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# Cavite to remain most populous province with over 5 million by 2030

Cavite is expected to remain the most populous province in the Philippines with a projected population of 5.30 million by 2030, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Bulacan will follow with 4.17 million people, while Rizal is anticipated to surpass Laguna to become the third most populous province with 3.88 million residents. Laguna is projected to reach 3.72 million by the same year.

These figures represent a significant increase from 2020 data, which recorded 4.36 million people in Cavite, 3.72 million in Bulacan and 3.39 million in Laguna.

In terms of highly urbanized cities, Quezon City will maintain its status as the largest in 2030 despite a slight projected decrease to 2.92 million from 2.96 million in 2020.

CAVITE TO REMAIN • 4

## PGC brings medical and dental mission to Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias

On January 13, a total of 354 residents received medical consultations while 75 patients availed of dental services during a Medical and Dental Mission spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite in Barangay San Francisco, City of General Trias.



MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION  
13 JANUARY 2026 | BARANGAY SAN FRANCISCO, GTC

MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

The activity also offered diagnostic services to Gentriseños, with 75 patients undergoing fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, eight availing of electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, and another eight receiving X-ray examina-

PGC BRINGS • 4

## DepEd Tops Trust & Satisfaction Surveys – DOST Sec. Solidum Paves Way for STEM-Integrated Learning to Sustain Momentum

DepEd's strong trust and satisfaction ratings from the Tangere survey are truly encouraging, as they reflect public recognition of efforts to advance basic education in the Philippines. This positive feedback also underscores the importance of collaborative work across government agencies—something that DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. has consistently emphasized in his role.

Sec. Solidum has been a vocal advocate for integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) into all levels of learning to equip students with skills for the future. His push for initiatives like improving access to educational tools, promoting research-based teaching methods, and strengthening partnerships between academe and industry aligns closely with DepEd's goals of enhancing quality education. While this survey focuses on DepEd, it highlights how progress in one sector can be supported by the work of others, and Sec. Solidum's leadership in driving STEM education is a key



SONNY ANGARA  
Secretary of Education

RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.  
Secretary

DEPED TOPS • 4

# NEWS

## DTI Laguna and Partners Open MSME Trade Fair at SM City San Pablo for Coconut Festival

San Pablo City, Laguna — In celebration of the San Pablo Coconut Festival, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna, in partnership with the City Government of San Pablo, the Association of Laguna Food Processors (ALAFOP), and SM City San Pablo, organized a trade fair for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from January 14 to 20, 2026. The event aimed to support local enterprises and promote entrepreneurship in the province.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony on January 14 was attended by Mr. Christian Ted O. Tungohan, Provincial Director of DTI Laguna; Atty. Joseph Marnic V. De Mesa, City Administrator of LGU San Pablo; Mr. Jerry Urriquia, President of ALAFOP; Ms. Leonie Reyes, Board Director of ALAFOP; and Ms. Edesa

Sibug, Mall Manager of SM City San Pablo, along with other guests and participants. Their presence highlighted the collaborative efforts of public and private partners in promoting local businesses.

Featuring 11 MSME exhibitors, the trade fair was held under the mall's SM4SMEs Community

Bazaar program. The activity provided participating enterprises with an opportunity to showcase their products, engage with consumers, and strengthen their market presence in a high-traffic commercial venue. This initiative is part of ongoing efforts to promote local entrepreneurship and enterprise de-



velopment alongside the city's festive celebration. In line with its mandate to support MSMEs, DTI Laguna continues to facilitate market access and provide marketing

opportunities that help enterprises grow, become competitive, and reach wider markets. Through this collaborative undertaking, partner institutions reaffirmed

their shared commitment to strengthening the MSME sector by fostering partnerships and offering platforms that contribute to inclusive economic growth in Laguna.

## Bustos town ignites cultural pride with the kick-off of the 16th Minasa Festival

CITY OF MALOLOS – The Municipality of Bustos officially commenced the 16th iteration of the Minasa Festival earlier today at the BMA Park in Bustos, Bulacan, transforming the local landmark into a vibrant stage for culture, unity, and economic prosperity with the theme “Minasa ng pagkakaisa, Tagumpay ng bawat isa!”

Serving as a powerful tribute to the town's storied heritage and its signature local delicacy, the festival features an expansive lineup of activities designed to bridge tradition with modern progress. Highlighting the town's economic drive are the Agri-Trade Fair, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo, and the Trabaho ni Juan Job Fair, while the culinary arts take center stage through the Kalutong Bustos showcase. Youth and creativity are also at the forefront with the Art is Cool! initiative, the Little Mr. and Ms. ECCD Coronation Night, and the highly anticipated

DepEd Night. In his keynote address, Vice Governor Alexis C. Castro emphasized that the Minasa Festival is a vital pillar of the province's identity, acting as a reminder of the rich history that defines the people of Bulacan.

“Patuloy nating pinapanday ang diwa ng pagkakaisa, pagmamalaki sa sariling atin, at malasakit sa pamana ng ating mga ninuno. Wala pong magmamahal sa Minasa Festival kundi tayong mga Bulakenyo,” Castro remarked, urging citizens to safeguard their cultural legacy.

Community spirit remains high throughout the week with the Zumbasaya Dance Competition, the Tanod Drill and RescueJuan Olympics, and a dedicated Senior Citizen's Night. The festivities are set to reach a fever pitch during the Minasa Street Dance and Dance Showdown, the Bakbakan sa Himpapawid, and the One Big Surprise Concert.

The celebration will conclude on January 18 with the solemn yet festive Tugtog at Sayaw Alay kay Sto. Niño, marking another successful chapter in the town's history of resilience and pride.

Philippine Health Insurance Corporation  
**ADVISORY**  
No. 2025 - 0069

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BAGONG PILIPINAS

### Strict Adherence to Medication Safety and Pharmacist Responsibilities under PhilHealth GAMOT Benefit

This advisory is in accordance with the PhilHealth Circular (PC) No. 2025-0013 or the Nationwide Implementation of Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (PhilHealth GAMOT) along with the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy Resolution No. 23, Series of 2021 (Resolution Promulgating and Prescribing the Code of Ethics of the Pharmacy Profession), emphasizing the critical role pharmacists play in patient safety, verification of prescriptions, and the prevention of medication errors.

Following the provisions of PC No. 2025-0013, all Pharmacist of GAMOT Facilities are explicitly empowered and obligated to act as the final safety checkpoint before dispensing medications, in consonance with their professional responsibility under the Code of Ethics. The PC No. 2025-0013 Section V.C.5.e states:

*“If any form of inconsistencies to the prescription is present, the pharmacist may seek confirmation with the authorized physician regarding the authenticity of the prescription. At the same time, the pharmacist reserves the right to withhold the dispensing of any inappropriate medications that have been prescribed (e.g., drug interactions, allergic reactions) and instruct the beneficiary to return to the authorized physician for appropriate action.”*

Pursuant to the Performance Commitment signed by the GAMOT Facility upon accreditation, all facilities are reminded of their warranted representations and obligations to comply with all laws and administrative issuances. Violation of the Performance Commitment may result in the denial of claims, suspension, or revocation of PhilHealth accreditation.

Any observed non-compliance with the provisions of R.A. No. 10918 (Philippine Pharmacy Act) and R.A. No. 8981 (PRC Modernization Act of 2000), the Corporation may bring the matter to the attention of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for appropriate administrative action.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN M. MERCADO, MD, MHA, MMSc**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Date signed: December 17, 2025

## Editorial

### Cebu City's garbage problem refuses to go away

**L**AST Sept. 30, Cebu was rocked by a magnitude-6.9 earthquake, with its center in Bogo and San Remigio towns in the north. The force of the earthquake reached Cebu City down in the south as well. Buildings rocked, and unbeknownst to others, the mountain slopes and the soil must have been loosened.

Last Nov. 4, another tragedy struck Cebu, when Typhoon Tino cut a wide swath of destruction. Residents of its major cities found themselves flooded to the roofs, and the death toll reached 150 (with 57 missing and presumed dead).

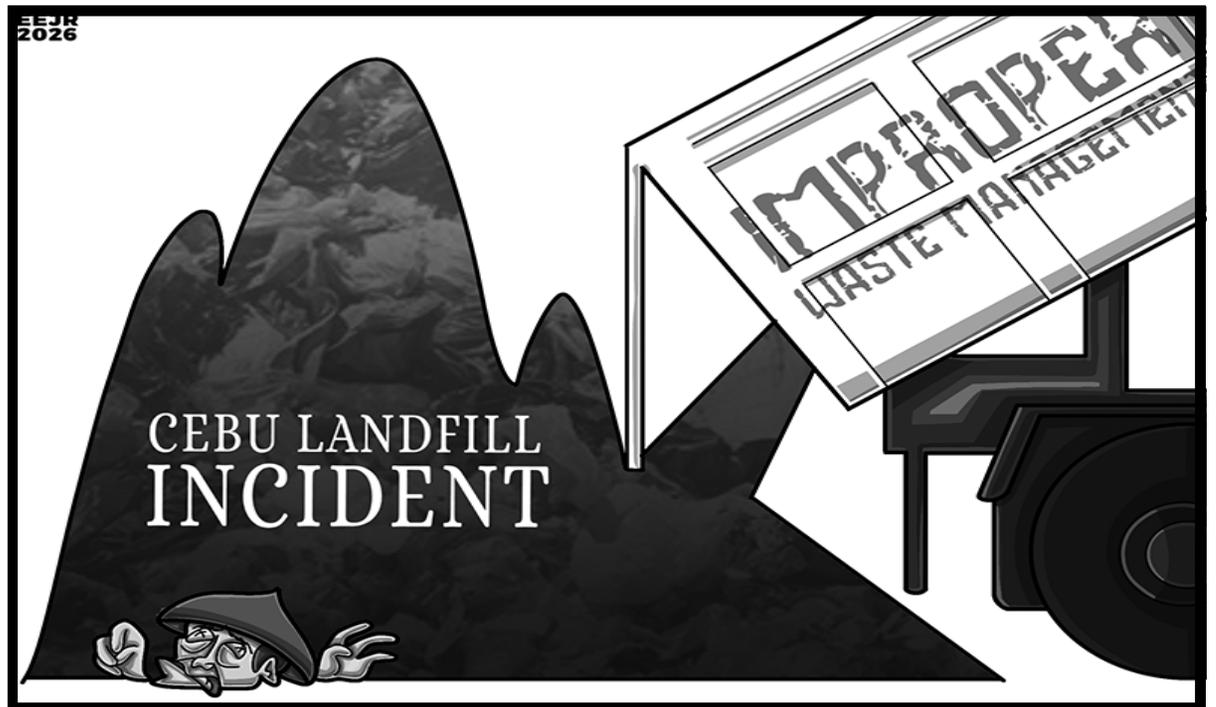
But bad luck, as well as tragedies, seems to come in threes. The third tragedy struck last Thursday afternoon, when the landfill facility in Cebu City collapsed in Barangay Binaliw. Think of a skyscraper of garbage tumbling down on a building inhabited by people on an office day, as well as burying several people who may have been scavenging for whatever they could salvage and sell from the trash. The tragedy struck hours after thousands had joined the Penitential Walk for Jesus, marking the official start of the annual fiesta for the Señor.

As of yesterday, 35 people, mostly workers in the facility, remained missing, with four others confirmed dead and several others badly injured. The site housed the materials recovery facility and offices of the landfill operator, Prime Integrated Waste Solutions. Why on earth was the office built near the mountain of garbage is anyone's guess.

Officials said the ground that served as the foundation of the landfill must have been loosened and rendered unstable by the flooding from Tino and the magnitude-6.9 earthquake. The cause of the collapse has yet to be established, but the deadly accident has reminded the country of Tino, and the results of investigations to determine what caused the deadly flooding, aside from the excessive rainfall.

This incident should make us confront at least two issues: the safety of the Binaliw landfill and how to deal with the garbage problem in Cebu.

Cebu City is small and needed a landfill on an entire mountainside. Since 2019, it has filled an otherwise beautiful place with trash that could easily slough off. Moreover, after



this tragedy, the city authorities will again have to look for another landfill, since the one in Binaliw will eventually be filled to capacity.

Garbage trucks from the LGUs that utilize the Binaliw landfill — which was acquired by Prime Waste Solutions three years ago — have been unable to unload as retrieval operations continue. The Cebu City government was forced to temporarily suspend the already inadequate garbage collection while scouting for an alternative disposal site.

The Manila Times columnist Marit Stinus Cabugon noted in her column that “this isn't the first time that the city finds itself in such a predicament. Yet, despite experiencing the sudden closure of landfills in the past, with resulting uncollected garbage piling up everywhere, the city's solid waste management system remains inefficient. The city lacks operational material recovery facilities and has ignored instituting meaningful waste minimization policies.”

For a long time, ever since the days of former mayor (and now vice mayor) Tomas Osmeña, Cebu City has been preparing to implement waste segregation at source — through a “no segregation, no collection” scheme. But do the officials and personnel in charge of the implementation have the competence and experience

to do this?

Emma Ramas, the chairperson of Cebu City's Solid Waste Management Board, said that households “should take care of their own biodegradable waste — use it to grow food, turn it into compost, or even earn from it.” But many of Cebu City's 1 million residents are not homebound. They are busy earning a living in full-time jobs.

Cabugon wrote: “They live in apartments, boarding houses and other tiny spaces in highly congested neighborhoods. One thing is to separate biodegradable waste; another is to manage it... The disaster happened as communities and civil society organizations in over 90 countries, including the Philippines, observed International Zero Waste Month. The idea of zero waste still hasn't gained traction in Cebu.”

One solution, then, is to finally implement Republic Act 9003, or the law on waste management. The city needs improved recycling rates and to do so with the necessary systems and political will. It has to conduct a campaign and train garbage collectors to collect only segregated trash. If it fails, finding another mountainside and despoiling it won't solve the garbage problem of the Queen City of the South.

## Iwas Sakit: Uminom ng 8 Basong Tubig

**A**lam mo ba na ang katawan natin ay puno ng tubig? Ang utak natin ay may 74% tubig. Ang masel natin ay 75% tubig. Kahit ang matigas nating buto ay may 22% na tubig.

Kaya nga hindi ko maintindihan kung bakit napakaraming Pinoy ang ayaw uminom ng tubig? Mayroon diyan, 3 baso lang kung uminom sa isang araw. Kulang po ito. Heto ang mga sakit na matutulungan ng pag-inom ng tubig:

1. Para sa sakit sa bato — Ang sanhi ng bato sa bato (kidney stones) ay ang kakulangan sa tubig. Dahil dito, nagiging madilaw ang ihi at namumuo tuloy ang bato. Mag-ingat at baka tumuloy sa kidney failure at dialysis.

2. Para sa impeksyon sa ihi — Kapag kulang ka sa tubig, mas kakapitan ka ng impeksyon sa ihi o balisawsaw.

3. Para sa lagnat — Nakapagpapababa ng lagnat ang pag-inom ng tubig. Ito'y dahil maiihi mo ang “init” sa iyong katawan. Painumin ng tubig at juice ang mga may lagnat.

4. Para sa ubo, sipon at trangkaso — Ang sapat na tubig ay nagpapalabnaw ng sipon at plema. Mas bibilis din ang paggaling sa trangkaso.

5. Para sa pangangasim ng tiyan — Malaki ang tulong ng tubig para mahugasan ang acido sa ating sikhura. Sa pag-inom ng tubig, mababawasan ang ulcer, impatso at sakit ng tiyan. Mas gusto ng tiyan ang maligamgam na tubig.

## DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



6. Para lumakas — Kapag kulang ka sa tubig, magiging matamlay ka at manghihina. Lalo na kapag mainit ang panahon, uminom ng maraming tubig.

7. Para sa sakit ng ulo — Nakatutulong ang tubig sa pagtanggap ng migraine o sakit ng ulo.

8. Para pumayat — Bago kumain, uminom ka muna ng 1-2 basong tubig. Mabubusog ka nito at hindi ka mapapakain ng marami. Hindi po nakatataba ang tubig.

9. Para gumanda — Ito ang mahalaga sa lahat. Ang beauty secret ng mga dermatologists ay tubig lang. Kapag kulang ka sa tubig, lulubog ang iyong mata at kukulubot ang balat (wrinkles). Uminom ng tubig para kuminis at kumintab ang iyong kutis. Umiwas ka rin sa araw para hindi kumulubot.

Anong klase ng tubig ang dapat inumin? Alam kong may kamahalan, pero uminom na lang ng bottled water, purified water o pinakuluang tubig. Hindi tayo nakasisiguro na ligtas ang tubig sa gripo. Tandaan: Para makaiwas sa sakit, uminom ng tubig.

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# NEWS

## DOST, Cagayan

from page 8

Three-Horizon STI Economic Strategy (2025–2028), which provides a clear roadmap for transforming the country's economy. The strategy envisions a surge in productivity, the creation of a vibrant knowledge-based economy, and the preparation of Cagayan for the industries of the future, including artificial intelligence, smart agriculture, biotechnology, renewable energy, and climate-resilient technologies.

(Smarter Approaches to Reinvigorate Agriculture as an Industry in the Philippines) will empower farmers, cooperatives, and agripreneurs to increase productivity, enhance product quality, and sustainably scale operations, turning local resources into high-value economic opportunities.

Another key focus of the meeting was data-driven governance. Tools like GATES (Geospatial Analytics and Technology Solutions) enable local governments across the country to make informed decisions, optimize resources, improve disaster response, and harness regional strengths. These initiatives transform long-standing challenges into strategic

drivers of development and resilience.

Governor Aglipay expressed strong support for DOST programs, highlighting the province's commitment to generate high-quality jobs, support returning overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in establishing enterprises, strengthen partnerships with educational institutions, and develop high-value products through innovation, processing, and efficient logistics.

The meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to position Cagayan as a model province for STI-led development, demonstrating how science, technology, and innovation can transform local strengths into engines of economic growth, resilience, and long-term progress for the region. **(Dave Masirag)**

## PGC brings

from page 1

tions. These services aided health professionals in providing proper medical advice and appropriate care. Free prescribed medicines and vitamins were subsequently distributed to the patients.

City Councilor Kyle Salazar graced the activ-

ity, expressing his support and appreciation for the medical and dental mission team. Dental professionals from the City Health Office, along with Barangay Health Workers, also assisted to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the activity.

Through the continued partnership of the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the medical and dental mission program continues to expand access to quality healthcare services across the province, promoting hope, wellness, and improved health outcomes for Caviteños. **(J. Reyes)**



## Cavite to remain

from page 1

The City of Davao is expected to grow to 2.04 million, followed by the City of Manila at 1.90 million and the City of Caloocan at 1.71 million. The City of Taguig is projected to reach 1.52 million and the City of Zamboanga is expected to exceed 1 million residents.

2035, the male population is expected to reach 62.64 million, or 50.5 percent of the total, while the female population will reach 61.32 million, or 49.5 percent.

CALABARZON will remain the most populous area with 19.07 million people by 2035, followed by the National Capital Region (NCR) at 14.49 million and Central Luzon at 14.02 million. The Cordillera Administrative Region is expected to remain the smallest with 2.13 million residents.

The PSA board approved the methodologies for these 2020 census-based projections through PSA Board Resolution No. 18, Series of 2024, on Nov. 15, 2024. The projections were prepared by the PSA in collaboration with the Inter-Agency Working Group on Population Projections and technical assistance from the United Nations Population Fund Philippines.

Gender distribution trends show that 55 provinces and 11 highly urbanized cities will exceed the national average sex ratio of 102 males per 100 females by 2030.

National projections indicate the Philippine mid-year population will reach 123.96 million by 2035, adding 14.76 million people to the 109.20 million recorded in 2020.

Batanes is projected to have the highest ratio at 114 males per 100 females. Conversely, females are expected to slightly outnumber males in the NCR by 2035, with a ratio of 99 males per 100 females.

This represents an average annual growth rate of 0.85 percent. By

Growth rates across the archipelago are ex-

pected to diverge. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim

Mindanao is projected to see its annual growth rate rise to 1.79 percent

by 2035. However, the NCR is expected to see a slowdown, with its

growth rate dropping to 0.40 percent in the 2030 to 2035 period.

Table 3. Provinces that are Expected to Have Three Million and Above Population: 2030

Rank	Province	Population Projections (in thousands)		
		01 July 2020*	01 July 2025	01 July 2030
1	Cavite	4,360.50	4,823.00	5,303.60
2	Bulacan	3,716.80	3,939.30	4,168.00
3	Rizal	3,339.60	3,609.60	3,881.30
4	Cebu**	3,333.70	3,574.00	3,833.00
5	Laguna	3,388.70	3,561.70	3,724.60
6	Pangasinan	3,165.70	3,227.30	3,293.20
7	Batangas	2,912.30	3,007.50	3,089.70

\* The 2020 Census of Population and Housing counts for each region, as of 01 May 2020, were adjusted to the mid-year population as of 01 July 2020, using a growth rate value derived for each region from number of registered deaths, age specific fertility rates, and net migrants for 2020. The mid-year population allows for consistent comparison between years.

\*\* Excluding the population of HUCs

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2020 Census-Based Population Projections

## DedEd Tops

from page 1

piece of building a more capable and competitive Filipino workforce.

It's also worth noting that both agencies understand there is still room for growth—just as DepEd

acknowledges areas for improvement, Sec. Solidum continues to work on expanding science literacy programs that complement DepEd's curriculum efforts.

### CABINET MEMBER TRUST AND DISTRUST SURVEY

Survey Period: January 7-10, 2026 | Margin of Error: 2.4% | Sample Size: 1,600

01	JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA Secretary of Education	TRUST: 53.95%	DISTRUST: 21.82%
02	REXLON GATCHALIAN Secretary of Social Welfare and Development	TRUST: 49.01%	DISTRUST: 23.79%
03	RENATO U. SOLIDUM JR. Secretary of Science and Technology	TRUST: 47.62%	DISTRUST: 20.58%
04	HANS LEO J. CACDAC Secretary of Migrant Workers	TRUST: 45.35%	DISTRUST: 22.40%
05	CONRADO ESTRELLA III Secretary of Agrarian Reform	TRUST: 44.93%	DISTRUST: 24.25%
06	GILBERTO C. TEODORO JR. Secretary of National Defense	TRUST: 44.55%	DISTRUST: 25.98%
07	HENRY AGUDA Secretary of Information and Communications and Technology	TRUST: 44.09%	DISTRUST: 23.04%
08	MA. THERESA LAZARO Secretary of Foreign Affairs	TRUST: 43.65%	DISTRUST: 24.27%
09	TEODORO J. HERBOSA Secretary of Health	TRUST: 43.05%	DISTRUST: 23.40%
10	VINCE DIZON Secretary of Public Works and Highways	TRUST: 43.02%	DISTRUST: 31.04%
11	FRANCISCO TIU LAUREL, JR. Secretary of Agriculture	TRUST: 42.84%	DISTRUST: 25.54%
12	BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA Secretary of Labor and Employment	TRUST: 42.62%	DISTRUST: 26.74%
13	ARSENIO BALISACAN Secretary of Economy, Planning and Development	TRUST: 42.33%	DISTRUST: 24.65%

### CABINET MEMBER SATISFACTION AND DISSATISFACTION SURVEY

Survey Period: January 7-10, 2026 | Margin of Error: 2.4% | Sample Size: 1,600

01	JUAN EDGARDO M. ANGARA Secretary of Education	SATISFACTION: 52.71%	DISSATISFACTION: 21.23%
02	REXLON GATCHALIAN Secretary of Social Welfare and Development	SATISFACTION: 50.92%	DISSATISFACTION: 22.63%
03	RENATO U. SOLIDUM JR. Secretary of Science and Technology	SATISFACTION: 49.18%	DISSATISFACTION: 19.47%
04	HANS LEO J. CACDAC Secretary of Migrant Workers	SATISFACTION: 46.28%	DISSATISFACTION: 21.32%
05	CONRADO ESTRELLA III Secretary of Agrarian Reform	SATISFACTION: 46.12%	DISSATISFACTION: 24.10%
06	HENRY AGUDA Secretary of Information and Communications and Technology	SATISFACTION: 45.78%	DISSATISFACTION: 21.89%
07	BIENVENIDO E. LAGUESMA Secretary of Labor and Employment	SATISFACTION: 45.46%	DISSATISFACTION: 24.11%
08	TEODORO J. HERBOSA Secretary of Health	SATISFACTION: 45.32%	DISSATISFACTION: 24.47%
09	MA. THERESA LAZARO Secretary of Foreign Affairs	SATISFACTION: 45.14%	DISSATISFACTION: 22.71%
10	GILBERTO C. TEODORO JR. Secretary of National Defense	SATISFACTION: 43.73%	DISSATISFACTION: 25.15%
11	ARSENIO BALISACAN Secretary of Economy, Planning and Development	SATISFACTION: 43.66%	DISSATISFACTION: 23.63%
12	RAPHAEL PERPETUO LOTILLA Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources	SATISFACTION: 43.32%	DISSATISFACTION: 26.25%
13	MA. ESPERANZA CHRISTINA G. FRASCO Secretary of Tourism	SATISFACTION: 43.27%	DISSATISFACTION: 24.63%

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# DTI Cavite's Cavitienda 3.0 Lights Up Acienda West Plaza this Valentine Season

Silang, Cavite — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Cavite, in partnership with Acienda Designer Outlet, is set to stage Cavitienda 3.0, a four-day market and lifestyle event showcasing Cavite's vibrant micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from February 14 to 17, 2026 at the West Plaza, Acienda Designer Outlet in Silang, Cavite.

Designed as both a shopping destination and a cultural experience, Cavitienda 3.0 invites the public to celebrate love, creativity, and local entrepreneurship this Valentine season. Visitors can browse and purchase unique Cavite-made products, including hand-made charms, artisan crafts, food items, and

Valentine's gift ideas from participating local merchants.

Beyond shopping, the event offers a full-day lineup of engaging activities. Guests can enjoy live music performances, interact with the beloved Acienda Mascots, and witness a traditional Chinese & Lion Dance Exhibition

that highlights cultural heritage. Attendees will also have the chance to meet Cavitienda's featured influencers and content creators during a special meet-and-greet session. As an added treat, the public is invited to join a FREE flower arrangement workshop, where participants can learn floral



design tips just in time for Valentine's Day. Visitors, couples, fami-

lies, and shoppers are encouraged to drop by, support local businesses,

and experience Cavite's best in one vibrant venue.

## DOST boosts

from page 8

The initiative was led by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Development Cooperation and the Geospatial Analytics and Technology Solutions (GATES) Program, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Philippines, experts from the University of the Philippines - National College of Public Administration and Governance (UP NCPAG), and the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP).

### A Vision for Data-Driven Governance

In his speech, DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr. emphasized that the department's goal is to evolve into an agile, data-driven, and future-ready organization that transforms information into national value. He underscored that decisions must be firmly grounded in evidence to ensure they align with global cooperation priorities and national development goals.

"Data must be connected. It must speak a common language. It must move from information to insight to action," Secretary Solidum stated. "As the Department that leads innovation, we must also lead in harmonization, integration, and translation".

### Strengthening Proposal Development for Global Competitiveness

In collaboration with the UNDP Philippines, the first two days of the series focused on developing high-impact project

proposals.

Experts guided participants through problem framing and stakeholder mapping to create a pipeline of project concept notes addressing three strategic areas: human capital development, innovation and economic development, and climate change and disaster risk reduction.

UNDP Resident Representative Knut Ostby noted that improving the ability to leverage Official Development Assistance (ODA) and external financing positions science and technology initiatives as catalysts for private-sector engagement and domestic investment.

"This is about scaling innovations where they are needed most," Ostby said.

DOST Assistant Secretary for Development Mr. Rodolfo J. Calzado, Jr. also encouraged participants to further develop their group outputs into full draft concept notes, as these will serve as a preparatory step for the proposed one-on-one coaching sessions with the UNDP team scheduled to begin in the early months of 2026, refining the outputs into investment-ready project concept notes.

### Bridging Research to Policy and Open Data

The final day of the series, conducted with experts from the UP-NCPAG, focused on the research-to-policy landscape.

Participants explored pathways to translate technical findings into

actionable insights for national and sectoral policies while discussing the institutionalization of open data to advance good governance and transparency

Asec. Calzado, Jr. concluded that while the DOST system generates a wealth of geospatial data and technical knowledge annually, impact only occurs when that data is translated into strategic, people-centered action.

By maximizing the use of its organizational data through the GATES Program, DOST continues to reinforce its commitment to a data-driven government that provides solutions and opportunities for all Filipinos.

Through the "Collaborate, Translate, Transform: Seminar and Writeshop Series on Partnership and Proposal Development, Research Translation, and Policy Development," held from December 2 to 4, 2025, the Department gathered representatives from its Central Office and attached agencies to bridge the gap between information generation and actionable results.

GATES Program is one of the eight banner research and development programs of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) aimed at providing science-based, innovative, and inclusive solutions across four strategic pillars: human well-being, wealth creation, wealth protection, and sustainability. These pillars embody the mantra OneDOST4U: Solutions and Opportunities for All. For more information, visit [www.dost.gov.ph](http://www.dost.gov.ph).

## NGCP welcomes

from page 8

ruptions in some areas. "Renewable energy initiatives such as the Terra Solar Power Project are welcome. Any new power source introduced into the system will help keep supply stable.

However, not all renewable energy technologies are equal. Some technologies (such as wind or solar) are, by nature, variable or supply intermittently, and therefore need to be handled more carefully.

There are operational considerations that must be carefully managed on both the side of the transmission, and more importantly, on the side of the generating plant. Doing so will help grid stability and mitigate any fluctuations inherent in variable renewable energy sources (VREs). In addition, all required facilities on the plant side, as determined in the system impact study, must be fully complied with," NGCP said.

This concern was underscored by a recent

voltage fluctuation incident in parts of North Luzon, which occurred due to the unstable output of renewable energy sources in the area. The incident highlighted how sudden variability in RE generation can affect voltage levels and system stability, prompting NGCP to take mitigating actions to prevent further disturbances.

"Operational experience at the San Marcelino Solar Farm in Zambales indicates that short term solar variability of up to 300MW can occur due to brief cloud cover. While such variability can be effectively managed with fast-acting resources, conventional generation (such as coal power plants) has limited capability to respond quickly due to longer ramping times. Battery energy storage systems are among these "fast-acting resources," and therefore play a critical role in providing rapid support to maintain frequency stability as solar penetration

increases," the company said.

The Terra Solar Power Project will be supplying 850MW to MERALCO through a Power Supply Agreement, mainly during the daytime, while the remaining 1,650MW will be injected into the grid via the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM). As a variable renewable energy source, Terra Solar operates on a must-dispatch basis under Republic Act 9513. The law mandates that all variable renewable energy sources, including solar farms, must be given priority in scheduling plants for dispatch into the transmission grid.

NGCP reiterated its call on the Department of Energy (DOE) for more incisive and progressive policies on the entry of VREs, focusing on grid stability as the primary consideration. The company stressed that the entry of bulk VRE should be complemented by dependable baseload and fast-ramping energy resources to ensure a stable and reliable power supply for the country. #NGCPAdvisory#NGCP

# CBCP NEWS



Archbishop David William Antonio speaks during his installation Mass at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur on Jan. 14, 2026.

## Nueva Segovia archbishop Antonio calls for Church that serves the poor, defends life

Archbishop David William Antonio on Wednesday urged the faithful of Nueva Segovia to build a Church that actively serves the poor and defends life in all its forms.

"We need to remain a Church that proclaims fullness of life, that cannot turn away from hunger, injustice or exclusion," he said during his installation at the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Assumption in Santa Maria, Ilocos Sur.

Guided by the Lord's words, "that they may have life, they might have it abundantly," Antonio said the Church must engage with society, responding courageously to its needs.

"We must listen attentively, accompany our people patiently, and respond courageously and efficaciously," he added, urging priests, religious, and lay faithful to walk together as a synodal Church.

He noted Ilocos Sur's faith, resilience, and

strong family values while acknowledging serious challenges: poverty, underemployment, migration, youth uncertainty, and loneliness among the elderly.

The archbishop emphasized a Church that listens attentively to the poor, youth, families, women, and indigenous peoples, fostering dialogue, accompaniment, and shared responsibility.

Echoing Pope Francis, he said that synodality is not merely a program but a way of life, where priests, religious, and lay faithful walk together in mission and prayerful discernment.

"Our evangelization must be missionary, must be joyful, and compassionate," said Antonio, allowing people to

encounter Christ in homes, workplaces, and daily responsibilities.

He highlighted the importance of care for families, saying they remain the first school of faith, and of youth, who are both the present and future of the Church.

Environmental stewardship is also crucial, Antonio said, urging protection of land, seas, rivers, and communities as part of safeguarding life for future generations.

The archbishop called for collaboration with civil authorities, educators, civic leaders, and all people of goodwill, noting that the Church must speak with moral clarity and defend the voiceless.

Reflecting on his episcopal motto, "Ut Vitam Habeant," which is Latin for "That they may have

life", he said that it is neither his project or that of the archdiocese but is "God's promise."

"Our task is simply to cooperate with His grace and to allow ourselves to become instruments that others may have life and have it in its fullness," he said.

Antonio was installed as the eighth archbishop of Nueva Segovia by Archbishop Charles Brown, apostolic nuncio to the Philippines, in the presence of dozens of bishops.

Also attending were Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, who served as homilist; Cardinal Jose Advincula of Manila; and Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, archbishop emeritus of Cotabato.

## Pope Leo XIV proclaims Franciscan Jubilee Year

VATICAN— Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the saint's death. During this time of grace, which will extend until January 2027, the faithful are granted the opportunity to obtain a plenary indulgence.



A 13th-century fresco of St. Francis of Assisi by the Florentine painter Cimabue, one of the earliest depictions of the saint, is located in the lower church of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi in Assisi, Italy. JACOB STEIN/CRUX STATIONALIS VIA CNA

This Franciscan Jubilee Year, considered a gift for the entire Church and an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal, was inaugurated on Jan. 10 with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See.

Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain this grace under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Furthermore, the elderly, the sick, and those who, for serious reasons, cannot leave their homes can obtain the plenary indulgence by spiritually joining in the jubilee celebrations and offering their prayers, pains, or sufferings to God.

In a world where "the virtual takes over the real, disagreements and social violence are part of everyday life, and peace becomes more insecure and distant every day, this Year

of St. Francis spurs all of us, each according to our possibilities, to imitate the poor man of Assisi, to form ourselves as far as possible on the model of Christ," the decree states.

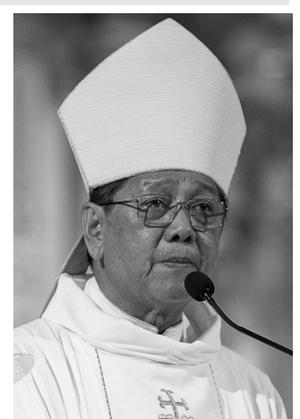
For the Order of Friars Minor, this time is also an opportunity for the faithful to become "models of holiness of life and constant witnesses of peace."

On the occasion of this anniversary, Pope Leo XIV addressed a letter to the ministers general of the Franciscan Family Conference in which he emphasized that "in this era, marked by so many seemingly endless wars, by internal and social divisions that create distrust and fear, he continues to speak. Not because he offers technical solutions, but because his life points to the authentic source of peace."

In this regard, he highlighted that St. Francis reminds us that "peace with God, peace among people, and peace with creation are inseparable dimensions of a single call to universal reconciliation."

he expressed condolences to the victims' families and offered prayers for the bereaved.

Cortes also called on authorities to ensure justice, prayed for the perpetrator, and urged appropriate psychological and mental health support for law enforcers and public servants so they may "serve with moral clarity."



## Dumaguete bishop urges action after deadly Negros Oriental shooting

Bishop Julito Cortes of Dumaguete called on local authorities to take "decisive steps" against bar establishments he said degrade "human values" following a shooting that killed four people in Negros Oriental.

Cortes issued the statement Tuesday after a shooting in Sibulan town on Jan. 9 that killed a female bar worker and three police officers. The suspect, also a police officer, is in custody.

He said the "painful

event" was a stark reminder of the dangers posed by such establishments to "the dignity of persons and the moral fabric of communities."

The bishop said the establishments contribute to the "degradation of

human values and the objectification of persons."

He urged authorities to promote "wholesome and upright forms of recreation and livelihood."

The bishop expressed his deep condolences to

the victims' families, offering prayers for the bereaved.

"With profound sorrow, we in the Diocese of Dumaguete mourn the tragic loss of four invaluable lives in this violent shooting," Cortes said, as

# MAGLIBANG TAYO

## KAPALARAN

**ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)** - Mahina ka ngayon sa tukso. Mas makabubuti kung pagtutuunan mo ng pansin ang iyong negosyo at trabaho. Ito ang mensahe ng kapalaran mo. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-5-6-18-20-26-41.

**TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20)** - Iyo ang araw na ito. Hilingin muna sa langit kung ano ang gusto mo. Makakaasa ka na kahit ito'y tila imposible at mahirap na mangyari ito ay ibibigay sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-9-10-24-28-35-43.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** - Tagapagpasaya ang papel mo sa mundo. Sa pagtupad mo sa misyong ito, iwasan mong maakit ang taong pinapasaya mo. Ito ang paalala sa iyo ng iyong kapalaran ngayon. Masuwerteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-6-11-19-21-23-39.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** - Huwag kang mag-alinlangan, kung ano ang unang plano mo, iyon mismo ang gawin mo. Kapag may naisip kang bago kahit pa maganda, huwag mo munang baguhin ang una mong napagdesisyunan. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-2-12-17-25-34-45.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Ito ang araw na magsisimulang umayos ang iyong kapalaran. Ang mga hindi maganda pangyayaring nagpapahirap sa iyo ay unti-unti nang mawawala at muli nang papabor sa iyo ang tadhana. Masuwerteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-8-16-29-31-37-40.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Bawasan mo ang mahaba at matagal na pag-aanalisa sa mga bagay-bagay. Kapag hindi ka agad kumilos, maaaring makalagpas sa iyo ang mga magagandang oportunidad. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-5-18-22-30-38-44.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** - Kung ano ang gusto mo, iyon ang mangyayari. Espesyal ang araw na ito para sa iyo, kaya bibigyan ka ng kapalaran ng karapatan gawin anumang gusto mo. Masuwerteng kulay-burgundy. Tips sa lotto-1-17-20-27-32-41.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** - Huwag kang mapili. Kung ano ang nasa harapan mo, iyon mismo ang kaloob ng langit. Tandaan mo, ang taong mapili, ang napipili ay bungsi. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-7-19-24-31-35-42.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Huwag mong ipahalata na mas angat ka o mas mataas ka kesa sa iba. Kapag kumilos at nagsalita ka tulad nila, maiwanan mo sila ng milya-milya. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-3-11-16-25-34-43.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Nakatutuwa ang kapalaran mo ngayon. Ikaw ang pipiliin ng taong may dalang suwerte, habang aayawan naman niya ang taong maporma at tila mapagmalaki. Kaya ikaw ang tunay na mapipili. Masuwerteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-4-19-22-27-30-44.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Kumilos ka nang kumilos, kahit pa sabihin ng iba na tila hindi ka mapakali. Sa bandang huli, magugulat ka at pati sila, dahil sa iyo dadapo ang malaking suwerte. Masuwerteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto- 9-12-23-32-39-41.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)** - Iwasan mong makasakit ng damdamin ng iyong kapwa. Mas mainam na huwag ka na lamang kumontra. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-7-15-21-27-36-42.

## SUDOKU

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

### SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 22 #45

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

**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.

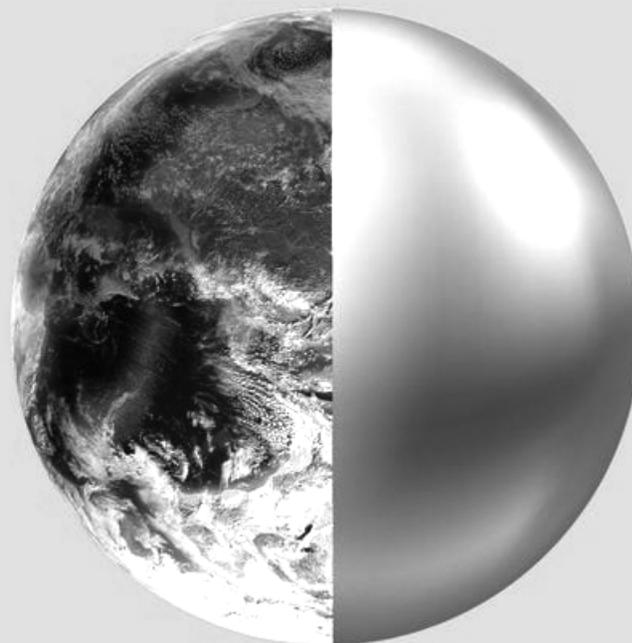
• Each number can only appear once in every row, column or box.

• Every puzzle has only one correct solution!

## Did You Know?

### THERE'S ENOUGH GOLD INSIDE EARTH TO COAT THE PLANET

Earth really has a heart of gold: 99% of the precious metal can be found in the Earth's core, Discover Magazine reports. How much is there? Enough to coat the entire surface of the Earth in 1.5 feet of gold.



## WORD HUNT

### Fruits

S	E	M	I	L	R	A	R	K	T	A	R	G	P
E	K	U	W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	A
G	R	A	P	E	F	R	U	I	T	I	R	E	B
S	A	W	E	N	I	R	E	G	N	A	T	K	E
T	C	O	O	B	L	A	C	K	B	E	R	R	Y
R	R	O	B	A	N	A	N	A	O	E	E	K	E
A	A	P	E	L	P	E	B	E	M	G	E	I	L
W	S	O	L	N	E	L	I	E	A	N	Y	W	P
B	P	B	S	N	G	M	U	R	N	A	G	I	P
E	B	P	E	A	C	H	O	M	G	R	L	I	A
R	E	I	P	E	A	R	S	N	O	O	U	O	B
R	R	A	G	G	R	A	P	E	S	L	W	B	E
Y	R	B	N	Y	R	R	E	B	E	S	O	O	G
N	Y	R	R	E	B	E	U	L	B	Y	A	P	O

- BLACKBERRY
- LIME
- PLUM
- PEACH
- KIWI
- GRAPEFRUIT
- STRAWBERRY
- GOOSEBERRY
- BLUEBERRY
- GRAPES
- ORANGE
- RASPBERRY
- PEARS
- BANANA
- WATERMELON
- TANGERINE
- LEMON
- APPLE
- MANGO

# DOST boosts capacity to turn research and data into bankable projects and national policies

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) is taking significant strides toward strengthening its capacity to transform technical data and research insights into bankable project proposals and evidence-informed policies that drive national development. **DOST BOOSTS • 5**



Representatives from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) gathered from December 2 to 4, 2025, for the “Collaborate, Translate, Transform” seminar-writeshop to strengthen the department’s capacity to turn research and data into bankable project proposals and evidence-informed policies. Conducted in collaboration with UNDP Philippines, UP-NCPAG, and NRCP, the initiative aims to harness DOST’s wealth of information for strategic actions that contribute to national development. (Photo by John Kenneth Fraga, DOST Gates Program)

## NGCP welcomes new capacity from Terra Solar Project; cautions on potential grid impact

NGCP welcomes Terra Solar Power Project as a significant addition to the country’s growing renewable energy capacity, supporting national efforts toward a cleaner energy mix. Terra Solar has a total capacity of 2,500 Megawatts (MW), supported by a 1,125MW battery energy storage system (BESS) capable of sustaining output for around four (4) hours.

NGCP, however, cautioned that heavy reliance on intermittent power sources such as solar generation, may pose operational challenges to grid stability, potentially causing fluctuations in system frequency and voltage that if not properly managed, could lead to under-frequency load shedding or rotating power inter-



**NGCP WELCOMES • 5**



What an inspiring transformation! From disaster-vulnerable to resilient – Barangay Balangkas proves that when science meets community collaboration, incredible change happens. The catfish farming, vinegar technology, and bioreactor projects aren’t just solutions – they’re building livelihoods, food security, and a stronger future. Kudos to DOST-NCR and all partners for making science work for every Filipino!

## DOST, Cagayan Province Strengthen Partnership for STI Development

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), under the leadership of Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., welcomed Cagayan Provincial Governor Edgar Aglipay for a courtesy visit, reaffirming a shared commitment to harness science, technology, and innovation (STI) as key drivers of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable growth in the province.



The meeting also brought together DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Engr. Sancho A. Maborang, Cagayan Provincial Board Member Atty. Engelbert “Jojo” Caronan, and DOST Region II Regional Director Virginia G. Bilgera, reflecting strong collaboration between national and local leaders in shaping Cagayan’s development agenda.

A highlight of the discussion was the presentation of DOST’s **DOST, CAGAYAN • 4**



**Mga kapatid, matuto tayo kay Jesus Nazareno na bumaba ng kusa alang-alang sa pag-ibig. Sa ating bayan ngayon, may mga ayaw bumaba kahit mali na at bistado na.**

**Ayaw bumaba kahit pahirap na sa bayan. Ayaw bumaba kahit nagdurusa na ang mahihirap. Ayaw bumaba kahit binabaha na at nasisira na ang bayan. Ayaw bumaba kahit hindi karapat-dapat.**

**Mahiya naman kayo, bumaba na ng kusa.”**

Balanga Bishop Most. Rev. Rufino Sescon, Jr., D.D.  
calling on individuals to emulate Jesus Nazareno’s humility and step down amid corruption scandals

January 9, 2026