

WELCOME GUESTS AND VISITORS to the **SAMAR BAMBOO INVESTMENT FORUM MEETING**

SAMAR ISLAND NATURAL PARK
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
BTO CAMPVIA BANAOAN, TUBA
BONAL, SAMAR
15 NOVEMBER 2023



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pulso ng Makabagong
Caviteño
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In a world of self-interest, you're a beacon of hope for Samar. Your passion for renewable energy has brought clean, affordable power to our impoverished province — while your bamboo enterprise has given families jobs and a path out of poverty. Thank you Ruben Diego Picardo for being a true hero in our midst.

PGC Holds Top Management Review

The Provincial Government of Cavite conducted a Top Management Review on December 11, 2025, bringing together department heads and key personnel to reinforce the province's commitment to efficient, transparent, and quality public service.

The program opened with an invocation, followed by a presentation of the province's Quality Policy and an audio-visual overview highlighting ongoing quality initiatives. Participants were formally acknowledged by Ms. Anne Minnette M. Dastas, Unit Head of the Office of the Provincial Governor–Office of the Provincial Internal Audit Services.

Messages of support and direction were delivered by Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gondia, underscoring the importance of institutionalizing quality standards across provincial offices.

PGC HOLDS TOP • 4

Gen. Trias Farmers Graduate from Sustainable Pig Farming Program

The City Government of General Trias marked a milestone in local agriculture with the graduation ceremony of the Farmers Field School on Sustainable Pig Farming (FFS-SPF) held on December 19, 2025, at the Animal Pound Center in Bagong Kalsada, Brgy. Pasong Kawayan II.



The program celebrated the completion of learning-by-doing training by local farmers aimed at promoting environmentally sound, safe, and profitable pig farming practices. Participants were equipped with practical knowledge on animal health, biosecurity, and sustainable livestock management to strengthen food security and livelihood opportunities in the city.

GEN. TRIAS • 4

Cavite holds 4th quarter joint CPPOC, PADAC, PTF-ELCAC council meeting; LGUs honored for excellence in barangay justice and security



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) convened their 4th Quarter Joint Meeting on December 17 at The Bayleaf Hotel in the City of General Trias, reaffirming the province's unified approach to maintaining peace, order, and community security.

Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla formally called the meeting to order. Afterwards, he led the signing of the PTF-ELCAC's pledge of recommitment to sustain Cavite's Stable Internal Peace and Security together with members of the council.

The Provincial Government of Cavite recognized outstand- CAVITE HOLDS • 4

NEWS

2025 PGC PRAISE Awards shines a spotlight on public service excellence



PRAISE AWARDS 2025

10 DECEMBER 2025
 2F, FUNCTION HALL, NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CENTER, TMC

On December 10, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer and the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee, successfully organized the 2025 PRAISE Awards at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, recognizing the exemplary commitment and contribution of Cavite's public servants towards the province's success.

During the awarding, ten PGC Best Organizations were recognized and one

ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN NG CAVITE

The Provincial Government of Cavite, under the leadership of Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" D. Remulla, continues to prioritize education through the Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite program, an initiative aimed at easing the financial burden of students in higher education.



ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN NG CAVITE

16 DECEMBER 2025 | CVSU CAL CAMPUS



ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN NG CAVITE

15 DECEMBER 2025 | CVSU IMUS CAMPUS



ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN NG CAVITE

09 DECEMBER 2025 | CVSU SILANG CAMPUS

A total of 15,249 students from Cavite State University (CVSU) received P2,000 in cash assistance, benefiting enrollees from CVSU campuses in Silang, Imus, Rosario, and Cavite City.

The program seeks to provide direct educa-

tional support to deserving Caviteño students, helping them meet academic and daily school-related expenses.

The initiative reflects the provincial government's ongoing efforts to invest in human capital by ensuring that students have access

to resources necessary to pursue and complete their studies.

Through programs like Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite, the province reaffirms its commitment to empowering the youth and building a more educated and resilient Cavite. (A. Sarte)



was

awarded with plaque of appreciation. For the service awards, a total of 68 employees were recognized for their dedicated service to the government, and nine (9) posthumous awardees were honored for the legacy they have engraved to the provincial government.

Atty. Judith A.

Dongallo-Chicano, Assistant Commissioner for Professionalization and Cooperation of the Civil Service Commission graced the occasion giving her profound insights on government service. Also in attendance were Board Member Morit Sison, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Chair of the Committee on Personnel

Affairs, and Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert Gandia, who both extended their felicitations to the awardees.

The 2025 PRAISE Awards was capped off with a continued commitment and dedication of Cavite's public servants in delivering public service with integrity, compassion, and professionalism. (J. Reyes)



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CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITY AT BUKAL NG KAPAYAPAAN – HOME OF ABANDONED SPECIAL CHILDREN

Corporate Social Responsibility Activity


 A group photo of people at the Corporate Social Responsibility Activity at Bukal ng Kapayapaan. Five individuals are standing in front of a table filled with various items, including boxes of food and drink. They are all smiling and have their arms crossed. The background shows a large hall with a high ceiling and some equipment.

LHIO TRECE MARTIRES CITY | DECEMBER 22, 2025

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Editorial

Drop the VAT on electricity

THE value-added tax (VAT) applied to electricity consumption has been universally hated by the public since its implementation more than 20 years ago as part of the Expanded VAT Act (Republic Act 9337), or E-VAT Law, passed in 2005. Originally justified as a measure to shore up the government's tenuous fiscal position at the time — a purpose the E-VAT did largely fulfill — efforts to exempt electricity consumption from the tax began almost immediately, and have continued through the years.

Recently, a coalition of business groups, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP), the Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport) and the Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (TUCP), issued a joint call urging Congress to pass a measure that would exempt electricity sales from the VAT. We believe this call is well-timed to the current political and economic environment of the country, and should be heeded by the government.

The statement, which was made public by the PCCI on Dec. 10, endorses House Bill (HB) 6740, authored by TUCP party-list representative and House deputy speaker Raymond Mendoza. While virtually unanimous public support for lifting the VAT on electricity has long been a matter of fact, the joint statement reveals wide support throughout the business sector as well. It is unusual for organizations such as the PCCI, ECOP, and Philexport to find common cause with the TUCP and its constituency.

Apart from HB 6740, other recent measures to roll back the VAT on electricity that have been introduced in Congress include Senate Bill (SB) 2970 filed by Sen. Francis Tolentino in January of this year; and most recently, SB 61 filed by Sen. Rodante Marcoleta in July. Marcoleta has also filed another bill, SB 63, which seeks to amend the 25-year-old Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), including extending the lifeline subsidy rate to more low-income consumers.

The justification for ending the VAT on electricity is almost self-evident. The Philippines has long had uncompetitively high power rates, and the recent acceleration of the effort to increase the share of renewable energy (RE) in the country's generation mix has added even more costs to consumers with the implementation of the feed-in tariff allowance (FIT-All), and a newly approved green energy auction (GEA) allowance that will be added to customer



bills beginning next month. In addition, the higher base rates allowed for RE generation will also increase customer bills; the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) recently approved a cap rate for offshore wind power that will presumably result from the upcoming GEA-5 at more than P10 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

Estimating the impact of the elimination of the VAT on electricity bills can only be approximated, as they vary from month to month and depending on the amount of electricity consumed. For the "typical household" consuming an average of 200 kWh per month from Meralco, the average total rate (including all taxes, subsidies and other charges) throughout this year has been roughly P12.96 per kWh. Based on that, removing the VAT would reduce electricity bills for this sample customer by about P259 per month, or about 10 percent.

That is money that can be put to better purposes, which is the strong counter-argument to the government's natural concern about the loss of tax revenue. As Rep. Mendoza stressed in his introduction to HB 6740, "This is not only an economic mea-

sure; it is a social protection that safeguards workers and families. The benefits of cheaper power for both small entrepreneurs and major industries to grow, attract more investments, and generate decent employment for our people do not merely offset but far outweigh the cost to the government."

At a moment when the Filipino people are feeling the weight of rising living costs, while at the same time learning that hundreds of billions of pesos — in part, contributed by their dutiful payment of the VAT on their electricity consumption — have been lost to fraud and corruption in spurious public works projects, removing the VAT on electricity has become an imperative to restore a bit of faith in the country's leadership and provide some direct relief to households and businesses.

We will go one step further than the endorsement of HB 6740 by business and workers' groups: The bill should not only be advanced as quickly as possible on Congress' own initiative, it should be immediately certified as an urgent measure by President Marcos.

4 Prutas Para Sa Hindi Makarumi

Maraming tao ang hindi makarumi ng regular. Ang tawag dito ay constipation o pagtitibi. Ang pagtitibi ay puwedeng magpalala ng sakit sa puso, luslos at hemorrhoids.

Ang mga buntis, kababaihan at may edad ay madalas hirap makarumi. Hindi namin pinapayo ang pag-inom ng gamot o herbal tea para makarumi. Sa katagalan ay makasasama ito.

May mga prutas na mabisang lunas para sa hindi makarumi. Subukan niyo ang 4 na prutas na nag-uumpisa sa letraang "P".

1. Pakwan — Ang pakwan ay may taglay na 92% alkaline water. Mataas ito sa vitamin A, Vitamin B, Vitamin C, lycopene at potassium. Ang pagkain ng 2 hiwa ng pakwan sa maghapon ay puwedeng magpalambot ng dumi. May benepisyo din ang pakwan para sa bibig, sikmura at bituka. Makatutulong ito sa may singaw at bad breath (mabaho ang hininga).

2. Papaya — Ang papaya ay napakabisang prutas para sa hindi makarumi. Kapag kumain ka ng 1 o 2 hiwa ng papaya ay siguradong lalambot ang iyong dumi. Kapag matamis ang papaya ay mas mabisa ito. May sangkap na papain ang papaya, isang enzyme na nakatutulong sa paglambot ng dumi. Mataas din sa vitamin C ang papaya kaya masustansya ito. Huwag lang sosobrahan ang pagkain at baka magtae ka naman.

3. Peras (Pears) — Ang peras ay mayaman sa fiber at sorbitol na makatutulong sa pagdumi. Ang fi-

**DOKTOR
NG MASA**

ni Dr. Willie Ong



ber ay nagbibigay ng hugis (o bulk) sa dumi. Ang sorbitol naman ay nagbibigay ng tamis sa peras at naghahatak ng tubig sa loob ng bituka para lumambot ang dumi. Ayon kay Dr. Jay Hoecker ng Mayo Clinic, puwedeng bigyan ng peras ang mga sanggol at bata na hindi makarumi. Ang 2 hanggang 4 na onsa (ounce) ng katas ng peras ay maaaring makatulong sa pagdumi ng bata.

4. Prunes — Sa Pilipinas, makabili tayo ng prune juice at dried prunes sa mga supermarkets. Ang prunes ay matagal nang lunas para sa pagtitibi. Tulad ng peras, may taglay na fiber, sorbitol at antioxidants ang prunes. Sa bawat kalahating baso ng prune juice (100 ml) may sangkap itong 6.1 grams ng sorbitol. Dahil dito, napalambot ng prunes ang dumi. Ayon sa mga eksperto, may tulong din ang prunes sa buto at sa pag-iwas sa osteoporosis.

Kaya tandaan natin ang apat na prutas na nabanggit para maiwasan ang pagtitibi at maging malusog ang ating katawan.

PULSO
ng Makabagong
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PINAGBUBUKLOD ANG MAMAMAYANG CAVITENO

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NEWS

Cavite holds

from page 1

ing local government units (LGUs) and barangay peacekeeping personnel for exemplary performance in barangay justice, peacekeeping, and anti-drug initiatives.

Under the 2025 Lupong Tagapamayapa

Incentives Award (LTIA) – Municipality Category, the provincial winners were:
* Barangay Castaños Cerca, Municipality of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo – 5th Class Municipality
* Barangay San

Agustin, Municipality of Magallanes – 4th Class Municipality

* Barangay Talipusng – 3rd Class Municipality
* Barangay Mahabang Kahoy Lejos, Municipality of Indang – 1st Class Municipality

For the 2025 Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Award – Component City Category, the provin-



4TH QUARTER CPPOC, PADAC, PTF-ELCAC JOINT MEETING & RECOGNITION CEREMONY

cial award was conferred on Barangay Maharlika, City of Imus.

The CY 2025 Trailblazers for Outstanding Performance of Barangay Tanods (TOP Barangay Tanod) award was also given to Barangay Maharlika, City of Imus, with Barangay Tanod Joey Garba receiving individual recognition for exemplary service in community peacekeeping.

The councils also took note of the CY 2024 Peace and Order Council (POC) and Anti-Drug Abuse Council (ADAC) Performance Audit, reflecting the collective efforts of LGUs in strengthening local governance mechanisms against criminality and illegal drugs. All 23 LGUs were recognized with varying local POC performance and local ADAC functionality.

Following the awarding ceremonies, the joint councils proceeded with the formal meeting and

deliberations. Several joint resolutions of the CPPOC, PADAC, and PTF-ELCAC were presented and approved, covering updates on council membership and meeting schedules, the pursuit of proposed peace and development initiatives, and the utilization of budget allocations as stipulated in the Peace and Order and Public Safety (POPS) Plan.

Major General Ronald Jess Alcudia, Commander of the Reserve Command of the Philippine Army, delivered a directional message urging all stakeholders to remain vigilant, proactive, and closely coordinated to sustain the province's gains in peace, order, and security.

DILG-Cavite OIC Provincial Director Marcial Juangco also conveyed the agency's message of support, emphasizing the importance of sustaining peace and order and

strengthening coordinated efforts toward ensuring drug-free communities.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Colonel Rommel S. Panganiban, Executive Officer of Task Force Ugnay, presented situational updates on the Status of the Internal Peace and Security Plan (SIPS) in Cavite. Updates from other member agencies were likewise presented, reflecting their strong commitment to the implementation of programs aimed at maintaining peace, order, and security in the province.

The joint meeting underscored the Provincial Government of Cavite's continued commitment to an integrated, whole-of-government approach in promoting peace, countering illegal drugs, and safeguarding communities through strong collaboration among LGUs, law enforcement agencies, national government partners, and other stakeholders. (EMR)

eral Trias' dedication to developing resilient farmers and advancing responsible livestock production.

The program concluded with a closing message from Dr. Gloria C. Digma, the City Veterinarian, who expressed her sincere gratitude to all the dedicated graduates for their hard work and commitment throughout the program. (A. Sarte)

PGC Holds Top

from page 1

A Top Management Meeting, led by Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Provincial Board Secretary and Quality Management Representative, served as a key platform to as-

sess performance and align strategies.

The program concluded with closing remarks from the Chief of Staff Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide, emphasizing

continuous improvement and accountability in governance.

The activity reaffirmed the provincial government's dedication to strengthening systems and delivering responsive services to the public. (A. Sarte)



OPPESM honors

from page 8

advancing employment generation across the province. SK Provincial Federation President Chelsea Jillian Sarno also joined the event as one of OPPESM's key partners in rolling out employment programs in various LGUs, particularly those targeting the youth sector.

Imus City Provincial Administrator Lauro Monzon delivered a message on behalf of Imus City Mayor Alex Advincula, emphasizing that employment generation is a shared responsibility among government, the private sector, and the community.

As a testament to this commitment, OPPESM recognized the City Government of Imus as the LGU Champion for Employment Facilitation.

Ms. Anne Marie Faye Gloria of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) – Cavite Field Office also presented key employment initiatives, including the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) and the JOBSTART Program, encouraging stakeholders to support and partner in the implementation of these programs.

The highlight of the

event was the awarding and recognition of OPPESM partners and stakeholders, who received certificates of appreciation and tokens from the provincial government for their unwavering support and commitment to bridging the gap between jobseekers and employers, both locally and overseas.

The activity concluded with fellowship and networking sessions, providing government and private sector stakeholders an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and explore collaborative strategies toward progressive and sustainable employment generation in the province. (E. Reyes)

Gen. Trias

from page 1

The ceremony featured messages from key officials and partner agencies, including Dr. May M. Magno, Provincial Veterinarian, Ms. Marian Lovella, Learning Specialist, ATI CALABARZON, Hon. Mario C. Amante, Barangay Captain and the City Government, highlighting the importance of

empowering farmers through education and innovation.

Graduates were formally recognized during the event, underscoring their commitment to adopting sustainable practices that benefit both the community and the environment. The activity reaffirmed Gen-



MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN



MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

PCO: More personalities in flood control mess to face jail in New Year

MANILA – More individuals are expected to face accountability in the New Year, as the investigation into flood control anomalies continues, Malacañang said on Friday.

This comes as Presidential Communications Office Acting Secretary Dave Gomez acknowledged that some quarters are referring to the controversial contractor couple, Pacifico "Curlee" Discaya and Cezarah Rowena "Sarah" Discaya, as the "new Napoles."

In a statement, Gomez said the Discaya couple's unexplained wealth is

"ten times" greater than the Napoles' ill-gotten wealth.

Gomez noted that those involved in the flood control mess have been held accountable faster, adding that the Discayas spent Christmas in detention.

"The flood control investigation does not end on Dec. 25. It's only been a little over four months,"

he said.

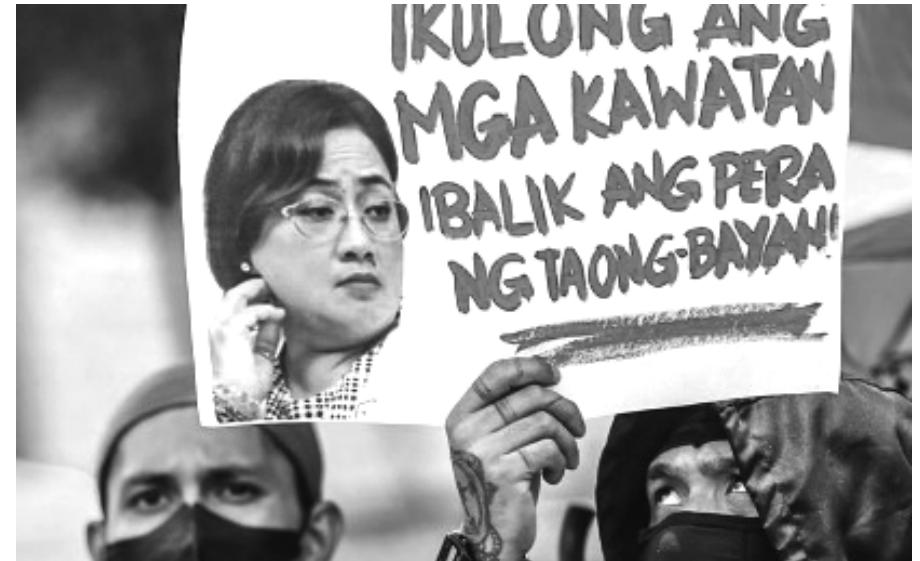
"The Napoles probe took almost a year before people were sent to jail. There will surely be more thrown behind bars in the New Year."

Fight vs. corruption 'far from over'

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro, in a separate statement, said the Marcos administration's fight against corruption is "far from over."

She noted that all relevant investigative bodies, including the Independent Commission for Infrastructure, are working to gather evidence so that the culprits may be prosecuted for their illegal acts.

"Rule of law should always be observed, and mere hearsay evidence is generally inadmissible



ACCOUNTABILITY. A protester holds a poster with a photo of government contractor Cezarah Discaya during an anti-corruption rally in Quezon City on Sept. 13, 2025. Malacañang said on Friday (Dec. 26, 2025) that more individuals are expected to face accountability in the New Year, as the investigation into flood control anomalies continues. (PNA file photo by Joan Bondoc)

and has no room to be entertained," Castro said.

"President Marcos, Jr. is clear in his pronounce-

ment, 'Managot ang lahat ng dapat managot (Hold accountable everyone who should be held ac-

countable),' whether they are relatives, friends, and allies," she added. (PNA)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE
CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE
(rtc1das129@judiciary.gov.ph; 0956 405 7604)

IN RE: PETITION FOR RENEWAL OF
APPOINTMENT AS NOTARY PUBLIC
FOR AND IN THE CITY OF
DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

NOT. PUB. NO. DC-180-25

MARIANE PHILINE T. CANTIMBUHAN,

Petitioner.

X-----X

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the Petition for Renewal of Notarial Commission of **ATTY. MARIANE PHILINE T. CANTIMBUHAN** will be held on **January 12, 2026 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon** in the Courtroom of Regional Trial Court, Branch 129, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, 2nd Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Bldg., Brgy. Burol II, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the grant of the Petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the summary hearing.

It appearing from the records of the instant Petition that the same was filed only on December 10, 2025, short of the requisite forty-five (45) day period to file the Petition for Renewal of Notarial Commission prior to its expiration, or until November 17, 2025, let this Notice of Hearing be published once in a newspaper of general circulation for one (1) week in the Province of Cavite.

SO ORDERED.

City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, December 19, 2025.

(Sgd.) **JOSIELYN D. LARA-DE LUNA**
Executive Judge

Cc:
ATTY. MARIANE PHILINE T. CANTIMBUHAN
MPTC Law Office, Unit C-D, A.L. Cantimbuhan Bldg. cor.
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT -
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT (RTC-OCC)
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Dasma residents benefit from medical and dental mission in San Agustin 1

Residents of Brgy. San Agustin 1, Dasmariñas City benefited from a comprehensive medical and dental mission organized by the provincial government of Cavite on December 17.



A total of 321 patients were served during the activity. Of this number, 291 residents received free medical check-ups, while diagnostic services included 7 X-ray examinations and 30 electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures. Dental services were also provided, with 30 patients availing of free tooth extractions.

The activity was spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Governor medical mission team in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Medical services were rendered by the GEAMH Medical Team, while dental services were provided in partnership with the City Health Office of

Dasmariñas. Volunteer members of the Philippine Army further complemented the initiative by offering free haircut and massage services to residents.

The success of the mission was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the local government unit, medical and dental professionals,

and the barangay leadership under the guidance of Punong Barangay Darwin Torres, with the invaluable assistance of Barangay Health Workers. The initiative underscores a shared commitment to bringing accessible and people-centred healthcare services closer to communities. (R. Dones)

CBCP NEWS



Pope Leo XIV delivers his Christmas "Urbi et Orbi" message at the Vatican on December 25, 2025.
 VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Leo XIV highlights Gaza, Yemen, migrants in first Christmas Urbi et Orbi message

VATICAN—In his first Christmas "Urbi et Orbi" message as pope, Leo XIV urged the world to embrace "responsibility" as the sure way to peace, while pointing in particular to the suffering of people in Gaza, Yemen, and those fleeing war and poverty as refugees and migrants.

Before an estimated 26,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square on Dec. 25, the pope appeared at the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to deliver the traditional Christmas blessing "to the city and to the world," eight months after his May 8 election.

In one of the most evocative passages of the message, the pope cited at length from "Wildpeace," a poem by Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai, contrasting "the peace of a cease-fire" with a deeper peace that arrives unexpectedly — "like wildflowers" — after exhaustion and conflict.

"Responsibility is the sure way to peace," Leo said. "If all of us, at every level, would stop accusing others and instead acknowledge our own faults, asking God for forgiveness, and if we would truly enter into the suffering of others and stand in solidarity with the weak and the oppressed, then the world would change."

The pope framed his

appeal around the Christian proclamation that Christ "is our peace," adding: "Without a heart freed from sin, a heart that has been forgiven, we cannot be men and women of peace or builders of peace."

Turning to concrete "faces" of contemporary pain, Leo said that in becoming man, Jesus "took upon himself our fragility, identifying with each one of us: with those who have nothing left and have lost everything, like the inhabitants of Gaza; with those who are prey to hunger and poverty, like the Yemeni people; with those who are fleeing their homeland to seek a future elsewhere, like the many refugees and migrants who cross the Mediterranean or traverse the American continent."

He also named those who have lost jobs, underpaid workers who are exploited, and prisoners "who often live in inhumane conditions."

Leo offered "a warm and fatherly greeting" to Christians, "especially

those living in the Middle East," recalling his recent trip to Turkey and Lebanon. "I listened to them as they expressed their fears and know well their sense of powerlessness before the power dynamics that overwhelm them," he said.

"From God let us ask for justice, peace and stability for Lebanon, Palestine, Israel and Syria," the pope continued, as he invoked Scripture on righteousness and peace.

He also prayed "in a particular way for the tormented people of Ukraine," asking that "the clamor of weapons cease," and that the parties involved — "with the support and commitment of the international community" — find "the courage to engage in sincere, direct and respectful dialogue."

In a wider survey of global crises, the pope said: "From the Child of Bethlehem, we implore peace and consolation for the victims of all current wars in the world, especially those that are

forgotten, and for those who suffer due to injustice, political instability, religious persecution and terrorism," naming Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Burkina Faso, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He prayed as well for Haiti, asking that "all forms of violence in the country will cease," and called for a future of reconciliation for Myanmar.

Leo also included a specific appeal for Latin America, asking that "the Child Jesus inspire those in Latin America who hold political responsibilities," so that amid the region's challenges "space may be given to dialogue for the common good, rather than to ideological and partisan prejudices."

He concluded by urging the faithful to open their hearts to those in need: "On this holy day, let us open our hearts to our brothers and sisters who are in need or in pain," before offering "heartfelt good wishes for a peaceful and holy Christmas!"

Cardinal Tagle decries corruption at Simbang Gabi in Vatican

VATICAN—Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle said corruption contradicts God's plan as he led the Simbang Gabi Mass for Filipinos at St. Peter's Basilica on Sunday.



Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, delivers his homily during the Simbang Gabi Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on Dec. 21, 2025. GOI VILLEGRAS/CBCP NEWS

With Christmas near, Tagle urged the faithful to align life decisions with God's will, rejecting consumerism, personal gain and shallow measures of success.

"When the opportunity to steal and cheat comes knocking, why are so many wide awake? When the plan is corruption, no one sleeps. But when it is God's plan, everyone is asleep," said Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization.

He called on Filipinos to examine whether their ambitions reflect God's saving plan revealed in Jesus.

"Is your life plan connected to God's plan? Or perhaps our plans in life lead only to destruction—bringing harm to ourselves, to others, to society and to creation?" Tagle said.

The cardinal pointed to the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph as models of faithful planning, describing them as the original witnesses of Advent and Christmas who adjusted their lives in obedience to God.

He also said Christmas should not be reduced to memories, material pursuits or financial goals, but lived daily through faith, service and moral respon-

sibility.

"We were not created to cling to piles of money. We were not created to cling to countless followers. We were not created to hoard all kinds of things to buy, only to realize afterward that we do not really need them," Tagle added.

More than a thousand Filipinos from across Rome and other countries attended the Mass, filling the basilica with hymns and prayers reflecting a deeply rooted Advent tradition.

The celebration was organized by the Sentro Pilipino Chaplaincy (SPC) in Rome and drew clergy, religious and lay faithful, including Philippine Ambassador to the Holy See Myla Grace Macahilig and Philippine Ambassador to Italy Nathaniel Imperial.

Fr. Ronan Ayag, SPC chaplain, said the Simbang Gabi celebration is especially meaningful for Filipino migrants in Rome.

"This is important for us Filipino migrants in the Diocese of Rome," Ayag said. "It strengthens our faith, especially since we are far from our loved ones as Christmas approaches, and it gives guidance to our faith."

MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Nahahadlangan ba ang kabiguan? Oo naman! Lalo na kung mananatili kang lumalaban. Masuwerteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto-3-19-26-33-38-42.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Kung sino ang mahina, siya ang dapat na tulungan. Mahina ka ngayon, kaya kakailanganin mo rin ang tulong nila. Ngunit ang kinaganda nito, espesyal na tulong ang darating sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-4-11-17-21-35-44.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Hinahon ang nagdadala ng kapayapaan. Itinuturo rin nito ang mga nararapat na ikiros. Huminahon ka nang sa gayun ay pumabor sa iyo ang mga kaganapan. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-5-12-19-25-34-40.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Masuwerteng ka! Dapat alam mo kung ano ang ginagawa ng taong sinuswerte. Kung alam mo, gawin mo na agad at huwag ka nang mag-alinlangan. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-7-16-23-25-37-43.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Sobrang lakas ngayon ng iyong karisma. Kaya hawakan mong mabuti ang iyong sarili. Masuwerteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-3-14-20-22-27-41.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Masyadong malayo ang narating ng isip mo. Awatin mo ang sarili mo sa pag-iisip ng mga bagay na sa totoo lang ay malayo sa reyalidad. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-8-18-21-33-38-42.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Ngayong malungkot ka, ihip ng sariwang hangin ang kailangan mo. Subukan mo at magugulat ka, dahil ikaw ay biglang sasaya. Masuwerteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-4-11-17-24-39-44.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Simple lang naman ang formula ng tagumpay. Gawin mo ang ginagawa ng mga nagtagatagumpay, at huwag ka nang mag-eksperimento pa ng bagong ideya. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-9-14-22-30-32-40.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Masuwerte ngayon ang may inaalagaang hayop sa bahay. Pakitaan mo sila ng espesyal na pag-aalaga at makakaasa ka, bubuwenasin ka! Masuwerteng kulay-lilac. Tips sa lotto-1-19-25-28-36-41.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Huwag kang babalik sa nakaraan, bagkus pagmasdan mo ang sarili mo at ang kapwa mo. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-1-18-21-26-37-42.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Kung sino ang nakatulong dati sa iyo, siya muli ang tutulong sa iyo. Kaya huwag ka nang lumapit pa sa mga alam mo namang nagtagago. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-2-11-17-29-35-38.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Muli kang susuwertehin, pero may kondisyon na nagsasabing iwasan mong makasakit ng damdamin. Mas maganda kung mahinahon kang magsasalita. Masuwerteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-6-13-20-26-32-43.

SUDOKU

1		5	3					
8	9	4			5	6		
4	6		8	1				
	1					9		
	6	8	3					
		2						
		3	1		6	7		
7	9					5		
6			7	4				

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 22 #42

2	8	6	4	5	9	3	7	1
3	4	5	2	7	1	8	9	6
9	7	1	6	3	8	5	2	4
4	2	8	9	1	6	7	3	5
1	9	7	3	2	5	4	6	8
5	6	3	7	8	4	9	1	2
6	5	4	1	9	7	2	8	3
7	1	2	8	4	3	6	5	9
8	3	9	5	6	2	1	4	7

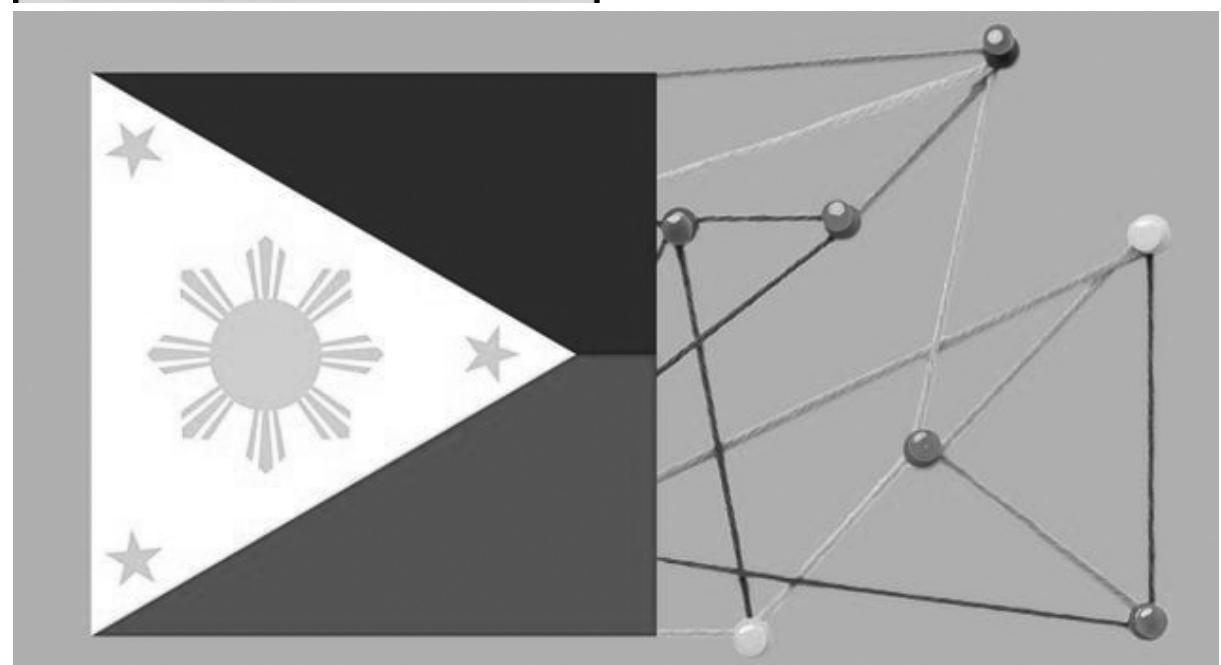
HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku puzzle is made up of a 9-by-9 grid with nine 3-by-3 sub-grids called boxes. There are 9 rows, 9 columns and 9 boxes in every puzzle. The object of the game is to fill all squares in the grid with the correct number.

- The rules are:
 - Every row, column and box must contain all the digits 1 to 9.
 - Each number can only appear once in every row, column or box.
 - Every puzzle has only one correct solution!

Did You Know?

THE PHILIPPINES CONSISTS OF 7,641 ISLANDS

The Philippines is an archipelago, which means it's made up of a group of islands—7,641 islands, to be exact. That figure does not include the thousands of sandbars and other landforms that emerge during low tide.



WORD HUNT

Feelings

U	A	G	A	D	E	S	U	F	N	O	C	P	E
F	G	N	X	S	A	G	E	N	E	R	O	U	S
R	G	O	D	D	E	T	A	R	T	S	U	R	F
I	N	R	I	M	L	A	C	H	A	P	P	Y	I
E	I	T	S	N	L	P	R	O	U	D	L	G	R
N	R	S	A	I	Y	L	E	N	O	L	Y	F	A
D	A	L	P	C	N	J	E	A	L	O	U	S	A
L	C	D	P	E	E	C	R	P	B	G	E	S	N
Y	A	E	O	L	R	X	R	S	N	A	L	U	G
F	F	R	I	G	V	E	C	A	D	C	D	O	R
S	R	O	N	O	O	H	A	I	D	U	T	I	Y
U	A	B	T	O	U	O	U	G	T	R	A	X	I
O	I	D	E	D	S	I	E	R	E	E	S	N	R
R	D	S	D	T	E	S	P	U	T	R	D	A	D

CONFUSED
 DISAPPOINTED
 HURT
 JEALOUS
 GOOD
 BAD
 ANGRY
 FRIENDLY
 PROUD
 FRUSTRATED
 ANXIOUS
 NERVOUS
 CARING
 HAPPY
 GENEROUS
 BORED
 CALM
 LONELY
 STRONG
 EXCITED
 NICE
 EAGER
 AFRAID
 UPSET

OPPESM honors employment partners at 2025 Provincial Stakeholders' Forum



The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), headed by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, convened industry leaders, recruitment specialists, local government units (LGUs), national government agencies (NGAs), and employment partners for a day of thanksgiving and camaraderie on December 15 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City. The activity, dubbed "Collaborative Engagement: 2025 Provincial Stakeholders' Forum Towards Increased Employment Opportunities for a Progressive and Sustainable Tomorrow," capped a year of fruitful collaboration in expanding job opportunities and promoting meaningful employment for Caviteños.

Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert Gandia conveyed the provincial government's message of gratitude on behalf of Governor Abeng Remulla, underscoring the importance of sustained partnerships in **OPPESM HONORS • 4**



BauerTek Farmaceutical Technologies Corp. and Papi Publisher (Publishers Association of the Philippines Inc.) formalized their partnership with a Memorandum of Agreement signing! Held at Max's Restaurant, Robinsons Galleria on December 18, 2025, this collaboration marks a significant step forward.



PRINT MEETS PLAY: PAPI and ESWF TEAM UP TO AMPLIFY PH DIGITAL GAMES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE! Game on, Philippines! The Publishers Association of the Philippines (PAPI) just signed an MOU as the official media partner of the Esports World Federation (ESWF) – bringing top-tier coverage of local esports, mobile gaming, and digital events straight to your screens and pages. Together, we're turning up the volume on Filipino talent and growing our digital game ecosystem. Let's level up!



On this historic 90th anniversary of the AFP Reserve Command, we pay tribute to the generations of citizen soldiers who have served with distinction. Their selflessness, courage, and dedication have been instrumental in safeguarding our nation's sovereignty and promoting peace and development. May their legacy inspire future generations to continue the fight for a better Philippines. As we celebrate 90 years of the AFP Reserve Command, we reflect on its vital role as a force multiplier and a pillar of national security. From its humble beginnings to its current status as a modern, professional reserve force, AFPRESCOM has proven its worth in times of The 90th anniversary of the AFP Reserve Command is a testament to the resilience and strength of the Filipino spirit. For nine decades, our citizen soldiers have answered the call of duty, sacrificing their time, energy, and even their lives to protect our country and our people. We salute their bravery, their patriotism, and their unwavering commitment to service. May AFPRESCOM continue to thrive and serve as a beacon of hope and security for the Philippines. Happy 90th Anniversary!