

SMC clears 116K tons of silt, waste from San Juan River in maintenance cleanup



At Barangay Doña Imelda, Quezon City

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is close to completing maintenance cleanup along the San Juan River, removing over 116,000 metric tons of waste and silt over the last 10 months to help improve water flow and reduce flood risk in San Juan, Manila, Mandaluyong and Quezon Cities.

This follows SMC's cleanup of the river from 2022 to 2024, clearing the waterway of about 322,000 metric tons of silt and waste through 7.6 kilometers of its entire stretch.

SMC's cleanup teams returned in September after monitoring showed a buildup of waste in the river traversing Mandaluyong, Manila and San Juan Cities. To date, 116,157 metric tons of waste and silt have been removed along 6.1 km of its waterway — from the Pasig River junction to Talayan, Quezon City — reflecting SMC's commitment to preserving the gains of its river rehabilitation effort.

"Regular maintenance clean-ups are a key component of our Better Rivers PH initiative. Even

if we have restored rivers to their natural depth, flow, and water-carrying capacity, improper waste disposal can aggravate silt buildup," said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

"At no cost to government and in coordination with local authorities, we will continue to monitor and ensure that these waterways are cleared of obstructions so they can carry floodwaters efficiently, especially during the rainy season," he added.

The maintenance cleanup of the San Juan River forms part of SMC's continuing support for the

government's flood mitigation drive, including the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) Oplan Kontra Baha which was launched by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. last year.

In line with that, Better Rivers PH launched its first cleanup effort in the Visayas last month, deploying dredging teams tasked to remove waste and silt from a four-kilometer section of the Butuanon River in Mandaue City, Cebu that has restricted water flow to the Mactan Channel.

Maintenance cleanup operations con-

tinue along Tullahan River, removing 177,384 metric tons of debris along a 6.4-km stretch; the Bulacan River System, clearing it of 723,393 metric tons of waste and silt through 13.38 km; and Laguna rivers, where 107,192 metric tons have been cleared from 2 km of waterways.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation work remains in the Parañaque, Las Piñas, Alabang, Tabang, and Tanza river systems, with the overall progress of the river cleanup initiative reaching 201.27 km of river channels and 9.3 million metric tons of waste and silt removed over the last six years. **PR**

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CARD MRI EXECUTIVES HONORED AS NAMUMUKOD TANGING SAN PABLEÑO OS 2026

Two executives of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), Dr. Edzel A. Ramos and Mr. Frederick Nicasio M. Torres, were recognized during the Gawad Ng Namumukod Tanging San Pableño 2026 held at the San Pablo City Convention Center on May 7 for their leadership and contributions to community development through the institutions they serve.

The award honors individuals from San Pablo City whose service and leadership have made meaningful contributions to community development. It also recognizes those who serve as leaders in their respective fields through their advo-

Transformative Education

Dr. Edzel A. Ramos, President of CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) Inc., the learning and training institute of CARD MRI that offers tertiary education, senior high school programs, and capacity-building programs, was recognized as Namumukod Tanging San Pableño for Transformative Education. This category recognizes individuals who promote quality and accessible education through meaningful programs, initiatives, and partnerships.

Dr. Ramos is one of the key individuals be-



hind CMDI's growth from a training unit established in 2000 into an academic institution dedicated to providing quality education to socio-economically challenged families. He began his journey with CARD MRI in 1996 as a Technical Officer of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO), where he worked closely with communities and witnessed firsthand the struggles of underserved families. These experiences strengthened his commitment to education and people development.

As CARD MRI expanded its training initiatives, Dr. Ramos transitioned into training and de-

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Imus LGU fast tracks distribution of BBM rice benefits

SSS Chief lauds Visa, RCBC-powered fare system rollout

Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro tested the new cashless fare system on Monday, 13 July 2026, at LRT-2's Legarda Station during the launch of the Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS), praising the rollout as a boost to commuter convenience.

Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary and Social Security Commission (SSC) Chairperson Frederick D. Go also graced the launch. The AFCS, an initiative led by the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) and the De-



partment of Transportation (DOTr), aims to streamline fare payments, reduce reliance on cash, and provide commuters with a faster and more seamless travel experience.

The cashless fare system is powered by Visa and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), an SSS partner

bank for the MySSS Card. As part of RCBC's PISO Fare Cashback Promo, holders of the MySSS Card powered by RCBC DiskarTech may enjoy the promo from July 13 to July 31 when using their card, allowing eligible cardholders to ride for as low as ₱1, subject to the promo's terms and conditions. **PR**



Cayetano kinuwestiyon ang panibagong beripikasyon sa Taguig projects matapos unang linisin ng DPWH

DPWH orders fast-tracking of stalled Noveleta road projects

LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz led a series of engagements in Bohol to strengthen partnerships with key government and private sector stakeholders and advance inclusive economic development in the province on 16–17 July 2026. The visit included meetings with the Provincial Government of Bohol, City Government of Tagbilaran, Bohol Light Company, Inc., Cebu Landmasters, Inc., First Consolidated Bank (FCB),



and FCB Foundation, Inc. LANDBANK also formalized credit and rediscounting line agreements with FCB and FCB Foundation, respectively, to support business growth, expand access to financial services, and promote countryside development. Joining PCEO Ortiz were First Vice Presidents Atty. Nikkolas G. Tolentino, Ann Marijell B. Ong, and Allan R. Bisnar, along with Vice President Llewellyn T. Cavite and other LANDBANK officials.

TOP-PERFORMING, MOST TRUSTED REPRESENTATIVES

LAGUNA – Kinilala si Congressman Loreto "Amben" S. Amante ng Ikatlong Distrito ng Laguna bilang Rank #4 sa hanay ng Philippines' Best-Performing and Most Trusted District Representatives sa buong bansa, batay sa isinagawang independent at non-commissioned RPMD "Boses ng Bayan" Index of Governance (IOG) para sa unang quarter ng 2026.

Ayon sa resulta ng survey, kabilang si Cong. Amante sa mga mambabatas na nakakuha ng mataas na antas ng tiwala at positibong pagtaya mula sa publiko dahil sa kanyang patuloy na pagtupad sa tungkulin at paghahatid ng mga programa at serbisyong pampubliko.

Nagpapasalamat ang kongresista sa mga mamamayan ng Ikatlong Distrito ng Laguna sa patuloy na tiwala at suporta na kanyang natatanggap. Aniya, ang naturang pagkilala ay magsisilbing inspirasyon upang higit pang



Cong. Amben Amante, Ika-4 sa Pinakamahuusay at Pinakapinagkakatiwalaang District Representatives sa Pilipinas

pagbutihin ang tapat, mahusay, at may malasakit na paglilingkod para sa kapakanan ng bawat Lagunaense.

Binigyang-diin din ni Cong. Amante ang kanyang paninindigan na ipagpatuloy ang pagsusulong ng mga programang magpapabuti sa kabuhayan, edukasyon, kalusugan, at iba pang

serbisyong kailangan ng kanyang mga nasasakupan.

Ang RPMD "Boses ng Bayan" Index of Governance ay isang independent at non-commissioned na pagsusuri na sumusukat sa antas ng tiwala at pagganap ng mga halal na opisyal batay sa pananaw ng publiko. **(Kevin Pamatmat)**

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EDITORIAL:

“ISANG PAALALA HINDI SUKAT ANG PANGARAP SA KATAYUAN SA BUHAY”

GLENN OBIAS

May mga taong madaling husgahan dahil lamang sa kanilang pinagmulan o kalagayan sa buhay. Isa na rito si Bobet. Sa kanyang kwento, makikita natin ang isang taong dumaan sa maraming pagsubok ngunit patuloy na lumaban.

Hindi naging madali ang kanyang paglalakbay, ngunit pinili niyang harapin ang bawat hamon nang may tapang at pag-asa. Ipinapakita ng kwento ni Bobet na ang tunay na tagumpay ay hindi nasusukat sa dami ng pera o sa taas ng katayuan sa lipunan.

Mas mahalaga ang sipag, tiyaga, at pananalig sa sariling kakayahan. Sa kabila ng mga pagsubok at panghuhusga ng iba, hindi niya hinayaang mawala ang kanyang pangarap. Ang kanyang karanasan ay nagsisilbing paalala na maraming tao ang nangangailangan ng pagkakataon, hindi pangmamaliit.

Sa halip na manghusga, mas makabubuting magbigay ng suporta at pag-unawa. Kapag ang isang tao ay binigyan ng tiwala at pagkakataon, mas malaki ang posibilidad na maabot niya ang kanyang mga pangarap. Sa huli, ang kwento ni Bobet ay hindi lamang tungkol sa isang tao. Isa itong salamin ng realidad na nararanasan ng marami.

Nawa'y magsilbi itong inspirasyon upang maging mas maunawain, mas mapagmalasakit, at mas handang tumulong sa kapwa. Sapagkat ang tunay na pagbabago ay nagsisimula sa paggalang sa dignidad at pangarap ng bawat isa.



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PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) Caravan



The Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Trece Martires City successfully conducted the PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP)

Caravan in Barangay 4, Indang, Cavite, on July 14, 2026. As part of the activity, the Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Indang, under the leadership of Dra.

Rosa Alegre, facilitated the First Patient Encounter (FPE), medical consultations, and the distribution of medicines. A total of 216 residents benefited from

the caravan, gaining access to essential primary healthcare services within their community. The YAKAP Caravan underscores PhilHealth's commitment to advancing Universal Health Care by bringing quality and accessible healthcare services closer to Filipinos. Through strengthened partnerships with local government units and healthcare providers, PhilHealth continues to promote healthier communities and improve access to essential health services nationwide.

From Page 1

ABiding with Caviteños

Beyond the Headlines: Media Literacy as Our Best Defense
By Abigail C. Gomez

For months, devastating news of school violence has become disturbingly frequent. Cavite is not an exception. Our province has been under the media's glare, with isolated cases linked to minors too young to grasp the weight of their actions. Authorities cite bullying, depression, and anxiety as triggers. But these explanations do not fully capture the unease gripping our communities.

Just this week, two more Cavite schools received grave threats via anonymous posts. Students were warned to stay away, otherwise, they would be caught in the violence that the anonymous authors claimed they were planning to do.

So what is really happening? Are organized groups behind these acts? Are online games to blame? These are questions for investigators, and it is NOT our place to speculate. Let us leave that to the authorities navigating the cyberworld and the deep web.

But while we wait for answers, we must confront an uncomfortable truth: many of us lack the media literacy to separate fact from fear. We scroll, we share, we react. In seconds, an unverified post travels from a chat group to a public forum, morphing from rumor to "news." We consume headlines without reading the full sto-

ry. We repost screenshots without checking their origin. We let algorithms, not our judgment, dictate what we believe.

This gap becomes dangerous when anonymous threats appear. Panic spreads faster than verification. Parents pull their children from school. Teachers scramble. And somewhere, a troubled teenager watches the chaos and learns that a single post can command national attention. That is the seed of the copycat effect.

As a community, we can still control our reaction. Anonymous posts create the illusion that freedom comes without consequence. Freedom to say anything. Freedom to do anything. But that freedom comes at a terrible cost when it inspires imitation. When we share unverified threats, we are not being cautious; we are being complicit. We give the original poster exactly what they want: attention, fear, and power. Worse, we provide a template for others seeking the same notoriety. Before clicking "share," pause. Ask yourself: Is this confirmed? Will sharing this help anyone? Could this inspire someone else to do the same? Sometimes, the most responsible act is silence.

Beyond media literacy, we must anchor our children in Filipino values: paggalang (respect),

DPWH...

NOVELETA, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered the timely construction of the long-delayed road rehabilitation and drainage improvement projects in Noveleta, Cavite.

This follows the inspection of Secretary Vince Dizon of various projects here last July 21.

The inspection focused on key infrastructure projects, including the Manila-Cavite Road Rehabilitation Project and the Manila-Cavite Bypass Road Project (NOVELEX).

Addressing motorists and commuters affected by the stalled road rehabilitation and drainage upgrade project,

Dizon assured them that the DPWH will fast-track completion of the construction project.

pakikipagkapwa-tao (concern for others), and hiya (accountability). These values are not lost; they simply need to be reintroduced as tools for navigating the digital age. Faith, too, has a role. Let us bring youngsters back to faith, not as punishment, but as a compass. In a world where digital facelessness makes cruelty feel consequence-free, faith reminds us that we are always accountable to God, to our community, and to ourselves.



PANGANGALAP NG LANGUAGE PROFILE AT WORDLIST SA WIKANG TTA

Isinagawa ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) ang pangangalap ng language profile at wordlist sa wikang Atta sa bayan ng Pudtol, lalawigan ng Apayao nitóng 9–10 Hunyo 2026 sa Barangay Cabatacan, Pudtol, Apayao bilang bahagi ng proyektong Balidasyon ng mga Wika ng Pilipinas.

Pinangunahan nina Bb. Dannielle T. Lagui at Bb. Rona Geneva P. Alcantara, mga mananaliksik ng KWF, ang pangangalap ng datos. Naging posible ang gawaing ito sa suporta ng Pamahalaang Bayan ng Pudtol sa pangunguna ni Punongbayan Edmar D. Pascua, JD, katuwang ang mga kawani ng Pambansang Komisyon sa mga Katutubong Mamamayan



(NCIP), Luna Community Service Center, at ang komunidad ng mga Atta.

Layunin ng pangangalap na makabuo ng mas komprehensibong talâ ng kalagayan ng wikang Atta, kabilang ang mahahalagang impormasyong pangwika na

magsisilbing batayan sa mga susunod na hakbang para sa dokumentasyon, pananaliksik, at pangangalaga sa wika.

Kinikilala ang wikang Atta bilang isa sa pitóng (7) malubhang nanganganib na wika sa Pilipinas. Batay sa datos

ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) noong 2020 na sinuri ng KWF, tinatayang nása 97 sam-bahayan na lámang sa bayan ng Pudtol at Luna sa lalawigan ng Apayao at bayan ng Gattaran sa Cagayan ang gumagamit nitó bilang pangunahing

wika sa tahanan.

Ayon sa United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO 2023), nanganganib ang isang wika kapag unti-unti na itong hindi ginagamit ng mga nagsasalita nitó, nagiging limitado ang pag-

gamit nitó sa iba't ibang larang ng komunikasyon, at hindi na ito naipapása ng nakatatandang hen-erasyon sa mga naka-babatang henerasyon. Maaari din itong impluwen-siya ng mga panlabas na puwersang pangkultura, pang-ekonomiya, panreli-hiyon, o pang-edukasyon. Bukod dito, nakaaapekto rin ang negatibong pananaw ng isang indibidwal o komunidad sa paggamit ng kanilang sariling wika.

Sa pamamagitan ng patúloy na dokumentasyon at balidasyon ng mga nanganganib na wika, pinalalakas ng KWF ang mga hakbang para sa pangangalaga, pagpapa-sigla, at pagpapatúloy ng mayamang pamana ng mga katutubong wika sa bansa para sa susunod na mga salinlahi. **PR**

PH nutrient profile model to help guide consumers, reduce obesity cases – NNC

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Philippine Nutrient Profile Model (PNPM), an evidence-based standard for classifying pre-packaged food and beverage products, is expected to help consumers make healthier food choices and lower their risk of noncommunicable diseases, according to the National Nutrition Council (NNC).

Ma. Theresa Rivas, Nutrition Officer III of NNC Calabarzon, said the PNPM will help identify packaged food and beverage products high in sugar, sodium, or salt, which will guide consumers, especially children, in making healthier choices amid rising cases of diet-related illnesses among the youth and increasing obesity rates.

Overweight and obesity are linked to a higher risk of developing noncommunicable diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension, as well as the alarming increase in Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) cases, which now affect not only adults but also children.

“Napapanahon po talaga ‘yung ating Philippine Nutrient Profile

Model. Ito po kasing ating PNPM or the Philippine Nutrient Profile Model, ito po ay magiging batayan natin sa pagtukoy kung ang isang package po ng pagkain o inumin ay matabas sa asukal, sodium, or asin,” Rivas explained.

The NNC adopts the PNPM as the reference for front-of-package labeling on all food products available in the market to help identify which exceed nutrient thresholds, thus making informed purchasing decisions based on their nutritional composition.

The model is likewise designed to address the country’s persistent burden of malnutrition, characterized by the simultaneous presence of undernutrition and increasing rates of overweight and obesity across all age groups, both of which are associated with a growing burden of diet-related non-communicable diseases.

“Yung atin pong Philippine Nutrient Profile Model, kapag po nagamit natin siya sa label ng mga pagkain, mas matutulongan po tayo sa pagpili kung healthy or hindi po ba ‘yung isang pagkain. At syempre, kapag nakita natin na hindi healthy

‘yung pagkain, sana hindi na po natin ito bibilhin sa atin pong market. Yun po ‘yung goal ng ating Philippine Nutrient Profile Model para po makita natin kung gaano po ba karami ang fat, ang sugar, saka ‘yung sodium or asin sa isang pagkain,” she added.

In an official press release, NNC shared that public health experts have described the country’s current food landscape as an obesogenic environment, where many widely available and heavily promoted products are high in calories, sugar, salt, and fat.

In such environment, food choices are influenced not only by personal preferences but also by market factors such as advertising, packaging, pricing, and product formulation, which can make healthier options less accessible or affordable for Filipino consumers.

“Nire-recommend din po talaga natin na maging aware po tayo sa pagbabasa ng mga nutrition labels sa atin pong mga pagkain, sa mga binibili po natin kasi po hindi natin alam, baka matabas na pala ‘yung sodium content lalo na ‘yung mga nabibili po natin sa atin

Profriends HR Head, Recognized In The Philippines' Leadership Awards 2026

Property Company of Friends, Inc.'s Human Resources Head, Jennalyn M. Miranda, was recently honored at the Philippines' Leadership Awards 2026 by The AdvantageClub.ai. The national leadership recognition program celebrates exceptional leaders across various industries in the country who have demonstrated leadership, innovation, organizational excellence, and people development.

The AdvantageClub.ai is a global HR technology company based in San Francisco, California that was established in 2016 by Sourabh Deorah and Smriti Bhatt Deorah. It provides AI-powered employee engagement, rewards, recognition programs and leadership initiatives.

“This recognition is deeply meaningful because it reflects the kind of leader I continue to aspire to become. Throughout my HR journey, I've always tried to strike a balance between accountability and compassion. I believe organizations grow when people are challenged to be their best, but they grow even more when they know they are valued, respected, and



Profriends Talent Acquisition Division Head Abee Caberte received the recognition in behalf of HR Head Ms. Jennalyn Miranda.

ognition, wellness, and workplace experience solutions to organizations in over 100 countries. The organization also champions people-first leadership through various recognition programs and leadership initiatives.

“This recognition is deeply meaningful because it reflects the kind of leader I continue to aspire to become. Throughout my HR journey, I've always tried to strike a balance between accountability and compassion. I believe organizations grow when people are challenged to be their best, but they grow even more when they know they are valued, respected, and

supported,” says Miranda. “My hope and prayer is that this recognition will inspire me to continue living out the purpose God has entrusted to me, always with humility and gratitude,” she noted.

Ms. Miranda has led Property Company of Friends, Inc.'s Human Resources team for over three years, during which she has introduced meaningful improvements to the company's people programs and organizational practices. Guided by Profriends' values, mission, and vision, her leadership has helped strengthen the employee experience while supporting the organization's continued growth. **PR**

887 Batangas schools heads, personnel trained to strengthen food safety in schools canteens

A total of 887 school heads and non-teaching personnel from the Department of Education (DepED) Schools Division Office (SDO) of Batangas completed a three-day food safety training aimed at strengthening the safety of meals served in school canteens and school-based feeding programs (SBFP) across the province.

The training, conducted by the DepED SDO Batangas in partnership with Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas, was held at NDN Resort and Events Place in Barangay Aya, Talisay, Batangas from July 14 to 16.

All district sub-offices of SDO Batangas attended the activity. The first day catered to District 1, the second day to Districts 2 and 3, while the third day brought together participants from District 4 and the Tingloy Sub-office.

In her message, Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Marites A. Ibañez underscored the importance of strengthening food safety practices in schools, emphasizing that preventing foodborne illnesses requires a proactive approach from school administrators and personnel. She highlighted that effective food safety management in school canteens protects learners' health, supports the successful implementation of SBFP, promotes a safe learning environment, strengthens public trust, and ensures compliance with food safety standards.

The sessions started with the critical

importance of food safety through discussions on documented food poisoning incidents in both the food manufacturing sector and public schools in other parts of the country. These real-life cases underscored the responsibility of school administrators and personnel in ensuring that food served to learners is not only nutritious but also safe from foodborne illnesses.

The training covered two major modules: Basic Food Hygiene and Food Safety Hazards, with discussions specifically contextualized for school canteen operations and the implementation of school-based feeding programs.

The Basic Food Hygiene module discussed essential food safety practices, including sanitary permits and health certificates, food quality and protection, primary production, and the proper design of food preparation facilities and equipment. Participants also learned about personnel competence, establishment maintenance, cleaning and disinfection procedures, pest control, personal hygiene, operational controls, consumer awareness, and the key provisions of Presidential Decree No. 856, which prescribes sanitary standards for food establishments and food handlers.

The Food Safety Hazards module focused on identifying, preventing, and controlling physical, biological, and chemical hazards that may compromise food safety. Participants were guided on practical measures to min-



imize contamination risks and protect learners from foodborne diseases.

To reinforce the lessons, the DOST-Batangas Food Safety Team conducted interactive workshops on proper handwashing, cross-contamination prevention, and the identification of physical hazards commonly encountered in school food preparation and serving operations. The hands-on activities enabled participants to apply food safety

principles to actual situations they may encounter in school canteens and feeding programs.

Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Libao, Mr. John Maico M. Hernandez, and Ms. Renalee L. Reyes, members of the DOST-Batangas Food Safety Team, facilitated the discussions. They also introduced the agency's programs and technical services that schools may access to further improve the safety, quality, and regulatory

compliance of their canteen operations.

Meanwhile, Ms. Karen Enriquez, DepEd Nurse and SDO Batangas Focal Person for the SBFP, expressed hope that the training would further strengthen the knowledge, skills, and commitment of schools in implementing food safety practices in schools. She emphasized that equip-

ping school personnel with practical food safety competencies will help ensure that meals served to learners are safe, nutritious, and prepared in accordance with established food safety standards.

Through the initiative, DepED SDO Batangas and DOST-Batangas strengthen food safety awareness and practices in schools. They also emphasized that safe food handling is essential to protecting learners' health and ensuring that school-based nutrition programs achieve their intended outcomes. **PR**

HPV-FREE WORKFORCE: Turning Awareness into Protection



Held today, July 20, 2026, at the Function Hall of the Socio-Economic Building, the "HPV-FREE WORKFORCE: Turning Awareness into Protection" program provided free Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination to female employees of the city government as part of the city's commitment to promoting preventive healthcare and protecting the well-being of its workforce. Present during the event were Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, who personally administered HPV vaccine shots to selected recipients, Vice Mayor Third Barzaga, and the members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod. The activity was made possible through the collaboration of the City Government of Dasmariñas and the City Health Office, headed by Dr. Mary Ann Barzaga, in strengthening awareness and encouraging protection against HPV through vaccination.

MEDICAL...

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Fifth District Board Members Aidel Belamide and Ivey Jayne Reyes were present during the activity and expressed their support for initiatives that bring accessible healthcare services closer to the community.

The activity forms part of the provincial government's continuing commitment to provide quality healthcare services and promote the well-being of Caviteños.

—OPIO



Cayetano...

Kinuwestiyon ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano nitoong Lunes ang hakbang ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na magsagawa ng panibagong beripikasyon sa umano'y mga ghost project sa Taguig gayong nauna nang sinabi ng ahensya na walang natukoy na ghost projects sa lungsod.

Sa kanyang Facebook livestream nitoong July 20, sinabi ni Cayetano na umaasa siyang maninindigan si DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon sa naunang naging resulta ng beripikasyon ng ahensya.

Ayon sa senador, tatlong beses nang tiniyak ng kalihim sa kanya na natatunayan nang walang ghost projects sa Taguig.

"I hope hindi siya magpa-pressure and I hope he tells the truth because tatlong beses niya na sinabi sa akin na vinerify nila at walang ghost projects sa Taguig," wika niya.

Iginiit ni Cayetano na walang saysay ang kanyang pagsusulong ng Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing sa mga iregularidad sa flood control projects kung babalewalain naman niya ang anumang isyu sa sarili niyang nasasakupan.

"It's so illogical that I am fighting for the truth and for the Blue Ribbon hearing tapos meron

FOOD...

Sumalalim sa isang oryentasyon ukol sa Food Lane Project (FLP) ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) ang 25 biya-hero mula sa 11 trucking services sa rehiyon noong ika-16 ng Hulyo sa Lipa City, Batangas.

Ito ay bahagi ng proseso ng pagiging akreditado ng mga truck sa FLP na nagdadala ng mga produktong agrikultural mula sa mga prodyuser hanggang sa mga lugar na may mataas na pangangailangan lalo na sa mga siyudad.

Sa tulong ng FLP ay hindi na kinakailangan pang mapabilang ng mga akreditadong sasakyan sa truck ban, mga checkpoint, at iba pa—alinsunod sa mga polisiya ng Metropolitan Manila Develop-

pala kaming problema sa sarili naming bakuran," wika niya.

Binalikan din ng senador ang naging mungkahi niya noong deliberasyon ng budget ng DPWH na kunan ng litrato ang lahat ng government infrastructure projects mula groundbreaking hanggang sa matapos ang konstruksyon upang mas madaling matukoy kung may mga ghost project at mapalakas ang transparency sa pagpapatupad ng mga proyekto.

"When he was in the DPWH budget hearing dito, sinabi ko, 'Sec. Vince, ba't hindi mo pakuhanan sa cellphone ng picture lahat ng project. Simulan mo sa 2025, 2024, 2023, pabalik. Para kung sa cellphone palang bayad na pero walang project, ghost na iyon,'" wika niya.

Ayon kay Cayetano, paulit-ulit niya itong iminungkahi sa plenaryo ng Senado at sinabing ipinatutupad na rin ito sa Taguig.

Hinamon ng senador ang mga awtoridad na imbestigahan ang lahat ng umano'y ghost projects sa iba't ibang lugar sa bansa at huwag ito-un lamang sa Taguig ang pagsusuri.

"Isabay-isabay na natin kung gusto but don't single people out. From the start sinabi ko, imbestigahan ninyo lahat," wika ni Cayetano. **PR**

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ment Authority (MMDA). Magkakaroon din sila ng maayos na ruta at dagdag na tulong sa paghahatid ng mga produkto.

Layon ng aktibidad na palakasin ang kayahan ng mga biya-hero upang masiguro ang mabilis na pagdadala ng mga sariwa at ligtas na produkto sa merkado. Katuwang dito ng Kagawaran ang Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine National Police (PNP), at MMDA.

Ayon kay AMAD OIC-Chief Justine Vivas, pangunahing ipinaaalam sa oryentasyon ay ang mga dapat at hindi dapat gawin bilang mga responsableng biya-hero upang maiwasan ang post-harvest losses. Dagdag pa nito ang tulong ng FLP sa pagbibigay ng libreng toll fee para sa mga akreditadong truck services. **PR**

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CARD MRI...

Since its formal establishment, CMDI has strengthened its community-focused education and expanded its training programs. In 2013, the institution introduced the Microfinance Technology NC II program under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and later became an accredited assessment center for the course. In 2015, CMDI received approval from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to operate as a tertiary education institution. In 2024, Dr. Ramos became the school's president, leading it to begin offering senior high school programs.

Today, CMDI remains committed to producing competent and values-driven learners who contribute to community development and social transformation. It now has four campuses in San Pablo City and Bay, Laguna; Tagum City, Davao del Norte; and Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, focusing on providing practical and values-driven education.

"We have always believed that education is a powerful tool in shaping the future of the youth. I am truly honored and at

Imus...

IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The City Government of Imus assured the speedy distribution of rice subsidies for the beneficiaries of the Bigay Bigas sa Masa program.

Last July 22, the city government led the distribution of rice benefits for Informal Settler Families (ISF) and Solo Parents in the city. This is part of the 30,000 sacks of rice that the National Government bought directly from local farmers under the Sagip Saka Act.

To guarantee fair rice distribution, Mayor Alex Advincula said the city government skipped ceremonial distributions and instead installed weighing scales to accurately measure the rice packs for residents.

"Upang mapabilis ang pamamahagi, come and go na lamang at wala nang kahit anong programa o seremonya. Naglagay rin ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga tim-

the same time grateful to be part of CMDI's journey," said Dr. Ramos as he reflected on CMDI's growth in expanding its educational service and in his years of service in CARD MRI.

"This recognition inspires us to continue reaching more students, employees, and communities with limited access to quality education. We will continue creating learning opportunities, honing skills, and helping individuals build a better future for themselves and their families," he said.

Social Entrepreneurship

The local government of San Pablo also recognized Mr. Frederick Nicasio M. Torres as Namumukod Tanging San Pabloño for Social Entrepreneurship. The award honors individuals who build enterprises that open livelihood opportunities and support inclusive growth within communities.

Torres currently leads different enterprise development and business support institutions under CARD MRI. He serves as Chairman of Mga Likha Ni Inay, CARD-Business Development Services Foundation Inc. (CARD-BDS-

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bangan upang matiyak na tama ang timbang ng bigas na matatanggap ng mga benepisyaryo."

Earlier this month, the city government received 14,000 packs of rice allocated for Imus City.

"Ito po ay first batch pa lamang at marami pang darating. Mahigit 30,000 po ang inaasahan nating darating para ipamigay sa ating mga kababayan. Ito pong bigas ay binili na natin sa kooperatiba. 'Yan po ay pondo galing sa pamahalaang nasayunal at binili ng ating lungsod sa kooperatiba."

Advincula noted that purchasing the rice from local cooperatives such as the Sorosoro Iba-ba Development Cooperative (SIDC) also directly benefits local farmers.

"Nais ko pong magpasalamaat sa ating Pangulo. Maraming maraming salamat po sa mahal na Pangulong [Ferdinand] Marcos [Jr.] sa inyong suporta at tulong."

FI), and CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CARD LFC). He is also the Executive Vice President of CARD Indogrosir and Ottokonek.

Beforehand, he started his career in CARD MRI as a management trainee in its financial institutions, particularly at CARD, Inc. and CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank focused on providing financial services to small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Over the years, he took on leadership positions, including deputy director for operations and regional director, and this deepened his understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized sectors and the importance of creating opportunities for them to build and sustain their own businesses.

In 2013, Torres helped establish CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CARD LFC) to further expand support services for clients through leasing, business assistance, and housing finance programs.

Under his leadership, CARD-BDSFI has helped bridge micro-entrepreneur clients to the mainstream market by promoting local products and supporting their growth. This effort later paved the way for the establishment of Mga Likha Ni Inay (MLNI), which transforms locally sourced products from rural micro-entrepreneurs into marketable, locally inspired goods.

Meanwhile, CARD Indogrosir and Ottokonek, established in partnership with Indonesia's Salim Group, continue to strengthen community enterprises by wholesaling and retailing grocery goods at distributor prices. These also sup-

port clients and customers operating mobile stores, carts, and sari-sari stores in their communities. Through these institutions, Torres has helped CARD MRI in strengthening access to markets and support systems for microentrepreneurs, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

"This recognition is for the Nanays who we are able to uplift through our mission at CARD MRI. Entrepreneurship becomes most meaningful when it creates opportunity and hope for communities. When we empower microenterprises to thrive, we prove that businesses can be both sustainable and compassionate. Real progress happens when growth is shared, and when every success story opens doors for others to rise with us," said Torres, reflecting on how CARD MRI shaped his advocacy for inclusive enterprise development.

Behind the Impact At the core of Dr. Ramos and Torres' leadership in education and enterprise development is CARD MRI's shared mission to uplift underserved communities and help eradicate poverty. Their recognition as Namumukod Tanging San Pabloños reflects the impact of their work in education and enterprise development, as well as their commitment to building stronger, more inclusive communities.

CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito, and Senior Advisers Aniceta Alip, Dr. Lorenza d.T. Bañez, and Dr. Dolores Torres also attended the recognition event. **PR**

MEDICAL MISSION IN BRGY. ACACIA, SILANG

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through its dedicated team from the Office of the Provincial Governor, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a medical mission on July 15, in Brgy. Acacia, Silang, providing essential healthcare services to 640 residents.

Healthcare professionals from General

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MEDICAL MISSION IN BRGY. ACACIA, SILANG

Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) rendered free medical consultations, while fasting blood sugar testing and ECG procedures were also made available to beneficiaries. To further support their health needs, the Medical Mission Team distributed free prescribed medicines and multivitamins to patients.

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