

# New Courthouse for Imus Trial Courts Turned Over to SC



A courtroom at the new courthouse for Imus City trial courts located on the second floor of the Grand Union Supermarket Building at Lot 7609-B, Bayan Luma, Imus City, Cavite, officially turned over to the Supreme Court (SC) on September 11, 2026. (Photo courtesy of the SC Communications Office)



A courtroom at the new courthouse for Imus City trial courts located on the second floor of the Grand Union Supermarket Building at Lot 7609-B, Bayan Luma, Imus City, Cavite. (Photo courtesy of the Supreme Court Communications Office)

The new courthouse designated for several trial courts in Imus City, Cavite has been officially turned over to the Supreme Court (SC). On September 11, 2026, the refurbished courthouse, occupying a 1,640 square-meter space on the second floor of the Grand Union Supermarket Building at Lot 7609-B, Bayan Luma, Imus City, Cavite, was turned over to the SC by lessor Grand Union Supermarket, Inc.

The facility will serve as the new home of Branches 20, 21, 22, 124,

125, 126, and 127 of the Imus City Regional Trial Court (RTC); Branch 1 of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC); and the Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) of Imus City.

RTC Branches 124, 125, 126, and 127 are newly created courts, while the rest were previously housed at the Hall of Justice Building (HOJ) at the LTO Compound, Barangay Palico IV, Imus City. The HOJ continues to house RTC Branches 120 – 123 and Family Court Branch 4, while MTCC Branches 2 – 4 and its

OCC are located at the Imus Vocational and Technical School also at the same compound.

The new courthouse features courtrooms, a mediation office, a detention area, conference rooms, and storage and records rooms designed to support judicial operations and improve court services.

The inspection was led by Court Administrator Ma. Theresa Dolores C. Gomez-Estoesta, Deputy Court Administrator Rainelda H. Estacio-Montesa, Office on

Halls of Justice[1] Chief Atty. Raquel M. Ladrillano, and Regional Court Manager Atty. Jaime Rose M. Palacol.

Also present during the turnover and inspection were RTC Executive Judge Emmanuel S.



Court Administrator Ma. Theresa Dolores C. Estoesta (seated, in blue blouse) holds a dialogue with judges and court personnel during the turnover and inspection of the newly renovated courthouse for Imus City trial courts. With her are (seated, from left) Imus City Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Emmanuel S. Ocsing, Deputy Court Administrator Rainelda H. Estacio-Montesa, and Metropolitan Trial Court in Cities Executive Judge Hilda P. Mendoza-Cuartero. (Photo courtesy of the Office of the Court Administrator)

Ocsing, MTCC Executive Judge Hilda P. Mendoza-Cuartero, judges, and court personnel.

The physical transfer of the courts and offices to the new courthouse is expected to be completed by September 30, 2026.

The project forms part of the SC's continuing efforts under the Strategic Plan for Judicial Innovations 2022-2027 (SPJI) to modernize judicial infrastructure and improve access to justice through safe, efficient, and service-oriented court facilities. (Press release courtesy of the Supreme Court Office of the Spokesperson)

Corrected as of September 22, 2026, 2:00 p.m.



One of the refurbished restrooms at the new courthouse for Imus City trial courts located on the second floor of the Grand Union Supermarket Building at Lot 7609-B, Bayan Luma, Imus City, Cavite. (Photo courtesy of the Supreme Court Communications Office)



Inside the new courthouse for Imus City trial courts located on the second floor of the Grand Union Supermarket Building at Lot 7609-B, Bayan Luma, Imus City, Cavite. (Photo courtesy of the Supreme Court Communications Office)



# Imus City LGU push for stronger policies for HIV, AIDS programs

The sweetest hustle



Evangeline Caballero carefully prepares her homemade kalamay, a traditional treat that has sustained her family for decades.

For over three decades, Evangeline Caballero from Pagsanjan, Laguna, has mastered the art of making kalamay, perfecting a homemade recipe that keeps her customers coming back for more.

Kalamay is a beloved Filipino delicacy made from glutinous rice, brown sugar, and coconut milk. Because making this delicacy requires a lot of effort, it is served only during special occasions.

But over time, it has evolved into an everyday treat.

Mastering the recipe Originally from Quezon, Evangeline moved to Laguna in pursuit of a good life. She eventually met her husband there, leading her to settle in the province for good.

Driven by the need to provide for her growing family, she tried her hand at making kala-

may.

With no prior experience, she closely observed her acquaintances who made the delicacy, and by studying their methods, she picked up the necessary techniques to start her venture.

"If they can make it, I can do it too," she shared optimistically. Her relentless trial and error paid off after she captured the exact taste she was looking for.

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Cayetano: Government stands to gain if Taguig land title allegations proven true



Bacoor City sets traffic plans ahead of LRT Cavite Extension works

Calabarzon tech-voc learners, experts to represent PH in WorldSkills ASEAN bout



SANTA CRUZ, Laguna (PIA) — The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) vouches for the world-class skills of technical-vocational graduates, experts, and learners from the Calabarzon region after the region dominated the WorldSkills Philippines 2026 Clark, earning slots to represent the country in the WorldSkills ASEAN competition next year.

TESDA Deputy Director General Usec. Galo Glinio III said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Laguna that the region bagged seven gold, four silver, three bronze, and three Medallions of Excellence during the competition.

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Negosyo Center Tanza Empowers MSMWs Through 'The Digital Edge: Market Smarter, Sell Better'

DILG CAVITE JOINS THE CELEBRATION OF THE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP (ICC)

DOLE CALABARZON Honors outstanding Livelihood Projects and Program Implementers at the 2026 Regional Kabuhayan Awards



Mula sa ulam, Patungo sa pangrap

By: Mikaela Guimare-INTERN

Nag-umpisa ang lahat sa isang lugar kung saan, tuwing Sabado, pumupunta ang Sidewalk upang ituro ang Salita ng Diyos sa mga bata. Sa lugar na ito, may isang batang masiyahin, masipag, at laging umuwi ng kanilang bahay na may dalang maraming lollipops at wafers.

Isang batang maagang namulat at hinubog ng realidad ng buhay. Siya si Mika, ang pangnanay sa pitong magkakapatid, na laging nakapaa tuwing uma-attend siya ng Sidewalk sa kanilang lugar.

Hindi puwedeng hindi niya dala ang kanyang dalawang maliit na kapatid, na pareho niyang kinakarga. Bakas sa kanyang mukha ang responsibilidad ng isang panganay; kailangan muna niyang alagaan ang kanyang mga kapatid bago siya makapaglaro sa labas.

Siya ang tumatayong pangalawang magulang ng kanyang mga kapatid kapag wala ang kanilang mga magulang. Gayunpaman, hindi naging hadlang ang mga responsibilidad na ito upang patuloy siyang dumalo sa Sidewalk.

At dito nagsimula ang kwento Ng isang batang may mataas na pangarap

Isa si Mika sa mga batang laging masayang dumadalo sa Sidewalk. Kitang-kita ang kanyang sigla at pananabik sa bawat pagtuturo.

Isang araw, ibinalita ng kanilang Sidewalk teacher na magkakaroon ng Teachers' Training para sa mga gustong maging Sidewalk teacher. Hindi nagtagal, isang leader ng Sidewalk na kapitbahay nila ang nag-aya sa kanya na sumali sa training. Nang yayain siya, sinabi sa kanya na marami raw pagkain sa Sidewalk. Agad naman siyang nagtanong kung may "totoong adobo" ba roon.

Ang alam niya kasing adobo ay kanin na may mantika at toyo. Simpleng pagkain ito para sa karamihan ng mga Pilipino, ngunit para sa isang batang hindi pa nakakatikim ng totoong adobo, napakalaking bagay na iyon.

Dahil sa kagustuhang makatikim ng totoong adobo, sumali siya sa Teachers' Training.

Noong 2016, naging ganap siyang Sidewalk teacher—ang batang dating tinuturuan ng Salita ng Diyos ay siya na ngayong nagtuturo rin sa mga batang nasa kalye at patuloy na naglilingkod hanggang ngayon.

Sa simpleng pagnanais na makatikim ng totoong adobo, hindi niya alam na mas higit pa pala ang inihahanda ng Diyos para sa kanya. Sa pamamagitan ng Batang Sidewalk Ministries, hindi lamang siya nabusog sa pagkain—nabago rin ang kanyang buhay nang tanggapin niya ang Panginoon.

Ang layo na ng kanyang nalakbay mula sa batang nangangarap lamang na makatikim ng totoong adobo. Marami na ring mga pangarap ang nabuo mula sa batang si Mika, na noon ay iniisip lamang kung makapagtatapos ba siya ng pag-aaral.

Sa kabutihan ng Panginoon, mas nakilala niya ang kanyang sarili at higit sa lahat ang Diyos. Ginamit ng Panginoon ang Sidewalk upang mabigyan siya ng pagkakataong makapag-aral at makapagtapos.

Sobrang layo na ng kanyang narating sa buhay. Malayo pa ang kanyang lalakbayin, pero malayo na ang kanyang narating.

Sa simpleng adobo nagsimula ang isang kuwento ng pag-asa. Sa kabutihan ng Panginoon, ginamit Niya ang Sidewalk upang mabago ang direksyon ng buhay ni Mika. Siya ang kauna unahang deegreolder ng kanilang Pamilya.

The...

Their business started as a temporary stall on the streets, which, whenever local authorities cleared the area, they had to quickly pack up and relocate. For nearly two decades, this unstable routine was their reality. In 2010, however, through a city initiative to support street vendors, Evangeline was among those who were granted a permanent

CALABARZON...

For Glinio, the feat demonstrates the quality of skills and excellence possessed by learners and experts in Laguna and Calabarzon, as well as the standards being implemented by local TESDA-accredited training centers.

Six of the seven gold medals clinched by Calabarzon were won by learners and experts based in Laguna, which Glinio said indicates that the province's interventions, from training to competition preparation, have proven effective.

“Nagpapatunay po ito na ang mga partner training institution natin sa Laguna ay talagang magaling, maipagmamalaki nila ang kanilang quality

Negosyo...

September 21, 2026 - Department of Trade and Industry Cavite, through its Negosyo Center Tanza, in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Tanza, conducted the seminar “The Digital Edge: Market Smarter, Sell Better” at the Tanza Municipal Hall.

The seminar aimed to equip micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with practical knowledge on using digital tools to strengthen their marketing activities, improve online visibility, and support their day-to-day business operations.

Mr. Vincent Cortiñas, the resource speaker, demonstrated the use of Meta Business AI and discussed how entrepreneurs can create effective prompts to generate content for promoting their products and services. The session also highlighted how digital tools can help MSMEs reach their target customers and make their busi-

ness stall at a public market.

Moving into the market allowed her to maximize her time. Currently, she employs two staff who take turns managing the stall, freeing her up to focus solely on cooking. During peak seasons, her daily production reaches up to 12 kilos, while she produces six kilos on regular days.

Financing her future

To sustain the growing needs of her business, she currently has a loan of PHP 95,000.00 from CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc. (CARD RBI), a microfinance-oriented rural bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions. Looking back, her journey with CARD began in 1996 as a client of CARD, Inc., but as her business grew, she transitioned to CARD RBI to

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better accommodate her increasing financial needs.

There are times when sales are slow, but since it is inevitable, Evangeline encourages her fellow entrepreneurs to stay resilient. “A business cannot thrive without perseverance. Always maintain a positive mindset even when things do not go as planned because sooner or later, you are going to bounce back stronger”.

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level and progressing to the regional and national levels, while ensuring that they were equipped with the latest industry trends.

“Yung training namin nag-start na agad provincial level pa lang. Yung mindset namin is naset na to the national level itself. In addition to that, yung mga normal na

Engr. Glenn Christopher Lambino, a professor from the Lyceum of the Philippines University-Laguna and one of the experts at the WorldSkills Philippines, was among those who received a Gold medal, together with his student, Joel Aaron Tumulala, for the Mechanical Engineering CAD skillset.

Lambino attested that TESDA provided them with sufficient training, starting at the provincial

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ness offerings more accessible to the market.

The activity also featured a discussion by Meralco, which provided participants with information on understanding their electricity bills, including the different charges and details reflected in the bill. Meralco likewise discussed practical tips on energy efficiency to help participants manage electricity consumption and promote more efficient energy use in their businesses.

An open forum followed the presentations, providing participants with an opportunity to raise questions and concerns. The activity opened with remarks from Ms. Bernadette Trias, Negosyo Center Manager, and concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Mikaela Jane Juangco, who encouraged participants to apply the knowledge gained and maximize available digital tools to support their businesses.

DILG...

On September 19, 2026, DILG Cavite participated in the celebration of ICC 2026, with the theme “Clean Seas for Resilient Communities.”

The activity was held in Brgy. Capipisa, Tanza, Cavite, in partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) IV-A, the Provincial Government of Cavite, and the Municipal Government of Tanza, Cavite.

Various National Government Agencies (NGAs) and organizations also actively participated in the activity in pursuit of the same

in Manila. So napakahalaga nun kasi ‘yung continuous learning as a professional.”

He thanked TESDA for the opportunities it provides and encouraged more senior high school and college students, as well as those taking vocational courses, to participate in WorldSkills.

“Joining WorldSkills nung nandun ako sa loob, sobrang lak-ing pride ‘yung ibinigay niya sa akin as an expert, lalo na siguro sa competi-tor na naha-highlight tala-ga ‘yung skills and talino ng bata. Hindi lang nalilim-itahan sa college o bachel-or’s degree ang pagsali sa WorldSkills, but pu-wede rin ito sa lahat basta TESDA-accredited train-ing centers.”

TESDA assured the winners that skills training and capability-building support will be sustained as they prepare for the WorldSkills ASEAN and WorldSkills Asia competitions, providing further opportunities to showcase the capabilities of Filipino students and experts on the global stage.

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cause.

During the Habagat season, our everyday lives are challenged by heavy rainfall and severe flooding. While resilience is an innate trait among Filipinos, let us not forget to embrace one of the remarkable qualities that others admire in us—the spirit of bayanihan.

Let this annual celebration serve as a reminder of our roles as stewards of the environment. Let us keep our waters free from trash, our soil free from pollutants, and our communities free from danger.

DOLE...

Tagaytay City, Cavite - Celebrating excellence, partnership, and meaningful impact in livelihood development, the Department of Labor and Employment Regional Office No. IV-A (DOLE CALABARZON) honored outstanding DOLE-assisted livelihood projects, program partners, and top-performing implementers at the 2026 Regional Kabuhayan Awards on September 17.

With this year’s theme “Kabuhayang Matatag, Mamayang Umaangat: Sama-samang Pagkilos Tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas”, DOLE CALABARZON puts premium on the notable contributions, accomplishments, and innovations of its beneficiaries and implementers that enable the successful implementation of DOLE Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP) in the region.

In support of the thrust of Labor Secretary Francis N. Tolentino to strengthen livelihood opportunities and promote sustainable sources of income for Filipino workers and their families, DOLE CALABARZON continues to recognize initiatives that demonstrate the meaningful impact of the Department’s livelihood assistance on individuals and

communities.

Laguna based livelihood projects, Let Eat Go, a Coffee Project owned by Mr. Tyrone Jasper I. Reodica, and Mahipon Inao-awan Poblacion and Talaongan Association’s (MIPTA), an Organic Fertilizer Production and Agricultural Supplies project, were hailed as winners for individual and group categories of the regional leg of the Kabuhayan Awards this year.

Their stories were also showcased through audio-visual presentations, which delved on their experiences, challenges, stories of perseverance, courage and hope as both projects continue to thrive and expand despite current adversities. As regional winners, they received a plaque of recognition and cash prizes. They also served as the official entries of DOLE CALABARZON to the 2026 National Kabuhayan Awards, where they will compete with the best livelihood projects across the country.

Atty. Erwin N. Aquino, Regional Director of DOLE CALABARZON shared in his message that the stories of recognized livelihood projects served as a testament that the assistance given by the agency was not merely a provision of resources,

but also a platform to empower its beneficiaries.

“Your stories demonstrate that livelihood assistance is not simply about providing resources. It is about opening doors, and empowering our people to walk through those doors, build sustainable livelihoods, and create better opportunities for themselves, their families, and their communities”, RD Aquino said.

Aside from the recognition on Best DOLE-assisted Livelihood Projects, commendation was also given in several categories, including: Provincial Office Category

- Top Performing Provincial Office in Procurement Compliance - Batangas Provincial Office and Rizal Provincial Office

- Top Performing Provincial Office in DILP Fund Liquidation - Batangas Provincial Office

- Best Video Documentation Award (Individual Category)- Batangas Provincial Office

- Best Video Documentation Award (Group Category)- Laguna Provincial Office

Special Awards for DOLE-Assisted Livelihood Projects

- Community Champion Impact Award - Let Eat Go (Coffee Project) by Mr. Tyrone Jasper

assistance. TESDA distributed allowances, training support funds, starter toolkits, and scholarship vouchers, while NIA Cavite-Batangas awarded livelihood projects, including a ₱300,000 Rice-Duck Farming Livelihood Project, ₱210,000 High-Value Crop Production with Drip Irrigation System Project, and ₱500,000 RTL Chicken Project for the CY 2026 Most Outstanding Irrigators Association at the regional level.

The Department of Agriculture provided ₱4,034,902 worth of agricultural programs and services, while DTI-Cavite awarded ₱673,000 for an Ideation, Design, and Development Laboratory and

assistance provided was the Rice Distribution Program, which served 5,000 beneficiaries from Barangay Cabuco, Trece Martires City. Participating agencies also delivered substantial sector-specific



I. Reodica - Outstanding Livelihood Success Story Award - Enhancement of Small-scale Homemade PIZZA Project by Mr. Noelito J. Patal

- Innovative Livelihood Project Award - Los Pepes Honey Production Project by Mr. Christ Mark T. Bergonio

- Digital Livelihood Innovation Award- Handicraft (Jewelry) Project by Ms. Jerlene D. Pecho

- Outstanding Employment Generation Award-Samahan ng Organic Farmers ng Sonyas (SOFS)

- Income Growth Excellence Award - Let Eat Go (Coffee Project) by Mr. Tyrone Jasper I. Reodica

- Sustainable Green Livelihood Award - Mahipon, Inao-awan Poblacion and Talaongan Association (MIPTA)

Awards for Program Implementers

- Top Performing Provincial Office’s Livelihood Focal Person – Mr. Ohmar A. Lorena of Quezon Provincial Office

- Top Performing Provincial Office’s TUPAD Focal Person – Ms. Mylanie P. Rea of Quezon Provincial Office

- Top Performing Livelihood Development Specialist- Ms. Jessa Mae

B. Diesta of Rizal Provincial Office

- Top Performing TUPAD Coordinators: Fatima P. Carvajal-Cavite Provincial Office

Reymond S. Reyes- Laguna Provincial Office

Clea C. Clavobatangas Provincial Office

Elaiza A. Orsuarizal Provincial Office

Marlon S. Lincoran-Quezon Provincial Office

Arcelle A. De Jesus-Technical Support and Services Division-Employment Promotion and Workers Welfare

Mariedell L. Espiritu-Internal Management and Services Division

- Best Accredited Co-Partner–Implementing DILP– Magallanes Womens Club Multi-Purpose Cooperative

Me a n w h i l e , DOLE Cavite Provincial Director Marivic B. Martinez, extended her gratitude to partner agencies of the Department, recognizing their continuous support on the implementation of its Livelihood Programs.

“Nais din po naming pasalamatan ang aming mga partners and everyone who continues to support our livelihood programs hindi po natin itong kayang gawin nang mag-isa. Through cooper-

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ation and shared commitment, mas marami tayong matutulungan na magkaroon ng pagkakataon para umangat,” Dir. Martinez exclaimed.

The Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippine Information Agency, Department of Justice-Pa- role and Probation Administration and Department of Agriculture were the partner agencies recognized during the activity.

Ms. Ma. Angeli- que E. Yaun, Supervising Labor and Employment Officer capped off the recognition rites by reminding the beneficiaries that more than the accomplishment, the stories embedded to it matters the most.

“Let us take a moment to celebrate not only the recognition that we gave today, but more importantly, the stories behind every achievement. Ang inyong mga kuwento ng sipag, tiyaga at pagsusumikap ay inspirasyon po sa ating lahat,” Ms. Yaun reminded.

Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 230, Series of 2023, DOLE CALABARZON will continue to implement the Kabuhayan Awards to promote accountability, excellence, innovation, and continuous improvement in program implementation.

Handog ng Pangulo brings government services closer to Caviteños

More than 5,000 Caviteños benefited from various government services and assistance during Handog ng Pangulo, Serbisyon Sapat para sa Lahat, a government service convergence initiative held on September 14 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, simultaneously with activities in various cities and provinces nationwide.

Leading the Cavite activity was DILG Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla, together with Governor Abeng Remulla, Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, 7th District Representative Ping Remulla, provincial board members, and mayors

from Cavite’s cities and municipalities.

The activity brought together the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) and participating national government agencies (NGAs), providing one-stop access to essential services, livelihood and agricultural assistance, educational support, legal services, health care, employment opportunities, and other government programs.

Among the major assistance provided was the Rice Distribution Program, which served 5,000 beneficiaries from Barangay Cabuco, Trece Martires City. Participating agencies also delivered substantial sector-specific

assistance. TESDA distributed allowances, training support funds, starter toolkits, and scholarship vouchers, while NIA Cavite-Batangas awarded livelihood projects, including a ₱300,000 Rice-Duck Farming Livelihood Project, ₱210,000 High-Value Crop Production with Drip Irrigation System Project, and ₱500,000 RTL Chicken Project for the CY 2026 Most Outstanding Irrigators Association at the regional level.

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while the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OP-PESM) facilitated a job fair for Caviteños seeking local and overseas employment.

The Handog ng Pangulo highlighted the government’s commitment to bringing services closer to the people through a coordinated, one-stop delivery of programs and assistance.

Through the convergence of the PGC and participating NGAs, Caviteños gained easier access to services supporting their health, livelihood, education, agriculture, employment, legal concerns, and overall welfare. — OPIO

# Enchanted Kingdom pays enchanting tribute to all elderly kings and queens at Fiesta ng Pagmamahal: A Grandparents Celebration



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, brought lolos and lolas together with their loved ones for a weekend filled with shared entertainment, exclusive treats, and quality family bonding at Fiesta ng Pagmamahal: A Grandparents Celebration on September 12 and 13.

The two-day festivities were part of the theme park's Love Saribuhay campaign this quarter, which highlights the beauty of the biodiversity of the Philippines, through its people and the iconic Filipino values of love, respect, loyalty, togetherness, and family solidarity.

The event specifically paid tribute to grandparents, placing a special spotlight on their enduring role in Filipino families as pillars of wisdom and guidance who nurture strong bonds across generations.

On top of EK's over 30 rides and attractions, families had the opportunity to bond over the

screenings of beloved Filipino films that portrayed heartwarming stories of family, love, and enduring relationships. The movie lineup featured three VIVA Films titles, namely Unforgettable, Miss Granny, and Hating Kapatid, which were screened on both days at Eldar's Theater.

EK also treated



the grandparents to well-deserved pampering and relaxation through complimentary wellness services, including hair care, head and shoulder massages, and scalp treatments on September 13. Additionally, they received free medical and health consultations conducted in partnership with Unihealth - Sta. Rosa Hospital and Medical Center, Inc.

The celebration

of Philippine biodiversity continues at EK as it builds up to its 31st anniversary, with more events and offerings happening at Fiesta ng Saribuhay this October.

For more information and updates on this and EK's upcoming 31st anniversary 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. ###

## DTI Laguna Promotes Banana Value-Adding Among Liliw Agri-Entrepreneurs



LILIW, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry — Laguna Provincial Office (DTI Laguna) supported 35 members of the Samahan sa Industriya ng Lanzones, Cacao, Kape at Saging sa Liliw (LACCKAS) through the training-seminar "Inani to Aanihin: From Local Bananas to a Profitable Loaf," held on September 15, 2026, at Brgy. Pagasasa, Mabini Street, Liliw, Laguna. The activity focused on developing locally available bananas into

value-added products.

The session focused on strengthening the participants' knowledge and skills in banana loaf production. It included discussions and demonstrations on proper preparation, food safety, baking procedures, and product quality and consistency, followed by hands-on banana loaf production.

The activity was conducted with the support of the Department of Agriculture (DA), TESDA, and the Local Government

## PhilHealth LHIO Dasmariñas and DLSMHSI Strengthen Partnership through MOU for Graduating Students and Alumni

PhilHealth through Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Dasmariñas and the De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLSMHSI) strengthened their partnership through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on August 14, 2026, at the DLSMHSI Library Auditorium.

The partnership, effective August 16, 2026 to August 15, 2028, supports DLSMHSI's Pre-Employment Services Program through its Alumni Center for Engagement and Services (ACES), providing graduating students and alumni with easier access to PhilHealth services as they prepare to enter the workforce.

Under the MOU, LHIO Dasmariñas will assist eligible students and alumni with PhilHealth registration, updating of member record, issuance of Member Data Record and PhilHealth ID, and YAKAP clinic assignment.

LHIO Dasmariñas will also provide guidance on the PhilHealth online application and conduct orientations on PhilHealth membership, benefits, and available services.

The MOU was represented by LHIO Dasmariñas Chief Social Insurance Officer Ma. Obelia M. Fontanilla, Social Insurance Officer III Alma P. Fortaleza, and Social Insurance Officer II Darlene D. Albaladejo. Representing DLSMHSI were President Dr. Antonio B. Ramos, Chancellor and Chief Administrative Officer Ferdinand L. Berba, Vice Chancellor for Academics Dr. Naomi M. De Aro, and ACES Director Kathlyne Jane F. Graycochea.

Through this collaboration, LHIO Dasmariñas and DLSMHSI continue to bring essential health insurance information and services closer to future professionals, helping them stay informed and protected as they begin their professional journey.

transforming local agricultural products into marketable and income-generating products. These interventions are intended to help local entrepreneurs identify opportunities to increase the value of agricultural resources through product development and enterprise creation.

Through collaborative efforts among government agencies, the LGU, training institutions, and local entrepreneurs, the activity supports DTI Laguna's efforts to promote enterprise development by helping local entrepreneurs explore opportunities to transform agricultural resources into marketable and income-generating products. (FNBGallano, DTI Laguna)

# Mekeni Brings Elevated Filipino Street Food Experience at One Pampanga Food and Beverage Expo 2026



CLARK, PAMPANGA — Bringing a fresh and more premium take on the Filipino street food experience, Street Flavors by Mekeni joined the One Pampanga Food and Beverage Expo 2026 on September 19–20 at the SMX Convention Center Clark, showcasing how familiar Filipino favorites

can become a memorable part of events and celebrations.

A food cart business concept of Mekeni Food Corporation, Street Flavors is designed to bring the company's well-loved products closer to consumers through ready-to-operate food carts that combine convenience, quality, and a more elevated street food experience.

From corporate gatherings and school activities to birthdays, community celebrations, and other special occasions, Street Flavors brings the energy and familiarity of Filipino street food directly to events—giving guests an experience that is both casual and premium.

"We want to bring the street food experience to events in a way that feels more exciting, convenient, and premium, while still keeping the flavors that Filipinos know



ed food products, the initiative aims to create livelihood opportunities while expanding access to quality street food.

"Street food is deeply part of Filipino culture. Through Street Flavors, we want to give en-

available beyond traditional retail channels.

Its participation in the One Pampanga Food and Beverage Expo highlighted Mekeni's continuing efforts to innovate beyond its core food manufacturing business and



and love," said Mr. Pruds Garcia, President of Mekeni Food Corporation.

More than an event food concept, Street Flavors also opens opportunities for aspiring entrepreneurs through its ready-to-operate food cart model.

By providing a business concept anchored on Mekeni's trust-

trepreneurs an opportunity to bring that experience to more people while building a business of their own," he added.

While Street Flavors continues to cater to events and special occasions, the concept is also designed to serve everyday consumers through accessible food carts, making Mekeni products

create new ways for consumers to experience its products.

Through Street Flavors by Mekeni, the company hopes to make quality, delicious, and distinctly Filipino street food more accessible, anytime, anywhere, and now, in a more premium way. - Christian Mañalac (Mekeni Food Corp)

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SSS confers awards on top employers, banks, media partners in 2026  
Balik ng Bayan Awards

QUEZON CITY, 22 September 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) yesterday recognized outstanding employers and partners that have helped the agency provide social security protection to Filipino workers, whether locally employed or overseas, and their beneficiaries, during an awarding ceremony held at the SSS corporate office in Quezon City.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro said this year's Balik ng Bayan Awards celebrated the exemplary contributions and steadfast commitment of employers and partner organizations in supporting SSS mission to ensure that every member is protected today and every family's future is secured.

De Claro said SSS paid tribute to two top employers, four collection partners, four disbursement partners, three accredited partner agents, and 11 media organizations, while giving special citations to six other partners during the ceremony.

"The success of the SSS in protecting the welfare of the Filipino workforce is anchored on its strong ties with employers and partners," de Claro said. "Through their continued support, we are able to provide vital social security benefits and services to our members and their beneficiaries."

He added that the Balik ng Bayan Awards is SSS way of acknowledging their indispensable role in promoting social security protection for all.

SSS named Golden Arches Development Corporation and Lachi's Dessert Bakery, Inc. as this year's Top Employer Award winners for the Large Accounts and Branch Accounts categories, respectively.

"The Top Employer winners were chosen based on their compliance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 11199, or the Social Security Act of 2018, such as the online

submission of employment reports, correct and up-to-date payment of contributions, proper remittance of member loan payments, and timely filing of sickness and maternity notifications. They are also active participants in SSS digital services, and their human resources personnel are well-versed in SSS and its programs," de Claro said.

Meanwhile, the Best Collection Partner awardees are Union Bank of the Philippines (Universal/Commercial Bank), Rang-ay Bank, Inc. (Thrift/Rural Bank), CIS Bayad Center, Inc. (Non-Bank), and Ventaja International Corporation (Overseas Partner).

De Claro explained that these banks and payment channels topped their respective categories for implementing efficient collection schemes for contributions and salary loan payments.

For Best Disbursement Partners, BDO Unibank, Inc. was named Best Universal/Commercial Bank, Philippine Savings Bank earned Best Thrift Bank, BDO Network Bank, Inc. received Best Rural Bank, and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation's DiskarTech was recognized as Best Digital Bank.

De Claro said these banks were recognized based on their performance in serving SSS pensioners and members through the timely release of benefits and monthly pensions.

The Best Accredited Partner Agents are the Local Government Unit of Valencia as Best KaSS-Sangga Collect Partner, First Community Cooperative as Best Cooperative Partner, and Community Saving and Credit Association Farmers as Best AlkanSSSyas Program Partner.

These SSS-accredited partner agents were selected for their active participation in SSS programs that helped the pension fund expand its coverage and extend services to workers such as

the self-employed, land-based OFWs, and voluntary members.

Best Media Partner awards were given to seven media organizations and four reporters/anchors. Philippine Daily Inquirer was named Best Print Media Partner – NCR, Laguna Courier as Best Print Media Partner – Luzon, and Negros Now Daily as Best Print Media Partner – Visayas.

The Best Broadcast Media Partner winners are DZMM TeleRadyo in NCR, CARE 104.3 DWAY FM in Luzon, 91.7 Ben FM in Visayas, and 91.1 Max FM Tacurong City in Mindanao.

Arlie Calalo of The Manila Times was named Best Media Personality in NCR. Geronimo Dig of 104.9 XFM Santiago City received the Best Media Personality in Luzon. Ionnes Omang of DYVL Aksyon Radyo Tacloban emerged as the Best Media Personality in Visayas, and Reynaldo Pallorina of 91.1 Max FM Tacurong City as the Best Media Personality in Mindanao.

SSS also gave Special Citations to the following for their various contributions to promoting SSS programs and services: Development Bank of the Philippines (Government Securities), First Metro Investments Corporation (Corporate Bonds), Land Bank of the Philippines (Partner in Various SSS Transactions), DoubleDragon Corporation (Contribution Subsidy Provider), Department of Foreign Affairs (Partner Government Agency), and Commission on Filipinos Overseas (Partner Government Agency).

The annual SSS Balik ng Bayan Awards, established in 1995, acknowledges the valuable contributions of individuals and organizations in helping SSS deliver quality services and programs to its members here and abroad. The awarding ceremony is one of the major highlights of SSS anniversary celebrations every September. PR

Endless possibilities: How Gen. Mariano Alvarez builds spaces for growth and community

Many cities and municipalities are maximizing their land areas by building residential, commercial and even industrial centers. But in a town where open, community spaces are rare, almost nonexistent, the municipality of General Mariano Alvarez in Cavite built a public park where residents can unwind and explore new hobbies.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, Dr. Medardo Custodio, municipal mayor, noted that public parks are few and far between, especially for small towns like theirs. Without large-scale malls and well-known spots, the local government unit of Gen. Mariano Alvarez is setting its sights on building a public park where residents can unwind and explore new hobbies.

"Dito sa amin, kailangang-kailangan talaga [ng public park] dahil ang bayan ng Gen. Mariano Alvarez ay walang park at walang mapuntahan 'yung mga gustong mamahinga, mga solo parent, senior citizen, mga PWD, 'yung mga mamamayan dito sa amin kailang-gang-kailangan talaga."

The mayor cited national budget allocation programs, such as the Green, Green, Green Pro-

gram, as vital to their bid to create spaces where their kababayans spend their free time away from screens and explore healthier hobbies and interests.

A key component of the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), the Green, Green, Green Program provides funding support to local government units to develop and improve public spaces and active mobility infrastructure.

"Importante kasi na may mapupuntahan ang ating mga kababayan para mag-relax na hindi mall, o nasa isang silid ka lang na tahimik. Ito kasi napakahalaga ng pasyalan ng taumbayan na may playground. Kasi 'yung fresh air, may mapupuntahan 'yung mga bata. Siguro magkakaroon na sila ng paggi-picnic-an," Custodio said.

Based on its report, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) earmarked P17,136,461.00 for the construction of the Gen. Mariano Alvarez Public Park.

The public park, which was constructed at what used to be a garbage disposal area, was very much welcomed by residents who longed for open and free spaces to enjoy

community activities.

"Yung dating nangangamoy na lugar, maraming natuwa dahil maayos na maayos na 'yung lugar. Na-develop 'yung lugar at napakabuting proyekto ito para sa mga mamamayan kasi ito lagi 'yung hinihiniling."

After building their public park, Gen. Mariano Alvarez will also use its LGSF allocation to improve public services in their town, such as the Rural Health Units and Municipal Buildings, as well as improving mobility by buliding bridges and road widening projects.

"Marami kaming gusto pang mapaglaan ng budget under LGSF. Napakahalagang bagay sa amin na maitay at maayos ang aming munisipyo. Second, yung aming pagamutan, gusto kong maayos ang aming pagamutan dahil nangan-garap ang aking mga kababayan. Pipilitin naming naging level two man lang 'yung aming pagamutan," Custodio noted.

Under the LGSF, municipalities and cities can choose from a menu of projects and programs that will best fit the needs of their constituents. And for the LGU of Gen. Mariano Alvarez, the Funding program lists endless possibilities for them to improve their growing town.

TANZA OASIS JOINS THE COASTAL CLEAN-UP DRIVE



Together with the Philippine Coast Guard and our community partners, Tanza Oasis proudly participates in this meaningful initiative to help keep our shores clean and protect our marine ecosystem. Let's work hand in hand for a cleaner, greener, and healthier environment for everyone.

Sept. 30-Oct 06, 2026  
Imus...

IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The City Government of Imus is updating its local policies and programs, strengthening local mechanisms to protect its residents living with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) as the country continues to address the fast-spreading epidemic.

Last September 21, the Sangguniang Panlungsod passed its ordinance establishing a comprehensive STI, HIV and AIDS Prevention, Treatment, Care, Support, and

Protection Program. Under the ordinance, the city government will establish local mechanisms that will provide a more comprehensive access to HIV and AIDS services including information, prevention programs, confidential HIV testing and counselling, treatment, care, support, and referral services.

Once passed, the city government will also ensure that patients living with HIV will be protected from stigma and discrimination by protect-

Bacoor...

BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Touted to improve connectivity, ease traffic congestion and cut travel time from CALA-BARZON to Metro Manila, the City Government of Bacoor assured that proper measures will be put in place to minimize inconvenience to the public as the construction of the LRT Cavite Extension Project continues. In a September 17 meeting with the Light Rail Transit Authority and JGHM, Mayor Strike Revilla assured that authorities will ensure that areas surrounding the construction project will not be significantly affected.

Revilla underscored that the city government will carefully plan routes and will be in close coordination with authorities to minimize inconvenience to the riding public. "[While] the Niog Station is being constructed, proper measures will be put in place to ensure traffic flow in Niog and neighboring areas will not be significantly affected.

Careful planning and close coordination will be observed to minimize inconvenience to residents and commuters."

"The City Government remains fully committed to delivering these vital infrastructure projects."

Once completed, the Niog Station Intermodal Facility and the LRT Line South Extension will improve connectivity, ease traffic congestion, and provide modern, efficient public transportation for thousands of Bacooreños.

Expected to be completed between 2028 to 2031, the LRT Line South Extension Project will significantly improve connectivity, ease traffic congestion and provide modern, efficient public transportation. Known as a "bedroom" city along with its neighbor Cavite City, Bacoor is home to thousands of commuters and employees who commute to Metro Manila and other neighboring areas daily.

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ing their rights to privacy and confidentiality.

As one of its authors, Councilor Enzo Asistio said the ordinance will also provide updated policies on STI, HIV, and AIDS programs to meet the standards set by the Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act.

"Layunin nating mas mapalawak ang access ng ating mga kababayan sa tamang importasyon, prevention programs, confidential HIV testing and counseling,

Cayetano...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Sunday said the government stands to gain if allegations of illegally titled properties along Laguna Lake in Taguig are proven true, as authorities continue to scrutinize the questioned land titles.

Cayetano made the statement a day after Senator Panfilo Lacson alleged that there are four parcels of illegally reclaimed land in Taguig City covered by "fraudulently" issued titles, including a 181,077-square-meter property whose title originated from a homestead patent.

Lacson said the findings would form part of documents to be submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Speaking at the 44th anniversary of Mandaport Apostolic Pentecostals (MAP) Church on August 30, Cayetano said the roughly 18-hectare property could ultimately benefit the government if the allegation surrounding its title is established.

"May isang nasa dyaryo kahapon na (nagsabi na may) 181,000 square meters o 18 hectares daw na 'illegally titled.' Sa isang banda po, nagho-hope din kami na totoo iyon. Bakit? Kasi kung totoong illegal iyon, sa gobyerno iyon [mapupunta], eh di may 18 hectares tayo ngayon para sa gobyerno," he said.

Cayetano also welcomed the scrutiny of land titles in the area, noting that City of Taguig Mayor Lani Cayetano had

treatment, care, support, at referral services, kasabay ng pagprotekta sa kanilang privacy at karapatan at pagtulong na maiwasan ang stigma at discrimination."

In 2025, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Philippines noted that the country is experiencing one of the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in Asia Pacific where at least 57 people are diagnosed with the disease each day.

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long wanted the properties examined.

"Katulad ngayon na gusto nilang tingnan lahat ng titulo, matagal na pong gusto ni Lani iyon," he said.

Lacson earlier asked the Land Registration Authority (LRA) to trace the origins and history of titles covering properties in areas he linked to alleged illegal reclamation in Taguig. He said those responsible could face charges should authorities establish that the titles had been manipulated.

Cayetano, meanwhile, recalled that MAP Church had previously held one of its anniversary celebrations at the Lakeshore Tent, which has since been drawn into allegations involving supposed illegal reclamation.

"Natandaan ninyo po na doon kayo nag-anniversary isang beses sa Lakeshore Tent? Iyon po ang ininiintra ngayon," he told the congregation.

"Iyon ang pinapalabas na illegal reclamation at pinapalabas na kinakamkam ko rin daw po y'ung iba para sa aking sarili. Pero ang blessing po ay marami kasing gumagamit at alam naman po na hindi amin iyon," he added.

For Cayetano, the continuing scrutiny could ultimately result in additional land for the government should the allegations be substantiated.

"Ipag-pray nyo lang mga kapatid na ang mini-mean ng iba na harm ay mini-mean ni Lord para sa good," he said. PR

EDITORIAL:

Korapsyon: Ang Magnanakaw na Hindi Nakikita, Ngunit Lahat ay Binibiktima

By: Glen Obias-INTERN

Sa bawat pisong ninanakaw ng mga tiwaling opisyal, isang batang hindi nakakapag-aral ang nawawalan ng pag-asa. Sa bawat proyektong hindi natapos dahil sa katiwalian, isang komunidad ang naiwang naghihintay. At sa bawat pangakong napapalitan ng pansariling interes, mas lalong lumalalim ang sugat ng sam-bayanang Pilipino.

Ang korapsyon ay hindi lamang pagnanakaw ng pera ng bayan. Ito ay pagnanakaw ng kinabukasan. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit may mga ospital na kulang sa kagamitan, mga paaralang sira ang silid-aralan, at mga kalsadang madaling masira kahit bagong gawa. Ang pondo na dapat sana'y para sa kapakanan ng mamamayan ay napupunta sa balsa ng iilan.

Mas masakit pa rito ang unti-unting pagkawala ng tiwala ng mamamayan sa pamahalaan. Kapag ang katiwalian ay nagiging pangkaraniwan at ang pananagutan ay nawawala, nabubuo ang paniniwalang walang saysay ang pagiging tapat. Ito ang pinakamapanganib na bunga ng korapsyon—ang pagpatay sa pag-asang maaari pang magkaroon ng tunay na pagbabago.

Ngunit ang laban sa korapsyon ay hindi lamang tungkulin ng gobyerno. Responsibilidad din ito ng bawat mamamayan. Ang pagtangg sa panunuhol, ang matalinong pagboto, ang pagbabantay sa paggamit ng pondo ng bayan, at ang paninindigan para sa katotohanan ay mga hakbang upang unti-unting maputol ang siklo ng katiwalian.

Ang Pilipinas ay hindi mahirap na bansa; pinahihirap ito ng korapsyon. Hangga't may mga taong inuuna ang sariling kapakanan kaysa sa serbisyo publiko, mananatiling mabigat ang pasanin ng mamamayan. Panahon nang wakasan ang kultura ng katiwalian at itaguyod ang pamahalaang may integridad, pananagutan, at tunay na malasakit sa bayan. Sapagkat ang bawat sentimong ninanakaw ay kumbas ng pangarap na ipinagkakait sa isang Pilipino.

Naic local gov't distributes Php2M livelihood grant for 4Ps graduates

2M livelihood grant for 200 families who graduated as beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) during the Pugay Tangumpay Graduation Ceremony last September 17, 2026.

The said grant, under the local government's Tulog Puhunan Program, equivalent to PhP 10,000 per family, is part of the local government's aftercare support for 4Ps graduates in the locality.

In the 4Ps implementation, the DSWD lobbies for local government units (LGUs) to institutionalize aftercare support interventions for 4Ps graduates to help them sustain their gains as beneficiaries of the program and prevent them from sliding back to their previous conditions.

During the graduation ceremony, the 4Ps graduates shared their gratitude to the DSWD and their LGU for helping them improve their living conditions through the years. "Ang akin pong panganay ay isang guro na ngayon at mayroon pong dalawa na nasa college.

Malaking tulong po ang 4Ps sa aming pamilya at nagpapasalamat din po kami sa tulug puhunan na ipinagkaloob ng LGU Naic," shared Maria Cristina Batil, a 4Ps graduate from Brgy. Calubcob.

Meanwhile, Maria Roxas, another 4Ps graduate from Brgy. Bucana Sasahan, shared how the 4Ps helped not only improve her family's living condition. "Higit sa pinansyal na suporta, nahubog din ng pagiging parent leader ko ang tiwala sa aking sarili at ang pakikibahagi sa aming komunidad," said Roxas.

In his message to the graduates, Naic Mayor Rommel Anthony Magbitang challenged the 4Ps graduates to utilize the livelihood grant to help them continuously improve their living conditions even after the 4Ps. Mayor Magbitang added that despite their graduation from the program, the families can always expect that the local government will support them based on their needs. [with reports from JRMVelasco/JCBGuevarra]