

Disaster relief led San Miguel Foundation's nationwide initiatives in 2025



San Miguel Foundation (SMF), the social development arm of San Miguel Corporation, said disaster relief accounted for the largest share of its activities in 2025 following a series of major calamities, even as it sustained community programs in health, nutrition, education and food security nationwide.

The foundation reported reaching about 192,000 marginalized and displaced Filipinos during the year, with disaster response generating the highest number of beneficiaries to the scale of its relief operations.

SMF's nationwide Team Malasakit employee-volunteer network distributed food, water and other essential supplies to at least 156,760 people affected by multiple typhoons, earthquakes in Cebu and Bacolod, and a major fire in Tondo, Manila.

"We deployed as much assistance and volunteers as we could to respond to our countrymen in times of need, while continuing to strengthen

programs designed to provide longer-term support," said SMC Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ramon S. Ang.

Participation increased across SMF's Better World Centers, which anchor its community programs in some of the country's most underserved areas.

At Better World Tondo and Better World Smokey Mountain, SMF delivered food assistance alongside education, livelihood and health interventions for families in urban poor communities, including learning support for children and skills training for parents.

At Better World Cubao, the foundation ran year-long programs for women, including learning sessions, mental health discussions and digital literacy classes, supported by volunteer engagement. The center also hosted medical and laboratory services for women through the government's Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Services (BU-CAS) Center, operated in



Malasakit prepared hot meals for typhoon Uwan victims in Quezon City, under Better World Diliman's food rescue initiative.



partnership with Quirino Memorial Medical Center.

"This helps close gaps in access to health-care for underserved communities," Ang said, noting that a fully operational BU-CAS Center is now serving patients at Better World Smokey Mountain.

Healthcare services

expanded nationwide, with SMF's Better World Clinics growing to nine sites in 2025 and serving active patients through consultations, diagnostics and medicine distribution.

Nutrition programs were sustained through the First 1,000 Days initiative for mothers and

infants, implemented with local governments, while food security efforts continued through the Backyard Bukid program, which supports community-based food production.

SMF also continued feeding and education programs in institutional settings, including at the

New Bilibid Prison, where meals and learning support were provided during the year.

Volunteer engagement across SMC's business units totaled about 57,000 hours in 2025, supporting hundreds of outreach activities nationwide.

CARD MRI launches its four-decade celebration, marking 40 years in 2026



Bente Productions President Marilyn M. Manila (front, left photo) hosts the launching of CARD MRI's Four-Decade Celebration for 2026, while CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip (right) highlights the institution's ongoing mission and journey, holding a copy of the Five-Year Corporate Strategy 2026-2030.

CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), a group of 34 institutions that provide social development services to over 9.7 million Filipinos and insure more than 31 million individuals, will celebrate its 40th founding anniversary in 2026. On December 12, 2025, the organization launched its year-long celebration during the 2025 CARD MRI's Year-End Business Planning.

Its 40th year is themed "CARD MRI Four Decades of Legacy: In-

tegrating Traditional and Modern Approaches to Poverty Eradication." This milestone highlights the organization's combination of hands-on and people-centered approaches with innovative technologies in its continued commitment to the mission of social development and poverty eradication.

"For almost four decades, the recognitions given to me for empowering Filipinos and marginalized communities have always been because of CARD. They are a proof

of our collective efforts and shared commitment," said Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI. He also recalled the organization's humble beginning 39 years ago, and how it has grown into 34 different social development institutions today united by a single mission to eradicate poverty. He highlighted how these initiatives have transformed the lives of CARD clients one by one, and emphasized the need to continue this work.

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DepEd strengthens ties with Church for inclusive learning



Gayetano intensifies call for gov't to decide on PH K to 12 implementation

Micara Estates: A Community Shaped by Profriends' Vision for Cavite



In 2014, Micara Estates - Tanza welcomed its first Kapitbahays, becoming one of the earliest large-scale residential communities to take root in the municipality. Its establishment marked

a pivotal moment for Tanza—bringing in new homeowners, stimulating community life, and helping position the town as a promising destination for future commercial and infrastructure development.

And indeed, more than a decade later, as Tanza's transformation tells a compelling story of progress, Micara Estates stood as an integral part of this growth. The municipality

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Wilcon's Carmona branch augurs continued growth in Cavite



Building dreams closer to home! Wilcon Depot officially opens its doors at Governor's Drive, Barangay 8, Rosario, Carmona, Cavite on January 23, bringing quality home improvement products and trusted service to homeowners and builders. Present at the ribbon-cutting ceremony, from left to right, were (L-R) Wilcon Depot - AVP for Sales

and Operations Ms. Catherine Guingab, Limson Marketing President and CEO Mr. Carl Lim, KENT Floors & Décor President Mr. Jerry Tiu, Wilcon Depot Ambassador Ms. Tessa Prieto, Wilcon Depot SEVP and COO Ms. Rosemarie Bosch-Ong, President and CEO Ms. Lorraine Belo-Cincochan, Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. William T.

Belo, Congressman for the 5th District of Cavite Hon. Congressman Roy Loyola, Carmona Mayor Hon. Dahlia A. Loyola, Vice Mayor Hon. Cesar Ines Jr., HCG Senior VP for Sales and Marketing Mr. David Chang, Kohler Co. Country Manager Mr. Pio Enrique Gutierrez, and Matimco VP for Sales Mr. Jeffrey James Go.

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KWF fetes former director and important 20th century writer and scholar

OFFICIAL TURNOVER OF FUND



Opisyal nai-turn over ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) ang unang Bahagi ng kabuuang P75 milyong pisong pondo sa Pamahalaang Lungsod ng General Trias sa pangunguna nila Mayor Luis "Jon-jon" Ferrer at Vice Mayor Jonas Labuguen at iba pang opisya para sa pagpapaganda ng relocation site sa Brgy. Santiago. Ilaalan ito sa pagpapatayo ng mga pasilidad sa Kalinga Village Elementary School gaya ng covered court, parke, playground, at school building, pati na ang pagpapaayos ng supply ng tubig at kuryente para sa mga pamilyang apektado ng LRT-1 Cavite Extension Project.

PGC Medical Mission brings free care to Imus



On January 30, the Provincial Government of Cavite's medical mission team conducted a successful program at Pallazo Bello 1, Brgy. Carsadang Bago II, City of Imus, offering free medical and dental services. Mayor Alex Advin-

cula and Congressman AJ Advincola attended, showing their support for the initiative.

With support from medical professionals from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and Imus City Health Office, 416 patients received

consultations and medicines, while 73 received dental care. The program also provided free FBS, ECG, and X-rays. The event was well-organized, and patients expressed gratitude for the free care they received. — A. Sarte

EDITORIAL:

Let's amend FARA 1979

ON SUNDAY, we heard former Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio suggest it is past time to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1979 to identify Filipinos working for China to propagate pro-Beijing narratives.

The suggestion coincided with escalating discourse amid the increasingly heated row between the two countries over the West Philippine Sea, well within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

We also heard Philippine Coast Guard Commodore Jay Tarriela strongly respond to Chinese Embassy Deputy Spokesperson Guo Wei after the latter accused him of making "reckless and offensive attacks" against China's head of state.

Commodore Tarriela, with a heap of documented incidents on his desk, said "Mr. Guo Wei continues to deflect from the real issue: the repeated illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive actions of Chinese vessels in the West Philippine Sea."

Why does Justice Carpio want the Foreign Agents Act of 1979 amended?

Under FARA of 1979, individuals are required to register and disclose their political activities in the Philippines for national security and was designed to regulate the activities of foreign agents, requiring them to register and disclose their political activities within the country to protect national security.

We support Carpio's push for amendment, aware of the perceived surge of organized groups financed by China to downplay the maritime issue in the WPS and attack critics of Beijing, particularly government officials, including those in the Senate.

By amending the law, Filipinos who have business dealings with China would be required to register as a foreign agent accredited "to propagate [and] disseminate the view of China in the Philippines."

Carpio was to the point in the Sunday radio interview: "Because if you're a foreign agent, you're working for China [...] the whole country will know that you're speaking for China, that you're being paid."

"It should be updated so that these people will be compelled to register... If you don't register, you will be subjected to penalty, imprisonment, and fine," he added.

The stiffer penalties, he said, would deter China-funded trolls from disseminating narratives that favor Beijing, which have an alarming impact on shaping public opinion in the WPS under the guise of "freedom of speech."

In April 2025, then Senator Francis Tolentino accused the Chinese Embassy in Manila of contracting a Makati-based PR firm, InfnitUs Marketing Solutions Inc., to serve as "keyboard warriors."

The operation: to spread pro-China propaganda, spread disinformation to manipulate public opinion, and promote divisiveness among Filipinos on the issue of the WPS.

Tolentino alleged the embassy hired the PR company to run a network of troll farms, and that InfnitUs received a P930,000 paycheck dated Sept. 2023 as part of the suspected illicit contract.

InfnitUs vehemently denied having a deal with China, though it confirmed the check was authentic and there was nothing illegal about the transaction.

Aside from Carpio, Philippine legislators have also raised concerns about the alarming prevalence of pro-China trolls on the Internet, especially amid the ongoing verbal row between Chinese diplomats and lawmakers concerning Beijing's continued aggression in the WPS.

A sense of anxiety is developing and watchful vigilance is important

MICARA...

has since experienced accelerated development, driven by improved road networks, the rise of commercial centers, and growing investor confidence in Cavite. Major infrastructure projects such as the Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) expansions, upgraded local roads, and expanding transport hubs have significantly improved accessibility from Metro Manila, solidifying Tanza's status as one of the province's most dynamic growth areas.

Alongside these developments, commercial activity flourished. Supermarkets, malls, lifestyle centers, schools, hospitals, and business hubs steadily emerged across the municipality. What was once a predominantly residential town has evolved into a vibrant hub of trade, employment, and modern conveniences.

Naic Police warn public against making bomb threats

NAIC, Cavite (PIA) — Making malicious bomb threats is punishable by law through fines and even imprisonment, the Naic Municipal Police Station (MPS) warned the public following reported bomb threats in five schools.

Last February 1, the Naic MPS reported bomb threat incidents in Cavite Community Academy, Centro de Naic National High School, Pueblo del Mar National High School, Immaculate Concepcion School, and Cavite State University-Naic Campus.

In coordination with the Explosives and Ordinance Disposal (EOD) and K-9 units, the Naic MPS conducted comprehensive clearing operations and inspections in the schools identified in the threat.

The local police reported that no explosive devices were found in any of the institutions.

In a statement, Police

DEPED...

vocacy arm of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Caritas Philippines and its 86 diocesan social action centers coordinate the Church's social action, emergency response, and poverty alleviation programs across the country. Caritas Philippines also partners with DepEd to implement programs focusing on lifelong learning and

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to grow, its residential communities have grown with it—shaped by daily experiences, shared milestones, and an increasingly strong sense of community—the very essence of "Kapitbahay, Kapitbahay." Over time, these neighborhoods have naturally appreciated in value, reflecting not only improved infrastructure but also the strength of the communities that call Tanza home. Micara Estates is part of this story: a welcoming Kapitbahay that has matured alongside the town, enjoying the benefits of rising land value while remaining rooted in warmth and connection. This journey echoes Profriends' mission to uplift quality of life and build communities that endure, affirming the belief that Tanza—and every community within it—can look forward to the same lasting growth and shared progress.

CARD...

Looking ahead, Dr. Alip confirmed the five-year strategic plan of the institution that was previously discussed during the year-end planning by Mr. Noli Martinez, Vice President for CARD MRI Corporate Planning, Product Development, and Corporate Advocacy. The plan highlights bringing together initiatives from different institutions to create synergy within CARD MRI. It focuses on strengthening microinsurance and disaster resilience, as well as expanding health services through CARD Care Network Inc. (CCNI), a newly launched network of healthcare-focused institutions under CARD MRI. It also includes scaling enterprise development through value chain partnerships. Additionally, the plan aims to upgrade digital operations by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide better support, improve staff efficiency, and enhance the client experience.

The four-decade celebration

Colonel Ariel Red, Provincial Director for Cavite Provincial Police, condemned the spread of bomb threats, especially in schools.

"We strongly condemn this irresponsible act of sowing fear and disrupting peace in the Municipality of Naic, especially among parents, students, and teachers. Their safety and peace of mind remain our top priority."

The Cavite Provincial Anti-Cybercrime Unit is investigating said incidents and continues to identify and hold the individuals responsible for the bomb threat accountable.

Red also commended the school personnel who handled the bomb threats and ensured that students and their parents remained calm during the ordeal.

"I also commend the school principals and teachers for remaining calm, vigilant, and united in ensuring that learners and their families were kept safe and reassured."

Making bomb 'jokes' is a criminal offense under Presidential Decree No. 1727 (s. 1980). Violators may be penalized with imprisonment of up to five (5) years, a fine of up to P40,000, or both, at the discretion of the court.

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values formation, including its feeding programs and early childhood care. "Many would agree that the partnership between DepEd and the church is most valuable in the ALS or the Alternative Learning System. These are children coming from backgrounds [who might have] dropped out because they had to work for their families."

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launch begins with a short film depicting the story of Dr. Alip meeting his younger self 39 years ago, when he was just starting CARD MRI by drafting a business proposal using his father's old typewriter and a twenty-peso bill.

"Hanggang sa muli, batang ako... (Until next time, younger me...)" was the final line of the short film, delivered by the present-day Dr. Alip after he encouraged his wary, hopeful younger self to continue pursuing their dream of building a bank owned by underserved Filipinos. The film was followed by the entrance of Dr. Alip himself, dressed as a pilot, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Aniceta D. Alip, senior adviser for the research unit of the institution, dressed as a flight attendant. Their attire symbolizes CARD MRI's 40-year journey and the path ahead. "Our responsibility is to sustain the legacy we have built for the next 40 years and beyond, for the generations to come," said Dr. Alip.

CAYETANO...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday intensified his call for the government to clarify its education targets, demanding a decisive choice on the full implementation and funding of the K to 12 program.

Speaking on the National Education and Workforce Development Plan 2026-2035 (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8) which includes the recommendations of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2), Cayetano supported the ten-year framework but identified the unresolved status of the K to 12 as the "big elephant in the room."

"Mr. President, I rise today to put this on record. Maganda ang 10-year plan. I support it. Maganda po ang findings ng EDCOM 2 - y'ung first, second, and third publications. But the big elephant in the room is if we decide to fully fund it (K to 12)," the Minority Leader said.

"Baka naman po y'ung tinatarget natin sa K to 12 ay target ng USA, ng

Europe, at ng Japan. Pero sa Pilipinas, kailangan natin linawin ang ating target," he urged.

Citing the EDCOM 2 report, Cayetano said the K to 12's effectiveness in the Philippines requires reassessment as curriculum revisions alone are insufficient without addressing critical support systems, evidenced by stark outcomes where only 0.4% of Grade 12 students are proficient, with 74% failing to meet minimal skills.

A longtime critic of the program's implementation, the senator argued that the K to 12 has failed to deliver its promised improvements to education equality. Since his return to the Senate in 2022, he has been calling the attention of the government to make a radical decision on either suspending or fully funding it.

Cayetano also recognized the noble intention behind the K to 12 program and the various efforts that stakeholders have made to address the country's education

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PHILHEALTH...

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) assures the public that the 21 essential medicines under the Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) continues to be available this year in YAKAP-accredited primary care facilities nationwide.

"Makakaasa po ang lahat ng Pilipino na patuloy silang makakakuha nitong 21 na mga gamot sa kanilang napiling YAKAP Clinic, habang mas lalo naming pinagbabuti ang mga benepisyo ng PhilHealth YAKAP at GAMOT," stated Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, PhilHealth President and CEO.

The list includes Amoxicillin, Co-amoxiclav, Cotrimoxazole, Nitrofurantoin, Ciprofloxacin,

Clarithromycin, Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Prednisone, Salbutamol, Fluticasone + Salmeterol, Paracetamol, Glucilazid, Metformin, Simvastatin, Enalapril, Metoprolol, Amlodipine, Hydrochlorothiazide, Losartan, Aspirin, and Chlorphenamine.

Members can continue to access these medicines through the YAKAP-accredited clinics they are empaneled to, ensuring timely treatment and continuity of care.

PhilHealth also reminds partner YAKAP providers to keep sufficient stocks of the covered medicines and maintain service standards under the program. "Patuloy po ang am-

ing pagsisikap na pagbutihin pa ang paghahatid ng aming serbisyo sa pamaagitan ng patuloy na pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga YAKAP providers upang patuloy pang magkaroon ng kapanagatagan ang lahat ng Pilipinong umaasa sa PhilHealth," Dr. Mercado added.

For further inquiries, members may contact their nearest PhilHealth Regional Office or call the Corporate Action Center at (02) 866-225-88. Mobile hotlines are also available: 0998-857-2957 / 0968-865-4670 (Smart) and 0917-127-5987 / 0917-110-9812 (Globe).

#MyPhilHealth #SagotKaNgPhilHealth

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DEPED...

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Education (DepEd) is strengthening its partnership with the Church and civil society organizations to ensure inclusive and holistic learning outcomes. Speaking at the 42nd National Social Action General

Assembly (NASAGA) hosted by Caritas Philippines last February 3, Secretary Sonny Angara lauded the Church for its commitment in extending its services to underserved communities. "DepEd and parishes all over the country work very well together, dahil 'yung

mga efforts ng DepEd you have been doing on the ground for many decades. We take our inspiration from all of you. Your stories and successes drive us towards meaningful reforms." Known as the humanitarian, development, and **cont. on page 2**

KWF...

The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) celebrated the life and works of its former director and important writer-scholar Julian Cruz Balmaseda this 28 January 2026 at the auditorium of the Philippine Information Agency, Quezon City.

Julian Cruz Balmaseda (1885-1947), whose 141st birth anniversary is observed today, is an important writer and scholar whose works in Filipino captured the spirit and essence of a precarious time in Philippine history.

When it comes to the environment, like Carmona's surrounding fields, Wilcon is committed to producing more sustainable products for both customers and the planet. Guided by a sincere goal of continuous improvement, the company offers a comprehensive array of building and practical solutions, thoughtfully designed to provide a lasting, cost-effective path toward greener and safer living.

Wilcon's exclusive in-house brands are all of premium quality. To enhance the customer shopping experience, the depot offers safe delivery options and an information

es, Balmaseda penned about 820 poems and 44 plays. Some of his books of poetry include Ang Bayan ni Plaridel (1913), Pangarap Lamang (1915), and Naku, ang Maynila! (1923-1924). KWF, under its Aklat Bayan program, reissued Naku, ang Maynila! in 2015.

His plays and stories like Sangkuwaltang Abaka (1922) and Ang Tala ng Bodabil (1936-37) have been restaged and adapted into films.

As a scholar of Philippine literature, his important works include Ang Tatlong Panahon (1938) and Ang Dulang Pilipino (1947).

Balmaseda, originally from Orion, Bataan, was a teacher, municipal clerk, and government employee. He served as director of the National Institute of

Language (now known as KWF) from 1938-1947.

Since 2015, KWF has been paying tribute to Balmaseda by staging the Gawad Julian Cruz Balmaseda during his birth anniversary. The award recognizes outstanding theses and dissertations written in Filipino as a contribution to the intellectualization of the national language.

Winners for this 2026 are Darwin Plaza (thesis) of Ateneo de Naga University and Ferdinand P. Jarin (dissertation) of De La Salle University.

KWF also launched Dr. Lovella Gamponia-Velasco's Ubbog Ti Asin: Kuwento at Kuwenta ng mga Babaeng Mannurat ng Nueva Viscaya. Gamponia-Velasco won the Gawad Balmaseda for her dissertation in 2017.

For more information about Wilcon, visit www.wilcon.com.ph or follow their social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, or subscribe and connect with them on Viber Community, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Or you may contact the Wilcon Depot Hotline at 88-WILCON (88-945266) for inquiries.

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WILCON'S...

Wilcon Depot officially opens at Governor's Drive, Carmona, Cavite, on January 23, inspiring new building possibilities and spurring growth in the new year. This is in line with its enduring promise to deliver quality home improvements and exceptional services to Filipino homeowners and builders to Caviteños. Wilcon in Carmona is the 9th in the province with the other branches located at Naic, General Trias, Bacoor, Silang, Kawit, Paliparan, Tagaytay, and Pala Pala.

Wilcon executives, Ms. Rosemarie Bosch-Ong, SEVP and COO, and Ms. Lorraine Belo-Cincochan, President and CEO, attended the opening program together with representatives from the LGUs. Ms. Rosemarie expressed her sincere promise in making Filipino dream homes come true with the latest expansion. "We came here with single-mindedness of purpose: to make building better and living better within reach for every Filipino family. Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang mga tahananunay na matibay, maganda, at maipagmamalaki

dahil ang Wilcon sa inyo ay mag-aalaga, inyong maasahan at mapagkaka-tiwalaan."

Carmona is recognized as the newest city in the Philippines. Its land is blessed with fertile soil that sustains crops, pastures, and livestock. This abundance provides ample resources for the city's residents. Within a brief period, Carmona was elevated to a component city status due to the conversion of industrial areas. This led to a range of firms and retail businesses, boosting economic growth.

Given Carmona's proximity to Manila and its location along highways and bridges to CALABARZON, building construction and home improvement are vital to neighboring residents. Areas with emerging firms and lodging have a strong demand for plumbing supplies, home furnishings, sanitary ware, tools and hardware, and DIY items. With Wilcon locally available, the delivery and supply of Filipino household items and building materials are more convenient. In addition, Wilcon offers a wide selection of

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ASE CO., Ltd.-PH Branch Advances Expansion and Capability Transformation under PEZA

General Trias, Cavite, Philippines — The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), led by Director General Tereso O. Panga, visited ASE Co., Ltd.—Philippine Branch (ASE PH) on 22 January 2026 at the Gateway Business Park—Special Economic Zone (GBP-SEZ) in General Trias, Cavite, to discuss the company's expansion plans, capability transformation, and potential partnerships moving forward.



PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY

Operating in the Philippines for almost 30 years, ASE Philippines traces its roots to 1994 as Cypress Semiconductor Philippines, reflecting long-term investment by its Taiwan-based parent group and sustained confidence in the country's manufacturing ecosystem.

During the visit, the company outlined its strong growth trajectory, anchored on a planned 26,000-square-meter future expansion that is expected to generate more jobs, boost exports, deploy advanced manufacturing technologies, and

strengthen linkages within the local semiconductor supply chain. Headquartered at Kaohsiung, Taiwan, ASE currently employs 825 workers in the Philippines and continues to play a critical role in the country's high-technology manufacturing ecosystem.

Beyond physical expansion, ASE PH showcased its advanced Autoline-enabled manufacturing platforms — that enables them to deliver a remarkable 24-hour turnaround time — supported by in-house Reliability Testing and Failure Analysis (FA) site capabilities. These enable rigorous product validation, rapid fault isolation, and high-reliability assurance—strengthening ASE's role as a critical semiconductor manufacturing and services hub for IoT, automotive, industrial, and other high-reliability applications.

The company, headed by Tony Arellano, Vice President and Managing Director, also shared its initiatives to enhance human resource devel-

opment, through the establishment of the ASE Institute. This platform will deliver intensive ground-floor (entry-level) training—particularly for engineering roles—to support the industry's growing demand for upskilled and future-ready talent.

Complementing these efforts are the company's comprehensive sustainability and green initiatives, such as water conservation measures,

green energy implementation, and materials and supplies localization.

In response, Director General Panga expressed PEZA's full support for ASE's expansion and workforce development initiatives, emphasizing the importance of upscaling and upskilling man-

power in sustaining the competitiveness of the semiconductor industry. He invited ASE to participate in the PEZA AI Acad-

emy, including potential integration of ASE's internal training programs into the Academy's curriculum, and encouraged stronger academe-industry partnerships to reinforce critical value chains.

"We want to pursue an industry-wide approach to human resource development for our PEZA-registered business enterprises. Strong linkages with universities and colleges are crucial in strengthen-

ing the supply chain and sustaining high-technology industries," Director General Panga said.

Through these engagements, PEZA and ASE reaffirm their shared commitment to innovation, sustainability, talent development, and inclusive growth, further positioning the Philippines as a competitive and future-ready hub for semiconductor and high-technology investments.

Empowering Women Leaders: FOUR-L Philippines Region IV-A Conducts Regional Election



The Lady Local Legislators' League of the Philippines, Inc. (FOUR-L Philippines), in collaboration with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Region IV-A, successfully conducted its Regional Election for Term 2025–2028 on January 30 at the Grand Westside Hotel, Parañaque City, Metro Manila.

The activity brought together women local legislators from across CALABARZON, reaffirming FOUR-L's role as a strong and unified platform for women leaders in local governance. As part of its mandate to uphold democratic leadership

ocratic institutions that promote accountable and effective local governance across CALABARZON.

The newly elected FOUR-L Philippines Region IV-A Officers for Term 2025–2028 are as follows:

- President – Hon. Maria Claudette U. Ambida
Vice President – Hon. Maria Charis Kay S. Ilagan-Conde
Secretary – Hon. Bernadeth V. Olivarez
Treasurer – Hon. Ivey Jayne A. Reyes
Auditor – Hon. Jamin Angeli M. Maligaya Bautista
Public Relations Officer – Hon. Jennifer Spye T. Toledo

- Board of Directors: Province of Cavite
Hon. Daisy Lyn Alvarez
Hon. Camille Lauren V. Del Rosario
Province of Laguna
Hon. Elaine E. Teope
Hon. Charmaine P. Acomlar
Province of Batan-

Higit sa P300,000 interbensyon para sa mga magniniyog, ipinamahagi



Aabot sa Php372,334.00 halaga ng interbensyon ang ipinamahagi ng #DACA-labarzon katuwang ang Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) sa mga magniniyog ng lungsod ng Sto. Tomas, Batangas noong ika-22 ng Enero. Kabilang sa interbensyong ipinamahagi sa

Bgry. San Vicente, Sto. Tomas, Batangas ay ang 4,660 seedlings ng cacao, 150 sako ng Organic fertilizer at isang Grasscutter. Ito ay bahagi pa rin ng programang Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) na naglalayong pataasin ang produktibidad at kita ng mga magsasakang

- Hon. Ma. Elaine Leonardo
Hon. Hannah Beatriz C. Cabral
Hon. Lilibeth M. Arcega
Province of Rizal
Hon. Ma. Jhoana G. Duran

nasa industriya ng niyog; mapababa ang antas ng kahirapan, mapataas ang kalidad ng edukasyon at pagkakapantay-pantay sa lipunan; at rehabilitasyon at modernisasyon ng industriya ng niyog tungo sa pagtaas ng produktibidad ng lahat ng sakahan gamit ang pondo ng Coco Levy.

mains steadfast in its mission to empower women legislators, strengthen democratic institutions, and advance inclusive and people-centered development across CALABARZON.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
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RURAL BANK OF LIPA CITY, INC., Mortgagee.

FORECLOSURE NO. 2026-04
FOR: EXTRA-JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE

-versus-

SPS. ANDY D. CULLAR AND JOY M. CULLAR, Mortgageors.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, RURAL BANK OF LIPA CITY, INC. OF 113 JP Rizal St., Lipa City, Batangas, and against the mortgageors, SPS. ANDY D. CULLAR AND JOY M. CULLAR at Phase 2 Blk. 4, Lot 39 E. Aguinaldo St., Mambog 4, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of December 29, 2025, amounts to ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED EIGHT PESOS & 15/100 (P1,675,208.15), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fees incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on March 3, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, 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. 057-2012024952

"A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 39 BLOCK 4, OF THE CONSOLIDATION SUBDIVISION PLAN, PCS-04 020743, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONSOLIDATION OF LOT 6213-C, PSD-04-116551 AND LOT 6212, IMUS ESTATE), SITUATED IN THE BARANGAY OF MAMBOG, MUNICIPALITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. XXX, CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN (117) SQUARE METERS."

"All sealed bid 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, it shall be held on March 10, 2026, without further notice"

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

City of Bacoor, January 20, 2026.

MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA
Clerk of Court VI

BY: (SGD)MARK ANTHONY S. DELA CRUZ
Sheriff IV

COPY FURNISHED:

RURAL BANK OF LIPA CITY, INC.
113 JP RIZAL ST., LIPA CITY, BATANGAS

SPS. ANDY D. CULLAR AND JOY M. CULLAR

PHASE 2 BLK 4, LOT 39 E. AGUINALDO ST., MAMBOG 4, BACOR, CAVITE

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF SALE.

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
JAN. 26, FEB. 02 & 09, 2026

Cavite PESO Managers hold 1st quarter meeting, elect new officers

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) successfully hosted the 1st Quarter Meeting and Election of Officers of Cavite PESO Managers, Inc. on January 28, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The meeting gathered PESO managers from cities and municipalities of the province and discussed the plans, programs, and collaborative initiatives aimed at strengthening em-

ployment facilitation and workforce development in Cavite. It also served as a venue to align priorities and reinforce coordination among PESO offices.

A key highlight of the activity was the election of new officers who will lead the Cavite PESO Managers, Inc. for the current term. Dr. Abraham D. De Castro, Bacoor City PESO Manager was elected as President, while Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, Provincial Public Employment Service Manager was chosen as Vice

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

SECURITY BANK CORPORATION, Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-678-25

-versus-

BOY LA TORRE TOMINES Mortgageors-Debtor.

X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, SECURITY BANK CORPORATION with business address at Security Bank Center Building, 6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgageor, BOY LA TORRE TOMINES, represented herein by JEANNETTE TOMINES CASIMIRO, as Attorney-in-Fact, with residence and postal addresses at (1) 092 Talisay Street, Diosomito Subdivision, Naic, Cavite and (2) Lot 12, Block 4 Metro South Avenue, Metro South Subdivision, Phase 5, Brgy. Bicolan, General Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of October 3, 2025 amounts to THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SEVEN PESOS and 53/100 (P3,272,027.53), Philippine Currency, inclusive of interests and penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on March 4, 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 057-2016076206

A parcel of land (Lot 12, Blk. 4 of the subd. plan, PSD-04-108966 BEING PORTION OF Lot 2844 of San Francisco de Malabon Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No. 5964), situated in Brgy. of Buenavista Mun. of Gen. Trias, Province of



President. The PESO Manager of Silang, Mr. John Christian Paolo M. Belen was elected as Secretary, Ms. Lynette M. Bayot, PESO Amadeo as Treasurer, Mr. Jon P. Gozo, PESO City of General Trias as Auditor, and Mr. Edwin E. Tolentino, PESO City of Carmona as Public Relations Officer (PRO).

The newly elected officers expressed their commitment to further enhance cooperation among PESO offices and to actively support employment programs and services for Caviteños. The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to continue working together in advancing inclusive and responsive employment initiatives across the province. — OPIO

Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the SW., along line 1-2 by Lot 10, Blk. 4; on the NW., along lines 2-3-4-5 by Road Lot 2; on the NE., along line 5-6 by Lot 14, Blk. 4 (Open Space); on the SE., along line 6-7 by Lot 13, Blk. 4; on the along line 7-8 by Lot 11, Blk. 4; on the along line 8-1 by Lot 9, Blk. 4, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan x x x containing an area of FIVE HUNDRED EIGHT (508) SQ. METERS, x x x

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 time and date, it shall be held on March 18, 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, February 04, 2026

(SGD)JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

LARIBA PEREZ MANGROBANG
MIRALLES DUMBRIQUE
FULGENCIO REGONDOLA
RODRIGUEZ AYENTO & SALAMAT
Counsel for the Mortgagee
6th Floor, Security Bank Center Building
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

BOY LA TORRE TOMINES and JEANNETTE TOMINES CASIMIRO
(1) 092 Talisay Street Diosomito Subdivision, Naic, Cavite
(2) Lot 12, Block 4 Metro South Avenue, Metro South Subdivision Phase 5, Brgy. Bicolan, General Trias, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
February 09, 16 & 23, 2026

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

Table with 3 columns: Lot/Block, North/South, East/West coordinates, and Area in square meters.

SECURITY BANK CORPORATION,
Petitioner/Mortgagee,
File No. FC-DC-2017-26
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE
OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE
UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED
BY ACT 4118

AREA: ONE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE (135) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS

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

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on March 26, 2026, at the same time and place without further notice.

03 February 2026, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

(SGD) RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.
Sheriff IV

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

DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS:
February 09, 16 & 23, 2026

PGC medical and dental mission continue in Buho, Amadeo

In line with the Provincial Government of Cavite's continued commitment to improving the health of Caviteños, another leg of the Medical and Dental Mission was successfully conducted in Barangay Buho, Amadeo on January 29, benefiting a total of 445 patients.

The initiative delivered the much-needed healthcare services, providing medical consultations, dental services and

other diagnostic tests to the patients. Likewise, free medicines and vitamins were handed out.

Seventh District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, together with Amadeo Mayor Jojo Domingo and members of the Sangguniang Bayan, showed their strong support for the activity, reinforcing the local government's commitment to uplifting the health and welfare of their constituents. — J. Reyes

DOST-CALABARZON introduces Project LODIXR to student-developers in CALABARZON

DOST-CALABARZON successfully conducted the orientation of the Project League of Developers' Initiatives by the Regions (Project LODIXR) on February 2, 2026, at the RFSQAC Multipurpose Hall, DOST-CALABARZON, Los Baños, Laguna.

The activity was attended by student-developers from two state universities and colleges (SUCs) in CALABARZON, namely Laguna State Polytechnic University-Los Baños (LSPU-LB) and Southern Luzon State University-Lucena Campus. Moreover, LSPU-LB will be the first batch of student-developers under

Project LODIXR aims to improve the development of information systems that support the operational needs of DOST at the regional and provincial levels. Guided by DOST Central Office software development standards, the project delivers efficient and sustainable digital solutions for the government. It also gives IT students hands-on, real-world experience through on-the-job training at DOST Regional Offices, helping them build skills, understand government systems, and contribute to

STAARDEC at the Golden Anniversary of the Consortia System



STAARDEC proudly participated in the 2025 PCAARRD and Regional Consortia Joint Celebration of the Golden Anniversary of the Consortia System, held at the SMX Convention Center, Manila on January 30, 2026.

The STAARDEC delegation was led by its RRDC Chairperson and CvSU President, Dr. Ma. Agnes P. Nuestro, together with Dr. Almira G. Magcawas, Consortium Director, and Dr. Lloyd O. Balinado, Deputy Consortium Director.

The celebration highlighted key milestones and strategic directions of the Regional Consortia, the launching of Metro-MAARRDEC as a new consortium, recognition of former consortia officials, introduction of new officials, acknowledgment of PCAARRD focal per-

sons and alternate representatives, signing of the commitment board, and the conferment of special awards to regional consortia.

A proud moment for STAARRDEC was the receipt of a Plaque of Recognition for its Ruby Milestone, marking nearly four decades of service, having celebrated its 37th year in 2025.

Adding to the celebration, Dr. Almira G. Magcawas and Ms. Jocelyn Austria were honored with Loyalty Awards for their 14 and 17 years of dedicated service to STAARRDEC, respectively. This milestone celebration reaffirms STAARRDEC's enduring commitment to advancing agriculture, aquatic, and natural resources research and development through strong collaboration and service excellence.

Dr. Cezar R. Pedraza, Director IV of the Planning and Evaluation Service, delivered a comprehensive orientation on Project LODIXR discussing the project's background and rationale and outlining its objectives, implementation guidelines, and expected outputs. Dr. Pedraza highlighted the role of standardized software development practices in ensuring the delivery of efficient, secure, and sustainable information systems that address the operational needs of DOST at the regional and provin-

Meanwhile, Dir. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, emphasized the role of the regional office in facilitating the success of this project. She further stated, "Through the guidance of DOST-CALABARZON, qualified students are endorsed to the Planning Evaluation Services (PES), where they receive initial supervision and hands-on guidance."

Interested in real-world IT experience and government innovation? Follow DOST CALABARZON for more updates.



Gatchalian Seeks Senate Inquiry on How Iran Turmoil Could Spike Oil Costs

Senator Win Gatchalian seeks to assess the potential impact of escalating political unrest in Iran on global oil prices and supply, aiming to safeguard the Philippines' energy security.

Under Proposed Senate Resolution 278, Gatchalian noted that although the Philippines does not import Iranian crude due to sanctions, instability in Iran can still drive up global oil prices because the petroleum market operates as an interconnected global system where disruptions in one major producer elevate benchmark prices worldwide.

Increases in domestic prices over the past few weeks have been caused partly by geopolitical tensions in Iran. Another round of oil price hikes is expected on Tuesday.

Sustained increases in oil prices significantly raise the cost of electricity generation, particularly in off-grid and missionary areas dependent on diesel-fed power plants deployed by the National Power Corporation-Small Power Utilities Group (NPC-SPUG), potentially resulting in higher generation costs and pressure for subsidies.

Gatchalian pointed out that the Philippines remains a net importer of petroleum and is highly exposed to fluctuations in global crude oil prices, particularly those originating in the Middle East, which supplies 96.8% of the country's crude oil imports as of 2024, according to data from the Department of Energy.

EU and EU-PH GEP Representatives paid a courtesy call to the Bacoor LGU



Mayor Strike Revilla welcomed representatives from the European Union (EU), the EU-Philippine Green Economy Programme (EU-PH GEP), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) during a courtesy call held on February 4, 2026, at the Strike Conference Room.

The meeting, organized by the City Government of Bacoor, was attended by Ms. Memviluz Baurile (DILG Bacoor), Arch. Julius Padua, Ms. Patricia Mae Dela Cruz (EU-PH GEP), UNDP representatives, and other key city officials.

The discussion focused on the EU-PH Green Economy Partner-

ship, a joint initiative of the European Union and the Philippine Government that aims to promote a sustainable, climate-smart, and resource-efficient economy. A major component of this program is the development of Green Local Government Units (LGUs), implemented by UNDP in partnership with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

This engagement highlights Bacoor's strong commitment to environmental protection, sustainable development, and global cooperation, as the city continues to explore innovative solutions for a greener future. By MIS-STAFF

LGU-Angono eyes data-driven growth through iSTART

The Municipality of Angono hosted the Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) workshops of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - CALABARZON, held from January 13-15, 2026, at the Mayor's Conference Hall, Angono Municipal Hall.

The activity brought together Angono LGU's department heads, barangay representatives, and key local stakeholders. The iSTART workshop aims to capacitate the LGU-Angono by equipping local decision-makers and planners with practical tools in futures thinking, problem identification, and



science, technology, and innovation (STI)-driven development strategies.

A central highlight of the workshop was the formal signing of the Memorandum of Agreement between the LGU-Angono and DOST-CALABARZON on the second day, led by DOST-CALABARZON Regional Director Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit and Mayor Hon. Gerardo

V. Calderon. The MOA serves as the institutional foundation for sustained collaboration, ensuring that iSTART initiatives translate into concrete policies, programs, and development actions at the local level.

Arch. Jaime R. Salazar EnP., Municipal Planning and Development Officer, emphasized the value of the initiative,

and Mayor Hon. Gerardo V. Calderon. The MOA serves as the institutional foundation for sustained collaboration, ensuring that iSTART initiatives translate into concrete policies, programs, and development actions at the local level.

Arch. Jaime R. Salazar EnP., Municipal Planning and Development Officer, emphasized the value of the initiative,

"Data-driven initiatives could play a pivotal role to achieve smart & sustainable cities to establish Angono as a smart community," he continued, "We value the strategic collaboration of DOST-CALABARZON & LGU Angono as a crucial move to attain timely & sensible programs that can be aligned through STI." By Vence Ralf D. Llorente

Palawan ProtekTODO Launches New Insurance Plans for Everyday Heroes



Palawan ProtekTODO, the microinsurance arm of the trusted Palawan Group of Companies, is advancing financial protection with the launch of new insurance products designed for everyday heroes—household helpers, drivers, guards, teachers, and farmers. These new offerings aim to safeguard the lives and livelihoods of hardworking Filipinos, making protection more accessible and affordable than ever. The new Palawan ProtekTODO insurance plans are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of said essential workers. Thoughtfully curated, these plans provide comprehensive coverage, including accidental medical reimbursement, annual health check-ups, accidental death and disablement, and more—all offered at affordable rates designed specifically for the budgets of everyday Filipinos. By providing accessible and practical protection, Pala-

wan ProtekTODO ensures that household helpers, drivers, security guards, teachers, and farmers can have peace of mind knowing their well-being and livelihoods are safeguarded. "Many still think that insurance is only for the wealthy," said Lisa Lou Castro-Sabado, Chief Business Development Officer of Palawan Group. "Availing insurance used to be costly, complicated, and burdened with tedious requirements. With ProtekTODO, we are changing that by making insurance affordable, accessible, and hassle-free. Our plans give everyday workers the protection they deserve. Household helpers, drivers, security guards, teachers, and farmers dedicate their lives to supporting others and now, they can finally have insurance that truly supports them." Filipino workers play a crucial role in sustaining the country. Household helpers and drivers dedicate their time and effort to supporting

families beyond their own. Security guards maintain vigilance through extended hours to safeguard communities and uphold peace of mind. Teachers labor tirelessly to mold the nation's future. Farmers persevere through unpredictable weather and challenging conditions to sustain the country's food supply. Despite their vital contributions, these everyday heroes remain largely underserved by traditional insurance providers, a gap Palawan Group of Companies seeks to address through ProtekTODO Kasambuhay, Guards, Teachers and Farmers Insurance. Through these new offerings, Palawan ProtekTODO is redefining how Filipinos approach insurance. By making coverage accessible and relevant, it proves that no one has to rely on slowly setting aside piecemeal savings just to prepare for emergencies. Hardworking everyday heroes can now enjoy year-round protection tailored to their real needs. Palawan ProtekTODO's new offerings embody its vision of providing insurance na tingi-tingi ang presyo, pero todo ang beneplisyo para sa mga Pilipino—giving them the peace of mind that comes from knowing someone has their back. Palawan ProtekTODO is available at PalawanPay, Lazada, or any Palawan Pawnshop – Palawan Express Pera Padala branch near you. ABOUT PALAWAN GROUP OF COMPANIES:

The Palawan Group of Companies has been a trusted partner of Filipinos for four decades. Its products and services include Palawan Pawnshop, Palawan Pawnshop Jewelry, Palawan Express Pera Padala (Domestic and International), Palawan ProtekTODO, Palawan Gold, Palawan for Business, Palawan Credit, and its e-wallet arm, PalawanPay, which is now trusted by 22 million Filipinos. Today, the Palawan Group is one of the country's fastest-growing financial institutions and the market leader in pawning and remittance, with over 70,000 branches, Pera Padala outlets, and PalawanPay Money Shops nationwide. It is trusted by millions of Sukis for services that are mura, mabilis, at walang kuskos balungos (affordable, reliable, and hassle-free). Staying true to its bricktech approach, the company introduced PalawanPay to give Sukis the flexibility to transact anytime, anywhere — pwede sa branch, pwede sa app. Beyond remittances, PalawanPay also provides convenient access to bill payments, mobile load top-ups, pawn renewals, QR Ph scan-to-pay transactions, and gold and jewelry purchases. The Palawan Group of Companies operates under the supervision of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). For more information, go to Palawan Pawnshop and PalawanPay Websites.