

NLEX and Pampanga Provincial Government bolster disaster preparedness



Workshop participants posed for a photo with (L-R, front row) PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili, Pampanga PDRRM Officer Janica Mikhail Yambao, NLEX Government Relations Manager Kiko Dagohoy, and MPT South Stakeholder Engagement Assistant Manager Mhanny Agosto.

NLEX Corporation and the Provincial Government of Pampanga have joined forces to strengthen the province's disaster resilience as the rainy season approaches.

Some 40 participants from key provincial departments, including the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and the Provincial Health Office, attended a two-day Policy-Making on Disaster Management Workshop facilitated by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). The primary goal of the session was to identify critical safety gaps and ensure that the province's disaster management protocols are robust enough to protect residents during a disaster.

Pampanga has demonstrated resilience through various natural events in its history, including the 1990 earthquake and the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption. As a rapidly growing economic

hub, the province continues to strengthen its disaster preparedness and resilience efforts to help protect communities, sustain economic activity, and support long-term growth.

"Pampanga serves as one of the vital links between Metro Manila and Central and Northern Luzon. Through this initiative, we aim to help strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities while maintaining the reliability of this vital transport corridor that supports regional growth and connectivity," said NLEX President and GM Luis S. Refon. Second District Board Member Atty. Claire Lim emphasized that the priority remains the safety of her constituents and the protection of their homes. "In situations where the lives and livelihoods of Kapampangans are at stake, we welcome this help because even if we are resilient, we still need outside assistance," she said. First District Board Member Cherry Manalo also expressed her grat-

itude for the collaboration and the dedication of the provincial staff. "We are grateful to NLEX and PDRF for helping upskill our frontliners. This workshop demonstrates our shared commitment to strengthening the province's disaster management and ensuring we are better prepared to protect every Kapampangan," she noted.

By ensuring seamless coordination between the government and NLEX, the partnership aims to keep the province's main transit routes open for emergency services and the delivery of basic goods. PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili underscored that a proactive mindset is key to saving lives, stating that true disaster management must strike a balance between immediate response and long-term climate change adaptation.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). PR

Dishes on screen **CARD** **RBI**

Ito ang bangko natin.



CARD MRI Hijos Tours partner head chef Procy Balasoto styling dishes on a film set.

From supplying food tours across the country to styling dishes for a film set, this is Procy B. Balasoto, 53, from Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Cooking for her was once just a way to make ends meet. But today, it became her pathway to opportunities she never thought were within

her reach.

First opportunity A single mother of three, Procy had no steady source of income and was looking for ways to support her family. In 2013, Procy became a client of CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc., a microfinance-oriented rural bank under CARD MRI.

Through business guidance in their center meeting and her first loan, she began a small charcoal and rice supply business.

But even then, her passion for cooking was already simmering in her ways. She prepared home-cooked dishes and

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CAYETANO URGES CONTINUED INDEPENDENT COMMITTEE WORK AMID EFFORTS TO REGAIN KEY COMMITTEES

Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Rollout of Free School Gear, Uniforms, and Services for Calamba Students



DepEd, pinaalala sa publiko na 'di pinapayagan ang pag-aabono sa Brigada Eskwela

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Megaworld's Q1 reservation sales up 10% to almost P30B

ARANGKADA PROGRAM IN MARAGONDON



Today, June 04, 2026, the PGC's Arangkada Program makes its way to Maragondon, bringing compassion and the much-needed financial support to Caviteño tricycle and jeepney drivers. Governor Abeng Remulla and Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista lead the event, reaffirming their commitment and dedication in uplifting the transportation sector across the province. With them are Mayor Lawrence "Umbe" Arca and the Sangguniang Bayan members of Maragondon.

LALAKING NA STRANDED SA MOUNT EVEREST NG 6-ARAW, LIGTAS NA NA-RESCUE

EDITORIAL:

PHOTO COURTESY: STA. MARIA BULACAN ADMIN AND NETIZEN ASSOCIATION FACEBOOK GROUP

PBBM, balik-Pilipinas na matapos ang produktibong state visit sa Japan

Nakabalik na sa bansa si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. matapos ang apat na araw na state visit sa Japan.

Eksakto 6:19 nang gabi kagabi dumating ang pangulo at Philippine delegation sa Villamor Airbase, Pasay City.

Ayon sa pangulo, "highly productive at constructive" ang kaniyang naging pagbisita sa Japan dahil sa mga naselyuhang kasunduan at investments.

Kabilang sa mga pangunahing nauwi ng pangulo ang pag-angat ng relasyon ng Pilipinas at Japan sa Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, pagsisimula ng negosasyon para sa mas malawak na kasunduan sa depensa at seguridad, at suporta ng Japan sa kandidatura ng Pilipinas sa United Nations Security Council.

Nilagdaan din ng dalawang bansa ang mga kasunduan sa pag-iwas sa double taxation, agrikultura at pangangisda, kalusugan, at human resource development.

Nakapag-uwi rin ang pangulo ng humigit-kumulang US\$3.4 bilyong halaga ng investment pledges at business commitments, na inaasahang lilikha ng mahigit 10,000 trabaho para sa mga Pilipino.

Mayor Ross...

FROM PAGE 1

CALAMBA CITY, Philippines — The City Government of Calamba officially kicked off its comprehensive student support program at Bucal Elementary School on the first day of June 2026, distributing free school supplies, bags, uniforms, and umbrellas to public school students.

This major boost to public education and student welfare is designed to ease the financial burden on local families and ensure that every child is fully equipped for the school year.

To provide holistic care, the launch also featured a "Libreng Gupit" (Free Haircut) station and a "Libreng Hot Meals" (Free Hot Meals) drive, ensuring students are well-fed, groomed, and motivated as they attend their classes.

Empowering the Youth

Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal emphasized that financial constraints should never stand in the way of a child's education. "Naniniwala tayo

na walang dapat maging hadlang sa pag-aaral ng ating mga kabataan. Sa pamamagitan ng programang ito, mas mabibigyan natin sila ng sapat na kagamitan upang makapag-aral nang maayos at makamit ang kanilang mga pangarap."

(Translation: "We believe that nothing should hinder the education of our youth. Through this program, we can better provide them with adequate equipment to study properly and achieve their dreams.")

A Tribute to Calambeño Taxpayers

The Mayor also extended his deep gratitude to the local community, noting that the sustainability of these social services is made possible through the city's robust tax collection and responsible governance.

"Maraming salamat sa ating mga taxpayers. Kayo ang naging katuwang ng Pamahalaang Lungsod sa patuloy na paghahatid ng mga programang nagbibigay ng mas magandang kinabukasan para sa bawat

Dishes...

placed them in front of their house to offer them to neighbors and passers-by. To augment her earnings, she also became a reseller of personal care products.

But she didn't stop there. Procy also attended livelihood seminars where she learned to make homemade products that she sold personally. During weekly center meetings, she would bring her cooked dishes and offer them to fellow clients and their Account Officer. Drawn by their good taste, her co-clients showed their support by consistently buying her products. After the meetings, she would continue selling house to house.

She didn't mind this routine. For her, as long as she was able to cook and sell her products, and as long as it sustained her family's needs, everything was worth it.

A table of new possibilities

In 2023, the CARD MRI Hijos Tours offered a culinary scholarship to microfinance clients. Because Procy's cooking is known in their area, their Account Officer referred her to Hijos Tours. Without hesitation, Procy seized the opportunity and enrolled in the program, completing her culinary studies within the same year.

This training opened doors she had

batang Calambeño."

(Translation: "Thank you very much to our taxpayers. You have been the partner of the City Government in continuously delivering programs that provide a better future for every Calambeño child.")

What Students Received Today:

Complete School Supplies: Notebooks, writing materials, and learning essentials.

School Gear: Durable backpacks and weather-proof umbrellas.

never imagined. She began preparing food for Hijos Tours' participants during various activities and tours. With the guidance of a chef specialist, she was able to contribute to menu formulation for the Kasadya Fine Dining food tour experience and served as a food stylist for food tours. Her role allowed her not only to cook but also to present Filipino dishes in ways that showcased their heritage and appeal.

More than enhancing her cooking skills, Procy felt a strong sense of community. Through joining the tour company as a cook, she met people from different backgrounds, which helped her develop confidence, social skills, and adaptability. Interacting with diverse groups also deepened her appreciation for the wide variety of Filipino culture.

By the following year, she was appointed as Hijos Tours' head chef partner in Laguna. The role enabled her to learn heritage recipes from different regions in the country. Among her most memorable experiences were learning to cook the dishes of other regions in the country and preparing meals for events serving more than a hundred participants. Through her travels, she gained not only culinary knowledge but also a deeper understanding of simplicity and

School Uniforms: Tailored clothing to promote a neat and unified student body. On-Site Services: Free hygienic haircuts and nutritious hot meals. The distribution at Bucal Elementary School marks the beginning of a city-wide rollout. The local government are scheduled to expand the distribution to other public schools across Calamba in the coming days, ensuring that no student is left behind.

(Edjun Mariposque)



FROM PAGE 8

resilience in life.

Despite her growing career, Procy remains deeply committed to her role as a mother. She makes it a point to stay closely involved in her children's studies and personal struggles, even when her work requires her to travel for tours.

Reaching the screen

This year, another shift in her journey occurred. After being busy during one of Hijos Tours' events, she was tapped as a food stylist assistant for the film production of Bente Productions, a multimedia company under CARD MRI. The film highlights the story of a blind cook, so it features food and culinary culture, making the assistance of chefs and food stylists on set crucial. The opportunity came as a surprise, but Procy accepted it with gratitude and excitement, carefully preparing and styling every dish for the film set.

She admits that seeing her food featured on screen is something she never imagined for herself. "Ang laki po ng tuwa, sobrang galak na galak, kasi syempre, bil-

ang simpleng nanay, hindi ko akalain na aabot sa ganito ang kakayahan ko at yung niluluto ko," she shared. "Hindi kayang presyohan ang saya."

Procy plans to continue dedicating her time and skills to preparing food that promotes Filipino cultural heritage. She remains committed to improving her craft and serving others through her cooking.

To fellow cooks, Procy offers simple yet heartfelt advice: "Do not be afraid to try and discover new things and potentials." For her, cooking is not only about following recipes but about embracing creativity, being open to learning, and finding beauty even in the simplest dishes.

From selling food in front of her home, Procy never thought that she would one day be styling dishes to be shown on screen. This experience reflects how determination and a passion for one's craft can open unexpected doors. When paired with community support, even the most modest beginnings can grow into a journey filled with meaningful opportunities. PR



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Megaworld's...

FROM PAGE 1

Continuing to outperform amid industry challenges, the Megaworld Group recorded P29.7-billion in reservation sales during the first quarter of the year, up 10.4% from the same period last year, driven by resilient demand for its residential developments across Metro Manila and even in the provinces.

Out of this total, property giant Megaworld remained the Group's primary growth driver, contributing around 71% of total reservation sales, equivalent to P21.2-billion. Driving this performance was the company's 54-story Uptown Modern in Uptown Bonifacio, which generated P3-billion in sales during the quarter.

Also performing significantly well during the first three months of the year are other Megaworld properties such as Park McKinley West at McKinley West in Taguig City; One Crown Suites at Winford Resort Estate in Manila; as well as the company's provincial properties like Ilocandia Beach Village at Ilocandia Coastown in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; Maple Grove Park Village at Maple Grove in General Trias City, Cavite; Santé

Residences Palawan at Paragua Coastown in San Vicente, Palawan; Firenze at Iloilo Business Park in Iloilo City; and La Victoria Global Residences at The Mactan Newtown in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu.

"Our residential business continues to show strong resilience, led by steady sales across our Metro Manila developments and growing demand for our provincial properties. Even amid a challenging business environment, we remain focused on accelerating growth across our portfolio and creating lasting value for our stakeholders. More importantly, the sustained performance of our residential developments reflects the enduring strength of the township model that Megaworld pioneered—an integrated, lifestyle-driven approach that continues to provide us with a distinct competitive advantage and remains aligned with the evolving needs of the market," says Lourdes T. Gutierrez-Alfonso, President and CEO, Megaworld.

Megaworld accelerated its expansion in key provincial growth areas during the first quarter with the launch of two landmark residential developments: the 14-story Santé Residences Palawan, the Philippines' first WELL-registered residential development with projected sales of P6.5-billion, and the 19.4-hectare Ilocandia Beach Village, a beachfront estate poised to contribute P4-billion in sales.

Earlier this year, Megaworld also announced that it is developing the 97-hectare The Sugartown in Talisay City, Negros Occidental, the company's 37th township development and its third within the Negros Island Region. This June, Megaworld celebrates its 37th year in the Philippine real estate industry as it continues to uplift lives, impact society, and help shape the nation through its 37 townships across the country spanning more than 7,000 hectares of land from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

Today, Megaworld remains to be one of the Philippines' biggest property giants today with over 800 residential developments spread across the country, and it remains to be the largest office landlord and the largest hotel operator in terms of room keys in the Philippines.

1st Agriculture...

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist headed by Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, successfully conducted the 1st Agriculture and Fishery Provincial Forum with the theme, "Sama-samang Paghabing Kabuhayan at Kaulanaran para sa Mag-sasaka at Mangingisda ng Cavite," on June 2, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The forum gathered farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural stakeholders, and representatives from various government and financial institutions to strengthen collaboration and provide information on programs and services aimed at improving the livelihood and productivity of Cavite's agriculture and fisheries sectors. Present during the event were Governor Francisco Gabriel Remulla and 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, who both conveyed their messages of support and reaffirmed the Provincial Government's commitment to advancing the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk.

They emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships among government agencies, financial institutions, and local communities to ensure sustainable agricultural and fisheries development in the province. One of the highlights of the forum was the

presentation of various programs, projects, and services available to farmers and fisherfolk from participating agencies. Resource representatives from the Agricultural Training Institute, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region IV-A, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture Region IV-A, Department of Trade and Industry-Cavite, Department of Labor and Employment - Cavite, Philippine Coconut Authority, Land Bank of the Philippines – San Agustin Branch, Rural Bank of Angeles – Trece Branch, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist discussed their respective initiatives, technical assistance, fi-

nanancing opportunities, and support services designed to enhance agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities. Following the presentations, participants were given the opportunity to directly consult with representatives from the concerned agencies. The consultation session allowed attendees to raise concerns, seek technical guidance, inquire about available assistance programs, and establish connections with agencies that could support their agricultural and fisheries endeavors. The forum served as a valuable platform for information sharing, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, further reinforcing the Provincial

Government of Cavite's dedication to empowering farmers and fisherfolk and fostering inclusive growth and development within the province's agriculture and fisheries sectors. — OPIO

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Cayetano...

FROM PAGE 1

Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday urged senators to allow independent committee work to continue amid efforts to regain control of key committees, saying ongoing hearings are vital to addressing public concerns and ensuring accountability. Speaking during a Facebook livestream on June 2, Cayetano said recent developments in the Senate should not distract senators from addressing the issues that matter most to Filipinos, including rising prices, jobs, healthcare, education, and public accountability. "We are listening to you, we hear you, na ang pangunahing isyu ay trabaho, kita, ang pagtaas ng presyo, at ang araw-araw na kabuhayan ng ating kababayan," he said. "In the next few days, we will be announcing to you the hard work that we're going to do in the different committees to help address inflation, problema sa production sa agriculture, y'ung mga walang pera sa pagpagamot, the problems of K to 12, sa kabuhayan ng mga kababayan natin sa Middle East," he added. Cayetano also

assured the public that the Majority bloc is working to ensure that Senate committees remain operational amid efforts to regain control of key committees that handle hearings on corruption investigations. "Ngayon po ang Majority, ginagamit ang rules sa tama, morally, legally, to ensure na hindi agawin ang mga committees para po matuloy ang hearing ng Blue Ribbon sa Thursday at ang iba't iba pang mga importanteng hearing sa bawat committee," he said. Among these is the Senate's investigation into alleged irregularities in flood control projects, which Cayetano said should continue in the interest of public accountability. "[We cannot] allow the flood control issue, the biggest corruption issue in our history, to go unchecked," he said. Cayetano also stressed the need for a thorough and independent inquiry as he noted the many unanswered questions on the issue such as the total number of ghost flood control projects, substandard infrastructure, and to what extent such issues exist across the country. "Hindi po ito masasagot kung wala tayong

independent, impartial na hearing," he said. The Senate President also reiterated the Majority's commitment to an independent and impartial impeachment process guided by evidence and established rules. "We want an independent impeachment. Magaganap po 'yan na walang mga scheme, sinister plot. Basta kung para'ng ebidensya, lalabas y'ung ebidensya," Cayetano said. He said both the prosecution and defense should be allowed to present their respective cases before senator-judges evaluate the evidence. "The prosecution dapat ang lumatag ng ebidensya nila to convict. Ang defense ang dapat lumatag ng ebidensya nila para mag-acquit. Ang senator-judges naman ang dapat mag-examine ng mga ebidensya," he said. Cayetano maintained that the Senate must be allowed to continue its committee work and constitutional duties without losing sight of its role in uncovering the truth. "Uulitin ko po: kailangan tingnan natin ang nangyayari sa Senado sa mas malaking konteksto ng katotohanan," he said. PR

Government of Cavite's dedication to empowering farmers and fisherfolk and fostering inclusive growth and development within the province's agriculture and fisheries sectors. — OPIO

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FROM PAGE 1

"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens."

MANDY HALE

Pag-IBIG Fund raises housing loan limit to PHP 10M to serve more Filipino workers

To further widen the reach of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s flagship Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino, or Expanded 4PH Program, and help address the oversupply of available housing inventory, Pag-IBIG Fund has raised its maximum housing loan amount per borrower to P10 million, providing middle-income and higher-earning Filipino workers access to affordable long-term home financing, particularly in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas, top officials announced on May 26.

The higher loan ceiling complements the program's ongoing subsidized 3% housing loan rate for qualified buyers of socialized housing, enabling Pag-IBIG Fund to serve more members seeking homes beyond the socialized housing segment through affordable long-term financing.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon P. Aliling, who also chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the increase is part of the government's broader effort to make homeownership more accessible to Filipino workers across income segments.

"With the higher P10-million loan ceiling, Pag-IBIG Fund can now serve more members, especially Filipino workers who seek homes in higher price segments but still require long-term and affordable financing to own homes near their workplaces, schools and sources of livelihood. This move allows Pag-IBIG Fund to widen access to home financing across more income segments, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more inclusive and accessible to more Filipino families," Aliling said.

Aliling said the move also supports efforts to improve the take-up of available housing units, particularly in Metro Manila and other urban centers where there is an oversupply of ready-for-occupancy condominium units. He said the higher loan ceiling, combined with Pag-IBIG Fund's long-term home financing, can make the purchase of these units more affordable for qualified members.

"This is also our call to developers: let us make the numbers meet. Pag-IBIG Fund is expanding the financing available to qualified borrowers. We urge our developer-partners to recalibrate their prices, offer reasonable packages and help bring their available units within the reach of Pag-IBIG Fund members. When housing prices, borrower capacity and affordable financing meet, more Filipino workers can finally own homes of their own," Aliling said.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta said the increase in loan ceiling reflects Pag-IBIG Fund's mandate to serve Filipino workers from all income segments.

"At Pag-IBIG Fund, our mandate is to serve all Filipino workers. This means serving first-time homebuyers and members who need subsidized support, as well as middle-income and higher-earning members who also need affordable long-term financing to buy homes for their families. Because of our strong financial position, we are able to offer a higher loanable amount while keeping our housing loan rates not only affordable, but among the lowest in the market. With the higher loan ceiling, qualified borrowers now have even better access to home financing payable for up to 30 years, with interest rates that

may go as low as 5.75% a year depending on their chosen fixing period. More importantly, this allows us to widen the reach of the Expanded 4PH Program so that more members, across more income segments, can gain access to decent and affordable homes, while eligible socialized housing borrowers continue to benefit from the 3% subsidized rate," Acosta said.

Acosta said the broader Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Program is intended to make homeownership a practical alternative to renting for more Filipino workers, especially when available housing units are offered at prices that match members' income and borrowing capacity.

"For many families, rent is already one of their biggest monthly expenses. Through Pag-IBIG Fund's affordable housing loan terms, monthly amortizations for reasonably priced homes can be lower than rent in many urban areas. This is the value we want to give our members: instead of paying rent month after month, they can use their hard-earned income to pay for a home they can eventually call their own," Acosta added.

Pag-IBIG Fund emphasized that the higher maximum loan amount remains subject to credit evaluation, capacity-to-pay requirements, collateral appraisal and other housing loan guidelines to ensure that borrowing remains responsible and sustainable for members.

Officials said the higher loan ceiling strengthens Pag-IBIG Fund's role in bridging available housing supply to actual homebuyer capacity, while encouraging developers to offer homes at prices that better match the income and financing ability of Filipino workers. (PAGIBIG FUND)

Lalaking...

Isang Nepali mountain guide ang nakaligtas matapos siyang ma-stranded sa Mount Everest nang halos anim na araw na walang sapat na oxygen, pagkain, at maayos na tuluyan.

Kinilala ang lalaki na si Dawa Sherpa na inakalang namatay na habang pababa mula sa tuktok ng Everest matapos siyang hindi na ma-contact.

Ngunit makilapas ang anim na araw, natagpuan siyang buhay ng isang cleanup team habang dahan-dahan siyang bumababa patungo sa Everest Base Camp.

Agad siyang isinakay sa helicopter at dinala sa ospital sa Kathmandu, kung saan ginag-

amot siya dahil sa dehydration, frostbite, at bali sa buto.

Ayon sa lalaki nawalan siya ng oxygen habang nasa mataas na bahagi ng bundok kaya hindi na siya makagalaw nang maayos.

binahagi rin niya na wala siyang makain sa unang dalawang araw at ang tanging paraan para mabuhay siya ay ang pagnguya ng yelo para maka-inom ng tubig.

Nakakita rin siya ng ilang tsokolate sa kanyang balsa na nakatulong para tumagal siya ng ilang araw sa bundok.

Kwento pa niya kaya siya na trap ay dahil nahulog siya sa pinakamataas na bundok sa mundo.

FROM PAGE 1

mulang dalawa at kalahating araw.

Pasalamat niya nang mayroon daw na avalanche na nangyari dahil na mawala ang siwang at mapunan ng yelo, na nagbigay sa kanya ng pagkakataong makalabas.

Matapos makalabas, gumamit siya ng mga lubid sa bundok para makababa kahit may panganib pa rin ng avalanche.

Batay sa ulat limang katao na ang nasawi sa kasalukuyang climbing season sa Everest.

Sa kabuuan, mahigit 300 katao na ang nasawi mula pa noong 1920s, na nagpapakita ng patuloy na panganib sa pag-akyat sa pinakamataas na bundok sa mundo.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

DepEd...

Mariang pinaalalahanan ng Department of Education (DepEd) ang publiko na hindi obligadong mag-abono o magbigay ng kontribusyon ang mga guro, mag-aaral, at magulang sa Brigada Eskwela.

Sa pahayag ng DepEd noong Biyernes, Hunyo 5, iginiti ng ahen-sya ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng

"No Collection Policy," na nagbabawal sa sapilitang paniningil o pa-

ghingi ng ambag mula sa mga miyembro ng school community.

Ayon sa DepEd, ang Brigada Eskwela ay hindi isang fundraising activity kundi isang "whole-of-community" na inisyatiba na layong ihandang ang mga paaralan para sa nalalapit na pasukan.

Tiniyak din ng kagawaran na patuloy nilang pinalalakas ang suporta sa mga paaralan sa pamamagitan ng School Maintenance and Oth-

FROM PAGE 1

er Operating Expenses (MOOE), gayundin sa tulong ng iba't ibang ahen-sya ng gobyerno, local government units (LGUs), partners, at mga volunteer.

Samantala, isinagawa ang Brigada Eskwela ngayong taon sa maraming paaralan sa bansa mula Hunyo 1 hanggang 5, bilang paghahanda para sa pagbukas ng klase sa Hunyo 8.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

Tagapangulo ng KWF, Pinangaralan ng Pinakamataas na Gawad sa Lungsod ng Baguio

Ginawaran ng prestihiyosong Gawad Gintong Laurel si Atty. Marites A. Barrios-Taran sa Lungsod ng Baguio noong 25 Abril 2026, sa huling araw ng Pambansang Seminar-Palihan at Kumperensiya sa Filipino 2026. Pinagtibay ang parangal ng mga matataas na opisyal ng Pambansang Samahan ng mga Propesyonal at Mananaliksik sa Pilipinas, Inc. (PSPPI), sa pangunguna ng Pangulo at CEO nito na si Dr. Winnafor G. Gaspar, kasama ang lupon ng mga Direktor ng samahan bilang pagpapatunay sa dangal at integridad ng naturang gawad. Ang nasabing parangal, na itinuturing na pinakamataas na pagkilala mula sa PSPPI ay iginagawad sa mga indibidwal at institusyong nagpakita ng natatanging kahusayan at karangalan sa kanilang larangan. Kinikilala rin nito ang taos-pusong paglilingkod at dedikasyong higit pa sa kanilang sinumpaang tungkulin, gayundin ang mga ambag na nagdudulot ng tagumpay para sa bawat Pilipino at sa buong bansa. Iginawad ang naturang pagkilala bilang bahagi ng tatlong-araw na Pambansang Seminar-Palihan at Kumperensiya sa Filipino 2026 na dinaluhan ng mga guro, mananaliksik, at dalubwika mula sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa.



PUBLISHER CORNER

THE CURRENT IMPASSE IN THE SENATE IS UNTENABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE.

When political divisions become too extreme and obstruct our mandate, we must all have the courage to pause, gain perspective, reflect, consider and realize that we should put the Senate, as the institution that we serve, above ourselves.

This is not a political contest. I am not taking sides. I am taking a stand for the Senate. My allegiance is not to any faction, personality, group or alliance.

This is not about loyalty, betrayal, or choosing one group over the other—this is about duty.

Hindi ito usaping pampulitika. Wala akong sinasamahan o iniwanang grupo, pangkat o paksyon. Hindi ko sinasabi na may mali o tama o may nagkulang o nagmalabis kaninuman. Ngunit hindi pwedeng manatili tayo sa ganitong sitwasyon. Ang naaapektuhan na ay ang mismong kakayahang ng Senado na gampanan ang kaniyang tungkulin sa



bayan.

Lito ang rason at dahilan ng aking pasya ngayong araw na ito. Hinihiling ko ang inyong pag-unawa sa amin, kasabay ng inyong panalangin para sa inyong Senado na malampasan ang hamon na ito at patuloy na magampanan namin ang aming tungkulin sa inyo at sa sambayanan. #

EXPLICIT Madelaine Go

AKSYON NG MGA KOMUNIDAD, MAHALAGA SA PAGTUPAD NG ASEAN BIODIVERSITY TARGET SA 2030

Binigyang-din ng ASEAN ang mahalagang papel ng mga komunidad at lokal na inisyatiba sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan upang makamit ng ASEAN ang mga target nito para sa biodiversity pagsapit ng 2030.

Sa pagdiriwang ng International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) 2026 na may temang "Acting Locally for Global Impact," sinabi ng ACB na ang mga pagkilos ng mga indibidwal, komunidad, at iba pang sektor sa lokal na antas ay susi sa pagpapatupad ng mga layunin ng ASEAN Biodiversity Plan.

Sa ilalim ng kampanyang #WeAreASEANBiodiversity, hinihikayat ng ACB ang mga mamamayan ng ASEAN na aktibong makibahagi sa konserbasyon ng biodiversity. Ayon sa organisasyon, walang maliit na am-

bag pagdating sa pangangalaga ng kalikasan dahil ang sama-samang pagkilos ay maaaring magdulot ng malaking epekto sa rehiyon at sa buong mundo.

Hiniimok ni ACB Executive Director Dr. Jerome Montemayor ang publiko na higit na mahalagahan ang kalikasan sa pamamagitan ng responsableng ecotourism, pagbisita sa ASEAN Heritage Parks, at iba pang gawaing nagtataguyod ng pangangalaga sa kapaligiran.

Hinikayat din niya ang mga mamamayan na isabuhay ang mas napanatiling pamamahayag sa pamamagitan ng wastong paggamit ng likas na yaman, pagbabawas ng basura, pag-iwas sa single-use plastics, at pagsuporta sa mga lokal at sustenableng produkto.

Ayon pa sa ACB, maaari ring makibahagi ang publiko sa mga gawaing tulad ng pagtatanim ng puno, clean-up drives, bolunterismo sa mga programang pangkalikasan,



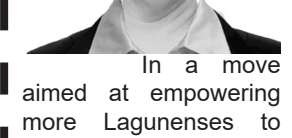
at kampanya laban sa ilegal na kalakalan ng wildlife. Maging ang pagbabahagi ng impormasyon tungkol sa biodiversity sa social media ay mahalagang hakbang upang mapataas ang kamalayan ng publiko.

Samantala, patuloy na pinalalakas ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ng Pilipinas ang mga programa nito para sa rehabilitasyon ng mga bakawan, seagrass, korales, at watershed, gayundin ang kampanya laban sa ilegal na pagtotroso at polusyon.

Sa ASEAN Climate Week noong Abril, sinabi ni DENR Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna na layunin ng mga programang pangklima ng pamahalaan na maghatid ng konkretong benepisyo sa mga komunidad sa pamamagitan ng mas mahusay na pangangalaga sa kalikasan at pagpapabuti ng kalidad ng buhay ng mga mamamayan. Muling pinagtibay

Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

Laguna Opens Doors to Public Service Through Free Civil Service Exam Review



In a move aimed at empowering more Lagunenses to pursue careers in government service, the Provincial Government of Laguna under the leadership of Governor Sol Aragonés conducted a free Civil Service Examination review program on June 6 at the Laguna Sports Complex.

The initiative brought together aspiring Civil Service Exam takers from various municipalities and cities across the province, providing them with valuable learning opportunities and professional guidance as they prepare for one of the country's most important qualifying examinations for public sector employment.

Leading the discussion was Prof. Alexander Liboon, MBA, a respected lecturer from PARC, who shared valuable insights on effective exam preparation and methods for answering challenging test questions. Attendees actively participated in the session, taking notes and engaging in discussions intended to sharpen their analytical and problem-solving skills.

Beyond helping examinees prepare for the test, the program underscored the provincial government's broader commitment to education, skills development, and employment readiness. By investing in the professional growth of its residents, the province aims to create more

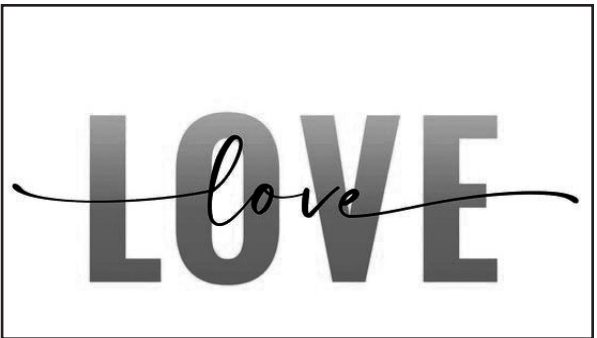
opportunities for qualified individuals to enter government service and contribute meaningfully to community development.

Governor Sol Aragonés has consistently emphasized the importance of expanding access to programs that uplift the lives of Lagunenses through education, livelihood, and career advancement. The free Civil Service Examination review reflects this commitment by equipping aspiring public servants with the knowledge and confidence needed to succeed.

For many participants, the review program represented more than just exam preparation—it was a stepping stone toward achieving stable employment and fulfilling a desire to serve their communities. As Laguna continues to strengthen its people-centered initiatives, programs like this demonstrate how local government can play a crucial role in helping residents transform aspirations into opportunities. Through accessible educational support and capacity-building efforts, Laguna continues to invest in its greatest resource—its people—while nurturing a new generation of dedicated public servants ready to contribute to good governance and nation-building.

Recogniz-

U m a a s a naman si Montemayor na ang maliit ngunit makabuluhang desisyong ginagawa ng mga mamamayan ngayon ay magiging daan tungo sa isang kinabukasang may balanseng ugnayan sa pagitan ng tao at kalikasan.



Aboitiz, Vietnam Discuss Stronger Cooperation in Energy, Food Security and Infrastructure



Aboitiz Group officials led by (L-R) AboitizPower Chief Corporate Services Officer Carlos Aboitiz (1st), AboitizPower Chief Financial Officer Sandro Aboitiz (2nd), Aboitiz Foods President and CEO Tristan Aboitiz (3rd), Aboitiz InfraCapital President and CEO Cosette Canilao (5th), and Aboitiz Equity Ventures Chief Corporate External Affairs Officer DJ Sta. Ana (6th) met with Vietnamese General Secretary and President To Lam (4th) on the first day of his state visit to the Philippines

The Aboitiz Group met with Vietnamese General Secretary and President To Lam during his state visit to the Philippines, underscoring the strong alignment between Vietnam's development priorities and the Group's investments in energy, food security, and infrastructure.

The discussions focused on opportunities to support Vietnam's continued economic expansion and strengthen regional competitiveness, particularly in sectors where Aboitiz has established capabilities and a growing presence. President Lam also expressed support for deeper engagement between Vietnamese and Philippine businesses as both countries pursue shared development goals.



Since 2014, Vietnam has been a key growth market for Aboitiz Foods through Pilmico's acquisition of Vinh Hoan 1 Feed JSC. Most recently, the company further strengthened its presence with a US\$45-million feed mill in Long An Province that can produce up to 300,000 metric tons of livestock and animal nutrition feed annually—underscoring the company's commitment to supporting Vietnam's food security and agricultural growth.

Philippines has significant untapped potential, particularly in agriculture, food security, and sustainable development," said Aboitiz Foods President and Chief Executive Officer Tristan Aboitiz. "We remain committed to supporting long-term cooperation, investment, and shared growth between our two countries."

Aboitiz's investments in Vietnam reflect its commitment to sectors that are central to the country's long-term development agenda.

Through Aboitiz Foods, the Group operates a US\$45-million feed

mill in Long An Province, equipped with modern facilities capable of producing 300,000 metric tons of animal nutrition feed annually.

In the energy sector, AboitizPower made its first major international investment through the acquisition of a 25 percent stake in Van Phong Power Company Limited, which owns an operational 1,320 megawatt high-efficiency, low-emission coal-fired power plant in Khánh Hòa Province. It is currently undergoing the mandatory process of securing government approval. "We are keen to continue investing in Vietnam's power sector. This will span both

more coal power investments, gas, and especially renewable energy as your country continues to require more energy generation given the demand for growth," said AboitizPower Chief Financial Officer Sandro Aboitiz.

Beyond energy and food security, Aboitiz InfraCapital is helping strengthen connectivity between the Philippines and Vietnam by expanding direct air links between Cebu and key Vietnamese cities, including Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, through the Mactan-Cebu International Airport.

The award-winning Mactan-Cebu International Airport forms part

of Aboitiz InfraCapital's growing airport portfolio, joining Bohol-Panglao and Laguindingan International Airports.

"We hope to deepen partnerships with Vietnamese travel and tour enterprises so that we can bring more Vietnamese travelers into Cebu, Bohol, and Northern Mindanao and likewise more Filipino travelers into Vietnam," said Aboitiz InfraCapital President and CEO Cosette Canilao.

Through its investments in strategic industries, Aboitiz is advancing opportunities for sustainable growth and shared prosperity in the Philippines and beyond.



In support of the SM Cares Brigada Eskwela 2026 program, employees, agency personnel, and security guards from SM City Dasmariñas, SM Marketmall, and SM City Trece Martires participated in volunteer activities at Bautista Elementary School in Dasmariñas City and Aliang Elementary School in Trece Martires City.

The team worked together in cleaning, painting, and conducting minor repair works to help prepare the schools for the upcoming academic year. Cleaning materials were also donated to further support the schools in providing a safe, clean, and conducive learning environment for students and teachers.

Through initia-

tives such as Brigada Eskwela, SM Cares and SM Supermalls remain committed to empowering communities through education, volunteerism, and meaningful partnerships, helping create better opportunities and a brighter future for Filipino learners.

#EmpoweringCommunities #SMCares #SMSupermalls #BrigadaEskwela2026

CAMP VICENTE LIM PRESS CORPS, NAKIISA SA BRIGADA ESKWELA SA MAGDALENA, LAGUNA



Magdalena, Laguna – Nagkaisa ang mga miyembro ng Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps (CVLPC) sa pagsasagawa ng isang outreach activity bilang pakikiisa sa Brigada Eskwela sa Maravilla Elementary School sa bayan ng Magdalena, Laguna.

Sa pangunguna ni CVLPC President na si Daniel Castro, naghatid ang organisasyon ng mga school supplies at iba pang kagamitang pang-eskwela para sa mga mag-aaral ng paaralan. Ayon kay Castro, napagkasunduan ng Board of Directors sa kanilang isinagawang monthly meeting na maki-bahagi sa Brigada Eskwela at maghanap ng isang remote school community na maaaring matulungan bilang bahagi ng kanilang adbokasyang makatulong sa edukasyon.

Pinasalamatan din ni Castro ang mga kumpanyang Meken, Walter Mart, Sun Life Financial, MPTC, ONEKAI-ZENASIA CORP., GREAT UPTOWN STEEL CORP, at lahat ng miyembro ng CVLPC na nagkaloob ng suporta upang maisakatuparan ang nasabing programa.

Naghayag ng pasasalamat si Mayor Dario "Jun" Lapada Jr. sa Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps sa pagpili sa bayan ng Magdalena bilang lugar ng

kanilang Brigada Eskwela outreach activity. Pinuri ng alkalde ang organisasyon dahil sa patuloy nitong adbokasya na makatulong sa mga kabataan, lalo na sa kanilang pag-aaral at paghahanda para sa pagbubukas ng klase. Ayon kay Lapada, mahalagang magkaroon ng pagkakaisa ang iba't ibang sektor ng lipunan upang masuportahan ang pangangailangan ng mga mag-aaral. Sinabi rin niya na laging bukas ang kanyang tanggapan para sa kanyang mga kaibigang mamamahayag mula sa Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps at sa iba pang mga programang naglalayong makatulong sa komunidad.

Lubos namang nagpasalamat si Desiree C. Taglie, punong-guro ng Maravilla Elementary School, sa Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps sa pagpili sa kanilang paaralan bilang benepisyaryo ng aktibidad. Aniya, malaking tulong ang mga ipinamahaging kagamitan para sa mga mag-aaral, lalo na sa mga pamilyang may limitadong kakayahang pinansyal.

Isa sa mga nakatanggap ng school supplies na si Cathy ay nagpahayag ng pasasalamat sa natanggap na tulong. Aniya, hindi pa siya nabibilhan ng kanyang mga magulang ng mga



gamit sa paaralan dahil mas inuuna ng kanilang pamilya ang pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan sa bahay.

Sa pamamagitan ng aktibidad na ito, muling ipinakita ng Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps ang kanilang suporta sa sektor ng edukasyon at ang kanilang hangaring makat-



ulong sa paghahanda ng mga mag-aaral para sa panibagong taon ng pag-aaral. Via Joel Cabactulan

IMUS CITY BRIGADA ESKWELA 2026



Nakibahagi kamakailan sa taunang Brigada Eskwela kasama sina City Mayor Alex L. Advincula kasama sina School Division Superintendent Lito Palomar, Assistant School Division Superintendent Glenda Catadman, at mga konsehal ng lungsod bilang pakikiisa sa paghahanda ng ating mga paaralan para sa panibagong taon ng pag-aaral. Kasabay nito, nagkaloob din ang siyudad ng Imus ng 100 E-learning Interactive Display para sa mga Kindergarten teachers, at binigyang pagkilala ang mga nagwagi sa 2025 Regional Schools Press Conference, at pinangunahan ang ribbon cutting at blessing ng bagong conference hall

Be still and know