

# Joint Health Project MEDIA-LGU-NGO Tagumpay na idinaos

Matapumpay na idinaos ng magka san-ib-puwera ng MEDIA-LGU-NGO ay ng mga sundalo ang iba't-ibang mga libreng serbisyong medical, dental, ecg, eye check-up, wellnes massage, haircut at hair coloring para sa lahat kasama na ang manicure at pedicure.

Ang lahat ng ito'y libreng ipinagkaloob ng mga gurupong tulong-tulong na nagsumikap na



lawang libo katao ang naging benepisyaryo ng kanilang ginanap na outreach project dito.

Laking katuwaan naman ang naging pagtugon ng Jaen town Mayor Atty. Sivester C. Austria sa ipinagkaloob sa kanilang kababayan ng mga libreng serbisyong. Nagkaloob ng dalawang (2) silyangde gulong, dalawang kits ng blood sugar testing at dalawang blood pressure kits ang grupo ng PAPER INC sa pangununa ng kanilang Pangulo at dinagdagan pa ng 120



packs para sa mga Lolo at Lola sa lokalidad dito.

Serbisyong Dental naman ang naging parte ng grupong NGO, Bay Area Global Outreach Lion's at bitbit nilang mga duktor sa pangunguna ni Ma'am Uni Buckley mulabsa California, USA.

Naging katuwang din ang Nueva Ecija Provincial Government, DrP-JGRMC, sundalo ng Aviation Regiment, NuevaEcija Optalmologist, sundalo ng

Artillery Regiment, Municipal Government of Jaen, PhilHealth at iba pa.

Ginanap ang naturang aktibidad sa mismong Blessed Hope Christian School dito sa bayang ito katuwang nito ang ilang mga guro ng paaralan.

Naging parte din ng Outreach Project sina dating Barangay Langla Kapitan Fernando Carlos at Barangay Don Mariano Marcos Poblacion Kapitan Wheenard D. Dela Cruz.



ipunin lahat ng mga ito na may kasama pang libreng mga gamot.

Sinabi ng mga organizers Ma'am Neth L. Carlos, Ms Ate Melicia DC. Ciriaco at Ginoong Bonifacio C. Dacayanan na

yung unang iskedul nila ay hindi nangyari noong nakaraang buwan sana ng Enero 2026, subalit, hetongayon ay natupad na at naipagkaloob lahat ng mga grupong ito ang ipinangakong mga libreng

mga gamot at iba't-ibang serbisyo pa para sa buong mamamayan ng municipalidad ng bayang ito Jaen, Nueva Ecija.

Sinabi ng grupo na mayroong halos humigit kumulang sa da-

# PhilHealth Launches GAMOT in Region 4A

LUCENA CITY – Strengthening its commitment to Universal Health Care (UHC), PhilHealth officially launched the Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT) in Region 4A last February 27, 2026 held at the Quezon Convention Center headed by DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa with PhilHealth President and CEO, Dr. Edwin M. Mercado and PhilHealth Regional Office IVA Acting RVP, Dr. Edwin M. Oriña.

The event marks a significant milestone in the expansion of the PhilHealth's Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), an enhanced primary care benefit package that shifts the focus of health care from curative treatment to preventive services.

A centerpiece of



the launch is the operationalization of the PhilHealth GAMOT, an app used to prescribe medications, validate prescriptions, record dispensing, and monitor performance of GAMOT Facilities. Through this platform, YAKAP accredited

physicians can issue electronic prescriptions that partner pharmacies can verify instantly. This digital innovation ensures that guaranteed medicines reach members faster, reducing paperwork and waiting times.

The event included a walkthrough of the YAKAP availment process with QPHN-QMC, as YAKAP and GAMOT Provider, including St. Hildegard Pharmacy Accredited GAMOT Provider.

Under the PhilHealth GAMOT, members and their dependents can now access up to ₱20,000 worth of outpatient medicines annually which includes 54 Specialized Medicines accessible through accredited GAMOT-partner pharmacies for chronic conditions such

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# CALABARZON emerges as a magnet for domestic travel

DTI CAVITE JOINS COCONUT TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE IN SILANG

## RISING ABOVE THE WAVES

Rising before dawn to prepare for a long day at sea, and stretching each day's catch to feed the family, Francisca Pasayon, a 57-year-old mother of three from Mahinog, Camiguin Island, grew up in a household where fishing was not just a livelihood but a way of life. She has learned early on that survival often comes from perseverance and unity.

As a young girl, she spent her days by her mother's side, selling freshly caught fish that her father brought home from the sea. Life was difficult, and financial hardship forced her to drop out of school before even completing elementary education. Yet, instead of giving up, Francisca devoted



Francisca Pasayon stands proudly beside her fishing boat and her son's freshly caught fish, a daily harvest shaped by hard work, family unity, and resilience.

herself to helping her parents make ends meet, carrying with her a strong sense of responsibility and determination.

When she started her own family, life at sea remained central to their survival. Her husband, also a fisherman, worked tirelessly to provide for their children. **cont. on page 2**

# ASEC NG DFA BINISITA ANG RESCOM, PINATIBAY ANG UGNAYAN PARA SA SEGURIDAD NG BAYAN

DOST-CALABARZON GAD unit showcases women-led innovations at Green Guide for the Philippines launch

Cayetano welcomes pay ward access in DOH hospitals



# CALABARZON SHINES AS LOCAL TRAVEL HOTSPOT

## Central Visayas tops int'l tourists' favorite destination; CALABARZON shines as local travel hotspot

International tourists love Central Visayas. This, according to the recent comprehensive tourism sectoral review conducted by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) using data from the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), shows that the region continues to drive international tourism to the Philippines, keeping a strong hold as the country's tourism hotspot.

From 2000 to 2024, Central Visayas welcomed 31.5 million foreign visitors, surpassing the National Capital Region's (NCR) 19.6 million arrivals.

The government think tank underscores that Cebu, as the region's centerpiece, con



CENTRAL VISAYAS TOPS INT'L TOURISTS' FAVORITE DESTINATION  
31.5 million foreign visitors recorded from 2000 to 2024

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### Inflation is under control

I grew up religious, hard. I was raised Catholic by my parents who were also raised Catholic. I went to church every Sunday without question. I attended a private Catholic school for over ten years, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Even my public high school boasted a predominantly Christian student body. My friends — whether from school, sports, or the neighborhood — were all religious, courtesy of my Bible Belt—residing town.

As such, my beliefs were never challenged — by myself or others — and, as a result, I lived a supposed religious life without ever knowing what that meant. It took leaving that world behind and coming to Duke to understand what the prayer recitals and religion classes and Bible camps couldn't teach me: Faith is something only I could only discover for myself.

My life back home had hinged on a religion that had been chosen for me, and I came to view it as a part of my identity over which I had no control. College gave me the chance to break free of that expectation and define that part of myself in my own way; away from family and friends, I no longer felt pressured, obligated, to follow the religious script I'd followed since birth. So I didn't. I stopped going to church regularly. I became a part of friend groups in which most were non-believers. I hardly prayed, and I forgot the creeds we invoked at mass. Not because I wanted to spite Catholicism, but because I wanted to see what the other side looked like. Turns out, I didn't like it that much. But, like Amish teens during Rumspringa, I needed to see it for myself.

I remained in this religious limbo until last semester. It was right before fall break, and I was staring down three tough exams in the span of two days. I had spent the entire week prior studying. Yet, no matter how much I prepared, I felt it wouldn't be enough — there was just too much material left to cover. I felt exhausted, overwhelmed, defeated. Desperate, I decided to offer up a prayer: "God, please help me through these next few days. Help me to study as best I can and somehow do well on these exams." Then I put my head down and got back to studying. When I came back from break, I was greeted with scores better than anything I could've hoped for.

Thinking the prayers might have worked, I kept it up. I sprinkled prayers into other areas of my life. I prayed to be healed of health issues no doctor could diagnose. I prayed to improve my relationships with my friends and family, to be more honest with them. Though none of my subsequent prayers have worked out quite as magically as that first time back, I gradually came to develop a certain confidence that, even though I couldn't directly see it in the moment, God was gradually stitching together the visions of my prayers into the fabric of my life, one thread at a time. This newfound trust ultimately spurred me to return to Catholicism — this time, though, I was going to do it a bit differently.

Throughout my first 19 years, I thought religion was the end goal. I thought of God only in terms of religious requirements: going to church, reading the Bible, etc. And I learned that doing these things would mold me into a good Christian and help me go to heaven. Yet, despite the supposed benefits, I could not find God through these things. Sure, I listened to priests speak about God, read about God, prayed prayers written for God. But I did not truly know him, only what my religion said about him; thus, my religion confined the extent of my faith. It was only when I discovered God for myself that I came to understand how faith transcends the boundaries of religion.

Through my time spent praying, I realized God doesn't care how many times I'd missed mass or *cont. for the next issue*



### PhilHealth... FROM PAGE 8

as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma. Meanwhile, the 21 essential medicines under YAKAP continue to be available this year in YAKAP accredited primary care facilities nationwide. The YAKAP program also includes expanded coverage for selected outpatient cancer screening, such as:

- Breast cancer (mammogram and ultrasound)
- Colorectal cancer (colonoscopy)
- Liver cancer (liver ultrasound and alpha-feto-protein test)
- Lung cancer screening

PhilHealth highlighted that by integrating consultations, diagnostics, and medicines into a single primary care system, YAKAP and GAMOT shift the focus from reactive treatment to proactive health management.

Joining the launch were key representatives from various local government units, national government agencies, alongside accredited YAKAP and GAMOT providers from across the Quezon Province.

The PhilHealth GAMOT rollout in Region 4A, in partnership with the Quezon Provincial Office, highlights strong collaboration with local governments, health facilities and GAMOT providers to bring accessible and affordable health services closer to communities.

To date, there are 256 YAKAP clinics in the region, of which 187 are YAKAP-ready clinics, which means that they have fully comply with all PhilHealth readiness requirements. While, a total of 129 are PhilHealth GAMOT facilities ready to dispense medications to members.

The strategic and phased implementation of the PhilHealth GAMOT is hinged on the readiness and operational capacity of these YAKAP Clinics to provide the necessary medical care and prescriptions to members when needed.

PhilHealth reminds the public that selection of YAKAP provider of choice may be done via the eGovPH mobile app or at any PhilHealth Local Health Insurance Office. Assignment to a preferred YAKAP clinic provides immediate access to essential preventive services and GAMOT benefits, ensuring every family remains 'malayo sa sakit' through a proactive primary care. ###

### 1st quarter Cavite PPOC PTForce – ELCAC Joint Meeting

Government leaders and security stakeholders convened at the New Cavite Government Center, Trece Martires City on February 19 for the first quarter joint meeting of the Cavite Provincial Peace and Order Council, Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council, and Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict, underscoring a unified push to strengthen peace and public safety across the province.

Governor Francisco Gabriel D. Remulla presided over the session, which highlighted inter-agency coordination, legislative support, and community-based strategies to address criminality, illegal drugs, insurgency, and other security concerns.

Among the key agenda items was the

presentation of the CY 2025 Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan accomplishment report, covering physical and financial gains from the first to fourth quarters. Updates were also delivered by law enforcement and anti-drug units on crime trends, barangay drug-clearing operations, and ongoing campaigns against illegal narcotics.

The 202nd Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army provided a security briefing on anti-insurgency efforts, while social welfare officials reported on programs supporting former rebels under the Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (ECLIP).

Fire safety and disaster readiness were likewise tackled, with the Bureau of Fire Protection

### RIISING...

In 2021, a tragedy struck when he passed away due to a severe ulcer, leaving Francisca alone to raise their three children. In the face of grief and uncertainty, she chose courage over despair.

Despite her grief, Francisca continued fishing, selling their catch, and taking on small livelihood activities to meet her children's daily needs. She managed the household on her own and taught her children the value of hard work, responsibility, and perseverance, guiding them to face life's challenges with resilience rather than fear.

Over the years, Francisca showed unwavering strength by continuing the fish-dealing business to support her family, with the help of her two sons. Her eldest son, 33, works as a fisherman, while her second son, 26, set aside his studies to help grow their fishing livelihood. Meanwhile, her 21-year-old daughter is pursuing her college education in Cebu—a dream made possible by the family's sacrifices.

Francisca now sells a variety of fish that are staples in their coastal community, including Sulid (Round Scad), Molmol (Parrotfish), Kutob (Rabbitfish), and Tamban (Sardines). Prices range from PHP 100 to PHP 300 per kilo, depending on the type and availability of fish. Their products come from their sons' daily catch and from other fishermen within their community,

presenting measures to strengthen emergency response and public safety compliance. The council also heard updates from civil society partners and the joint secretariat, reflecting a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to peacebuilding.

In the afternoon session, members deliberated on proposed resolutions, including the declaration of certain individuals involved in New People's Army "tour of duty" activities as persona non grata in the province, the inclusion of the National Police Commission in the Pro-

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strengthening not only their family livelihood but also the local economy.

As the business steadily grew, Francisca was introduced to CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO), which became a vital partner in her journey. For over five years as a client, she accessed loans ranging from PHP 10,000 to PHP 100,000, which she carefully invested in expanding her fish-dealing business and meeting her family's daily needs.

Despite the big waves, unpredictable weather that often limited their catch, and the many hardships of life at sea, Francisca and her family stood firm, relying on dedication and unwavering support for one another.

Today, their hard work has paid off. They now own two fishing boats, allowing them to increase their catch, improve their income, and continue supporting their daughter's education. Reflecting on her journey, Francisca shares a message of hope, "To everyone, despite the big waves that life has thrown at us, know that with faith in God, passion, and dedication, anything is achievable. And don't forget to thank God for everything He has given us, whether big or small."

Francisca Pasayon's story reminds us that no matter how rough the sea may be, determination, faith, and family can always guide us safely to shore.

vincial Peace and Order Council, and the creation of a special action committee for the protection and inclusion of refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons.

Officials emphasized that harmonized policies, intelligence sharing, and grassroots engagement remain critical in addressing evolving security challenges. The joint council reaffirmed its commitment to sustained collaboration among government agencies, local government units, and community stakeholders to ensure a safer and more resilient Cavite. — A. Sarte

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### Cayetano...

The move allowing PhilHealth members to be admitted to vacant pay ward beds in government hospitals is a positive development that aligns with an existing practice long allowed under current rules, Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said.

"Sometimes the problem is not the absence of a new policy, but the failure to use what is already allowed," Cayetano said, following reports that PhilHealth members may now be admitted to pay wards without additional charges when basic wards are already full.

Cayetano said the development reflects issues he raised last year during Senate deliberations on the proposed 2026 budget of the Department of Health, particularly on how government hospitals manage available beds during periods of congestion.

During the budget debate, Cayetano asked Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa about the practice of leaving pay ward beds vacant even when basic wards are already at full capacity, particularly in large government hospitals.

"If you go to PGH or any other government hospital at puno ang basic ward, ano ang remedy

ng pasyente? Kung may bakante na pay ward, hindi ba pwedeng gamitin iyon?" he said.

Herbosa responded that patients may be accommodated in pay wards if these are vacant, especially during congestion, but noted that the practice depends on hospital policy.

"Pwede. We can actually allocate to pay ward and get a patient there lalo na kung bakante siya," Herbosa said, adding later that only some hospitals currently do this.

When Cayetano asked whether the practice was being applied across all government hospitals, Herbosa acknowledged the variation and expressed openness to formalizing the arrangement.

Cayetano stressed the importance of making full use of available hospital resources, especially during overcrowding, to ensure patients are accommodated promptly.

"All Filipinos deserve the best social services. We must make better use of available facilities so patients are accommodated promptly and not left waiting for care. We want to make sure that no Filipino is left behind when it comes to health care," he said.

### P9 milyong pasilidad at interbensyon, ipinagkaloob ng DA-4A HVCDP sa mga samahan sa Dolores at Sariaya

Halos siyam na milyong piso ang kabuuang halaga ng mga pasilidad at interbensyon ipinamahagi sa mga samahan ng maggugulay sa mga bayan ng Dolores at Sariaya noong ika-20 ng Pebrero.

Kabilang sa mga ipinagkaloob ang dalawang Packaging House Facility with Cold Storage at dalawang Solar-Powered Irrigation System (SPIS). Layunin ng mga proyektong ito na mapanatili ang kalidad at mapahaba ang shelf-life ng mga ani, gayundin ang magbigay ng mura, episyente, at makakalikasang sistematutulong upang mapataas ang produksyon ng mga magsasaka.

Ayon kay HVC-DP Focal Person Gng.

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### DTI...

In support of the continued development of the coconut industry, DTI Cavite participated in the Coconut Tree Planting activity led by the Philippine Coconut Authority in partnership with Shambala Silang, on February 27, 2026, at Shambala Silang, Pulong Bunga, Silang, Cavite. Several government agencies also joined the event such as the Office of Provincial Agriculturist, Agricultural Training Institute and the Cooperative Development Authority together with several private organizations.

Representing DTI Region 4A Assistant Regional Director Revelyn A. Cortez and Acting Provincial Director Lilibeth R. Chavez personally planted the coconut tree assigned to DTI Region 4A, demonstrating the agency's commitment and support for the coconut sector.

Chef Riza Muyot, founder of Shambala Silang, highlighted the versatility and economic value of coconut through innovative products and

### CITEM's Likhang Filipino Off to a Strong Start, Surpasses P8 Million Just Over a Month After Opening

PASAY CITY — The Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) reported that Likhang Filipino generated more than P8 million in revenues just a little over one month since its opening on January 15, 2026. The update was presented by Executive Director Leah Pulido Occampo during the agency's first Board of Governors Meeting for the year.

Located at the International Trade Center Complex along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Likhang Filipino serves as the Philippines' premier year-round showroom, marketplace, and incubation hub for globally competitive, Philippine-made products.

Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) President and General Manager Wick Veloso, who sits on the CITEM Board of Governors as the GSIS representative, commended CITEM management for the center's strong initial performance while emphasizing the need to sus-

community engagement. PCA Regional Manager III Bibiano C. Concibido and Division Chief I for Batangas/Cavite Alexis P. Mojica emphasized the coconut as the country's "Tree of Life" and reaffirmed support for expanded planting initiatives and farmer productivity in Silang. Municipal Mayor Gen. Edward "Ted" Carranza and local officials also expressed their support for promoting sustainable agriculture and economic growth in the municipality.

After the program, Chef Riza introduced participants to CocoKusina and its coconut-based dishes as part of the Cocommunity Salo-Salo.

Through this collaborative effort, the coconut tree planting activity highlighted the importance of partnership among government agencies, local stakeholders, and the private sector in nurturing the environment and strengthening the coconut industry.

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tain and scale its gains. "The early results of Likhang Filipino demonstrate the strong potential of Philippine products in the marketplace," Veloso said. "We must build on this momentum by expanding digital access, strengthening our communications strategy, and ensuring that Filipino brands are positioned competitively both locally and internationally."

Veloso underscored the importance of leveraging online platforms and enhancing strategic communications and social media initiatives to further increase product visibility and broaden market reach.

The CITEM Board of Governors also includes representatives from the Office of the President, the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Tourism, and the Department of Agriculture, underscoring the government's whole-of-nation approach in advancing trade promotion and enterprise development.

### ASEC...

TANZA, CAVITE — Mainit na sinalubong ng Reserve Command, Philippine Army (RESCOM, PA) ang Assistant Secretary ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) na si ASEC Elmer G. Gato sa kanyang pagbisita sa Camp Riego de Dios noong Pebrero 27, 2026.

Personal na tumanggap kay ASEC Gato si Maj. Gen. Ronald Jess S. Alcudia, Commander ng RESCOM, PA, kasama si Brig. Gen. Patricio S. Tomales, Deputy Commander ng yunit.

Ipinakita ng kanilang pagpupulong ang matibay na pagkakaisa at kooperasyon ng dalawang ahensya pagdating sa usaping pambansang seguridad.

Sa huli, malinaw ang mensahe ng dalawang panig — mas pinalakas na samahan, mas matatag na depensa para sa sambayanan.

### CALABARZON... FROM PAGE 1

While, Southern Tagalog, or CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon), emerged as the most visited region by domestic travelers, with 77.5 million visitors from 2008 to 2024.

According to the PIDS, "the region's accessibility makes it a prime destination for short-haul travel and weekend getaways, particularly for travelers from Metro Manila."

"The strong performance of our regions highlights the vital role of domestic tourism in sustaining the industry. In the Philippines, domestic tourism is just as important, if not more important, than international arrivals, as Filipino travelers continue to drive economic activity, support local businesses, and create jobs across the country. This growth shows the importance of improving accessibility, infrastructure, and tourism experiences to build a resilient and inclusive tourism sector for our communities," added Secretary Frasco.

Notably, Bicol Region recorded 51.7 million domestic travelers, followed by Central Visayas with 45.9 million, Central Luzon with 44.2 million, and Western Visayas with

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38.2 million. Highlighting the region's tourism growth, Southern Tagalog recorded 10,863,098 overnight travelers in 2024, including 10,680,294 domestic and 182,804 overseas Filipinos and foreign travelers, according to the DOT's Statistics, Economic Analysis, and Information Management Division (SEAIMD) Regional Distribution of Overnight Travelers report.

Tourism as PH major economic driver In terms of domestic tourism expenditure, the Philippines ranked number one in Southeast Asia, accounting for over one-third of the region's total. In 2024, Philippine domestic spending reached USD 63.4 billion with a projected valuation of USD 70.8 billion for 2025, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

The PIDS released the discussion paper titled Philippine Tourism Sectoral Review (2000 to 2025): From Promise to Power – Accelerating the Philippines' Tourism Transformation toward Sustainability, Competitiveness, and Inclusion, which reviews the performance of the country's tourism sector from the past 25 years.

tinues to strengthen the country's tourism reputation through its strong and diverse portfolio.

The province is known for the historic sites of Cebu City, such as Magellan's Cross, to the thrilling adventures at Kawasan Falls in Badian, marine life encounters in Moalboal and Oslob in Southern Cebu, and world-class diving in Northern Cebu's Malapascua and Bantayan Islands.

The Philippines' second-smallest region and tourism powerhouse is also home to the country's first United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Global Geopark in Bohol, where one of the world's smallest primate inhabits, the tarsier; to the spotless white sand of the Manjuyod Sandbar in Bais City; the City of Gentle People, Dumaguete in Negros Oriental (formally separated in the region in June 2024); and hidden natural wonders in Siquijor, the island made of fire, where the stunning Cambugahay Falls can be located, reflecting its appeal as a top tourism destination.

"The region's success shows how collaborative, commu-

nity-anchored tourism development can uplift destinations nationwide and propel Philippine tourism forward. Central Visayas affirms the strength of sustained public-private partnerships among national agencies, local governments, industry stakeholders, and host communities. This year, Cebu accelerates its tourism recovery and reaffirms its position as a premiere MICE destination after the successful hosting of the ASEAN Summit and the ASEAN Tourism Forum 2026, while Bohol continues to advance its tourism development, supported



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### DOH Showcases CALABARSON's First AI-Assisted Government Hospital to RDC IVA's Social Development Committee

The Department of Health (DOH) Region IV-A showcased the Northern Tagalog Regional Hospital (NTRH) as CALABARSON's first hospital equipped with AI-assisted diagnostic machines and advanced digital health technologies during the RDC's Sectoral Committee on Social Development/Social Protection (SCSD/SP) First Quarter 2026 meeting held on February 13, 2026.

The Northern Tagalog Regional Hospital (NTRH) in San Mateo, Rizal, established under Republic Act No. 12112, is Rizal's first national government-funded hospital. DOH Region IV-A Director Voltaire S. Guadalupe underscored its role in setting new standards for precision diagnostics, patient monitoring, and hospital management. The facility will provide services in pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, intensive care, diagnostic imaging, laboratory testing, and infectious disease management. Operations begin mid-February, with plans to achieve Level I status by 2027 and Level II by 2028, signaling long-term investment in resilient healthcare.

Beyond health infrastructure, the Committee also flagged other health and nutrition related concerns. Among these include the urgent need for a stronger HIV response. With 49,400 reported

cases and a continuing upward trend since 2006, SCSD/SP called for intensified collaboration among government agencies, local governments, private sector partners, and civil society. The Committee emphasized scaling up prevention, testing, treatment, and care services, particularly for the youth, while sustaining awareness campaigns to reduce stigma and foster supportive environments for people living with HIV.

The Committee also discussed the Philippine Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Project – Converging Nutrition Efforts for Our Children's Tomorrow (PMNP–CONNECT). This initiative aims to reduce stunting and malnutrition by strengthening cross-sector coordination, improving data-sharing systems, and leveraging digital platforms for evidence-based planning. PMNP–CONNECT seeks to harmonize nutrition interventions, ensuring timely and integrated support for vulnerable children and families.

Through the launch of NTRH, the push for a coordinated HIV response, and the rollout of PMNP–CONNECT, the SCSD/SP reaffirmed its vision of a healthier, more resilient CALABARSON where modern infrastructure, inclusive health programs, and digital innovation converge to uplift communities.

## COURTESY VISIT SA BOHOL

Governor Aris Aumentado welcomed officials from the House of Representatives, led by House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairperson Maria Rachel Arenas and Congressional Spouses Foundation, Inc. President Mary Ann Arcega-Dy, during a courtesy visit on February 6, 2026, at the Bohol Provincial Capitol.

They were joined by OIC Deputy Secretary General Lourdes Rajini Rye; Bianca Paulyn Arcega of the Office of the Speaker; Vina Pastor, Supervisor of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Special Affairs Bureau; Eduardo Lopez of the Legislative Security Bureau; and Kyra Claire Dy, Giada Aloha Gardini, and Jay Castañeda.

During the visit, Governor Aumentado briefed the delegation on



Bohol's key development programs, governance initiatives, and ongoing efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable growth aligned with the Strategic Governance Roadmap of the province.

The courtesy visit highlighted Bohol's expanding engagement at the national level and its openness to partnerships that advance development initiatives, further strengthened by the province's recognition as the country's first UNESCO Global Geopark.

## Pag-IBIG Fund investment income jumps nearly 50% to P9.43 billion in 2025; assets hit P1.23 trillion

Pag-IBIG Fund said its investment income rose nearly 50% to P9.43 billion in 2025, reinforcing the agency's strong fiscal position and helping sustain affordable home financing and growing member savings, officials said Wednesday (Feb. 25).

The stronger investment earnings helped lift Pag-IBIG Fund's overall financial standing. At year-end 2025, the agency's total assets rose to P1.23 trillion, while its gross investment portfolio increased to P190.13 billion, up P55.27 billion or 41.0% from year-end 2024. A large portion of the portfolio was invested in government securities, with the remainder placed in time deposits, corporate bonds and preferred shares, officials said, adding that these instruments undergo rigorous review and are subject to established safeguards.

"Pag-IBIG Fund's investment growth demon-

strates our commitment to responsible stewardship of our members' savings," said Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon P. Aliling, who also chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees. "Through sound governance and prudent financial management, we continue to strengthen Pag-IBIG Fund's financial position and secure its long-term stability. This allows us to grow our members' savings, deliver competitive returns, and sustain affordable home loans under the Expanded 4PH program. In doing so, we answer President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for government to deliver benefits and services to help uplift the lives of more Filipinos."

Of Pag-IBIG Fund's total assets as of year-end, housing-related assets accounted for P922.07 billion, while P96.41 billion were in short-term loans. Income-generating investments totaled P190.00 billion, with the remaining P25.98 billion in other assets such as

property and equipment, cash, and intangible assets.

Meanwhile, Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta emphasized that investment decisions are undertaken within a strong governance framework designed to protect members' savings.

"It is our responsibility to manage and grow the Filipino workers' fund with prudence and integrity," Acosta said. "All our investments are lawful, prudent, and fully compliant with our internal protocols and Board-granted authorities, with regular reporting to the Board to ensure transparency and accountability. Our members can be assured that every peso is managed with the highest regard for safety, sustainability, and their best interest."

Acosta said stronger investment income supports Pag-IBIG Fund's mandate of delivering competitive returns to members while sustaining housing and short-term loan programs nationwide.

March 04-10, 2026

### EDITORIAL: The True Wealth of a Nation

The age-old proverb "Health is Wealth" is often dismissed as a cliché until a crisis—personal or national—proves it true. In the Philippines, we are currently navigating a "dual-track" health crisis: the rising costs of medical care for households and the structural fragmentation of our public healthcare delivery.

While the Universal Health Care Act promised a safety net for every Filipino, recent data from the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) reveals that out-of-pocket spending rose by nearly 12% in the last year

alone. This means that despite increased government spending, a single major illness can still push a middle-class family into poverty.

Beyond the wallet, the "decay" of local health centers and the shortage of health-care workers—who often seek better opportunities abroad—remain the silent killers of our system. A building without a nurse is just a shell; a law without funding is just lip service. As we move forward, the focus must shift from simply "building more" to "retaining more"—valuing the health workers who are the true backbone of our national survival.



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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK,  
Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-2033-26

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE  
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE  
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED  
BY ACT 4118

-versus-

LOLITO B. LEGADO MARRIED TO  
MERIAM F. LEGADO represented by  
GEMBERLYN F. LEGADO.  
Borrowers/Mortgagors,  
x-----x

#### NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, **PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK** with postal address at PSBank Center, 777 Paseo De Roxas corner Sedeño Street, Makati City against the debtor/mortgagors, **LOLITO B. LEGADO MARRIED TO MERIAM F. LEGADO represented by GEMBERLYN F. LEGADO**, with postal address at (1) Block 48 Lot 42 Phase Ph2 Cityhomes Resortville, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, and (2) Block 17 Lot 13 Woodburry Street, Augustine Grove, San Agustin II, Dasmariñas, Cavite; and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of **JANUARY 16, 2026** amounts to **TWO MILLION FORTY SIX THOUSAND NINETY EIGHT PESOS AND 33/100 (Php 2,046,098.33)**, exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned sheriff will sell at public auction on **MARCH 18, 2026 at 10:00** o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for **CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK**, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

#### Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2020028231

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BARANGAY OF SAN AGUSTIN, MUNICIPALITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 13, BLOCK 17, OF THE CONS.-SUBD. PLAN, PCS-04-025943, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF LOT 3769-D-2, LOT 3769-D-3, LOT 3769-D-4, LOT 3769-D-5, LOT 3769-D-6, LOT 3769-D-7, LOT 3769-D-9-PSD-04-013436, LOT 3769-E-FLS-1292-D, LOT 3769-D-S-A-PSD- Is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of LOLITO B. LEGADO, FORMER FILIPINO, NOW AUSTRALIAN, MARRIED TO MERIAM F. LEGADO, FILIPINO, BOTH OF LEGAL Address: B48 L42 CITYHOMES RESORTVILLE DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION -042106-056604, LRC RECORD NO.), SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF SAN AGUSTIN, MUNICIPALITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON

THE SW., ALONG LINES 1-2-3 BY LOT 14 BLOCK 17; ON THE NW. & NE., ALONG LINES 3-4-5-6-7-8 BY ROAD LOT 12; ON THE NE., ALONG LINES 8-9-10 BY ROAD LOT 11; AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 10-1 BY LOT 12, BLOCK 17; ALL OF THE CONS. – SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A POINT MARKED "1" ON THE PLAN, BEING S. 64 DEG. 17 E., 886.32 M FROM MON. NO. 149 IMUS ESTATE; THENCE N. 31 DEG. 39 W., 11.66M. TO POINT 2; THENCE N. 03 DEG. 31 W., 6.54 N. TO POINT 3; THENCE N. 81 DEG. 12 E.2.58. TO POINT 4; THENCE 73 DEG. 01 E., 2.58 M. TO POINT 5; THENCE N. 72 DEG. 27 E 2.58 M. TO POINT 6; THENCE N 85 DEG. 06 E., 2.63 M. TO POINT 7; THENCE S. 69 DEG. 36 E., 2.63 M. TO POINT 8; THENCE S. 44 DEG. 18 E., 2.63 M. TO POINT 9 THENCE S. 31 DEG. 39 E., 9.32 M. TO POINT 10; THENCE S. 58 DEG. 21 W., 15.00 M. TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING AN AREA OF TWO HUNDRED TWENTY FIVE (225) SQ.M. ALL POINTS REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND BY P.S. CYL..CONC. MONS. 15X40 CM.; BEARINGS: TRUE; DATE OF ORIGINAL SURVEY, JULY 27, 1905-JUNE 11, 1906, AND THAT OF THE SUBD. SURVEY, FEBRUARY 17, 2010, AND WAS APPROVED ON APRIL 6, 2010.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event that the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on MARCH 31, 2026, at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Cavite, February 5, 2026.

(SGD) ARLYN P. BARCELON  
Sheriff IV

(SGD) ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio S Sheriff

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SALGADO CABRERA & ASSOCIATES  
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4th Floor PSBank Center, 777 Paseo De Roxas cor. Sedeno Street, Makati City

LOLITO B. LEGADO MARRIED TO MERIAM F. LEGADO represented by GEMBERLYN F. LEGADO  
(1) Block 48 Lot 42 Phase Ph2 Cityhomes Resortville, Dasmariñas City, Cavite  
(2) Block 17 Lot 13 Woodburry Street, Augustine Grove, San Agustin II, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Noticed posted at:  
1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite  
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas Cityhall  
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office  
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market.

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## DOST-CALABARZON GAD unit showcases women-led innovations at Green Guide for the Philippines launch

The Department of Science and Technology-CALABARZON (DOST-CALABARZON), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Unit, participated in the launch of the first edition of the Green Guide for the Philippines during the roundtable event titled "Creative Pathways to Sustainability: A Roundtable on the Green Guide for the Philippines," held on February 9, 2026 at the UP Manila Museum of a History of Ideas.

The event was organized by the UP Open University (UPOU) in partnership with the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) through its arts and culture platform, bringing together artists, cultural professionals, organizations, and development partners to explore sustainable practices at the intersection of creativity, community engagement, and environmental responsibility.

The inclusion of a gender perspective was emphasized by UPOU leadership, as Chancellor Serrano expressed the importance of integrating the GAD and gender di-



mension into sustainability discussions, noting that the initial Green Guide and Creative Pathways to Sustainability framework had limited gender representation. This highlighted the need to deliberately embed gender considerations in sustainability initiatives—an advocacy strongly reflected in DOST-CALABARZON's participation.

Four booths—including the DOST-CALABARZON GAD Unit, which was invited as a partner exhibitor—were set up to highlight women-led and women-supported products assisted

by DOST-CALABARZON. The booth featured products developed by women entrepreneurs through the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), which highlighted the agency's commitment to inclusive innovation, gender equality, and sustainable livelihoods.

Ms. Vera Karuna Sudaprasert, GAD focal person of DOST-CALABARZON, also shared that while GAD commits to protecting women and upholding their rights, it also embraces intersectionality, emphasizing that women need concrete platforms to demonstrate

their skills—opportunities made possible through programs such as SETUP, which empower women through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Aside from the DOST-CALABARZON GAD Unit, partner exhibitors included LATCH Los Baños (Lactation, Attachment, Training, Counseling, Help), Sama-samang Artista Para sa Kilusang Agraryo (SAKA), and the UPOU Office of Gender Concerns, whose initiatives collectively advanced women's empowerment, equal access to opportunities, and gender-responsive development.



Smiles, snapshots, and so much good fortune! Our God of Wealth brought luck and happiness to everyone here at your most loved SM City Molino, SM City Bacoor, SM City Rosario, and SM Center Imus! Thank you for celebrating and sharing the festive spirit with us! Here's to a prosperous year ahead!

Pizza Maru has officially opened at SM City Dasmariñas, bringing its signature Korean-style pizza to Cavite. Known for its distinct crust and premium, flavorful toppings, Pizza Maru offers diners a fresh and exciting way to MAX OUT the pizza experience. Visit today and discover this newest dining destination at SM City Dasmariñas.



Shoppers enjoyed a maxed out Valentine's experience at SM City Bacoor, SM City Molino, SM City Rosario, and SM Center Imus — from romantic dates and sweet café moments to thoughtful gifts and fun family and barkada hangouts.



Step into performance and style with ANTA at SM City Trece Martires. Known for its innovative sports technology and comfort-driven designs, ANTA offers footwear and apparel perfect for training days, game days, and everyday wear. Drop by the store and gala to the MAX with your next active upgrade at SM City Trece Martires.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR SM SUPERMALLS' 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SUMMIT



Reaffirming its commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality, SM Supermalls will celebrate its 6th annual International Women's Day (IWD) Summit, "The Future is Hers. Create. Lead. Thrive." on March 6, 2026, 10 AM at the Samsung Hall, SM Aura.

This year's event will bring together inspiring and meaningful dialogues on women as drivers of digital transformation, mental health wellness, and business growth. Each conversation is thoughtfully designed to shed light on the challenges women face today and to celebrate their resilience and determination.

Hosted by content creator and social media advocate Janina Vela, the Women's Day Summit will feature panel discus-



Actresses Bela Padilla and Gabbi Garcia headline SM Supermalls' International Women's Day Summit on March 6, 2026

sions on mental health in the digital age, creativity, and technology, and the role of women in business.

The discussion on digital well-being will feature Cat Triviño, co-founder of mental health organization MindNation. She will be joined by actresses and mental health advocates Bela Padilla and Gabbi Garcia to talk about how women can control their narratives in the digital landscape.



Cat Triviño, co-founder of MindNation, leads a powerful panel on mental health in the digital age.

Meanwhile, the second panel discussion will be led by content creator and beauty industry veteran Belle Rodolfo. Together with Connected Women co-founder Gina Romero and TikTok Philippines, they will examine how women can unlock their potential by harnessing technology.



Content creator Belle Rodolfo and Gina Romero, co-founder of Connected Women, are redefining what digital leadership looks like in their own lanes.



Girl bosses Amina Aranaz, Mae Layug-Madriñan, and Erica Dee-Poe come together for a compelling conversation on women's growing voice in today's business landscape.

In addition to the insightful conversations, SM Supermalls has prepared interactive, fun booths where participants can glow up, pose for photos, shoot social media reels, and polish their creative chops, all in the company of strong and independent women.

At the Beauty Lab, participants will be guided by makeup artists and photographers as they strike their best pose. A workshop at the Creator's Suite will help aspiring content creators make their mark in the growing creator segment. At the Crafting Area, participants can lay out their vision of the future or showcase their unique personalities through a bracelet-making activity. A fashion show featuring 10 SoFA student designers will showcase

women's creativity and instinctive eye for beauty. To cap off this wonderful celebration, join us for a sunset party at your most loved mall, SM Aura, where women come together to bask in the golden glow and each other's company. Thoughtfully curated by SM Supermalls, this day is all for you and for the women who inspire change and lead with purpose.

Take charge of your future today by registering at <https://click.smmallsonline.com/DFqS/IWDSUMMIT2026>. Hurry before slots run out!

is evolving for a new era shaped by how people live, connect, and experience life today. More than a place to shop, it is the country's most loved mall and an everyday destination designed around the lifestyles, passions, and needs of Filipino communities, delivering new finds, fresh concepts, and meaningful experiences, All For You.

As one of Southeast Asia's largest mall developers and operators, with 89 malls in the Philippines and 9 in China, SM Supermalls continues to evolve its spaces, experiences, and partnerships, building destinations that grow with communities and remain trusted, relevant, and loved for generations. Your Most Loved Supermall, SM — All For You.