

SAN MIGUEL FOODS REPORTS LOWER MALNUTRITION RATES IN EXPANDED HEALTH PROGRAM



From maternal medical needs to proper nutrition and baby care, San Miguel Foods Inc. and San Miguel Foundation are expanding the benefits package and reach of the First 1,000 Days program.

San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) has reported a significant reduction in malnutrition among children covered by its expanded mother-and-child health program, “Happy si Mommy, Malusog si Baby,” now reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries in 24 barangays nationwide. Data from the program show that 89% of children enrolled have reached normal height and

weight, underweight cases have dropped to 2%, and only 9% remain classified as malnourished. The initiative supports mothers and infants during the first 1,000 days of life — from pregnancy to age two — a critical period for early development and long-term health. Initially launched in 2022 in nine pilot barangays with 254 mother-and-child pairs, the program



Pregnant moms receive some treats from San Miguel Foods, among them Star margarine, Magnolia pancake, and San Mig Coffee 3-in-1, a baby swaddle for their newborn, and the Happy si Mommy booklet published by Adarna Group FoundaEon Inc.

has since grown to cover more than 400 families in Luzon, over 300 in the Visayas, and more than 250 in Mindanao. The initiative is implemented in partnership with San Miguel Foundation (SMF), local government units, and private sector partners. It provides prenatal check-ups, ultrasounds, maternal health education, and Mingo Meals — a fortified food made of rice, mung beans, and moringa, developed by the Department of Science and Technology’s Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) and produced by the Negrense Volunteers for Change Foundation. “These are the kinds of outcomes we

In 2024, as the first batch of children transitioned to toddlerhood, San Miguel Foods distributed an additional three to six months’ worth of Mingo Meals in new flavors, designed to suit changing taste preferences. The program is part of San Miguel’s broader sustainability agenda, which includes a commitment to uplift the lives of 15 million Filipinos by 2030.

Beyond direct health support, the program also focuses on training barangay health workers (BHWs). To date, 102 BHWs have been trained through webinars led by DOST-FNRI, covering topics such as breast-feeding, postpartum care, and early childhood nutrition. These health workers then cascade knowledge to participating mothers in their communities. **PR**

GOVERNOR-ELECT SOL ARAGONES GEARS UP FOR FIRST 100 DAYS WITH FOCUSED AGENDA ACROSS KEY SECTORS



Laguna Governor-elect Sol Aragon announced in a social media post that she is currently focused on laying the groundwork for projects that can be implemented within her first 100 days in office.

“I am currently focused on preparing our first projects that we can execute in the first 100 days at the Capitol,” Aragon shared. “I am also consulting with experts in health, hospitals, education, livelihood, tourism, agriculture, economic development, and more.” Her strategic consultations aim to ensure that the initiatives

under her leadership will be both sustainable and impactful across various sectors. Aragon emphasized the importance of expert input as she plans her early priorities. She is set to officially assume the governorship of Laguna on June 30, marking a new chapter in the province’s leadership. (Edjun Mariposque)

PHILHEALTH ACTING PRESIDENT AND CEO DR. EDWIN M. MERCADO MEETS WITH LAGUNA HOSPITALS



This sums up the meeting of PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado with the Chief Executive Officers, Medical Directors PhilHealth Regional Office IVA Acting Regional Vice President Edwin M. Oriña, MD was also present during the meeting to provide support **cont. on page 6**

Collaborative partnership. and Chief of Hospitals from 54 hospitals in Laguna. The meeting was held at the AMSI Doctors’ Medical Center, Calamba City. PhilHealth Re-

Mayor Ross Rizal Honors Calamba’s Modern Education Heroes at Gawad CALAMBAYANI



DERETSAHAN WEEKLY PUBLISHING The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money Vol. I - Series 45 - May 25-31, 2025

CAYETANO SEEKS CREATION OF LABOR COMMISSION TO CHAMPION WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND WELFARE PAG-IBIG RAISES CASH LOAN ENTITLEMENT, EASES ACCESS FOR MEMBERS PAGE 05

DBM Sec. Mina Pangandaman approves 10,000 non-teaching positions for DepEd PAGE 03

MARCOS OPEN TO RECONCILIATION WITH DUTERTE CAMP AS PALACE EMPHASIZES UNITY FOR ALL



President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. expressed openness to reconciling with the Duterte family, signaling a potential thaw in the long-standing political tension between two of the country’s most influential forces. Speaking during a podcast on May 19, the President said his administration prioritizes peace and friendship over conflict. “I don’t want trouble. I want to get along with everyone. I already have many enemies; I don’t need **cont. on page 6**

PGC RECOGNIZES TOP PERFORMING OFFICES AND FRONTLINERS FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE IN CELEBRATION OF EASE OF DOING BUSINESS MONTH



In line with Presidential Proclamation No. 818, declaring May as Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Month, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) proudly honored its top-performing offices and frontliners for their exceptional commitment to fast, transparent, and people-first public service on May 19, 2025 at the Function Hall of the New Provincial Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Carrying the **cont. on page 2**

SENATOR BONG GO, NUMBER 1 SA 44 PROVINCES SABUONG BANSA AT NAGING MAKASAYSAYANG SUPORTA SA 2025 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT SECRETARY AMENAH “MINA” F. PANGANDAMAN

Editorial MAHAL NA PAGKAIN, MALIIT ANG SAHOD AT KITA

Kamakailan lang naipatupad ng BBM admin ang pangakong P20 kada kilo na bigas. Pinipilit din na ibinababa sa P48 kada kilo ang bigas na mula P62. Pero ang sinasakal nito sa pamamagitan ng maximum suggested retail price ay mga manininda sa palengke.

Binabantaan sila ng kaso. Samantala, hinahayaan tumubo nang limpak-limpak ang kartel ng importers at wholesalers.

Pinatawan din ng Manufacturers Suggested Retail Price(MSRP) ang mga tindero ng pork. Pero nahihirapan ang mga maninindang tumupad, kasi mahal din ang presyong ipinasa sa kanila ng dealers. 'Yung dealers naman ay umaasa rin sa presyo ng malalaking piggeries. At ang piggeries naman ay bumibili ng sobrang mahal na pataba at gamot kontra African Swine Fever.

Ang sagot ng gobyerno ay puro import ng bigas at pork. Pinapayaman ang ibang bansa.

Samantala, napakaliit ng kita ng magpapalay. Nagagawa pang magyabang ang National Food Authority na kesyo namimili raw ito ng dried fresh stocks sa halagang P24 kada kilo. Pero mismo sa Nueva Ecija, rice granary ng Pilipinas, ang bilihan ay P15-P15.50 lang kada kilo. Ayon 'yan sa mga text groups ng mga magpapalay.

Mapanlinlang pa ang datos ng gobyerno. Isa pa sa niyayabang na mayroong trabaho umano ang 3 milyong Pilipino.

May trabaho nga pero wala namang suweldo, kasi unpaid housework ang ginagawa nila. Sila ay mga mayor de edad na nakikitira sa kamag-anak para lang may makain at matulugan. Kapalit ay nagtatrabaho sila sa bukirin, tindahan, o bahay nang walang sahod.

Marami ngang mapapasukan pero maliit naman ang sahod lalo na sa mga probinsya. Tapos pataas ng pataas ang halaga ng mga bilihin lalo na sa pangunahing pangangailangan , ang pagkain.

Bunsod nito ay marami ang nagugutom. May dalawang rason kaya parami nang parami ang nagugutom na pamilya:

Una, masiyadong mahal ang pagkain. Ikalawa, masyadong maliit ang kita.

Sana naman bigyan prioridad ang pagtasas ng sahod ng mga manggagawang Pilipino.

REP. JOLO REVILLA THANKS DAD'S SUPPORTERS, ASKS THEM TO KEEP THEIR FAITH IN HIM

Cavite Rep. Jolo Revilla expressed his thanks to the supporters of his father, Sen. Bong Revilla Jr., who lost in the senatorial race.

Jolo said there is a time for everything, and they will use this time after his loss to strengthen their faith in the Lord and to rekindle the flame of service and love for the country. He also hopes that their support and love for his father will not waver.

They inspire him to continue serving the people, he said.

"Tayo po ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa lahat ng ating mga kababayan na sumama at nagpamalalas ng taos-pusong suporta para sa muling pagtakbo ni Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr. para sa Senado.

Sadyang may panahon para sa lahat at gagamitin natin ang panahong ito para mas palalim-

PGC RECOGNIZES...

theme "From Red Tape to Red Carpet: Better Business Movement in a Bagong Pilipinas," this year's celebration is a testament to the dedication of individuals and departments who continuously transform challenges into innovative solutions and bureaucratic processes into efficient services.

Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino personally led the recognition ceremony right after the PGC flag-raising ceremony. In her message, the Governor extended her heartfelt congratulations to all the awardees, expressing her delight that many employees have been recognized for their outstanding performance and dedication. She also emphasized that the core of public service lies in a unified mission – that is to serve for the betterment of fellow Caviteños and the province.

Mayor Ross...

Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal paid tribute to the city's educators, researchers, and education advocates during the Gawad CALAMBAYANI event themed "Kawaning Calambeño: Ehemplo ng Husay at Dedikasyon sa Makabagong Edukasyon."

In his keynote speech, Mayor Rizal expressed deep gratitude and admiration for Calamba's education sector, stating, "It is an honor to

Leading the roster of recognized offices is the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPV) with an impressive 2,584 commendations, a reflection of their unwavering dedication to animal welfare and public health. The Provincial Information and Communications Technology Office (PICTO) followed with 257 commendations, highlighting their crucial role in advancing digital governance and transparency.

The Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) ranked third with 230 commendations, a nod to their continued efforts in steering impactful governance. Completing the Top 5 are Kawit Kalaayaan Hospital, which garnered 70 commendations, and two offices tied in fifth place—Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (OPPDC) and Doña Oliv-

FROM PAGE 1

Frederick Sayoc and Ms. Maria Isidra Bergunder received 88 and 87 commendations, respectively, for their outstanding service in ensuring seamless digital solutions, while Ms. Diwani Durano (30 commendations) and Ms. Maria Arianna Camille Dela Cruz (29 commendations) were likewise recognized for their dedicated support.

He emphasized the crucial role of educators in shaping the future of the nation, adding, "I always say that our youth can only become the 'hope of the nation' because we have dedicated teachers who first offered themselves in service to the country."

Mayor Rizal congratulated all awardees and encouraged them to see the recognition not only as a reward, but also as a call to serve with even greater passion and commitment. "May this serve as an inspiration for us to work harder and serve with all our hearts," he concluded.

The event further underscored the city government's strong commitment to promoting quality and modern education, highlighting the vital partnership between local governance and the academic community.

(Edjun Mariposque)

ia Salamanca Memorial Hospital, each earned 15 commendations.

On the other hand, this year's most commended frontliners have demonstrated exemplary service and compassion, inspiring their peers across the provincial government. At the top of the list is Dr. Kristine Roraldo from the OPV with a remarkable 1,145 commendations, followed by Dr. Gladys Credo with 973 commendations, and Dr. Gerry Romen with 357 commendations, all of whom play critical roles in animal and public health services.

From PICTO, Mr. Frederick Sayoc and Ms. Maria Isidra Bergunder received 88 and 87 commendations, respectively, for their outstanding service in ensuring seamless digital solutions, while Ms. Diwani Durano (30 commendations) and Ms. Maria Arianna Camille Dela Cruz (29 commendations) were likewise recognized for their dedicated support.

From OPG, Ms. Tricia May Lorio, Ms. Rachel Mae Morancil and Ms. Mary Joy Alano earned

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48, 47 and 27 commendations, respectively, for their consistent delivery of responsive public service.

Awardees were identified based on the Client Satisfaction Survey Report for the year 2024 derived through the Client Feedback Mechanism of the PGC which covers 38 offices. Under the mechanism, the Customer Satisfaction Survey Form serves as a survey tool to appraise the services received by clients while Customer Commendation Form evaluates the personnel who rendered the service by providing specific commendation. The feedback mechanism not only caters to commendation but also facilitates complaints, should there be any dissatisfaction emanating from the clients during their transaction in any office of the provincial government.

The recognition ceremony highlights the provincial government's ongoing mission to institutionalize ease of doing business, improve frontline services, and build a Bagong Pilipinas that prioritizes the welfare of every Caviteño. – OPIO



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MPT SOUTH GARNERS PRESTIGIOUS STEVIE® AWARD FOR DRAYBERKS ROAD SAFETY ADVOCACY

Seoul, South Korea – May 13, 2025 – MPT South gained recognition as a Bronze Stevie® Award winner in the Innovation in Communications/Public Relations category for its impactful Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy Campaign at the prestigious 12th annual Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards held in Seoul, South Korea. This esteemed accolade marks a significant milestone for MPT South, representing its inaugural Stevie® Award and underscoring the company's growing influence and commitment to exemplary advocacy initiatives such as the Drayberks Road Safety Program.

The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards stand as the premier business awards program honoring innovation across all 29 markets within the Asia-Pacific region. Globally recognized, the Stevie Awards celebrate achievements through distinguished programs like The International Business Awards®, now in its 23rd year.

Since its inception in 2018, MPT South's Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy Program has pioneered efforts to cultivate responsible driving behaviors and elevate road safety awareness among Filipino drivers of all classifications. Targeting a broad spectrum, including public utility drivers, transport groups, logistics companies, and various mobility stakeholders, the program embodies a proactive approach. Recognizing drivers as central to road mobility and safety, Drayberks was thoughtfully designed as an ongoing, adaptive educational initiative. It transcends the limitations of a singular seminar, providing a continuous reinforcement of traffic discipline and awareness, effectively bridging the crucial gap between theoretical traffic regulations and their practical application in re-

al-world scenarios.

The Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy program was lauded by the Stevie® Award committee for its innovative approach to public engagement and its demonstrable positive impact on commuter safety throughout Metro Manila and Southern Luzon.

Ms. Elnora D. Rumawak, Officer-in-charge of MPT South, expressed her profound gratitude, stating, "The Bronze Stevie® Award for our Drayberks Road Safety Campaign is a deeply cherished honor for the entire MPT South team. Our vision was straightforward: to empower drivers to become safer and more informed road users. Through collaborative spirit, creative ingenuity, and unwavering dedication to our purpose, the Drayberks Campaign has evolved into a true advocacy.

This recognition fuels our motivation to continue pushing the boundaries of innovation and to consistently deliver excellence for our nation and its people. Together, we aspire to even greater achievements in the future."

"The 12th Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards received an impressive array of outstanding entries," said Maggie Miller, President of the Stevie Awards. "This year's winners have clearly shown their dedication to innovation, and we commend their resilience and imaginative efforts."

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Beyond its management of the CALAX and CAVITEX networks, MPTC's domestic portfolio encompasses concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Ex-



pressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

For inquiries about this press release please email us at: **corp-comm@mptsouth.com**



SSS opens newly relocated service office in Taytay, Rizal



Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro (4th from left), Social Security Commissioner Eva B. Arcos (3rd from left), and Mayor Allan Martine S. De Leon of Taytay, Rizal (5th from left) officially open the new SSS Taytay Service Office on 28 April 2025, bringing better SSS services to the people of Taytay. Also in the photo are (from left) SSS Antipolo Branch Acting Head Richiel R. Madlangbayan, SSS Vice President for National Capital Region (NCR) East Division Benjamin M. Dolindo, Jr., SSS Executive Vice President for Branch Operations Sector Voltaire P. Agas, SSS Senior Vice President for NCR Operations Group Maria Rita S. Aguja, and Barangay Captain Rasel Z. Valera of Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal, and (at the back, left) SSS Pasig Mabini Branch Acting Head Marivic M. Gorembalem and SSS Vice President for Public Affairs and Special Events Division Carlo C. Villacorta.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro, Social Security Commissioner Eva B. Arcos, and Taytay, Rizal Mayor Allan Martine S. De Leon inaugurated the new SSS Taytay Service Office in Taytay, Rizal, on 28 April 2025, bringing better ser-

vices to the municipality dubbed as the Garments Capital of the Philippines.

The SSS Taytay Service Office is located within the municipal government complex on the 3rd floor of Manila East Arcade II Building, Don Hilario Cruz, Barangay San Juan, Taytay, Rizal.

It is ready to serve SSS members and employers in Taytay and nearby areas from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro announced that the opening of the SSS

Taytay Service Office is a key part of the organization's shift towards becoming more service-oriented. He emphasized that the SSS exists primarily to provide valuable services to its members and employers.

The Taytay office **cont. on page 6**

OFFICIAL...

I am tremendously grateful to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for the steadfast trust, support, and confidence he has bestowed not only upon me but also upon the entire economic team.

This has reaffirmed my commitment to public service and reignited my determination to work even harder for our nation and our people.

The entire economic team shares this vision, reinforcing our col-

lective pursuit of a more prosperous economy.

I also wish to thank the many business groups, public service institutions, CSOs, and individuals who have sent me messages of support.

We have always been united with the President in working towards our Agenda for Prosperity, while pursuing an open government that is transparent and accountable.

With this unexpected boost of confi-

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dence from no less than the President, as the economic managers review and recalibrate the nation's Medium-Term Fiscal Program, and as the Department of Budget and Management enters budget deliberations, we hereby renew our commitment to achieving a Bagong Pilipinas through an economic transformation that is inclusive and sustainable—fulfilling the needs and aspirations of the Filipino people, including future generation.

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critics alike," Castro said. "The administration is open to dialogue, as long as it serves the good of the country."

She emphasized that national unity is vital for sustained development and progress, especially amid mounting political and global challenges.

As calls for reconciliation grow louder, the public now watches closely how these political overtures may shape future alliances—or reveal deeper divides—within Philippine leadership

(Edjun Mariposque)

PHILHEALTH...

on concerns raised by the hospitals during the Kapihan and Open Forum.

In his opening message, Dr. Domingo O. Omistad, President and CEO of the AMSI Doctors Medical Center and Calamba Doctors Hospital, pointed out his gratitude to Dr. Mercado by making hospitals feel that "true" partnership with PhilHealth does exist.

AMSI's dedicated efforts to respond to growing demands for comprehensive medical services and patient-centered care, while ensuring access for Calambeños without the need to travel to Manila for treatments, was highlighted with the blessing and inauguration of AMSI Doctors Medical Center's Neurodevelopmental Center

and Rehabilitation Center. This development will guarantee access to facilities and services not just for residents of Calamba City but also to its neighboring towns.

Meanwhile, PhilHealth Acting PCEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado's message emphasized PhilHealth's continuing efforts to improve its operational efficiency through optimizing processes to ensure that hospitals receive timely payments for their claims while bridging the communication gap with health facilities via PhilHealth's reconciliation dialogues. The meeting is part of Dr. Mercado's commitment in strengthening PhilHealth partnership with the health facilities by understanding what's hap-

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pening at the grassroots level as well as clarifying the health facilities role in the Universal Health Care. Dr. Jose P. Santiago, Jr. President, Philippine Hospital Association also affirmed the group's support to PhilHealth, thanking Dr. Mercado as he continues to "build bridges instead of walls" in the implementation of PhilHealth's mandate and reforms. PhilHealth stands firm in its commitment in uplifting the health-care system through its strengthened hospital engagement nationwide.

This series of meetings is a testament to PhilHealth's dedication in improving efficiency and resolving issues affecting service delivery at the grassroots. PR

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country.

Meanwhile, SSS thanked the local government of Taytay for providing lease-free office space to SSS and even shouldering the renovation works and internet connection for the new SSS service office.

The SSS Taytay Service Office covers an area of 75 square meters and can handle more than 300 transactions each day.

Members and employers can perform a variety of transactions at this office, including member registration, issuance of employer certificates of compliance, submission of requests for membership amendments, updates to member records (for example, simple corrections and the addition of beneficiaries), and compliance with the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP) Program.

Members and employers can also use the services offered by the service office's e-center, such as My.SSS registration, accessing My.SSS services, requesting the resetting of password and recovery of user ID My.SSS member and employer account, and updating of employer profile.



Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

BAYANING PULIS: BILIS AT MALASAKIT, BUHAY ANG INILIGTAS

Kasunod ng direktiba ng Pangulong Ferdinand R Marcos Jr na paigtingin ang makataong pamahalaan at tiyakin na bawat kilos ng gobyerno ay tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng mamamayan, patuloy na isinasabuhay ng Philippine National Police ang tunay na diwa ng serbisyon publiko. Nitong Mayo 18, 2025, tatlong pulis mula sa Salcedo Municipal Police Station (MPS), Ilocos Sur ang nagpamalas ng kahanaga-hangang bilis ng aksyon at malasakit na posibleng nakapagsalba ng isang buhay.

Agad na rumesponde sina Police Staff Sergeant Darcy C. Gironella, Police Staff Sergeant Henry S. Quemado, at Patrolman Keng Jin A. Mayo sa panawagan ng tulong ng Punong Barangay ng San Gaspar, Salcedo. Isang residente ang nawalan ng malay at kailangang madala kaagad sa pagamutan. Hindi nag-atubiling tumulong ang mga pulis, isinakay ang pasyente sa police mobile patrol, at mabilis na isinugod sa pinakamalapit na ospital para sa agarang lunas.

Ang kanilang maagap at taos-pusong tugon ay patunay ng

DBM SEC...

In line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to continue strengthening the country's education sector, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah "Mina" F. Pangandaman approved a total of 10,000 non-teaching positions to augment the current education workforce nationwide.

"I am happy to confirm that we've approved a total of 10,000 non-teaching positions to provide our teachers with necessary support. This is on top of the 16,000 newly created teaching positions in public schools that we have recently approved for school year 2025 to 2026," Sec. Mina said.

The approved positions will occupy Administrative Officer II posts with Salary Grade 11 to

be distributed in elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools in all regions nationwide.

"Actually, this is a campaign promise fulfilled by our beloved President. Noong una pang po, pinangako na ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos na bibigyan niya ng kinakailangang suporta ang ating mga guro para padaliin ang kanilang mga trabaho. Gusto n'ya na makapag-focus sila sa pagbibigay ng dekalidad na pagtuturo. Kaya nga po

din a d a g d a gan natin 'yung mga non-teaching personnel

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para bawasan 'yung load ng trabaho sa kanila — na malaking tulong para sa kanilang mental health at overall well being," Sec. Mina pointed out.

"Noong nilabas din po natin itong mga positions na ito, nakausap natin ang ating Secretary ng Department of Education, si Secretary Sonny Angara. Ang pakiusap po natin, sana mapunan na 'yung mga binuksan nating teaching and non-teaching positions lalo na't malapit na magsimula ang klase. Madami po ito, kaya naitindihan nating medyo hindi po madali 'yan," the Budget Secretary added.

PUBLISHER CORNER

PEOPLE'S BOLD STATEMENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)



From the Voice of the People – A Call for Sovereignty and Accountability

When the Department of Health (DOH) decided to sign the Pandemic Treaty, it did so without consulting the Filipino people—the very people who will be directly affected by any future mandates or actions from the World Health Organization (WHO).

This blatant disregard for public consent is unacceptable.

Let history remind us: The United States and other sovereign nations have already withdrawn their support and membership from the WHO due to clear and documented violations of human rights, including the imposition of experimental vaccines that have been linked to millions of deaths worldwide.

SENATOR BONG GO...

Hindi maitatago ang suporta na ibinigay ng taong bayan sa pagseserbisyon ni Senator Bong Go.

Kung kaya nitong halalan 2025 ay zlampas 27 milyong boto ang nakuha niya, ang pinakamataas na bilang ng boto sa pagka-senador sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas!

Galing sa 44 na probinsya ang kanyang mga number one finish—mula sa Batanes hanggang sa Tawi-Tawi, mula sa mga lungsod sa Visayas hanggang sa mga lalawigan sa Cordillera, at Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

NOW, HEAR THIS!

We, the People of the Philippines, will not allow another fake pandemic to be used as a tool to advance the deceitful agenda of Big Pharma—through manipulation, coercion, bribery, and fear.

We will resist any move by the DOH that puts lives at risk, undermines our freedoms, or hands over control of our national health policy to foreign entities.

ENOUGH is ENOUGH!

Stop using health as a weapon to control and silence us.

Stop treating our police and military as test subjects.

If our defenders fall one by one due to your experiments, it will become a grave national security threat.

We learned our lesson from the last "Plan-

demic." We will never forget the hundreds of thousands of excess deaths caused by experimental vaccines.

N E V E R AGAIN. NOT THIS TIME.

Our Body – Our Responsibility.

This principle is embedded in our Constitution and in our inherent, fundamental, and inalienable rights as human beings.

We demand transparency.

We demand sovereignty.

We demand respect.

Standing firm in defense of our rights,

FROM PAGE 1

Nanguna rin si Mr. Malasakit Senator Bong Go sa mga key areas gaya ng rehiyon ng Davao, Northern Mindanao at Zamboanga Peninsula, at mga lalawigan ng Leyte, Samar, Kalinga, Ifugao, at marami pang iba.

Nakuha rin ni Senator Kuya Bong Go ang ikalawang puwesto sa 13 probinsya at ikatlong puwesto sa 10 iba pang patunay na mas maraming nagmamahal at sumusuporta sa senador mula sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa.

Bukod sa nasabing mga rehiyon at lalawigan, nanguna rin si Mr. Malasakit sa 66 na mga

siyudad, tulad ng Pasay City, Malabon City, Valenzuela City, Navotas City, Caloocan City, Puerto Princesa City, Cebu City, Lapu-Lapu City, Mandaue City, Tacloban City, Zamboanga City, Cagayan de Oro, Iligan City, Davao City, General Santos City, Butuan City, Ormoc City, at Cotabato City. Number 2 naman siya sa 26, at number 3 siya sa 31 na mga lungsod.

Hindi rin nagpahuli si Senator Kuya Bong Go dahil kahit sa 731 na mga munisipalidad ay number one siya. Number two naman siya sa 211 at number 3 sa 133 mga munisipalidad.

Bagay na pinasalamatan ni Senator Bong Go ang taong bayan sa natanggap niyang suporta at pagtiitwala! Ayon sa kanya Mahal na mahal niya ang kanyang mga kapwa Pilipino!

(Pau Dela Cruz)



SM UNVEILS NEW MERCH TO STRENGTHEN SUPPORT FOR DENR'S "SAVE FROM EXTINCTION" CAMPAIGN



In the photo: TV host RJ Ledesma, SM Prime Chairman of the Executive Committee Hans Sy, SM Supermalls Assistant Vice President for Marketing Hanna Carinna Sy, DENR Secretary Maria Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, SM Supermalls President Steven Tan, and the fashion show models featuring the "Save from Extinction" merch from the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, among others.



Join the fight to save wildlife by purchasing your own "Save from Extinction" merchandise.



Fashion statements for wildlife conservation.



Adorable symbols of hope that carry the message: save them from extinction.

SM is amplifying its commitment to wildlife conservation with the launch of a captivating new merchandise line dedicated to six of the Philippines' most endangered species.

At the forefront of this initiative are plushies of the Philippine eagle, Philippine cockatoo, pawikan, dugong, tamaraw, and pangolin—adorable symbols of hope carrying an urgent message: save them from extinction. But there is more to this exciting campaign than cuddly toys from Toy Kingdom. SM has expanded its offerings to include chic new shirt designs from Kultura and a children's apparel line from SM Fashion, inviting everyone—from eco-conscious advocates to young animal enthusiasts—to support the cause in style. Merchandise is available in select Kultura and Toy Kingdom branches: SM Podium, SM Mall of Asia, SM Aura, SM North EDSA, and SM Makati.

This initiative is a cornerstone of SM's partnership with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) under the "Save from Extinction" campaign that was launched in October 2024. Designed to raise awareness and generate much-needed funds to protect the six species vulnerable to extinction, the campaign shines a spotlight on these species, which face critical threats to their survival due to habitat loss, poaching, and climate change.

DENR has also partnered with wildlife conservation groups to safeguard these animals such as the Forest Foundation

Philippines, Kataala Foundation, Philippine Eagle Foundation, World Wide Fund for Nature—Philippines, D'Aboville Foundation, and the Zoological Society of London. Proceeds from every purchase in this collection will directly support the conservation programs of the DENR and its partner NGOs. In addition to the merchandise, Banco De Oro (BDO) Unibank, Inc., a key partner in the campaign, is offering donation channels to make it even easier for the public to contribute.

The public can easily make donations through BDO ATMs and branches nationwide, as well as through the BDO Online app. All collected



Fit check with a cause: Save from Extinction new shirt designs for adults and kids.



Support the cause to save wildlife in style.

funds will go to the partner NGOs dedicated to the conservation of these species. The exclusive "Save from Extinction" merchandise is available at select SM malls. Turn compass

ion into action and join the fight to save endangered wildlife.

For more information, visit www.smsupermall.com/save-from-extinction.

Cayetano...

In time for Labor Day, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday raised the idea of creating a national labor commission that would bring together Congress, the Executive, and labor stakeholders to pursue long-term, data-driven reforms to improve the lives of Filipino workers.

Speaking to reporters at the Senate on April 30, 2025, Cayetano emphasized the need for a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach to labor reform, citing the "endless debate" around wage hikes and the persistent disconnect between minimum wage rates and the actual cost of living.

"Ano ang pinag-uusapan natin perennially tuwing Labor Day? Napupunta parit sa 'minimum wage.' Actually, kung titingnan mo ang Constitution, ang pinag-uusapan ay 'living

wage,'" he said.

Cayetano said the inspiration for his proposed labor commission or "LabCom" came from the successful model of the Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM), which brought together government officials and private sector experts to tackle long-standing issues in education.

"Kung lab (love) natin ang Pilipinas, kung lab (love) natin ang ating laborers, kung gusto natin ang mga OFWs na hindi na kailangan magbroad, we have to have a labor commission," he said, playing on the words "love" and "lab."

Unlike a purely congressional body like EDCOM, Cayetano proposed a legislative-executive Labor Commission composed of lawmakers from both chambers, Cabinet members from labor-related agencies,

and representatives of big business, Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and labor groups.

The senator pointed out that current mechanisms such as the tripartite wage boards have failed to deliver meaningful change, despite decades of deliberations.

"Thirty years na ako sa politika. Nagkaroon ba ng tunay na living wage? Hindi... The real issue — the living wage — we've never gotten to it," he said.

He added that the proposed commission would not replace existing wage-setting mechanisms but would complement them by providing consensus-driven and evidence-based recommendations to address wage disparities, worker protections, and the broader cost of living. **PR**

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"HUNDREDS OF VENDORS LOSE LIVELIHOOD IN SANTA CRUZ MARKET FIRE; TEARFUL GOV-ELECT SOL ARAGONES VOWS SUPPORT"



Santa Cruz, Laguna — Over 200 vendors were left devastated after a massive fire swept through the Santa Cruz Public Market early Friday morning, May 23, at around 5:50 AM. The blaze quickly engulfed the market, leaving behind nothing but ashes of newly stocked merchandise—mostly school supplies such as uniforms, notebooks, fabrics, plastic pails, and containers—meant for the upcoming school year.

Many of the vendors rushed to the scene

upon hearing of the fire, only to find their stalls already reduced to ruins. Some wept openly, unable to contain their grief as they recalled the capital they had just released for what was supposed to be one of their busiest seasons.

Governor-elect Sol Aragon



on hearing of the fire, only to find their stalls already reduced to ruins. Some wept openly, unable to contain their grief as they recalled the capital they had just released for what was supposed to be one of their busiest seasons.

Governor-elect Sol Aragon, visibly emotional and unable to hold back her tears, personally visited the site alongside Mayor-elect Benjo Agarao, Congressman-elect Benjie Agarao, and Board Member-elect Jam Agarao. The group of newly elected

officials, who will officially assume office on June 30, promised immediate assistance to the fire victims.

"This is a tragedy no one deserves," Aragon

cover from this."

The fire was declared under control by 9:40 AM. The Bureau of Fire Protection is continuing its investigation into the origin of the blaze and the full extent of the damages.

(Edjun Mariposque)

FROM PAGE 1

hancements—higher loan amounts and shortened eligibility—also apply to other Pag-IBIG Short-Term Loan programs, specifically the Health and Education Loan Programs (HELPS) and the Calamity Loan.

In addition to higher loan amounts, eligibility requirements have also been enhanced. Members now qualify after contributing for just 12 months, down from the previous 24-month requirement. This reduction allows newer members to swiftly access funds for their immediate financial needs.

Meanwhile, members with existing loans under the previous guidelines may still apply for an additional loan under the enhanced Pag-

IBIG MPL, should they require extra funds as a result of the increased loan entitlement. The enhancements shall become available to members starting May 16.

"We are continually enhancing our loan programs in response to what our members need most," said Secretary Jose Rizalino L. Acuzar, Chairperson of the 11member Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees and head of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development. "These latest improvements are aligned with President Marcos' directive to deliver affordable and accessible financial services to Filipino workers.

By offering bigger loans and reducing the eligibility period, we

are making sure that more members can benefit quickly and effectively from the MPL."

The upgraded Pag-IBIG MPL also introduces a new one-year repayment term, complementing the existing two- and three-year options. This additional term provides greater flexibility, allowing members to tailor their loan repayments according to their individual financial capacity.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta highlighted that amid these enhancements, the loan remains affordable, with a competitive monthly interest rate of only 1.4583%.

Additionally, the majority of the interest earned from MPL repayments is returned to members as

dividends, further benefiting them.

"Our enhanced MPL reflects Pag-IBIG Fund's commitment to financial inclusivity and responsiveness to the needs of our labor sector," Acosta said. "We know members rely on these loans to start a small business, pay for tuition fees, cover medical expenses, undertake minor home improvements, or purchase furniture and other necessities.

These changes mean our members can now more easily achieve their financial goals with greater ease and convenience."

In 2024 alone, Pag-IBIG Fund released P70.3 billion in cash loans to more than 3.2 million members—the highest amount disbursed in a sin-

gle year—underscoring the strong and growing trust of members in the program and the agency.

Building on this momentum, Pag-IBIG Fund aims to assist an estimated 3.6 million members in 2025, with projected cash loan releases reaching P95.3 billion, as it continues to expand its reach and deliver accessible financial support to more Filipino workers.

"We strive to continuously evolve and respond effectively to the changing financial needs of our members," Acosta added. "With these MPL enhancements, Pag-IBIG Fund further solidifies its role as a reliable partner in empowering Filipino workers toward greater financial stability and peace of mind." (END)