

Mercado-Revilla Pushes for Estate Tax Amnesty Extension

By Ellson Quismorio

Cavite 2nd District Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla is urging the Senate to approve the proposed Estate Tax Amnesty Extension Law, a key initiative of hers in the 20th Congress that recently passed its final reading in the House of Representatives. Mercado-Revilla emphasized that the measure aims to give tens of thousands of Filipino families

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Pag-IBIG Fund, Megawide partner to build socialized homes

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor



NEW HOMES. Socialized housing units in Barangay Calulut, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. The Pag-IBIG Fund on Thursday (Dec. 18, 2025) said it has partnered with construction firm Megawide Construction Corp. to accelerate the delivery of 7,143 socialized housing units under the government's Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program. (Photo courtesy of the City of San Fernando)

The Pag-IBIG Fund has partnered with construction firm Megawide Construction Corp. to fast-track the building of about 7,143 socialized housing units under the expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program (4PH). In a news release Thursday, Pag-IBIG Fund said medium-rise

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Cavite Honors Outstanding Public Servants at PRAISE Awards



TRECE MARTIRES CITY — The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) celebrated the dedication and excellence of its public servants at the 2025 PRAISE Awards on December 10, held at the New Provincial Government Center. Organized

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Bicam Approves P3.6B for LRT1 Cavite Station

By Giselle Ombay, GMA
Integrated News

The bicameral conference committee approved on Wednesday the Department of Transportation's (DOTr) request to realign P3.6 billion from its proposed 2026 budget to fund the common station of the LRT Line

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Cavite Strengthens Disaster Preparedness Across the Province



Trece Martires City, December 22, 2025 — The Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRRMC), together with local offices (LDRRMOs), recently held a series of meetings to reinforce province-wide disaster preparedness

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Cavite launches seminar to fight illegal recruitment and trafficking

Trece Martires City, Cavite — The Provincial Government of Cavite recently organized a seminar aimed at protecting jobseekers

- See Page 5

Cavite Strengthens MSME Programs Through Unified Development Plan

By R. Dones

Trece Martires City, December 4 — The Provincial Government of Cavite took a major step toward inclusive economic growth by bringing together key stakeholders to align micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) programs with the national MSME Development Plan 2025–2028.

The consultative meeting, titled “Forging Synergies for Inclusive Growth,” was organized by the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) at the New Provincial Government Center. A total of 48 participants from 32 agencies, including local government units, provincial offices, national agencies, and non-government organizations, joined the day-long event.

Myrachel P. Cuadra, Officer-in-Charge of OPCDO, highlighted that meaningful MSME growth is best achieved through inter-agency collaboration. Support messages came from Sheryll S. Loyola, Chairperson of the Provincial Government of Cavite Employees and Community Multi-purpose Cooperative, and Lilibeth R. Chavez, OIC Provincial



Bicam approves

Continued from Page 1

1 Cavite Extension and upgrade its automated fare collection system.

House Committee on Appropriations Chairperson Rep. Mikaela Angela Suansing said the funds would mainly come from reductions in the budgets of two foreign-assisted projects: the Metro Manila Subway Phase 1 and the North-South Commuter Railway System, each reduced by P1.8 billion. “We really don’t want to touch projects under foreign-assisted projects, but this realignment was requested by Transport Secretary Banoy Lopez himself,” Suansing explained.

Of the total, P2 billion will go to the LRT1 Cavite

Extension common station, P1.04 billion to improve the fare collection system, and P614.89 million for the operation and maintenance of the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

Sen. Sherwin Gatchalian emphasized that the construction of the common station has long been overdue and that Secretary Lopez aims to begin the project by 2026. He also highlighted that modernizing the fare system will ensure convenience for commuters, preventing a return to cash payments if funding is delayed. Suansing added that completing the common station is critical to connect MRT7 with MRT3 by early 2027.

Director of DTI Cavite, who both emphasized sustainable and inclusive MSME development. The meeting included a presentation of the national MSMED Plan 2025–2028 by Susan Mae Salonga, Assistant Director of the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development–DTI, followed by discussions on how to translate national strategies into local initiatives. Stakeholders also reviewed existing

programs and identified opportunities for alignment and convergence. The event concluded with action planning and a Pledge of Support, underscoring the shared commitment to a coordinated, future-ready MSME development agenda in Cavite. Organizers said the initiative marks a key step toward ensuring that economic growth across the province is inclusive and collaborative.

Cavite honors outstanding public

Continued from Page 1

by the Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer and the PRAISE Committee, the event recognized exemplary contributions to public service. Ten organizations received the Best Organization

recognition, while 68 employees were honored for their outstanding service. Additionally, nine posthumous awardees were celebrated for their lasting legacy in the provincial government.

Atty. Judith A.

Dongallo-Chicano, Assistant Commissioner for Professionalization and Cooperation of the Civil Service Commission, shared insights on the importance of government service during the ceremony. Board Member

Morit Sison, Chair of the Committee on Personnel Affairs, and Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert Gandia also extended their congratulations to the awardees.

The event highlighted Cavite’s continued commitment to delivering public service with integrity, compassion, and professionalism.

Pag-IBIG Fund, Megawide partner to

Continued from Page 1

residential projects -- priced below prevailing market rates for comparable units -- would be developed, placing them within the socialized housing range while offering amenities typically found in higher-priced developments.

The units are expected to be completed within two to three years. The partnership covers two initial project sites in Dasmariñas, Cavite, comprising 4,185 housing units in the Dasmariñas-Salitrán site and 2,958 units in the Dasmariñas-Paliparan site.

The developments are expected to support the national government’s push to scale up socialized housing through increased private sector participation and faster project delivery.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the partnership is designed to expand the supply of socialized housing while enabling faster construction and more accessible pricing for Filipino families.

“By strengthening partnerships that increase housing supply, we help create more opportunities for Filipino workers and their families to move closer to homeownership. We hope this will further stimulate private sector participation in building affordable homes,” he added.

Under the partnership, Pag-IBIG Fund will invest up to PHP10 billion through a subscription to preferred shares in the project company.

The investment will be released in three tranches:

PHP5 billion for the first tranche and PHP2.5 billion each for the second and third tranches.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta said the investment advances the agency’s mandate of expanding homeownership opportunities while ensuring prudent management of members’ savings.

“By supporting the development of thousands of housing units while securing investment returns, we strengthen Pag-IBIG Fund’s capacity to serve more members, grow their savings, and promote homeownership,” she added. (PNA)

Mercado-Revilla pushes for Estate Tax

Continued from Page 1

relief from unresolved estate issues while addressing long-standing structural challenges in the system. Under House Bill No. 6614, an amendment to the Tax Amnesty Act, heirs of decedents who died on or before December 31, 2024, would have more time to settle estate taxes without facing surcharges, interest, or penalties.

“This is about correcting a long-standing structural problem. Many families want to pay and settle their papers, but they can no longer bear the weight of the penalties and the process,” Mercado-Revilla said. She explained that unpaid estate taxes often block families from transferring land titles, using property as collateral,

or fully benefiting from inherited assets.

The lawmaker also noted that pandemic disruptions, delayed government processing, and incomplete documentation have prevented many heirs from availing previous amnesty programs. “Unknown to many, countless Filipino families struggle to update

their estates because of steep penalties and burdensome documentary requirements,” she added.

Mercado-Revilla stressed that extending the amnesty will encourage voluntary compliance, unlock idle properties, and strengthen land ownership security, particularly in provinces where informal land ownership is common. HB No. 6614 passed the House with 280 votes in favor on December 16 and is now awaiting Senate action.

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**MICHAEL ANTHONY MACAM
MAITIM,**
Petitioner,

-versus-

**ALMA MARANTAL MARFIL
MAITIM,**
Respondent.

X-----X

ORDER

Acting on the Petitioner’s Motion with Leave of Court to Allow Service of Summons by Publication, dated November 14, 2025, the Court **GRANTS** the same on the following grounds:

- Based on the Sheriff’s Return, the summons upon the respondent was returned unserved because the respondent is not a resident of the given address; and
- Section 16, Rule 14 of the Rules of Court and Section 6 of A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC provide for such service of summons by publication.

WHEREFORE, the Clerk of Court is directed to issue the corresponding summons in this case. Let this Order and the summons together with the Petition be published once a week, for two consecutive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines, as may be chosen by raffle. The respondent is given a period of thirty (30) days from the last issue of publication within which to register her Answer to the Petition.

SO ORDERED.
Imus City, Cavite, November 18, 2025.

(Originally Signed)
ADELIZA H. MAGNO-GINGOYON
Presiding Judge

Copy furnished:
1. AsCP RHINA MAY L. SAYAROT-ELICANO
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2. OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City email: efile@osg.gov.ph

3. ATTY. RAMIL S. SASI
VSP Law Office
105 Avenida Street, Bahayang Pag-Asa Subdivision,
Phase 3, Brgy. Espeleta 2, Imus City, Cavite

4. MICHAEL ANTHONY MACAM MAITIM
Blk. 45 Lot 3, Madrid St., Hacienda La Joya Subd.,
Buhay na Tubig, Imus City, Cavite

X-----X

PETITION

COMES NOW, Petitioner, by the undersigned counsel and unto this Honorable Court most respectfully alleges that:

PREFATORY STATEMENT

“Unjustified absence from the marital home for decades may be considered as part of the totality of evidence that a person is psychologically incapacitated to comply with the essential obligations of marriage. - LEONEN, SAJ.

“The husband “must not be forced to stay in a loveless marriage, and his marriage to (his wife) must voided.”

- The Petitioner, **MICHAEL ANTHONY MACAM MAITIM**, is of legal age, Filipino, married, with residence address located at **Block 45 Lot 3 Madrid St., Hacienda La Joya Subd., Brgy. Buhay na Tubig, Imus City, Cavite**, where he may be served with summons and other legal processes of this Honorable Court.
- The Respondent, **ALMA MARANTAL MARFIL**, is of legal age, Filipino, married, with residence at **# 78 Balubad St., Nangka, Marikina City** where she may be served with summons and other legal processes relative to this instant case.
- Sometime in the year 2000, herein Petitioner and Respondent came to know each other in their workplace, Merriam Webster Bookstore Araneta Center Cubao, Quezon City. Respondent was one of the staff in said company and petitioner was likewise one of the employees. It is where the dating relationship started and the formal serious relationship thereafter arose.
- Respondent introduced him to her family members and in fact went to their place in Albay. It was also at that time that a problem occurred in the respondent’s family that it led for the mother of the latter to beg for petitioner to take with him the respondent right away, a behavior which the petitioner until now finds so odd and unusual. Thus, it forced petitioner to look for a place near their workplace considering that he was just renting a place to stay for himself.
- Eventually they found a small apartment to rent in Angono, Rizal. It also led for respondent to find another work in Shangrila Plaza, Edsa Mandaluyong City. Other odd behavior exhibited by respondent came to fore afterwards.
- During those times, petitioner noticed that the respondent was being drop off by her male boss or manager who has a car

from work and where the former was waiting for her. Their stay in said place did not last long considering its relatively higher rental fees and expenses. So, it led them to transfer from one place to another and there was a time that they even stayed in one of the siblings of the petitioner.

7. Owing to the pressure coming from the petitioner’s aunt, that they did not like the idea that they were living under the same roof without the benefit of a marriage, they decided to hurriedly plan to get married. Thus, they finally had their **civil wedding in Imus, Cavite on June 28, 2001**. A copy of their Certificate of Marriage issued by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is herein attached and marked a **ANNEX "A"** and the copy issued by the Local Civil Registry (LCR) is herein marked as **ANNEX "B"**.

8. After the wedding the couple opted to stay in the house of the herein petitioner. Respondent decided to take TESDA courses for her to work in beauty salons. It led for respondent to eventually work in a Salon owned by petitioner’s aunt.

9. The couple attempted in vain to bear a child but it proved futile. The petitioner noticed also that the respondent looked lonely and sad. Thereafter, respondent revealed the shocking truth that according to her, she was not actually inclined to marry petitioner and that it was just by reason of her mother and petitioner’s aunt that she was pressured to enter into the marriage. The revelation severely affected the petitioner.

10. The relationship further became more problematic and soured after the petitioner became a full pledged seafarer in 2003. They became both "cold" with each other. So that in the year 2005 they began their de facto separation and also broke their communications altogether. The respondent returned home to her parents' house in Marikina City whereas complainant remained in Imus, Cavite. In other words, it has been almost twenty (20) years now that the couple has been in this state of a de facto separation. Respondent and complainant, in effect, pursued their own lives since then without them even attempting to showed signs if reconciliation.

On the Psychological Incapacity

11. The respondent’s responsibility as the petitioner’ wife is to be the latter’s strength and shoulder to lean on whenever there were major decisions and things to be dealt with, but the respondent did not show keen interest in any of those but only on things/matters intended for herself alone. Respondent has shown an undeniable pattern of such persistent failure to be a present, loving, faithful, respectful, and supporting spouse.

12. Respondent’s lack of love, intimacy and support for petitioner and his endeavors affected their communication, time spent together, as well as their intimacy. They never even lived together as husband wife in the truest sense.

13. It can be said therefore that the herein parties’ acts, and omissions indicate that they BOTH failed to provide each other with love, companionship, respect, mutual help, support and care as commanded by law in order to have a successful married life.

14. The parties’ inability to discharge the essential obligations of marriage is grave and incurable, as the acts of constituting the same are habitual, persistent, unchanging and of enduring nature.

15. The failure and/or inability of the parties to perform the essential marital obligations as shown in the foregoing paragraphs most certainly render the marriage between the parties null and void on the ground of their psychological incapacity under the provisions of **Article 36** of the Family Code.

16. In a fairly recent case, the Court pronounced that *“psychological incapacity is not a medical but a legal concept. It refers to a personal condition that prevents a spouse to comply with fundamental marital obligations only in relation to a specific partner that may exist at the time of the marriage but may have revealed through behavior subsequent to the ceremonies. It need not be a mental or personality disorder. It need not be a permanent and incurable condition.”* (Italics supplied).

17. To sum up the married life of the parties, the same was a life full of pain, agony, stress, anguish, depression, misery, and psychological torture on the part of the petitioner or perhaps to the respondent as well. The acts and omissions and deliberate refusal of respondent to love and respect him as a husband, and her utter insensitivity and complete abandonment of her basic and essential marital obligations towards petitioner squarely fall within the purview of Psychological Incapacity under Article 36 of the Family Code.

The Psychological Evaluation Report

18. In order for the herein petitioner to assess the status of his marriage with the respondent he secured the services of Dra. SHEILA MARIE P. ORALLO, an expert on the matter, so that as per the results of the evaluation dated September 05, 2024, the following conclusions/recommendations were made:

With due consideration to the above findings, and since reconciliation would only cause mental and emotional distress on the Parties, it is then recommended that the marriage between the Petitioner and the Respondent be declared null and void on the account of the Parties' psychological incapacity pursuant to Article 36 of the Family Code that is grave, severe, permanent and incurable, as well as deeply ingrained in their personality structures. (Emphasis added)

19. Reconciliation between the petitioner and respondent is no longer possible due to acts and omissions of the latter or maybe both of the herein parties considering that they were already in a de facto separation for more than twenty (20) years already.

20. So now, to deliver petitioner from the ordeal of a marriage that had brought him nothing but pain and grief and to free from the eternal embarrassment and inequity of being bound by marriage to an absentee wife, Petitioner is now constrained to seek this ultimate recourse of declaring his marriage a NULLITY.

21. That petitioner, in compliance with the jurisdictional requirements pursuant to **A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC (2003)**, hereby submits the following, which likewise form as integral parts of this Petition:

- Sworn Certification of residency (with house location sketch) issued by the Office of the Punong Barangay (Annex "E");**
- Sworn statement of counsel of record (that he has personally verified petitioner's residency and that the petitioner had been residing thereat for at least six (6) months prior to the filing of petition) (Annex "F");**
- Proof of Billing under the Petitioner's name (Annex "G")**

22. The following are the names of the **intended witness/es** and **summary** of their testimonies:

- MICHAEL ANTHONY M. MAITIM**
- To prove the material allegations in the Petition and identify the existence of the documentary evidence/exhibits.
- To prove and show that petitioner is entitled to such reliefs as prayed for.
- REBECCA CALAUNAN** - to corroborate the material allegations of the Petitioner and to identify certain documentary evidence if needed.
- The Expert witness, **Dra. DR. SHEILA MARIE O. ORALLO** - to testify on the conducted **Psychological Evaluation**, and for her to identify the related documentary exhibits.

23. Whereas the list of documentary exhibits/ evidence is the same as marked in the foregoing paragraphs (i.e., **Exhibits "A" - "H"**).

Copies of the documentary evidence and **Judicial Affidavit/s/ Sinumpaang Salaysay** of the aforementioned witness/es are attached and made as integral parts hereof, the latter herein marked as **Annex "I" and series**, if deemed necessary.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, in view of the foregoing, Petitioner prays that after due notice and hearing, it is respectfully prayed that the Honorable Court render judgment as follows:

- Declaring the marriage between the petitioner and respondent null and void ab initio under the provisions of **Article 36** of the Family Code of the Philippines. The foregoing is without prejudice to the application of Articles 50 and 51 of the Family Code, if applicable under the premises.
- Directing the **Civil Registrar of City of Imus, Cavite** to record or annotate in the appropriate official registry thereof, the judgment of the Honorable Court declaring the marriage of the Petitioner and Respondent as null and void.
- Adjudicating all other legal effects of the decree of nullity of marriage.
Petitioner prays for such other relief just and equitable in the premises.
City of Imus, Cavite, May 20, 2025.

**VSP LAW OFFICE
Counsel for the Petitioner**

*105 Avenida Street Bahayang Pag-Asa Subdivision
Ph. 3, Brgy. Espeleta 2, City of Imus, Cavite 4103*

By:
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ALMA MARANTAL MARFIL
#78 Balubad St., Nangka,
Marikina City

Republic of the Philippines)
Province of Cavite) SS

**VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION
FOR NON-FORUM SHOPPING**

- I am the Petitioner in the above-captioned case.
- I have caused the preparation and filing of the foregoing Petition.
- I have read and understood the contents thereof; attest of my personal knowledge; and on the basis of authentic records available to me; that all the allegations of fact in this Petition are true and correct.
- The Petition is not filed to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation and the factual allegations therein have evidentiary support, or if specifically, so identified will likewise have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.
- To the best of our knowledge, no such action or proceeding is pending in any Court, or any other tribunal or agency.
- If there is any other action or proceeding that is either pending or may have been terminated, we shall state the status thereof; and if we should thereafter learn that a similar action or proceeding has been filed or is pending before the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals, the divisions thereof or any other tribunal or agency, we undertake to report that fact within five (5) days therefore.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby affix my signature below this 20th May 2024 at_____.

(Originally Signed)
MICHAEL ANTHONY M. MAITIM
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before this 20 May 2024, at Province of Cavite

NOTARY PUBLIC

(Originally Signed)
ATTY. JOSE MARI V. CAS
Notary Public
Notarial Commission No. 092-22

Until December 31, 2024
Attorneys Roll No. 72835
PTR No. 3975831/01-03-2025/City of Dasmariñas
IBP No. 388504/01-02-2024/Cavite Chapter
MCLE Compliance No. VII-0028019
Valid until April 14, 2025

Doc No. 175;
Page No. 95;
Book No. IX;
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X-----X
SUMMONS

NOW THEREFORE, respondent **ALMA MARANTAL MARFIL MAITIM** is hereby summoned pursuant to Section 6 of A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC, and required to file with Branch 4, Family Court, Imus City, Cavite his answer to the Petition within thirty (30) days from the date of last publications of this Summons furnishing a copy thereof upon petitioner's counsel, **VSP LAW OFFICE, 105 Avenida Street Bahayang Pag-Asa Subdivision Ph. 3, Brgy. Espeleta 2, City of Imus, Cavite 4103.**

No motion to dismiss the petition shall be allowed except on the ground of lack of jurisdiction over the subject matter or over the parties, provided however, that any other ground that might warrant a dismissal of the case may be raised as an affirmative defense in an Answer (Sec. 7, A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC). If you fail to file an answer, the Court shall not declare you in default and shall order the public prosecutor to investigate whether collusion exists between the parties (Sec. 8, A.M. No. 02-11-10-SC).

WITNESS THE HON. **ADELIZA H. MAGNO-GINGOYON**, Presiding Judge of this Court, this **28th** day of **November 2025**, in Imus City, Cavite.

ATTY. DENN REED B. TUVERA, JR.
Branch Clerk of Court

Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite
December 21 and 28, 2025

OPPESM Honors Employment Partners in Cavite Forum

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite — The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) celebrated its key employment partners during the 2025 Provincial Stakeholders' Forum on December 15 at the New Provincial Government Center. Led by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, OPPESM gathered industry leaders, recruitment specialists, local government units, national agencies, and employment partners for a day of recognition and collaboration. The forum highlighted efforts to expand job opportunities and promote meaningful employment for Caviteños under the theme "Collaborative Engagement: 2025 Provincial Stakeholders' Forum Towards Increased



Employment Opportunities for a Progressive and Sustainable Tomorrow." Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert Gandia shared the provincial government's gratitude on behalf of Governor Abeng Remulla, emphasizing the value of

long-term partnerships in creating jobs. SK Provincial Federation President Chelsea Jillian Sarno also participated, particularly in programs focused on youth employment. Imus City Provincial Administrator Lauro Monzon, speaking for Mayor Alex Advincula, stressed that employment generation requires cooperation among government, the private sector, and the community. The City Government of Imus was recognized as LGU Champion for Employment Facilitation for its strong commitment. Ms. Anne Marie Faye Gloria from the Department of Labor and Employment

(DOLE) – Cavite Field Office highlighted key programs, including the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) and JOBSTART, and encouraged continued partnership in their implementation. The forum's highlight was the awarding of certificates and tokens to OPPESM partners in recognition of their dedication to connecting jobseekers with local and overseas opportunities. The event ended with networking and fellowship sessions, allowing stakeholders to strengthen ties and explore collaborative strategies for sustainable employment growth in Cavite.

Bacoor Launches Strike TV to Keep Citizens Informed

BACOR CITY – The City Government of Bacoor, led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, officially launched "Strike TV" on Friday, aiming to improve access to information and strengthen community engagement. The initiative, led by the City Information and Community Relations Office (CICRD) under Kristine Evangelista, will provide residents with updates on city programs, projects, and public services in real time. Speaking at the launch, Mayor Revilla highlighted the importance of transparent communication between the local government and its citizens. "Strike TV will serve as a bridge connecting the city to every Bacooreño," he said. The channel will feature news updates, interviews, public service announcements, and coverage of community events, creating a space for dialogue



and active participation. With this move, Bacoor continues to reinforce its commitment to keeping residents informed and involved in local governance.

Cavite launches seminar to fight

Continued from Page 1

and Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from illegal recruitment and human trafficking. Held on December 1 at the New Provincial Government Center, the "Cavite Protecting Lives and Rights" seminar was led by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service

Manager in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW). Resource speakers from the DMW Regional Office, including Labor and Employment Officers Maria Corazon C. Foncardas and Patricia C. Sison,

educated participants on topics such as illegal recruitment, trafficking in persons, related laws, common scams, and the "5 Paalala" tips to avoid becoming a victim. In the afternoon session, Lovelyn Costa-Giron De Lara of the Provincial Social Welfare Development Office

highlighted programs supporting OFWs, including orientations, welfare assistance, and reintegration initiatives for returning workers and their families. The seminar underscores Cavite's ongoing commitment to safeguard the rights, welfare, and dignity of workers through education, awareness, and stronger protection against exploitation.

Cavite strengthens disaster preparedness

Continued from Page 1

and coordination. The gatherings took place on December 1 and 11 at the New Provincial Government Center. The December 1 meeting focused on updates from key agencies. PAGASA shared the latest weather forecasts, while PHIVOLCS provided volcanic activity reports. Health readiness and disease surveillance were

discussed by the Provincial Health Office, and DOST-Cavite highlighted science-based interventions. DILG-Cavite, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office, and Cavite State University also presented updates on disaster response, social welfare assistance, and research-based preparedness strategies. The meeting was supported by Board

Member Alde Pagulayan. Following this, the 4th Quarter 2025 LDRRMOs Meeting on December 11 emphasized operational readiness. Participants reviewed policies, updated hazard outlooks, Yuletide season preparedness, and emergency response plans. Both meetings highlighted the importance of timely information-sharing, strong inter-

agency coordination, and continuous preparedness planning to protect communities, especially during high-risk periods. Cavite remains committed to proactive disaster governance, building local capacities, and safeguarding vulnerable populations, including internally displaced persons, through coordinated and science-based efforts.

Bacoor Honors Dedication of Barangay Tanods



BACOR CITY, December 16, 2025 – The City Government of Bacoor, led by Mayor Strike B. Revilla and Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, celebrated "Tanod Day 2025" at the STRIKE Gymnasium, recognizing the dedication and service of the city's Barangay Tanods. The event, organized by the Liga ng Barangay under President BM Rafael Paterno III in partnership with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), drew city officials and barangay leaders to honor these community protectors. During the celebration, cash incentives were awarded to Barangay Tanods from all 47 barangays of Bacoor as a token of appreciation for their role in maintaining peace and order. The event was also attended by LNB Vice President Randy Francisco, Councilor Noly Galvez, Councilor Karen Sarino Evaristo, and Lawrence San Jose, head of the Bacoor Public Safety and Law Enforcement Department. The ceremony highlighted the importance of Barangay Tanods in ensuring the safety and welfare of local communities, with barangay captains, officials, and staff showing support for their frontliners. Mayor Revilla praised the Tanods for their unwavering commitment, emphasizing that their service is vital to the city's progress and harmony.

Cavite LGUs Honored for Peace and Security Efforts

GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE — The Cavite Provincial Peace and Order Council (CPPOC), Provincial Anti-Drug Abuse Council (PADAC), and Provincial Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (PTF-ELCAC) held their 4th quarter joint meeting on December 17 at The Bayleaf Hotel, highlighting the province’s unified approach to peace, security, and community safety.

Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla formally opened the session and led the signing of the PTF-ELCAC pledge of recommitment to sustain Cavite’s internal peace and security alongside council members. During the event, the Provincial Government recognized outstanding local government units (LGUs) and barangay personnel for their exemplary efforts in barangay justice, peacekeeping, and anti-drug programs. Among the Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Award (LTIA) winners were Barangay Castaños Cerca of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Barangay



San Agustin of Magallanes, Barangay Talipusngo, Barangay Mahabang Kahoy Lejos of Indang, and Barangay Maharlika of Imus City.

Barangay Maharlika also received the 2025 Trailblazers for Outstanding Performance of Barangay Tanods (TOP Barangay Tanod) award, with Tanod Joey Garba recognized individually for his community service.

The councils also noted the 2024 Peace and Order Council (POC) and Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Audit, which

highlighted all 23 LGUs’ efforts in strengthening local governance against crime and illegal drugs.

Following the awarding ceremonies, members approved joint resolutions covering council membership, meeting schedules, peace and development initiatives, and budget allocations under the Peace and Order and Public Safety Plan.

Major General Ronald Jess Alcudia, Commander of the Philippine Army Reserve Command, urged stakeholders to remain vigilant and coordinated.

DILG-Cavite OIC Provincial Director Marcial Juangco emphasized sustaining peace and creating drug-free communities, while Lieutenant Colonel Rommel S. Panganiban of Task Force Ugnay presented updates on Cavite’s Internal Peace and Security Plan.

The meeting reinforced the Provincial Government of Cavite’s commitment to a collaborative, whole-of-government strategy in promoting peace, countering illegal drugs, and ensuring community safety.

Historic Pulpit Collapses in Maragondon Church



MARAGONDON — A 300-year-old pulpit at the Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion in Maragondon collapsed recently, shocking parishioners and heritage advocates alike. The pulpit, considered a significant cultural and religious artifact, had been a centerpiece of the centuries-old church.

According to church authorities, an investigation conducted in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) revealed that the collapse was caused by an internal structural failure in the Tornavoz, or sound bar support, which had weakened over time. Despite its age and historical importance, the pulpit had been regularly maintained, but the failure was sudden and unexpected.

Local government units and church agencies quickly mobilized to assess the damage. The Maragondon Tourism Office, NCCA, and the Diocese of Imus have been working together to ensure that the historic structure can be restored and conserved properly. Officials emphasized that their goal is to return the pulpit to its original condition while preserving its historical integrity.

The pulpit, which had stood as a symbol of Maragondon’s rich heritage for centuries, played a key role in the church’s religious services and local celebrations. Many residents have expressed concern over the incident but remain hopeful that restoration efforts will be successful.

Church officials also appealed to the public to keep the pulpit in their prayers, hoping for a swift return of this treasured piece of history to its former glory. Source: Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de la Asuncion de Maragondon (FB)

Holiday Toll Relief Confirmed on Major Expressways

By Billy Caluag



Motorists can expect a smoother ride this holiday season as Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) announces toll-free hours on key expressways, including the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and Manila-Cavite Expressway (Cavitex). The toll relief will be available during the following periods: from 10 p.m. on December 24 to 6 a.m. on December 25, and from 10 p.m. on December 31 to 6 a.m. on January 1, 2026. This waiver also applies to the NLEX Connector. To ensure a safer and more convenient journey, MPTC will suspend roadwork and lane closures from 6 a.m. on December 19 until noon on January 5, 2026. Extra toll personnel, emergency response teams, and traffic support staff will also be on standby. MPTC encourages drivers to join the “One RFID, All Tollways” program to consolidate their RFID accounts for easier management. Additionally, the MPTDriveHub app allows users to top up their Easytrip RFID accounts, access roadside assistance, and receive real-time traffic updates. With these measures in place, holiday travelers on major expressways can enjoy less stress and faster trips during the festive season.

PhilHealth Backs Nationwide Vision Screening in Pasig

By GISELLE OMBAY, GMA Integrated News



PhilHealth President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado joined the national launch of the Vision Screening Program on December 17, 2025, held at Rosario Elementary School. With the theme “Mata at Kalusugan, Gabay sa Karunungan,” the program aims to screen the eyesight of young students to ensure their learning is not hindered by undetected vision problems.

PhilHealth’s participation highlights its commitment to expanding Universal Health Care coverage to Filipino children. Early detection of eye conditions is crucial in preventing permanent vision loss and supporting better academic performance.

Through this initiative, students gain easier access to medical services and PhilHealth benefits, helping families address essential health needs. By ensuring clear vision, the program hopes to secure a brighter future for the next generation.