

TURNING SKILLS INTO HOPE



At her stall in Puerto Princesa Public Market, Palawan, Wilma Nicolas, a 69-year-old proud CARD SME client, runs a smoked fish business she has nurtured over decades with hard work and community support.

At 69, Wilma Nicolas, a widow and mother of five, has spent her life working hard for her family. Her journey began in Bataan before relocating to Palawan with her grandmother and parents, believing the island would give them better opportunities to start over.

Wilma started her own family at 16 in Puerto Princesa, where she also learned the process of making smoked fish, a skill that helped support her family's needs. At first, the business was started by her mother-in-law, and she later perfected it with the help of her mother.

As her mother-in-law aged and could no longer manage the business, Wilma took over. Afterwards, the business grew and required additional capital. This prompted her to become a client of CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI. She started with a modest loan of PHP 5,000, and solely used it to sustain the business.

For over 15 years of clientship, her loan grew to PHP 250,000, where she invested to meet the expanding business de-

mands. Her livelihood also benefits the community, as local fishermen supply fresh fish and earn income while helping keep her business running.

"Dahil sa pagiging client ko sa CARD SME Bank, bukod sa akong negosyo, marami na akong naipundar na mga home appliances, napa-gawa ko ang aming bahay, at napagtapos ko ang tatlo kong anak sa pag-aaral. (Being a client of CARD SME Bank has allowed me, not only to grow my business, but also to acquire home appliances, renovate our house, and support my three children in finishing their studies)," she said with pride.

Like other entrepreneurs, Wilma faced many challenges. Natural calamities often disrupt fishing, limiting supplies and slowing production. Yet Wilma's determination never waver and she keeps going through every setback.

Aside from her resilience and perseverance, Wilma also credits CARD SME Bank for being more than just a financial institution. "Magaling ang CARD SME Bank

dahil nasolusyunan nila ang mga pangangailangan at problema naming mga kliyente, lalo na pagdating sa karagdagang kapital para aming negosyo. (CARD is helpful because it understands and addresses our needs as clients, especially when we need additional capital for our businesses)," Wilma said.

What started as a simple household activity, Wilma's smoked fish business has grown into a reliable source of income. Today, her products reach customers across Puerto Princesa, Palawan, and even abroad through loyal OFW customers.

Looking ahead, Wilma wants to remain focused on her business, the venture that has carried her family through life's ups and downs. For her, the business is more than a livelihood. It is proof of her perseverance and strength, showing how she turned her skills into lasting support for her family.

For orders and inquiries, those who are within the area may visit her stall at Puerto Princesa Public Market, Palawan, or contact her at 0912-120-9577.

SM City San Pablo's 3-Day Sale Is Back with Bigger Deals and Exciting Prizes



SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA — It's back and bigger than ever. SM City San Pablo brings back its highly anticipated SM 3-Day Sale from May 1, 2 and 3, giving shoppers more reasons to head to the city's most loved mall!

Shoppers can enjoy up to 70% off on must-have fits, everyday essen-

tials, accessories, and more across participating stores—making it the ultimate season to refresh your wardrobe and stock up on favorites.

Adding to the excitement, every ± 1,000 purchase earns a raffle entry for a chance to win a Suzuki Dzire GL CVT Hybrid, giving customers even more reasons to shop and celebrate!

Known as the city's most loved mall, SM City San Pablo invites everyone to gather their squad and dive into an all-out, to-the-max shopping spree this summer. The 3-Day Sale promises a fun and rewarding experience for families, friends, and bargain hunters alike.

Don't miss out—shop, save, and experience it all as SM City San Pablo!



Hundreds of residents benefited from a Medical and Dental Mission held on April 15, 2026, at Barangay Mabuhay Covered Court, City of Carmona. The initiative was led by Office of the Governor - Medical Mission Team in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and the City Government of Carmona. A total of 447 patients received free medical consultations, while 78 individuals underwent tooth extractions. Services were ECG, X-ray, and FBS testing, highlighting the program's focus on comprehensive and preventive healthcare. The medical mission team aims to expand the initiative across Cavite, further strengthening its commitment to improving public health and delivering accessible healthcare services to communities. — OPIO

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Overall average transmission rates up in April 2026 electric bills

NNC urges LGUs to sustain nutrition programs despite global challenges



IMUS CITY, Cavite — The National Nutrition Council (NNC) has called on local government units (LGUs) to sustain and strengthen the implementation of nutrition programs under the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) amid emerging global challenges affecting food security and economic stability.

The call was emphasized by Lourdes Bulante-Orongan, Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator of NNC CALABARZON, during the Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Level Plan Implementation (MELLPI) Pro, an annual

mechanism that assesses LGU performance in delivering nutrition services.

The evaluation is conducted by members of the Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team (RNET), an inter-agency body organized at the regional level to assess, monitor, and validate the implementation of nutrition programs and initiatives.

"The continuity of nutrition programs is critical, especially during crises that may worsen hunger and malnutrition. LGUs play a vital role in safeguarding the nutritional well-being of their constituents," Bulante-Orongan said.

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President Marcos Jr. Awards 4 PCSO PTVs to Laguna and Cavite

PGC Distributes Php. 3.88 M Educational Aid to 1,944 EARIST Students

On April 16, 2026, 1,944 students from EARIST-Cavite Campus in Gen. Mariano Alvarez, Cavite received P3,888,000 in educational assistance. The distribution was led by Governor Abeng Remulla through the Office of the Provincial Governor—Provincial Scholarship Program, reflecting his commitment to accessible education. Also present during the event were Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista and 5th District Board Members Aidel Paul Belamide and Ivey Jayne Reyes, who expressed support for the initiative. The initiative was part of the provincial government's ongoing efforts to provide support and empower students, ensuring they have the resources needed to pursue their academic goals and succeed in their studies. — OPIO



Cayetan urges shift from reactive culture to 'preparation mindset'

DSWD promotes safe food handling practices among 4Ps beneficiaries in CALABARZON

BALIK TANAW 80'S-90'S 3RD ANNIVERSARY



Ginanap ngayong araw, Abril 18, 2026 sa Barangay San Mateo Covered Court ang ika-3 Anibersaryo ng Balik Tanaw 80's-90's. Nakisaya at nakipagsayaw si Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga kasama ang mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlungsod. Dumalo rin sa programa si Congressman Kiko Barzaga upang ipakita ang kanyang suporta.

DILG to LGUs: Strengthen Ordinances, Reclaim Streets for Families

EDITORIAL: The macho way

Davao City Vice Mayor Sebastian Duterte has challenged his sister's former aide, Ramil Madriaga, to a fistfight. In the latter's affidavit read aloud last week at the House of Representatives, Madriaga said former President Rodrigo Duterte saw Sebastian as "bading." Apparently, Vice President Sara, is the old man's favorite.

Madriaga was a resource person during the House proceedings tackling the impeachment of the Vice President. He confessed to being a bagman and to having huge amounts of money deposited in accounts created for him.

Last year, Sebastian also challenged then-National Capital Region Police Office Chief Nicolas Torre III to a brawl. General Torre had earlier arrested the former President upon returning to the Philippines. Duterte was sent to The Hague that same evening.

Torre accepted the challenge and turned the match into a charity event, as the scheduled fight took place just a few days after the devastation of a series of storms Crising, Dante, and Emong. The hype raised more than P20 million in cash and relief goods, turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Torre publicized his preparations for the match. Ultimately, Sebastian Duterte was a no-show, claiming a prior commitment. Torre reaped victory by default.

And now Digong's son is at it again, wanting to settle scores not by calm, logical debate or a legal proceeding, but the macho way. Madriaga, now 58 and detained for a separate charge in Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City, accepted the challenge. "I'm so honored to be challenged by a former presidential son into a fistfight," he said through his lawyer, even as he suggested Duterte, 38, challenge someone his own age and height.

This fascination with settling matters through a brawl is commonplace as it is amusing. It is commonplace because, for all the progressive thinking we claim to have developed, macho culture prevails. He who is unabashedly male - virile, loud, irreverent, and intrepid - reigns supreme. Being cerebral or sensitive is frowned upon. Homosexuality is laughed at, even derided. Conquests, of women, or industries, or constituencies, are the ultimate measure of power.

Thus, to be macho is what many men try to project, whether or not these standards should be there in the first place, and whether or not they fit these standards heaped upon us by society.

We say do away with making such challenges, and even accepting such challenges in the first place. Engage instead in a battle of true toughness - wits and intelligence and uprightness. And let those bereft of these be exposed for the losers that they are

ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publications of EXTRA JUDICIAL filed by the late TEOFILO VILLAMARZO and CECILIA RESUS VILLAMARZO published in DATELINE WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS dated APRIL 15, 22 & 29, 2024. The PAGE NO. should be read as 90 and not as published.

Dateline Weekly Newspapers : April 27, 2026

CAYETANO...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday urged Filipinos and government leaders to adopt a stronger culture of preparation, warning that repeated lapses in planning continue to leave the country exposed to rising costs and global disruptions.

Speaking during his "CIA 365 with Kuya Alan" Facebook Live on April 8, Cayetano said preparation must go hand in hand with purpose and planning, especially as external pressures such as oil supply shocks begin to affect the country.

"Ang problema kasi sa walang preparasyon, malilimit ang [ating] options," he said.

The senator pointed to longstanding gaps in the country's energy and infrastructure planning, citing the absence of a strategic oil stockpile and delays in pursuing energy opportunities such as joint exploration.

"Dahil wala tayong preparasyon, for example sa strategic stockpile ng oil, we're at the mercy of the world market at sa mga presyo at supply ngayon," he said.

Cayetano noted how missed opportunities in areas such as electric vehicles and right-of-way planning have made current challenges more difficult and costly to address.

While acknowl-

DSWD...

April 21, 2026 - Beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in the CALABARZON Region undergo proper food handling sessions as part of the Family Development Session (FDS) titled "Pagkaing Malinis, Pagkaing Ligtas" for the month of April 2026.

In this FDS session, the 4Ps City / Municipal Links discuss the importance of proper food preparation, storage, and hygiene to ensure safety of their family, especially the children.

"Sa panahon ngayon dahil mahal na ang bilihin, nagluluto na lamang ng kasya sa amin; nakakaiwas na rin sa pag-aaksaya. Tinitiyak ko na malinis ang inihahanda kong pagkain para sa am-

edging that mistakes are inevitable, the senator said repeatedly making the same errors reflects a failure to learn, linking the idea to a deeper understanding of repentance. "When we make a mistake, we learn from it... Repentance means 'Mali ang pag-iisip ko, babaguhin ko [ito],'" he said.

Cayetano emphasized that preparation applies not only to national policy but also to personal decisions, such as setting aside resources for future needs instead of spending everything in the present.

Drawing from past experience, Cayetano recalled pushing for tourism-related funding under Bayanihan 2 to help generate jobs, improve infrastructure, and retrain workers.

He said early preparation could have helped the country recover faster alongside its regional neighbors.

He reiterated the importance of a more coordinated and forward-looking government response, citing ongoing efforts under the Senate's proposed crisis response mechanism.

"Iyon talaga ang intention: na maging mas comprehensive ang approach, mas proactive, and then to not to criticize but to get everyone together," he said. PR

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NNC...

She noted that despite supply chain disruptions and rising food costs linked to global developments, LGUs must remain proactive in ensuring that nutrition interventions reach vulnerable sectors.

Through MELLPI Pro, LGUs are assessed based on their planning, implementation, and monitoring of nutrition programs, while also identifying gaps and areas for improvement.

"Sa pamamagitan ng MELLPI Pro, nakikita natin kung ano ang mga programang naipapatupad sa bawat bayan, at nagiging daan ito upang makapag-lobby tayo sa LGUs"

Orongan also stressed the need to prioritize nutrition at the local level, noting that not all LGUs place health and nutrition at the forefront of their agenda.

"Ipagpatuloy sana ang pagtataguyod ng mga programang pang-kalusugan.

Alam naman natin na hindi lahat ng LGUs ay ginagawa itong prayoridad, kaya mahalaga ang patuloy na adbokasiya para labanan ang iba't ibang anyo ng malnutrisyon".

Its strategies include improving access to nutritious food, promoting health and nutrition education, and strengthening local governance mechanisms.

For 2026, the RNET CALABARZON is set to visit five provinces, 22 cities, five municipalities, and 27 barangays from March 24 to July 30.

The NNC reiterated that strong local leadership, sustained commitment, and strategic partnerships with civil society and the private sector are essential to achieving national nutrition targets, especially in times of global uncertainty.

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She further highlighted the urgency of early intervention in addressing malnutrition.

"Kapag ang bata ay umabot na sa preschool age, mahirap nang habulin ang stunting o pagkabansot, kaya dapat maagapan ito sa loob ng F1K o first 1000 days ng bata."

The PPNAN serves as the country's blueprint in combating malnutrition through coordinated efforts among national agencies, LGUs, and community stakeholders.

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Overall...

Power consumers may see a slight increase in transmission rates reflected in their April 2026 electricity bills.

The overall equivalent average transmission rate for the March 2026 billing period to be billed by distribution utilities and electric cooperatives this April increased by 4.26% to PhP1.7526/kWh, up from February's PhP1.6810/kWh.

Ancillary Service (AS) rates - pass-through costs for power supplied by power generators who are AS providers during supply-demand imbalance - increased from PhP 0.8275/kWh in February to PhP0.8516/

kWh in March.

NGCP emphasized that it does not earn from AS and does not benefit from any change in AS prices, as these are remitted directly to generation companies with bilateral contracts with NGCP, and to the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines (IEMOP) for AS sourced from the Reserve Market.

Meanwhile, NGCP's transmission wheeling rate, or the fee for delivering power through the transmission grid slightly increased to PhP0.7022/kWh in March from PhP 0.6677/kWh in February.

"The increase in effective transmission

DTI LAGUNA AND PARTNERS EMPOWER MSMEs THROUGH CERTIFIED DIGITAL NEGOSYO PROGRAM

February 24, 2026 | Calamba City, Laguna - Strengthening its commitment to digital transformation and MSME development, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center Calamba City, in collaboration with Start-Up Village, Association of Laguna Food Processors (ALAFOP), and National University Laguna, successfully conducted the Certified Digital Negosyo Program at the 3rd Floor Auditorium, Henry Sy Sr. Hall, National University Laguna, Brgy. Milagrosa, Calamba City, Laguna.

The activity brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, MSMEs, and students for an intensive learning session focused on digital transformation, online marketing strategies, e-commerce platforms, and leveraging technology to expand business opportunities. The program formally opened with an invocation followed by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

In his opening remarks, DTI Laguna Provincial Director Christian Ted O. Tungohan emphasized the vital role of digital transformation in enhancing business competitiveness and sustainability. He highlighted DTI's continued dedication to equip-

ping entrepreneurs with practical knowledge and tools to thrive in the digital economy.

DTI 4-A CALABARZON Assistant Regional Director Revelyn A. Cortez delivered a message of support, reaffirming the regional office's commitment to strengthening MSMEs through strategic capacity-building programs.

Engr. Elcy C. Lacambra, Administration Director of National University Laguna, likewise expressed the university's support in fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry-academe collaboration.

The learning sessions featured distinguished industry experts who shared actionable insights:

Session 1: "Having a Growth Mindset through Digitalization" by Mr. Carlo Calimon, President and Co-founder of Start Up Village, underscored the importance of adaptability and innovation in scaling businesses.

Session 2: "The SME Playbook: Leveraging eCommerce & AI to Grow Your Business" by Mr. Dennis Velasco, CEO and Founder of Prosperna, introduced strategies on maximizing e-commerce platforms and artificial intelligence to accelerate growth.

wheeling rates has no impact on NGCP's revenue, as the company's allowable revenue is capped by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC)," NGCP clarified.

NGCP reiterates that bulk of the overall transmission rate still comprises of charges for Ancillary Services.

"As the system operator, NGCP's priority is to ensure the grid remains resilient during supply-demand imbalances. NGCP does not profit from AS charges, as these are remitted directly to the providers who help us maintain the continuous flow of electricity across the country," NGCP said. PR

Session 3: "How to Grow Sales Smarter Beyond the Cash Register" by Ms. Kristianne Valerie Reyes, Co-founder of KaHero, focused on data-driven approaches to increase sales and improve customer engagement.

Session 4: "Simplifying Tax Filing and Bookkeeping with Digital Tools" by Ms. Trizia Venus, Growth Marketing Associate of Taxumo, highlighted digital solutions that streamline financial management and compliance processes.

Session 5: "The Challenges of Logistics and Live Commerce, and How to Solve Them" by Mr. Nico Luciano, CEO and Founder of Deliverase Technology, addressed common logistical challenges and practical solutions for businesses engaged in live commerce.

The program concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Leony Reyes, President of ALAFOP, who commended the collaborative efforts of the organizers and encouraged participants to apply their newly acquired knowledge to drive sustainable business growth.

The Certified Digital Negosyo Program reflects DTI Laguna's continuing commitment to empowering MSMEs with relevant digital skills,

President...

The national government has continued to strengthen local health services with the turnover of four Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs) to the provincial governments of Cavite and Laguna under the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The ceremonial turnovers were held separately on March 27, 2026, with the President personally leading the distribution of the medical transport vehicles through the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

At Camp General Mariano Castañeda in Silang, Cavite, the President together with Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla Jr. awarded two PTVs to the provincial government of Cavite during the 47th Commencement Exercises of

PCSO Medical Transport

DILG...

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) called on local government units (LGUs) to pass new ordinances and strengthen existing local rules in support of the government's Safer Cities initiative, a nationwide push to make streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces safer for Filipino families.

The campaign carries out the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to strengthen peace and order, reduce crime, and ensure that people feel secure not only at home, but also on the roads, in markets, near schools, and in plac-

es where daily life happens. The DILG urged provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays to review and reinforce ordinances covering public drinking, roaming shirtless in public areas, excessive noise, videoke operations beyond 10:00 p.m., and curfew measures for minors.

For LGUs where these rules already exist, the Department called for consistent enforcement and stronger police visibility, especially in busy streets, transport terminals, commercial districts, and other crowded areas where residents expect or-

der and protection. The Department emphasized that local chief executives are mandated under the law to implement measures that promote the general welfare, maintain peace and order, protect public safety, and preserve public convenience.

Recent implementation data from the Safer Cities initiative recorded 68,257 public safety interventions, reflecting active enforcement, guidance, and community correction across participating areas. Many incidents involved public drinking and smoking, roaming shirtless in public places, minors found outside during curfew hours, and unauthorized karaoke operations beyond allowed hours.

The initiative is currently being piloted across LGUs in the National Capital Region, with expansion set for major urban centers nationwide. The DILG said safer communities are measured by whether parents feel at ease letting their children walk outside, workers can go home without fear, and neighborhoods can rest peacefully at night. DILG

the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) Silang-Paglaom Class of 2026. Assisting in the turnover was PCSO Southern Tagalog and Bicol Region Department Head Irma Guemo, with the PTVs formally received by Governor Francisco Gabriel Remulla.

Meanwhile, at Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna, the President also personally led the donation of two PTVs to the provincial government, which were received by Governor Sol Aragones. PCSO Assistant General Manager for Management Services Sector Arnel Casas and PCSO Laguna Branch Head Flora Obina were on hand during the turnover ceremony.

The donation of PTVs forms part of the PCSO Medical Transport

Program, which aims to provide immediate medical transportation and enhance emergency response capabilities, particularly in communities requiring reliable and accessible healthcare services.

Records show that by the end of 2025, PCSO had successfully completed the distribution of PTVs to all cities and municipalities nationwide, reinforcing the government's commitment to bringing essential medical services closer to the Filipino people.

Through initiatives such as this, the administration continues to underscore its dedication to strengthening the country's healthcare system and ensuring timely, life-saving medical assistance across communities. PR

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SM City Tanza Hosts Successful SUPER FAM RUN



SM City Tanza recently held its SUPER FAM RUN, bringing together families, friends, and fitness enthusiasts for a day of wellness and community spirit. The event featured an energetic morning of running activities, culminating in joyful finish line moments that highlighted camaraderie and shared achievement. Participants of all ages filled the venue with enthusiasm, turning the run into a celebration of health, unity, and fun.

BOOOST Now Open at SM City Trece Martires



Fitness enthusiasts and mall-goers can now enjoy a healthier way to recharge as BOOOST officially opens at SM City Trece Martires. Known for its protein-packed shakes and refreshing blends, the newest addition offers a convenient option for those with active lifestyles. Shoppers are invited to fuel up and experience a refreshing boost while enjoying their visit at the mall.

Nagbigay ng dagdag na kaalaman at kakayahan sa coconut-cacao intercropping ang isinagawang pagsasanay na "Training on Cacao Production, Postharvest, and Coconut-Cacao Intercropping" sa ilalim ng Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).



Sa loob ng apat na araw, napalalim ang kaalaman ng mga kalahok sa produksyon, postharvest, at pagproseso ng kakaw, pati na rin sa integrasyon nito sa niyugan bilang praktikal na paraan upang mapataas ang ani at kita.

Sa pagtatapos ng programa, nagbahagi ng mensahe si Assistant Center Director Sherylou C. Alfaro, RAgr ng DA-ATI CALABARZON, na nagbigay-diin sa kahalagahan ng patuloy na pagkatuto at pagsasabuhay ng mga natutunan sa aktwal na pagsasaka.

Isinagawa ang pagsasanay mula Abril 20 hanggang 23, 2026 sa Villar Foundation Farm School, Bacoor, Cavite, at Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure, Nagcarlan, Laguna, sa pakikipagtulungan ng DA-ATI CALABARZON, DA-RFO IV-A High Value Crops Development Program, at Villar Foundation Farm School and Tourism Farm.

Free Eye Check Now Available at OJO Eyewear in SM City Dasmariñas



Shoppers can now take a step toward better eye health with a free eye check at OJO Eyewear in SM City Dasmariñas. The store offers reliable vision care and expert assistance, making it easier for customers to prioritize their eye wellness while enjoying their mall visit.



RICOH (PHILIPPINES), INC. OFFICE INAUGURATION



Congressman Roy M. Loyola, representing City of Carmona Mayor Dahlia A. Loyola, graced the inauguration of RICOH (PHILIPPINES), INC., located at Lot 1215 Gov. Drive, Brgy. Bancal, City of Carmona, Cavitemarking

In his message, Cong. Roy expressed gratitude and extended his appreciation to Mr. Frederick Sult, President and CEO of Ricoh Philippines, for his trust and confidence in Carmona. Ricoh is a global leader in imaging and office solutions, known for products such as printers, copiers, digital cameras, document management systems, and workflow automation. He emphasized that this investment boosts the local economy by generating jobs, expanding opportunities for residents and nearby communities, and strengthening local development.

Also present at the event were Mr. Yosuke Narita, CFO of Ricoh Asia Pacific; Mr. Tsugane Satoshi, Chief Digital Officer of Ricoh Asia Pacific; Mr. Carlos Sibal, Senior Vice President of Phoenix Publishing; Ms. Carryll Yu, President and CEO of Kou Fu Packaging; and Mr. John Harper of HPH.

2026 MELLPI Pro Highlights: RNET CALABARZON continues MELLPI Pro visits to Los Baños, Laguna and Cities of Imus and Bacoor

The Regional Nutrition Evaluation Team (RNET) CALABARZON maintained its momentum for the Monitoring and Evaluation of Local Level Plan Implementation Protocol (MELLPI Pro) by visiting the Municipality of Los Baños, Laguna, and the Cities of Imus and Bacoor in Cavite held on 13-16 April 2026.

Members of the RNET CALABARZON conducted a 1-day MELLPI Pro in Los Baños while Cities of Imus and Bacoor were visited simultaneously for a 3-day evaluation.

Los Baños, Laguna: The Municipality of Los Baños in Laguna welcomed the RNET composed of Vice Chair Ms. Maria Teresa Pamplona, Senior Science Research Specialist of Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON with members Nutrition Officer (NO) II Kyla Guarda of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON and Aquaculturist II Ms. Marilou B. Mosqueda of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) CALABARZON. The evaluation visit held on 13 April 2026 was conducted to monitor and evaluate the municipality's maintenance for Nutrition Honor Award (NHA) status through strengthened nutrition governance and program implementation.

The team was warmly welcomed by Honorable Mayor Neil Andrew Nocon, who expressed his full support in enhancing nutrition interventions and services in their municipality. Also present during the courtesy call were Provincial Nutrition Action Officer (PNAO) of Laguna Province Mr. Prince Ian Jervis Malleta and District Nutrition Program Coordinators (DNPCs) Ms. Judy Melicio and Ms. Lhen Esteves, as well as members of the Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC), reflecting a strong commitment to collaborative local nutrition action.

A desk review of documents and reports was conducted afterwards. The day ended with the RNET presenting their comprehensive findings and recommendations through a feedback-

ing and exit conference, highlighting key strengths, areas for improvement, and actionable strategies to further enhance the municipality's nutrition programs and sustain its high level of nutrition program management.

Imus City: NNC CALABARZON Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Ms. Lourdes Bulante-Orongan and Project Development Officer I Ms. Anne Nicole S. Gonzales, joined by Information Officer II Ms. Cecilia C. Maloles of the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) CALABARZON, comprised the RNET assigned for the MELLPI Pro in Imus City, Cavite. The assessment covered the City Nutrition Committee (CNC) and Barangay Tanzang Luma IV as the endorsed City Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Committee (COBNC). In addition, the performance of local nutrition focal points (LNFPs) namely City Nutrition Action Officer (CNAO) Dr. Ferdinand Mina, City Nutrition Program Coordinator (CNPC) Cristina Balana, and City Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholar (COBNS) Rowena Costa of Barangay Tanzang Luma IV.

The RNET also had the opportunity to meet with Honorable Mayor Alex L. Advincula and City Administrator Lauro D. Monzon. A feedbacking and exit conference was subsequently conducted with members of the CNC and BNC, the latter led by Honorable Punong Barangay Jhun G. Cinto. During the session, the MELLPI Pro score and key findings from the desk review were presented. Both CNC and BNC members expressed a strengthened commitment to adopt the recommendations, enhance the implementation of their nutrition initiatives, and achieve better outcomes not only for future MELLPI Pro assessments but also for the improvement of the city's nutrition situation.

Bacoor City: NOS II Ms. Kyla Guarda and Ms. Samantha Bantilan of NNC CALABARZON, together with Ms. Liezel Villanueva, Nutritionist-Dietitian I from the Department of Social Welfare and

Development (DSWD) CALABARZON, visited Bacoor City to assess the city's performance in the implementation and management of nutrition programs, as well as the performance of LNFPs namely CNAO Cristina Elalto, CNPC Rosalie Regulacion and City Outstanding BNS Cristrose Raagas of Barangay Sinbanali. Barangay Molino I was also evaluated as the City Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Committee. The three-day activity was graced by Honorable Mayor Strike Revilla and Honorable Vice Mayor Rowena Mendiola Bautista to show full support for the evaluation.

The third day concluded with a feedback and exit conference, duly attended by CNC and BNC members of Barangay Molino I and Sinbanali. The session formally presented the results of the evaluation, along with corresponding recommendations to further strengthen nutrition program management at both the city and barangay levels. This served as an opportunity for the local stakeholders to reaffirm their commitment to sustaining effective nutrition governance and ensuring the continuous improvement of nutrition interventions in their communities.

The City of Bacoor is vying for the 3rd Year Green Banner Seal of Compliance Award and subsequently the Consistent Regional Outstanding Winner in Nutrition Award.

The MELLPI Pro is the monitoring and evaluation system for the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) conducted once a year focusing on local level performance specifically of local government units (LGUs) and LNFPs namely Provincial/City/Municipal Nutrition Action Officers (P/C/MNAOs), District/City/Municipal Nutrition Program Coordinators (D/C/MNPCs) and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs). To date, the RNET CALABARZON has visited seven (7) LGUs for the MELLPI Pro and will continue to visit the remaining provinces, cities and municipalities until 30 July 2026.

Col. Manny Pacquiao Visits RESCOM, PA, Participates in Athletic Day



The Reserve Command, Philippine Army (RESCOM, PA), warmly welcomed Col. Emmanuel "Manny" Pacquiao, PA (Res), the Acting Brigade Commander of the 2203rd Ready Reserve Infantry Brigade, 12RCDG based in General Santos City, at Camp Riego de Dios, Tanza, Cavite on April 22, 2026. He was received by the Commander of RESCOM, PA, alongside officers, enlisted personnel, and the Command's civilian staff. Col. Pacquiao actively participated in the unit's athletic day, promoting physical fitness among reservists in support of the Command's "Reboot" Strategic Thrust. He also delivered an inspiring message to the members of OCC-ROTC Class 03-2025 comprised of 110 female and 123 male officer candidates encouraging discipline, resilience, and commitment to service.

SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL JOB FAIR AT CITY OF GENERAL



The Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Trece Martires City participated in the Senior High School Job Fair held at Luis Ferrer Senior High School, Barangay Pasong Kawayan II, City of General Trias, Cavite on March 25, 2026. During the activity, the LHIO provided information and assistance to students and jobseekers regarding PhilHealth membership, registration procedures, benefits, and other related services. The participation aimed to educate graduating senior high school students and first-time jobseekers on the importance of health insurance coverage as they prepare to enter the workforce. The activity also helped promote awareness of PhilHealth programs and services available to the youth and the community.

Pangalawang Regional Awarding Ceremony ng DA-4A, isinagawa sa Quezon



Walong natatanging indibidwal at organisasyon ang pinarangalan ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa ginanap na ikalawang Regional Awarding Ceremony ng Gawad Saka Awardees, Top-Performing Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs), at Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) sa lalawigan ng Quezon para sa taong 2025 noong ika-9 ng Marso sa Lucena City, Quezon. Pilipinas na pambato ng rehiyon sa 50th Gawad Saka sa kategoryang Outstanding Large Animal Raiser Adopting Integrated Farming System, ang kaniyang natamong pangalang ay nagsilbing inspirasyon para lalo pa niyang pag-ibayuhin ang kanilang pagsisikap sa pagsasaka at maging halimbawa sa kanilang komunidad. Samantala, pangalawang pinarangalan naman ang Palcon Dairy Multi-Purpose bilang Outstanding Dairy Cattle Raiser; Cooperative Bank of Quezon Province para sa Outstanding Rural Financial Institution; Yakap at Halik MPC-Quezon II para sa Outstanding Coconut Farmers Organization; at Ginintuang Butil ng Sta.Teresa Irrigators Association, Inc. para sa Outstanding Rice Cluster-Irrigator's Associations.

Public...

lenges with waste management persist, he emphasized that discipline is key to reducing waste, especially waste that ends up in rivers and waterways, which degrades water quality and obstructs water flow during heavy rains or typhoons. "Waste is something we cannot avoid, it is a daily concern in every household. What we need, above all, is discipline so we can keep our surroundings in order. While many Filipinos strive to keep their homes clean, this responsibility should extend beyond our doorsteps. So

the principle of 'Tapat Mo, Linis Mo' is something we must also enforce in every barangay," Llorente said. He also called on the public to refrain from using single-use plastics, noting that plastic waste continues to pose serious environmental challenges, polluting rivers and waterways, degrading the environment, and disrupting local ecosystems. Meanwhile, to ensure the sustainability of the program, Llorente said the local government unit under the leadership of Mayor Roseller Rizal, with the support of the Calamba City CENRO, regularly

conducts river cleanup activities alongside barangay-led initiatives and the cleanup of other tributaries feeding into the lake, which can sometimes generate up to 100 sacks of collected waste. In the 2023 IQAir World Air Quality Report, Calamba City was ranked as the least polluted city in the Philippines and placed sixth among the cleanest cities in Southeast Asia. In line with this distinction, the city government continues to affirm the implementation of environment-centered initiatives, projects, and ordinances.

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Seminar on food hygiene and product labeling empowers local entrepreneurs in Trece Martires City



Trece Martires City, Cavite — In a significant move to strengthen grassroots entrepreneurship, the Department of Science and Technology – Cavite, in partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) and the Office of the City Agriculturist, successfully conducted the seminar titled "Enhancing a Market Readiness of Post-harvest Processed Crops: A Workshop on Proper Packaging and Labeling" on March 31, 2026. The initiative brought together senior citizens, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries, and local cooperatives engaged in small-scale food businesses such as peanut butter production, assorted sweet delicacies, and atsara-making. The seminar aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical skills to ensure food safety, improve product presentation, and comply with proper labeling standards. Experts from DOST shared valuable insights on maintaining hygiene in food preparation, extending product shelf life through proper packaging, and creating labels that meet regulatory requirements while appealing to consumers. These learnings are expected to enhance the overall quality and marketability of locally produced goods. Beyond technical knowledge, the initiative underscores the LGU's commitment to inclusive economic development. By empowering marginalized sectors such as seniors and 4Ps beneficia-

LARGEST UNIQLO LOGISTICS HUB SA SOUTHEAST ASIA, BINUKSAN SA CAVITE



Ginanap nitong April 17, 2026 ang inauguration ng Uniqlo Logistics Facility sa Riverpark North, Cavite, sa pangunguna ni Mayor Luis 'Jon-jon' A. Ferrer kung saan ito ay poised maging pinakamalaking logistics hub ng clothing brand sa buong Southeast Asian region. Nagbunga ang proyekto sa pag-acquire ng GT Capital Holdings Inc. ng 20% stake sa property venture for P9.16 billion sa pamamagitan ng Federal Land Inc. na subsidiary nito. Parte rin ito ng township development ng Federal Land NRE Global Inc. (FNG) at designed na maging isang "human-centric employment center."

PGC Holds Solo Parents' Family Day, Strengthens Support and Recognition



The discussion provided participants with a clearer understanding of their rights, benefits, and the latest provisions under the law, while also addressing common concerns and encouraging dialogue among stakeholders. To promote camaraderie and enjoyment, participants engaged in various Larong Pinoy activities, bringing a sense of nostalgia and unity among attendees. Adding entertainment to the celebration was the Wellness Program, titled "Pahinga at Kalinga para kina Juan at Juana," featuring a singing contest dubbed as "Solo Parent: Tinig ng Isang Magulang," which showcased the talents and confidence of participating solo parents. The activity not only highlighted their skills but also served as a platform for self-expression and empowerment. Through initiatives like the Solo Parents' Family Day, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to recognize the dedication and sacrifices of solo parents while creating opportunities for connection, learning, and holistic well-being—ensuring that no parent feels alone in their journey.— OPIO

Public participation vital in conserving environment

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Driven by the goal of preserving a clean and sustainable environment for future generations, around 2,500 students from various colleges and universities across Calamba City took part in a simultaneous citywide river cleanup on Thursday, April 16. Highlighting the city's commitment to environmental stewardship, Calamba City Higher Education Institutions Association (CCHEIA) President Dr. Ronald Gonzales shared that the initiative forms part of Calamba's 25th Cityhood Anniversary and is among the key activities marking the milestone. With the theme, "Kalinga sa Kalikasan, Kinabukasan ng Kabataan," the citywide river cleanup initiative highlights the importance of government agencies, institutions, and communities working together to achieve a sustainable environment for generations to come. "The rivers that flow through the city are vital lifelines, they sustain ecosystems, they support livelihoods, and reflect overall health of our environment. However, these same rivers faced growing threats from pollution, improper waste disposal, and environmental neglect. This is why initiatives like today's activity are crucial; they demonstrate that when institutions, government agencies and communities come together, meaningful change becomes possible," Gonzales said in his message. He also emphasized that the program served as a declaration of their shared responsibility to protect and preserve the environment, with the involvement of the youth to instill the importance of environmental initiatives and action. Meanwhile, in an interview, Calamba City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) Department Head Joseph Arlan Llorente emphasized the value of collective participation in environmental initiatives, noting that their impact goes beyond individuals, benefiting the entire community and the environment as a whole. Although challenges remain, the city government remains committed to ensuring that every citizen has a voice in the conservation of their shared environment.