

TURNING SKILLS INTO HOPE



At her stall in Puerto Princesa Public Market, Palawan, Wilma Nicolas, a 69-year-old proud CARD SME client, runs a smoked fish business she has nurtured over decades with hard work and community support.

At 69, Wilma Nicolas, a widow and mother of five, has spent her life working hard for her family. Her journey began in Bataan before relocating to Palawan with her grandmother and parents, believing the island would give them better opportunities to start over.

Wilma started her own family at 16 in Puerto Princesa, where she also learned the process of making smoked fish, a skill that helped support her family's needs. At first, the business was started by her mother-in-law, and she later perfected it with the help of her mother.

As her mother-in-law aged and could no longer manage the business, Wilma took over. Afterwards, the business grew and required additional capital. This prompted her to become a client of CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI. She started with a modest loan of PHP 5,000, and solely used it to sustain the business.

For over 15 years of clientship, her loan grew to PHP 250,000, where she invested to meet the expanding business de-

mands. Her livelihood also benefits the community, as local fishermen supply fresh fish and earn income while helping keep her business running.

"Dahil sa pagiging client ko sa CARD SME Bank, bukod sa akong negosyo, marami na akong naipundar na mga home appliances, napa-gawa ko ang aming bahay, at napagtapos ko ang tatlo kong anak sa pag-aaral. (Being a client of CARD SME Bank has allowed me, not only to grow my business, but also to acquire home appliances, renovate our house, and support my three children in finishing their studies)," she said with pride.

Like other entrepreneurs, Wilma faced many challenges. Natural calamities often disrupt fishing, limiting supplies and slowing production. Yet Wilma's determination never waver and she keeps going through every setback.

Aside from her resilience and perseverance, Wilma also credits CARD SME Bank for being more than just a financial institution. "Magaling ang CARD SME Bank

dahil nasolusyunan nila ang mga pangangailangan at problema naming mga kliyente, lalo na pagdating sa karagdagang kapital para aming negosyo. (CARD is helpful because it understands and addresses our needs as clients, especially when we need additional capital for our businesses)," Wilma said.

What started as a simple household activity, Wilma's smoked fish business has grown into a reliable source of income. Today, her products reach customers across Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and even abroad through loyal OFW customers.

Looking ahead, Wilma wants to remain focused on her business, the venture that has carried her family through life's ups and downs. For her, the business is more than a livelihood. It is proof of her perseverance and strength, showing how she turned her skills into lasting support for her family.

For orders and inquiries, those who are within the area may visit her stall at Puerto Princesa Public Market, Palawan, or contact her at 0912-120-9577.

Pangalawang Regional Awarding Ceremony ng DA-4A, isinagawa sa Quezon



Walong natatanging indibidwal at organisasyon ang pinarangalan ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa ginanap na ikalawang Regional Awarding Ceremony ng Gawad Saka Awardees, Top-Performing Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs), at Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) sa lalawigan ng Quezon para sa taong 2025 noong ika-9 ng Marso sa Lucena City, Quezon.

Ang nasabing parangal ay idinaos upang itanghal ang mga natatanging indibidwal at grupo na nagpakita ng husay sa serbisyo, kung saan nagpalakas ito ng produksyon sa agrikultura ng rehiyon at nagpatatag sa seguridad ng pagkain.

Ayon kay Bb. Gemma Chavez, kaisa-isang nanalo sa buong

Pilipinas na pambato ng rehiyon sa 50th Gawad Saka sa kategoryang Outstanding Large Animal Raiser Adopting Integrated Farming System, ang kaniyang natamong parangal ay nagsilbing inspirasyon para lalo pa niyang pag-ibayuhin ang kanilang pagsisikap sa pagsasaka at maging halimbawa sa kapwa magsasaka sa kanilang komunidad.

Samantala, pangalawang pinarangalan naman ang Palcon Dairy Multi-Purpose bilang Outstanding Dairy Cattle Raiser; Cooperative Bank of Quezon Province para sa Outstanding Rural Financial Institution; Yakap at Halik MPC-Quezon II para sa Outstanding Coconut Farmers Organization; at Ginintuang Butil ng Sta.Teresa Irrigators Association, Inc. para sa Outstanding Rice Cluster-Irrigator's Associations

for National Irrigation System and Communal Irrigation System. Ginawaran din bilang Top-Performing FCAs ang High Value Crops Marketing Cooperative of Quezon para sa Livestock Program – large ruminant at High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP)- banana kasabay ng Samahang May Pagkakaisa Ng Katutubong Aeta para sa Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran ng Kababayang Katutubo (4K) Program. Si G. Mico Comia naman ay pinarangalan bilang Outstanding AEW ng HVCDP.

Senior High School Job Fair at City of General Trias



The Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Trece Martires City participated in the Senior High School Job Fair held at Luis Ferrer Senior High School, Barangay Pasong Kawayan II, City of General Trias, Cavite on March 25, 2026. During the activity, the LHIO provided information and assistance to students and jobseekers regarding PhilHealth membership, registration procedures, benefits, and other related services. The participation aimed to educate graduating senior high school students and first-time jobseekers on the importance of health insurance coverage as they prepare to enter the workforce. The activity also helped promote awareness of PhilHealth programs and services available to the youth and the community.

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Public participation vital in conserving environment

Ugnayan sa Barangay Matagbak I, Alfonso



The Provincial Government of Cavite held another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay program on April 14, 2026, in Barangay Matagbak I, Alfonso. Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla led the visit, joined by Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, 8th District Board Member Jasmin Angelli Maligaya-Bautista and Alfonso local officials. The activity aimed to enhance community engagement by bringing essential government services closer to the people. Governor Remulla also provided updates on ongoing initiatives in infrastructure, healthcare, and livelihood programs. — OPIO

COMELEC's 'Register Anywhere' program drives 600,000 new CALABARZON voters

DTI Laguna and Partners Empower MSMEs through Certified Digital Negosyo Program

FILIPINO FOOD MONTH 2026

DA braces for impact of looming El Niño on rice production

Cayetano urges shift from reactive culture to 'preparation mindset'

NAOPA REGION IV-A INCORPORATED IS NOW REGISTERED WITH SEC AND BIR

SM City San Pablo's 3-Day Sale Is Back with Bigger Deals and Exciting Prizes

3 DAY SALE

MAY 1-2-3

UP TO 70% OFF ON GREAT FINDS

WIN AND GET A CHANCE TO WIN A SUZUKI DZIRE GL CVT HYBRID!

SM CITY SAN PABLO

SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA — It's back and bigger than ever. SM City San Pablo brings back its highly anticipated SM 3-Day Sale from May 1, 2 and 3, giving shoppers more reasons to head to the city's most loved mall!

Shoppers can enjoy up to 70% off on must-have fits, everyday essentials, accessories, and more across participating stores—making it the ultimate season to refresh your wardrobe and stock up on favorites.

Adding to the excitement, every ± 1,000 purchase earns a raffle entry for a chance to win a Suzuki Dzire GL CVT Hybrid, giving customers even more reasons to shop and celebrate!

Known as the city's most loved mall- SM City San Pablo invites everyone to gather their squad and dive into an all-out, to-the-max shopping spree this summer. The 3-Day Sale promises a fun and rewarding experience for families, friends, and bargain hunters alike.

Don't miss out—shop, save, and experience it all as SM City San Pablo!

59 Young Boys Benefit from Free Operation Tuli in Trece Martires City

DHSUD HONORS CAVITE LGUS AT GAWAD HUSAY SA PAGPAPLAND AWARDING CEREMONY



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.

DTI Laguna...

FROM PAGE 01

February 24, 2026 |

Calamba City, Laguna – Strengthening its commitment to digital transformation and MSME development, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center Calamba City, in collaboration with Start-Up Village, Association of Laguna Food Processors (ALAFOP), and National University Laguna, successfully conducted the Certified Digital Negosyo Program at the 3rd Floor Auditorium, Henry Sy Sr. Hall, National University Laguna, Brgy. Milagrosa, Calamba City, Laguna.

The program formally opened with an invocation followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

In his opening remarks, DTI Laguna Provincial Director Christian Ted O. Tungohan emphasized the vital role of digital transformation in enhancing business competitiveness and sustainability.

He highlighted DTI's continued dedication to equipping entrepreneurs with practical knowl-

edge and tools to thrive in the digital economy. DTI 4-A CALABARZON Assistant Regional Director Revelyn A. Cortez delivered a message of support, reaffirming the regional office's commitment to strengthening MSMEs through strategic capacity-building programs.

Engr. Elcy C. Lacambra, Administration Director of National University Laguna, likewise expressed the university's support in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry-academe collaboration.

The learning sessions featured distinguished industry experts who shared actionable insights:

Public...



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Driven by the goal of preserving a clean and sustainable environment for future generations, around 2,500 students from various colleges and universities across Calamba City took part in a simultaneous citywide river cleanup on Thursday, April 16.

Highlighting the city's commitment to environmental stewardship, Calamba City Higher Education Institutions Association (CCHEIA) President Dr. Ronald Gonzales shared that the initiative forms part of Calamba's 25th Cityhood Anniversary and is among the key activities marking the milestone.

With the theme, "Kalinga sa Kalikasan, Kinabukasan ng Kabataan," the citywide river cleanup initiative highlights the importance of government agencies, institutions, and communities working together to achieve a sustainable environment for generations to come.

"The rivers that flow through the city are vital lifelines, they sustain ecosystems, they support livelihoods, and reflect overall health of our environment. However, these same rivers faced growing threats from pollution, improper waste disposal, and environmental neglect.

edge and tools to thrive in the digital economy.

Session 1: "Having a Growth Mindset through Digitalization" by Mr. Carlo Calimon, President and Co-founder of Start Up Village, underscored the importance of adaptability and innovation in scaling businesses.

Session 2: "The SME Playbook: Leveraging eCommerce & AI to Grow Your Business" by Mr. Dennis Velasco, CEO and Founder of Prosperna, introduced strategies on maximizing e-commerce platforms and artificial intelligence to accelerate growth.

Session 3: "How to Grow Sales Smarter Beyond the Cash Register" by Ms. Kristianne Valerie Reyes, Co-founder of KaHero, focused on

This is why initiatives like today's activity are crucial; they demonstrate that when institutions, government agencies and communities come together, meaningful change becomes possible," Gonzales said in his message.

He also emphasized that the program served as a declaration of their shared responsibility to protect and preserve the environment, with the involvement of the youth to instill the importance of environmental initiatives and action.

Meanwhile, in an interview, Calamba City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Department Head Joseph Arlan Llorente emphasized the value of collective participation in environmental initiatives, noting that their impact goes beyond individuals, benefiting the entire community and the environment as a whole.

Although challenges with waste management persist, he emphasized that discipline is key to reducing waste, especially waste that ends up in rivers and waterways, which degrades water quality and obstructs water flow during heavy rains or typhoons.

"Waste is something we cannot avoid, it is a daily concern in every household. What we need,

data-driven approaches to increase sales and improve customer engagement.

Session 4: "Simplifying Tax Filing and Bookkeeping with Digital Tools" by Ms. Trizia Venus, Growth Marketing Associate of Taxumo, highlighted digital solutions that streamline financial management and compliance processes.

Session 5: "The Challenges of Logistics and Live Commerce, and How to Solve Them" by Mr. Nico Luciano, CEO and Founder of Deliverase Technology, addressed common logistical challenges and practical solutions for businesses engaged in live commerce.

The program

above all, is discipline so we can keep our surroundings in order.

While many Filipinos strive to keep their homes clean, this responsibility should extend beyond our doorsteps. So the principle of 'Tapat Mo, Linis Mo' is something we must also enforce in every barangay," Llorente said.

He also called on the public to refrain from using single-use plastics, noting that plastic waste continues to pose serious environmental challenges, polluting rivers and waterways, degrading the environment, and disrupting local ecosystems.

Meanwhile, to ensure the sustainability of the program, Llorente said the local government unit

59 Young...

FROM PAGE 01

A total of 59 young males received free circumcision services during the conduct of Provincial Government of Cavite's Operation Tuli Program on April 14, 2026, held at Barangay San Agustin, Trece Martires City.

The initiative aimed to promote proper hygiene and preventive healthcare among the youth while easing the financial burden on families by providing safe and accessible medical services at no cost.

Present during the activity were 7th Dis-

trict Board Member Camille Del Rosario and Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan, who both expressed their support and gratitude for the health programs that directly benefit the community, especially the younger population.

Prior to the procedure, parents and guardians were given an orientation on proper aftercare to ensure the safe and fast recovery of the beneficiaries.

Medical personnel emphasized the importance of hygiene, wound care, and

concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Leony Reyes, President of ALAFOP, who commended the collaborative efforts of the organizers and encouraged participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge to drive sustainable business growth.

The Certified Digital Negosyo Program reflects DTI Laguna's continuing commitment to empowering MSMEs with relevant digital skills, strengthening the local entrepreneurial community, and promoting inclusive economic development across the province.

For more inquiries, kindly contact DTI Laguna at rd4a.laguna@dti.gov.ph (ARARenal, DTI Laguna).

FROM PAGE 01

under the leadership of Mayor Roseller Rizal, with the support of the Calamba City CENRO, regularly conducts river cleanup activities alongside barangay-led initiatives and the cleanup of other tributaries feeding into the lake, which can sometimes generate up to 100 sacks of collected waste.

In the 2023 IQAir World Air Quality Report, Calamba City was ranked as the least polluted city in the Philippines and placed sixth among the cleanest cities in Southeast Asia.

In line with this distinction, the city government continues to affirm the implementation of environment-centered initiatives, projects, and ordinances.

Libreng Pustiso Program continues to restore smiles across Cavite

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Governor, continues to restore confident smiles among its constituents through the sustained implementation of its Libreng Pustiso Program, one of the flagship healthcare initiatives of the current provincial administration.

In the municipality of Magallanes, the program began with the fitting of beneficiaries on March 4, followed by trial fittings later in March, and culminated in the awarding of dentures on April 13. A total of 100 beneficia-

ries successfully received their complete dentures. Municipal Mayor Janessa Ann M. Maligaya-De Ramayo personally graced the awarding ceremony and led the distribution, highlighting the strong partnership between the provincial and local government in delivering essential health services.

In Kawit, beneficiaries underwent initial fitting on March 11, with trial fittings conducted on March 26, and the awarding of dentures held on April 16. A total of 111 residents benefited from the program.

During the den-

ture fitting on March 11, First District Board Member Romel Enriquez and Jygs Gandia, along with Mayor Cynthia Aguinaldo, and other local officials, graced and expressed their full support for the program, underscoring a unified commitment to bringing healthcare services closer to the community.

All identified beneficiaries in both municipalities were successfully served, reflecting the Provincial Government's unwavering commitment to accessible and inclusive healthcare for every Caviteño.— OPIO

PRESIDENT MARCOS JR. AWARDS 4 PCSO PTVS TO LAGUNA AND CAVITE

The national government has continued to strengthen local health services with the turnover of four Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs) to the provincial governments of Cavite and Laguna under the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The ceremonial turnovers were held separately on March 27, 2026, with the President personally leading the distribution of the medical transport vehicles through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

At Camp General Mariano Castañeda in Silang, Cavite, the President together with Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla Jr. awarded two PTVs to the provincial government of Cavite during the 47th Commencement Exercises of

the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) Silang-Paglaom Class of 2026.

Assisting in the turnover was PCSO Southern Tagalog and Bicol Region Department Head Irma Guemo, with the PTVs formally received by Governor Francisco Gabriel Remulla.

Meanwhile, at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna, the President also personally led the donation of two PTVs to the provincial government, which were received by Governor Sol Aragones.

PCSO Assistant General Manager for Management Services Sector Arnel Casas and PCSO Laguna Branch Head Flora Obina were on hand during the turnover ceremony.

The donation of PTVs forms part of the

PCSO Medical Transport Vehicle Donation Program, which aims to provide immediate medical transportation and enhance emergency response capabilities, particularly in communities requiring reliable and accessible healthcare services.

Records show that by the end of 2025, PCSO had successfully completed the distribution of PTVs to all cities and municipalities nationwide, reinforcing the government's commitment to bringing essential medical services closer to the Filipino people.

Through initiatives such as this, the administration continues to underscore its dedication to strengthening the country's healthcare system and ensuring timely, life-saving medical assistance across communities.

PR

DSWD promotes safe food handling practices among 4Ps beneficiaries in CALABARZON

April 21, 2026 – Beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the CALABARZON Region undergo proper food handling sessions as part of the Family Development Session (FDS) titled "Pagkaing Malinis, Pagkaing Ligtas" for the month of April 2026.

In this FDS session, the 4Ps City / Municipal Links discuss the

importance of proper food preparation, storage, and hygiene to ensure safety of their family, especially the children.

"Sa panahon ngayon dahil mahal na ang bilihan, nagluluto na lamang ng kasya sa amin; nakakaiwas na rin sa pag-aaksaya. Tinitiyak ko na malinis ang inihahanda kong pagkain para sa aming lahat lalo na sa aking mga apo.

hinuhugasan ko ring mabuti ang mga gamit sa pagluluto kasama na ang sangkalan," shared Avelina Paulite, a 4Ps beneficiary who attended the session in Brgy. Bukal, Calauag, Quezon last April 16.

The FDS is a monthly session attended by beneficiaries of the 4Ps as part of their co-responsibilities as beneficiaries of the program. Through the



CAYETANO...

FROM PAGE 01

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday urged Filipinos and government leaders to adopt a stronger culture of preparation, warning that repeated lapses in planning continue to leave the country exposed to rising costs and global disruptions.

Speaking during his "CIA 365 with Kuya Alan" Facebook Live on April 8, Cayetano said preparation must go hand in hand with purpose and planning, especially as external pressures such as oil supply shocks begin to affect the country.

"Ang problema kasi sa walang preparation, malilimit ang [ating] options," he said.

The senator pointed to longstanding gaps in the country's energy and infrastructure planning, citing the absence of a strategic oil stockpile and delays in pursuing energy opportunities such as

joint exploration. "Dahil wala tayong preparation, for example sa strategic stockpile ng oil, we're at the mercy of the world market at sa mga presyo at supply ngayon," he said.

Cayetano noted how missed opportunities in areas such as electric vehicles and right-of-way planning have made current challenges more difficult and costly to address.

While acknowledging that mistakes are inevitable, the senator said repeatedly making the same errors reflects a failure to learn, linking the idea to a deeper understanding of repentance.

"When we make a mistake, we learn from it... Repentance means 'Mali ang pag-iisip ko, babaguin ko [ito],'" he said.

Cayetano emphasized that preparation applies not only to national policy but also to personal

decisions, such as setting aside resources for future needs instead of spending everything in the present.

Drawing from past experience, Cayetano recalled pushing for tourism-related funding under Bayanihan 2 to help generate jobs, improve infrastructure, and retrain workers.

He said early preparation could have helped the country recover faster alongside its regional neighbors.

He reiterated the importance of a more coordinated and forward-looking government response, citing ongoing efforts under the Senate's proposed crisis response mechanism.

"Iyon talaga ang intention: na maging mas comprehensive ang approach, mas proactive, and then to not to criticize but to get everyone together," he said. *PR*

Orientation on the Implementation of Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) Conducted fr LGUs

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO) in partnership with Council for the Welfare of Children (CWCC), and Regional Sub-Committee for the Welfare of Children (RSCWCC) conducted the Orientation on the Implementation of Child Budget and Expenditure Tagging and Tracking (CBETT) for Local Government Units (LGUs) on April 15, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City. The activity aimed to equip participants with a clear understanding of the CBETT framework and guidelines, enhance their skills in tagging and tracking child-focused budgets, and promote collaboration between budget officers and LCPC focal persons to strengthen child-responsive budgeting at the

local level. The program formally opened with a message from Ms. Fely Servañez, OPSWDO Officer, who welcomed the participants and underscored the importance of prioritizing children in local governance. She emphasized that through CBETT, LGUs can better ensure that programs and services intended for children are adequately funded and efficiently implemented.

The discussion proper was facilitated by Ms. Julie Ann G. Delen, Planning Officer-CWC, Mr. Elino L. Bardillon, Division Chief - CWC and Ms. Florida F. Radam, Regional Coordinator – RSCWC IV-A, who guided the participants through the technical aspects of CBETT implementation. They elaborated on the processes of identifying child-focused programs, tagging corresponding

their living conditions. To date, there are around 220,000 active beneficiaries of the 4Ps in the CALABARZON Region.

budget items, and tracking expenditures throughout the fiscal year. The facilitators also shared practical strategies and best practices to help LGUs integrate CBETT into their planning and budgeting systems effectively.

An open forum followed the discussions, providing an avenue for participants to raise questions, seek clarifications, and share their insights and experiences. The interactive session encouraged meaningful dialogue and helped address common concerns related to the application of CBETT at the local level.

The orientation served as a significant step in reinforcing the commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to uphold children's rights and welfare. By equipping LGUs with the necessary knowledge and tools, the CBETT initiative aims to ensure that investments for children are prioritized, monitored, and translated into impactful programs that support their holistic development. — OPIO

Free Eye Check Now Available at OJO Eyewear in SM City Dasmariñas



Shoppers can now take a step toward better eye health with a free eye check at OJO Eyewear in SM City Dasmariñas. The store offers reliable vision care and expert assistance, making it easier for customers to prioritize their eye wellness while enjoying their mall visit.

COMELEC's...

the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has reported more than 600,000 new registrants in the CALABARZON region as voter registration continues.

As of April 11, COMELEC reported that it has processed around 3,909,644 applications nationwide with 642,217 applications coming from CALABARZON. It has the highest registration turnout among the regions. The region also reported the highest number of new female registrants with 333,973.

DHSUD...

The Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator and the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Regional Office IV-A successfully held the Gawad Husay sa Pagpapalano Awarding Ceremony on February 19 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The event gathered local officials and planners in celebration of innovative and sustainable planning practices that strengthen communities and promote inclusive growth.

In his opening message, Governor

DA...

MANILA — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has directed the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) alongside the Philippine Rice Research Institute and other units to be on close watch over the potential effects of the looming El Niño phenomenon on the local rice sector.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is also in close coordination with the National Irrigation Administration, now under the Office of the President, to optimize water allocation and ensure that irrigation systems are ready to support farmers during prolonged dry spells.

This comes as the agency is also intensifying efforts to support Filipino farmers amid surging costs of farm inputs, particularly fertilizers, due to the global oil shocks brought by tensions in the Middle East.

NAOPA...

Starting strong this 2026, the Nutrition Action Officers Association of the Philippines - Calabarzon Chapter has achieved a great feat by being registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) as Nutrition Action Officer's Association of the Philippines (NAOPA) Region IV-A Incorporated.

The NAOPA Region IV-A Incorporated is composed of provincial, city and municipal nutrition action officers (P/C/MNAOs) from the 147 local government units (LGUs) in Calabarzon.

Its purpose is to strengthen the implementation, and monitoring in advancing sustainable urban development.

This year's awardees include the Municipality of Magallanes, the City of General Trias, Tagaytay City, and Trece Martires City for demonstrating exemplary performance and innovative planning initiatives in their respective localities. The GHP Hall of Fame Award was also awarded to the Municipality of Naic and the City of Carmona in recognition of their remarkable achievement of receiving the Gawad Husay sa Pagpapalano for five consecutive years, reflect-

ing sustained excellence and dedication to quality urban planning. DHSUD IV-A likewise recognized the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Cavite with a Certificate of Appreciation received by Board Member Aldrin Anacan, for its proactive role in supporting the completion and approval of Comprehensive Land Use Plans – Zoning Ordinances (CLUP-ZOs) of LGUs in the province.

In addition, the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator was acknowledged

FROM PAGE 01

(ENSO) outlook. The country's peak land preparation is set from May to June, where local farmers utilize fuel for tractors, cultivators, and withers, alongside fertilizer application. Should the rising prices of fuel and fertilizer persist until the next planting season, De Mesa said the country's rice production may only hit 18.6 million metric tons (MMT) to 18.8 MMT, based on the DA's Rice program projection.

This is lower than the original local rice production outlook of 20.28 MMT. Lower production may entail an increase in rice importation to sustain a stable supply in the country, he said. "Yung projected import nila (Their projected import) of 4 million MT can increase to about 4.8 million MT just to sustain the 85 days ending stock," De Mesa said. (PNA)

Earlier, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said the DA is prioritizing the establishment of solar-powered irrigation systems to help address surging fuel and electricity costs and provide water in farms affected by drought.

FROM PAGE 01

CAO of Carmona City (Auditor) and Public Relation Officers Ms. Marinela Z. Chong, CAO of Tayabas City and Ms. Jellen K. Macatangay, MNAO of Cuenca, Batangas.

Driven by its mission to develop efficient and effective NAOs in the implementing nutrition programs, the Association has carried out a range of activities since its establishment in 2014.

These include regular meetings, general assemblies, conferences, learning visits, and team building activities, and it continues to uphold and build on these activities to this day.

emphasized, "Gawin itong [awards] inspirasyon, hindi lamang bilang parangal kundi bilang hamon na ipagpatuloy ang kultura ng kahusayan sa pagpapalano para sa mas matatag, mas handa at mas maunlad na Cavite para sa lahat. Mabuhay ang LGU na patuloy na nagpapalano para sa kinabukasan". Through strengthened partnership and shared commitment to excellence, the Provincial Government of Cavite continue to champion quality urban planning ensuring a more sustainable, resilient, and progressive future for every Caviteño. — R. Tanael

as a steadfast partner in delivering technical assistance to LGUs and in promoting sustainable, well-planned communities throughout the region. The Certificate of Appreciation was received by Governor Remulla, whose leadership continues to advance sound planning and local governance initiatives in Cavite.

In her closing remarks Engr. Lorna Leyran, Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, congratulated the LGU awardees and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in local governance. She

EDITORIAL: Safer cities

EARLY this month, the Department of the Interior and Local Government announced stricter implementation of the ban on alcohol and gambling in public areas under its Safer Cities program.

Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said the program will initially be piloted in Metro Manila before expanding to other major urban centers nationwide.

Acting on the DILG order, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported that more than 48,000 violators were apprehended during the first three days of the program in Metro Manila.

Of this total, some 7,389 violators were fined, 403 were charged, while 15,584 were warned and released.

Drinking and smoking in public places were the most common violations with 7,300 apprehensions.

This was followed by individuals outside their homes without shirts, curfew violations involving minors, and videoke or karaoke beyond allowed hours.

According to PNP Chief Police General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr.: "Let's follow simple rules, avoid violations, and respect others. Small things are a big help in ensuring public order."

But the Safer Cities project should be evaluated not only in terms of the number of people apprehended for various violations but also across several policy dimensions: effectiveness, legality, governance, fiscal sustainability, and civil liberties.

First of all, what problems will the project hope to solve? Will it target street crime, drug-related offenses, terror threats, or urban disorder? Or maybe all of the above?

The project implementation should rely on evidence such as crime data and urban risk mapping.

It should be aligned with clearly defined and empirically validated risks rather than broad, vague goals like "peace and order" without measurable targets.

Most Safer Cities programs in other countries involve such tools as expanded CCTV surveillance, increased police visibility, 'smart' technologies as facial recognition, and community policing.

But these tools must be proven to reduce crime. Heavy reliance on surveillance, for instance, can produce a perception of safety without addressing root causes like poverty or weak prosecution systems.

The DILG must work closely with various local government units (LGUs), so implementation quality will vary. Do LGUs have the technical capacity to operate and maintain surveillance systems? Are accountability mechanisms clearly defined? After all, a structurally sound policy can still fail if local execution is weak.

We must also point out the legal and civil liberties implications. The program should comply with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 and uphold civil liberties guaranteed by our fundamental law.

The DILG's Safer Cities project should be considered positive if it is evidence-based, has clear accountability mechanisms, and avoids over-reliance on surveillance as a substitute for systemic reform. However, it becomes problematic if it centralizes surveillance without oversight, burdens LGUs without capacity support, and prioritizes visibility over actual crime reduction.

What is important is to maintain the balance between public order and civil liberties at all times.



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SM City Tanza Hosts Successful SUPER FAM RUN

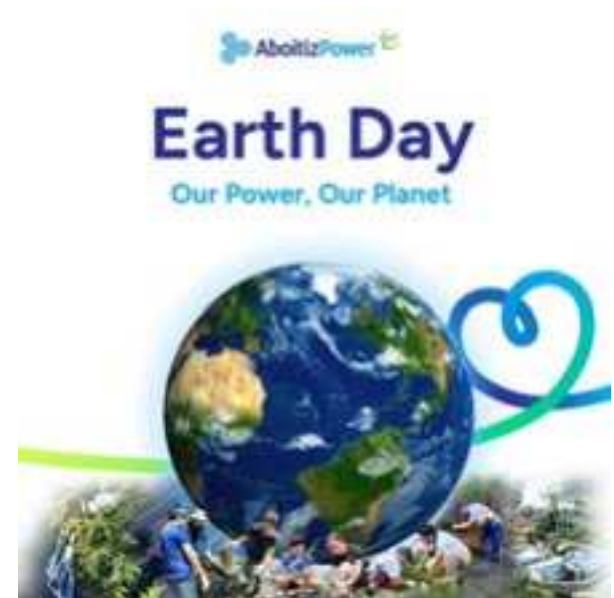


SM City Tanza recently held its SUPER FAM RUN, bringing together families, friends, and fitness enthusiasts for a day of wellness and community spirit. The event featured an energetic morning of running activities, culminating in joyful finish line moments that highlighted camaraderie and shared achievement. Participants of all ages filled the venue with enthusiasm, turning the run into a celebration of health, unity, and fun.

BOOST Now Open at SM City Trece Martires



Fitness enthusiasts and mall-goers can now enjoy a healthier way to recharge as BOOST officially opens at SM City Trece Martires. Known for its protein-packed shakes and refreshing blends, the newest addition offers a convenient option for those with active lifestyles. Shoppers are invited to fuel up and experience a refreshing boost while enjoying their visit at the mall.



SUPPORTING FILIPINO LIVES THROUGH EVERYDAY WEAR

Rooted in its philosophy of Lifewear, Uniqlo has always designed its pieces to adapt to varying routines and lifestyles. From morning errands to evening plans, these essentials support every Filipino's daily life – offering comfort, value and quality they can count on.

In daily dressing it often comes down to a few simple questions: Is it comfortable? Can it last through the day? For many Filipinos balancing work, family, and personal time, the answer is in choosing reliable pieces that make everyday dressing simple and effortless.

Pieces that work hard

The strength of LifeWear is in its versatility. For example, their T-shirts are designed to be worn repeatedly without losing shape or comfort. It can be worn on its own during relaxed moments or layered for a more polished look. This kind of flexibility allows these selected pieces to be worn in different ways, making it easier to build a practical wardrobe.

For women, Bra Tops offer a streamlined approach. By combining support and outerwear into one piece, it lessens the need for additional layers while maintaining structure and comfort. Some designs come in AIRism technology that incorporate the moisture-wicking feature, making them suitable even on warm and busy days. Its breathable fabric helps manage sweat, dries quickly, and stays smooth on the skin. These qualities make it especially useful for commuting, running errands, or spending long hours outdoors.

Another practical addition to every wardrobe is the UV Protection range. These lightweight layers help reduce exposure to harsh sunlight while remaining easy to wear throughout the day. Each style is also easy to pair with everyday outfits, offering protection without the added bulk.

Beyond these



Lifewear essentials designed for comfort, quality and longevity

staples, UNIQLO offers even more versatile options to elevate your warm-weather 'fits. Linen remains a timeless favorite: lightweight, breathable and effortlessly refined. Polos strike that perfect balance between relaxed and polished, while shorts deliver all-day comfort without compromising on style. Mix and match these essentials, and you've got endless outfit combinations that transition seamlessly from laid-back to put-together with hardly any effort.

Workday and summer-ready

If you're looking for pieces to elevate your everyday corporate looks, UNIQLO offers polished pieces with comfort that lasts from the first meeting to the end of the day. Each piece emphasizes clean tailoring, subtle stretch, and breathable fabrics, allowing freedom of movement without losing structure. From fitted blouses and skirts to versatile dresses and knitwear, the collection creates a cohesive wardrobe that adapts seamlessly to both formal and relaxed work environments.

As for welcoming the sun and the heat, their Summer Essentials collection is built for everyday ease in warm, humid weather. Lightweight fabrics like AIRism wick away moisture, dry quickly, and keep the skin feeling cool. With garments offering built-in UV protection, as well as easy-to-wear silhouettes such as shorts, summer dresses, and soft



tops, UNIQLO gives you everything you need to take on summer with confidence and ease.

Shopping made easier

For UNIQLO, convenience isn't just a feature, it's part of the experience. From easily accessible stores across the country where you can browse and try on pieces at your own pace, to an online option through the UNIQLO App, everything is designed with your lifestyle in mind.

Prefer to shop from home? The app unlocks even more possibilities – including extended sizes (XS, XXL, 3XL), longer pants lengths, and the ability to make alterations to your items. UNIQLO makes styling more inclusive for different body types, further elevating your wardrobe. On top of that, you'll get access to app-exclusive promotions, rotating deals, and limited-time offers – giving you even more ways to enjoy great value on the everyday essentials you already love.

Experience it for yourself

Services such as Click and Collect help streamline the process further, allowing you to place orders online and pick them up at your chosen store. An adjusted purchasing cap of PHP 2,000 for free delivery also makes it easier to purchase only what is needed, aligning with more thoughtful spending habits.

And from now until February 2027, UNIQLO partners with Grab to offer 10 percent off on rides to select locations, with a maximum discount of PHP30 with no minimum fare and up to four uses per month. This helps you make shopping trips more manageable, especially in busy urban areas.

In many ways, LifeWear is about making everyday dressing simpler and more reliable. With pieces designed to adapt across different moments, and services that make shopping more convenient, UNIQLO supports a more practical approach to building a wardrobe.

by visiting any UNIQLO store or by downloading the UNIQLO App via Google Play or the Apple App Store.

About UNIQLO LifeWear

LifeWear is clothing that is made for all, designed to make everyone's life better. It is simple, high quality, everyday clothing with a practical sense of beauty – ingenious in detail, thought through with life's needs in mind, timeless in style, and always evolving.

About UNIQLO and Fast Retailing

UNIQLO is a brand of Fast Retailing Co., Ltd., a leading Japanese retail holding company with global headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.

UNIQLO is the largest of eight brands in the Fast Retailing Group, the others being GU, Theory, PLST, Comptoir des Cotonniers, Princesse tam.tam, J Brand and Helmut Lang. With global sales of approximately 3.4 trillion yen for the 2025 fiscal year ending August 31,

2025 (US \$23.16 billion, calculated in yen using the end of August 2025 rate of \$1 = 146.8 yen), Fast Retailing is one of the world's largest apparel retail companies, and UNIQLO is Japan's leading specialty retailer.

UNIQLO continues to open large-scale stores in some of the world's most important cities and locations, as part of its ongoing efforts to solidify its status as a global brand. Today the company has a total of more than 2,500 UNIQLO stores across the world, including Japan, Asia, Europe and North America. The total number of stores across Fast Retailing's brands is now over 3,500.

With a corporate statement committed to changing clothes, changing conventional wisdom and change the world, Fast Retailing is dedicated to creating great clothing with new and unique value to enrich the lives of people everywhere. For more information about UNIQLO and Fast Retailing, please visit www.uniqlo.com and.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,
Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE
CASE NO. F-148-26

-versus-

MA. CECILIA P. BAUTISTA,
Debtor/Mortgagor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK INC.**, with business address at BDO Corporate Center, 33rd floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **MA. CECILIA P. BAUTISTA**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Block 01, Lot 22 Phase 1 S2 Amaia Scapes Cavite, Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias City, Cavite (currently occupied) and (2) No. 125 Alido Subd., Putol, Kawit, Cavite (unknown address), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of January 26, 2026 amounts to **SEVEN HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY FIVE PESOS AND 14/100 (PhP737,795.14)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **May 29, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock** in the morning until 12:00 o'clock noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit;

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2017011494

Lot No. 22 Block: 1 Plan No. Psd-04-223500
Portion of: Lot 2371-A, Psd-04-22167

Location: Barangay of Santiago, Municipality of General Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NE	Lot 2371-D, Psd-04-22167
2-3	SE	Lot21, Block 1, Psd-04-223500
3-4	SW	ROAD LOT 6, PSD-04-223500
4-1	NW	LOT 23, BLOCK 1, PSD-04-223500

Area: **NINETY SIX SQUARE METERS (96), more or less**

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 **June 05, 2026** without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, April 21, 2026.

(SGD) **RICARDO TOLEDO**
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

BDO UNIBANK INC.
CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas

No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

MA. CECILIA P. BAUTISTA
(1) Block 01, Lot 22 Phase 1 S2 Amaia Scapes Cavite,
Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias City, Cavite
(2) No. 125 Alido Subd., Putol, Kawit, Cavite

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RICOH (PHILIPPINES), INC. OFFICE INAUGURATION



Congressman Roy M. Loyola, representing City of Carmona Mayor Dahlia A. Loyola, graced the inauguration of RICOH (PHILIPPINES), INC., located at Lot 1215 Gov. Drive, Brgy. Bancal, City of Carmona, Cavitemarking another milestone in Carmona's growing position as a hub for business, innovation, and investment south of Metro Manila, in coordination with the Local Economic Development and Investment Promotion Office (LEDIPO).

In his message, Cong. Roy expressed gratitude and extended his appreciation to Mr. Frederick Sulit, President and CEO of Ricoh Philippines, for his trust and confidence in Carmona. Ricoh is a global leader in imaging and office solutions, known for products such as printers, copiers, digital cameras, document management systems, and workflow automation. He emphasized that this investment boosts the local economy by generating jobs, expanding opportunities for residents and nearby communities, and strengthening local development.

Also present at the event were Mr. Yosuke Narita, CFO of Ricoh Asia Pacific; Mr. Tsugane Satoshi, Chief Digital Officer of Ricoh Asia Pacific; Mr. Carlos Sibal, Senior Vice President of Phoenix Publishing; Ms. Carryll Yu, President and CEO of Kou Fu Packaging; and Mr. John Harper of HPH.