

Pasasalamat: Mekení Celebrates 40 Years by Honoring the People Behind Every Flavor

Mekení Food Corporation celebrated four decades of success with a grand employee Thanksgiving on February 28, 2026, gathering more than 1,400 employees at the Laus Group Event Centre, City of San Fernando, Pampanga in a heartfelt tribute to the people who have built the company over the past 40 years.

With the theme "Pasasalamat: Apat na Dekadang Kwento sa Bawat Timpla," the celebration honored the dedication, resilience, and shared stories of the Mekení workforce, recognizing that behind every product and milestone is the commitment of its employees.

"Our 40-year journey is a testament to the hard work and passion of our people," said Mekení President Mr. Pruds Garcia. "Every product we make carries the story of the individuals behind it. This Thanksgiving celebration is our way of expressing our deepest gratitude to the employees who have helped build Mekení and continue to move it forward."

The event featured a festive evening of appreciation and entertainment, with special guest artists invited to perform and entertain employees, creating a lively atmosphere of celebration and camaraderie.

One of the highlights of the evening was the Service Awards, recognizing long-serving employees whose years of dedication, loyalty, and hard work have played a vital role in Mekení's journey and continued success.

The evening also marked the launch of Mekení's renewed Vision, Mission, and Values, which will guide the organization as it enters its next chapter of growth.

"Our new vision,

mission, and values will serve as our compass as we move forward," said Ms. Kat Gomez-Schultz, Assistant Vice President for Marketing. "As Mekení expands and evolves, these guiding principles will ensure that we continue to stay true to the values that have shaped our company for the past 40



years."

Adding to the celebration was a back-to-back employee appreciation initiative recognizing key individuals who were entrusted with challenging targets and successfully delivered despite the obstacles in Fiscal Year 2025. In recognition of their contributions to the company's achievements, they were rewarded with a celebratory Asian cruise from March 3 to 9, 2026, visiting Ishigaki, Japan, and Keelung, Taiwan.

According to Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Exports Ms. Marilou Uy, the initiatives reflect Mekení's commitment to recognizing both loyalty and excellence among its employees.

"At Mekení, we believe that our greatest strength lies in our people," Uy said. "Through initiatives like our Thanksgiving celebration and the celebratory cruise, we aim to show our appreciation for the dedication, talent, and commitment of our employees who continue to drive our success."

As Mekení celebrates its 40th anniversary, the Thanksgiving initiatives served as powerful reminders that the company's success is built not only on quality products, but on the dedication of the people behind them.

With renewed purpose and unity, the Mekení family looks ahead to the next chapter of its journey, continuing to create stories of excellence, innovation, and shared success for the next 40 years and beyond.

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Silang LGU greenlights P1,500 fuel aid for trike drivers

BACOR HOSTS SIVANA, BATANES DELEGATION FOR INTER-LOCAL COOPERATION MEETING

BIR SEIZES 11,309 ILLICIT VAPES; NETS OVER P33M IN UNPAID TAXES IN 5-REGION CRACKDOWN

Kasalan 2026: Cavite Wedding Tourism Expo

An intimate meet-up with Kasal.com partners event suppliers and other invited media/bloggers/vloggers happened last March 17, Tues 1:30 pm at Sañez Farm Events Place, Imus City, Cavite. Kasal.com is an online wedding community providing FREE information and resources to Pinoy couples and families here and abroad a staunch advocate of wedding tourism. With this they would like to invite ev-



everyone to #Kasalan2026 Expo in Imus this coming April 11-12 at Ayala Malla Vermosa. This event is presented by Kasal.com In partnership with: Cavite Tourism Imus City Tourism Alfonso Turismo Hertz Hotels and Resorts Tagaytay Jhossa Event Management - We Make Every Event Unforgettable Wilfred Chow Weddings SoundLuxe Lights and Sounds Estrella's House of Flowers Strings of Beginning

SSS partners with EastWest Rural Bank to bring MySSS Card services closer to rural areas

QUEZON CITY - The Social Security System (SSS) today announced that its MySSS Card will soon reach members in unbanked areas after EastWest Rural Bank (EWRB) became its first rural bank card issuer, a move to expand financial inclusion in underserved communities.



SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro (right) and EWRB President Shiela Marasigan-Bajado (left) led the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement, authorizing the bank to issue MySSS Cards, primarily for members in rural areas while remaining accessible to qualified members nationwide.

De Claro praised the partnership as a significant project that will simplify disbursement account enrollment and improve convenience for members, highlighting the card's dual role as an official SSS ID and debit card.

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SMC CORE NET INCOME RISES 52% TO P79.6 BILLION IN 2025



San Miguel Corporation (SMC) grew core net income by 52% to P79.6 billion in 2025, driven by stronger profitability across its businesses, improved margins, and continued cost discipline.

Reported net income reached P94.7 billion, supported by gains from the fair valuation of investments and foreign exchange movements.

Operating income rose 13% to P181.6 billion while EBITDA increased 16% to P262.0 billion, reflecting better operating performance, lower input costs, pricing initiatives, and sustained efficiency measures across the group.

Consolidated revenues reached P1.5 trillion, with steady contributions from its Food, Spirits and Infrastructure businesses helping cushion the impact of softer crude prices and the de-consolidation of the Ilijan and EERI power facilities.

"Our 2025 performance shows the value of hav-

ing a diversified portfolio and a clear focus on execution," said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang. "The strength of our businesses allowed us to navigate market changes, improve profitability, and remain disciplined in how we invest. Moving forward, we will continue to strengthen our businesses and pursue opportunities that create long-term value."

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

San Miguel Food and Beverage, Inc. (SMFB) reported a 13% increase in consolidated net income to P46.3 billion in 2025, driven by a record performance from its Food business, continued growth in Spirits, and higher international Beer sales. Consolidated revenues reached P419.1 billion, up 5% from the previous year. Operating income and EBITDA grew 9% and 10% to P61.0 billion and P80.6 billion, respectively. This was on the back of margin improvements in both GSMI

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POINT OF VIEW

Inflation is under control

From Last week issued

how many pages of the Bible I read each day. All God cared about was me. He wanted to know me, and in order to do that I had to talk to him and tell him what I was feeling and what I needed. It was that simple. Armed with this revelation, I returned to church with a shift in perspective: I was no longer there to fulfill some obligatory duty put forth by Catholic leadership, but to be with God and feel his presence in a peaceful place. In this way, I was now in it for God, not some religious label.

My mistake? I misconstrued religion for faith. I thought religion alone was enough and ignored a relationship with God as a result. Religion is meant to be a supplement to your faith; it is not meant to be a replacement. Religion, by definition, brings together groups of people who share a set of beliefs in some higher power. Consequently, religion is inherently a collective experience you share with such a group. Faith, on the other hand, is an individualized experience, an exploration of a personal relationship with said higher power. Religion is thus incapable of giving you the intimacy required by faith. Instead, you must establish a personal relationship with your God — on your own.

I find going to church and prayer to be ways in which I can strengthen my faith and relationship with God. Maybe you're conventional too. Or maybe you go on hikes to appreciate nature or lock yourself in a pitch-black room to bask in the peace of silence and stillness. Whatever your modus operandi is, do it. The stipulations of a religion are not worth following if doing so harms your relationship with your God. Give yourself the freedom to pursue your relationship, your way. When you do, I promise you will be filled with a deeper sense of faith and belief that goes beyond the teachings of any religion.

SSS...

From Page 1

"The MySSS card also allows SSS to provide digital payment facilities for our registrants, members, pensioners and beneficiaries," De Claro added.

The SSS uses National ID database checks to confirm that applicants are registered SSS members, ensuring secure card issuance by its partner bank and accurate benefit disbursement through the linked account. The card also enables members to manage their daily financial transactions with ease.

Bajado said that a streamlined MySSS Card application process will be available at EWRB's 112 branches and branch-lites nationwide this year, most of which are in the provinces, particularly in Mindanao and the Visayas. The card may also be offered at Cross-Selling Desks inside EastWest Bank branches, their parent bank, through a digital channel.

"We will waive

maintaining balance requirements for MySSS cardholders, who may also earn interest once their balance reaches at least ₱500, allowing them to grow their savings while enjoying flexible account features," Bajado said.

De Claro said that SSS has maintained a decade-long collaboration with EWRB, which began in 2017 when the bank was recognized as the Best Collecting and Best Paying Partner in the rural category of the SSS Balikang ng Bayan Awards. "We hope our collaboration will help SSS better serve members wherever they are," he said. - PR

DILG...

duce electricity consumption in government offices. LGUs are also urged to maximize virtual meetings, seminars, and workshops through secure digital platforms, except in cases where physical presence is legally required or operationally

SMC...

and the Food Group. San Miguel Foods reported P196.3 billion in revenues, up 6%, driven by improved performance in feeds and strong demand for poultry. Operating income surged 30% to P17.3 billion, while net income rose 38% to P11.6 billion.

San Miguel Brewery Inc. posted P155.4 billion in consolidated revenues reflecting a stable performance from the previous year. International operations continued to contribute positively, with revenues rising 3% to US\$285 million on higher sales volumes. Domestic beer revenues reached P139.1 billion despite pressure on subdued consumer spending. The beer business maintained operating income at P32.9 billion and net income at P26.5 billion, through disciplined cost management, portfolio optimization and targeted investments in consumer engagement.

Ginebra San Miguel Inc. sustained its strong momentum, with revenues increasing 8% to P67.4 billion, driven main-

BIR...

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Philippine National Police (PNP), seized 11,309 illicit vapor products and uncovered over ₱33 million in estimated tax liabilities during simultaneous enforcement operations conducted across Metro Manila, Bulacan, Cavite, Batangas, and Laguna.

On Thursday, March 12, multiple BIR revenue regions carried out synchronized inspections and tax compliance verification drives targeting establishments engaged in the illegal sale

necessary.

The circular likewise calls for limiting official travel to essential functions and strengthening fleet-efficiency measures to reduce fuel consumption and improve the

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ly by effective pricing and stable volumes. Operating income rose 21% to P10.4 billion, while net income increased 20% to P8.7 billion.

POWER
San Miguel Global Power's revenues fell 23% to P157.2 billion, with offtake volumes declining 20% to 29.2 million MWh, primarily due to the divestment and resulting deconsolidation of the Ilijan and EERI power plants.

Excluding this impact, volumes remained stable. Strong output from the Masinloc plant, high-tier generation from San Roque, and the full-year contribution of the 600MW Mariveles power plant and BESS facilities supported overall performance.

Operating income rose 8% to P43.8 billion, with margins expanding to 28% from 20% on the back of higher blended margins across the portfolio, with the full year contribution of new plants and facilities. EBITDA grew 27% year-on-year to P70.5 billion.

Net income surged 290% to P48.3 billion, supported by a P21.9 billion gain from the Chromite transaction. Excluding this one-off gain, net

income improved by 113% to P26.4 billion.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SMC Infrastructure sustained its growth

trajectory, with revenues rising 7% to P40.2 billion, driven by higher traffic volumes across all toll roads. Combined average daily traffic reached 1.08 million vehicles, up 5% from the same period last year.

Operating income increased 9% to P22.1 billion, supported by robust revenues and effective operational and management cost control. EBITDA grew 8% to P32.0 billion, while net income rose 5% to P14.8 billion.

CEMENT
SMC's Cement business, which includes Eagle Cement Corporation, Northern Cement Corporation, and Southern Concrete Industries, Inc., reported consolidated revenues of P33.2 billion in 2025, down 5%

year-on-year due to softer demand and lower average selling prices amid the continuous influx of traded imports.

This was partially offset by stable sales volume.

Despite lower EBITDA and operating income of P9.3 billion and P6.3 billion, respectively, margins were held steady through ongoing operational efficiencies and cost management initiatives.

KWF at Limay Polytechnic College, lumagda para sa pagtatatag ng SWK

Pormal nang nilagdaan ang isang makasaysayang Memorandum ng Unawaan (MOU) sa pagitan ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) at Limay Polytechnic College (LPC) noong 27 Pebrero 2026 upang itatag ang Sentro ng Wika at Kultura (SWK) sa loob ng institusyon.

Ang naturang pagtitipon ay itinuturing na kausap na-unahang lagdaan ng MOU na isinagawa sa isang opisina ng KWF na matatagpuan sa Harvester, Cubao, Lungsod Quezon.

Pinangunahan ni Atty. Marites A. Barrios-Taran, Tagapangulo ng KWF, ang seremonya kasama ang Pan-



gulo ng Limay Polytechnic College na si Dr. Elmer B. De Leon. Layunin ng kasunduan na paigtingin ang pagpapalaganap, pagpapaunlad, at presensiyon ng wikang Filipino at mga katutubong wika sa lalawigan ng Bataan sa pamamagitan ng akademikong pagtutulungan.

Bilang bahagi ng implementasyon ng kasunduan, itinalaga si Bb. April R. Cruz bilang direktor o tagapanguna ng bagong tatag na Sentro ng Wika at Kultura sa loob ng LPC.

Inaasahan ng magsisilabi ang SWK bilang katuwang ng KWF sa mga pananaliksik, seminar, at mga gawaing pangwika sa rehiyon. Ang pagpili

LANDBANK strengthens LGU support to accelerate local development nationwide



LANDBANK Executive Vice President Charlotte I. Conde (2nd from left) and LMP National President Mayor Faustino "Inno" Dy V (center) present the signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) formalizing the partnership between LANDBANK and the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to accelerate local development nationwide. Joining them are LMP Secretary General Mayor Danielle Niña Bernos (2nd from right), LANDBANK First Vice President Allan R. Bisnar (leftmost), and Vice President Jimmy P. Arco (rightmost).

Reaffirming its commitment to grassroots development, LANDBANK formalized a collaboration with the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) to strengthen access to development financing and support priority initiatives across 1,486 municipalities nationwide.

Through the partnership, municipalities gain expanded access to development financing and technical assistance to enhance public service delivery, while strengthening information sharing and awareness of LANDBANK's programs among LMP member municipalities.

"By providing municipalities with accessible financing, we empower local leaders to transform their communities and strengthen local economies. This partnership helps turn plans into action, enabling better services for their constituents," said LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz.

The partnership was formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed during

Cavite Career Caravan Brings Job Opportunities to GMA Residents

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) successfully conducted Cavite Career Caravan on March 11, 2026 at The Porta Mall in the Municipality of General Mariano Alvarez (GMA), Cavite, providing employment opportunities to hundreds of jobseekers in the

area. A total of 345 applicants registered during the activity, where 51 jobseekers were hired on the spot, reflecting the strong partnership between the government and private sector in addressing local employment needs.

The job fair gathered 52 participating companies, composed of 45 local companies and 7 overseas recruitment agencies, offering a com-

binced total of 9,418 job vacancies for various positions across different industries.

Through initiatives like the Cavite Career Caravan, the Provincial Government continues to strengthen its commitment to generating employment opportunities and improving the livelihood of Caviteños by bringing job prospects closer to the community. — OPIO



Aboitiz Equity Ventures starts 2026 strong with milestones across portfolio companies

Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc. (AEV) started 2026 with a series of milestones and international recognitions across its portfolio of businesses, reflecting the strength of the Aboitiz Group's diversified platform and its continued focus on operational excellence, innovation, and sustainable growth.

Across Aboitiz Equity Ventures' core sectors—power, banking and financial services, infrastructure, industrial and real estate, food and beverage, and its construction affiliate—the Group delivered key achievements. These reinforce AEV's role in supporting economic development in the Philippines while strengthening its regional presence.

Within the financial services sector, Union Bank of the Philippines earned regional recognition after ranking 140th in the 2026 TIME—Statista Asia-Pacific's 500 Best Companies list. The ranking evaluates organizations across revenue growth, employee satisfaction, and environmental, social and governance transparency. UnionBank also placed 37th in employee satisfaction, highlighted by a Gold for Social Impact and three Bronze laurels for work-force development, sustainability, and community-building. These honours highlight the Group's integrated approach to developing industry-anchored ecosystems that attract foreign direct investments, generate meaningful employment, and strengthen both local and regional economies.

AEV's infrastructure sector likewise continued to gain international recognition. Aboitiz Infrastructure Capital, Inc. was named Most Innovative Infrastructure Investment Company in the Philippines at the International Finance Awards 2025, marking the second consecutive year it received the distinction.

The Mactan-Cebu International Airport also won the 2025 Airport Service Quality Best Airport Award in Asia-Pacific for airports



Mactan-Cebu International Airport (MCIA) won the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Best Airport Award in Asia-Pacific for the 5-15 million passenger category for the second straight year, reaffirming its status as a premier global gateway

discipline and employee wellbeing.

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The Mactan-Cebu International Airport also won the 2025 Airport Service Quality Best Airport Award in Asia-Pacific for airports

handling five to fifteen million passengers annually. The award, based on real-time passenger feedback collected worldwide, reinforces the airport's reputation for delivering a high-quality travel experience and its role as one of the country's premier tourism gateways.

Aboitiz Economic Estates, the industrial and commercial arm of AEV's integrated real estate platform, received four laureates at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards, highlighted by a Gold for Social Impact and three Bronze laurels for work-force development, sustainability, and community-building. These honours highlight the Group's integrated approach to developing industry-anchored ecosystems that attract foreign direct investments, generate meaningful employment, and strengthen both local and regional economies.

Aboitiz Construction further strengthened its operational credentials after receiving recertifications for its Quality Management System, Environmental Management System, and Occupational Health and Safety Management System following audits conducted by global certification body Bureau Veritas. The company also earned a gold at the 2026 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards for its sustainable supply

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Mga Likha Ni Inay, Inc. (MLNI), the marketing arm of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), officially opened the Likha Ni Inay Convenience Store on January 12, 2026, within the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) San Pablo campus in San Pablo City, Laguna.

The store was established to ensure the safety and security of CMDI's students, teachers, and staff, while providing convenient access to daily essentials without leaving the campus.

Highlighting the importance of the store's on-campus location, Mr. Aristeo A. Dequito, CARD MRI Managing

Director, emphasized its contribution to safety and convenience.

"Our students and staff no longer have to leave the campus," he said. "Accessing daily necessities is much safer and more convenient because the store is located right within our school."

CMDI President Dr. Edzel D. Ramos echoed this sentiment, underscoring the store's role in supporting the school's daily needs.

"This store is a great help to the entire school community, especially in meeting the everyday needs of our students, teachers, and staff," he said. "It will also be of service to nearby offices and establishments," he added, noting that the store is also open to the public.

Operated by five staff members, the convenience

store is expected to serve more than 900 CMDI senior high school students, while also catering to customers from the surrounding community and business establishments.

Reflecting MLNI's mission to support sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship, the store offers not only everyday necessities but also products crafted by CARD clients, including Calamansi Concentrate, Crunchy Peanut Butter, Paborita, fruit teas, Corn Puffs, Rice Kape, muscovado sugar, and special tinapa.

It also serves ready-to-eat meals such as silog meals, chaofan, and short-order snacks. CMDI uniforms are available as well, directly addressing students' immediate needs.

From Page 1

Bacoor..

The City Government of Bacoor, led by Strike B. Revilla, held a productive meeting with officials from the Ivana, Batanes to strengthen inter-local cooperation and collaboration between local government units (LGUs).

The visiting delegation from Ivana included Jerry Agana, Henry E. Cabuco, and Municipal Councilors Chris R. Cataña and Oswaldo V. Hostallen. They met with Mayor Strike to exchange insights and best practices in governance and public service.

Discussions focused on community development initiatives, health programs, and

effective public service delivery, with both LGUs sharing experiences and strategies that can help improve services in their respective communities.

Mayor Strike emphasized the value of partnership, collaboration, and continuous learning among local governments, noting that cooperation between LGUs plays a key role in achieving sustainable growth and better outcomes for residents.

This meeting highlights Bacoor's commitment to strengthening relationships with other municipalities and promoting innovative approaches in governance, ultimately benefiting communities through shared knowledge and cooperation.

Store Opens at CMDI San Pablo



MLNI COO Angela Poonin (center, first row; left photo) with MLNI staff and management at the newly opened Likha Ni Inay Convenience Store building located in CMDI San Pablo Campus (right photo).



CMDI San Pablo students enjoy their first purchases of snacks and school essentials at the newly opened Likha Ni Inay Convenience Store, with staff on duty assisting them.

In line with CMDI's student-centered initiatives, the store's second floor has been dedicated as a student lounge, providing a comfortable space where students can dine and study on the campus.

CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip described the newly opened convenience

store as practical support for students' daily needs, enabling them to focus on their studies without leaving the campus. "The opening of this convenience store is designed to make your studies more convenient, so that you no longer have to go far for food or school supplies, especially during class hours," he said.



"Because what I want to see—is for all of you to graduate successfully," he added, affirming the store's purpose in supporting students' academic journey.

The opening was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and store blessing facilitated by MLNI staff spearheaded by MLNI Chief Operating Officer Angela A. Poonin.

The event was attended by CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip; CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito; CARD Bank, Inc. Senior Management Adviser Dr. Dolores M. Torres; CARD SME BANK Senior Management Adviser Cynthia B. Baldeo; CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CLFC) President Ma. Rodessa R. Burgos. Ambassador Romeo Manalo also graced the opening with his presence. They were wel-

comed by CMDI President Dr. Edzel D. Ramos and Senior Adviser Dr. Flor-deliza Sarmiento, alongside MLNI Chairman Frederick Nicasio Torres. Staff representatives from Ottokonek and CARD Indogrosir were also in attendance.

The store is located along Jose P. Rizal Avenue in Barangay VII-A, San Pablo City, Laguna, within the CMDI campus, which is strategically positioned at the heart of the city to serve not only the school community but also the surrounding area. Looking ahead, MLNI plans to open additional convenience stores across CMDI campuses in Bay, Laguna, and Tagum City, Davao de Oro, throughout 2026.

PGC's Performance Management Team Holds SPMS Orientation for Newly Hired, Promoted, and Transferred Employees

The PGC's Performance Management Team (PMT) successfully conducted the Orientation on the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) for newly hired, promoted, and transferred employees on March 10, 2026 at the 2nd Floor Function Hall of the New Cavite Government Center.

Engr. Lorna R. Leyran delivered the welcome remarks and led the discussion on the introduction to the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS). In her message, she emphasized that the orientation is not merely a procedural requirement but also an important opportunity for participants to gain a deeper understand-

ing of the significance of SPMS and the process involved in its preparation and implementation. She encouraged everyone to actively participate in the orientation to ensure a clearer appreciation of the system and its role in promoting accountability and improving organizational performance.

During the activity, Ms. Claudette Trixia M. Flores discussed the SPMS Guidebook and the key elements of the Office/Unit Performance Commitment and Review (O/UPCR). Ms. Angelica Joy A. Balanquit facilitated the session on target setting and performance standards, as well as monitoring and documentation.

Interactive workshop sessions were also

conducted to guide participants in applying the concepts discussed by Mr. Niko Montenegro together with Mr. Mark Lester Carada facilitated the activities. The first workshop is all about the formulation of targets and major final outputs, and the second one is on the preparation of accomplishment reports.

Ms. Ma. Fe M. Satsatin, OPHRMO department head, also de-

DILG..

From Page 2

livered a message expressing her gratitude to the participants for their active engagement throughout the orientation.

She likewise extended her appreciation to the PMT Secretariat for organizing the activity, noting that initiatives like this greatly contribute to the continuous improvement and development of employees within the organization. — OPIO

Government offices are also encouraged to adopt energy-efficient workplace practices, including setting air-conditioning thermostats at 24°C and ensuring lights and equipment are turned off when not in use. The DILG emphasized that implementing these measures must not disrupt the continuous delivery of essential government services, particularly those related to health, public safety, and emergency response.

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.

DILG urges LGUs to cut power, fuel use by up to 20%

Local government units (LGUs) nationwide are being urged to cut their electricity and fuel consumption by 10 to 20 percent, as the national government pushes stricter energy conservation measures to help manage rising global energy pressures.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) issued the call through Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 2026-023, reinforcing President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive for government offices to adopt energy-saving practices amid geopolitical tensions affecting global energy markets.

According to the DILG, local governments play a crucial role in promoting energy efficiency across the country. "LGUs can lead by example by adopting simple but effective measures that reduce electricity and fuel consumption. Even small adjustments in daily operations can make a significant difference in achieving our goal of cutting energy use by as much as 20 percent."

Among the measures encouraged is the adoption of a four-day onsite work arrangement, either through a compressed workweek or by designating a common work-from-home day to reduce energy use.

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PHILHEALTH ASSURES UNINTERRUPTED FRONTLINE SERVICES AMID GOVT-WIDE ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) assured members that all frontline and hospital-based services will continue operating on a regular five-day schedule even as the agency implements adjusted work arrangements for select administrative and back-office personnel beginning March 9, 2026.

Under the arrangement, administrative and back-office personnel will observe a compressed onsite schedule from Monday to Thursday, with a 10-hour workday.

- 1. PhilHealth CARES Nurses and P-Malasakit personnel in hospitals
2. Local Health Insurance Offices (LHIOs), PhilHealth Business Centers, Satellite Offices, and Hospital Desks
3. Claims Processing (Benefit Administration Section) and Information Technology (IT)
4. Legal and Field Operations

While administrative personnel will observe a compressed on-site schedule, PhilHealth emphasized that personnel will remain reachable and responsive on Fridays for urgent operational requirements and member concerns.

The adjusted work arrangement forms part of the government's nationwide energy conservation efforts in response to rising global oil prices and is in compliance with Malacañang Memorandum Circular No. 114, which directs government agencies to adopt flexible work arrangements to reduce fuel consumption and electricity use by 10 to 20 percent.

Dr. Mercado underscored that the agency's commitment to public service remains constant despite the adjustments.

"The efficiency offered by this arrangement must translate into better, more focused service delivery," added Dr. Mercado.

"Our digital portals and frontline desks remain your reliable partners in health, every day of the business week."

DTI Rizal, PCA Orient MSMEs on Registration of Business and NCFRS Registration and Accreditation

BINANGONAN, RIZAL | DTI Rizal, in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Laguna/Rizal, recently conducted an orientation for Rizal-based MSMEs on the Registration of Business and the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS) Registration and Accreditation via Zoom App last February 10, 2026.

The activity, initiated and facilitated by DTI Rizal, aimed to equip MSMEs with essential knowledge on formal business registration and the importance of NCFRS as the official registry of coconut farmers and industry stakeholders.

Representatives from PCA Laguna/Rizal led by Division Chief Warren De Guzman, Senior Agriculturist Julius Elardo, and Project Monitoring Of-

ficer Laime Jane Guevarra discussed the registration process, requirements, and the benefits of being included in the registry, particularly in accessing government programs and industry support.

DTI Rizal represented by DC Sharon F. Dioco, STIDS Noralyn Halimao, and NC-TIDA Jerome Montealegre, emphasized that proper registration and NCFRS

inclusion help strengthen MSME credibility, improve market access, and ensure eligibility for government interventions under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

The orientation forms part of DTI Rizal's continuing efforts to support the growth, compliance, and competitiveness of local MSMEs, in collaboration with partner agencies such as PCA.

Silang..

From Page 1

SILANG, Cavite — Local tricycle drivers in the Municipality of Silang, Cavite, will receive financial relief as the local government rolls out its fuel subsidy program to combat rising oil prices amid global tensions.

Although details on the fuel subsidy distribution will be posted in the coming days, local Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators are already expressing their gratitude for the assistance that the local government will provide.

Joel Diosina of the OBH Bayani Drivers and Operators Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DOMPC) thanked the municipal government for the subsidy.

"Maraming salamat po kay Mayor Ted Carranza para sa

fuel subsidy. Muli, nagpapasalamat po ang buong members ng OBH Bayani DOMPC."

Mayor Ted Carranza announced on March 17 that the Municipal Government will distribute P1,500 fuel subsidy for 5,000 registered tricycle drivers to help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs triggered by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

Carranza clarified that the subsidy will be exclusive to tricycle drivers within the Silang municipality.

"Ito ay tulong sa kinakaharap nating krisis o pagtaas ng petrolyo dulot ng kasalukuyang kaguluhan na nagaganap sa Middle East na pangangahing inaangkatan natin ng langis at gasolina."

Aboitiz..

From Page 7

chain management practices, and was honored by the Department of Education Region III as a partner in education for supporting school infrastructure and learning initiatives across communities.

Meanwhile, Aboitiz Foods expanded its regional platform through the acquisition of Singapore-based Diasham Resources Pte. Ltd. by its subsidiary Gold Coin Management Holdings Pte. Ltd.

With nearly five decades of expertise and established distribution networks across key Asia-Pacific markets, Diasham strengthens Aboitiz Foods' portfolio of animal nutrition and health solutions while expanding the Group's presence in the region's growing agriculture sector.

Together, these developments signal a strong opening chapter for Aboitiz in 2026. Guided by disciplined capital allocation, strong governance, and long-term partnerships, the Aboitiz Group continues to strengthen its businesses across critical sectors while contributing to the Philippines' economic progress.

In the area of

DOE Facilitates Grid Upgrade in Mindoro, Enabling Full Dispatch of 16 MW Wind Power

The Department of Energy (DOE), together with key power sector stakeholders, successfully facilitated the installation of three Current Transformer (CT) at Bay 1 of the Calangatan Switching Station in Oriental Mindoro. The completed works now enable the full dispatch of wind power from the island's largest renewable energy facility.

The installation and commissioning were carried out in collaboration with the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), led by President and Chief Executive Officer Fortunato "Atoy" C. Leynes, the National Power Corporation (NPC/NAPOCOR), led by President and Chief Executive Officer Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, PHESI, Ormin Power Inc., and the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative (ORMECO).

The upgrade addressed a key limitation at the Calangatan Switching Station, which had previously restricted the amount of electricity that could be delivered to the Mindoro grid. The issue was identified through the DOE's continuous monitoring and site visits in Mindoro, where renewable energy generation was observed to be curtailed during periods of strong wind due to equipment limitations at the switching station. This constraint affected the dispatch of the 16.530 MW Wind Energy Power Facility (WEPF) operated by PHESI, where a portion of available wind generation could not be fully delivered to the grid despite favorable wind conditions.

Following the successful replacement, testing and commissioning of the upgraded current transformer, the system can now accommodate the full dispatch of approximately 16 MW of wind power from the PHESI facility, significantly improving the utilization of renewable energy in the Mindoro Island grid. PHESI also operates a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that helps manage short-term fluctuations in wind generation and support stable power delivery to the grid. With the commissioning of the upgraded current transformer, the wind facility, together with its BESS support, is now able to deliver the full available wind generation to the Mindoro grid.

The improvement is expected to bring several benefits to electricity consumers in Oriental Mindoro, including: Full utilization of available wind energy, reducing unnecessary curtailment of renewable generation. More reliable electricity supply for consumers served by ORMECO.

Reduced reliance on higher-cost conventional generation, particularly during periods of strong wind availability. The DOE continues to work closely with TransCo, NPC/NAPOCOR, ORMECO, PHESI, and other stakeholders to address operational challenges in the Mindoro grid and support the reliable integration of renewable energy in island power systems. Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin underscored the importance of strengthening grid infrastructure to support the country's renewable energy transition. "Resolving grid constraints and improving system readiness are essential steps in enabling renewable energy projects to operate efficiently and contribute more meaningfully to the country's energy supply," Secretary Garin said.

She added that the successful commissioning of the Calangatan facility demonstrates how open communication and strong collaboration among government agencies, transmission operators, electric cooperatives, and private sector partners can produce practical solutions that benefit electricity consumers and support the country's clean energy goals. The DOE remains committed to working with stakeholders to strengthen the reliability of island grids while advancing the country's transition toward a more sustainable and secure energy future. PR

mentoring, and skills for what comes next. Thousands participated as Go Negosyo, in partnership with SM Supermalls, mounted the March 6 Trabaho at Negosyo job fair as a career launchpad that connects Filipinos to jobs,

TRABAHO O NEGOSYO LAUNCHES AT SM MOA



Leaders from public and private sectors come together to launch Trabaho at Negosyo at SM Mall of Asia, with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. gracing the event, strengthening collaboration for jobs and MSMEs.



President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. lead a walkthrough of the Trabaho at Negosyo job fair, engaging with job seekers and entrepreneurs during the high-impact event.



Thousands of Filipinos turn up for opportunity as Trabaho at Negosyo transforms SM Mall of Asia into a vibrant career crossroads.



What if one day could shape both how you work and how you earn? Trabaho at Negosyo brings employment and entrepreneurship together—redefining the job fair as a career launchpad that connects Filipinos to jobs,

into a career crossroads all for Filipinos. Fully supported by SM Job Fairs and SM for MSMEs, this comprehensive event created vital community opportunities by matching job seekers with employers and providing aspiring entrepreneurs with expert mentorship and clear pathways to success. At the heart of the event was a large-scale job fair connecting applicants with employers from key sectors including BPO and IT, manufacturing,

construction, real estate, healthcare and medical services, retail, financial services, tourism, hotels and restaurants, and the academe. Just steps away, aspiring entrepreneurs received practical mentoring on how to turn business ideas, side hustles, and small enterprises into sustainable ventures—demonstrating how trabaho and negosyo can grow side by side. With SM Job Fairs providing the platform and reach, employment opportunities were



"Maganda pa na nangita sa gongitong event, kasi we're not just here, but we're also on the lookout for opportunities for our business with the other businesses here, para po to complement each other." MELDODY ADVIENTO of Clinica Manila



From trabaho to negosyo: Participants explore entrepreneurial pathways alongside job opportunities—streamlining two routes to economic empowerment. Reaping entrepreneurs receive hands-on mentoring, gaining practical guidance on turning ideas and side hustles into sustainable businesses.

On the spot interviews connect applicants with employers from key industries during the Trabaho at Negosyo job fair. Meaningful conversations unfold at recruitment tables, as aspirants and applicants take the first step toward new careers.



One versus many possibilities—Trabaho at Negosyo brings employment, entrepreneurship, and services together in a single platform.

Through collaborations like this, SM Supermalls continues to strengthen its commitment to empowering Filipinos—championing both livelihoods and local enterprises, and proving that when trabaho and negosyo move together, communities move forward. About SM Supermalls – Jobs and MSMEs SM Supermalls—one of Southeast Asia's largest mall developers and operators with 89 malls nationwide—continues to maximize the MSME and job fair experience by creating opportunities that are relevant, inclusive, and built around what Filipinos need most.

As the country's most preferred and loved retail destination, SM Supermalls brings employment and entrepreneurship closer to communities through accessible job fairs and MSME-focused platforms that connect job seekers to employers and empower local businesses through market access, mentorship, and growth-enabling opportunities. To learn more, visit msme.smsupermalls.com or email customer-care@smsupermalls.com.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

BDO UNIBANK, INC., Petitioner/Mortgagee, File No. FC-DC-2048-26 EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

-versus- SPS. GINALYN S. DANCEL and ALEXANDER EUGENE DANCEL, Debtors/Mortgagor.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, BDO UNIBANK, INC., a universal banking corporation with postal address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, against the debtors/mortgagors, SPS. GINALYN S. DANCEL and ALEXANDER EUGENE DANCEL with postal address at No. 18 Ramos St., ST. Martin Village, Brgy. Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City; Blk. 4, Lot 2, Chester Place, Brgy. Buroil Main, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 6 February 2026 amounts to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY TWO PESOS and 08/100 (Php 1,456,822.08), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned sheriff will sell at public auction on April 17, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Ground Floor Lobby of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buroil II, 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. 057-2016020364

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in Barrio of BARANGAY OF Buroil, Municipality of Dasmariñas, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 2 of the consolidation-subdivision plan of Lots 9 & 10, Blk. 4 PCS-04-017530, L.R.C. (CLR) Record No. 8834), situated in the Barrio of Barangay Buroil, Municipality of Dasmariñas, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. Bounded on the NE., points 2 to 3 by Lot Road lot 6; on the SE., POINTS 3 TO 4 BY Lot 11, Blk. 4; on the SW, POINTS 4 TO 5 BY Lot 12, Blk. 4, all PCS-04-017530; POINTS 5 TO 7 AND 7 TO 1 BY Lot 1, of the

consolidation – subdivision plan; on the NW., POINTS 1 TO 2 BY lot 7, Blk. 4, PCS-04-017530. Beginning at point marked "1" on plan being N. 43 Deg. 33'E., 322.18 M. from MON. No. 137, Imus Estate;

Thence N. 67 Deg. 59'E., 10.00 M. to point 2; Thence S. 22 Deg. 01'E., 10.00 M. to point 3; Thence S. 67 Deg. 59'W., 10.00 M. to point 4; Thence N. 22 Deg. 02'W., 1.61 M. to point 5; Thence N. 64 Deg. 36'E., 0.20 M. to point 6; Thence N. 22 Deg. 57'W., 6.22 M. to point 7; Thence N. 24 Deg. 38'W., 2.16 M. to point of beginning; containing an area of NINETY NINE (99) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS.

All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground AS FOLLOWS : POINTS 1 TO 4 BY OLD AND THE REST BY P.S CYL. CONC. MONS. 15x60 CM; Bearings true; Date of ORIGINAL SURVEY July 21, 1906 - June 11, 1908 and that of the SURVEY; executed by Jerry Samuel Mari V. Segador Geodetic Engineer, on November 15, 2011.

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 the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on May 8, 2026, at the same time and place without further notice.

City of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, March 9, 2026.

(SGD) GERALD A. FARGAS Sheriff IV

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

Copy Furnished:

BDO UNIBANK, INC., 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

SPS. GINALYN S. DANCEL and ALEXANDER EUGENE DANCEL No. 18 Ramos St., ST. Martin Village Brgy. Talipapa, Novaliches, Quezon City Blk. 4, Lot 2, Chester Place Brgy. Buroil Main, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

Notice Posted at:

- 1.The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Straight News Publishing: March 11, 18 & 25, 2026

Mass Anti-Rabies Vaccination Conducted in Cavite in Celebration of Rabies Awareness Month 2026

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, joined the Nationwide Simultaneous Anti-Rabies Vaccination Drive for Animals in celebration of Rabies Awareness Month 2026. A mass anti-rabies vaccination activity was successfully conducted on March 11, 2026, at the Osorio Animal Breeding Station in Trece Martires City, Cavite. Anchored on this year's theme, "Rabies-Free na Pusa't Aso, Kaligtasan ng Pamilyang Pilipino," the activity aimed to strengthen public awareness on responsible pet ownership and highlight the importance of protecting pets and communities from rabies. The activity provided free anti-rabies vaccination, deworming, and castration services to pets brought by residents from different localities in Cavite. The initiative forms part of the province's continuing efforts to prevent and control rabies, a fatal but preventable disease that poses risks to both animals and humans. By ensuring that pets are vaccinated and properly cared for, the program promotes safer households and healthier communities. The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to encourage the public to support rabies prevention programs and participate in activities that promote animal welfare and the safety of every Filipino family. — OPIO