

## Senator urges DepEd to fix billing system amid ghost beneficiary probe



MANILA – Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday called for improvements in the Department of Education's (DepEd) billing system after revelations of alleged ghost beneficiaries in the Senior High School Voucher Program (SHS-VP).

The SHS-VP is a financial assistance program providing vouchers ranging from PHP14,000 to PHP22,500 to incoming Grade 11 students who choose to enroll in private senior high schools.

Students from public schools automatically receive the aid, while those from private institutions must apply if

they are not covered by DepEd's Education Service Contracting Program.

Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate Committee on Basic Education, said DepEd's recent crackdown on ineligible recipients validates findings from the panel's inquiry into the implementation of the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE) Law.

"The inquiry revealed that from School Year 2020-2021 to SY 2022-2023, documentary and qualification issues involving 11,825 SHS-VP beneficiaries resulted **see page 5...**

## GSIS opens 54th digital business center in QC to streamline services

MANILA – The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) unveiled its 54th Digital Business Center at its Quezon City branch on Thursday, providing faster and more efficient services for the members.

GSIS President and General Manager Jose Arnulfo Veloso led the opening ceremony at the facility along Elliptical Road, joined by Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) Director General Ernesto Perez.

The new center, open Mondays to Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., is equipped with tablets featuring the GSIS Mobile Touch App, enabling members and pensioners to process transactions without having to wait in line.

The app allows users to apply for loans, check balances, view records, and complete other services traditionally handled at counters.

"Lahat po ng opi-



sina ng GSIS kailangan po magkaroon ng digital business center. Sapagkat ang digital business center ay lugar hindi lamang po para mag-transact, ito po ay isang lugar kung saan po natin binigyan ng instruc-

tion lahat ng kasamahan natin sa GSIS na handhold o turuan ang ating mga kasamahan sa gobyerno na nagwo-walk-in lalo na po 'yung ating mga retirado na hindi na kabisadong mag-siyasat ng kanilang mga

mobile phone o tablet (All GSIS offices must have a digital business center. Because the digital business center is not only a place to transact, it is a place where we have instructed all our GSIS colleagues to handhold or teach our government colleagues who walk in, especially our retirees who no longer remember how to check their mobile phones or tablets)," Veloso said in an interview.

Veloso noted that GSIS has achieved 98 percent digitalization and is on track to reach full digital transformation by 2026.

## MERALCO REPRESENTATIVES PAY COURTESY CALL TO MAYOR STRIKE B. REVILLA, DELIVER GOOD NEWS ABOUT TAX PAYMENTS

Bacoor City, - Representatives from Meralco today paid a courtesy call on Mayor Strike B. Revilla at his office, delivering good news about the company's commitment to paying its dues to the Local Government of Bacoor. The courtesy call was organized by the City Assessor's Department, headed by Engr. Allan Quinatadcan. Meralco representatives

Atty. Marianito Miranda, Consultant, and Mr. Gerry Espiridon, Head of Tax Realty and Contract Management, met with Mayor Strike B. Revilla to discuss the company's plans for fulfilling its tax obligations.

This positive development is a direct result of Mayor Strike B. Revilla's persistent efforts to ensure that all businesses operating within Baco-



oor City comply with their tax responsibilities. His commitment to responsible governance and fiscal

transparency has led to significant progress in collecting outstanding taxes, benefiting the city's cof-

fers and allowing for the implementation of vital programs for Bacooreños.

Meralco's decision to pay its dues to Bacoor marks a significant milestone, as the city becomes the first in Cavite to receive full tax payments from the company. This development will provide the city government with additional funds to support its ongoing initiatives, further en-

hancing the quality of life for Bacooreños.

Mayor Strike B. Revilla expressed his gratitude to Meralco for their cooperation and commitment to supporting the city's development. He emphasized the importance of responsible business practices and the need for all companies to fulfill their tax obligations to ensure the city's continued progress

## ALAX Governor's Drive Interchange Nears 40% Completion, Set to Open in 2025 page 3



### PhilHealth, hospital groups meet to increase access points

## 2ND BATCH OF SAFETY TRAINING EMPOWERS BACOOREÑOS WITH FREE STUDENT DRIVER'S PERMITS

Bacoor City, - The City Government of Bacoor, under the leadership of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, continued its commitment to road safety and driver education with the second batch of its "Free Student Driver's Permit for Bacooreños" program. The training, held at the Revilla Hall, was organized in partnership with the SK Federation, led by SK President Palm Angel Buncio, the Liga ng Barangay (LnB), and the Land Transportation Office (LTO).

The event saw 200 Bacooreños participate in the comprehensive train-



ing, conducted by experienced driving skills raters Mr. Garry Villanueva from Imus and Mr. Yrolle Baren from the LTO Bacoor District Office. This second batch is part of a larger program aimed at providing

free student driver's permits to 1,500 Bacooreños, a groundbreaking initiative that makes Bacoor the first city in the Philippines to offer this service free of charge.

Mayor Strike

B. Revilla, Congrewoman Lani Mercado Revilla, LNB Vice President Randy Francisco, and SK Federation officials were present to show their support for the program. The train- **see page 5...**

## Cayetano kay bagong DOTr chief: 'Utak-kotse' tuldukan, tren solusyon sa trapik



Ipinapanawagan ni Senador Alan Peter Cayetano sa gobyerno na iwanan na ang "utak-kotse" pagdating sa pagresolba sa matinding trapik.

Mungkahi ni Cayetano, unahin ang paggawa ng mga riles at subway imbes na puro

highway.

Kasunod ito ng pag-upo ng bagong kalihim ng Department of Transportation (DOTr) na si Secretary Vince Dizon.

Giit ng senador, patuloy lang na aasa sa kotse ang maraming Pilipino kung puro pagpapaluwag ng kalsada ang gagawin. Para matuldukan aniya ang matinding trapik dahil sa dami ng sasakyan, kailangan ng maayos na mass transport system tulad ng tren.

"Why not a railway rather than a highway? Kasi nga ang prob- **see page 4...**

## DILG IV-A Ensures Proper Implementation of LGSF-FALGU Projects in Imus, Cavite

The DILG IV-A through its Project Development and Management Unit (PDMU), conducted an inspection and validation of various infrastructures and service projects under the Local Government Support Fund-Financial Assistance to Local Government Units (LGSF-FALGU) in the City of Imus, Cavite.

The projects inspected were:

•Multi-purpose Building



- Ambulance Vehicle in Baragay Bayan Luma 2
- Public Market

Through this activity, DILG IV-A reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that government-funded projects are properly implemented, benefiting the residents of Imus, Cavite.

## Effective Ways to Manage Diabetes for a Healthier Life

**Healthy Eating:** Focus on a balanced diet rich in fiber from whole grains, vegetables, and legumes. Include lean proteins like fish, poultry, tofu, and beans, and opt for healthy fats from nuts, seeds, and olive oil. Avoid processed foods, refined carbohydrates, and sugary snacks that can cause blood sugar spikes. Eat smaller, more frequent meals to prevent sudden drops or spikes in glucose levels.

**Hydration:** Drink plenty of water throughout the day to regulate blood sugar levels and prevent dehydration. Avoid sugary drinks like soda, fruit juices, and sweetened coffee, as they can quickly raise glucose levels. Choose water, herbal teas, or unsweetened beverages instead. Infusing water with lemon, cucumber, or mint can make it more enjoyable.

**Regular Physical Activity:** Engage in exercises such as walking, swimming, cycling, or strength training to improve insulin sensitivity and aid in weight management. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week. Small changes, like taking the stairs or walking after meals, can also help. If you sit for long periods, stand up and move around every 30 minutes to improve circulation and blood sugar control.

**Blood Sugar Monitoring:** Regularly check blood sugar levels to understand how your body responds to different foods, activities, and medications. Keep track of your readings, meals, and physical activities to identify patterns and make necessary adjustments. Monitor blood pressure and cholesterol, as diabetes increases the risk of heart disease. Work with your healthcare provider to set personalized target blood sugar ranges.

**Stress Management:** High stress levels can cause blood sugar fluctuations, so practice relaxation techniques like meditation, deep breathing, or engaging in hobbies. Managing stress through social support, exercise, or outdoor activities can improve overall well-being. Consider activities like journaling, listening to music, or practicing gratitude to help reduce stress levels.

**Quality Sleep:** Poor sleep can lead to insulin resistance and difficulty controlling blood sugar. Maintain a consistent sleep schedule, reduce screen time before bed, and create a relaxing bedtime routine to improve sleep quality. Aim for 7-9 hours of restful sleep each night. Keep your bedroom cool, dark, and quiet for better rest.

**Healthy Weight Management:** Maintaining a healthy weight is important for blood sugar control. If you are overweight, losing even 5-10% of your body weight can improve insulin sensitivity. Focus on portion control, mindful eating, and staying active to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.

**Avoiding Harmful Habits:** Smoking increases the risk of heart disease, nerve damage, and other diabetes complications. Quitting smoking can improve circulation and overall health. Excessive alcohol consumption can interfere with blood sugar control, so drink in moderation and always monitor its effects on your glucose levels. Avoid binge drinking, as it can cause dangerous blood sugar fluctuations.

**Foot Care:** Diabetes can lead to poor circulation and nerve damage, increasing the risk of foot infections. Check your feet daily for cuts, blisters, or signs of infection. Wash and moisturize your feet regularly, but avoid applying lotion between the toes to prevent fungal infections. Wear comfortable, well-fitting shoes to protect your feet.

**Eye Health:** Diabetes increases the risk of eye diseases like diabetic retinopathy, cataracts, and glaucoma. Get regular eye exams to detect any issues early. Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses outdoors and managing blood sugar levels to prevent complications.

**Kidney Health:** Diabetes can affect kidney function over time. Stay hydrated, manage blood pressure, and avoid excessive salt and processed foods to protect your kidneys. Get routine kidney function tests as recommended by your doctor.

**Regular Medical Check-Ups:** Routine screenings for kidney function, eye health, and foot care can help prevent long-term complications. Regular visits to your doctor ensure that any potential issues are detected early, allowing for better management of diabetes and overall health. Discuss any new symptoms, medication side effects, or concerns with your healthcare provider.

**Taking Medications as Prescribed:** If your doctor has prescribed insulin or other diabetes medications, take them as directed. Skipping doses or taking incorrect amounts can lead to dangerous blood sugar fluctuations. Keep an updated list of your medications and inform your doctor if you experience any side effects.

**Meal Planning & Smart Eating Choices:** Plan your meals in advance to ensure balanced nutrition. Incorporate high-fiber foods, lean proteins, and healthy fats into every meal. Limit fast food, fried foods, and excessive carbohydrate intake. Read nutrition labels to monitor sugar, carbohydrate, and sodium content in packaged foods.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Carry a small snack, glucose tablets, or a juice box in case of sudden drops in blood sugar (hypoglycemia). Wear a medical alert bracelet indicating that you have diabetes in case of emergencies. Know the signs of high (hyperglycemia) and low blood sugar and how to manage them.

By making small, consistent lifestyle changes and staying proactive with your health, you can effectively manage diabetes and reduce the risk of complications. Prioritizing good nutrition, exercise, stress management, and regular medical care will help you maintain stable blood sugar levels and improve your overall well-being.

## Trademark para sa mga teknolohiya na pagmamay-ari ng DA-4A, isinusulong

Aabot sa 33 bilang ng umiiral na teknolohiya ukol sa produksyon at pagpoproseso ng mga prayoridad na commodity at sistema ng pagsasaka ang pagmamay-ari ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A).

Upang protektahan at bigyan ito ng pagkakakilanlan, isinusulong ng Kagawaran ang aplikasyon ng trademark para sa Accelerated Research-based Agribusiness for New and Growing agripreneurs through Knowledgeable, Aggressive and Dynamic Approach Technology Business Incubation (ARANGKADA TBI) CALABARZON program.

Ang ARANGKADA TBI CALABARZON ay programa ng DA-4A na nakatuon sa pagpapaun-



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lad at pagpapalaganap ng mga teknolohiyang bunga ng pananaliksik at nakatutulong sa pagpapataas ng produksyon at kita ng mga magsasaka.

Katuwang ang tanggapan ni Assistant Secretary for High Value Crops, Sagip Saka, and Intellectual Property (IP) Atty. Joycel Panlilio, isang pagpupulong ang isinagawa upang talakayin ang mga hakbang at karapatan ng Kagawaran sa pag-an-



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Email: pahayaganngkabitenyo@yahoo.com  
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**ERNA BALAGTAS ANCHETA**  
Publisher

**DIOSDADO ARIEL F. ALTO, JR.**  
Editor-In-Chief

**DIOSAN MARUAL**  
KCEE NACION  
Marketing & Circulation Manager

**ATTY. EVELYN R. DOMINGUEZ**  
Legal Counsel

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## Joint circular on career progression for teachers, school heads inked

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Education (DepEd) issued Wednesday a joint memorandum circular on career progression for public school teachers and heads.

The joint circular for the modified position classification and compensation scheme and system of career progression for teachers and school heads in the public basic education system was signed in a ceremony during the DepEd's Human Resource and Organizational Development (HROD) Convention 2025 in Pasay City.

In a keynote speech, Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman assured the government's resolve to support the education sector by investing in human resource and organizational development.

"This is a new be-



ginning, a concrete step in our dedication to empowering teachers, fostering their growth, and building a brighter, more competent, and prosperous Bagong Pilipinas, one teacher and one student at a time," Pangandaman said. The DBM said the joint memorandum circular builds on Executive Order (EO) 174, which establishes the expanded career progression system for public school teachers.

EO 174 updates the position classification and compensation scheme to add the new positions of Teacher IV to VII and Master Teacher V.

It also defines new reclassification guidelines for teachers, including Senior High School teachers and school principals.

The EO also establishes new staffing parameters for Master Teacher and School Principal positions enclosed in the 1997 Organization and Staffing Standards for DECS Schools Division, Elementary, and Secondary Schools.

The HROD Convention 2025, which carries the theme "All Hands on Deck: Steering Workforce, Driving Transformation," gathered HROD leaders and champions nationwide

to collaborate, exchange ideas, innovate, and drive transformation.

Pangandaman said the insights and strategies shared in the two-day gathering would directly impact the effectiveness and efficiency of the teachers, leading to better learning outcomes for students and a "more responsive, high-quality" education system for all Filipinos.

Education Secretary Sonny Angara acknowledged Pangandaman's vital role in transforming the education sector by empowering its workforce.

"The steadfast commitment of Secretary (Amenah) has been instrumental in transforming our plans into concrete actions that benefit our workforce," Angara said as he pledged to work with Pangandaman in implementing reforms in the education sector. (PNA)

## DA chief OKs fish, seafood import guidelines

MANILA – Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. has given the go signal for the guidelines for the importation of fish and seafood not locally caught.

In a statement Friday, Tiu Laurel said the importation of 25,000 metric tons (MT) aims to prevent price surges and help ensure the overall food security in the country.

"This will also add variety in the market, especially for (the) food service industry, since fish and marine species covered by this importation are mostly fish and marine products not caught locally," he said.

Included are the imports of Alaskan pollock, barramundi, bluefin tuna, capelin, Chilean sea bass, clams, cobia, cod, croaker, eel, emperor, fish meat,



flounder, gindara, grouper, hake, halibut, hamachi, and hoki.

This also covers lobster, marlin, moonfish, mussels, mullet, octopus, oil fish, oyster, pangasius, red snapper, salmon, sardines, scallops, sea bream, silverfish, smelt, soft and hardshell crabs, squid, swordfish, tuna by-products, and yellowtail sole.

The importation of frozen fish and other aquatic products will span from March to May, according to Department of Agriculture Memorandum Order No. 12.

In terms of vol-

ume allocation, each eligible importer will be given an initial allocation of 28 MT; while the remaining volume will be allocated on a "first come first serve basis."

Moreover, Tiu Laurel assured that it would not have an impact on the welfare of the local fish industry.

"This should not affect local fishermen and should help in the ease of doing business," he said.

Under the guidelines, issued sanitary and phytosanitary import clearances from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Re-

sources (BFAR) will be valid for 45 days; eligible importers must be accredited for at least a year or have had similar import transactions; and only cold storage facilities accredited by the BFAR will be allowed to store imported seafood.

Exclusions cover importers with ongoing cases or are under probe due to food safety violations; those with incomplete requirements; as well as those with no accreditation to the Bureau of Customs upon importation.

The National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council will assess the effects of a combined import cap for fish and seafood in terms of curbing inflation, improving allocation for institutional buyers and wet markets; and diversification of nutritional offerings.

## GUHIT NG KAPALARAN

**PISCES: (Peb. 19-Mar. 20)** – Miss mo ang connection mo sa iyong inner being. Mahalagang buin ang sarili. Tiyakin na makilala muna ng mabuti ang taong papayagan mo na ma-ging bahagi ng iyong buhay mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 26, 39, 51, 11, at kidlat red.

**ARIES: (Mar. 21-Abr. 19)** – Angkinin mo ang feel good na vibration. Aa-kit ito ng masayang kaganapan sa buhay mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 59, 18, 43, at satin white.

**TAURUS: (Abr. 20-May. 20)** – Kapag meron kang worry, mag-focus sa feel good word, tulad ng saya. Lilikha ito ng positibong kaganapan. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 54, 36, 49, 13, 22, at dollar green.

**GEMINI: (May. 21-Hun. 21)** – Maa-appreciate mo ang mga goodness ng kapwa. Matatamo ang cooperation nila, magtatagumpay ka. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 26, 9, 15, 51, at fuchsia pink.

**CANCER: (Hun. 22-Hul. 22)** – Magnificently beautiful ang pagkatao. Ito ang aakit ng perfect life partner. I-feel mo positive words. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 53, 46, 29, 15, 55, at tangerine.

**LEO: (Hul. 23-Ago. 22)** – Makinig ka sa tao na nagkwento ng may malinis na motibo. Lumayo sa mga toxic. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 26, 59, 15, 43, at cinnamon brown.

**VIRGO: (Ago. 23-Set.23)** – Hanapin ang bagay na madali mong ma-appreciate. Mahalin ang reflection na aakit ng love. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 36, 57, 15, 22, at cyan blue.

**LIBRA: (Set. 24-Okt. 23)** – I-enjoy ang feeling na in love. Sisibol ang masayang buhay na babago sa estado ng buhay mo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 54, 26, 49, 13, 33, at crimson red.

**SCORPIO: (Okt. 24-Nob. 22)** – Ang appreciation mo sa generosity ay magdadala ng blessing after blessing sa'yo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 56, 35, 15, 43, at ultra violet.

**SAGITTARIUS: (Nob. 23-Dis. 21)** – Feel mo ang joy sa iyong buhay. Dahil nababanaag mo na ang liwanag ng tagumpay. Be thankful. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 33, 46, 59, 12, 22, at ice blue.

**CAPRICORN: (Dis. 22-Ene. 19)** – Ang karanasan ay epekto ng desisyon mo sa nakaraan. Komportable ka sa estado mo, pero dapat kang kumilos. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 43, 36, 29, 15, 55, at hot pink.

**AQUARIUS: (Ene. 20-Peb. 18)** – Gawin ang meditation. Ang mga hindi masyadong pansin na bagay ang magpapangiti sa'yo. Lucky numbers at color for the day ang 23, 36, 49, 11, 55, at sun yellow.

## MMDA, JICA to adopt intelligent transport systems vs. traffic in NCR

MANILA – The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) has partnered with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on a technical cooperation project to create a more efficient traffic management system in the National Capital Region (NCR).

The partnership was formalized through the signing of the records of discussion for the project between MMDA Chair Romando Artes and JICA Chief Representative to the Philippines Sakamoto Takema at the MMDA head office in Pasig City on Friday.

The project aims to enhance the MMDA's traffic management capability by modernizing and expanding its existing intelligent transportation systems (ITS).

These include the MMDA Communications and Command Center, implementation of traffic signals, high-definition closed circuit television cameras (CCTVs), and communication network, among others.

Artes said the ITS

## 200 social, farm-to-market port projects to boost inclusive growth

MANILA – About 200 social and farm-to-market port projects are ongoing, the Department of Transportation (DOTr) said on Wednesday.

"Under the 'Build, Better, More' Program of the Marcos administration, the DOTr-Maritime Sector is working on the completion of approximately 200 social port projects and farm-to-market ports by 2028," DOTr Undersecretary for Maritime Elmer Sarmiento said during the Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute ASEAN – India Regional Office (JTTRI- AIRO)

Logistics Symposium in Makati City. Once completed, he said, these port projects would promote inclusive and sustainable growth in remote areas in the country and connectivity between islands, and boost economic activity, especially in rural and coastal areas.

He also cited the upgrade of various seaports that maximize their location's geographical advantages and support the livelihood of farmers and fisherfolk as part of the DOTr's maritime infrastructure development.

These include the



project would use vehicle detection systems, variable message signs, speed violation enforcement systems, traffic signal enforcement systems, and devices that enable real-time monitoring of traffic in NCR.

"The project is aligned with the administration's plan to make transportation systems, with the use of new technologies, smarter and more responsive to the changing needs of the Filipinos, under the Bagong Pilipinas program," he said.

He thanked JICA for its "support, expertise, and contributions" to the economic and social development of the country, particularly in NCR.

"Japan's official development assistance continues to be a catalyst for collaboration and

growth across multiple sectors, especially in transportation, and plays a key role in helping us achieve our commitments to the United Nation's sustainable goals," he said.

Sakamoto, meanwhile, said the ITS has played a crucial role in managing congestion and improving urban mobility in Japan through the optimization of passenger flow and enhancing the overall efficiency of transport networks.

"Modernized ITS is what we love to share with the Philippines through the new technical cooperation project. JICA is pleased and enthusiastic to support MMDA to develop its capacity for traffic management by introducing Japan quality ITS measures," he said. (PNA)

PHP16.9 billion New Cebu International Container Port project that improved Cebu province's cargo handling capacity by alleviating congestion in the Cebu baseport area.

During the event, Sarmiento met with Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Vice Minister Terada Yoshimichi and Japan Transport and Tourism Research Institute Chairperson Shukuri Masafumi to discuss maritime concerns and areas of collaboration. (PNA)

## DSWD initiative pays homage to role of elders in nation building

MANILA – In an effort to foster intergenerational bonding amid issues of generation gap, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) launched the Apo Ko: Kwentong ni Lolo't Lola, Gabay ng Kabataan (My grandchild: Stories from Grandpa and Grandma, Guide to Youth) Project on Thursday at the Haven for the Elderly in Tanay, Rizal.

The project aims to foster meaningful connections by connecting older persons in DSWD centers and residential care facilities (CRCF) with children aged 4 to 5 who are attending early childhood care sessions in order to achieve mutual enrichment of the intergenerational sectors.

"Ang proyektong ito ay isang pagkilala sa karunungan ng mga matatanda bilang yaman ng ating lipunan at pagbibigay halaga sa paggabay sa ating mga kabataan bilang pag asa ng ating bayan (This project recognizes the wisdom of the elderly as a treasure of society and gives importance to their guidance to the youth who are considered the hope of our nation)," Secretary Rex Gatchalian said in his message delivered by Undersecretary Emmeline Aglipay Villar of the DSWD's International Affairs, Attached and Supervised Agencies (IASAS) Group.

Through the Apo Ko project, the DSWD chief said the elderly are provided with an opportunity to share their wisdom gained from their experiences and impart good values to the children.

Under the project, a Dream Team of lolos and lolas (grandfathers and grandmothers) from the Haven for the Elderly and Golden Reception and Action Center (GRACES) will lead storytelling ses-



sions to young children in child development centers.

Interactive workshops will also be held where the elderly and the children will collaborate on hands-on creative projects that will blend traditional skills with modern technology.

Aside from the values imparted to the new generation, the lolos and lolas from the center will be able to experience bonding with the children as their "apo" or grandchild, according to the DSWD chief.

"More than the sharing of knowledge, these moments of interaction also nurture familial relationship," Gatchalian said.

For his part, Tanay Mayor Rafael Tanjuatco thanked the DSWD for coming up with this innovative and timely project and for the conduct of the pilot implementation at the Haven for the Elderly located in the town.

The mayor said the project will benefit the children greatly, especially in addressing their fixation on gadgets.

Lolo Jaime Alfonso, a member of the Dream Team, also thanked the DSWD for coming up with this project involving the elderly as they also need activities.

"Para sa aming pag-iisip. Para din makapagbahagi sa mga bata (For our mind's health, and also to share with the kids)," Alfonso said.

Another Dream Team member, 75-year-

old Lola Luisa said she is happy to be part of the program.

"Makakatulong din kami sa mga kabataan para mapreserbe mga social values tulad ng paggalang sa matatanda, pagmamahal sa mga matatanda, pagmamahal sa sarili, sa kapwa at higit sa lahat, sa Maykapal (We are also able to help the youth to preserve social values like respect and love for elders, and love of self, of others, and most of all, of God)," she said.

Meanwhile, Pauline Batac, mother of a 5-year-old participant, expressed her appreciation for the project which brings back memories of her bonding with her lolo who used to tell her stories.

"Nagulat po kami sa umpisa kasi may ganitong pangalan ang DSWD. Pero naging masaya po kami, na-excite kami sa program kasi yung lolo po niya wala na po. Na-excite kami kasi may storytelling daw with lolo at lola (We were surprised when we found out that DSWD had this kind of program. But we became happy and excited with it because my child's grandfather is already gone. We got excited because my child related the storytelling session with grandpa and grandma)," she said.

With its pilot implementation underway, the DSWD hopes to make the project a model of intervention to foster mutual respect and nurture intergenerational relationships.

## CALAX Governor's Drive Interchange Nears 40% Completion, Set to Open in 2025

Construction of the Cavite-Laguna (CALAX) Governor's Drive Interchange is now nearing 40% completion, keeping it on track for target opening in the second half of 2025. This 8.64-kilometer segment will connect Silang (Aguinaldo) Interchange to Governor's Drive in General Trias, Cavite, further enhancing mobility and reducing congestion in the region.

Once operational, this new segment will further enhance CALAX's connectivity providing faster, seamless travel to General Trias and nearby areas. It will also ease traffic congestion on Governor's Drive and Aguinaldo Highway.

"We are committed to completing the entire stretch of CALAX by 2025. Its full opening will



not only ease traffic and improve connectivity but also support economic growth by enhancing access to key areas in Cavite and Laguna," said Ms. Elnora D. Rumawak, Officer-in-Charge of MPCALA Holdings Inc.

Meanwhile, construction continues on its remaining sections, with Subsection 1 (Kawit Interchange) now over 31% complete, and Subsection 2 (Open Canal Interchange) at 21.9% completion.

Once completed, CALAX will stretch 45

kilometers from Mamplasan Rotunda in Laguna to Kawit, Cavite, integrating with major expressways to provide a seamless connection between Cavite, Laguna, and Metro Manila. The expressway will feature a total of eight interchanges: Laguna Technopark, Laguna Boulevard, Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Silang East, Silang (Aguinaldo), Governor's Drive, Open Canal, and Kawit Interchange.

CALAX will connect with the Manila-Cavite

Expressway (CAVITEX) in Kawit, providing a more efficient route for motorists traveling between Cavite, Laguna, and Metro Manila. Once the entire expressway is fully operational, it is expected to serve up to 95,000 vehicles daily, significantly improving travel times and boosting economic activity in the region.

MPCALA Holdings Inc., concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway, is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation. Aside from CALAX, MPTC's domestic portfolio also includes the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

## PhilHealth, hospital groups meet to increase access points

MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) held a consultation meeting with private hospital groups and national associations.



President and Chief Executive Officer Edwin Mercado met with heads and representatives of the Metro Pacific Health Corp., Mount Grace Hospital Group, Unilab Foundation, AC Health, St. Luke's Medical Center, The Medical City, Private Hospitals Association

of the Philippines, Inc., and Philippine Hospital Association, the state insurer said in a news release Thursday.

Their discussion focused on PhilHealth's commitment to improve its efficiency, address wastage, and optimize processes to ensure that hospitals

receive timely payments for their claims.

Mercado and the hospital executives agreed to increase access points for primary care.

"We recognize the significant role that private hospitals play in delivering quality health care services to Filipinos. We can only

also meet with government hospitals managed by the Department of Health and local government units. (PNA)

leverage their capacities when we build a sphere of trust and effective coordination," he said.

The hospitals taking on primary care will facilitate the completion of Health Care Provider Networks, which aims to bring Universal Health Care closer to every Filipino.

Mercado will also meet with government hospitals managed by the Department of Health and local government units. (PNA)



Dear Lord,

Thank you for Divina Uri's life, and the years we shared with her. We lift her to you today, in honor of the good we saw in her and the love we felt from her. Please give us strength to leave her in your care, in the knowledge of eternal life, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

In Loving Memory of  
**DIVINA VIADO URI**

Born in Philippines- November 30, 1942  
Passed Away in Lakewood, Washington-  
September 4, 2021

FUNERAL SERVICE

THE GARDEN CHAPEL

Saturday, September 4, 2021-10:00 am.  
Deacon George Mounce, III-Officiating (Blessing)

Musical Selections:

I Love You Lord  
The Steadfast Love of the Lord  
In His Time  
In Moments Like These  
Song for Mama  
Jealous of the Angels  
Holes in the Floor of Heaven  
Dancing in the Sky  
Phone in Heaven

CASKET BEARERS:

Roberto Magayanes Neil Patrick Magayanes  
Benedict Uri Irvin Magayanes  
Jefferson Magayanes Joshua Ponting

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO  
FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 2, 2025

**FEU Alumni Card PROMO**  
PROMO PERIOD: FEBRUARY 5 TO MARCH 2, 2025

**P999 STUDENTS**      **P1,100 ALUMNI, FACULTY AND STAFF**

**Regular Day Pass with Hotdog on Stick**

\*Promo may be availed upon presentation of VALID Alumni ID, Faculty and Student ID. A maximum of two (2) tickets may be purchased per ID/day.  
\*Promo tickets are available at the Park's Front Gate Ticket Booths and Group Sales Office in Santa Rosa.  
\*Promo may NOT be availed in conjunction with other existing promos (Senior Citizen and PWD Discount).  
Fair Trade Permit Number R4A-Lag-S-02-012 series of 2025

**FUNNSIDE ningnangan**

Cayetano... from page 1

lema, utak-kotse tayo," sabi niya.

"Noong '50s, '40s, nangunguna tayo, may railway tayo everywhere. Pero napabayaan natin y'un and then we went the American way na panay kotse," dagdag niya.

Binanggit niya ang kalbaryo ng maraming manggagawang bumibiyahe araw-araw mula probinsya patungong Metro Manila.

"Not only the hirap, y'ung tama sa kawatayan, but y'ung oras talaga na nasasayang, and then of course y'ung gastos," sabi niya.

Suportado ni Cayetano ang Metro Manila Subway project pero aniya, hindi dapat dito lang natatapos.

"Dapat bago pa matapos 'yan, pina-plano na ang susunod," sabi niya.

"Kasi it takes six or seven years para matapos. By the time matapos, ilan na ang kotse, ilan na ang tao, tapos panay sa Metro Manila. So may ginagawa ba to extend that

out?" pagpapatuloy niya.

Inihalimbawa ng senador ang long-term planning ng Hong Kong, kung saan halos taun-taon ay may bagong subway project.

"Since early or mid-1980s, wala akong punta sa Hong Kong na nakita kong walang ginagawang subway. So by now, makikita n'yo kahit saan ka pumunta sa Hong Kong, halos buong Hong Kong malalakad n'yo sa ilalim ng mga subway." "Sa huli, umaasa si Cayetano na magagamit ni DOTr Sec. Dizon ang kanyang karanasan sa Basic Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) para mapabilis ang modernisasyon ng transportasyon, lalo na sa railways.

Matagal nang isinusulong ni Cayetano ang pag-decongest sa Metro Manila sa pamamagitan ng railway network at pagpapalakas ng ekonomiya sa probinsya.###



EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE LATE CIPRIANO AGCAOILI BELTRAN WITH DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CIPRIANO AGCAOILI BELTRAN who died on July 9, 2017 in Los Angeles, California, U.S.A., that the said deceased died intestate, without a will or testament, that the deceased left a parcel of land without improvements existing thereon located at Dasmariñas City, Cavite, containing an area of Six Hundred Thirty Five (635) Square Meters, more or less, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-1094003, was the subject of this Extra Judicial Settlement of Estate among the legal heirs of the said deceased in the said instrument, executed before Notary Public Atty. Norberto R. Malit, Jr., under Doc. No. 308, Page No. 42, Book No. 8, Series of 2019

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO FEBRUARY 17, 24 & MARCH 3, 2025

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), Petitioner/Mortgagee,

-versus- MA. CHRISTINA P. CATALO (Principal Borrower) & RAY JORDAN F. MIGUEL (Co-Borrower), Respondents/Mortgagors.

File No. FC-DC-1632-25 EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City against respondents/mortgagors MA. CHRISTINA P. CATALO (Principal Borrower) & RAY JORDAN F. MIGUEL (Co-Borrower) with postal addresses at Blk. 120 Lot 21 Phase 4, Mary Cris Complex, Pasong Camachile II, Gen. Trias, Cavite and Lot 7 Blk 7 Phase 4, Valle Verde Dasmariñas, Brgy. Zone III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of January 03, 2025 amounts to ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY SIX PESOS & 38/100 (Php1,247,466.38), exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on March 27, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Ground Floor Lobby of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2023007771 LOT NO: 7, BLOCK NO: 7, PLAN NO: PSD-04-244888 PORTION OF: LOT 3821-A-3, (LRA) PSD-426086, LRC RECORD NO. 8843

LOCATION: BARANGAY OF ZONE III (FORMERLY: LANGKAAN), CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

Table with columns: LINE, DIRECTION, ADJOINING LOT(S). Rows 1-4 describing lot boundaries.

AREA: FIFTY SQUARE METERS (50) MORE OR LESS

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on April 10, 2025 at the same time and place without further notice.

17 February 2025, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR. Sheriff IV

ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished: HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (Otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

ATTY. JULIUS VOLTAIRE ROMMEL C. CUBELO 24K Accounts Consultant, Inc., 3F Fass Intel College Bldg. No. 11, Pittsburgh St., Brgy. Silangan, Cubao, Quezon City.

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO FEBRUARY 24, MARCH 3 & 10, 2025

P10.9-M worth of vehicles ordered via eMarketplace turned over: DBM

MANILA – At least six motor vehicles worth PHP10.9 million ordered through the eMarketplace online platform have already been turned over to the procuring entities, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) said Wednesday.

The eMarketplace is one of the many components of the New Government Procurement Act (NGPA), a law signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on July 20, 2024 to push for a "transformative reform" that modernizes and augments public procurement processes in the country by addressing existing loopholes and inefficiencies.

The eMarketplace is designed to modernize the procurement process, allowing agencies to conveniently "add to cart" essential goods and services, ensuring timely and cost-effective transactions.

PS-DBM Executive Director Genmaries Entredicho-Caong emphasized Marcos' strong support for the initiative, recalling how the President personally pushed for it during discussions on the proposed amendments to the procurement law.

In a statement, the DBM said four of the seven motor vehicles amounted to PHP7.6 million and were handed over to the Insurance Commission (IC) at Toyota Otis in Paco, Manila on Monday, kicking off the first sale under the eMarketplace.

The following day, the National Tax Research Center (NTRC) received its order for the two other motor vehicles valued at PHP3.3 million.



Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman lauded the PS for reaching another milestone following the launching of the eMarketplace in December 2024.

"Everything about the eMarketplace, from its development to its implementation, is designed to be quick and easy. We launched it in December last year, and now, two agencies have already benefited from faster, more efficient, and seamless procurement. 'Add to cart' has officially been activated for government procurement," Pangandaman said.

"Imagine, from a four-month wait to less than two weeks! This is the game-changing efficiency that the eMarketplace brings. But this is just the beginning as we continue to revolutionize government purchasing for the better," she added.

Pangandaman said the eMarketplace is just one milestone in the government's digital transformation journey.

"We assure you that PS-DBM is committed to continuously institutionalizing public procurement reforms to achieve our Agenda for Prosperity," she said, stressing the DBM's dedication to innovation and efficiency in government transactions.

The eMarketplace is now operational, allowing government agencies to begin ordering motor vehicles as part of its pilot program for common-use supplies and equipment (CSE). More items are being added, including airline tickets, cloud computing services, and various software and licenses.

Senator urges... from page 8

Legal action is also being considered. Probe for SHS voucher program issues

Meanwhile, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada on Wednesday called for a Senate inquiry into the reported presence of "ghost students" in the SHS-VP, emphasizing the need for remedial measures to safeguard public funds.

Estrada acknowledged DepEd's ongoing efforts since the issue came to light but stressed that Congress may need to enact legislation to strengthen the SHS-VP, define prohibited acts, and impose stricter penalties on violators.

"It is crucial for the government to ensure the proper implementation of the SHS voucher program so that public funds are used responsibly and that rightful beneficiaries receive the assistance they need," he said in a news release.

Through Senate Resolution No. 1316, Estrada has called on the Senate Committee on Basic Education to conduct the investigation.

"The integrity and effectiveness of the SHS voucher program must be upheld to guarantee quality and accessible education for Filipino youth," he added. (PNA)

Angara added that DepEd is preparing to revoke the accreditation of the implicated schools and is gathering evidence against those responsible.



Republic of the Philippines Fourth Judicial Region Regional Trial Court of Cavite Office of the Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff New Justice Hall, J.P. Rizal Avenue, Kaybagal South, Tagaytay City

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), Petitioner-Mortgagee,

-versus- REY D. RAMIREZ MARRIED TO IMEE M. RAMIREZ, Borrowers-Mortgagors.

EJF NO. TG-24-124 FOR: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 4118

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial foreclosure sale under Act No. 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118, filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679, with principal office and place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Loan and Mortgage Agreement ("MORTGAGE") executed and notarized on November 20, 1998, by Borrowers-Mortgagors, REY D. RAMIREZ married to IMEE M. RAMIREZ, both of legal age, Filipino citizens, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Lot 10, Block 8, Lakeshore Village, Macabiling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna and (2) Lot 15, Block 35, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite, in favor of the Petitioner-Mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-832954) 26223 of the Registry of Deeds for Tagaytay City, to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the Borrowers-Mortgagors, in the amount of THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THREE PESOS AND 98/100 (Php332,103.98) inclusive of interest and other charges, as of September 6, 2024, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru her deputy, Baby Leem B. Maristela, will sell at public auction on March 17, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter, at the New Hall of Justice of Tagaytay City, to the highest bidder, for Cash or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-832954) 26223 Registry of Deeds for the Tagaytay City

"IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in the Mun. of Silang Prov. of Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 15 Blk. 35 of the cons./subd. of plan Pcs-04-012899 being a portion of Lot 8014, 8015, 8017, 8018, cad 452-D, Silang, Cad., Lots 8016-A to 8016-H, Csd-04-006071-D, Lot 15709-A, Csd-042118-012810-D, & Lot Blk. 71, Pcs-04-011250, LRC Rec. No. ), situated in the Brgy. of Tartaria, Mun. of Silang, Prov. Of Cavite. Bounded on the SE., along line 1-2 by Lot 13; along line 2-3 by Lot 14; on the SW., along line

2ND BATCH... from page 1

ing focused on providing participants with essential knowledge and skills to become safe and responsible drivers. This initiative is a testament to the City Government's dedication to promoting road safety and empowering Bacooreños with the necessary skills to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly. The "Free Student Driver's Permit for Bacooreños" program is a significant step towards creating a safer and more driver-friendly environment within the city.

3-4 by Alley 8, all of Blk. 35; on the NE., along line 4-5 by Rd. Lot 38 (6.50 m. wide); and on the NW., along line 5-1 by lot 16 Blk. 35; all of the cons./subd. plan. Beginning at a pt. marked "1" on plan being S. 65 deg. 33 'E, 5066.43 m. from BLLM No. 1, Cad. 452-D, Silang Cad.; thence S. 10 deg. 41'W., 2.03 N. to pt. 2; thence S. 15 deg. 10'W., 5.41 m. to pt. 3; thence N. 72 deg. 51'W., 10.00 m. to pt. 4; thence N. 15 deg. 50'E., 3.84 m. to pt. 5; thence N. 86 deg. 49'E., 10.32 m. to pt. 1; beginning, containing an area of FIFTY SIX (56) SQ. METERS. All pts. Referred to are indicated on the plan ad are marked on the ground by PS cyl. Conc. mons. 15x60 cm.; bearings true; date of orig. survey Dec. 7, 1973-Dec. 4, 1975 and that of the subd. survey Aug. 1-30, 1997 and was approved on Dec. 5, 1997.

is registered in accordance with the provisions of section 103 of the Prosperity Registration Decree in the name of REY D. MARTINEZ married to IMEE M. RAMIREZ, both of legal age, Filipino."

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on March 24, 2025 without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate and verify for themselves the TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (T-832954) 26223, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

Tagaytay City, Philippines, February 5, 2025.

ATTY. APRIL GRACE M. TENORIO Clerk of Court V/OIC

BABY LEE M. MARISTELA Sheriff-In-Charge

Copy Furnished: HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (otherwise known as Pag-IBIG Fund) Petitioner-Mortgagee The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL c/o PAULINO E. CASES JR. Attorney-in-Fact of the Petitioner-Mortgagee CASES COLLECTION MANAGEMENT, INC. c/o Cases Chun & Associates Law Offices 6th Floor JELP Business Solutions Building, 409 Addition Hills, Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

REY D. RAMIREZ married to IMEE M. RAMIREZ Borrowers-Mortgagors (1) Lot 10, Block 8, Lakeshore Village, Macabiling, Sta. Rosa, Laguna (2) Lot 15, Block 35, Rancho Imperial de Silang, Brgy. Tartaria, Silang, Cavite

WARNING: IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW

PAHAYAGAN NG KABITENYO FEBRUARY 17, 24 & MARCH 3, 2025

