

Enchanted Kingdom marks enchanting June with its Pride Month and Father's Day celebration

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, celebrated inclusivity, togetherness, and strong family ties among Filipinos through its back-to-back Pride Month and Father's Day festivities last June.

Concluding this quarter's Forever Enchanted Summer campaign on a high note, EK brought to life a series of seasonal activities and popup experiences that created even more quality bonding moments for families and communities throughout the month.

The festivities kicked off with Magic of

as body care and relaxation services situated at Eldar's Theater.

While the fathers enjoyed the pampering sessions, they were serenaded by special performances from rising Viva Records artists Dana Pauline and Jehramae. EK's very own P-pop girl group were also there to cap off the more than two-month run of its seasonal musical show, SMS Summer Blast, with a high-energy finale.

Meanwhile, the all-male vocal group, Kingsmen, also honored all dads through their weekend show at the Bandstand.

Other exciting Fa-



EKquality: A Celebration of Pride Talents, which showcased world-class Filipino talent through performances by exceptional members of the LGBTQIA+ community last June 7, 13 and 14 at the Bandstand.

Among the featured acts were Magic of EKquality Talent Competition 2024 grand winner Alquin Gutierrez, World World Supremacy Battle-Grounds International 2023 finalist Vivacious, OPM indie-pop singer-songwriter Rhodessa, and Asia's Trans Dual Diva Sephy Francisco.

The theme park also paid a heartfelt tribute to all devoted dads who bring magic into every home with the return of its Forever Enchanted Father's Day specials on the third and fourth weekends of June. Beloved EK Storyverse paternal figures, Faerie King and Balasik, offered exclusive treats for fathers, such



ther's Day activities were rolled out around the Park, including the Fun Kart's Rev Up Speed Showdown, High Striker's Dad's Ultimate Strike, and a car display and test drive experience.

The magic continues this July as EK announces the return of its regular operating hours from 11AM to 8PM every Friday to Sunday until August 30. Starting September 1, the Park will be open Thursdays to Sundays, also from 11AM to 8PM.

Guests can secure passes for their next EK visit as early as today and enjoy a refreshing ex-

perience with Sip the Magic! Promo, in collaboration with Coca-Cola. Bundle includes one Regular Day Pass and a free magical drink featuring the newest drinks from Coca-Cola, all for Php 1,400. This offer is available for walk-in purchase and through the EK Online Store until August 9 only.

For more information and updates on this and EK's other events and offerings, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram. PR



Carmona's Smart City program comes alive with DICT Quiz Bee



CARMONA CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Driving forward its transformation into a smart city, the City Government of Carmona hosted its second ICT Quiz Bee to promote digital literacy, technological awareness, and excellence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

The 2nd Carmona ICT Quiz Bee rounded up the city's future innovators and digital leaders last June 27, in partnership with the Department of Information

and Communications Technology (DICT) — Cavite through its Office of the City Information Technology Officer (OCITO) and Community Affairs and Youth Development Office (CAYDO).

The quiz bee showcased inclusivity across various ICT disciplines, bringing together participants across four categories: Elementary, Junior High School, Senior High School, and Teachers.

In a statement, DICT CALABARZON emphasized that the competition covered a wide range of topics, including computer fundamentals, internet and cybersecurity, digital citizenship, emerging technologies, and current ICT trends.

"Participants and challenged on topics such as computer fundamentals, internet and cybersecurity, digital citizenship, emerging technologies and current ICT trends."

By partnering with the local government, the DICT CALABARZON reaffirmed its commitment to empowering the youth, strengthening digital competencies, and advancing inclusive digital transformation as Carmona delivers its vision of a smart and technology-driven city.



PHILHEALTH CABG Z BENEFIT PACKAGE, MAS PINALAPIT SA MGA QUEZONIAN

Pagsibol ng Bagong Ako opens Cavite Nutrition Month celebration at DATRC



The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial health Officer officially launched its 2026 Nutrition Month celebration through the opening activity dubbed "Pagsibol ng Bagong Ako" held on July 2, at the Drug Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Center (DATRC) in Brgy. Osorio, Trece Martires City.

The activity attended by residents of the rehabilitation facility highlighted the vital role of proper nutrition, oral health, and environmental stewardship in rebuilding healthier lives and fostering holistic wellness.

Guided by this year's National Nutrition Month theme, "Nutrisyon at Kalikasan, Ating Pangalagaan!", and the overarching campaign, "Sa PPAAN, Sama-Sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat," the activity highlighted the shared responsibility of protecting both

human health and the environment as essential foundations of healthier and more resilient communities.

As part of the opening activity, participants attended informative lectures on nutrition and oral health designed to strengthen their understanding of healthy lifestyle practices that support their recovery and overall well-being. Free oral health services were also

Medical and Dental Mission benefits residents of Brgy. Tamacan, Amadeo

Cayetano: Ilayo ang kabataang Pilipino sa krimen, huwag silang ituring na 'hardened criminals'

Marginalized communities, students find new hope through CHED-UniFAST educational assistance, PBBM-GABAY ng Bayan program



CARD Bank holds 1st konekTAYO 2026 in Samal, Davao del Norte



CARD Bank clients took part in the konekTAYO event in Samal, along with the konek2CARD brand ambassador, Mr. JC Santos.

On April 18, 2026, the first konekTAYO 2026, attended by 462 CARD Bank clients, was held at the New Kaputian Gymnasium, Purok Tower, Poblacion Kaputian, Samal, Davao del Norte.

konekTAYO is an initiative of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) designed to assist CARD clients who are not yet registered to the konek2CARD app, as well as those clients who have inactive accounts. During the event, CARD MRI staff provide assistance to help clients access and navigate the konek2CARD mobile banking app.

Through this initiative, CARD MRI aims to strengthen digital financial inclusion by encouraging more clients to use the app. The program also in-

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CAVITE WELCOMES DELEGATES FROM PILILLA, RIZAL FOR BENCHMARKING VISIT

Sa gitna ng mga panawagang pababain ang edad ng criminal liability sa bansa kasunod ng madudugong krimen sa loob ng ilang paaralan, binigyang diin ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano ang kahalagahan ng maayos na “total environment” bilang epektibong paraan para mailayo ang kabataang Pilipino mula sa krimen.

Sa isang Facebook livestream nitong June 24, 2026, sinabi ni Cayetano na nauunawaan niya ang panawagan ng publiko para sa hustisiya, lalo na ng mga pamilya ng mga biktima.

Pero giit niya, hindi kailangang ituring na “hardened criminals” ang kabataan para mapigilan silang gumawa ng krimen.

Marginalized...

For many Filipino students, education represents hope—a chance to lift their families out of poverty, secure stable employment, and build a better future. Yet for many, financial hardship and the realities of life force them to set aside their dreams, leave school early, and work to help support their families.

This is the reality that the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Unified Student Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST) aspire to change through scholarship and educational assistance programs under the PBBM GABAY ng Bayan Programs or the “Programa para sa Buti ng Bayan at Mamamayan: Galing, Akses, Batid at Angat tungo sa Yaman ng Bayan, and Project PEPA or the Patuloy na Edukasyon, Patuloy na Pag-Ahon.

The initiatives aim to give students renewed hope by helping them complete their education or gain new skills for better employment opportunities, and making sure that various government educational programs, financial assistance, and vital information are made closer to the

“I just want to really pray for the parents, for the loved ones ng mga nasawi. And of course, ask people to be sensitive, to pray for them... We understand their cry for justice,” aniya.

Ikinagulat ng publiko ngayong buwan ang pamamaryl ng dalawang estudyanteng menor de edad sa loob ng San Jose National High School sa Tacloban City, kung saan tatlong estudyante ang nasawi at ilan pa ang nasugatan. Bago ito, dalawang magkahiwalay na insidente naman ng panaksak ang kinasangkutan ng ilang estudyante sa loob ng kanilang paaralan sa Cavite.

“Hindi tayo pwedeng ma-desensitize d’yan (school violence).

Hindi pwedeng maging normal iyan,” giit ni Cayetano.

Sa gitna ng panibagong panawagan na maging maingat sa pagbuo ng reporma dahil baka lalo pang mapalapit ang kabataan sa krimen imbes na mailayo sila mula rito.

“It’s really getting to a consensus of what law will be most proactive and relevant to us where we can protect our young people, not expose them to criminality; not treat them as hardened criminals, but also deter them and their parents from going into violence and violent crimes,” aniya.

Sa ilalim ng batas, ang mga batang edad 15 pababa ay hindi maaaring panagutin sa krimen, ngunit isinasailalim sila sa intervention programs sa halip na ilagay sa ordinaryong kulungan. Ang mga batang higit 15 ngunit wala pang 18 taong gulang naman ay maaaring panagutin kung mapatunayang ginawa nila ang krimen kahit alam na nilang mali; kung hindi ay isasailalim din sila sa intervention.

Giit ni Cayetano, hindi sapat na sagot ang pababain ang edad ng criminal liability sa bansa. Sa halip ay siguraduhin aniya na maayos ang “total environment” ng kabataang Pilipino, kabilang ang mga napapanood nila online, at ang mga natutunan at nararanasan nila sa paaralan, sa tahanan, at sa kanilang komunidad.

“Everything is just a shock to us. So, we have to reflect kung among tinatanim natin sa isip ng mga bata,” aniya.

Diin niya, dapat manatiling “safest place” para sa kabataan ang kanilang paaralan, tahanan, at ang simbahan.

“The reason po that we’re more sensitive when it is schools, churches, or home is because this is the place where children should be safe,” aniya.

Isa sa mga unang mahahalagang hakbang, ayon kay Cayetano, ay ang solusyunan ang pag-ikli ng school hours dahil sa kakulangan ng silid-aralan.

“Ang number one resource natin is not oil or gas or gold or livestock. It’s our children,” aniya.

“We have to have very, very deep thought into this problem because existential ‘to sa pamilya ng bawat Pilipino,” dagdag niya. **PR**

reaching the age of 19, they exit the program, a stage that often coincides with the beginning of their college journey.

For many 4Ps beneficiaries, this marks a difficult turning point, as financial hardships force them to choose between pursuing higher education or setting aside their dreams to work and help support their families.

Christel fully understands her responsibilities, which is why she does not take for granted the opportunity to study. If she is fortunate enough to become one of the agency’s scholarship grantees, she said she will work even harder and strive to perform better in her studies to help lift her family out of poverty and, in time, be able to extend help to others as well.

Maribel Atrales, a 55-year-old 4Ps beneficiary, is one of the parents who continues to cling to hope that her child will still be able to pursue education through the program.

She said that although her child may no longer be able to enter college due to delayed enrollment, she remains grateful for the opportunity for her child to take a technical-vocational course, which she sees as a stepping stone toward a more stable and dignified future for their family.

“Mahalaga po ang [edukasyon], kasi dito po sa Pilipinas kapag wala ka pong diploma, wala ka pong maayos na trabaho, may ibang trabaho naman po na hindi kailangan ng diploma pero mas better po kung may diploma kasi madalas po sa maayos na company [trabaho] po napupunta.”

As a beneficiary,

“Ano naman kinalaman ng K to 12 sa nangyari? Eh guys, half day na lang po most of our schools. I don’t know exactly sa Leyte, but most of our schools sa highly urbanized places are half day. So mas madami pang oras ang bata sa lansangan at saka sa social media,” paliwanag niya.

Binigyang-diin ng senador na dapat kumilos ang bansa kaugnay nito nang may karunungan dahil ang kabataan aniya ang pinakamahalagang yaman ng Pilipinas.

“Ang number one resource natin is not oil or gas or gold or livestock. It’s our children,” aniya.

“We have to have very, very deep thought into this problem because existential ‘to sa pamilya ng bawat Pilipino,” dagdag niya. **PR**

pa-enroll ko siya.”

As a mother of three working as a helper in a small junk shop, life has been far from easy for Maribel. Despite the daily struggles, she clings to hope that if her child is able to complete a technical-vocational course from the TESDA, it will open a door toward a better future, one that could ease their hardships and give her child a chance at a more stable and good life.

“Magandang opportunity ito para sa kanila, lalo na sa akin bilang magulang dahil hindi ko tala-ga kayang mapagtapos siya ng pag-aaral, mahirap ang buhay at madami ding gastusin.”

Through PBBM GABAY ng Bayan and PEPA Project, the government aims that every Filipino student not only have access to education, but is guided toward the right opportunities for their economic development.

Based on CHED data as of June 30, the program has reached 14,851 students, grantees, parents, and returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) across the National Capital Region, Visayas, and Mindanao, generating a total of 95,360 onsite and online scholarship applications under various programs.

EDITORIAL: Tapang, Pagkakaisa at Pagmamahal

Araw ng Imus, hindi lang ito pormal na holiday o isang araw na walang pasok, ginugunita natin ang labanan sa Imus noon 1896 yung araw na nanalo si Heneral Aguinaldo at ang mga katipunero dito sa ating bayan mismo, isipin mo sa mga kalyeng nilalaran natin ngayon, dumaan din ang mga bayaning lumaban para sa Kalayaan natin. Pero teka ano nga ba ang ibig sabihin nun para sa atin ngayon? Ang Imus day ay paalala sa tapang, pagkakaisa at pagmamahal sa sariling bayan. Tapang ng ating ninuno ang humarap sa mga kanyon ng walang dalang armas, ngayon, ibang laban na, harapin ang baha pagumuulan, tapang na maghihintay sa trapiko nang hindi nawawalan ng pasensiya at tapang pumili ng tama kahit alam nating mahirap. Pagkakaisa, nanalo sila nuon dahil sa sama-sama mahirap man o mayaman. Sana ganun din tayo sa mga kapwa natin magkakaisa sa bawat tao na nakapaligid sa atin mahirap o mayaman tulungan at walang diskriminasyon. pagmamahal sa bayan habang dumarami na ang istabilismento sana wag natin kalimutan kung sino tayo. yung mga kwentong pagiging kabitenyo natin. Para sa mga Kabataan, kayo na ang mga bagong katipunero pero ang armas ay ballpen, cellphone at pangarap. Ang laban niyo ay para sa mga eskwelahan at maayos, malinis na imus at mas maliwanag na kinabukasan. Para sa mga namumuno, Nawa hindi lang tayo palaro at pa Fiesta, gawin din natin may laman ang selebrasyon tulung, proyekto at malasakit na ramdam ng tao. Kasi sa totoo lang ang taong na hindi nakakalimut kung saan siya nang galing, hindi siya maliligaw kung saan siya pumunta. Mabuhay tayong mga Imuseno . Happy Imus Day ! .

Medical...

The Provincial Government of Cavite conducted a Medical and Dental Mission in Barangay Tamacan, Amadeo on July 7, providing free healthcare services to local residents.

A total of 200 beneficiaries received medical consultations, while 50 underwent Fast-ing Blood Sugar (FBS) testing, 34 availed of Electrocardiogram (ECG) services, and 43 received dental care, through the OPHO healthcare team. In addition to these services, free medicines and vitamins were also distributed by the medical mission

team to support the continued recovery of the beneficiaries.

Present during the activity were Board Member Aldrin Anacan, and Amadeo Mayor Jojo Domingo who expressed their support for the delivery of accessible healthcare services to the community.

The initiative reflects the provincial government’s strong commitment to promoting public health and enhancing the well-being of every Caviteño through sustained, community-centered health programs. — **OPIO**



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Championing...

malnutrition among vulnerable groups. Hence, a call for a “whole-of-society” approach for nutrition and environmental protection was delivered among individuals, families, schools, and communities; legislators, policymakers and program managers; and industry and private sector stakeholders.

RNPC Bulante-Orongan concluded her talk by reminding everyone that every positive action, no matter how small, contributes to a healthier future.

Consequently, Mr. Marcial A. Juangco, OIC Provincial Director of the Cavite Province, led the participants in pledging their commitment to promote good nutrition and protect the environ-

ment. They also wrote their commitments on cut-out leaves and posted them on the tree of life model, serving as a meaningful reminder of the shared responsibility among every individual and institution to support initiatives that contribute to healthier communities and a more sustainable future.

The program then proceeded with messages of support from members of the Regional Nutrition Committee, Cavite Provincial Nutrition Committee, Presidents of the Regional Nutrition Associations and CNN-4A, and Regional SUN Business Convenor, encouraging all stakeholders to remain steadfast in implementing nutrition-sensitive and cli-

mate-responsive programs that improve the lives of every Filipino. The celebration culminated with the ceremonial opening of the Nutrition Month Marketplace, showcasing locally produced agricultural goods, nutritious food products, and livelihood initiatives from local producers and community organizations across CALABARZON.

The marketplace underscored the importance of supporting local farmers, food producers, and microenterprises while promoting healthy food choices, sustainable food systems, and local economic development.

Overall, the successful launch of the 2026 Nutrition Month Celebration marked the beginning

of a renewed regional commitment to advancing the PPAN 2023-2028 through strengthened multi-sectoral collaboration and community engagement. As CALABARZON embarks on a month-long celebration, the National Nutrition Council CALABARZON calls on all stakeholders to transform commitment into action by championing nutrition-sensitive and climate-responsive initiatives that ensure food and nutrition security for all.

Together, let us uphold this year’s theme, “Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisiyong Sapat Para sa Lahat: Nutrisyon at Kalikasan, Ating Pangalagaan!”, and work collectively toward achieving healthier people, thriving communities, and a more sustainable future.

