

Enchanted Kingdom's COO takes oath as president of Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc

Now in its 30th year, Enchanted Kingdom — the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines — continues to be one of the lead advocates for local industry development, following the recent induction of its Chief Operating Officer, Mrs. Cynthia R. Mamon, Ph.D., as the president of the PCCI-Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (LCCI).

The induction ceremony of newly elected LCCI officers was held on February 16 at Enchanted Kingdom in Santa Rosa, Laguna led by Area Vice President Hoover Picar and Regional Governor Mary Ann Katigbak.

In acceptance of this role, Mrs. Mamon said, "We are committed to focus on Livelihood and labor concerns, Corporate sustainability, Community empowerment, and Innovation with integrity. These four principles support Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) South Luzon's guiding principles as presented by AVP Hoover Picar, namely Volunteerism, Excellence, Service, and Integrity (VESI). Through these, we look forward to transforming the lives of the people working for our companies and the communities we serve."

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, LCCI is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization, comprised of Laguna-based small, medium, and large enterprises, dedicated to foster a stronger, sustainable local economy, and promote growth, resilience and competitiveness of the business community in the province.



Induction of Officers of the Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Induction of Officers of Laguna Tourism Council

Present during the induction ceremony were Department of Labor and Employment – National Conciliation and Mediation Board IV-A Director Cynthia Foncardas, Laguna Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (LEPIDO) Laguna Head Fatima Villaseñor, PCCI Los Baños President Grace Bondad Nicolas, PCCI Quezon City President Anne Marie Francisco, and PCCI Lipa City President Marites

Jumarang. They were joined by past presidents of LCCI namely Atty. Rose Lynn Zara-Coloma, Marvin Adolfo, Virgilio Lorenzo, Richard Albert Osmond, and EK's President and Chairman Mr. Cesar Mario O. Mamon.

An economic briefing by Prof. Ronilo Balbieran, economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific followed after the induction ceremony.

Even prior to this, EK has been a longstanding active member of LCCI, as Mr. Mamon also served as its president from 2006 to 2007.

Championing Touris

Mrs. Mamon was also

reelected as the president of the Laguna Tourism Council (LTC), officially assuming the new term together with the other newly elected LTC officers during the oath taking ceremony administered by Governor Sol Aragones last January 22 in Santa Cruz, Laguna.

LTC is a provincial multi-sectoral body composed of representatives from various government and private organizations, serving as one of the main drivers in developing Laguna into a premier tourism destination in the Philippines. Under Dr. Mamon's leadership ever since she stepped into the role in 2023, LTC has been working closely with the provincial government of Laguna, along with other local offices and non-government organizations across the country in promoting tourism, culture, heritage, and the arts to both domestic and foreign audiences.

Aside from this, they also support Laguna-based micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing platforms to showcase

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PhilHealth Launches GAMOT in Region 4A



75 na GAMOT hatid ng YAKAP ng PhilHealth sa Quezon Province
February 27, 2025 | Lucena City

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano emphasized the need for calm, coordinated, and carefully calibrated government action to protect Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) amid escalating tensions in the Middle East.

He also stressed that policy decisions made in Manila must always take into account the real-life situations faced by Filipino workers and their employers abroad.

Cayetano supported Proposed Senate Resolution No. 325, which was



CAYETANO PUSHES BALANCED APPROACH IN SENATE RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OFWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST
story on page 2

Joint Health Project MEDIA-LGU-NGO Tagumpay na idinaos sa Jaen, NE.

Matagumpay na idinaos ng magka sanib-puwersa ng MEDIA-LGU-NGO at ng mga sundalo ang iba't-ibang mga libreng serbisyong medical, dental, ECG, eye check-up, wellnes massage, haircut at hair coloring para sa lahat ng mga residente ng Jaen, Nueva Ecija kasama na ang manicure at pedecure.

Ang lahat ng ito'y libreng ipinagkaloob ng mga grupong tulong-tulong na nagsumikap na ipunin lahat ang mga tao na may kasama pang libreng mga gamot at kits.

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Masayang nagpakuha ng litrato ang mga member ng PAPER.INC CAVITE Chapter sa pangunguna ng punong pangulo national Mr. Bonifacio Dacayanan (left foremost) kasama ang punong bayan ng Jaen, Nueva Ecija na si town Mayor Atty. Sylvester C. Austria (center orange dress) at mga kasama sa loob ng United Methodist Church katuwang ang Blessed Hope Christian School administration.

sage, haircut at hair coloring para sa lahat ng mga residente ng Jaen, Nueva Ecija kasama na ang manicure at pedecure.

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kits.

Sinabi ng mga organizers na sina Ma'am Neth L. Carlos, Ms Ate Melicia DC. Ciriaco at Ginoong Bonifacio C. Dacayanan na yung unang iskedyul nila ay hindi nangyari noong nakaraang buwan sana ng Enero 2026, subalit, hetongayon ay natupad na at naipagkaloob la-

hat ng mga grupong ito ang ipinangakong mga libreng mga gamot at iba't-ibang serbisyo pa para sa buong mamamayan ng munisipalidad ng bayang ng Jaen, Nueva Ecija.

Sinabi ng grupo na mayroong halos humigit kumulang sa dalawang libo katao ang naserbisyuhan at naging benepisyaryo ng kanilang ginanap na outreach project dito.

Laking katuwaan naman ang naging pagtugon ng Jaen town Mayor Atty. Sylvester C. Austria sa ipinagkaloob sa kanilang kababayan ng mga libreng serbisyong.

Nagkaloob ng dalawang (2) silyang de gulong, dalawang kits ng blood sugar testing at dalawang blood pressure kits ang grupo ng PAPER INC sa pangunguna ng kanil-

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Feel that main character energy this 3-Day Sale at SM City Dasmariñas!
On March 13, 14, and 15, go full-on gala mode and snag awesome finds up to 70% OFF—only at your favorite mall!

CARD Bank

Baking para sa lahat
A freshly baked start Juliet Bascoguin, a baker and entrepreneur from Iloilo, stands proudly beside their bakery, a symbol of livelihood built from passion and patience.

Iloilo is widely known as the home of the famous Filipino Biscocho, a well-loved delicacy, popular for its crispy texture



and buttery flavor. Over the years, it has become a symbol of the Ilonggos' dedication to quality and taste.

Juliet Bascoguin, a 65-year-old native of Iloilo, spent more than a decade working for a company before choosing to step away from employment to focus on raising her three children. While staying at home, she put

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DTI R4A AND DTI QUEZON JOIN TULAY SA PROGRESO TO STRENGTHEN NGA LGU PARTNERSHIPS

BIR launches National Tax Campaign in South Luzon, awards 2025 Most Valuable Taxpayers

EDITORIAL:

Improving welfare of Filipino elderly

A NEW 10 percent increase in the monthly retirement and disability pensions of Filipino pensioners under the Social Security System in the third quarter this year gives retirees Juan and Juana good reasons to flash a smile prior to Yuletide.

The first of three incremental increases was rolled out in September last year and the last in September next year, signifying a major, multi-year income boost for some 3.9 million Filipino retirees, and help them grapple with rising costs of living.

This, along with a 5 percent hike for survivors, provides, about 33 percent cumulative increase for retirement/disability pensioners by 2027 and 16 percent for death or survivor pensioners without raising member contributions until 2027, the SSS said in a statement.

The increases fall under the SSS three-year pension reform program, where SSS pensioners would receive a pension hike every September, starting 2025 until 2027.

The fresh 10 percent increase—with no corresponding hike in member contributions—is seen as a significant income boost for those now enjoying their retirement years, given the structured, annual 3-tranche increase particularly designed to combat inflation and rising living costs, affecting retirement, disability and survivor pensioners.

The Social Security System is a mandatory, state-run social insurance program designed to provide financial security to private sector workers, the self-employed, and the informal sector against income loss due to sickness, maternity, disability, old age, or death.

The structured increases, along with the automated 13th month pension, are designed to significantly improve the welfare of Filipino seniors.

During the "Meet with the Press" event last week, Finance Secretary Frederick Go, who also chairs the Social Security Commission, the governing board and policy-making body of the SSS, said with its improved financial standing, SSS is also planning to roll out a microloan program, possibly in the second quarter of the year.

Loan amounts will range from P1,000 to P20,000 at an annual interest rate of 8 percent, or about 0.67 percent per month.

Go said the initiative aims to counter high-interest lending schemes that typically charge 12 to 15 percent monthly.

"The micro loan is really our answer to the predatory lending that a lot of our fellow Filipinos suffer from. We really created this to address what they call the payday loan," he said.

SSS is coordinating with partner banks so members can access the loan through bank branches nationwide or via a mobile app, without going to SSS offices.

Enchanted...

From Page 8

their world-class products and crafts through LTC's various events and collaborations happening inside and outside the province.

For more information and updates regarding these and EK's initiatives towards indus-

try growth, sustainability, and tourism, visit https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram.

CAYETANO ...

later adopted as Senate Resolution No. 41, urging the Philippine government to implement measures to ensure the protection — and in necessary situations, the repatriation — of OFWs in areas affected by the growing regional conflict, while also preparing interventions to mitigate potential economic impacts on the Philippines.

Cayetano, however, clarified that he did not sign the earlier version of the resolution because of concerns that an immediate blanket call for repatriation could unintentionally create anxiety among employers and workers and disrupt ongoing diplomatic and labor arrangements.

To address this concern Cayetano introduced an amendment clarifying that repatriation should be undertaken only "in necessary situations."

The change ensures that the government remains ready to bring Filipinos home when required, while recognizing that decisions must be based on actual conditions on the ground.

Cayetano also pushed to align the language of the resolution with the updated alert level system implemented by the Department of Foreign Affairs, ensuring that the Senate's position reflects

Volunteer groups scrub vandalized Cavite City historical markers clean

CAVITE CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Known for their pride in Cavite's role in history, Caviteños are wrapping up the National Arts Month with a series of restoration efforts of historical markers within the City of Cavite.

Last February 27, volunteers from the Cavite Historical Society, Cavite State University, Kabataang Kabitenyo and Temple Street Primera Familia led the city-wide cleaning and restoration of historical markers within Samonte Park.

Led by the City Tourism Office and volunteers from the Manileños for Heritage Group, a non-government organization dedicated to restoring historical markers and monuments in Manila

the same protocols used by Philippine embassies and consulates in assessing security risks and responding to crises in the region.

Drawing from his experience as Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2018, Cayetano emphasized that crisis responses involving Filipinos overseas must be guided by the assessments of diplomats and government personnel on the ground, who are in direct contact with OFWs, their employers, and host governments.

The resolution was adopted by the Senate following escalating tensions in the Middle East after military strikes and retaliatory actions involving Iran and several countries in the Gulf region, where an estimated 2.5 million Filipino workers are based.

Cayetano noted that OFWs across Israel, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates play vital roles both in their host economies and in supporting their families in the Philippines through remittances.

He also underscored the importance of ensuring that government resources intended for

the protection of Filipinos abroad are fully mobilized during crises, including the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the AKSYON Fund of the Department of Migrant Workers, which are specifically allocated to assist distressed OFWs and Filipinos overseas.

C a y e t a n o stressed the importance of a whole-of-government response to the situation, with the Department of Foreign Affairs providing leadership in coordination with the Department of Migrant Workers and other relevant agencies in monitoring developments, assisting Filipinos abroad,

Joint ...

From Page 8

ang Pangulo at dinagdagan pa ng 120 packs para sa mga Lolo at Lola sa lokalidad dito.

Serbisyong Dental naman ang naging parte ng grupong NGO, Bay Area Global Outreach Lion's at bitbit nilang mga duktor sa pangunguna ni Ma'am Uni Buckley mula pa sa California, USA.

Naging katuwang din ang Nueva Ecija Provincial Government, DrP-JGRMC, sundalo ng Aviation Regiment, Nueva Ecija Optalmologist, sundalo ng

and preparing contingency plans when necessary.

He emphasized that protecting OFWs requires both compassion and institutional discipline, ensuring that government responses are grounded in expert assessments while remaining sensitive to the livelihoods, dignity, and stability of Filipino workers overseas.

He added that the Senate resolution also calls on government agencies to prepare measures that will cushion the Philippine economy from potential disruptions resulting from instability in the Middle East, particularly in relation to labor deployment and remittances PR

Artillery Regiment, Municipal Government of Jaen, PhilHealth at iba pa.

Ginanap ang naturang aktibidad sa mismong Blessed Hope Christian School dito sa bayang ito katuwang nito ang ilang mga guro ng paaralan.

Naging parte din ng Outreach Project sina dating Barangay Langla Kapitan Fernando Carlos at kasalukuyang Barangay Don Mariano Marcos Poblacion Kapitan Wheenard D. Dela Cruz.

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S&T partnership for sustainable agriculture: DOST-CALABARZON and DA RFO IV-A ink TLA for concrete biogas digester



LIPA CITY, Batangas — Advancing the region's livestock industry through green technology, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON formally inked a Technology Licensing Agreement (TLA) with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA RFO) IV-A for its Livestock Banner Program today, February 20.

The ceremony, held at the R&D Conference Room in Lipa City, began with a warm welcome from Dr. Wilmer S. Faylon, OIC-Chief of the Research Division and Regional Livestock Program Coordinator.

Dr. Faylon highlighted that while Batangas boasts an abundance of backyard swine raisers, waste management remains a primary challenge for the sector.

On behalf of

OIC-Regional Executive Director Engr. Redelliza A. Gruezo, OIC-RTD for Operations and Extension Engr. Romeo F. Reyes reaffirmed the institution's commitment to ongoing programs under the National Livestock Program.

In her message, Dir. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST CALABARZON, emphasized that this agreement signifies the start of a long-term partnership. She noted that further improvements to biogas technology are expected to optimize methane production, stressing that continuous exchanges of ideas between institutions and farmers are essential to enhancing the technology's capacity to support local livelihoods.

Mr. Fernando E. Ablaza, the technology developer and former Provincial Director of DOST Rizal, shared the history

and evolution of the concrete biogas system.

He underscored that technology adopters require consistent maintenance support to ensure the long-term sustainability of these systems.

Setting the stage for the signing, Ms. Marjorie L. Sepina, OIC-Chief of the Quezon Agricultural Research and Experiment Station (QARES), discussed the project's rationale.

Her presentation highlighted that establishing the concrete biogas digester at DA-QARES aims to produce renewable energy while creating a more sustainable livestock program for the community.

The event concluded with a commemorative photo session between officials from DOST CALABARZON and DA RFO IV-A, marking the official launch of this collaborative project.

CALABARZON RDC BACKS CALLS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE REVIEW

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — CALABARZON region economic managers are pushing for a review of the 30-year-old Local Government Code, citing the changing priorities in governance and fiscal management.

Enacted as Republic Act 7160, the Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 serves as a cornerstone for local governance, driving local economic development and fiscal autonomy.

Lina Tanjuatco of the CALABARZON

Regional Development Council (RDC)'s Sectoral Committee on Macroeconomy and Development Administration (SCMDA) emphasized the need to amend the Local Government Code to ensure that it remains responsive to modern governance challenges and public demand for efficiency and accountability.

"This law was passed three decades ago, and it's still being implemented as the cornerstone for local autonomy and decentralization.

CALABARZON BEACHES READY FOR SUMMER SURGE UNDER TIGHT DOT MONITORING

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna (PIA) – With thousands of tourists expected to flock to coastal destinations this summer, the Department of Tourism (DOT) CALABARZON has stepped up preparations to ensure that beaches across the region are safe, organized, and fully equipped for the seasonal surge.

According to DOT CALABARZON Supervising Tourism Operations Officer Keneth De Gracia, the activities aim to reinforce basic safety precautions and remind tourism stakeholders of the necessary preparations for the summer rush.

Establishments are being guided on emergency response readiness, proper guest assistance, compliance with health and safety standards, and overall operational preparedness.

"Because sum-

mer is upcoming, we are preparing our sand and beach destinations just like in Quezon, Batangas and in Laguna, our resorts by capacitating them for the summer vacation and season through a series of capacity buildings, trainings and orientation just to remind them on basic safety precautions and what they should prepare for the influx of tourists," De Gracia stated in an interview.

Popular summer destinations particularly in the province of Quezon, Batangas, and Laguna are currently undergoing these initiatives spearheaded by the regional tourism office.

To further strengthen oversight, DOT CALABARZON is set to activate its Incident Command System (ICS) throughout the summer period that will allow authorities to closely monitor developments in tourist

destinations and ensure immediate coordination with local government units and concerned agencies in case of emergencies or untoward incidents.

This underscores the agency's commitment to maintaining order, safety, and quality service in the region's top tourist spots even at the height of the vacation season.

"We will also activate our (DOT CALABARZON) incident command system so that even on vacation we can monitor what is happening in tourist destinations," De Gracia emphasized.

As travelers begin to plan their summer getaways, the regional office encourages tourists to practice responsible tourism and comply with local guidelines to help sustain CALABARZON's natural attractions while ensuring a safe and memorable holiday experience for all.

DOE PUSHES NATIONWIDE FUEL CONSERVATION IN PUBLIC SECTOR

Aligned with the President's message this morning, the Department of Energy (DOE) enjoins the public sector in conserving fuel consumption in light of the uncertainty in petroleum supply caused by the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

In an Advisory released by the DOE Secretary and Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee (IAEECC) Chairperson, the DOE listed several

fuel efficiency and conservation practices that all government entities shall strictly implement.

These practices include the regular and preventive maintenance of vehicles, adopting a standardized vehicle monitoring system, phasing transition to electric or hybrid vehicles, and more. The advisory underscores that collective action within the public sector is necessary to achieve the Government Energy Manage-

ment Program's goal of reducing fuel consumption by at least 10%.

This is in addition to an earlier directive to DOE bureaus, offices, services and the Energy Family. Secretary Garin emphasized that "the energy family should lead the public by example in practicing energy efficiency whether in fuel or in electricity as directed by the President. We appeal to the public to make energy efficiency a habit."

signments between the national government and the LGUs, enhance revenue-raising capability of LGUs, strengthen citizen participation, and provide a strategic evaluation system for LGUs."

To recall, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has extended the transition period for the full devolution of certain executive branch functions to local government units (LGUs) until his term ends in 2028.

For now, Tanjuatco suggested that the

CALABARZON RDC support consultations on possible amendments to the LGC to ensure that key governance issues and priorities in the region will be considered in the local government code review program.

Congress has begun amending certain provisions in the LGC, notably House Bill 11287, which seeks to extend the

term of elected officials in the Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan.

In 2024, then-Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin Abalos advocated for amendments in the Local Government Code and recommended national funding for the construction of educational facilities.



A freshly ...

From Page 1

her Technical-Vocational (TechVoc) training in baking to good use by starting a small bakery, turning her skills into a source of both purpose and livelihood.

From flour beginnings

In 1998, 9J's Bakery was established, a labor of love built by nine siblings who worked side by side. With Juliet's expertise in baking, she took the lead in overseeing the bakery's daily operation. Every profit earned was carefully reinvested in quality equipment, ensuring that each loaf and pastry met the bakery's standard for taste and quality.

Among the many bread they produced was biscocho, one of Iloilo's famous delicacies. At first, monay was among their best-selling breads. However, as Iloilo became more recognized for its biscocho, demand for their own version grew as well, particularly among tourists seeking the city's signature treat.

As their business thrived, challenges were inevitable, including the rising cost of raw ingredients. At times, this led to misunderstandings with customers, but over time, they came to understand and adapt to the necessary

price changes.

"Go lang ng go, ganon naman talaga ang business may ups and down, wag bibitiw at tuloy lang palagi ang laban (Just keep going, that's really how business is, there are ups and downs but don't give up and always keep fighting)," she stated.

In 2014, Juliet became a client of CARD Bank, Inc., a microfinance-oriented rural bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), initially to secure a loan for her child's education.

Over time, the bank became more than just a source of school funds, it also provided the additional capital needed to sustain their bakery business.

Through dedication, hard work, and the success of the business, Juliet was able to ensure that all three of her children completed their education. Two are now working in Qatar, while the other became a certified public accountant.

Juliet's story is a reminder that success often comes with struggles. There were highs and lows but she chose to keep going. And by refusing to give up, she proves that perseverance remains the heart of a successful business.

21K working-class individuals to benefit from Cavite 4PH projects

MANILA — At least 21,000 working-class individuals are expected to benefit from two housing projects under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said Thursday.

In a news release, DHSUD reported that Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling and Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta joined Edgar Saavedra, chief executive officer of Megawide Construction Corporation, during the groundbreaking rites for

the projects being developed by PH1 World Developers.

The two developments, located in Barangays Salitran and Paliparan, will consist of 26 multi-storey condominium towers that can generate more than 7,000 housing units under the Expanded 4PH Program.

Earlier, Saavedra committed to deliver 100,000 socialized housing units under the Marcos administration, signaling the private sector's strengthened participation in the government's flagship housing initiative.

Aliling described Megawide's involvement

Php9 milyong pasilidad at interbensyon, ipinagkaloob ng DA-4A HVCDP sa mga samahan sa Dolores at Sariaya

Halos siyam na milyong piso ang kabuuang halaga ng mga pasilidad at interbensyong ipinamahagi sa mga samahan ng maggugulay sa mga bayan ng Dolores at Sariaya noong ika-20 ng Pebrero.

Kabilang sa mga ipinagkaloob ang dalawang Packaging House Facility with Cold Storage at dalawang Solar-Powered Irrigation System (SPIS). Layunin ng mga proyektong ito na mapanatili ang kalidad at mapahaba ang shelf-life ng mga ani, gayundin ang magbigay ng mura, episyente, at makalikasang sistema ng irigasyon na makatutulong upang mapataas ang produksyon ng mga



magsasaka.

Ayon kay HVC-DP Focal Person Gng. Janice Fajardo, hangarin ng programa na makita ang aktibong paggamit ng mga tulong ng gobyerno at hikayat in ang mga samahan na aktibong palakasin ang kanilang kakayah-

an para mapangalagaan at mapaunlad ang mga nasabing interbensyon para sa pangmatagalang benepisyo mula rito.

Para naman sa mga samahang tulad ng SIPAG Bucal, malaking tulong ang mga interbensyon. Ayon kay Carlyn

Mendoza, isa sa mga miyembro ng samahan, makatutulong ang SPIS upang mapadali ang pagdidiilig at pangangalaga sa kanilang mga tanim na kalamansi at iba pang gulay, na inaasahang magreresulta sa kanilang mas magsaganang produksyon at kita. PR

SM MALLS IN LAGUNA GOES ALL OUT FOR FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



SM malls in Laguna joined the Fifth Nationwide Fire Drill conducted by SM and Bureau of Fire Protection. The activity brought together mall employees, tenants, security personnel, and janitorial staff in a unified effort to max out preparedness and strengthen emergency response capabilities across all departments.

as a strong vote of confidence in the Expanded 4PH and the reforms being implemented by the DHSUD.

He noted that Megawide, a Quadruple A-rated construction firm, is among reputable private developers supporting the program aimed at addressing the country's housing backlog.

Once completed, the Cavite projects are expected to provide decent, safe and affordable

homes to thousands of working-class families.

The Pag-IBIG Fund is supporting both developments, which will feature amenities such as open parks, playgrounds, entrance and exit gates, parking areas and a clubhouse.

Also present during the ceremony were DHSUD Senior Undersecretary Eduardo Robles Jr. and other key officials from DHSUD and Pag-IBIG Fund. (PNA)



Repatriation efforts for OFWs continue amid Mideast conflict

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) is fast-tracking repatriation and other assistance for overseas Filipinos as tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate.

Lawyer April Casabuena, Regional Director for DMW IV-A, in a statement on March 3, confirmed that there have been no official reports yet on the number of Filipinos from CALABARZON di-

rectly affected by the airstrikes.

"At present, there is no official report yet on the number of Filipinos from CALABARZON who have been directly affected."

Citing Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, Casabuena noted that the Philippine government is continuously processing repatriation requests.

"Requests for repatriation have already cont. on page 3

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT TRECE MARTIRES CITY. BDO UNIBANK, INC., Mortgagee, FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-037-26. -versus- PATRICK B. BRIONES, Debtor/Mortgagor. NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE. Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, BDO UNIBANK, INC., with business address at BDO Corporate Center, 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the Debtor/Mortgagor, PATRICK B. BRIONES, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Lot 59, Block 11, Phase 2, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Governor's Drive, Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite, (abandoned property) and (2) Lot 2, Block 13, Phase 4, Citta Italia, Mambog III, Bacoor, Cavite (abandoned property), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of January 28, 2026 amounts to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY TWO PESOS and 86/100 (PhP1,482,492.86), Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on MARCH 25, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit: TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2022051416. Lot No. 59 Block: 11 Plan No. Psd-04-247444 Portion of: Lot 37, Block 70, Pcs-04-030746. Dateline Weekly Newspapers MARCH 02, 09 & 16, 2026.

BIR...

From Page 1

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) kicked off on Friday, February 27, the South Luzon leg of its 2026 Regional Tax Campaign at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna.

It gathered more than 3,200 attendees composed of BIR officials and personnel, stakeholders, and partners from various sectors.

Commissioner Charlie Mendoza said the campaign and the regional kick off is a part of the BIR's commitment to the South Luzon cluster.

"Here in the South Luzon Cluster, a dynamic and expanding the business sector, paired with sound and credi-

ble tax administration, strengthens the foundations of economic growth," he said.

The BIR also named actor Alden Richards as the 2025 Most Valuable Taxpayer during the program.

"This award is not just a personal achievement. It's reminder of our shared responsibility as a citizen of this country. I believe paying the right taxes is more than just a legal obligation – it is a commitment to nation building," said Richards.

Similar cluster kickoffs will continue in the Visayas and North Luzon this March as part of the nationwide rollout of the BIR's 2026 Tax Campaign



Location: Barangay of Tanauan, Municipality of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries: LINE DIRECTION ADJOINING LOT(S) 1-2 NE Lot 60, Block 11, Psd-04-247444 2-3 SE Block 83, Psd-04-247444 3-4 SW Lot 58, Block 11, Psd-04-247444 4-1 NW Road Lot 35, Psd-04-247444

Area: FORTY FOUR (44) SQUARE METERES, more or less

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on APRIL 8, 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 27, 2026

REYNALDO L. SALOMA Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

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

PATRICK B. BRIONES (1) Lot 59, Block 11, Phase 2, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Governor's Drive, Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite (2) Lot 2, Block 13, Phase 4, Citta Italia, Mambog III, Bacoor, 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 MARCH 02, 09 & 16, 2026

DTI...

From Page 1

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region IV-A, together with DTI Quezon, participated in the "Tulay sa Progreso: Bridging NGA-LGU Partnership Towards a Healthy and Prosperous Province of Quezon," an initiative of the Provincial Government of Quezon held on January 30, 2026, at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

DTI was represented by Regional Director Marissa C. Argente, DTI Quezon Provincial Director Julieta L. Tadiosa, and Business Development Division Chief Anna Marie V. Quincina. During the activity, RD Argente conveyed the agency's full support for the Province of Quezon. An audio-visual presentation highlighted DTI programs and projects allocated for 2026, potential collaboration opportunities for 2027,

and various services and interventions that may be availed by the province.

The second part of the session featured a one-on-one discussion highlighting DTI's key initiatives and priority programs, including Digital Marketing, Small Business Corporation (SB Corp) financing, One Town, One Product (OTOP), Creative Industries development, ROLL IT, and enterprise development programs for women.

DTI's participation underscored the agency's commitment to strengthening inter-agency collaboration and supporting the Province of Quezon's efforts to deliver timely, relevant, and inclusive development initiatives for MSMEs and Quezonians, contributing to sustainable and inclusive growth across the province.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE SPOUSES NILDA LUBANG GREPO and EULOGIO ALEGUAS GREPO

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late Spouses NILDA LUBANG GREPO who died on October 27, 2025 at General Trias City, Cavite and EULOGIO ALEGUAS GREPO who died on August 19, 2005 at San Juan, Metro Manila, were extrajudicially settled by their children and surviving legal heirs, pursuant to Rule 74, Section 1 of the Revised Rules of Court.

The estate consists of (1) a 2/6 portion only of a parcel of land located at Poblacion, General Trias, Cavite consisting of ONE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY THREE (1,363) square meters, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-123111 and (2) a motor vehicle, a TOYOTA INNOVA 2.8 with Plate no. DCC7160, Engine no. 1GD5824548, and Certificate of Registration No. 0094627648 per deed executed on February 23, 2026 by Atty. Christopher Columna, per Doc. No. 273, Page 56, Book 139, Series of 2026.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers: Mar. 9, 16 & 23, 2026

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 19 CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE (rtc1das129@judiciary.gov.ph;09564057604

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

RE: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT AS NOTARY PUBLIC AND IN DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

NOT. PUB. NO. DC-191-26

ANGELINA MARIDELE M. PARAS Petitioner,

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the Petition for Commission as Notary Public of ATTY. ANGELINA MARIDELE M. PARAS will be held on March 16, 2026 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning in the Courtroom of Regional Trial Court, Branch 90, Dasamarinas City, Cavite, Ground floor, Dasamarinas Community Affairs (DASCA) Bldg., Brgy. Buroil II, City of Dasamarinas, Cavite. Any person who has cause or reason to object to the grant of the Petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearing.

Let this Notice of Hearing be PUBLISHED ONCE in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite and POSTED in the bulletin boards of the Office of the clerk of court and Regional Trial Court of the City of Dasamarinas, Cavite not later than ONE (1) WEEK prior to the scheduled hearing.

SO ORDERED.

City of Dasamarinas, Cavite, February 20, 2026.

(sgd) JOSIELYN D. LARA-DE LUNA Executive Judge

Cc:

ATTY. ANGELINA MARIDELE M. PARAS Bld.2, Lot 1, Maharlika St., Andraeville Executive Homes Brgy. Salitran IV, City of Dasamarinas, Cavite

REGIONAL TRIAL COURT-OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (RTC-OCC) City of Dasamarinas, Cavite

Dateline Weekly Newspapers MARCH 02, 2026

PhilHealth ...

From Page 1

LUCENA CITY – Strengthening its commitment to Universal Health Care (UHC), PhilHealth officially launched the Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT) in Region 4A last February 27, 2026 held at the Quezon Convention Center headed by DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa with PhilHealth President and CEO, Dr. Edwin M. Mercado and PhilHealth Regional Office IVA Acting RVP, Dr. Edwin M. Oriña.

The event marks a significant milestone in the expansion of the PhilHealth's Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), an enhanced primary care benefit package that shifts the focus of health care from curative treatment to preventive services.

A centerpiece of the launch is the operationalization of the PhilHealth GAMOT, an app used to prescribe medications, validate prescriptions, record dispensing, and monitor performance of GAMOT Facilities. Through this platform, YAKAP accredited physicians can issue electronic prescriptions that partner pharmacies can verify instantly. This digital innovation ensures that guaranteed medicines reach members faster, reducing paperwork and waiting times.

The event included a walkthrough of the YAKAP availment process with QPHN-QMC, as YAKAP and GAMOT Provider, including St. Hildegard Pharmacy Accredited GAMOT Provider.

Under the PhilHealth GAMOT, members and their dependents can now access up to ₱20,000 worth of outpatient medicines annually which includes 54 Specialized Medicines accessible through accredited GAMOT-partner pharmacies for chronic conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and asthma.

Meanwhile, the 21 essential medicines under YAKAP continue to be available this year in YAKAP accredited primary care facilities nationwide. The YAKAP program also includes expanded coverage for selected outpatient cancer screening, such

- as: Breast cancer (mammogram and ultrasound) Colorectal cancer (colonoscopy) Liver cancer (liver ultrasound and alpha-fetoprotein test) Lung cancer screening

PhilHealth highlighted that by integrating consultations, diagnostics, and medicines into a single primary care system, YAKAP and GAMOT shift the focus from reactive treatment to proactive health management.

Joining the launch were key representatives from various local government units, national government agencies, alongside accredited YAKAP and GAMOT providers from across the Quezon Province.

The PhilHealth GAMOT rollout in Region 4A, in partnership with the Quezon Provincial Office, highlights strong collaboration with local governments, health facilities and GAMOT providers to bring accessible and affordable health services closer to communities.

To date, there are 256 YAKAP clinics in the region, of which 187 are YAKAP-ready clinics, which means that they have fully comply with all PhilHealth readiness requirements. While, a total of 129 are PhilHealth GAMOT facilities ready to dispense medications to members.

The strategic and phased implementation of the PhilHealth GAMOT is hinged on the readiness and operational capacity of these YAKAP Clinics to provide the necessary medical care and prescriptions to members when needed.

PhilHealth reminds the public that selection of YAKAP provider of choice may be done via the eGovPH mobile app or at any PhilHealth Local Health Insurance Office. Assignment to a preferred YAKAP clinic provides immediate access to essential preventive services and GAMOT benefits, ensuring every family remains 'malayo sa sakit' through a proactive primary care. PR

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

MARGARITO G. PACIA,
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-073-26

-versus-

BETTY DALIGDIG NACORDA,
Mortgagors/Respondents.

X ----- X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Petitioner/Mortgagee, MARGARITO G. PACIA with business address at No. 21 Eastroad /Unit 2 Eusebio Townhouse, Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City, against the Mortgagors/Respondents, BETTY DALIGDIG NACORDA, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Blk 38C Lot 14 Atis St. Cor. Mulberry Grand Meadows Antel Grand Village Bacao I, General Trias, Cavite and/or (2) 131 Panamitan Kawit, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of January 20, 2026 amounts to TWO MILLION TWO HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND PESOS AND 00/100 (PHP2,229,000.00), Philippine Currency, inclusive of accrued interests and penalties as of said date but exclusive of all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on MARCH 25, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock noon, at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency, the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. 057-2018037340

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 14, BLOCK 38-C OF THE CONSOLIDATION -SUBDIVISION PLAN PCS-04-025818, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 1597-A, PSD-26890,

LOTS 1-68, BLOCK 38, PCS -04017881), SITUATED IN BARANGAY OF BACAO, MUNICIPALITY OF GENERAL TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 17, BLOCK 38-C; ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 13, BLOCK 38-C BOTH OF THE CONS.-SUBD PLAN; ON THE NW., ALONG 3-4 BY ROAD LOT 2 (8.00 M. WIDE), ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 15, BLOCK 38-C ALL OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN XXX CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED FORTY FOUR (144) SQUARES METERS, MORE OR LESS XXX

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 APRIL 8, 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 27, 2026

(SGD) ANDRES B. ESPINA
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

MARGARITO G. PACIA
No. 21 Eastroad, Unit 2 Eusebio Townhouse,
Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City

BETTY DALIGDIG NACORDA
(1) Blk 38C Lot 14 Atis St. Cor. Mulberry Grand Meadows Antel Grand Village Bacao I, General Trias, Cavite
(2) 131 Panamitan Kawit, Cavite

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Dateline Weekly Newspapers
MARCH 02, 09 & 16, 2026.

CALABARZON RDC backs increased funding for social, education programs for 2027

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Economic managers in the CALABARZON region are pushing for increased investment in regional programs and State Universities and Colleges under the Regional Development Investment Plan (RDIP) for the year 2027.

Lovely Mores, Assistant Regional Director for the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DepDev) during the CALABARZON Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting last February 26, mentioned plans to increase funding for development programs under the RDIP.

"We are coordinating with our Central Office for a scheduled workshop on budget and investment programming, coordinating, particularly on the wishlist that has already been noted during

the technical budget review. These will be discussed with our Central Office para mapataas ang funding natin."

Currently, the CALABARZON RDC has proposed a P280 billion budget for investment programs in the region, with social programs taking up the lion's share of around 53 percent, or around Php 148 billion.

This includes allocations for investment programs by the Department of Education (DepEd), estimated at P83 billion; the Department of Health (DOH), at around P26 billion; and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), at about P17 billion.

Other agencies within the social sector, such as the Department

of Labor and Employment (around P586 million), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (around P589 million), and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (around P77 million), also received separate budget allocations.

State Universities and Colleges (SUC), including the Batangas State University, Cavite State University, Laguna State Polytechnic University, and the University of Rizal System, also received total budget allocation at around Php

148,858.65 million.

Other budget allocations include government agencies under the Infrastructure sector (P105,655.55 million), Economic & Environmental sector (P22,671.55 million), and Governance sector (P2,866.47 million).

Environmental programs, such as the provision of technical assistance for local government units establishing wildlife rescue centers, construction of laboratory facilities, and purchase of real-time water quality monitoring equipment, also received budget allocations.



Gov't eyes lower CAVITEX toll rates once fully state-owned

MANILA — The government is eyeing lower toll rates at the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) once the tollway becomes fully owned by the state through the PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC), officials said Thursday.

PEATC President and Chief Executive Officer Delfin Torrecampo Jr. said the tollway operator may reduce toll rates once government ownership reaches 100 percent.

"PEATC is the sole or the only government corporation operating a tollway in the Philippines. So 'yung tanong po natin kanina, PEATC, through the national government, can subsidize the toll revenues because as of now, hindi muna naming pwedeng ipababa ang toll revenue because it is not yet a hundred percent owned by the government, meron pang joint venture partner

(So to answer the question earlier, PEATC, through the national government, can subsidize toll revenues, but for now we cannot lower toll rates because the tollway is not yet 100 percent owned by the government as there is still a joint venture partner)," Torrecampo said.

"But once 100 percent owned na ito ng gobyerno, ng PEATC, for sure one of the target po ng aming chairman of the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) is to lower the rate of the CAVITEX compared to other tollways para 'yung 100 pesos and toll rate per TRB, it can be lowered to let's say 80 pesos kung tayo na, ang gobyerno na ang may-ari nitong tollway (But once the government fully owns the tollway through PEATC, one of the targets of our chairman is to lower CAVITEX toll rates compared with other tollways—for example, a PHP100 toll rate approved by the Toll Regulatory Board could be reduced to around PHP80 if the government fully owns the tollway)," he added.

Meanwhile, officials said discussions are also ongoing with tollway partners and regulators on possible interventions and considerations that could benefit motorists, especially with fuel prices being expected to rise amid Middle East tensions.

Anthony Peter Crisologo, chairperson of PEATC and director of the PRA, said the possibility of a toll holiday similar to the one implemented when Segment 2 opened in July 2024 is under study.

"Because this is a joint venture, we have to discuss with our joint venture partners... So we're

PNP intensifies drive vs. 8 focus crimes; strengthens community-based programs in CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Philippine National Police (PNP) is intensifying its campaign against eight (8) focus crimes while strengthening community-based programs to sustain peace, order, and public safety across the CALABARZON region.

These focus crimes include murder, homicide, physical injury, robbery, theft, carjacking of motor vehicles and motorcycles, and rape.

In an interview during the Sulung Southern Tagalog radio program, PLTCOL Milany E. Martinez, Chief of the Regional Public Information Office of Police Regional Office (PRO) CALABARZON, emphasized the importance of closely monitoring these crimes to further improve police operations and crime prevention strategies.

"These eight focus crimes are closely monitored by the PNP because these directly affect the safety and security of our communities. This is where we concentrate our operational and preventive efforts."

Martinez added that PRO CALABARZON programs are aligned with the PNP's focus agenda, particularly in strengthening campaigns against crime and terrorism while enhancing public safety

through prevention and community-based initiatives.

Among the key initiatives is the Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay program, which deploys dedicated police officers in every barangay to enhance police visibility and ensure faster response to incidents.

The program promotes proactive policing by strengthening coordination between police officers, barangay officials, and community members to prevent crimes before they occur. Through community familiarization, officers are able to identify potential problem areas and implement focused interventions.

"Our stance must always be proactive. If the community sees that police are always present and alert, it discourages criminal activity. Prevention is always our priority."

To address cases involving women and children, PRO CALABARZON is implementing Project LAKAS (Labanan, Kausapin ang buong pamilya, Abusadong Rapist Sama-samang pigilin).

The program involves house-to-house information drives conducted by police officers, including Women and Children Protection Desk

Officers, in coordination with barangay counterparts.

Through Project LAKAS, police educate families on rape prevention, proper case reporting, and ways communities can support investigation and prosecution of offenders.

Martinez said the program adopts a holistic approach that covers prevention, reporting, and prosecution support.

Another initiative is the Upland Ronda CALABARZON, which strengthens patrol operations in upland and high-risk areas and is supported by neighborhood watch programs.

"We continue to strengthen patrol operations and community watch systems to prevent crimes, reduce public safety incidents, and ensure safer roads and communities," she said.

At present, authorities consider the overall peace and order situation in the region generally peaceful based on comparative crime data. According to regional records, a total decrease of 53 incidents or 23.25 percent was recorded from January 1 to the present period compared to the same period last year. The decrease covers cas-

Repatriation...

been received nationwide, reflecting the growing concerns of our kababayans abroad."

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has earlier confirmed reports that a Filipino caregiver in Israel was killed in an airstrike involving American and Israeli forces.

Casabuena also assured that the DMW is prepared to process all repatriation and assistance requests, and is closely



(PNA)

PhilHealth ...

- es under the eight focus crimes monitored by the police.

Police attributed the decline to intensified anti-criminality and anti-illegal drug operations in line with the directive of Acting PNP Chief PLT-GEN Jose Melencio Corpus Nartatez Jr. to further strengthen law enforcement efforts nationwide.

Martinez also highlighted that police visibility plays a crucial role in strengthening public confidence and deterring criminal activities.

She said the goal is for communities to see and feel that the police are always present and accessible, even before incidents occur.

PRO CALABARZON underscored that crime prevention is a shared responsibility that requires active participation from families, barangays, local government units, and the community.

"Peace and order is not the responsibility of the police alone. We need the cooperation of the entire community to sustain safe and secure communities."

Through continuous information campaigns, enhanced police visibility, and strengthened partnerships, the PNP aims to sustain peace and order in the region and across the country.

working with its Migrant Workers Offices (MWOs), Philippine Embassies, and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

"Through a whole-of-government effort, we are working tirelessly to ensure that every Filipino abroad remains safe and protected. Quick response teams are ready for deployment to provide immediate assistance wherever necessary."

From Page 4