

Mekeni Reinforces Philippine Food Manufacturing Excellence at DTI Tatak Pinoy Expo 2026



Reinforcing the strength of Filipino manufacturing on the global stage, Mekenis Food Corporation is showcasing its world-class food manufacturing capabilities at the prestigious DTI Tatak Pinoy Expo 2026 currently taking place at the SMX Convention Center Manila.

Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry, the expo highlights the country's leading industries and enterprises under the government's Tatak Pinoy Strategy, an initiative designed to strengthen domestic industries, elevate local manufacturing, and position Filipino companies for global competitiveness.

More than simply participating in the expo, Mekenis is using the platform to demonstrate how Filipino food manufacturers can meet international standards in quality, innovation, food safety, and large-scale production. As one of the country's leading food manufacturers and exporters, the company is presenting its wide range of export-quality products that are already reaching international markets across Asia, the Middle East, North America, Europe, and Oceania.

During the opening day walkthrough, government officials visited firsthand the capabilities of Philippine industries, including the food and agro-processing sector identified by the administration as a priority driver of economic growth and industrial development.

Mekenis Food Corporation President Prudencio 'Pruds' Garcia emphasized that the company's participation reflects its commitment to proving that Filipino manufacturing can compete confidently on the world stage. "We are proud to showcase not only our products, but also the strength of Filipino

food manufacturing," Garcia said. "From our roots in Pampanga, Mekenis has grown into a globally recognized brand because of our commitment to quality, innovation, and world-class standards. Through Tatak Pinoy, we hope to demonstrate that Filipino companies have the capability to produce globally competitive products while creating meaningful opportunities for Filipino communities."

Mekenis products are now available in more than 20 countries worldwide, a testament to the company's continuously expanding international footprint and adherence to globally recognized food manufacturing and safety standards.

By participating in this landmark national initiative, Mekenis reinforces its role not only as a proudly Filipino brand, but also as a manufacturing company helping elevate the reputation of Philippine-made products in the global market. **PR**

heidelitalat@yahoo.com
datelineweeklynews.com

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Calabarzon logs lowestinfertilityrate nationwide — PSA



Isinagawa ngayong araw, Mayo 25, 2026, sa Socio-Economic Grounds ang Regular Flag Raising Ceremony na dinaluhan nina Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, Vice Mayor Third Barzaga at mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlungsod. Pinangunahan ng Office of the City Traffic and Transport Management ang seremonya. Bilang bahagi ng programa, ipinagdiwang din ang mga empleyadong may kaarawan ngayong linggo sa pamamagitan ng simpleng handog na birthday cakes mula sa Pamahalaang Lungsod.

Cayetano rejects being a 'puppet Senate President,' warns of moves to control Senate



SSS rolls out nationwide Palengke Caravan to bring mobile services closer to grassroots communities



QUEZON CITY, 25 May 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) has deployed its mobile e-Wheels to public markets and barangays across selected towns and cities nationwide as part of weeklong Palengke Caravan, aimed at reducing

travel time, long queues, and transaction difficulties experienced by workers, pensioners, and beneficiaries.

The caravan supports the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to bring public services faster and closer to the people, particularly in underserved and hard-to-reach communities.

"For many pensioners, informal workers, and members in underserved communities, even a single branch visit can mean transportation ex-

cont. on page 2

Bohol-Panglao International Airport Welcomes First Chartered Flight from Japan



Panglao, Bohol — Bohol-Panglao International Airport (BPIA) marked a significant milestone in its connectivity expansion as it warmly welcomed 163 Japanese visitors on May 2, 2026, arriving via the first-ever chartered flight from Narita, Japan to Panglao, Bohol operated by Cebu Pacific via 5J8811.

The arrival signals a renewed interest from the Japanese market

and underscores Bohol's growing appeal as a premier destination for international travelers. Bohol Governor Erico Aristotle Aumentado expressed optimism about the development, emphasizing its importance in boosting the local tourism industry and economy.

"This is a very encouraging development for Bohol. We are hopeful that this chartered flight will pave the way for regular international arrivals, particularly from Japan, which has always been a valued tourism market for us," Governor Aumentado said.

Driving this initiative forward is Aboitiz InfraCapital Bohol Airport Corporation (ABAC), the operator of BPIA. Joining the Governor's official delegation during the September 2025 Bohol Business Mission to Japan, ABAC held exclusive talks

with charter flight organizer JTB Corporation. These discussions highlighted the airport's modern infrastructure and laid the groundwork for expanding Japanese tourist arrivals in Bohol.

Building on these engagements, ABAC also conducted on-site inspection in Tagbilaran in October to assess the readiness and adequacy of the airport's Immigration, Customs, and Quarantine (ICQ) facilities—a crucial step in ensuring seamless international operations and passenger experience.

The charter flight demonstrates Bohol-Panglao International Airport's readiness to handle international traffic, connecting travelers to Bohol's unique experiences and opportunities, while we continue enhancing our facilities and passenger experience to support stronger international operations."

The visiting Japanese tourists were welcomed with a warm reception upon arrival, showcasing Boholano hospitality and culture. Local tourism stakeholders and airport authorities coordinated closely to ensure a seamless and memorable arrival experience.

Bohol-Panglao International Airport General Manager Aldwin Uy highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration in enabling international connectivity. "We are proud to support this milestone arrival made possible through our strong partnership with Cebu Pacific, the Provincial Government of Bohol, and our tourism partners in Japan.

This charter flight demonstrates Bohol-Panglao International Airport's readiness to handle international traffic, connecting travelers to Bohol's unique experiences and opportunities, while we continue enhancing our facilities and passenger experience to support stronger international operations."

By connecting travelers to destinations like Bohol, the airport helps open pathways to local communities, businesses, and experiences—supporting a more inclusive and sustainable tourism ecosystem. The successful arrival of this charter flight reflects ongoing efforts to position Bohol as a key gateway for international travel in the Philippines.

With this milestone, stakeholders remain optimistic about further strengthening international air links and sustaining the upward trajectory of Bohol's tourism sector. **PR**

BOHOL HONORS LGUs FOR EXCELLENCE IN TAX COLLECTION



The Provincial Government of Bohol, through the Provincial Treasurer's Office (PTO), the Bohol Municipal Treasurers League (BO-MUNTREAL), and the Bohol Assessors League, recognized top-performing local government units during the LGU Bohol Awards 2026 held on May 20, 2026, at Bohol Tropics Resort.

The awards recognized municipal mayors, assessors, and treasurers for their outstanding performance in real property tax collection efficiency and notable improvements in taxable assessment growth for Fiscal Year 2025. The recognition underscores the crucial role of effective local revenue generation in sustaining development programs and public services.

A total of 27 municipal mayors and 27 municipal treasurers, 25 municipal assessors received awards for exemplary performance, while LGUs that did not qualify in all categories were given certificates of recognition for their continuing efforts. The ceremony gathered provincial officials, municipal mayors, treasurers, and assessors from across the province.

In his message, Governor Aris Aumentado underscored that the recognition reflects the values of integrity, accountability, and dedication in public service.

The initiative reinforces Bohol's commitment to responsive governance supporting the Strategic Governance Roadmap and sustainable local development as the country's first and only UNESCO Global Geopark.

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PHILHEALTH EXPANDS PRIMARY CARE ACCESS TO OVER 33 MILLION FILIPINOS THROUGH 4,287 YAKAP CLINICS

EDITORIAL: The reckoning

THE impeachment ball rolled out Monday from the House of Representatives, with the flag speeding alongside it with focus on accountability and rule of law.

That ball is now in the Senate hall, which interestingly changed leadership minutes before the 255 yes votes were cast against 26 no and nine abstentions – with 24-member Senate sitting as the impeachment judges.

The charges include misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, and alleged threats against President Marcos.

They highlight the legal process over political standing and focus on the repeated nature of the charges, and when confidential funds met public scrutiny.

The margin of votes was heard and watched by millions, north and south of the capital, to send articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte to the Senate, throwing her announced 2028 presidential run in a legal and Constitutional zone of doubt.

Under the 1987 Constitution, an impeachment triggers a Senate trial. A guilty verdict there would see Duterte removed from office and barred from elected office for life.

Filipinos will be watching how the Senate, with its new leadership, will act on the impeachment complaints.

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, who served as then president Rodrigo Duterte's foreign secretary, replaced Vicente Sotto III as Senate president after a 13-9 vote, with two abstentions.

Filipinos including political and election observers will be watching keenly if the change in Senate leadership could play a significant role in the outcome of the attempt to impeach the vice president.

The House committee on justice chairman Gerville Luistro sponsored the impeachment complaint before the votes were counted, underlining process and evidence.

The plenary discussions focussed on the four consolidated Articles of Impeachment adopted by the Justice panel after combining similar allegations from the Saballa and Cabrera impeachment complaints.

The first article involves the alleged misuse and irregular disbursement of confidential funds under both the Office of the Vice President and the Department of Education during Duterte's tenure as secretary.

The second article focuses on allegations of unexplained wealth and discrepancies involving Duterte's Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth and bank transactions flagged by the Anti-Money Laundering Council.

The third article concerns allegations of bribery tied to cash envelopes reportedly distributed to DepEd officials when Duterte was secretary.

The fourth article centers on Duterte's controversial remarks in November 2024 in which she publicly stated online that she had arranged for President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and then-Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez to be killed should anything happen to her.

The impeachment, which may highlight the end of the line, for the Vice President, deserves attention which underlines accountability in public office.

DOH brings essential health services closer to underserved communities through KAPUUA

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal —The Department of Health (DOH), through its KAPUUA (Kalusugang sa Underserved Areas) program, continues to expand access to essential healthcare services for geographically isolated and disadvantaged communities across CALABARZON.

Implemented in partnership with local government units, regional health offices, and community stakeholders, the initiative brings mobile health and nutrition services directly to underserved populations, including indigenous peoples, remote island communities, and low-income families.

Under the program, residents receive free medical consultations, nutrition and breastfeeding counseling, immunization, tuberculosis and HIV screening, blood pressure and blood sugar monitoring, as well as family planning and WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) education. Pregnant women, nursing mothers, and children also benefit from Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) assessment, Vitamin A supplementation, ferrous sulfate distribution, and deworming services.

In Brgy. Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal, the DOH CHD CALABARZON Nutrition and Breastfeeding Program conducted KAPUUA services for the Dumagat-Remontado tribe and nearby residents on March 26, 2026, during which, at least 455 members of the indigenous community and other residents in the area received free family health services. Health workers provided nutrition counseling, MUAC assessment for children and mothers, and distributed Vitamin

A supplements to eligible children.

Meanwhile, more than 350 residents of Brgy. Janosa, Talim Island, in Binangonan, Rizal, benefited from the DOH CALABARZON SimbaKalusugan caravan on May 9. The outreach activity, conducted in partnership with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines-Episcopal Commission on Health Care (CBCP-ECHC), offered medical consultation, chest X-ray for TB screening, ECG, dental services, mental health counseling, HIV testing and counseling, nutrition services, and free medicines.

A similar SimbaKalusugan initiative was also held on April 11 at Sta. Cecilia Parochial School in Brgy. Maly, San Mateo, Rizal, where residents received laboratory services, adolescent health services, dental care, and other preventive healthcare interventions.

The KAPUUA program supports the Universal Health Care (UHC) agenda of the national government under the administration of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. by strengthening grassroots healthcare delivery through the DOH's Puro-Kalusugan framework. It also complements initiatives such as PhilHealth Konsulta, Zero Balance Billing (ZBB), Bagong Urgent Care and Ambulatory Service (BUCAS) Centers, and the PhilHealth YAKAP at GAMOT Program.

Through sustained partnerships and community-based health missions, the DOH aims to ensure that quality, accessible, and compassionate healthcare reaches every Filipino, especially those in remote and underserved areas.

SSS...

penses, lost income, and hours spent in line," SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. De Claro said.

"Through the SSS e-Wheels / Palengke Caravan, we are bringing government services directly to communities so people can access assistance and complete transactions closer to where they live and work," he added.

He explained that the SSS is holding a caravan in public markets to bring its services directly to market vendors and ambulant sellers who are unable to visit branch offices because they cannot leave their small businesses unattended.

From January to April 2026, the SSS conducted a total of 3,294 e-Wheels activities nationwide, serving 239,367 members and residents in last-mile communities. In 2024, the SSS e-Wheels Program received the ASEAN Social Security Association Recognition Award in the innovation category.

"By bringing services closer to the people, we are making SSS more accessible, more responsive and convenient for workers, pensioners, and their families," De Claro said. PR

firmation of Pensioners or ACOP, updating of member data records, issuance of SSS numbers and forms, and online-related transactions such as My.SSS registration, password resetting, Payment Reference Number generation, pension loan applications, and benefit claim applications.

SSS will also deploy for the first time the newly launched facial authentication with liveness check for ACOP verification during mobile service operations, allowing eligible pensioners to complete verification faster and more conveniently without visiting branches.

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The MOU signing ceremony was led by Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON, and Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, the Training Center Director of DA ATI CALABARZON. They were joined by key witnesses namely Ms.

Janice Irene F. Berris, Supervising Science Research Specialist and Ms. Janine L. Cailo, Information Officer III.

During the ceremony, both agencies emphasized the importance of strong collaboration in making science and technology-based agricultural solutions more accessible to farmers and local communities across CALABARZON.

Under this partnership, DOST-CALABARZON and the DA ATI will work closely to introduce and operationalize SARAI systems and technologies at the community level. This includes integrating SARAI technologies and frameworks into training and capacity-building initiatives and strengthening agricultural

extension, planning, and monitoring programs in the region through the use of SARAI knowledge and technologies.

DA-ATI CALABARZON will likewise support DOST-CALABARZON in aligning the training needs of agricultural extension workers and local government units to help ensure the effective implementation of the project across the region.

Through this initiative, both agencies hope to help build a more climate-resilient agriculture sector in CALABARZON by equipping local stakeholders with timely information and science-based tools and technologies that will support better decision-making and more sustainable farming practices.

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Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go served as the keynote speaker at the launch, which was attended by DOF officials, BIR Deputy Commissioners, Assistant Commissioners, officials and personnel, and representatives from the business sector and LTS taxpayers.

"In the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., we actually are always pushing to find pain points, to find challenging experiences of Filipinos when dealing with the government, and trying to find solutions to those pain points. What is happening here this morning is a very, very good example of how the Bureau of Internal Revenue, led by Commissioner Mendoza, has been responding to the call of the administration. So, congratulations

the declining fertility rate reflects the sustained efforts of government agencies, local government units, and partner organizations in strengthening reproductive health programs, responsible parenthood advocacy, and access to family planning services across the region.

OGAYA added,

Secretary Go highlighted that the TP Portal would eliminate the need for taxpayers to navigate complex multiple systems, fragmented records, and repeated follow-ups to complete what should be straightforward obligations.

"Instead of going through separate platforms and scattered records, everything is now in one place. One portal. One account. One complete, reliable view of your tax records. No more unnecessary steps," he said.

"To my BIR family, this milestone reflects your hard work and a shift in mindset. We are moving towards a government that is faster, more responsive, and more transparent. This portal is not the end goal. It is a major step towards better systems. Every improvement we make in tax administration strengthens our entire nation," he closed.

BIR Commissioner Charito Martin R. Mendoza also addressed over 300 LTS taxpayers, recalling that six months ago, the Bureau committed to pursuing reforms to create lasting improvements in taxpayer service, integrity, and professionalism.

"Over the past several months, we have been delivering on that commitment. We accelerated the rollout of digital initiatives designed to improve taxpayer experience, strengthen efficiency, and promote voluntary compliance," Commissioner Mendoza said.

He cited the TP Portal as the latest in a series of digital initiatives rolled out by the Bureau in the first 5 months of 2026, PR

child health, nutrition, mortality, and other key demographic indicators.

The PSA said the NDHS findings will help national and local government agencies assess current population trends and develop evidence-based interventions to improve the overall well-being of Filipino families.

DOST-CALABARZON AND DA-ATI CALABARZON STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT SARAI IN THE REGION



The SARAI Centralized National Hub for Regional Operations (SARAI CeNTRO) is one of DOST's innovative agricultural initiatives, funded by the agency and monitored by DOST-PCAARRD. SARAI CeNTRO is currently being deployed nationwide through the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in partnership with the DOST Regional Offices. We are rolling into your region— ready to serve, support, and sow solutions.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON and the Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center Calabarzon (DA-ATI CALABARZON) formally strengthened their partnership for the implementation of Project SARAI CeNTRO in the region through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 11, 2026, at the DOST-CALABARZON Regional Office.

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CALABARZON...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Calabarzon region recorded the lowest total fertility rate among the 18 regions in the country, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Calabarzon during the presentation of the 2025 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) on Thursday, May 14.

Results of the 2025 NDHS showed that women aged 15 to 49 years old in the region are expected to bear an average of 1.3 children in their lifetime, lower than the 1.8 recorded in 2022.

The total fertility rate refers to the average number of children a woman would have during her reproductive years based on current fertility patterns. PSA Calabarzon

Regional Director Charito Armonia said the continued decline in fertility rates in the region may be attributed to several factors, including increased access to education, efficient family planning services, and changing economic and social priorities among Filipino families.

She noted that demographic data gathered through the NDHS serves as an important guide for policymakers and government agencies in crafting programs related to health, population management, maternal care, and social protection.

From Page 1

that will help them formulate responsive programs for the population," Armonia said.

Commission on Population and Development (CPD) Calabarzon regional director Marilyn Ogaya, meanwhile, emphasized the importance of strengthening reproductive health education and ensuring access to family planning services, especially among young people and vulnerable sectors.

"These results show that CALABARZON is making significant strides in population and development. However, our work continues, especially in ensuring that no adolescent is left behind and that every family has access to informed choices," Ogaya said.

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BIR Commissioner Charito Martin R. Mendoza also addressed over 300 LTS taxpayers, recalling that six months ago, the Bureau committed to pursuing reforms to create lasting improvements in taxpayer service, integrity, and professionalism.

"Over the past several months, we have been delivering on that commitment. We accelerated the rollout of digital initiatives designed to improve taxpayer experience, strengthen efficiency, and promote voluntary compliance," Commissioner Mendoza said.

He cited the TP Portal as the latest in a series of digital initiatives rolled out by the Bureau in the first 5 months of 2026, PR

child health, nutrition, mortality, and other key demographic indicators.

The PSA said the NDHS findings will help national and local government agencies assess current population trends and develop evidence-based interventions to improve the overall well-being of Filipino families.

the declining fertility rate reflects the sustained efforts of government agencies, local government units, and partner organizations in strengthening reproductive health programs, responsible parenthood advocacy, and access to family planning services across the region.

DOF, BIR LAUNCH TAXPAYER PORTAL FOR LARGE TAXPAYERS SERVICE

New platform advances BIR reforms and digital transformation to the BIR," said Secretary Go.

Secretary Go highlighted that the TP Portal would eliminate the need for taxpayers to navigate complex multiple systems, fragmented records, and repeated follow-ups to complete what should be straightforward obligations.

The TP Portal is a secure, centralized digital platform that helps taxpayers manage their tax records and transactions in one place. Through the portal, taxpayers may view their registration details, monitor filed tax returns by tax type, track tax payments, access account ledgers, and receive system-generated reminders. The platform is intended to give taxpayers and the Bureau a more consistent and organized view of taxpayer information while helping simplify day-to-day compliance management.

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A Signal of Scale: What Ajinomoto's Tarlac Investment Reveals About the Next Phase of Industrial Growth

Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation officially broke ground on its 16-hectare facility at TARI Estate, reflecting strengthening industrial uptake and consumption-led domestic demand in the Philippines, and further shaping the country's industrial future.

Ajinomoto Philippines Corporation has broken ground on a 16-hectare manufacturing facility at TARI Estate, marking one of the largest recent food manufacturing investments in Central Luzon. Valued at approximately ₱9.1 billion, the facility is targeted for full operations by April 2028.

More than a major capital commitment, the investment reflects a broader shift in how, and where, manufacturing growth in the Philippines is taking shape.

Global Capital, Long-Horizon Decisions

Ajinomoto's investment underscores sustained confidence from global manufacturers in the Philippine market, particularly in sectors supported by strong domestic demand. Increasingly, capital is being deployed with a long-term view—favoring locations that can support operational stability, scalability, and proximity to end markets.

For manufacturers, the question is no longer whether to expand, but where expansion can be sustained over time.

Manufacturing Location Decisions are Evolving

Manufacturing strategy is evolving beyond traditional cost and location considerations. Today, site selection is driven by a combination of demand proximity, supply chain responsiveness, and the ability to scale.

While established hubs in South Luzon continue to play a leading role, manufacturers are expanding beyond these centers to support growth. The result is a more distributed industrial footprint—one that complements existing hubs while aligning

production more closely with consumption patterns.

Ajinomoto's investment reflects this shift, reinforcing the existing economic corridor alongside American and Taiwanese export-oriented enterprises while contributing to a broader industrial landscape across Luzon.

Central Luzon's Role in a Decentralizing Economy

Central Luzon continues to strengthen its position as a credible industrial base beyond traditional manufacturing clusters in South Luzon. Its geographic placement supports efficient north-south distribution while maintaining proximity to Metro Manila's demand base—without the constraints of urban congestion.

From Tarlac, manufacturers are well-positioned to serve over 64 million consumers across Luzon, enabling production to move closer to demand. For domestic-oriented players such as Ajinomoto, this proximity supports faster fulfillment cycles and more responsive supply chains within an increasingly consumption-led market.

This advantage is reinforced by ongoing infrastructure investments—including expressway expansions, improved logistics connectivity, and proximity to Clark International Airport—supporting a broader national push toward decentralization. As economic activity disperses beyond traditional centers, Central Luzon is increasingly positioned to absorb the next phase of industrial growth.

Integrated Platforms as the New Standard

The investment also reflects the growing importance of integrated industrial platforms. Through Aboitiz Economic Estates, developments are designed not as standalone land assets, but as operating environments that support long-cycle manufacturing.

This capacity draws strength from the

Aboitiz techglomerate, including access to reliable power, water and infrastructure services, construction capabilities, financial solutions, and coordinated estate management—delivered as a unified system. Complementing this is a strong focus on workforce sustainability, with initiatives that support talent development, accessibility, and long-term employability within and around the estate.

Across its portfolio, Aboitiz Economic Estates has facilitated ₱175.4 billion in investments, hosts more than 260 locators, and supported over 100,000 jobs. These figures reflect the cumulative effect of a platform approach designed to reduce friction for long-term industrial development.

"Ajinomoto Philippines' investment reflects how manufacturers are planning for long-term growth—prioritizing scale, proximity to demand, and operational continuity," said Rafael Fernandez de Mesa, President and Chief Ex-



ecutive Officer of Aboitiz Economic Estates and Aboitiz Land. "As this evolves, Central Luzon is emerging as a natural extension of the country's industrial base, with platforms like TARI Estate leading to anchor that next phase."

From Proven Model to Next Growth Corridor

Aboitiz Economic Estates' approach builds on its track record in established industrial

hubs such as LIMA Estate in Batangas, where integrated ecosystems have supported sustained locator growth, operational efficiency, and long-term expansion.

TARI Estate represents the next phase of this model—applied in an emerging corridor with the capacity for larger-scale, future-oriented development. While LIMA demonstrates how industrial ecosystems mature and densify over time, TARI Estate reflects how that same model can be extended earlier in the development cycle to shape new corridors from the ground up.

At this stage, anchor investments such as Ajinomoto's play a defining role. They validate infrastructure readiness, establish operational confidence, and begin to influence the type and scale of locators that follow. With additional investments across food, beverage, and related sectors entering the estate, TARI Estate is moving from initial development toward cluster formation.

ibility for future capacity build-out as production requirements evolve. Integrated estate systems support operational predictability, an increasingly critical factor in global site selection.

A Platform Designed for



Scale and Continuity

As an emerging industrial hub, TARI Estate is designed to support both immediate deployment and long-term growth. Spanning approximately 384 hectares, the estate is a PEZA-registered Special Economic Zone in Tarlac City.

Its scale allows for phased expansion, enabling locators to grow within a single, master planned environment. Industrial parcels are configured to accommodate large-format manufacturing operations, with flex-

ing its role not just as a manufacturing site, but as a complete operating environment.

For locators, this provides not just a location, but a platform that evolves alongside their operations—from initial setup to sustained expansion within a single, coordinated system.

From Investment to Industrial Momentum Ajinomoto's entry marks a transition from individual investment toward ecosystem development. It reflects how new industri-

al corridors take shape—through the convergence of long-term capital, enabling platforms, and early locators that define future activity.

Within this context, Central Luzon is emerging as a complementary engine of growth within the Philippines' industrial landscape—where the next phase of manufacturing is not only expanding, but steadily taking form. **PR**

Realizing the "A" in ACHIEVE: CHED-CALABARZON Leads Lifelong Learning Caravan 2026



26 May 2026 | Lyceum of the Philippines University Cavite - CHED CALABARZON successfully launched the Hirayang Dunong: Lifelong Learning (LLL) Caravan and Academic Colloquium 2026 in support of the "A" in theACHIEVEAgenda, which stands for Accessible Lifelong Learning.

The event aimed to promote lifelong learning as a continuous process of education, personal growth, and human development. It sought to educate, inform, and create opportunities for individuals to better understand how lifelong learning can be realized and maximized throughout different stages of life. The activity also highlighted the important role of higher education institutions in making lifelong learning more accessible and in supporting individuals who wish to pursue flexible and alternative learning pathways.

Dr. Jimmy G. Catanes, CESE, Director IV of the CHED Office of Programs and Standards Development, led the discussion on lifelong learning initiatives such as the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP), Microcredentialing, and Open and Distance Learning. He provided a comprehensive presentation on the operationalization of lifelong learning programs and the procedural

guidelines for their implementation. Representatives from Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (MSEUF), University of Batangas (UB), and Lyceum of the Philippines University Cavite (LPU Cavite) also shared their best practices in delivering lifelong learning programs during an engaging panel discussion. Dr. Claudette Ayala of MSEUF, Dr. Allan Santillana of UB, Mr. Arnel Belaniso of LPU Cavite together with Dr. Catanes, exchanged valuable insights and experiences on implementing lifelong learning initiatives.

Dr. Mark Celis, Vice President for Academics of LPU Cavite and a CHED ETEEAP assessor, likewise shared his insights on ensuring quality assurance in lifelong learning modalities.

ETEEAP booths were also set up by deputized institutions including Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation, University of Batangas, Lyceum of the Philippines University Cavite, and Ly-

ceum of the Philippines University Batangas to showcase their ETEEAP programs and services. To further emphasize the importance and impact of lifelong learning, four ETEEAP graduates shared their inspiring success stories. Among them were Atty. John August Vianney D. Guesse, who completed his BSBA degree through ETEEAP in 2018 and now works at the City Legal Office of Batangas City; Ms. Lisa Fiona S.

Patron, Assistant Manager of ProLife UK; Dr. Allan D. Santillan, now an Assistant Professor at the University of Batangas; and Mr. Redel John Salazar, now an Accounts Manager at Amazon Global. They shared their experiences, challenges, and achievements in completing their degrees through ETEEAP, inspiring participants to pursue lifelong learning and continuous professional growth. **PR**

Rippling effect of turning dreams into progress



Around 2018, she learned about CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI). Her first loan of PHP 3,000.00 was used to buy sugarcane. She currently has an active loan with the bank, which she uses as additional capital for the business.

Because of her entrepreneurial skill, Glaiza was recognized as the Pagkilala sa Mga Likha ni Inay (PsMLNI) Gawad Maunlad 2025 winner. This award recognized people like her who, through hard work and responsible financing, grew their businesses from simple livelihoods into stable ventures. PsMLNI is conducted annually by CARD MRI to honor clients who, through hard work and institutional support, have achieved growth and success.

"Pangarap kong maging global company at brands ang aming negosyo, maging maganda ang kinabukasan ng mga empleyado at mga pamilya nila (It is my dream for my business to be recognized globally, and for my employees and their families to have a brighter future)," she stated.

CHR, NYC collab to empower youth as PH's largest voter group

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Ahead of the 2026 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Election, the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) and the National Youth Commission (NYC) are stepping up efforts to educate and engage young voters to become informed and active participants in the country's democratic process through the Youth Suffrage Education Caravan in Calabarzon.

Themed "#AkoBatayan: May Karapatan ang Kabataan sa Kanilang Kinabukasan," the caravan held in San Pablo City, Laguna, aims to promote greater youth engagement in the electoral process by empowering young voters to uphold their right to suffrage and make informed choices in selecting trustworthy and accountable leaders of the country.

According to lawyer Rexford Guevarra, Regional Director of CHR Region IV-A, the initiative seeks to educate young voters on the proper exercise of their right to suffrage as one of the fundamental human rights and to encourage them to set clear standards in choosing leaders who uphold human dignity and development.

"There is a strong connection between elections and human rights because we need to choose leaders who will protect, respect, and fulfill human rights. We must remember that human rights concerns are a responsibility of the state, and the state acts only through the leaders we elect who sit in government," Guevarra said.

He also stressed that although voters may differ in political colors and perspectives in every election, it remains essential to

educate them on their right to suffrage, particularly the youth, who comprise the largest voting population in the Philippines.

Guevarra cited the latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), noting that individuals belonging to Millennials and Generation Z make up over 60 percent of the country's eligible voters, making the youth the largest voting demographic group in the Philippines.

Amerson Aguineldo, Regional Head of NYC Calabarzon, likewise underscored that young people make up the largest share of voters in the Philippines, stressing the importance of guiding them in selecting future leaders, as their informed and wise choices play a crucial role in shaping the country's future.

"In the Philippines, young people make up the majority of voters, over 60 percent are aged 15 to 30. With this, we aim to educate them about their rights, especially as vote buying and disinformation continue to persist, particularly in rural areas. This initiative seeks to help develop a more informed and responsible mindset among young voters," Aguineldo said.

The caravan also invited the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to discuss key aspects of the electoral process, including voter registration and voting rights, to better prepare the participants for upcoming elections.

Meanwhile, to expand CHR and NYC's reach to more young individuals nationwide, both agencies will continue the #AkoBatayan campaign until June 2026, emphasizing human rights-based education and youth-centered discussions.

It was a ripple effect; she was able to provide for her family, create employment for others, and help farmers earn income. Her journey may have been tough, but the fact that she can meet not only her family's needs but also help others is what drives her to do even more.

For orders and inquiries, those within the area may visit her at Zone 5, Imbalbalatong, Pozzorubio, Pangasinan, or contact her at 0917-188-2541.

TESDA offers skills training programs aligne with industry demand, ASEAN standards



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — In line with its mandate to strengthen skills development, expand industry partnerships, and prepare Filipino workers for emerging global demands, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) said that it equips learners with new and emerging competencies aligned with standards set by ASEAN member states.

During the opening ceremony of the WorldSkills Philippines CALABARZON held at the Lyceum of the Philippines University Laguna in Calamba City, TESDA officials witnessed the convergence of hundreds of TESDA learners, scholars, and students, together with their trainers and faculty members, competing in a wide range of technical and vocational competencies and disciplines.

TESDA said that technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) and accredited higher education institutions (HEIs) in CALABARZON, as an industry-driven region, align their technical-vocational

curricula with the needs of companies and industry partners, while adhering to international standards and programs.

TESDA Deputy Director General for TVET Partnerships and Linkages Nelly Nita Dillera highlighted the agency's Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) initiative as a major strategy in workforce preparation as it continues to collaborate with enterprises and industry players.

“What’s unique about the [Enterprise-Based Education and Training] is that the training happens in the industry or enterprise. The programs that are run are programs that are maybe already developed by enterprises or developed by enterprises because they respond to or address certain gaps of the skilled workforce,” Dillera said.

She noted that there are now more than 379 enterprises or companies that have adopted or are already implementing the EBET, with over 3,000 programs already registered with TESDA centers nationwide.

Aside from providing opportunities for training and certification, TESDA also actively participates in international skills competitions aimed at exposing technical-vocational learners and scholars to global trends. These include the country’s preparations for the upcoming WorldSkills ASEAN Competition and the 2026 WorldSkills Competition in Shanghai, China.

TESDA CALABARZON Regional Director Engineer Jovencio Ferrer Jr. emphasized that learners who undergo provincial and regional skills competitions gain critical exposure to advanced technologies and industry standards, helping prepare them for the high-level competencies required in international competitions.

“Kung sinong manalo doon ay laban sa ASEAN level. Our preparation is we make sure na lahat ng competencies na kailangan sa mga new and emerging technologies na kailangan ay maibibigay namin in terms of lehitimong pag-develop ng mga trainers, and even the programs that we offer, we make sure na meron tayo dito sa Calabarzon nang sa ganong yung mga workers na kailangan ng industries ay makapag-provide tayo sa kanila,” Ferrer said.

He noted that

such competitions are vital in helping Filipinos with skills certification learn global techniques that can better prepare workers for sustainable careers and future success.

“The purpose kung bakit natin dadalhin kung sino ang mananalito dito ay para maramdaman na nila how to compete. Dadalhin namin sila doon para magkaroon ng experience, how is the competition paano ba ginagawa ito nang sa gayon ay mai-prepare talaga sila for competency,” Ferrer added.

National certificates earned by scholars and learners from TESDA-accredited institutions may also help expand career opportunities across ASEAN member states through the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement. Under the agreement, workers with higher education, relevant experience, and certified skills may work anywhere in Southeast Asia without having to completely restart their licensing process.

TESDA stressed that the training programs, competitions, and skills development initiatives it provides are intended to create direct employment and business opportunities for learners and scholars through active coordination with the national Industry TVET Board and international industry partners.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO M. TRINIDAD and SUSANA L. TRINIDAD, consisting of a parcel of land, known as Lot 1871-D-2 of the subd. Plan Psd-04-030043, being a portion of Lot 1871-D, Psd-04-0019933, L.R.C. Rec.) located at Bo. of Capipeña, Mun. of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon with a total area of 1000 square meters and embraced and covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-1141057 of the Register of Deeds of Cavite Province, has been the subject of an Extra-Judicial Settlement of Estate of the Deceased LEONARDO M. TRINIDAD and SUSANA L. TRINIDAD Among the Legal Heirs, as per Doc.No.381; Page No.78; Book No. XXV and series of 2026 of Notary Public Jameswell M. Resus of Naic, Cavite.

**Dateline Weekly Newspapers
June 01, 08 & 15, 2026**

PHILHEALTH.

In line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to make quality healthcare accessible to every Filipino family, PhilHealth has significantly scaled its primary care program, Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), reaching 33.2 million Filipinos through 4,287 accredited YAKAP Clinics nationwide. This remarkable expansion, launched by President Marcos Jr. in July 2025, now reflects a significant increase in primary care support—bringing more meaningful healthcare services to Filipinos nationwide.

YAKAP enables PhilHealth members to maximize their contributions by registering with a preferred clinic and access a comprehensive package of benefits including free medical consultations, essential laboratory and diagnostic services, medicines worth up to ₱20,000 annually under the GAMOT benefit, and Outpatient cancer for early disease detection.

By being empanelled with a YAKAP Clinic, members gain a consistent

healthcare partner capable of monitoring their health, detecting conditions early, and providing timely interventions before illnesses become severe.

“Ang pagpili at pagpapa-empanel sa inyong YAKAP Clinic ay hindi lamang pagsunod sa proseso; ito ay ang pagtitiyak na may sandigan ang inyong pamilya bago pa man dumating ang sakit. Sa YAKAP, layon nating protektahan ang kalusugan ng bawat Pilipino upang hindi na humantong sa malubhang karamdaman na mas mahirap at mas mahal gamutin,” said Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, PhilHealth President and CEO.

This week, PhilHealth has conducted over 191 empanelment drives nationwide to connect more communities to their chosen clinics through outreach missions and settings-based registration campaigns.

Members who cannot attend on-site registration may select their YAKAP Clinic through the eGovPH Mobile App or the PhilHealth Member Portal.

PGC-WOC FACILITATES FLORES DE MAYO CELEBRATION AT THE NEW PROVINCIAL



In line with the monthly theme activity of the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), the PGC-Workplace Organization Committee (WOC) facilitated the Flores de Mayo celebration on May 25 at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City. Employees from various offices gathered to take part in the observance of the Filipino tradition honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary through the offering of flowers and prayers. The event served as a moment of reflection, unity, and thanksgiving among government employees. Highlight of the celebration was the flower offering to the Virgin Mary as a symbol of love, devotion, and faith. The solemn activity created a meaningful atmosphere that strengthened the spiritual values and camaraderie among the employees of the provincial government. — **OPIO**

From Page 1

MPTC CONVENES MULTI-SECTORAL FLOOD MITIGATION FORUM TO BOOST RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES



The Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPTS), the south arm of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, brought together stakeholders from national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and host communities of CALAX and CAVITEX to strengthen collaboration in addressing perennial flooding concerns in Southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

This marks the first Flood Mitigation Forum conducted in the South, providing a platform for multi-sectoral dialogue, data sharing, and coordinated planning on flood mitigation efforts.

“This year’s forum aims to solidify cooperation among government agencies and LGUs in addressing recurring flooding challenges across Metro Manila and nearby provinces,” said MPTC Chief Tollways Development and Engineering Officer Gil F. Amilbangsa.

The MPTC Flood Mitigation Forum 2026 gathered key representatives from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO). Participants from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB),



Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), and PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC) also took part in the discussions and the sharing of initiatives.

LGU representatives from Las Piñas, Parañaque, Pasay, Taguig, Cavite, and Laguna provided valuable insights during the forum, along with key leaders including Cavite Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Diaz Remulla, Office of Civil Defense Director Jose Harry M. Barber, Biñan City Councilor Titus Bautista, and Former Senator Cynthia Villar of Villar SIPAG Foundation.

Flood risk area data and assessments were provided by AMH Philippines, which was engaged by MPT South, to support evidence-based identification of critical flood-prone areas and inform mitigation planning.

Discussions highlighted the impact of improper waste disposal on flooding, particularly in low-lying communities. LGUs reiterated efforts to strengthen enforcement of anti-littering and solid

waste management ordinances, alongside regular declogging of drainage systems and monitoring of critical waterways.

“Effective flood mitigation depends heavily on good governance, which is a core principle

CAYETANO...

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday rejected becoming a “puppet Senate President,” warning that recent attacks on the Senate were part of a “concerted effort” to weaken and control the institution amid critical debates on impeachment, the national budget, Charter change, and democracy.

“The Legislative, the Executive, and the Judiciary have to work together, but ‘yung mag-surrender ka or maging puppet Senate President ka, sorry hindi ko style ‘yon,’” Cayetano said in a press conference before the start of the plenary session on May 18, 2026.

He said the Senate is being targeted because it remains the country’s “last line of defense” on key national issues.

“The Senate is a target because we are the

last line of defense pagdating sa hindi impartial na impeachment, sa budget, sa Charter change, sa kung merong gustong yumarak sa ating democracy,” he said.

Cayetano said attacks on the Senate began in 2023 when proposals were raised to “abolish” the chamber. He said recent events appeared to be connected to renewed moves to amend the Constitution.

“And I really believe that the events in the last few months were also intentional na ma-weak ang Senate because bubuhayin ‘yung Constitutional change, except this time around, regional Senate ang gusto nila,” he added.

It can be remembered that Charter change proposals resurfaced in 2023, including a shift to a unicameral-parliamentary

system and to restructure the Senate by adding regional senators.

The issue intensified in early 2024 during a People’s Initiative campaign, which senators warned would allow the House of Representatives and the Senate to vote jointly on constitutional amendments, effectively diluting the Senate’s vote and weakening its role as a separate chamber.

Cayetano said all the untoward incidents since he assumed office were part of a larger push to install someone easier to control.

“For me, it’s a concerted effort from day one to get me out because they want someone they can control,” he said.

But Cayetano said he would continue to protect the Senate’s independence while working with other branches of government.

“The only thing I promise is I follow God,” he said. “Collaboration is OK, pero ‘yung sunod-sunuran kami sa inyo at hawak niyo kami sa leeg, hindi pwede ‘yon.’”

“Hindi niyo natibag ang Senado. Under Alan Cayetano, hindi niyo natibag ang Senado,” he said. “Now kung papalitan ako, sana hindi matibag ang Senado.” **PR**

Asked about calls for him to resign,



Defense Director Jose Harry M. Barber. In partnership with barangays and volunteer groups, LGUs continue community-based environmental education

in the South, especially during typhoon season. We, at MPT South, will continue to work closely with LGUs and national government agencies to translate discussions into action,” said MPT South President and General Manager Andrew B. Pangiliinan.

The forum concluded with commitments from stakeholders to improve drainage systems, strengthen flood control management, enhance disaster resilience, and reinforce inter-agency coordination.

The Flood Mitigation Forum 2026 underscores the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation Group’s commitment to providing a platform for collaboration and sustained action to address flooding challenges in surrounding communities. **PR**

From Page 1