

# Parañaque Eyes Economic Boost with Full Connectivity of CAVITEX C5 Link



Parañaque City is poised for accelerated economic growth as Mayor Edwin Olivarez expressed strong optimism following the full connectivity of the 7.7-kilometer CAVITEX C5 Link, which now provides a high-speed gateway to key business hubs in Cavite and Taguig.

For Mayor Olivarez, the milestone marks the realization of a long-envisioned transformation for the city's competitiveness. "Pangarap lang ito dati, ngayon totoo na," the Mayor said.

"The opening of the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 3B will make travel from Parañaque to Cavite and Taguig, and back, in just a matter of

minutes. More importantly, its impact on businesses, investors, and opportunities for our city will be immeasurable."

Segment 3B completes the alignment of the CAVITEX C5 Link. It connects Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) to C5 Road in Taguig City, reducing travel time from the usual 1.5 hours to just 15 minutes.

The improved mobility is expected to serve as a vital economic enabler, particularly as rising fuel costs continue to affect logistics and daily travel.

CAVITEX C5 Link provides efficient access to NAIA and C5, via key interchanges at the

R1 Expressway (Coastal Road), Sucat Road (Dr. A Santos Avenue), and C.P. Garcia Avenue (C5 Road), benefitting over 30,000 motorists daily.

The operational benefits of the project are echoed by the city's traffic management team. Reynaldo Murillo, Head of the Parañaque Traffic and Parking Management Office (TPMO), emphasized the project's role in improving urban traffic systems.

"Dahil kumpleto na ang koneksyon mula Cavite papuntang Metro Manila, inaasahang mababawasan ang traffic at mapapadali ang access sa mga pangunahing lugar tulad ng Taguig at airport.

Ginhawa sa biyahe at mas maayos na daloy ng trapiko ang pangunahing benepisyo nito," Murillo noted.

Barangay Moonwalk Chairwoman Jemelene Qui also shared the Mayor's optimism, noting the immediate relief for local residents.

"This development is expected to make daily commutes more convenient and contribute to a more productive environment for everyone," Qui said.

While the alignment is now fully connected, a portion of Segment 3B is currently operating under a modified scheme, with two lanes in each direction, as the remaining Right-of-Way (ROW) concerns are being addressed to achieve its full six-lane capacity with a 2x2 service road. Despite this, the local government remains confident that the new connectivity will immediately drive investments, stimulate business activity, and generate more employment opportunities for Parañaqueños.

The CAVITEX C5 Link expressway is a joint venture between Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation's (MPTC) subsidiary, the Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC), and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) and operated by the PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC).

the depth, width and water-carrying capacity of major river systems so they can drain floodwaters more effectively, particularly in low-lying communities.

The latest figure includes more than 1.04 million metric tons recently cleared from four river systems under maintenance operations aligned with the gov-

ernment. The program, known as Better Rivers PH, is SMC's voluntary initiative to help restore

## SMC's river cleanups reach 9.12M metric tons of waste, silt removed since 2020



In the Tullahan River, SMC cleared 144,324 metric tons from 4.37 kilometers of waterways running through Manila, Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

San Miguel Corporation's (SMC) ongoing river cleanup program has removed more than 9.12 million metric tons of silt, solid waste and other debris from major waterways since 2020, with the company continuing flood-mitigation work at no cost to the government.

The program, known as Better Rivers PH, is SMC's voluntary initiative to help restore

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## PhilHealth inilunsad ang "YAKAP Para sa Manggagawa" sa Bacoor ngayong Labor Day



BACoor CITY, Cavite — Kasabay ng pagdiriwang ng Araw ng Manggagawa nitong Mayo 1, inilunsad ng PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A ang programang "YAKAP Para sa Manggagawa (YAKAP sa Pamilyang Pilipino)" sa Main Square Mall, Molino Boulevard, Bacoor City upang maghatid ng mas pinalawak na serbisyong pangkalusugan para sa mga manggagawa at kanilang pamilya.

Nagsimula ang programa dakong alas-8:10 ng umaga para sa mga paunang kalahok sa pamamagitan ng audio-visual presentation, registration, at preliminaries na sinundan ng opening prayer at pag-awit ng Lupang Hinirang.

Nagbigay ng welcome remarks si Dr. Edwin M. Orina, Acting Regional Vice President ng PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A, kung saan bininyang-di-in niya ang kahalagahan ng accessible at tuloy-tuloy na serbisyong medikal para sa mga Pilipinong manggagawa.

Mula alas-10 ng umaga hanggang alas-2 ng hapon, binuksan ang programa para sa walk-in participants kung saan tampok ang libreng konsultasyon, laboratory services, gamot, at iba pang benepisyo sa ilalim ng YA-

KAP package. Ayon sa PhilHealth, layunin ng YAKAP na palawakin ang dating Konsulta program sa pamamagitan ng mas mataas na health coverage, dagdag laboratory at diagnostic services, at access sa mga accredited providers gaya ng pharmacies, dental clinics, at iba pang specialty services.

Kasama rin sa package ang libreng gamot para sa outpatients, cancer screening, dental care, at optometric services para sa mga batang edad 1 hanggang 15 taong gulang.

Ipinahayag din ni Zaira Perez na ang YAKAP ay isang "responsive and evolving primary care benefit package" na nakatuon sa tinatawag na 4Cs of care: contact, coordinated care, continuous care, at comprehensive care.

Nagkaroon din ng intermission number mula sa PRO IV-A Movers, live testimonials ng mga benepisaryo, at interactive activities para sa mga dumalo.

Sa kabuuan, ipinakita ng programa na layunin ng PhilHealth na ilapat ang serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga manggagawa, lalo na ngayong Labor Day, bilang pagkilala sa kanilang ambag sa bansa.

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# Over 19k job openings in Calabarzon on Labor Day

## CARD Bank, Inc. pinalalakas ang serbisyong pinansyal para sa mga deaf na kliyente



Si Dr. Dolores M. Torres, Senior Adviser ng CARD MRI (unang hanay, pangalawa mula sa kanan), kasama ang mga staff ng CARD Bank at mga Deaf na kliyente (unang hanay), na nagpapakita ng hand sign na "CARD Bank" sa Barleta Branch, Laguna.

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## DTI Laguna Strengthens Youth Entrepreneurship Through Start-up Seminar at LSPU San Pablo



February 23, 2026 | San Pablo City, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center San Pablo City, strengthened its advocacy for youth entrepreneurship by conducting a Business Start-up Seminar titled "From Idea to Enterprise: Business Discussion Session on Start-up Business for Latest Generation Trends" at the Laguna State Polytechnic University – San Pablo City Campus (LSPU-SPCC) Gymnasium.

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## CAVITE SERVICE CARAVAN



A day of service and unity unfolds at Cavite State University – Silang Campus as the Cavite Service Caravan rolls in, led by Gov. Abeng Remulla alongside Vice Gov. Ram Revilla Bautista, 5th District Representative Roy Loyola, 5th District Board Members Aidel Paul Belamide and Hon. Ivey Jayne Reyes, and Mayor Edward Carranza with the municipal council. Delivering care, connection, and essential services—right where every Silangueno needs it most.



It's officially FEST mode at SM City Dasmariñas! Catch the exciting Great Health Fest 2026 by Watsons and score up to 85% OFF, FREE health consultations, and a chance to win prizes worth up to ₱1 million!

Main Event Center | Until May 3  
#GalaToTheMax #EveryoneAtSMDasma  
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## IT'S WORSE IN THE PROVINCES: CAYETANO WARNS AGAINST 'ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL' OIL CRISIS AID

DSWD intensifies Pag-Abot Program in CALABARZON, expands reach to Cavite and Rizal  
660 HIRED AS DOLE CALABARZON DELIVERS JOBS, TUPAD AID ON LABOR DAY  
DOE: All Four Government-Secured Diesel Shipments Arrive; 178 Million Liters Added to National Fuel Buffer

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE CONDUCTS SUCCESSFUL DISPOSAL AND SALE OF VALUELESS RECORDS

## DOST-Cavite empowers MSME's at the 2026 Bacoor Business Summit



Strengthening the backbone of the local economy, DOST Cavite joined forces with the Bacoor Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (PCCI-Bacoor) for the Bacoor Business Summit 2026

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## DASMARIÑAS CITY GREEN LADIES INC. 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Happened last April 30, 2026, at the City of Dasmariñas Arena, the Dasmariñas City Green Ladies Inc. celebrated their 15th Anniversary with a dazzling masquerade party. The event showcased elegance, unity, and their continued commitment to community service and empowerment. Present at the event were Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, Vice Mayor Third Barzaga and Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, extending their support to the celebration.

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 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

SMC

ernment's Oplan Kontra Baha program. The work covered 24.29 kilometers of waterways along the Tullahan River, San Juan River, Laguna rivers and the Bulacan River System.

SMC said the maintenance cleanups are meant to help sustain the gains from earlier Better Rivers PH operations, including cleaner waterways and improved depth, width and water-carrying capacity, while preventing the renewed buildup of waste and silt that can obstruct floodwater flow.

"These river systems were among the waterways covered by our earlier cleanup efforts, but keeping them clear requires continuing maintenance," SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said.

"This latest work, in support of the government's Oplan Kontra Baha program, is part of our effort to protect the progress we have already made, preserve their water-carrying capacity, and prevent the buildup of waste and silt that can worsen flooding."

Since 2020, SMC has completed cleanup works across 10 major river systems, including the Bulacan, Pampanga, Pasig, Tullahan, San Juan, Navotas and Laguna river systems, covering a total of 188.48 kilometers of waterways.

The largest volume from the latest maintenance operations came from the Bulacan River System, where SMC removed 710,168 metric tons from 13.38 kilometers of the Maycapiz-Talipit-Bambang River and the downstream portion of the Meycauayan River.

In the Tullahan River, SMC cleared 144,324 metric tons from 4.37 kilometers of waterways running through Manila, Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

SMC also removed 83,289 metric tons from 4.54 kilometers of the San Juan River, covering sections from the Pasig River junction through Mandaluyong and San Juan, up to the Talayan area in Quezon City. The

company is also assisting in the partial demolition of a pumping station structure that has been obstructing water flow in Matlahib Creek in Talayan.

In Laguna, operations along the Biñan and San Isidro rivers yielded 107,192 metric tons of silt and waste from two kilometers of waterways.

SMC is also completing works in Parañaque, where 378,288 metric tons have been removed from 9.62 kilometers; the Landayan, San Pedro and Silang-Santa Rosa rivers in Laguna, where 130,679 metric tons have been removed from 1.30 kilometers; and the Alabang River, where 64,837 metric tons have been extracted from 1.03 kilometers.

Other ongoing works include the Las Piñas River System, with 198,477 metric tons cleared from 2.36 kilometers; Tabang River in Bulacan, with 36,838 metric tons removed from 9.30 kilometers; and Tanza River in Navotas, with 10,441 metric tons cleared from 0.38 kilometer.

Last March, SMC also began cleaning the upstream section of the Tullahan River in Quezon City, particularly in the Fairview and Novaliches areas. The company said it has so far removed 51,350 metric tons from 1.5 kilometers of river channel.

Ang said improved water flow and water quality have already been observed in rivers covered by the program, but long-term results will depend on sustained upkeep and public cooperation.

"After cleaning, deepening and widening these waterways, we need everyone's help to keep them from being clogged again," Ang said. "Proper waste segregation and disposal will prevent blockages in canals and waterways that should carry rainwater out to the rivers and eventually to Manila Bay. This is one practical way our communities can help reduce flooding during heavy rains."

DOST

held on April 22, 2026.

Organized in collaboration with the Business Permit and Licensing Department and the Department of Trade-Bacoor, the summit centered on the theme: "Building Competitive, Responsible, and Future-Ready Enterprises."

The event was spearheaded by Ma'am Gloria Silva, President of PCCI-Bacoor, alongside her dedicated staff. A highlight of the summit was the presence of Congresswoman Lani Mercado-Revilla, who delivered a timely address regarding the ongoing oil crisis.

She detailed how rising fuel costs have placed a significant strain on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and outlined strategic government proposals and actions aimed at mitigating these operational challenges.

Representing DOST Cavite, Ms. Anna Marie S. Daigan, Supervising Science Research Specialist, led a comprehensive discussion on the department's flagship initiatives designed to uplift Filipino entrepreneurs: SETUP (Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading

Program): which focused on providing MSMEs with the technological equipment and technical consultancy needed to improve productivity and product quality and iFWD PH (Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines) which aimed at assisting returning OFWs in establishing technology-based businesses to ensure sustainable livelihoods upon their return.

Ms. Daigan provided a clear roadmap of the requirements for each program, ensuring that attendees understood which support mechanism best suited their current business status.

Throughout the event, DOST staff engaged directly with participants, distributing informational brochures and answer specific technical queries.

By participating in high-impact events like the Bacoor Business Summit, DOST reaffirms its commitment to reaching more MSMEs—nurturing local talent through science, technology, and innovation to ensure they remain resilient in a changing global market.

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CAYETANO...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano is urging the government to adopt a tailored and localized response to the oil crisis, saying a one-size-fits-all approach throughout the country will not work because the impact varies across regions and sectors.

In a recent Facebook vlog, Cayetano said national discussions often focus on Metro Manila and fail to reflect the situation in provinces, islands, and remote communities.

"Ang tendency natin, dalawa: one is we talk (mainly) about Metro Manila and number two, when we talk, we're talking as if buong Metro Manila is the same situation sa bundok, sa isla, sa bawat barangay sa ating bansa," he said.

"Pag nagbigay tayo ng tulong, 'pag tayo naghanap ng solusyon, kailangan personalized 'yan. Kailangan nakatutok 'yan sa sitwasyon ng lugar," he added.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) support his point. In March 2026, inflation reached 4.3 percent in areas outside the National Capital Region (NCR), higher than the 3.4 percent recorded in NCR.

Transport inflation also increased rapidly in areas outside NCR at 7.3 percent, compared with 4.2 percent in NCR.

Wage levels also varied significantly across the country. The National Wages and Productivity Commission lists the daily minimum wage in NCR at up to P695, while MIMAROPA is at P455. In Eastern Visayas, the rate ranges from P422 to P452, and P426 to P439 in Zamboanga Peninsula.

These differences support Cayetano's point that the "one-size-fits-all" approach of providing a uniform amount and type of aid may not work on the ground.

He said this is true even within the transport sector, where drivers face different fuel costs depending on the kind of vehicle they operate and

the type of fuel they use. "For example, P5,000 na ayuda. Kung taxi driver ka tapos gas ang gamit mo, kulang ang P5K. Pero kung jeepney driver ka at diesel ang saksayan mo, [mas lalong kulang y'un]. So magkaiiba sila ng sitwasyon," he said.

At present, the government is distributing P5,000 in aid per bus, taxi, and UV express driver under its fuel subsidy program. Meanwhile, jeepney drivers, whether of modern or traditional units, get P1,500 each.

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The burden is even more pronounced in some off-grid areas like Palawan, where fuel is not only used for transport but also for power generation.

Cayetano said in other areas, unemployment also remains a major problem, suggesting that in some localities, the response may need to go beyond fuel subsidy and include livelihood or employment support.

"P roblemang problema talaga y'ung gasolina because [apektado nga] y'ung public transportation. Pero sa maraming rural areas, pagkain, presyo, at kawalan ng trabaho pa rin ang problema," he said.

The Minority Leader said this is why government response should be based on complete data.

"Kung mali ang facts natin, mali din ang conclusion natin. Kung mali ang figures natin sa pagbigay ng ayuda, hindi magiging effective," he said.

Cayetano had previously pushed for giving local government units a bigger role in responding to community needs, saying they are in the best position to see conditions on the ground and determine the most appropriate assistance for vulnerable sectors. PR

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660...

A total of 660 jobseekers were hired on the spot (HOTS) during the 124th Labor Day Job Fair spearheaded by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office IV-A (CALABARZON) on May 1, 2026.

Almost 2,000 jobseekers flocked to the event, reflecting strong demand for employment opportunities and the effectiveness of DOLE's job matching efforts.

Held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna, the job fair gathered employers, government agencies, and partners to deliver employment opportunities and essential services in one accessible venue.

Among those hired was Aaron Doctora of Calamba, Laguna, who shared, "Kinakabahan ako sa dami ng tao, pero naging maayos ang interview. Dahil sa job fair na ito, na-hired ng spot ako—sobrang worth it."

Christine Joy Ortiz of Bay, Laguna likewise expressed, "Medyo matalagal ang proseso, pero worth it dahil nakapasa ako. Masaya ako na hired na."

Strengthening Employment Through Partnerships

Key highlights included the signing of memoranda of agreement with the City College of Calamba for a Job Placement Office, the Department of Education for the implementation of the Government Internship Program (GIP), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for the implementation of TUPAD Tuloy Pasada.

Targeted Assistance for Affected Sectors

A major highlight of the event was the ceremonial launching and awarding of TUPAD Tuloy Pasada, conducted

in partnership with the LTFRB, to provide immediate support to transport workers affected by rising fuel costs.

Under this initiative, 845 transport workers will benefit from emergency employment assistance amounting to P10,723,050.00 for a 20-day work period.

Complementing this was the ceremonial awarding of TUPAD under the Integrated Services for Livelihood Advancement and Sustainable Employment, implemented in convergence with partner agencies for the benefit of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

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A total of 1,400 farmers and fisherfolk beneficiaries will be engaged in canal rehabilitation for 20 days, with a total allocation of P18,298,000.00, providing immediate income support while strengthening food production systems.

Livelihood, Youth, and Worker Support

Livelihood assistance was likewise provided under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), which supports individuals in starting or expanding small businesses through starter kits and equipment.

One beneficiary, Marilyn Makiling of Santa Rosa, Laguna, received a Milk Tea and Coffee Shop Package worth P46,820.00, which includes equipment to help revive and upgrade her business.

She shared, "Malaking tulong ito sa amin. Natanggap ko ang kagamitan para sa milk tea at coffee shop na matalagal ko nang pangarap. Mas pag-iigihan namin ito para makatulong sa pang-araw-araw, lalo na bilang isang PWD."

SPES payouts and other employment support services were also provided, reinforcing support for students and vulnerable workers.

The event also highlighted CALABARZON's strong youth employability initiatives, with

beneficiaries Althea Danielle Guerra (SPES), Mary Jean Balderas (JobStart), and Earl Maynard Atentar (GIP) recognized at the national Labor Day celebration in General Santos City led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr..

Bringing Sr-vices Closer to the People

A Government One-Stop Shop featuring agencies such as SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, and the Civil Service Commission provided convenient access to employment-related services.

Meanwhile, the Kadiwan ng Pangulo generated P79,030 in sales,

PROVINCIAL...

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) successfully conducted the disposal and sale of valueless records on April 22, 2026 at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City, reaffirming its commitment to efficient records management and regulatory compliance.

The actual disposal was witnessed by representatives from the National Archives of the Philippines, the Commission on Audit, and the designated records officers of PGC offices, ensuring transparency and compliance at every stage of the process. Prior to the sale, a thorough verification of records was conducted to ensure that only authorized materials were disposed.

In her message, Ms. Luzviminda Amparo, Records Management Improvement Committee (RMIC) Chairperson, acknowledged the presence and active participation of records officers and partner agencies, emphasizing the critical role of responsible records disposal in maintaining transparency, accountability, and organizational efficiency.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ferdinand Belamide, Chief of Staff, expressed his support for the initiative, noting that the continued practice of systematic disposal at the PGC is a positive step toward sustaining effective records

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representing the Provincial Government Center for its strong support and coordination throughout the disposal process. He also expressed appreciation for the PGC's adherence to Republic Act No. 9470, which governs the management and preservation of public records in the Philippines.

The Commission on Audit was represented by Ms. Chelsea Vidallo, ensuring that the process complied with auditing and accountability standards.

The disposal activity involved a total of 9,800 kilograms of valueless records, equivalent to 27.44 cubic meters. These were sold to the official NAP-accredited buyer, D' Lacoste Enterprise, generating total proceeds of Php 17,140.00. The amount will be remitted to the PGC's general fund.

From Page 1

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The activity concluded with the formal signing of the Certificate of Disposal by all concerned parties, marking the successful completion of the process.

This initiative highlights the PGC's continued dedication to proper records management, compliance with national regulations, and the promotion of transparency and accountability in public service. — OPIO

supporting both consumers and local producers.

DOLE CALABARZON Regional Director Atty. Erwin N. Aquino emphasized that initiatives like the job fair make it easier for ordinary Filipinos to access jobs and government support in one place—helping them secure income, rebuild livelihoods, and move toward a more stable future.

The Labor Day Job Fair underscores DOLE's continuing commitment to expanding access to employment, strengthening partnerships, and delivering inclusive and responsive services for Filipino workers.

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The Labor Day Job Fair underscores DOLE's continuing commitment to expanding access to employment, strengthening partnerships, and delivering inclusive and responsive services for Filipino workers.

# Enchanted Kingdom welcomes pets and animal lovers to a magical, inclusive one-day Pets Day event



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, opened its magical gates to cats, dogs, pet owners, and animal lovers for a pet-inclusive one-day Furever Enchanted Summer campaign, the theme park celebrated the bond between pets and owners while promoting animal welfare through fun activities and surprises, all prepared especially for dogs, cats, and their human companions by EK's beloved character, Ogg the Guard.

The festivities kicked off at the Enchanting Events Place (EEP) Foyer with learning sessions on basic obedience training, pet health and safety, responsible ownership, and animal bite awareness, led by speakers from the Santa Rosa City Veterinary Office, Animal Bite Center, and the dog training institution Cal-

nine Connections. Volunteers from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) were also present to support the event.

EK also partnered with Calamba City-based animal rescue organization, Second Chance Aspin Shelter Philippines Incorporated (SECASPI), to host an onsite pet adoption drive, giving rescued cats and dogs the opportunity to find loving forever homes among event participants.

Pets and their furparents had a magical time bonding at Ogg's Paw Ville located at the Agila Grounds. This pet-inclusive space featured an EK-themed pet playground, a vibrant photobooth, complimentary services like pet training consultations, veterinary checkups, and anti-rabies shots, along with a magical bazaar, packed with pet essentials, treats, merchandise, and giveaways.

All attendees

gained access to these exciting pet-friendly activities and experiences, along with exclusive savings on Regular Day Passes, allowing pet owners to enjoy the rest of the Park after the event.

Forever Enchanted Summer Plan your enchanting vacation ahead with EK's updated Park schedule starting this April. EK is currently open Thursdays to Sundays from 11AM to 8PM. Starting May 4 until June

30, guests can enjoy the Park's over 30 rides and attractions, along with other enchanting experiences on Fridays to Sundays from 1PM to 8PM.

For more information and updates on the Furever Enchanted Ogg's Pets Day and EK's other events and offerings, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek\_philippines for Instagram.

# Lexter P. Jackson at Alex Handig Pinakamahusay na Makata ngtulang Senyas 2026 sa Magkaibang Kategoriya



Ipagkakaloob kina Lexter P. Jackson (Kategoryang Sekundarya) at Alex Handig (Kategoryang Tertiaryaryang) ang Unang Gantimpala sa kani-kanilang kategorya ng KWF Tulang Senyas 2026. Makatatanggap silá ng PHP10,000 (net), plake, at medalya.

Gagawaran si Lexter P. Jackson para sa kaniyang tulang senyas na "Pitong Araw ng Paglikha"

at gagawaran naman si Alex Handig para sa kaniyang tulang senyas na "Punò ng Buhay."

Nanalo rin si June Lorinser M. Mojica ng Ikalawang Gantimpala (Kategoryang Tertiaryaryang) sa kaniyang tulang senyas na "Ang Nakatagong Pagdurusa ng Pagkawala ng Pandinig."

Nagwagi naman ng Ikatlong Gantimpala (Kategoryang Tertiaryaryang)

sa kaniyang tulang senyas na "Lakbay ng Lahi" si Mharck Daniel C. Carreon.

Si Lexter P. Jackson ay kasalukuyang nasa Junior High School sa Benilde Deaf School, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde kung saan siya ay nagwagi sa timpalak sa pagtula.

Ilan sa kaniyang mga talento ay pagkuha ng retrato at pag-aayos ng mga video.

Hilig niya ang paglalaro ng chess, badminton, volleyball, at table tennis.

Si Alex Handig ay kasalukuyang nag-aaral sa De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde na may kursong Bachelor in Applied Deaf Students with Specialization in Visual Multimedia Arts.

Siya rin ay isang aktibong Deaf student-leader advocate.

Ilan sa kaniyang mga kakayahan ay paggamit ng Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Canva, at pagkuha ng retrato.

Siya rin ay isang FSL signer.

Ang Timpalak sa Tulang Senyas ay kaula-unahang patimpalak sa pagtula sa pasenyas na paraan.

Itinaguyod ito ng KWF na naglalayong palaganapin ang FSL bilang

tunay na wika, pagsulong ng Filipino Deaf culture sa pamamagitan ng panitikan, kilalanin at bigyang-puwang ang di-matatawarang kakayahan at husay ng mga kababayang Deaf, at makapag-ambag sila sa panulaang Filipino ng kanilang obra sa pamamagitan ng pasenyas na pagtula.

Ang KWF Araw ng Parangal 2026 ay ganapin sa 29 Abril 2026.



# AGRI-TRADE FAIR AND EXHIBIT, TAMPOK SA WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION NG DA CALABARZON



Pinasinayaan ng Department of Agriculture Region IV CALABARZON katuwang ang Panlungsod na Pamahalaan ng Lipa ang Women's Month Trade Fair and Exhibit noong ika-24 hanggang ika- 27 ng Marso sa City Hall Grouds, Lipa City, Batangas.

Ito ay bahagi ng Women's Month Celebration na may layuning kilalanin ang kakayahan, pagsisikap at dedikasyon ng mga kababaihan sa larangan ng pagsasaka.

Tampok dito ang mga ipinagmamalaking produkto ng 60 kababai-

hang magsasaka mula sa iba't- ibang grupo, samahan at asosasyon sa pangunguna ng Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) na naglalayong mapalawak ang oportunidad pangkabuhayan ng mga kababaihan at kilalanin ang kanilang mahalagang papel sa agrikultura.

Ilan sa kanilang mga produkto ang kape, mga sariwang gulay, organic products, mga chips na gawa sa gulay, mga damit, at inuming gawa sa prutas.

Ayon kay OIC-Regional Technical

Director, Engr. Romelo F. Reyes ng DA CALABARZON,

marami umangong programa ang isinusulong ng ahesya para sa mga kababaihan masasaka kung kaya't mahalaga ang suporta at pagtutulungan hindi lang upang maiangat ang pamumuhay ng mga ito kundi ang kapakanan ng buong bayan.

S a m a n t a l a , isinagawa rin ang GAD Basic Concept & Principle, Seminar on Urban Gardening, at Stress Management para sa mga kalahok.

DOE...

◀ From Page 1

DOE: All Four Government-Secured Diesel Shipments Arrive; 178 Million Liters Added to National Fuel Buffer

The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced that all four diesel shipments secured under the government's Emergency Energy Security Program have arrived, delivering a total of 178,331,781 liters of diesel to help strengthen the country's buffer amid continued volatility in the global oil market and ongoing developments in the Middle East.

The completion of the four shipments marks a concrete result of the government's fuel security efforts under Executive Order No. 110, issued by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., which directed urgent and targeted measures to safeguard domestic energy supply amid heightened geopolitical uncertainty. Through the Philippine National Oil Company-Exploration Corporation (PNOC-EC), phased diesel deliveries were secured to help maintain stable and sufficient supply in the domestic market.

The first shipment, consisting of 142,531.23 barrels or 22,660,613 liters of diesel from Japan, arrived in Batangas on 26 March 2026. The second shipment, consisting of 329,650 barrels or 52,410,065 liters, arrived in Subic. This was followed by the third shipment, consisting of 319,576 barrels or 50,808,430 liters, also delivered to Subic, and the fourth shipment, con-

sisting of 329,918 barrels or 52,452,673 liters, which arrived in Davao City. Energy Secretary Sharon S. Garin said the full delivery of all four shipments demonstrates the Administration's resolve to keep the domestic market adequately supplied and prepared for external supply risks. "The arrival of all four diesel shipments shows that the government is acting with urgency to protect the country's fuel supply," Secretary Garin said. "As the Middle East conflict continues, our priority is to ensure that the Philippines remains prepared, adequately supplied, and able to respond swiftly to developments that may affect fuel availability and market stability."

The DOE said the completed deliveries will help reinforce the country's supply position at a time when international oil markets remain vulnerable to disruption. The Department emphasized that timely fuel arrivals are critical not only to maintaining inventory levels, but also to supporting the uninterrupted operation of key sectors such as transport, logistics, power generation, agriculture, and industry.

The Department assured the public that it will continue to work closely with concerned government entities and industry stakeholders to monitor inventory, facilitate the timely distribution of fuel, and prevent supply bottlenecks that may disrupt essential economic activity. PR



CARD Bank...

Patuloy na pinalalawak ng CARD Bank, Inc., isang microfinance-oriented rural bank, ang mga hakbang nito upang maging mas bukas at madaling maabot ang mga serbisyong pinansyal para sa lahat, lalo na para sa mga kliyenteng may kapansanan sa pandinig o deaf clients. Sa iba't ibang tungkol sa mga produkto ng bangko, at mga instructional video na may FSL inset.

Ang mga staff, kabilang ang mga guardiya, customer service representatives, at cashiers, ay inaasahang laging may dalang papel at ballpen upang agad na makapagsagawa ng written communication kung kinakailangan. Tinuturuan din ang mga empleyado kung paano tutulungan ang mga kliyente sa pagsagot ng mga form at pagproseso ng mga requirement habang sinusunod ang mga patakaran tulad ng Know-Your-Customer (KYC) at Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA). Katulad ng ibang kliyente, kinakailangan pa ring magsumite ng deaf clients ng mga karaniwang dokumento tulad ng valid ID at profile forms.

Kapag naaprubahan ang kanilang aplikasyon, maaari na silang magbukas ng deposit account na may panimulang deposito na PHP 200. Sa prosesong ito, ipinakikita ng bangko na maaaring magkasabay ang accessibility at pagsunod sa mga regulasyon.

Hindi lamang sa pisikal na pasilidad at proseso nakatuon ang inklusyon sa CARD Bank. Nagsisimula rin ito sa pagpapalawak ng kaalaman at pag-unawang mga empleyado tungkol sa deaf community.

Noong Hunyo 15, 2024, nagsagawa ang bangko ng isang buong araw na Deaf Awareness Seminar sa CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) sa Bay, Laguna. Dumalo sa seminar ang 60 staff at faculty members na pinangunahan ng Inclusion Consultant na si Bayani Generoso Jr., kasama ang anim na Deaf teachers.

Sa seminar, tinuturuan din ang mga empleyado kung paano tutulungan ang mga kliyente sa pagsagot ng mga form at pagproseso ng mga requirement habang sinusunod ang mga patakaran tulad ng Know-Your-Customer (KYC) at Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA). Katulad ng ibang kliyente, kinakailangan pa ring magsumite ng deaf clients ng mga karaniwang dokumento tulad ng valid ID at profile forms.

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Upang mapadali ang komunikasyon, naglaan ang mga tanggapan ng Filipino Sign Language (FSL) booklets, madaling basahing gabay tungkol sa mga produkto ng bangko, at mga instructional video na may FSL inset.

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DTI Laguna

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The seminar gathered around 400 students from the College of Business Administration and Accountancy and aimed not only to raise awareness of DTI's core programs and services designed to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also to provide practical knowledge on establishing compliant, sustainable, and market-ready enterprises.

Aligned with DTI's mandate to expand client reach and strengthen entrepreneurial capacity across Laguna, the session emphasized that starting a business goes beyond launching an idea—it requires proper registration, compliance with national and local regulations, sound financial management, and a clear marketing direction.

Serving as resource speakers were Ms. Ma. Nicole C. Concejero, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Rizal, Laguna, and Ms. Arianne Rose C. Alinios, Trade-Industry Development Analyst of Negosyo Center San Pablo City.

Ms. Concejero highlighted the programs and services available to MSMEs, including business name registration assistance, advisory services, mentoring, and enterprise development support accessible through Negosyo Centers.

"Through our Negosyo Centers, DTI ensures that aspiring entrepreneurs have access to the right programs and guidance at every stage of their business journey. We want students to know that government support is readily available to help them start, grow, and sustain their business," Concejero said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Alinios delivered a discussion on the importance of business formalization and walked participants through the step-by-step process of registering a business name, securing the necessary permits and licenses, and complying with national and local regulatory requirements. Beyond compliance, the session briefly covered practical start-up fundamentals, including opening a business bank account, maintaining proper accounting and record-keeping systems, and preparing a simple marketing plan to identify target customers and promote products effectively.

"Compliance is the foundation of a sustainable enterprise. Proper registration, organized finances, and a clear marketing direction help businesses grow with credibility and confidence," Alinios emphasized.

Conducted in partnership with the College of Business Administration and Accountancy – Student Council of LSPU-SPCC, the initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration between government and the academe in cultivating future entrepreneurs and supporting local economic development.

Through sustained outreach initiatives in educational institutions, DTI Laguna continues to promote entrepreneurship, improve access to government services, and contribute to inclusive economic growth in the province (ARCA)Inios, DTI Laguna).

Upang mapadali ang komunikasyon, naglaan ang mga tanggapan ng Filipino Sign Language (FSL) booklets, madaling basahing gabay tungkol sa mga produkto ng bangko, at mga instructional video na may FSL inset.

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Over 19k...

◀ From Page 1

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Thousands of job opportunities are available for job seekers in the Calabarzon region as part of the 124th Labor Day celebration on May 1, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said.

Erwin Aquino, Regional Director of DOLE CALABARZON, said that a total of 19,390 job vacancies are available for job seekers in the region, to be offered across various sites in CALABARZON, bringing employment opportunities closer to the public, especially those seeking work.

"Ngayong Labor Day, magkakaroon ng malawakang job fair sa iba't ibang lugar sa Calabarzon. Libo-libong job opportunities ang inihanda [natin] mula sa daan-daang employers, parehong lokal at overseas," Aquino stated in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency.

A total of 174 employers participated in the celebration and are set to offer job opportunities across various sites in the region, ensuring that all provinces have access to equitable employment opportunities.

The schedule includes April 30 at the Imus City Sports Complex in Cavite; May 1 at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna; May 2 at Robinsons Place Lipa in Batangas and Robinsons Place Antipolo in Rizal; and May 6 at Tayabas City Hall in Quezon Province.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), both the number of Filipinos seeking employment and those gaining jobs increased. However, the rise in job seekers led to a slight increase in the unemployment rate, which went up to 6.4 percent from 6.1 percent.

Aquino explained applicants who were hired on the spot (HOTS), providing immediate employment opportunities and reinforcing the effectiveness of government-led workforce development programs.

The presence and support of LGU Naic further strengthened the collaborative effort to connect local talent with potential employers while

promoting economic mobility for residents. The successful job fair reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite's unwavering dedication to creating accessible pathways to employment, empowering jobseekers, and uplifting the lives of its constituents through responsive and people-centered public service. — OPIO

that this indicates increasing competition in the labor market, particularly among the youth and fresh graduates. Meanwhile, lower underemployment was recorded in the region, suggesting that more individuals are now engaged in stable and decent employment.

He added: "Sa kabuuan, lumalago ang labor market, pero kailangan palakasin ang job matching at skills training para mas maraming Pilipino ang makakuha ng angkop at disenteng trabaho".

To address this challenge, the director stated that the Labor department is strengthening skills training and job-matching programs, as well as conducting job fairs in collaboration with other government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the private sector.

"Upang tugunan ang skills mismatch, aktibong nakikipagtulungan ang Department of Labor and Employment sa Technical Education and Skills Development Authority at iba pang ahensya. Pinalakas [natin] ang mga training programs na nakaangkla sa pangangailangan ng industriya," the DOLE director said.

Meanwhile, several government agencies, including TESDA, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the Social Security System (SSS), and the Pag-IBIG Fund, will extend services to Hire-On-The-Spot (HOTS) applicants and other job seekers requiring assistance.

This initiative promotes inclusive economic growth by expanding access to employment opportunities in local communities, in line with the government's commitment to provide "Disenteng Trabaho Para sa Lahat" for all Filipinos.

The operation, conducted under the Pag-Abot Program, aims to provide appropriate interventions to individuals and families to help them achieve safer and more stable living conditions within their respective communities.

According to Christina Argayoso, Project Development Officer of DSWD Field Office IV-A, the individuals underwent documentation and assessment by the team and

were successfully reunited with their families on the same day. The agency also continues to coordinate closely with barangay councils and city local governments to ensure proper monitoring and the delivery of necessary assistance to the individuals reached through the program. Highlighting the human impact of the program, one beneficiary, "Kuya Emi" (not his real name), shared his experience after being reached by the DSWD in Antipolo City: "Pagod na din ako sa pagpapalimos sa lansangan. Salamat at natagpuan n'yo ako 'dun." According to DSWD, Kuya Emi and the other beneficiaries voluntarily joined the program and expressed willingness to cooperate with the agency in order to leave street life behind and start a safer, more stable life in their communities. On April 16, 2026, they received livelihood assistance from DSWD. One of the beneficiaries, Artemio, immediately used the financial support to establish a small frozen goods store—marking a fresh start away from the risks of street life, with guidance from the agency's social workers. The intensified implementation of the Pag-Abot Program reflects DSWD Field Office IV-A's continuing commitment to reach individuals and families in street situations and support their journey toward stability and reintegration. With strengthened coordination among local government units and sustained provision of essential services, the agency reaffirms its goal of helping vulnerable sectors rebuild their lives with dignity, safety, and opportunity—ensuring that no one is left behind in the path toward inclusive social protection and development.

DSWD...

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C A R M O N A CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to intensify the implementation of its Pag-Abot Program across the CALABARZON region, expanding its reach in Cavite and Rizal to assist more families and individuals in street situations (FISS).

In Dasmariñas City, Cavite, 14 individuals and families were profiled in February 2026, with 11 voluntarily agreeing to receive immediate intervention. To further enhance service delivery, DSWD also opened its fourth Pag-Abot Program processing center in Cavite in March 2026, improving accessibility and response capacity in the region.

Meanwhile, in Rizal, the program continues to deliver positive results. In March 2025, five individuals in Cainta were successfully reintegrated with their families.

In April 2026, 47 individuals and families from Antipolo City and Taytay participated in financial literacy sessions to strengthen their capacity for sustainable reintegration.

Further strengthening its outreach, DSWD Field Office IV-A conducted reach-out operations in Antipolo City on April 8, 2026, where 13 individuals from the barangays of Cupang, Dela Paz, and Mayamot voluntarily coordinated with the agency to transition away from street living.

The operation, conducted under the Pag-Abot Program, aims to provide appropriate interventions to individuals and families to help them achieve safer and more stable living conditions within their respective communities.

According to Christina Argayoso, Project Development Officer of DSWD Field Office IV-A, the individuals underwent documentation and assessment by the team and

were successfully reunited with their families on the same day. The agency also continues to coordinate closely with barangay councils and city local governments to ensure proper monitoring and the delivery of necessary assistance to the individuals reached through the program. Highlighting the human impact of the program, one beneficiary, "Kuya Emi" (not his real name), shared his experience after being reached by the DSWD in Antipolo City: "Pagod na din ako sa pagpapalimos sa lansangan. Salamat at natagpuan n'yo ako 'dun." According to DSWD, Kuya Emi and the other beneficiaries voluntarily joined the program and expressed willingness to cooperate with the agency in order to leave street life behind and start a safer, more stable life in their communities. On April 16, 2026, they received livelihood assistance from DSWD. One of the beneficiaries, Artemio, immediately used the financial support to establish a small frozen goods store—marking a fresh start away from the risks of street life, with guidance from the agency's social workers. The intensified implementation of the Pag-Abot Program reflects DSWD Field Office IV-A's continuing commitment to reach individuals and families in street situations and support their journey toward stability and reintegration. With strengthened coordination among local government units and sustained provision of essential services, the agency reaffirms its goal of helping vulnerable sectors rebuild their lives with dignity, safety, and opportunity—ensuring that no one is left behind in the path toward inclusive social protection and development.

