

# MPT SOUTH KICKS OFF ROAD SAFETY MONTH WITH 'DRAYBERKS: READY 4 SAFETY' CAMPAIGN

May 22, 2025—  
With the goal of building a safer future on Philippine roads, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) marked Road Safety Month by unveiling its latest theme for their road safety advocacy campaign “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety,” in a ceremonial launch held at the Golden Phoenix Hotel in Pasay City.

Over 100 stakeholders from both the public and private sectors attended the celebration, in partnership with national agencies including the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Land Transportation Office (LTO), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), PNP Highway Patrol Group Region IV-A, Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), and PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC).

Local government units in Metro Manila and CALABARZON also joined the celebration, including representatives from Taguig, Parañaque, Pasay, Las Piñas, Bacoor, Imus, Kawit, General Trias, Dasmariñas, Silang, Santa Rosa, and Biñan.

The following major transport and terminal partners also attended the event: Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX), One Ayala Terminal, and advocacy organizations like ACTO; bus companies such as TAS Trans Corp., Erjohn & Almark Transit Corp. Co., Don Aldrin Transport Inc., Saulog Transit, and Jasper Jean Services Inc.; UV groups such as DIP-TA-MOA, United 12 Corp., TVTAP; modern and traditional jeepney groups such as Paliparan 3, Kapit Bisig Transport, PABODA, CAMBIO, and Universal Transport; and Philippine Multimodal Transport and Logistics Association Inc. as a representative for the logistics sector.

Mr. Jose Ma. K. Lim, the President and CEO of Metro Pacific Toll-



MPT South 'Ready 4 Safety' Grand Launch at Golden Phoenix Hotel, Pasay City



MPT South OIC Elnora D. Rumawak leads the Drayberks pledge together with government partners (from left: MPT South OIC Elnora D. Rumawak; Mr. Rolando Alvaran, Cavite Provincial Road Safety Division OIC; Mr. Rex Baladajay, Representative from the Toll Regulatory Board; PCOL Ismael Mori, PNP HPG Region 4A Regional Director; Engr. Limuel Abutan, Representative from Metro Manila Development Authority; Mr. Lyndeen Deloria, Dept Manager, Subsidiaries Development and Monitoring Dept., Philippine Reclamation Authority; Mr. Ron Roa, VP for Operations of PEATC; and MPTC President and CEO, Jose Ma. Lim)

ways Corporation (MPTC), delivered the welcome remarks.

He emphasized the critical role expressway operators play not just in building infrastructure, but also in promoting a culture of safety on and beyond their roads.

He stated, “This project is just one of the many ways MPTC demonstrates its unwavering commitment to the safety of all road users.

We believe that true progress in road safety comes through collaboration—by working hand-in-hand with government, private partners, and the communities we serve.”

The main event was the unveiling of the new Road Safety Campaign of MPT South, “Drayberks: Ready 4 Safety” Campaign, which was led by Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano, MPT South Vice President for Commu-

tion and Stakeholder Management.

The Drayberks program, first introduced in 2018, has evolved into a well-regarded platform for promoting road discipline.

Now in its sixth year, Drayberks has been recognized as a model road safety program, most recently earning a Bronze Stevie® Award in the Innovation in Communications/ Public Relations category at the 2025 Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards.

With the refreshed Ready 4 Safety campaign, MPT South aims to reach drivers of all classifications—from public utility drivers and logistics operators to private motorists—through updated modules grounded in four key points: Responsible driving, expressway rules, pre-trip vehicle inspection, and practicing discipline on the road.

“Ready 4 Safety”



MPTC President and CEO Jose Ma. K. Lim leads the signing of pledge of commitment for road safety

nated in a powerful moment as participants stood together to recite the Drayberks Pledge, led by MPT South OIC Elnora D. Rumawak.

This collective commitment to safe, disciplined, and responsible driving was further solidified with a symbolic pledge signing, uniting government agencies, transport groups, and local leaders under one shared goal.

As the curtains closed on this milestone celebration, MPT South reaffirmed its mission: that beyond building roads, it is building a culture of safety, accountability, and readiness—one driver, one community at a time. PR

## PHILHEALTH AND DEPED FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO ENSURE HEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL LEARNERS



In a significant step towards ensuring the health and well-being of public school students, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Department of Education (DepEd) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 8, 2025 at the Department of Education head office in Pasig City.

The partnership aligns with the mandate of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s over-all accessibility of government services to learners,

cont. on Page 3

# A Historic Win in Calamba City: Mayor Ross Rizal Secures 194,351 Votes in Unprecedented Landslide Victory



**VOTES 194,351**

**MARAMING SALAMAT Calambeños!**

**Mayor Ross Rizal**

**Ramdam na Reporma**



**DERETSAHAN**

**WEEKLY PUBLISHING**

The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money

**Vol. I - Series 46 - June 01-07, 2025**

**SMC Q1 net income jumps to Php43.4B, core earnings up 31%**

**CAYETANO: NEW SENATE BUILDING**

**PROJECT MOVING FORWARD AT 'LEAST COST, SOONEST TIME'**

**IN LINE WITH PBBM'S DIRECTIVE, CALAMBA POLICE HARNESS BARANGAY FORCE MULTIPLIERS FOR PEACE AND ORDER**

**PROVINCIAL AGRI TRADE FAIR CUM KADIWA NG PANGULO**



In a collective effort to further enrich and promote the agricultural industry in the province, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA),

cont. on Page 3

## PGC EMPLOYEES PARADE IN GLAMOUR AT SANTACRUZAN 2025 CELEBRATION



In a dazzling celebration of faith and Filipino heritage, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) staged the Santacruzán 2025 on May 26 at the New Capitol Building in Trece Martires City. Spearheaded by the Workplace Organization Committee, the event was part of the Monthly Theme celebration, aiming to foster unity, cultural appreciation, and spiritual reflection among PGC employees.

The program was graced by inspir-

ing messages from Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide, OPGSO Head and WOC Chairperson, Atty. Rodolfo D. Uy III, Provincial Administrator, Board Member Chelsea Jilian G. Sarno, SK Federation President and the Reyna Elena 2025, and Ms. Michelle F. Alcidi, Quality Management Representative and Pasada Hermana 2018. They commend the efforts of all participants and organizers. They emphasized the importance of keeping cultural and religious traditions alive within government institutions, as a way to not

only uplift the spirit of public service but also to strengthen camaraderie and unity among employees.

The celebration concluded with a spirit of joy and reflection, as the PGC community came together to honor both cultural identity and shared values. Santacruzán 2025 was a beautiful reminder of how traditions can thrive even in professional spaces, inspiring devotion, pride, and a deeper connection to Filipino roots. — OPIO

# Editoryal

## Ang pagbabago ng transportasyon sa Pilipinas

Ang Pilipinas ay mayroong 1,140 kilometrong riles ng tren noong dekada ng 1930. Ngunit ang pagbilis ng urbanisasyon, paglaki ng populasyon, at modernisasyon ay nagresulta sa paglipat sa isang kulturang nakasentro sa sasakyan, na sa kalaunan ay naging sanhi ng pagkawala ng mga linya ng tren.

Sinimulan ng gobyerno ang pagtulak na buhayin ang isang intermodal na network ng transportasyon sa pamamagitan ng Build, Build, Build, at kasunod nito, ang Build, Better More program pagkalipas na mga taon

Ang pagbabagong ito ng imprastraktura ng transportasyon sa bansa na nakatuon sa muling pagbangon ng mga sistema ng pedestrian at riles, ang pinakatampok ng aking pag-aaral, na pinamagatang "Retracing the Routes: The Renaissance of Pedestrian and Railway Systems in Metro Manila's Intermodal Future," na inilathala sa LSE International Development Review.

Noon pang 1875 natapos ang 150-milya na Manila and Dagupan Railroad. Nang lumaoon, pinalawak ng Pamahalaang Insular ng Pilipinas ang network ng riles upang isama ang Luzon Island Lines, na umaabot sa 430 milya, at ang Visayan Island Line, na umaabot sa 300 milya. Noong 1930s, ang Manila Railroad Company ay nagmamay-ari ng 1,140 kilometro ng riles.

Ngayon, 77 kilometro na lamang ng mga riles na ito ang gumagana.

Ang mabilis na urbanisasyon, paglaki ng populasyon, at modernisasyon—kasama ang paniniwala na ang mga sasakyan ay simbolo ng pag-unlad at tagumpay—ay naging sanhi ng pagbabagong ito mula sa sistema ng transportasyong nakatuon sa riles patungo sa diskarteng nakasentro sa mga sasakyan, na nagresulta sa isang matinding pagbawas sa katanyagan ng mga network ng tren.

Dahil dito ay Php3.5 bilyon bawat araw ang nawawala sa bansa dahil sa pagsisikip ng trapiko, at humigit-kumulang 27,000 na maagang pagkamatay ang naitala taun-taon dahil sa polusyon sa hangin.

Sa mga nagdaang taon, napagtanto ng gobyerno ang pangangailangang unahin ang mga intermodal na sistema ng transportasyon. Sa pag-aaral, binalangkas nila ang "Avoid-Shift-Improve" Mobility Approach.

Bagama't may malalaking pamumuhunan sa pagpapabuti ng imprastraktura ng kalsada, kitang-kita ang pangako ng Build Build, Build, at ang kasunod nitong ebolusyon na Build Better More, sa isang intermodal na network ng transportasyon.

Pagkalipas na mga taon, nasaksihan ng Pilipinas ang muling pagtatayo ng mga alternatibong opsyon sa transportasyon. Halimbawa, mula 2016 hanggang 2022, 214 na proyekto sa paliparan at 451 commercial at social/tourism seaport projects ang natapos.

Nanguna rin ang Department of Transportation (DOTr) sa iba't ibang proyekto ng riles, tulad ng LRT 1 Cavite Extension, MRT Line 7, MRT 4, at ang pagtatayo ng unang subway system sa bansa pagkatapos ng 40 taong pahinga at anim na iba't ibang administrasyon.

Ang isa pang diskarte ay ang pagpapatupad ng pinagsama-samang sistema ng pamasaha na nagbibigay-daan para sa tuluy-tuloy na paglipat sa pagitan ng iba't ibang mga uri ng pampublikong transportasyon.

Tunay na magiging mahirap ang pagbabagong ito, ngunit sa pamamagitan ng pagsulong ng magkakaibang mga opsyon sa transportasyon

Kinakailangang din ang pagbabago sa pag-uugali ng tao upang mapahusay ng Pilipinas ang kadalang kumilos, mabawasan ang kasikipan sa trapiko, lumikha ng mas mahusay, napapanatili, at maayos na kapaligiran para sa mga mamamayan nito.

## HISTORIC WIN...

Calamba City, Laguna — History has been made.

In what is now being recognized as the most resounding electoral victory in Calamba City's history, Mayor Ross Rizal secured a staggering 194,351 votes, marking an overwhelming expression of trust and support from the people. Alongside him, Vice Mayor Angelito Lazaro and Congresswoman Cha Hernandez were also re-elected, completing a landslide win for the incumbent leadership team — their second consecutive term together.

The elections may be over, but the conversations continue. Across neighborhoods, online platforms, and community gatherings, emotions remain raw. Some residents are still coming to terms with the outcome, while others struggle with acceptance. Misinformation has emerged on social media, with some questioning: "Who really won as mayor?"

But the numbers speak for themselves — clear, unquestionable, and historic. No cheating. No deception. Only democracy in action.

This moment is more than just a political victory; it reflects a powerful collective decision. In a city rich with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and po-

## LALAKING PASAHERO NA NAHULOG SA BARKO SA MARINDUQUE, NAKALIGTAS MATAPOS LUMANGOY NG TATLONG ORAS

NAKALIGTAS ang isang lalaki na nahulog sa dagat habang sakay ng barko matapos na lumangoy ng halos tatlong oras bago nasagip ng isang bangkang pangisda sa karagatan ng Marinduque.

Kinilala ang nakaligtas na pasahero na si Bernardo Baile, 40 anyos, isa pahinante ng truck, at residente ng Barangay Cajimos, Romblon, Romblon.

Ayon kay Kapitan Manuel Reanzares ng Brgy. Daykitin, Buenavista at Buenavista MDRMO sakay umano ang biktima ng isang barko ng Montenegro Shipping Lines na nagmula sa Romblon,

## FROM PAGE 1

litical affiliations, Calambefios came together to voice their will.

While emotions may be fueled by personal experiences and deep-seated loyalties, it is now time to reflect and heal. Let us be mindful of our words. In the heat of the moment, we may have said things we regret. But as citizens, and as Christians, we are called to compassion, humility, and respect.

It is not easy to accept defeat, especially when ideology clashes with democracy. But the path forward requires truth, acceptance, and unity. Regardless of which political boat we sailed in, we all belong to the same city — and our future depends on how we move forward together.

Let us give due respect to those whom the people have chosen. They carry the mandate of the majority, and they deserve the opportunity to serve without hate or malice.

In the end, we are reminded: LOVE over hate. KINDNESS over bitterness. UNITY over division.

Let this historic moment be not just a political milestone, but a turning point for healing, hope, and harmony in Calamba.

(Edjun Mariposque)

## CAVETANO...

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday assured the public that the construction of the New Senate Building (NSB) is proceeding without delay and with an emphasis on cost efficiency.

"Full steam ahead, hindi madi-delay at ibinababa y'ung presyo [ng gusal]," Cayetano said in a media interview at the Senate on April 30, 2025.

Cayetano, who chairs the Senate Committee on Accounts overseeing the project, said preparations are underway for a briefing and site visit, possibly next week, depending on the schedule of Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero.

"I'll try to get his schedule next week... But kung hindi man, I'll just give you a one-pager so that you know the direction [of the project]," he told reporters.

The senator also expressed appreciation to former senator Panfilo "Ping" Lacson and Sen-

## FROM PAGE 1

ator Nancy Binay, who previously chaired the accounts committee, saying the current efforts build on the transparency and direction they helped establish.

"We owe to both Senator Lacson and Senator Nancy na transparent na makita nila y'ung direction at y'ung findings," he said.

Cayetano said about 75 percent of the committee's comprehensive report on the construction of the building, which will be submitted to the Senate, is already complete.

He clarified that his role as Accounts Committee chair is not to look into past issues but to ensure that the Senate gets "the best Senate building at the soonest possible time at the least cost."

"Hindi ko trabaho in this committee to look for anomalies. My report will be factual," he added.

PR



### EDITORIAL OFFICE

Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1

Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite

Mobile No. ----- 09365035056

Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

### EDITORIAL BOARD

**Publisher** : Nelson A. Dimapilis  
**Editor-In-chief** : Kevin Pamatmat  
**Editor** : Sol Luzano  
**Managing Editor** : Edjun C. Mariposque  
**Marketing Manager** : Pau Dela Cruz  
**Circulation Manager** : Christina Mercado  
**Lay Out Artist** : Danica Mae G. Cardifio

### ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL ----- P200/col.cm  
LEGAL/NOTICES ----- P160/col.cm

Font Size:

Heading : 10  
Body Text : 08  
Space : Single space

## SMC Q1...

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) posted first-quarter earnings of ₱43.4 billion, rising sharply from ₱8.9 billion a year earlier, supported by one-time gains from the partial sale of power assets and foreign exchange gains.

Core net income, excluding these non-recurring items, grew 31% to ₱19.0 billion, driven by disciplined cost management and solid performance in most of its core businesses.

Revenues declined 8% to ₱360.9 billion, mainly due to weaker crude prices affecting the Fuel and Oil segment, and lower contributions from the Power business following the deconsolidation of the Ilijan Power Plant. Stronger sales re-

sults from the Food, Hard Liquor, and Infrastructure units helped offset the decline.

Operating income rose 13% to ₱45.6 billion, supported by margin expansion across the Power, Food & Beverage, and Infrastructure segments. Consolidated EBITDA increased 17% year-on-year to ₱64.2 billion.

"We had a good start to the year. Despite some challenges, our businesses remained resilient and continued to perform well.

We will keep moving forward, grow responsibly, and make sure more Filipinos benefit from the progress we are making," said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

## IN LINE...

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — The Calamba City Police is strengthening its community policing efforts by maximizing the role of barangay force multipliers to maintain peace, security, and public order across the city.

This initiative is in line with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to the Philippine National Police (PNP) to increase police visibility as a key strategy to deter crime, ensure quick response times, and build stronger ties between the police force and the community.

Lt. Col. Victor Maqui Sobrepeña, Calamba City Police chief, emphasized the vital role barangay force multipliers play in implementing community-based policing.

"The first thing we focus on at the Calamba City Police Station is collaboration and coordination with the community.

We are utilizing force multipliers from the barangays as they are with us in ensuring police visibility," said Sobrepeña.

By closely coordinating with barangay officials, the police have been able to enhance patrol schedules and ensure a stronger presence in key

public areas.

These efforts have resulted in quicker response times and more effective law enforcement operations.

The barangay force multipliers, often composed of local volunteers and community leaders, play a crucial role in intelligence-gathering, surveillance, and timely reporting of incidents. Their grassroots presence allows police to respond swiftly and more accurately to community needs.

"Our relationship with the barangay force multipliers is strong because they are the ones who report to us when problems arise in their areas.

They provide us with the information we need for our operations," added Sobrepeña.

As part of these

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

San Miguel Food and Beverage, Inc. (SMFB) reported consolidated revenues of ₱98.9 billion, up 4% year-on-year. Gross profit grew 11% to ₱28.6 billion, while operating income rose 16% to ₱15.2 billion. Net income increased 16% to ₱11.6 billion, with EBITDA reaching ₱19.6 billion.

San Miguel Foods posted ₱46.3 billion in revenues, 8% up on strong poultry sales and steady demand for processed meats and dairy with net income growing by 83% to ₱3.0 billion.

San Miguel Brewery reported ₱36.3 billion in sales, with net income inching up 1% to ₱6.6 billion. Ginebra San

## FROM PAGE 1

enhanced safety measures, the Calamba City Police has activated R.O.N.D.A. CALABARZON, deploying mobile and motorcycle units, cyber patrols, and fixed post personnel to boost visibility and maintain order.

Lt. Col. Sobrepeña also urged his team to uphold professionalism and dedication in their service while calling on the public to take part in the city's peacekeeping efforts.

"Let us obey the law and always remember that public safety and order are not just a concern of the authorities—it is a concern for all of us."

The city's unified approach to community policing marks a significant step forward in building a safer, more secure Calamba for all residents.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Miguel generated ₱16.3 billion in revenues, also up 8%, while net income grew 11% to ₱2.1 billion.

POWER

San Miguel Global Power posted ₱42.5 billion in revenues, down 4% year-on-year due to the deconsolidation of the Ilijan Power Plant. The decline was partly offset by strong contributions from its other power facilities and battery energy storage systems (BESS).

Operating income rose 21% to ₱10.7 billion. Reported net income reached ₱26.4 billion, including a ₱21.9 billion gain from the asset sale. Excluding the gain, net income was still up 188% to ₱4.5 billion.

FUEL AND OIL

Petron Corpora-

tion grew its net income by 2% to ₱4.0 billion, backed by strong domestic sales, steady operations, and improved margins. Operating income stood at ₱9.5 billion, while EBITDA remained stable at ₱13.4 billion.

Revenues declined to ₱194.4 billion from ₱227.6 billion a year earlier, mainly due to lower crude prices and softer export sales. Despite this, domestic performance remained strong, with Philippine retail sales rising 14% and commercial sales up 2%, driven by higher demand and stronger customer engagement.

INFRASTRUCTURE

SMC Infrastructure reported a 7% rise in first-quarter revenues,

driven by the continued growth of its toll road operations. Operating income increased 10% to ₱5.3 billion, while EBITDA rose 6%, with margins steady at 78%.

CEMENT

SMC's Cement

business—including Eagle Cement, Northern Cement, and Southern Concrete Industries—reported consolidated revenues of ₱8.9 billion, down 4% year-on-year due to lower average selling prices amid heightened competition from imports and soft demand.

Despite these challenges, the group posted a 1% increase in sales volume. Operating income stood at ₱1.6 billion, while EBITDA declined 5% to ₱2.5 billion.

# FPA to celebrate 48th anniversary with a commitment to smarter regulations and innovation

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) will be celebrating its 48th Anniversary on 30 May 2025, with the theme: "Smarter Regulations, Nurturing Innovation."

Executive Director Glenn DC. Estrada explained the theme captures the agency's ongoing efforts to modernize its regulatory framework, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and embrace new technologies in support of Philippine agriculture, during the press conference held at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) on 16 May 2025.

Dir. Estrada emphasized that the FPA, established under Presidential Decree 1144, continues to play a vital role in ensuring access to safe and effective fertilizers and pesticides while protecting public health and the environment.

"Through digitalization, evidence-based policies, and collaborative efforts, we are responding to the dynamic needs of the agricultural sector," he said.

The FPA de-

tailed how it is leveraging its mandate—which includes licensing, quality assurance, import control, stewardship, and public information—not merely as regulatory duties but as platforms for encouraging innovation. The agency cited the integration of precision farming practices such as drone-assisted spraying of fertilizers and pesticides as a key example.

Two ongoing projects were spotlighted: the Composting Facility for Biodegradable Wastes Program – supports LGUs in waste-to-compost initiatives through provision of composting facilities. On the other hand, the Drones4Rice Program — promotes the use of drones in agriculture through the development of protocols, standards, and monitoring systems.

As part of its long-term strategy, Dir. Estrada, who recently took office as head of FPA in April 2025, presented his Ten Strategic Initiatives that will guide FPA's future actions.

One major institutional goal is to amend

Presidential Decree 1144 by advocating for a Republic Act that would expand FPA's authority to include research, development, and extension services that will enable the agency to adapt to modern agricultural needs.

FPA announced key projects and activities for 2025, such as the enhancement of drone application policies, further digitalization of licensing and accreditation processes, intensified first-border inspections, and continued updates to the Fertilizer and Pesticide Regulatory Policies (Bluebook and Greenbook).

Public engagement efforts such as regional information caravans will also be expanded, particularly in Regions 8, 4, 5, 2, Caraga, 11, 9, and 10.

"We reaffirm our commitment to serve as a partner in nation-building," said Dir. Estrada. "By combining smarter regulations with responsible innovation, the FPA remains steadfast in its mission to safeguard agricultural productivity and sustainability." (DA-FPA Press Release)

# # BATCH 2 PARA SEASONAL FARM WORKER SA KOREA, LUMAGDA NG KONTRATA SA BAYAN MG NAGCARLAN



LAGUNA - Pormal nang lumagda ng kontrata sa bulwagan ng Municipal Evacuation Center kamakailan ang dalawampu't isa (21) mga Nagkarlangin para sa pangalawang batch ng mga kababayan nating magtatrabaho bilang seasonal farm worker sa bansang South Korea.

Kasamang na-kasaksi ng umagang iyon

sina Pambayang Agrikultor, G. Alvin Ardeza, Gng. Lourdes D. Royo, RSW – pinuno ng MSWDO, Gng. Maridee Comendador – PESO Focal Person, Bb. Lyka Dorado at Bb. Arianne Petrasanta kinatawan ni G. TJ Han na naging daan para maisakatuparan ang programang ito.

Matatandaang noong buwan ng Oktubre



at Nobyembre 2024 ay nauna nang nakaalis ng bansa ang unang batch ng mga kababayan natin upang magtatrabaho sa South Korea. Mapalad ang bayan ng Nagcarlan sapagkat ngayong taon ay mahigit 200 mamamayan nito ang kinakailangan ng nasabing bansa para mag-ing seasonal farm worker. Sa kasalukuyan ay wala pang eksaktong petsa ang

pag-alis ang Batch 2 at hinihintay na lamang ang kanilang Pre-Deployment Orientation Seminar o PDOS.

Bago pa ang pormal na paglagda ng kontrata ay nagkaroon muna ng saglit na oryentasyon at paalala sa Municipal Evacuation Center sina Bb. Petrasanta, G. Ardeza at Gng. Royo sa ikalawang batch ng seasonal farm-



workers sa mga gagawin pagtungo at habang nagtatrabaho sa South Korea.

Samantalang kinumusta rin ni Mayor Ark/Inh Elmor V. Vita sa lobby ng Tanggapan ng Punong Bayan ang dalawampu't isang (21) mga bagong seasonal farm worker na aalis patungong South Korea at binati nito ang bawat isa sa kanilang pagkakapili. (Kevin Pamatmat)



## Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

### Ano ang CSPP ng Philippine Social Security System

Ang Contribution Subsidy Provider Program (CSPP) ng SSS ay isang inisyatibo na layuning tulungan ang mga miyembrong nahihirapang magbayad ng kanilang buwanang kontribusyon, lalo na ang mga self-employed, land-based OFWs, at voluntary members. Sa ilalim ng programang ito, maaaring may mga indibidwal, kumpanya, o ahensya ng gobyerno na sasagot sa kanilang kontribusyon sa loob ng hindi bababa sa anim (6) na magkakasunod na buwan .

Sino ang maaaring maging subsidy provider? 1. Mga pribadong indibidwal o kumpanya na nais tumulong bilang bahagi ng kanilang corporate social responsibility. 2. Mga ahensya ng gobyerno, lalo na para sa mga job order workers na hindi sakop ng GSIS. 3. Mga NGO na may layuning suportahan ang mga marginalized na sektor .

Paano ito nakakatulong? 1. Para sa mga miyembro: Nagkakaroon sila ng tuloy-tuloy na kontribusyon kahit hindi regular ang kita, na mahalaga para sa pag-qualify sa mga benepisyo ng SSS tulad ng pensyon, maternity, sickness, at iba pa.

2. Para sa mga provider: Nagkakaroon sila ng tuloy-tuloy na kontribusyon kahit hindi regular ang kita, na mahalaga para sa pag-qualify sa mga benepisyo ng SSS tulad ng pensyon, maternity, sickness, at iba pa.

Paano ito nakakatulong? 1. Para sa mga miyembro: Nagkakaroon sila ng tuloy-tuloy na kontribusyon kahit hindi regular ang kita, na mahalaga para sa pag-qualify sa mga benepisyo ng SSS tulad ng pensyon, maternity, sickness, at iba pa.

2. Para sa mga provider: Nagkakaroon sila ng tuloy-tuloy na kontribusyon kahit hindi regular ang kita, na mahalaga para sa pag-qualify sa mga benepisyo ng SSS tulad ng pensyon, maternity, sickness, at iba pa.

#SSS #CSPP

## PROVINCIAL...

spearheaded a two-day Provincial Agri Trade Fair and Exhibits cum Kadiwa ng Pangulo, themed "Masiglang Negosyo at Maunlad na Kalakalan, Susi sa Pagkamit ng Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita", at the OPA Compound, Trece Martires City, on May 15-16, 2025.

The event kicked off with a mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Ross Layugan, celebrating the feast of the patron saint of farmers and agriculture, Saint Isidore the Labrador. The program proper commenced with the welcome message from Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, Officer-in-Charge of the OPA, for everyone who made time and effort to participate in the activity. She underscored the significance of agriculture as it provides food security for the community.

Engr. Nova-Cruz was joined by representatives from various partner agencies – Dr. May Magno, Cavite Provincial Veterinarian; Dr. Nellie Ilas, PAFC Chairperson; Ms. Lilibeth Chavez, OIC-Provincial Director of DTI-Cavite; Ms. Marivic Martinez, Director II of DOLE; Mr. Jaypee Patricio of ATI; Ms. Marren Bautista of DILG-Cavite; Ms. Lorena Jimeno of APCO-Cavite; and Ms. Antonette Ariole, representative of Board Member Paolo Crisostomo, displaying their enthusiasm and cooperation in providing assistance and

space to the farmers, fisherfolks, and agri-exhibitors across Cavite. The event culminated with a message from Vice Governor Sheran Jaro, commending the farmers for continuously striving for the benefit of Caviteños, "Binabati ko ang mga magsasaka na patuloy na lumalaban para itaguyod at ma[i]bigay ang masusustansya na murang pagkain para sa ating mga kababayan."

The Agri Trade Fair and Exhibit booths lined up in the venue, showcasing wide-range of fresh goods and produce, boosting the marketing opportunities and productivity of the agricultural industry, and building strong connections among the stakeholders. - J. Reyes

## FROM PAGE 1

## PUBLISHER CORNER

### PHILIPPINES SAYS CHINA HAS NO RIGHT TO OBJECT OR INTERFERE WITH ITS 'LAWFUL' ACTIVITIES IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA REUTERS

MANILA, May 29 (Reuters) – The Philippine foreign ministry said on Thursday that China has no right to object to or interfere with its lawful and routine activities in the South China Sea.

The ministry said it also "rejects and refutes" recent statements of the Chinese embassy in Manila that Beijing has indisputable sovereignty over the Spratly islands.

The Philippines, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan and China between them have claims and a presence on dozens of features in the Spratly archipelago, ranging from reefs and rocks to islands, natural and artificial. China's manmade islands there include runways, radar towers, ports and missile systems.

"We urge China to respect the Philippines' sovereignty and jurisdiction, even as we continue to pursue peaceful and legal

means to manage differences and the situation at sea," foreign ministry spokesperson Teresita Daza said in a statement.

China and the Philippines traded accusations last week following a confrontation between two of their vessels in contested waters of the South China Sea, the latest incident in a long-running row in the strategic waterway.

The Philippines' fisheries bureau said the lives of a civilian crew were put at risk when the Chinese coast guard fired water cannons and side-swiped a vessel as it conducted marine research around a disputed reef.

The Chinese coast guard said two Philippine vessels had illegally entered waters near Subi Reef, a Chinese-built artificial island, and organised personnel to land on the unoccupied sandbars of Sandy Cay.

"The Philippines is clearly within its rights to conduct routine maritime operations and scientific



research in and around these features, and will continue to do so," Daza said. "China has no right to object much less interfere with these lawful and routine activities."

China claims sovereignty over nearly all the South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam. An international arbitral tribunal in 2016 said Beijing's expansive claim has no basis under international law.

The Chinese embassy in its statement sent to media on Monday said the Philippines had since January made 27 "unauthorised landings" on features, despite a 2002 agreement among Southeast Asian countries and China to refrain from doing so.

## FROM PAGE 8

## PHILHEALTH...

teaching and non-teaching personnel in academic institutions.

Under the agreement, DepEd will adopt mechanisms necessary for PhilHealth registration, transforming schools into health-promoting learning environments and school clinics into efficient providers of primary care.

By making sure that all enrolled learners are properly registered with PhilHealth, affordable and quality health services will become more accessible to children.

Moreover, PhilHealth commits to facilitate the registration of not only the learners but also their families to a Konsulta Package Provider for them

to access primary care services.

"The future this landmark partnership offers is one with healthier children that will transition to adults with better health-seeking behavior," said PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado.

This strategic shift towards preventive care for students also aims to improve overall learning and productivity with lesser absences and lower medical costs for children with chronic conditions.

DepEd Secretary Juan Edgardo M. Angara expressed the agency's support for the initiative, "This is what we envisioned when we

passed the Universal Health Care. Importante ay may tiwala ang tao na makakakuha sila ng serbisyo."

This partnership aligns with the government's broader goals of achieving Universal Health Care.

In ensuring we provide quality healthcare for our children, we set the stage for improving the health and well-being of all Filipinos.

For more details, members may call PhilHealth's 24/7 touch points at (02) 866-225-88 or at mobile numbers (Smart) 0998-8572957, (Globe) 0968-8654670, (Globe) 0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812.

# DOLE QUEZON SPURS STRONGER FAMILIES, BETTER WORKPLACES



Thirty-seven employees of Johanna's Chicken Processing Center in Lucena City participated in an Orientation on the Family Welfare Program (FWP) led by the Department of Labor and Employment – Quezon Provincial Office (DOLE QPO) on May 13, 2025. The activity aimed to raise awareness among workers and employers on how promoting family welfare can lead to a more harmonious, healthy, and productive workplace, in line with DOLE's advocacy for worker-centered development.

The session, organized by DOLE Quezon, sought to educate employees and employers on how the welfare of families directly contributes to a more harmonious and productive working environment.

The orientation was spearheaded by Mr. Franz Raymond J. Aquino, Senior Labor and Employment Officer of DOLE Quezon, who gave a comprehensive discussion on the objectives and implementation of the Family Welfare Program, in line with Department Order No. 56-03. According to Mr. Aquino, "The FWP is not just a program—it is a transformative strategy

that sees every worker not just as a laborer, but as a mother, a father, a spouse, or a child.

When we support the family, we empower the worker."

The program emphasizes the formation of a Family Welfare Committee (FWC) within workplaces—a collaboration of labor, management, and health representatives—to institutionalize family-focused policies and by initiatives such as health programs, child education assistance, and financial wellness.

Also present was Ms. Jelly Ann Avila, Labor and Employment Officer III, who discussed

General Labor Standards, reminding participants of the foundational laws that safeguard worker rights.

"Labor standards and family welfare go hand in hand. When both are present in the workplace, we see not just compliance—but compassion," Ms. Avila stressed.

The Family Welfare Program continues to be a beacon of DOLE's commitment to holistic labor development. By aligning corporate goals with family well-being, DOLE Quezon promotes not just better workers—but better lives.

Because when families thrive, workplaces flourish. PR

# SM Group Job Fair on May 29 at SM City Dasmariñas



Jerramae Perrera proudly displays her new status after being hired on the spot at the SM job fair.



A job searcher engages with recruiters at the May 1 SM Labor Day Job Fair at the SMX Convention Center Manila, seeking new career prospects.



The SM Group Job Fair brings a wide range of career opportunities to jobseekers.



A bustling Labor Day job fair organized by SM fills SM City Davao, connecting numerous applicants with potential employers.

Looking for your next big move? SM Supermalls, together with SM Retail, invites jobseekers to the SM Group Job Fair happening this May 29, 2025 (Thursday) at the Main Event Center, SM City Dasmariñas.

Whether you're into fashion, food, banking, retail, or anything in between—there's something for everyone. This special job fair gathers powerhouse brands from the SM Group across retail, logistics, real estate,

banking, and more—making it a true one-stop shop for career opportunities. What to Expect: Fast-Track Hiring with On-the-Spot Offers. Jobseekers can apply for over two dozen positions, including:

Sales Associates, Store Crew, Cashiers, Merchandisers, and Personal Shoppers Clerks, Warehouse Staff, Human Resources Assistants, Marketing Officers, and Accounting Clerks Supervisory roles in Facilities, Sales, and Customer Service Specialized roles in Pharmacy, Customer Relations, and more Recruiters will be conducting on-the-spot interviews with the possibility of same-day hiring. Key government agencies such as Social Security System, Pag-IBIG, and PhilHealth will also be present to process or update employment requirements—making the job application process faster, easier, and more convenient.

This event is made possible through collaboration with SM Supermalls, SM Retail, Private Sector Advisory

Council Jobs, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, and Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc.—all united in helping Filipino jobseekers find meaningful employment.

Participating companies include:

Our Home, SM Appliance Center, SM Home, Ace Hardware, Watsons, Alfamart, SM Store, SM Hypermarket, SM Supermarket, Save-more, Waltermart, Surplus, Stationery, Toy Kingdom, Pet Express, BDO Network Bank, Chinabank, National University, Goldlocks, and more. Hired on the spot: Real stories, real success “Organisado po siya, mabilis ang processing. Maraming nag-aassist. Komportable dito, masaya.” – Ladylyn Montaez, Hired as Merchandiser, Waltermart

“Maraming salamat po sa SM, sa Department of Labor and Employment at sa government po sa pagbibigay ng opportunity sa aming mga nangangailangan ng trabaho. Malaking bagay po ito.” – Asmayer Abdullah, Hired as Service Crew, The French Baker More

job fairs this June: Independence meets opportunity Can't make it to SM City Dasmariñas on May 29? SM Supermalls has a full lineup of Job Fairs this June, including the KayaMed Job Fairs on June 12 across 27 SM malls nationwide, in celebration of Philippine Independence Day. Your next big break starts here Whether you're a fresh graduate, a seasoned pro looking for new challenges, or a returning Overseas Filipino Worker seeking a fresh start—SM Job Fair is where jobs meet purpose. Just bring your resume, valid IDs, and pen—and be ready to meet your future employer. Follow SM Supermalls on Facebook or visit [www.smsupermalls.com](http://www.smsupermalls.com) for full updates.

About SM Job Fairs SM Job Fairs are nationwide hiring events organized by SM Supermalls in collaboration with government and private sector partners. These job fairs empower jobseekers by bringing together diverse employment opportunities and essential services in one convenient, inclusive space. SM Group Job Fair on May 29 at SM City Dasmariñas

## 24 FCAs sa CALABARZON, tampok sa Farmer's and Fisherfolk's Month Trade Fair sa Laguna

Tampok ang 24 samahan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda mula sa rehiyon ng CALABARZON sa Farmer's & Fisherfolk's Month Celebration Trade Fair and Exhibit cum KADIWA na isinagawa noong ika-17 hanggang ika-18 ng Mayo sa Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Ipinagmalaki sa naturang aktibidad ang mga de-kalidad at sariwang produktong lokal mula sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda na direktang naipagbili at nailapit sa merkado sa pamamagitan ng KADIWA. Layunin nito na gawing abot-kaya at madaling ma-access ang pagkain habang pinaalakas ang kita ng mga lokal na prodyuser.

Kabilang din sa

mga isinagawang aktibidad ang oryentasyon ukol sa akreditasyon para sa mga nais maging KADIWA Pro-

gram Consolidator at Supplier. Isa ring mahalagang bahagi ng programa ang presentasyon ng Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Information System na naglalayong palawakin ang kaalaman ng mga lumahok sa pag-nenegosyo at paggamit ng datos sa pagpapaunlad ng kanilang kabuhatan.

Pinangunahan ito ng #DAlabarzon Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division, at dinaluhan nina Farmer Regional Executive Director G. Gauden-

cio Genil; OIC-Regional Technical Director for Research, Regulations, and ILD Editha Salvosa; OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations Engr. Redelliza Gruexo; at Field Operations Division OIC-ChiefFelix Joselito Noceda, kasama ang iba pang mga kawani ng ahensya. Ang aktibidad ay bahagi ng mas malawak na inisyatibo ng Kagawaran upang kilalanin at patatagin ang sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan ngayong Buwan ng Magsasaka at Mangingisda.



# MI HEALTHCARE INC. LAUNCHES MICRO HMO



(From left to right) Pioneer Group Head Lorenzo O. Chan, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto, MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento, and Operations Associate Medical Director Lordan Carreon were present during the launching of KayaMed Micro-HMO.

MI Healthcare Inc. (MHI), a member institution of CARD Mutual Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), introduced KayaMed, a micro-HMO product, on January 31 and February 4, 2025, at Maharlika Square Events Place, San Pablo City, Laguna.

KayaMed, the first micro-HMO registered with the Insurance Com-

mission in the Philippines, assists clients with their medical needs and facilitates cashless hospital payments for those covered under their annual benefits.

During her opening remarks, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto expressed her excitement about launching their product, “KayaMed provides afford-

able healthcare products for all Filipinos.”

The annual membership fee costs PHP 2,300.00, including the following benefits: In-Patient PHP 10,000.00, Out-Patient PHP 5,000.00, Emergency PHP 15,000.00, Surgical PHP 10,000.00, and Maternity PHP 2,500.00

During the event, six raffle winners received

the KayaMed micro-HMO. The winners were microinsurance coordinators and CARD MRI clients: Lanie Zambales, Julieta Panergayo, Victoria Jutic, Marie Grace Seballe, Nerissa Galang, a CARD SME Bank client, and Thelma Dalisay, a CARD Bank client.

As part of the program, MHI Sales and Partnership Cath Piedad

provided a brief orientation about KayaMed.

In addition, Pioneer Operations Associate Medical Director Dr. Dan Carreon provided some tips on how to avoid illness and take care of oneself.

Pioneer Group Head Lorenzo O. Chan, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, MI Healthcare Inc. Officer-in-Charge Rosita Abanto, Pioneer Insurance FVP—Marketing Head Len Pozon, MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento, MI Healthcare Inc. Operations Head Atty. Aiza Mercader, and CCAS President Dr. Roderick Belen, some of CARD MRI's key officers and staff, microinsurance supervisors, microinsurance coordinators, and CARD clients attended the event.

Starting March 1, 2025, KayaMed will be available to CARD clients and their legal dependents in Laguna 1, 3, and 4, Cavite, Manila, and the Bulacan Provincial Office. Soon after, MHI plans to make it available to the public.

Micro HMOs are a more micro approach to regular HMOs, which

means affordable premiums with acceptable health coverage.

Unlike regular HMOs, micro-HMOs are more affordable for clients with tight budgets.

“It is crucial that we address and take action on the health and wellness of the Filipinos.

With the introduction of the Micro HMO, we believe that we will be able to provide our clients with an HMO at a more affordable price, aligning with our overall mission of eradicating poverty,” MI Healthcare Inc. Chief Operating Officer Allan Sarmiento stated.

CARD MRI and Pioneer Insurance established MHI in February 2024 to become one of Filipinos' leading health benefits providers by offering affordable healthcare products. MHI has affiliated accredited hospitals, clinics, and laboratories, which clients can conveniently access when needed.

The institution plans to expand its reach by affiliating with more hospitals and gradually covering all of CARD MRI's provincial offices. PR

## Mga Hinabing Pag-asa: Handcrafted Bags ng mga Kababaihan sa San Pedro City Jail, Umabot sa mga Lider ng ASEAN sa Malaysia

San Pedro City, Laguna — Isang natatanging kwento ng pag-asa, dignidad, at muling pagbangon ang lumipad patungong Malaysia dalang ang mga handcrafted bag na likha ng mga kababaihang Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) sa San Pedro City Jail.

Sa pamamagitan ng programang “Bag-It-Forward” ng Zonta Club of Laguna, sa pangunguna ni President Ann Matibag, napatunayan na ang talento at kwento ng mga kababaihan sa likod ng rehas ay kayang makalikha ng inspirasyong naaabot ang buong mundo.

Bilang bahagi ng patuloy na mga programa ng Zonta para sa kabuhatan at women empowerment, ang mga bag na hinabi at tinahi ng mga PDL ay ipinamigay bilang opisyal na token sa mga

miyembro ng Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians ng ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly 2025 (WAIPA).

Ang bawat bag, na buong pusong ginawa sa loob ng San Pedro City Jail, ay nagkukuwento ng lakas, pagbabago, at pag-asa.

Lubos ang paghanga ni Representative and Liason to ASEAN UN Women—Ambassador Ulziisuren Jamsran sa proyekto, sa kaniyang paghayag, “To all the women who are courageously walking this path of transformation, I want you to know that your strength does not go unnoticed. Every stitch you make is a step forward.

You are not defined by your past, but by your ability to grow, to contribute and to rise.

Keep believing in yourselves. The world

needs your talent, your resilience and your voice.”

Ang mga handcrafted bag ay naging opisyal na regalo para sa mga miyembro ng Women Parliamentarians of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (WAIPA) sa isang pagtitipon sa Malaysia.

Kabilang sa mga tumanggap ng natatanging bag ay sina Hon. Ulziisuren Jamsran (UN Women Rep. sa ASEAN), Hon. Safiah Salam (Brunei), Hon. Lork Kheng (Cambodia), at iba pang mambabatas mula sa iba't ibang bansa sa ASEAN.

Ipinahayag din ni President Ann Matibag ng Zonta Club of Laguna ang kanyang taos-pusong pasalamat:

“Ang inisyatibong ito ay paalala sa atin na ang mga kababaihan—saan man sila naroroon—

ay may kakayahang maging tagapaghatid ng pagbabago.

Ipinagmamalaki namin ang mga kababaihan sa San Pedro City Jail na nagpapatunay na ang rehabilitasyon ay hindi lamang posible kundi makapangyarihan.

Sa tulong ng mga pandaigdigang pinuno tulad ni Ambassador Jamsran, umaasa kami ng mapapalawak pa ang programang ito at makalikha ng mas marami pang oportunidad upang muling makapagtayo ng buhay na may layunin at dignidad ang mga kababaihang ito.”

Ang proyektong ito ay bahagi ng misyon ng Zonta Club of Laguna na “building a better world for women and girls — one life, one skill, one stitch at a time, and one second chance at a time.” (SHEKINAH ESTEBAN)

