effective path toward greener and safer living.

Wilcon's exclusive in-house brands are all of premium quality. To enhance the customer shopping experience, the depot offers safe delivery options and an information desk for inquiries. Professionals are also welcome, with facilities including the ABCDE Lounge, a space for industry-related brainstorming. Customers can draw inspiration from curated showrooms featuring the latest interior trends and visit the Design Hub for expert insights. Taking this a step further, Wilcon ensures worry-free flooring choices through its dedicated Tile Studio.

Located at Governor's Drive, Barangay 8, Rosario, Carmona, Cavite, the store operates daily from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Products are also available online 24/7 at shop.wilcon.com.ph.

For more information about Wilcon, visit www.wilcon.com.ph or follow their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, or subscribe and connect with them on Viber Community, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Or you may contact the Wilcon Depot Hotline at 88-WILCON (88-945266) for inquiries.



EU and EU-PH GEP Representatives paid a courtesy call to the Bacoor LGU

Mayor Strike Revilla welcomed representatives from the European Union (EU), the EU-Philippine Green Economy Programme (EU-PH GEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) during a courtesy call held on February 4, 2026, at the Strike Conference Room.

The meeting, organized by the City Government of Bacoor, was attended by Ms. Memviluz Baurile (DILG Bacoor), Arch. Julius Padua, Ms. Patricia Mae Dela Cruz (EU-PH GEP), and other key officials.

The discussion focused on the EU-PH Green Economy Partnership, a joint initiative of the



European Union and the Philippine Government that aims to promote a sustainable, climate-smart, and resource-efficient economy. A major component of this program is the development of Green Local Government Units (LGUs), implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Department of the In-

terior and Local Government (DILG). This engagement highlights Bacoor's strong commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and global cooperation, as the city continues to explore innovative solutions for a greener future. By MIS-STAFF



EDITORIAL:

Improving public transportation accessibility

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) recently announced that it would adopt the Accessible Travel Policy (ATP) guidelines for all railways, including those under construction, offering a glimmer of hope for commuting senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and pregnant women.

Over the years, I have watched with both hope and frustration how our public transportation and infrastructure systems have evolved, and for seniors like me, who remember the simpler days when walking a few short blocks seemed effortless and traffic was more bearable, I see how everyday commuting has now evolved into a stressful (if not degrading) undertaking.

But in the past few months, we have seen encouraging signs from the DOTr to make public transportation and infrastructure more inclusive and accessible to vulnerable sectors who are part of the commuting public.

We see the struggles of the commuting public almost every day on the news, but we often overlook how these challenges are felt more deeply by senior citizens and PWDs, whose commutes are marked by disheartening accounts of broken elevators or escalators, and inaccessible or uneven walkways, among others.

The adoption of the ATP guidelines is a welcome development—introducing long-needed uniform standards for accessibility in our railway systems that are not mere conveniences, but rather necessities for vulnerable commuters. But achieving a truly accessible public transport system should not be limited to railways alone—it requires a holistic approach.

Railways are just one part of the country's public transport ecosystem, and thousands—if not millions—of Filipinos depend daily on other modes of transportation such as buses, jeepneys, UV Express vans, and transport network vehicle services, including motorcycle taxis.

Consider what a typical commute looks like for a PWD or an elderly commuter. Even if a train station becomes fully accessible, the journey to and from that station often involves

walking on uneven or obstructed sidewalks, boarding jeepneys or buses with steep steps, or riding tricycles that drop passengers off at the roadside without any regard for loading and unloading areas. For someone with mobility challenges, these gaps do not just create inconvenience—they create barriers.

This is why we need parallel reforms across all public transportation modes and infrastructure, starting with those used by the majority of commuters—from terminals to the actual transport vehicles. Even basic infrastructure like pedestrian crossings and sidewalks must be designed mindful of our vulnerable commuters.

Beyond infrastructure, maintenance is equally important. A broken elevator at a train station can shut out seniors and PWDs who rely on it. Investing in the maintenance of public transport facilities ensures accessibility for all commuters.

We also need to strengthen both technical and sensitivity training for transport personnel to better transport commuters and create a more inviting environment for traveling senior citizens and PWDs.

Of course, this is not just the responsibility of the national government. We all play a part too.

Commuters should practice inclusivity in public transport by giving way and offering seats to PWDs, pregnant women, and senior citizens. It all starts with recognition that some among us travel at a different pace. As a society that prides itself on "malasakit", now is the time to really live this value through public transport.

Progress doesn't happen overnight. To make our public transport system truly inclusive and accessible, we need commitment to reform, a strong political will, and collective responsibility.

The goal is to enhance our public transport system so that accessibility is visibly a fundamental right for all. I am confident that under the able stewardship of Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez, this can be done.

STAARDEC at the Golden Anniversary of the Consortia System

STAARDEC proudly participated in the 2025 PCAARRD and Regional Consortia Joint Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Consortia System, held at the SMX Convention Center, Manila on January 30, 2026.

The STAARDEC delegation was led by its RRDC Chairperson and CvSU President, Dr. Ma. Agnes P. Nuestro, together with Dr. Almira G. Magcawas, Consortium Director, and Dr. Lloyd O. Balinado, Deputy Consortium Director.

The celebration highlighted key milestones and strategic directions of the Regional Consortia, the launching of Metro-MAARRDEC as a new consortium, recognition of former consortia officials, introduction of new officials, acknowledgment of PCAARRD focal persons and alternate representatives, signing of the commitment board, and the conferment of special



awards to regional consortia.

A proud moment for STAARDEC was the receipt of a Plaque of Recognition for its Ruby Milestone, marking nearly four decades of service, having celebrated its 37th year in 2025.

Adding to the celebration, Dr. Almira G. Magcawas and Ms. Jocelyn

Austria were honored with Loyalty Awards for their 14 and 17 years of dedicated service to STAARDEC, respectively. This milestone celebration reaffirms STAARDEC's enduring commitment to advancing agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources research and development through strong collaboration and service excellence.

Micara Estates: A Community Shaped by Profriends' Vision for Cavite



PELLING story of progress, Micara Estates stood as an integral part of this growth. The municipality has since experienced accelerated development, driven by improved road networks, the rise of commercial centers, and growing investor confidence in Cavite. Major infrastructure projects such as the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) expansions, upgraded local roads, and expanding transport hubs have significantly improved accessibility from Metro Manila, solidifying Tanza's status as one of the province's most dynamic growth areas.

Alongside these developments, commercial activity flourished. Supermarkets, malls, lifestyle centers, schools, hospitals, and business hubs steadily emerged across the municipality. What was once a predominantly residential town has evolved into a vibrant hub of trade, employment, and modern conveniences.

As Tanza continues to grow, its residential communities have grown with it—shaped by daily experiences, shared milestones, and an increasingly strong sense of community—the very essence of "Kapitbahay, Kapitbahay." Over time, these neighborhoods

have naturally appreciated in value, reflecting not only improved infrastructure but also the strength of the communities that call Tanza home. Micara Estates is part of this story: a welcoming Kapitbahay that has matured alongside the town, enjoying the benefits of rising land value while remaining rooted in warmth and connection. This journey echoes Profriends' mission to uplift quality of life and build communities that endure, affirming the belief that Tanza—and every community within it—can look forward to the same lasting growth and shared progress.



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IN RE: PETITION FOR THE
 ISSUANCE OF ANOTHER
 OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPY
 OF TRANSFER CERTIFICATE
 OF TITLE NO. T-1325907 OF
 THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS F
 OR THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

LRC Case No. 8843-2025-363

NORBERTO M. LEE
 Petitioner,
 X-----X
ORDER

This is a petition for the issuance of another owner's duplicate copy of **Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-1325907** of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite filed by petitioner.

Petitioner alleges that he is the registered owner of a parcel of land situated in Barangay Habay, Bacoor City, Cavite covered by **TCT No. T-1325907**. Petitioner further alleges that the owner's duplicate copy of said title was lost or missing in his house sometime in 2016. Consequently, petitioner executed an affidavit of loss which was annotated on the title on file with the Registry of Deeds. He prays that judgment be rendered directing the Register of Deeds to issue a new owner's duplicate copy of title.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for **initial hearing on May 4, 2026** at 9:00 in the morning at which date, place and hour, any interested person may appear and show cause why said petition should not be granted.

Petitioner is directed to cause the **PUBLICATION** of the copy of this Order at his expense once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite. Likewise, petitioner is directed to **FURNISH** with copies of the petition with annexes the Office of the Registry of Deeds, Bacoor City, the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite and the Land Registration Authority within fifteen (15) days from receipt of this Order and thereafter to submit compliance to this Court.

Let copies of this Order be **POSTED** in three (3) conspicuous places in the City of Bacoor where the property is situated at least thirty (30) days prior to the aforesaid date of hearing, more particularly at the bulletin boards of the following:

1. Regional Trial Court, City of Bacoor Cavite
2. Registry of Deeds, Bacoor City, Cavite
3. Main Entrance, City Hall of Bacoor City, Cavite

SO, ORDERED.
 GIVEN IN CHAMBERS, this 5th day of January 2026 in the City of Bacoor, Cavite

(SGD)ROMANO M. DIAZ
 Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:

Atty. ANTONIO T. NICOLAS
 Counsel for the Petitioner
 025 Pagtakhan Street, Poblacion
 Bacoor City, Cavite
 Email: atty.nicolas@yahoo.com

NORBERTO M. LEE
 Petitioner
 2033 Bautista Subd., Major Samala St.,
 Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite

PGC...
 FROM PAGE 1

In line with the Provincial Government of Cavite's continued commitment to improving the health of Caviteños, another leg of the Medical and Dental Mission was successfully conducted in Barangay Buho, Amadeo on January 29, benefiting a total of 445 patients.

The initiative delivered the much-needed healthcare services, providing medical consultations, dental services and other diagnostic tests to the patients. Likewise, free medicines and vitamins were handed out.

Seventh District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, together with Amadeo Mayor Jojo Domingo and members of the Sangguniang Bayan, showed their strong support for the activity, reinforcing the local government's commitment to uplifting the health and welfare of their constituents. — J. Reyes



LGU-Angono eyes data-driven growth through iSTART

The Municipality of Angono hosted the Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) workshops of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - CALABARZON, held from January 13-15, 2026, at the Mayor's Conference Hall, Angono Municipal Hall.

The activity brought together Angono LGU's department heads, barangay representatives, and key local stakeholders. The iSTART workshop aims to capacitate the LGU-Angono by equipping local decision-makers and planners with practical tools in futures thinking, problem identification, and science, technology, and innovation (STI)-driven development strategies.

A central highlight of the workshop was the formal signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the LGU-Angono and DOST-CALABARZON on the second day, led by DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit and Mayor Hon. Gerardo V. Calderon. The MOA serves as the institutional foundation for sustained collaboration, ensuring that iSTART initiatives translate into concrete policies, programs, and development actions at the local level.

Arch. Jaime R. Salazar EnP., Municipal Planning and Development Officer, emphasized the value of the initiative, "Data-driven initiatives could play a pivotal role to achieve smart & sustainable cities to establish Angono as a smart community," he continued, "We value the strategic collaboration of DOST-CALABARZON & LGU Angono as a crucial move to attain timely & sensible programs that can be aligned through STI." By Vence Ralf D. Llorente



Higit sa P300,000 interbensyon para sa mga magniniyog, ipinamahagi

Aabot sa Php372,334.00 halaga ng interbensyon ang ipinamahagi ng #DA-Calabarzon katuwang ang Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) sa mga magniniyog ng lungsod ng Sto. Tomas, Batangas noong ika-22 ng Enero.

Kabilang sa interbensyong ipinamahagi sa Bgry. San Vicente, Sto. Tomas, Batangas ay ang 4,660 seedlings ng cacao, 150 sako ng Organic fertilizer at isang Grasscutter. Ito ay bahagi pa rin nasa industriya ng niyog; mapababa ang antas ng kahirapan, mapataas ang kalidad ng edukasyon at pagkakapantay-pantay sa lipunan; at rehabilitasyon at modernisasyon ng industriya ng niyog tungo sa pagtaas ng produktibidad ng lahat ng sakahan gamit ang pondo ng Coco Levy.



How to Go All Out at SM for the BTS Concert of Your Dreams



From fashion finds to fan meetups, see why SM is the go-to spot for gala-level BTS prep. Learn how to go all out for your most-loved concert experience. Read the article now.

Share

If you're ARMY, you already know: when BTS finally lands in Manila, it won't just be a concert. It's going to be one big core memory. This is the moment fans have been waiting for, and when it happens, everyone is ready to go all out at SM. Even if the Philippine stop is still more than a year away, fans are surely already planning outfits, makeup looks, and squad meetups. After all, this is your most-loved group, and this concert deserves max-out preparation.

Here's the secret: you can do all of that in one place. From things to do in SM to hidden mall deals, your favorite SM Supermall is your go-to spot for gala-level concert prep. Think of it as your BTS headquarters! Here's how to build your perfect concert-ready kit.

Outfit Planning: Comfort Meets K-Pop Style

Let's start with the most important question: what are you wearing?

At SM, you'll find everything from basic staples to trendy statement pieces. For a BTS concert, your outfit needs to balance comfort and style because you'll be standing, dancing, and screaming for hours.

TOPTEN (at SM Mall of Asia) has breathable basic tees and pastel tones that are perfect for staying cool while still looking polished. They're easy to pair with skirts, cargos, or denim for an effortless K-street vibe.

H&M's oversized graphic and purple tees bring instant personality and fandom energy. Paired with a denim mini skirt and chunky Chelsea boots, they create a fun, photo-ready Y2K look that's both stylish and practical.

For footwear, statement sneakers like the Nike LD-1000 in Fuchsia Dream or adidas Gazelle in Bliss Lilac subtly reference BTS' signature violet. They're comfortable, meaningful, and perfect for long hours on your feet.

For bags, Doughtnut's MACAROON MINI in Lavender x Rose and Beyond The Vines' Metallic Purple Poofy Bag combine function with ARMY-approved flair. They fit essentials like your phone, wallet, and lightstick while keeping you hands-free.

Keep an eye out for mall sales, sale promos, and payday sale this weekend events to score big discounts on clothes. Use your SM Advantage Card benefits, if applicable, to earn points and unlock exclusive mall promos.

Concert-Proof Makeup: Glow That Lasts

Your makeup needs to survive heat, tears, and nonstop chanting. Luckily, beauty havens and Watsons inside SM malls have you covered.

Start with cushion foundations and lightweight bases. For concert wear, LANEIGE Neo Cushion Matte (available in LOOK and SM Beauty) stands out for its oil control, SPF protection, and comfortable feel that lasts through hours of dancing and cheering.

Lock everything in with Maybelline Fit Me Setting Spray (available in Watsons), which controls shine and keeps makeup in place even in humid conditions.

For lips, The Face Shop's Lip Tint Glow in Rosy Violet, Deep Rose, Warm Berry, Soft Coral, or Peachy Pink adds glossy color that lasts through snacks, selfies, and sing-alongs.

Finish with Kiss Me Heroine Make Long & Curl Super Waterproof Mascara (available at LOOK) for smudge-proof lashes that stay lifted all night.

Some SM Malls also have wellness hubs where you can get quick consultations if your skin needs extra care.

Tech Essentials: Never Miss a Fancam

Your phone is your concert lifeline. From fancams to group chats, you'll be using it nonstop.

Visit SM Cyberzone and gadget stores in malls for power banks, cables, and accessories. The Anker Prime or Anker Zolo 20000mAh Power Banks are ideal for long events, offering fast charging and multiple full recharges.

Drop by Digital Walker, DataBlitz, or Octagon—some of the reliable gadget accessories stores and electronic stores available at SM—to stock up on USB cables and adapters.

Many SM branches also offer free WiFi spots, plus EV charging stations and areas for where to charge electric vehicles, making travel and meetups more convenient.

Fuel Up Before the Fan Chants

Before outfit checks and playlist debates, every ARMY needs good food. Concert planning meals are about bonding, recharging, and building excitement.

Wolhwa Galbi

This Korean barbecue favorite at SM MAAX serves tender, marinated short ribs and generous banchan. Its cozy atmosphere makes it ideal for squad dinners and concert planning sessions.

Jin Joo Korean Grill

A crowd favorite, Jin Joo offers sizzling samgyupsal and galbi in a modern setting. It's perfect for group meals and turning dinner into a mini fan meetup.

BBQ Chicken

For quick comfort food, BBQ Chicken delivers crispy fried chicken in sweet, spicy, and classic flavors. Great for refueling between shopping stops.

Goobne Chicken

These fluffy Korean egg sandwiches from Momo are perfect for early meetups or quick snack breaks while hopping between stores.

You'll also find plenty of options at the SM Foodcourt for budget-friendly meals.

The Countdown Starts Now

From outfits and makeup to gadgets and

group meals, preparing for a BTS concert is part of the magic. SM Supermalls makes every step easier, with convenient layouts, exciting mall events, latest deals, and endless places to connect with fellow fans.

When BTS finally steps on the Manila stage, you won't just be ready. You'll be glowing.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and X to stay updated with all the latest news and happenings here at SM Supermalls. You can also check the updated entry guidelines and mall hours for 2025 here.

KWF fetes former director and important 20th century writer and scholar

The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) celebrated the life and works of its former director and important writer-scholar Julian Cruz Balmaseda this 28 January 2026 at the auditorium of the Philippine Information Agency, Quezon City.

Julian Cruz Balmaseda (1885–1947), whose 141st birth anniversary is observed today, is an important writer and scholar whose works in Filipino captured the spirit and essence of a precarious time in Philippine history.

With a writing career spanning the recently-ended Spanish occupation and the aftermath of World War II, Balmaseda wrote about Filipino life in a wide spectrum ranging from the patriotic to the romantic and personal.

According to sources, Balmaseda penned about 820 poems and 44 plays. Some of his books of poetry include Ang Bayan ni Plaridel (1913), Pangarap Lamang (1915), and Naku, ang Maynila! (1923–1924). KWF, under its Aklat Bayan program, reissued Naku, ang Maynila! in 2015.

His plays and stories like Sangukuwintang Abaka (1922) and Ang Tala ng Bodabil (1936–37) have been restaged and adapted into films.

As a scholar of Philippine literature, his important works include Ang Tatlong Panahon ng Tulang Tagalog (1938) and Ang Dulang Pilipino (1947).

Balmaseda, originally from Orion, Bataan, was a teacher, municipal clerk, and government employee. He served as director of the National Institute of Language (now known as KWF) from 1938–1947.

Since 2015, KWF has been paying tribute to Balmaseda by staging the Gawad Julian Cruz Balmaseda during his birth anniversary. The award recognizes outstanding theses and dissertations written in Filipino as a contribution to the intellectualization of the national language.

Winners for this 2026 are Darwin Plaza (thesis) of Ateneo de Naga University and Ferdinand P. Jarin (dissertation) of De La Salle University.

KWF also launched Dr. Lovella Gamponia-Velasco's Ubbog Ti Asin: Kuwento at Kuwenta ng mga Babaeng Mannurat ng Nueva Viscaya. Gamponia-Velasco won the Gawad Balmaseda for her dissertation in 2017.