

# New Digital Training Hub Rises in Silang, Cavite

Silang, Cavite — March 23, 2025 — In a significant milestone for educational advancement and digital empowerment, the Sisters of Mary School celebrated the topping-off ceremony for its upcoming Digital Transformation Center on Sunday, March 23. The event marked the completion of the structural framework of the new facility, officially known as the Felicidad Sy Hall – Digital Transformation Center. >> P2



**Laguna, Cavite Get Power Boost from New Meralco Substation**  
By Gabriell Christel Galang  
To address rising power demand in Laguna and neighboring areas, Manuel V. Pangilinan-led Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) has energized Mesaland substation in Santa Rosa City.  
In a statement, Meralco said it began operating the 115-kilovolt (kV)-34.5-kV substation in Hacienda Sta. Elena, which is set to boost power quality and system reliability in nearby areas with growing electricity >> P2

## Cavite Farmers Boost Leadership, Livelihood Skills



In a joint effort to enhance leadership and entrepreneurial skills among farmers, the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) successfully conducted a Community Capability Development Seminar themed “Empowering Leaders: Strengthening Leadership >> P2

## New National Roads Named in 4 Provinces — DPWH

Story by GMA Integrated News  
The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has declared new national roads in the provinces of Zambales, Cavite, and Batangas in Luzon, and Cotabato in Mindanao.  
In a post on X (formerly Twitter), the DPWH said Saturday the new national roads would “pav[e] the way for improved connectivity and promote economic growth.”  
The newly declared national roads are:  
Zambales  
• Subic Bypass Road (7 kilometers)  
• Rizal Avenue (523 meters)  
Under the jurisdiction of Zambales 2nd District >> P2

**LRT-1 Fare Hike to Fund Upgrades, Extension — DOTr**  
A Light Rail Transit Line1 (LRT-1) train at the Redemptorist station in Parañaque City (PNA file photo)  
The Department of Transportation (DOTr) on Tuesday said the scheduled fare hike for the Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1) is necessary to implement necessary upgrades and the extension of the line to Cavite. “While the DOTr respects the decision of those who want to file an appeal >> P3

## Inclusive leadership bridges gap for women

By Patricia Bermudez  
Gender-responsive budgeting practices have paved the way for more inclusive programs and services in the City of General Trias, Cavite.  
Ann Ferrer, head of the General Trias City Women’s Development Council and founding chairperson of the Cavite Council of Women, highlighted the role of local government units in creating programs to address women’s issues such as health services and economic opportunities.  
“It became my priority to focus on women’s [welfare] because, as a woman and a wife, I am >> P2





## Inclusive leadership bridges << P1

aware of their concerns. Part of our advocacy in working on behalf of our spouses is helping our kababayans and forwarding their concerns to the local government,” Ferrer shared.

According to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), empowering women and girls to participate in policymaking and decision-making provides an avenue for women’s groups and civil society actors to participate in governance and perform gender-responsive budgeting and monitoring the outcomes of such budgets.

Since its establishment in 2011, the Cavite Council of Women has become a platform for women to deliver gender-responsive government programs, ranging from livelihood training to health caravans.

Its primary goal is to provide health services for

women in the province’s eight cities and 16 municipalities, providing their expertise in advising local government units in utilizing their funds for creating gender-responsive programs and services.

The Cavite Council of Women also launched the Buntis Congress in General Trias City, which provides health check-ups to expectant mothers with no financial capacity to seek pre-natal consultations.

“Most of them are young girls who are not yet ready to become mothers. So we give them seminars and free health services, like ultrasound and free medicines and vitamins for the mommies.”

Through the Council, Caviteño women are lobbying for the provincial government to allocate funds for gender-responsive livelihood programs.

The Women’s Budget, a Gender and Development (GAD) policy introduced

through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) in 1995, aimed to support gender-focused programs and projects by directing government agencies and local government units to allocate a minimum of five percent (5%) of its annual budget for GAD programs, projects, and activities.

“We get our allocation as part of the Gender and Development [fund]. Not all five percent, but we are included. When our proposed projects which are part of the Programs, Projects, and Activities under the GAD fund are approved by the city government, we can create more programs for women.”

A homemaker herself, Ferrer understood women’s dedication to becoming nurturing mothers and wives for their families.

“We do so much that we neglect ourselves. We come last in our own priorities that we neglect ourselves because we want to provide everything to our family, to our husband. Those are our priorities as women.”

As the basic unit of governance, the Women’s Development Council mobilized the barangays to extend their services to the grassroots communities by designating coordinators for each barangay to represent their communities in meetings and discussions on the city’s much-needed GAD programs.

“We also conduct monthly meetings to discuss the projects we can share with our neighbors [cities and municipalities] that they can replicate. Those that brought positive changes in their municipalities can be replicated in other areas.”

Local government units are instrumental in providing women with access to economic opportunities, regardless if they are careerwomen or homemakers. With ample legislation and support from civil society groups, women can make their voices heard, opening doors to opportunities and services they need. (PB/RBF/PIA4A)

## Cavite Farmers boost << P1

Skills for Key Officers of Farmers’ Association in Cavite”, held at the OCPDO training area on March 26, 2025.

As part of the provincial government’s commitment to fostering livelihood and entrepreneurial growth, the seminar brought together 30 presidents and officers of Farmers’ Association Federations from various cities and municipalities in Cavite.

OPCDO Officer-In-Charge Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero and OPA Officer-In-Charge Engr. Anna Pamela Nova warmly welcomed the participants, reaffirming the provincial government’s unwavering support for the agricultural sector.

Ms. Sheryll H. Loyola, Livelihood Division Head of OPCDO, underscored the crucial role of strong and visionary leadership in driving the success of farmer organizations. She emphasized that by enhancing their leadership abilities, farmer leaders can inspire their communities, promote innovation, and create sustainable opportunities for agricultural growth.

Through lectures, workshops, and experience-sharing sessions, the participants gained valuable insights on leadership, personality development, and business strategies to enhance their organizational leadership skills.—R. Tanael

## Laguna, Cavite get power boost << P1

demand, namely Santa Rosa and Cabuyao City in Laguna, and Silang and Tagaytay City in Cavite. The project includes an 83-megavolt ampere (MVA) power transformer, which would complement four distribution feeders, each with a capacity of 34.5 kV.

The substation has two 115-kV sub-transmission feeds connecting into the existing Sta. Rosa 2-Light Industry and Science Park 115-kV line, which would provide an N-1 contingency, wherein the power system can withstand potential issues from a single component without causing any power fluctuations or disruptions.

According to Meralco, residents, as well as academic and health institutions in Laguna and Cavite are anticipated to benefit from this substation.

The project will further help meet power demand in Treveia, Adventist University of the Philippines, Medical City South Luzon, Zadia Towers, Hacienda Sta. Elena, Sonoma Residences, Abrio, Santierra, Lumira,

and Venare. Commercial and industrial industries will also benefit, including establishments like Landers Superstore, S&R, Ayala Malls Solenad, Robinsons Nuvali, The Landmark Supermarket, Seda Hotel, Concentrix, Asurion, AllHome Sta. Rosa, Vista Mall Sta. Rosa, Paseo de Sta. Rosa, and Promenade Sta. Rosa.

Froilan J. Savet, Meralco’s first vice president and head of networks, believes that this new substation is the company’s testament to enhancing services in its operational areas.

“The newly energized Mesaland substation underscores Meralco’s unwavering commitment to quality and continuous service improvement, meeting the growing power demands of commercial, industrial, and residential customers in Santa Rosa and nearby areas,” he said.

“As part of its dedication to supporting economic growth, Meralco will continue to invest in the expansion and enhancement of its distribution network, ensuring a reliable and efficient power supply for the communities it serves.”

## New National Roads << P1

Engineering Office in Region 3 (Central Luzon)

Cavite

- Imus-Bacoor Link Road (4.16 kilometers)

Under the jurisdiction of Cavite 3rd District Engineering Office, Region 4-A (Calabarzon)

Batangas

- Batangas City-San Pascual-Bauan Diversion Road (8.9 kilometers)
- Star Tollway-Pinamucan Bypass Road (4.76 kilometers)

Under the jurisdiction of Batangas 2nd District Engineering Office, Region 4-A (Calabarzon)

- Midsayap Diversion Road (7.76 kilometers)

Under the jurisdiction of Cotabato 1st District Engineering Office, Region 12 (Soccsksargen)

Managed by the DPWH, national roads connect cities to key infrastructure, such as airports and seaports. — VDV, GMA Integrated News

## New Digital Training Hub << P1

The ceremony was attended by representatives from partner organizations, faculty members, students, and local stakeholders, all gathered to witness a symbolic phase in the construction of the building. The topping-off is a traditional practice in construction, signifying that a project has reached its maximum height and structural form—a key step before moving on to interior works and finishing touches.

This ambitious project is the result of a collaboration between the Felicidad T. Sy Foundation, Inc. (FTSFI), Fr. Al’s Children Foundation, Inc. (FACFI), and the Sisters of Mary School. Together, these organizations aim to provide transformative learning opportunities for underprivileged youth through access to modern education tools and facilities.

Once completed, the Digital Transformation Center will house a suite of cutting-edge resources and infrastructure designed to support Technical-

Vocational Education and Training (TVET). These include software training labs, digital resource centers, and customized workstations, all tailored to simulate real-world industry environments. The center is envisioned to serve as a dynamic learning hub where students can gain practical skills and digital literacy essential for thriving in today’s competitive and technology-driven workforce.

“The Digital Transformation Center is more than just a building—it’s a gateway to a better future,” said Imelda Elido, Executive Director of FTSFI, in her keynote address. “As we look up at this nearly completed structure, let us also look forward—to the many dreams that will be realized, the potential that will be unlocked, and the futures that will be built within these walls. This center is a testament to our collective belief in the power of education and the impact of investing in people’s futures.”

By aligning its curriculum and facilities with current industry standards, the center seeks to enhance the employability of graduates, opening pathways to digital and technology-oriented careers, entrepreneurial ventures, and self-sustaining livelihoods. The initiative is part of the school’s broader mission to uplift communities by empowering youth with the knowledge and tools they need to succeed.

The Digital Transformation Center is expected to begin operations later this year, ushering in a new era of educational innovation for the Sisters of Mary School and its community.

With continued support from its partners and stakeholders, the school hopes that the center will not only serve its students but also inspire other institutions to invest in transformative and inclusive education.

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EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF MARLON MAGLAYA SERRANO

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **MARLON MAGLAYA SERRANO** who died intestate and without any will on March 28, 2021 in Imus, Cavite consisting of one motor vehicle which is a Suzuki Entriga with Serial/Chassis No. MHYNC2288LJ110540, Motor/Engine No. K15BT093069, with color Radiant Pearl Red, and Plate No. NFW9868 which is also a collateral on a loan obligation with the Philippine Savings Bank (PSB) and upon payment of said debt obligation, do hereby adjudicate unto themselves EXTRA-JUDICIALLY the said property, by and among the SOLE HEIRS of said deceased as per Document No. 1211, Page No. 34, Book No. 111 Series of 2025 of Notary Public Atty. Mario R. Benitez dated March 18, 2025.

Southern Tagalog Herald Cavite

March 30, April 6 and 13, 2025

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# Bacoor City Partners with AJLTCI for Japanese Language Training



Bacoor City, March 31, 2025 - The City Government of Bacoor, through the City Livelihood and Development Department headed by Ms. Carmelita Gawaran, signed a Memorandum of Agreement ( MOA ) with Akogare Japanese Language Training Center Inc. (AJLTCI) today at the Strike Gymnasium. This partnership aims to provide Bacoor citizens with access to quality Japanese language training, opening doors to new opportunities in the global job market.

The MOA was signed by Mayor Strike B. Revilla and Ms. Chikie D. Garcia, President of AJLTCI, witnessed by Ms. Carmelita Gawaran and Ms. Maricris Ermino, Marketing Manager of AJLTCI. The signing ceremony was also attended by Sangguniang Panglungsod members led by Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola and Team Revilla.

This partnership signifies the City Government's commitment to investing in its citizens' development and providing them with the tools they need to succeed in a competitive global economy. By providing access to Japanese language training, the City Government aims to enhance the employability of Bacoor residents, particularly in industries with strong ties to Japan.

This initiative is a testament to the City Government's proactive approach to fostering economic growth and creating a skilled workforce that can thrive in a globalized world.

# PGC Offices Clash in Thrilling Mobile Legends Tournament



PGC SPORTSFEST 2025 - E-GAMES  
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The Mobile Legends tournament, organized by the Provincial Youth and Development Office (PYSDO), concluded with resounding success after four action-packed days of competition from March 7, 11, 13 to 14. A total of 23 teams from various PGC offices showcased their exceptional skills, teamwork, and strategic gameplay as they vied for the coveted trophy. The event highlighted the popularity of Mobile Legends as a premier eSports platform, while promoting unity and camaraderie among participants.

The tournament which was part of the ongoing Provincial Government of Cavite employees' sports fest provided PGC employees the opportunity to bond and demonstrate teamwork.

After the intense battles, four team emerged as winners. The champions of the tournament were the combined teams from the Office of the Provincial Treasurer and the Office of the Provincial Information Office. The first runner-up was the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, followed by the Office of the Provincial Engineer as the second runner-up. The third-place finishers were the team from the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. This event has paved the way for future eSports tournaments within the PGC. — F. Tamio



Contract signing at Global Care Medical Center

## PRO IV-A continues to contract Health Facilities for the Z Benefit Package

PRO IVA News Release No. 2025-04

PhilHealth is actively expanding the number of health facilities that offer the Z Benefit Package to ensure that at least one contracted provider is available for each covered condition, promoting equitable access to life-saving care nationwide.

Currently, PhilHealth has a total of 327 contracted facilities offering a wide range of Z Benefit packages nationwide. While in PRO IV-A, nine (9) hospitals are prepared to provide Z Benefit package treatments.

Thus, with the recent increase in the Z Benefit for breast cancer treatment to ₱1.4 million, more residents in the region can receive care locally, without the need to travel to Manila. This initiative aims to reduce the financial burden on patients by minimizing the need for long-distance travel to receive essential treatments.

The Z Benefit Package is designed to support patients with severe illnesses requiring long-term and costly medical treatments, such as various types of cancer, heart surgeries, and kidney diseases which would not only ease the financial burden but also make treatments more accessible to those who need them most.

These developments underscore PhilHealth's commitment to expanding healthcare access and reducing the financial burden of serious illnesses on Filipino families.

PRO IV-A continues to encourage more hospitals to become contracted providers, making these benefits more accessible to those in need. ### (JNC)

### For PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A, these are the Contracted Health Facilities for Z Benefit Package, as of February 28, 2025:

Name of Facility	Z Benefit Package Available
Global Care Medical Center of Bay Bay, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AcuteLymphocytic Leukemia</li><li>Breast Cancer</li><li>Cervical Cancer</li><li>Prostate Cancer</li><li>Colon Cancer</li><li>Rectum Cancer</li></ul>
Global Care Medical Center of Canlubang Calamba, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AcuteLymphocytic Leukemia</li><li>Breast Cancer</li><li>Cervical Cancer</li><li>Prostate Cancer</li><li>Colon Cancer</li><li>Rectum Cancer</li></ul>
Quezon Provincial Hospital Network-Quezon Medical Center Lucena, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>AcuteLymphocytic Leukemia</li><li>Peritoneal Dialysis</li></ul>
Calamba Medical Center Calamba City, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Breast Cancer</li><li>Cervical Cancer</li></ul>
De La Salle Medical & Health Sciences Institute Dasmariñas, Cavite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</li></ul>
The Medical City South Luzon Sta. Rosa, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</li></ul>
UPH-Dr. Jose G. Tamayo Medical Center Biñan, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Coronary Artery Bypass Graft</li></ul>
New Hope Peritoneal Dialysis Clinic Dasmariñas, Cavite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peritoneal Dialysis</li></ul>
Sta. Cruz Hemodialysis Center Corp. Sta. Cruz, Laguna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Peritoneal Dialysis</li></ul>



Calamba Medical Center



The Medical City South Luzon



Global Care Medical Hospital



Healthway Qualimed Hospital

Local Health Insurance Office Calamba conducted a Stakeholder Engagement Activity: Meeting and Site Acceptance Test with the officers in various facilities regarding the Z Benefit package.

# LRT-1 fare hike to fund << P1

against the fare adjustment in LRT-1, which will take effect starting on Wednesday, April 2, it believes that the fare adjustment is long overdue and is necessary to ensure the operational viability of the rail line and sustain its necessary upgrades for the benefit of the commuting public,” it said in a statement.

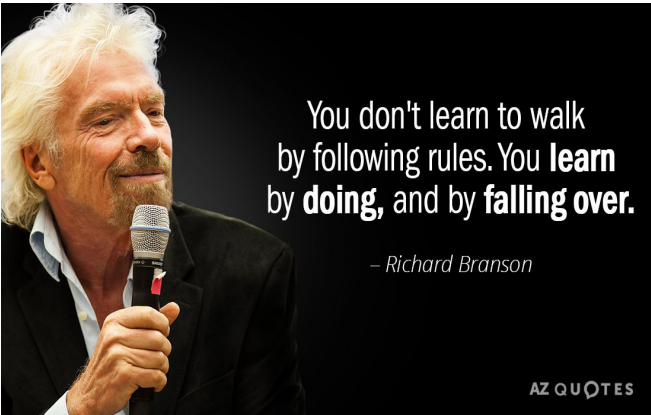
“This rate increase is needed to not only ensure smooth and timely maintenance of LRT-1 but also the extension of the line all the way to Cavite under the present PPP (public-private-partnership) contract,” it added.

The DOTr also pointed out that the rate increase, approved last January 30, 2025, is only the second rate increase since 2023.

The rate increase is also “much lower” than the proposed PHP20 peso fare hike originally submitted by the Light Rail Management Corporation.

Starting April 2, the maximum fare for a single

journey ticket in LRT-1 will increase from PHP45 to PHP55, while the minimum fare will rise from PHP15 to PHP20. Meanwhile, the maximum fare for a stored value card will go up from PHP43 to PHP52, while the minimum fare will increase from PHP15 to PHP16. (PNA)







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# Go holds Malasakit at Serbisyo campaign in Cavite

Sen. Bong Go and his team have brought his “Malasakit at Serbisyo” campaign to Dasmariñas in Cavite by conducting a motorcade with his fellow senatorial candidates with whom he shared advocacies.

On Monday morning, Go joined senatorial aspirant and television host Willie Revillame in the motorcade. In the afternoon, he was with Philip Salvador, former Senator Gringo Honasan and the team of Sen. Bato dela Rosa.

Go thanked residents for welcoming them and vowed to scale up programs aimed at uplifting services for the poor, especially in health, education and youth development.

Go spoke about issues within the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth), saying his series of Senate inquiries resulted in promised reforms and fulfillment of overdue health emergency allowances for qualified health care workers.

After several requests from Go, the PhilHealth committed to increasing case rates, expand benefit packages, especially for the top 10 mortality diseases, provide free medicine and assistive devices such as eyeglasses and wheelchairs, and inclusion of dental, visual, emergency and preventive care.

Go compelled the PhilHealth to accelerate other

reforms following the scrapping of the single period of confinement policy last month.

He also clarified the 24-hour confinement rule requiring patients to be hospitalized for at least a day to qualify for insurance coverage.

PhilHealth officials have addressed this by implementing expanded emergency care benefits.

Go is the principal author and sponsor of Republic Act 11463 or the Malasakit Centers Act of 2019, which institutionalized the Malasakit Centers program.

As of now, there are 167 Malasakit Centers that are operating in different hospi-



tals across the country. The center helps reduced patients hospital bills to the lowest

amount possible. The Department of Health reported that the Malasakit Center

program has provided assistance to more than 17 million Filipinos.

## Mayor Revilla, SM Prime Plan 3rd Bacoer Branch

Bacoer City, April 2, 2025 – Mayor Strike B. Revilla met with representatives from SM Prime Holdings Inc. and SM Development Corporation today at the Strike Conference Room to discuss plans for the construction of a third SM branch in Bacoer City.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Atty. Aimee Torrefranca-Neri (City Administrator), Mr. Gabriel Laurel and Mr. Carlo Alampay from SM Prime Holdings Inc., and Ms. Yasmin Lee and Ms. Sheila Ching from SM Development Corporation. The discussions focused on the proposed location and development plans for the new SM branch, which will be the third such establishment in Bacoer City. The meeting signifies the continued commitment of both the City Government and SM Prime Holdings to fostering economic growth and providing essential amenities for the residents of Bacoer. This collaboration is expected to bring further investment and development to the city, creating new job opportunities and enhancing the overall quality of life for Bacoer residents.



## Navarro, Gentry residents received free medical and dental service

A total of 303 individuals received free medical and dental services during a successful medical and dental mission spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite Medical Mission Team in Brgy. Navarro, City of General Trias on March 25, 2025.

Out of the total beneficiaries, 196 patients received free medical consultations, while 107 individuals received dental check-ups and tooth extractions. The event was made possible through the dedication of medical professionals from GEAMH thru the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, along with the support of the Cavite



Dental Chapter, ensuring quality for the community.

Additionally, the medical mission team distributed free prescribed medicine and multivitamins to the residents. Sixth District Board Member Morit Sison was present at the event, showing

his strong support for community health initiatives.

The collaborative effort highlights the provincial governments' commitment to providing accessible healthcare services to its residents, and fostering a healthier community. --- R. Tanael

## OPCDO Conducts Livelihood Training on Pastries

The Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer, led by Officer-in-Charge Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, conducted another session of "Livelihood on the Go" on March 27, 2025. The activity provided useful skills in pastry-making, offering a potential source of additional income for individuals of all ages.

Ms. Sheryll Loyola, head of the Livelihood Division, delivered the opening remarks, emphasizing the importance

of skill development for economic empowerment. The training session was led by Ms. Cora Tepora, a TESDA-accredited trainer and assessor, who provided a step-by-step demonstration and tutorial on preparing assorted donuts and graham bars – currently popular items in the market. The event was conducted via Zoom, ensuring accessibility for a broader audience eager to acquire new livelihood skills. This initiative highlights the provincial government's commitment to fostering sustainable livelihood opportunities for Caviteños. — R. Dones



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## Bacoer City Receives Cert. of Appreciation from St. Dominic College of Asia



March 30, 2025 - St. Dominic College of Asia, a key partner and stakeholder of the City Government of Bacoer, held their Dominican Psychology Appreciation Day at Vikings Philippines, SM City BF Parañaque. The Local Youth Development Office, headed by Ms. Angie Carias, the Bacoer City Transformation Office, headed by Pastor Phil Depatillo, and SK Federation Bacoer, led by SK President Palm Buncio, all received a Certificate of Appreciation as Community-Based Partners of the school. We would like to thank St. Dominic College of Asia, particularly the School of Arts and Sciences (SASE) led by Dean Dr. Philip Cordova Cuizon, for gratitude and continuous offering of community-based activities, support for our TelePayo, and advocacy for mental health. Let's continue to work together to bring the Batang Bacoereños to proactive and purposeful settings.