

# General Trias Emerges as Cavite's New Homeownership Hub

GENERAL TRIAS, Philippines — Zeal Residences highlights the growing appeal of first home communities in General Trias as Cavite continues its steady transformation into one of the most promising residential areas in the south.

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## US 'happy' with J-1 visa program, keen to expand skills list

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora



**SKILLS ENHANCEMENT.** Commission on Filipinos Overseas chairperson Secretary Dante Ang II speaks to reporters on the sidelines of a media training on Philippine migration landscape in Tagaytay on Friday (May 29, 2026). He said the U.S. government is satisfied on Filipinos' compliance to the requirements of the J-1 visa program, which requires exchange visitors to return to their countries for at least two years before they can apply for immigrant visa. (Photo by Joyce Rocamora)

TAGAYTAY, Cavite – The United States is satisfied with the current run of its J-1 visa program for Filipinos, according to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) on Friday. Speaking on the sidelines of a media training

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## Cavite Coastal Cleanup Collects 7,512 Kilos of Waste

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Philstar.com



A total of 7,512 kilograms of waste were collected along the shorelines of nine coastal areas in Cavite during activities held for this year's Month of the Ocean observance.

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## DICT's Free Wi-Fi for All a big 'push' for Cavite schools

By Patricia Bermudez

CARMONA CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Free Wi-Fi for All program is set to boost the connectivity of public schools and State Universities and Colleges (SUC) in Cavite Province, driving further success to instruction and community-centered research programs. Following the Free Public Internet Access Program launch of the Department of Information and Communications Technology

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## BAC A Holds Pharma Conference



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite — The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Bids and Awards Committee for Goods, Services and Consultancy (BAC A), conducted a Pre Consignment Conference for pharmaceutical supplies on May 26 at the New Provincial Government Center. The

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MSA PH Launches Sleep Study Service in Cavite Hospital

IMUS, Cavite, Philippines — Medical Services of America Philippines Inc. has formally expanded its diagnostic offerings with the launch of its first sleep study service in partnership

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# 377 Caviteños Benefit from Free Medical, Dental Mission

A total of 377 residents received free healthcare services during a Medical and Dental Mission and Operation Tuli program held on May 22, 2026, at the Dra. Olivia Salamanca Memorial District Hospital, highlighting the continued commitment of the

Provincial Government of Cavite to providing accessible healthcare services. The outreach activity brought together

volunteer healthcare workers, medical professionals, and partner organizations to deliver essential medical assistance to residents of Cavite City and nearby communities.

Medical consultations and checkups were led by doctors from the district hospital, ensuring patients received proper health assessments and guidance. Dental services were also provided through the support of the GEAMH dental team, benefiting 37 individuals. Of this number, 21 patients availed themselves of free dental

cleaning procedures aimed at promoting good oral health and preventive care.

Diagnostic services formed part of the mission, with three patients undergoing electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures and 32 individuals receiving fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests for early detection and monitoring of health conditions.

Free medicines were likewise distributed by personnel from the Office of the Provincial Governor. Meanwhile, the Operation Tuli program benefited

34 young boys under the supervision of Dr. Ma. Victoria Salvatus-Torres, with assistance from nurses and midwives of the Amiga District Hospital.

The medical team ensured the safe and orderly conduct of the procedures. The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to strengthen community healthcare programs by bringing medical services closer to residents while promoting public health, compassion, and quality service. Source: Office of the Provincial Information Officer (PIO)



## US 'happy' with J-1 visa program, keen

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on Philippine migration landscape, CFO chairperson Secretary Dante Ang II said the U.S. had repeatedly acknowledged that Filipinos had been compliant with their contractual obligations to return and render service back to the Philippines.

“Because of that, we are looking at maybe expanding the list. In fact, the US has added some items on the skills list to reflect the development needs of the Philippines,” he said, citing nuclear power technology as example.

The J-1 exchange visitor program is a non-immigrant visa designed for cultural exchange.

All its holders whose fields of expertise are in the U.S. Department of State “Skills List” are required to return and stay in their

home country for at least two years before they could apply for an immigrant visa.

Amid the Trump administration’s intensified crackdown on illegal immigrants, the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. earlier warned Filipinos that the program is not a legal pathway to permanent residency.

The warning comes after it received reports that illegal recruiters posing as immigration lawyers are promising U.S. citizenship through J-1 visas.

Ang again echoed the advisory, telling Filipinos to strictly follow the immigration policies of the U.S.

“If your intent is to migrate permanently, then our recommendation is to follow the regular migration

pathway,” he said. “Apply for a green card if that’s what you want, or a permanent

residency pathway. Don’t use the au pair, the J-1, or other exchange programs if their intention is not to return to the Philippines,” he added. (PNA)

## General Trias emerges as Cavite's New

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There was a time when moving further south meant choosing affordability over convenience. Today, that balance is quickly shifting as General Trias emerges as a more connected and opportunity driven city.

With expanding infrastructure, growing commercial centers, and rising investments, the city is reshaping how Filipinos view first home ownership. For many buyers, the focus is no longer simply on larger properties but on practical homes that are accessible, livable, and well connected to key growth areas.

Located in a developing district in General Trias, the 6.5 hectare residential community is designed for young professionals, starting families, and practical investors who want an easier entry into the property market while staying close to Metro Manila and nearby economic hubs. More than size or luxury, the

development emphasizes practicality, accessibility, and everyday comfort. The ongoing transformation of General Trias is visible in how people now move across the region.

The recent opening of CALAX Subsection 3 has improved travel between Cavite and Laguna, reducing travel time along key routes and making access to residential, commercial, and employment centers more efficient.

At the same time, major projects such as the LRT Line 1 Extension and the continued expansion of CAVITEX further strengthen connections between Cavite, Metro Manila, and nearby provinces.

For residents, these improvements make daily life easier, whether commuting to work, visiting family, or accessing business districts, shopping centers, and essential services. General Trias continues to benefit from

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time homeowners. Zeal Residences reflects a broader shift in how Filipinos approach home ownership. More buyers now see property ownership not just as a status symbol but as a long term investment tied to stability and financial security.

For some, it means moving away from renting. For others, it is about entering the property market early while areas like General Trias continue to grow in value.

As infrastructure development continues across Cavite, more buyers are recognizing the advantage of investing in emerging residential areas before prices rise further.

This momentum is already visible in completed roads, expanding businesses, and new residential communities rising across the province. At SMDC Nature’s Zeal Residences, buyers are not only purchasing a home but also becoming part of a community that is still in the process of growth and long term development.

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Inilalathala tuwing araw ng Linggo at may sirkulasyon sa Lalawigan ng Cavite.  
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## MSA PH launches sleep study service

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with Our Lady of the Pillar Medical Center in Imus, Cavite.

The new facility is designed to address the rising cases of obstructive sleep apnea, a condition that is often undiagnosed but can lead to serious long term health complications if left untreated.

The launch was marked by a ceremonial ribbon cutting, signaling the start of a partnership focused on improving access to respiratory and sleep health

services in the province.

“Today, through this partnership with Our Lady of the Pillar Medical Center, we are making advanced sleep diagnostics more accessible to patients who need answers, treatment, and ultimately, better lives,” said Hermie Lim, vice president for sales and business development of MSA PH. The service allows patients to undergo sleep monitoring without traveling far, as the hospital is equipped with specialized

technology that tracks breathing patterns, oxygen levels, and heart activity during sleep. According to Noli B. Lagasca, vice president for hospital operations of MSA PH, many patients experience symptoms such as chronic fatigue, loud snoring, and morning headaches without realizing these may indicate obstructive sleep apnea.

He added that if left untreated, the condition can lead to hypertension, heart disease, and stroke,

but proper diagnosis through a sleep study can help specialists create a personalized treatment plan for better long term health outcomes.

A sleep study is a comprehensive test that records brain activity, oxygen levels, heart rate, breathing patterns, airflow, and body movements while the patient sleeps in a controlled and comfortable setting. The service is recognized by PhilHealth, allowing eligible members to avail of subsidies provided they meet clinical criteria and secure a specialist referral.

## Cavite coastal cleanup collects 7,512

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The Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region 4A said in a report on Wednesday, May 27, that the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Cavite led a coastal cleanup drive on May 21 in the municipalities of Kawit, Maragondon, Naic, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, and Ternate, as well as in the

cities of Bacoor and Cavite. The cleanup involved 97 river rangers from the Manila Bay Site Coordinating and Management Office Cavite under the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office Cavite, together with barangay officials and community volunteers who assisted in the proper collection,

disposal, and management of waste.

According to the DENR report, about 56 percent of the garbage collected from a 79,722 square meter coastal area consisted of residual waste such as cotton swabs, cigarette butts, disposable diapers, used tissues, napkins, and other non-recyclable materials.

The agency said, "This coastal conservation initiative not only demonstrates a unified effort toward coastal

protection but also promotes environmental stewardship, strengthens multi-sectoral participation, addresses marine litter, and protects coastal and marine ecosystems."

The Month of the Ocean is observed every May under Presidential Proclamation No. 57, signed by former President Joseph Estrada on Dec. 11, 1998. The proclamation recognizes May as the peak fishing season in the country and serves as a reminder for stakeholders and coastal communities to promote ocean conservation and marine protection.

## BCA A holds pharma

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activity formed part of the provincial government's efforts to strengthen and streamline the delivery of healthcare services by ensuring an organized and transparent procurement process for medicines and pharmaceutical products.

The conference gathered consignors, representatives of pharmaceutical companies, and personnel from the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, which serves as the end user of the pharmaceutical supplies.

During the meeting, BAC A Secretariat Head Nancy Lontoc discussed important information regarding the consignment bidding process. She provided guidance on the procedures, requirements, and bidding guidelines to help participating consignors better

understand and prepare for the procurement process.

Also present were members of the BAC A team led by Chairperson Karen Camañag Tupas and Vice Chairperson Renato Abutan. Joining them were committee members Dr. May Magno, Atty. Annaliza Mercene Pulmones, Luzviminda Amparo, and Maria Fe Satsatin.

Engr. Gilbert Gandia, a member of the Technical Working Group, also attended the conference.

Provincial officials said the activity reflects the local government's commitment to maintaining an efficient and transparent system for the procurement of healthcare supplies that support public health services across Cavite. Source: Office of the Provincial Information Officer (PIO) Cavite

## DICT's free wi-fi for all

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(DICT) on May 21, the Cavite State University (CvSU) highlighted the critical role of unlimited internet access for academic institutions.

Dr. Jonathan Digma, Campus Administrator for CvSU Silang campus, underscored that the Free Wi-Fi for All program is crucial in driving their community extension programs. "Napakalaking bagay po ito para suportahan ang mga programa ng Cavite State University. Alam naman po natin na sa tertiary education, research is very important."

State Universities and Colleges (SUC) fuel socioeconomic growth for surrounding communities. For CvSU, their partnership with local government units have paved the way for improving policies, programs, and sustainable development. Through its partnership with the Municipal Government of Silang, CvSU is running four (4) ICT-related extension projects catering to various sectors, such as Barangay Health Workers, the Women's Desk, and other government agencies.

"Yung pagde-deploy ng internet, aside from helping the academe and the students, will be very helpful in pushing the programs of CvSU Silang and the Department of Information and Communications Technology to help the community." Fifth District Representative Roy Loyola emphasized the benefits for students at a time when schools are increasingly relying on computer-aided instruction.

"Wi-Fi is no longer a luxury, ito po ay kailangan at bahagi na ng pag-aaral ng ating kabataan. This underscores the government's commitment to inclusive digital transformation and equitable connectivity nationwide. Sa ating kabataan, magiging madali na ang inyong pag-aaral at pagre-research."

The Public Internet Access program will also expand to 127 locations, including all public schools across Carmona, Silang and Gen. Mariano Alvarez, bringing improved access to online learning modalities. (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

Republic of the Philippines  
Fourth Judicial Region  
**REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**  
Branch 89  
City of Bacoor  
rtc2bcr089@judiciary.gov.ph  
09084163855

**IN RE: PETITION FOR  
ISSUANCE OF OWNER'S  
DUPLICATE COPY OF  
TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF  
TITLE NO. T-45933 OF THE  
REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR THE  
PROVINCE OF CAVITE,**

**LRC CASE NO. 8843-2023-93**

**MARCIANA D. BEHAVE**  
represented by **EDRALIN PEÑA**  
**DELA CRUZ as Attorney-in-Fact,**  
Petitioners,

X-----X

**THIRD AMENDED ORDER**

This is a petition instituted by Marciana D. Behave represented by her attorney-in-fact Edralin Peña Dela Cruz for the issuance of a new owner's duplicate copy of Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-45933 of the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Bacoor City registered in the name of the petitioner, Marciana D. Behave in lieu of the lost one.

**NOTICE IS GIVEN** that said petition is set for hearing on **5 August 2026, at 1:30 in the afternoon.** All those interested are cited to appear and show cause why the same should not be granted.

The Sheriff of this Court is ordered to post copies of this Order in three conspicuous places in the City of Bacoor where the subject property is situated.

Furnish copies of this Order the Offices of the Register of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Trece Martires City and Bacoor City Branch.

Furnish the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court of the City of Bacoor a copy of the Order for raffle.

SO ORDERED.

GIVEN IN CHAMBERS, this 14th day of May 2026 in the City of Bacoor.

**ROSALINDA E. BELTRAN-KAWADA**  
Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:  
**BAWALAN and ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE**  
Unit 1-A and 1-B, Digma's Commercial Center,  
Brgy. Luciano, Trece Martires City  
Bawalanan\_lawoffice@yahoo.com  
0968 598 5044 / 0968 315 0817

**THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF PROVINCE OF CAVITE**  
Cavite Provincial Capitol Building, Brgy. San Agustin,  
Trece Martires City, Cavite  
rd.trecemartirescity@lra.gov.ph

**THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF BACOOR CITY**  
Bacoor Government Center, Bacoor Boulevard, Brgy.  
Bayanan, Bacoor City, Cavite  
rdbacoorcourt@gmail.com

**MARCIANA D. BEHAVE – Petitioner**  
2876 Orion Street, Tondo, Manila

**EDRALIN PEÑA DELA CRUZ – Petitioner**  
2908 Samal Street, Tondo, Manila

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Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite  
June 7, 14 and 21, 2026

Republic of the Philippines  
Fourth Judicial Region  
**REGIONAL TRIAL COURT**  
**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT**  
**AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF**  
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,**  
Petitioner/Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-2098-26

-versus-

**For: Extra-Judicial  
Foreclosure  
of Real Estate**

**CARL RHENUELLE R. PERADO**  
and **JAYJAY A. CRUZ,**  
Debtors/Mortgagees.

**Mortgage under  
Act 3135 as  
amended by Act  
No. 4118**

X-----X

**NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK INC.,** a universal banking corporation with postal address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the debtors/mortgagees, **CARL RHENUELLE R. PERADO and JAYJAY A. CRUZ,** with postal address at 9391 Maria Susafe St., San Antonio, Parañaque; Lot 39 Block 18, Phase 1, Idesia Dasmariñas, Brgy. San Agustin I, Dasmariñas City, Cavite; and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of **27 March 2026** amounts to **FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED ONE PESOS & 75/100 (Php 4,248,301.75),** exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **June 26, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter at the Ground Floor Lobby, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro 2, 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. 057-2024014849**

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in Barangay of San Agustin 1, City of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon, bounded and described as follows: Lot No. **39 / Block No. 18** Plan No. PCS-04-031088 Portion of: Consolidation & Subdivision of Lots 1 & 2, PCS-04-015502

**LOCATION:** BARANGAY OF SAN AGUSTIN 1, CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON  
**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION:**

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NW	Road Lot 4, PCS-04-031088
2-3	NE	Lot 40, Block 18, PCS-04-031088
3-4	SE	Lot 28, Block 18, PCS-04-031088
4-5	SE	Lot 29, Block 18, PCS-04-031088
5-6	SE	Lot 30, Block 18, PCS-04-031088
6-1	SW	Lot 38, Block 18, PCS-04-031088

**TIE POINT:** Mon. No. 145, Imus Estate

LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
To corner 1	S.09°57'W	779.04 M.
1-2	N.60°37'E	8.00 M.
2-3	S.29°23'E	10.00 M.
3-4	S.60°37'W	1.00 M.
4-5	S.60°37'W	4.00 M.
5-6	S.60°37'W	3.00 M.
6-1	N.29°23'W	10.00 M.

**AREA:** EIGHTY SQUARE METERS (80), MORE OR LESS  
**DESCRIPTION OF CORNERS:** All points are referred on the plan by P.S. CYL. Conc. Mons. 15x40 cms.

**Bearings:** True

**Declination:**

**Date of Original Survey:** July 27, 1905 to June 11, 1908

**Date of Subd/Cons Survey:** July 1-15, 2017

**Date of Approved Survey:** Nov. 16, 2017

**Geodetic Engineer:** Jose Merlito S. Garay

**Notes:**

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrances 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 publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **July 10, 2026** at the same time and place without further notice.

City of Dasmariñas, Province of Cavite, May 15, 2026.

**GERALD A. FARGAS**  
Sheriff IV

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

Copy furnished:  
**BDO Unibank, Inc.,**  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas,  
No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

**CARL RHENUELLE R. PERADO & JAYJAY A. CRUZ**  
9391 Maria Susafe St., San Antonio, Parañaque

Lot 39 Block 18, Phase 1, Idesia Dasmariñas,  
Brgy. San Agustin I, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

Notice Posted at:

1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Publication: Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite  
Dates: May 24, 31 and June 7, 2026  
Raffle Date of Judicial Notices: April 29, 2026

## DepEd Bacoor Leads Flag Ceremony, Honors Achievers

The Department of Education (DepEd) Bacoor gathered government officials, educators, students, and community stakeholders for a flag-raising ceremony on June 1, 2026, at the S.T.R.I.K.E. Gymnasium in Bacoor.

The event opened with a prayer led by Bishop Erickson Santos, followed by the presentation of colors by personnel of the Philippine National Police Bacoor. The Bacoor Unity Band performed the Philippine National Anthem, while various civic pledges and the Quality Policy Statement were led by education officials and personnel.

In his opening remarks, Manolo S. Galvez highlighted the importance of collaboration between the local government and the education sector in advancing quality education for Bacooreño students.

A major highlight of the ceremony was the recognition of Latin Honors graduates, board and bar examination passers, and Outstanding Bacooreños for their achievements. Special awards were also presented to Strike B. Revilla and the Public Employment Service Office Bacoor by the Department of Migrant Workers Region IV-A. Meanwhile, the Cavite Dental Association awarded a Plaque of Appreciation to Mayor Revilla.

The Philippine National Police Bacoor, led by PLTCOL Alexie A. Desamito, also showcased citations and commendations, including recipients of the Medalya ng Kagalingan. Participants likewise took part in the SJPS Re-commitment Ceremony and Manifesto Signing, reaffirming their dedication to public service and nation-building. During the program, Desamito introduced distinguished



guests, including representatives of the 202nd Infantry Brigade led by PGEN Ernest John C. Jadloc through representative LtCol Ronnel S. Panganiban.

An audio-visual presentation highlighted the accomplishments of DepEd Bacoor under the leadership of Dr. Babylyn M. Pambid. A message delivered by Dr. Alexander M. Morron Jr. encouraged GPTA officers and Schools Division Office personnel to continue supporting educational excellence and student achievement.

The program concluded with Mayor Revilla's weekly accomplishment report and message, where he underscored the city government's ongoing initiatives in education, public service, and community development. Source: City Government of Bacoor

## Cavite Treasurers Attend Seminar on Receipt Programs

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite, Philippines — The Office of the Provincial Treasurer led a seminar on the Preparation of Receipt Programs and Other

Updates on May 20 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City. The activity gathered city and municipal

treasurers from various local government units across Cavite, aiming to strengthen their knowledge on proper receipt program preparation and updates in

local treasury operations. The program opened with a message from Provincial Treasurer Adelina M. Martal, who thanked participants for their continued commitment to efficient and transparent fiscal management in their respective local government units.

Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia also attended the event, expressing the provincial government's support for initiatives that enhance the skills

and capabilities of local treasury officials. Cavite Provincial Budget Officer Maria Dulce L. Tangco served as resource speaker, discussing the proper preparation of receipt programs and emphasizing the importance of accurate revenue projections and sound fiscal planning in supporting government services. Additional updates on treasury operations were also presented by Martal, providing further guidance on financial management practices. An open forum followed,

allowing participants to raise questions and exchange insights on the topics discussed.

The seminar concluded with a message from Bacoor City Treasurer Edith C. Napalan, who thanked the organizers and participants for their active involvement and support in the successful conduct of the activity. The initiative reinforces collaboration among local treasury offices and promotes more efficient financial management practices across the province.



## PWD Group Leads Hearing Aid Distribution in Bacoor

Qualified beneficiaries received hearing aids during a distribution program organized by the Alliance of PWD in Cavite Inc. on June 1, 2026, at Revilla Hall in Bacoor. The initiative was led by Rhoanne Torres in partnership with Audibly Hearing Aid Center and the City Government of Bacoor. The activity aimed to improve communication, daily living, and the overall quality of life of persons with hearing impairments.

Among those present were Strike B. Revilla, Torres and other officers of the organization, as well as Ariel Pelaez and members of the persons with disabilities sector who benefited from the program. Aside from the distribution of hearing devices, Pelaez conducted an orientation on the proper use, care, and maintenance of hearing aids to help recipients maximize the benefits of the assistance.

Organizers said the program underscored the value of collaboration among local government units, private sector partners, and PWD organizations in promoting accessibility, inclusion, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The City Government of Bacoor reaffirmed its commitment to supporting programs that enhance the welfare and quality of life of residents through sustained community partnerships. Source: City Government of Bacoor



## CHIZ SAYS SENATE IMPEACHMENT COURT SHOULD UPHOLD LAW, SHUN POLITICAL NOISE

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero urged his colleagues in the Senate to carry out their duties in accordance with the law and set aside political noise when they convene as an impeachment court for the trial of Vice President Sara Duterte. Speaking in the pilot episode of his Chiz Wiz! podcast, Escudero said senators should shed political colors and approach the process with sobriety and fairness. "Hindi sila dapat magpadala sa kung sino ang mas maingay. Nangyari na 'yan sa bibliya, hindi ba? May mas malakas sumigaw, may napako nga sa krus dahil dun," Escudero said. "Ang impeachment trial ay hindi eleksyon o botohan sa kung sino ang mas popular. Ang dapat sundan ay kung ano ang naaayon sa batas," he added, stressing that the Senate must uphold constitutional discipline rather than respond to online agitation or political theatrics. In the 35-minute podcast, the veteran lawmaker also shared with his guests the Senate's experience under his watch as Senate President during the 2025 impeachment proceedings, explaining why the chamber did not convene immediately despite the constitutional term "forthwith." He said the Senate needed reasonable time to prepare for a process of such gravity, a position that was later affirmed by the Supreme Court in a 14-0-1 vote favoring the Senate's handling of the impeachment timeline. The High Court rejected a petition seeking to compel the Senate to convene at once, saying the chamber acted within constitutional bounds when it declined to begin trial while in recess. In clarifying "forthwith," the Court ruled that the term means action taken within a "reasonable time," and not an instantaneous or mechanical response. The decision underscored that the Senate retains discretion on when and how to convene as an impeachment court, provided it acts within a reasonable period. Atty. Regie Tongol, spokesperson of the Escudero led impeachment court in 2025 and a guest in the podcast, said the ruling effectively vindicated the Senate's earlier stance. He noted that the Court's definition of "forthwith" validated the chamber's deliberate approach and dispelled criticisms that it had acted too slowly. Tongol added that the decision strengthened institutional stability by ensuring that impeachment proceedings cannot be dictated by public pressure or unrealistic timelines. "They were wrong, and the Supreme Court has proven them wrong,]" According to the former spokesperson, the Supreme Court ruling reinforces the Senate's independence by ensuring that impeachment proceedings are guided by constitutional standards rather than public pressure or political noise.