

THE GOVERNORS OF CALABARZON



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CALABARZON

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CALABARZON Governors Unite for Progress and People-Centered Leadership

CALABARZON — The region's dynamic leaders, Gov. Abeng Remulla (Cavite), Gov. Nina Ynares (Rizal), Gov. Sol Aragones (Laguna), Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto (Batangas), and Gov. Helen Tan (Quezon), stand together as a symbol of unity, vision, and commitment to the people of CALABARZON.

Under the banner "The Governors of CALABARZON," these respected public servants embody the strength and diversity of the region. Each governor brings unique expertise and passion, yet all share a common goal: to uplift communities, drive sustainable development, and ensure inclusive growth for every citizen.

- Gov. Abeng Remulla continues to champion Cavite's infrastructure and economic expansion, positioning the province as a hub for investment and innovation.

CALABARZON • 4

PNFPWD National Summit advances unified action for disability-inclusive development

A powerful convergence of advocates, trailblazers, and changemakers took place during the Philippine National Federations of Persons with Disabilities (PNFPWD) National General Assembly and Summit from February 24–27 at One Tagaytay Place Hotel Suites, Tagaytay City.



The five-day gathering united the nation's strongest voices in the disability sector—leaders and champions committed to shaping a more inclusive and accessible future for all Filipinos. Anchored on solidarity and shared purpose, the summit became a dynamic platform for collaboration, policy discussion, and empowerment.

The program formally opened with welcome remarks **PNFPWD NATIONAL** • 4

DOST Strengthens Regional Startup Ecosystem Through the Rollout of iHubs Across SOCCSKSARGEN

As part of its continuing efforts to strengthen the startup ecosystem across the country, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) launched the activity "Strengthening the Regional Startup Ecosystem: Establishment of Provincial and Regional Innovation Hubs (iHubs)" on February 24, 2026 at Watergate Hotel in Butuan City.



The activity gathered regional directors, provincial science and technology directors, innovation champions, and key stakeholders from across Mindanao to align strategies in building stronger, more inclusive startup communities. Representing DOST SOCCSKSARGEN were Regional Director Engr. Sammy P. Malawan and Provincial Director Dr. Michael T. Mayo of PSTO Cotabato.

The event featured a ceremonial Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing, signifying the commitment of participating DOST offices and partners to establish and strengthen Provincial and Regional Innovation Hubs (iHubs). Moreover, collaborative workshops and knowledge-sharing sessions were conducted such as discussions on AI Harmonization and the Smart Of- **DOST** • 4

NEWS

Mango farmers in Batangas City venture into value-added processing

Mango farmers in Batangas City venture into value-added processing as they undergo intensive, science-based training that equips them to transform fresh harvests into high-quality products like wine, jam, leather, and chutney.

The City Agriculture Office, through its Home Extension Services Division, and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas conducted a two-day training in value-added mango processing for the members of the Batangas City Mango Farmers Association (BCMFA) at the City's Mango Processing Facility inside the OCVAS Compound in Bolbok, Batangas City, February 19–20.

The training aimed to strengthen the technical capability of local mango farmers and enable them

to expand beyond selling fresh produce by developing processed mango products with higher market value.

Ms. Anna Marie Marasigan of the DOST CALABARZON Food Safety Team kicked off the training program with a session on Basic Food Hygiene. She emphasized proper handling of raw materials, sanitary processing conditions, and strict hygiene practices to ensure food safety and build consumer trust.

Ms. Claire Zubia and Dr. Joel Rivadeneira led the lecture and hands-on

workshop on mango processing. They introduced standard and science-based techniques in producing value-added mango products such as mango wine, mango jam, mango leather, and mango chutney. The session covered raw material selection, preparation procedures, processing parameters, and appropriate packaging methods to improve product safety, quality, and shelf life.

Participants engaged in practical demonstrations and applied proper processing and packaging techniques during the



workshop. On the second day, they continued hands-on production activities focusing on mango wine, mango leather, and mango chutney to reinforce their skills and build confi-

dence in producing high-quality mango-based products.

Through this initiative, the City Agriculture Office and DOST-Batangas enhanced the capacity of BCMFA mem-

bers to produce value-added mango products, creating opportunities for higher income and stronger competitiveness in the local market. **(By John Maico M. Hernandez)**

720 kawani ng Kapitolyo nakinabang sa Service Caravan

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS, Batangas (PIA)–Nagsagawa ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas ng isang Service Caravan para sa mga kawani nito na ginanap sa Provincial Auditorium sa Lungsod ng Batangas noong ika-4 ng Marso, 2026.



SERVICE CARAVAN

For Matatag na Government Workforce

March 4, 2026 | Provincial Auditorium
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Batangas PIO @batspiocapitol Batangas PIO Capitol batangas.gov.ph

Umabot sa 720 kawani ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan at iba pang ahensya sa paligid ng Kapitolyo ang nakinabang sa naturang programa.

Ayon kay Liezl Rosuelo, hepe ng Provincial Human Resources and Development Office, ang naturang caravan ay

isang hakbang upang siguruhin na makakuha din ng maayos na serbisyo ang mga kawani ng pamahalaang panlalawigan.

“Bukod sa Capitol on Wheels na bumababa sa ating mg alokal na pamahalaan upang iparamdam ang mga

serbiyo ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan, sinisiguro din natin na maging ang ating mga kawani na nagbibigay ng serbisyo ay nakakakuha din ng serbisyong nararapat para sa kanila. Ang hakbang na ito ay sa ilalim ng Matatag na Provincial Government

workforce,” ani Rosuelo.

Kabilang sa mga tumugon sa naturang caravan ang mga tanggapan ng Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Pag-IBIG Batangas Branch at Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Ilan sa mga serbisyong ibinigay sa mga kawani ang GSIS membership at policy record inquiry; loan account inquiry and application guidance; claims/benefits filing assistance; membership record reconciliation; Pag-IBIG Fund Membership registration; contributions and loan records verification; MPL and housing loan inquiry assistance; Loyalty Card Plus application; PSA Certificates (birth,

marriage, death); CENOMAR at PhilSys services.

Ayon kay Virginia Coz mula sa Provincial Information Office, kunbinyente ang naturang caravan lalo na sa tulad niyang senior citizen dahil mabilis ang serbisyo, tuloy tuloy din ang kanilang inquiry at may agarang kasagutan sa kanilang bawat katanungan.

“Maganda ang ganitong programa dahil hindi lamang nakakatipid sa oras sapagkat mismong nasa loob ng Kapitolyo ang caravan, madali ding nasasagot ang mga katanungan o usapin ng mga miyembro at kawani. Tulad ng pagkuha ng birth at marriage certificate, hindi na

kailangang magsadya sa tanggapan ng PSA para dito. Sana ay masa maraming pamahalaang nasyunal pa ang maging bahagi ng service caravan na ito sa mga susunod na panahon,” ani Coz.

Ang hakbang na ito ay bahagi din ng adhikain ng pamahalaang palalawigan sa pangunguna ni Governor Vilma Santos Recto na mailapit ang lahat ng serbisyo hindi lamang sa mga nasa lokal na pamahalaan kundi maging sa mga kawani ng pamahalaang panlalawigan na nagbibigay din ng serbisyo batay sa kanilang kakayahan at kapasidad. **(MPDC-PIA Batangas)**

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TICKETING

Editorial

Online scamming: Southeast Asia's biggest security threat

A UNITED Nations human rights report released last week has revealed that trafficked workers in online scam centers in Southeast Asia are trapped in a setting dominated by rape, torture and forced labor.

"The litany of abuse is staggering and at the same time heartbreaking," UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk said.

What Türk also finds deeply troubling is "rather than receiving protection, care and rehabilitation, as well as the pathways to justice and redress to which they are entitled, victims too often face disbelief, stigmatization and even further punishment."

The UN agency interviewed workers who have escaped or were rescued from online scam hubs dotting the region for the report.

"Victims described being lured into scamming jobs under false pretenses and then being coerced into perpetrating online fraud ranging from impersonation scams, online extortion, financial fraud, as well as romantic scams," the report noted.

The victims said they were held "in immense compounds resembling self-contained towns, some over 500 acres in size, made up of heavily fortified multi-story buildings with barbed wire-topped high walls, guarded by armed and uniformed security personnel."

Sexual violence in the hubs has increased since 2024, the agency said. "Women described rape, forced prostitution and forced abortions. Male victims reported sexual humiliation and assault. Twelve women released from compounds in Myanmar said they were raped and impregnated, while a pregnant Filipina survivor experienced physical violence and electrocution."

Online scamming has grown into a lucrative industry that rakes in more than \$43.8 billion annually. It employs an estimated 300,000 workers recruited not only from countries in Asia, but as far off as Zimbabwe and South Africa in the African continent.

Efforts to crush online scamming are often compromised because cybercriminal syndicates are "deeply entrenched," and operate with impunity in collusion with corrupt government officials.

The Philippines can claim credit for dismantling online scam centers disguised as Philippine offshore gaming operators, or POGOs. The administration of President Rodrigo Duterte rolled out the red carpet for POGOs in 2016, seeing their poten-



tial as a major revenue generator. The operators were allowed to bring in their own employees, who were mostly Chinese. At one point, the POGO workforce was dominated by 300,000 Chinese.

The POGOs initially lived up to their promise, paying P7.2 billion in taxes in 2020, more than double what they paid in the previous year.

The POGO bubble burst when the Covid pandemic struck. Profits from online gaming shrank, and the operators began to miss out on their tax payments.

POGOs were forced to "expand" into criminal activities ranging from kidnapping and prostitution to money laundering, human trafficking, and crypto-scramming.

In 2024, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared a ban on POGOs, saying they "have ventured into illicit areas, furthest from gaming."

Government raids on POGO sites dovetailed with the description by victims interviewed by the UN of heavily guarded, self-sustained communities where their rights were curtailed.

Other Southeast Asian countries, particularly Burma, Laos and Cambodia, have had little success in fighting online scammers.

The UN report warned that without coordinated action grounded in human rights principles, the convergence of cybercrime, corruption and human traf-

ficking will continue to expand.

Türk stressed that "effective responses need to be centered on human rights law and standards. Crucially, that means explicitly recognizing forced criminality within anti-trafficking laws and regulations and guaranteeing the non-punishment principle for victims of trafficking."

Last year, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) acknowledged that online scamming and cyber fraud have overtaken sea piracy and international economic crimes as primary threats to regional security.

To respond to this new threat, Asean has adopted a 10-year strategy aimed at bolstering cooperation among member states in fighting transnational crime.

The plan calls for collaboration, information-sharing and targeted responses to criminal threats, with a sharp focus on cyber-related issues.

Cybersecurity will only be effective if cooperation between governments, private sector, and international bodies is seamless. The region must also invest heavily in cybersecurity capacity building, and constantly update legal frameworks to keep up with evolving threats.

The Philippines, this year's Asean chairman, must see to it that the plan of action is not only reinforced, but sustained.

PAGKAING PANLABAN SA KANSER

Sa araw na ito, tuturuan po namin kayo ng isang ulam na mabisang panlaban sa kanser. Ito ay ang aming espesyal na ulam ng Top 4 anti-cancer foods.

1. Bawang at sibuyas – Sa pagsusuri, ang mga sibuyas ay malakas pumigil sa paglago ng cancer cells. Ang bawang ay may sankap na ally sulfides, na tumutulong sa pagsugpo ng kanser sa colon, suso, бага at prostate. Para maging epektibo, ang bawang ay kailangang durugin at prituhi ng kaunti. Huwag sunugin! Puwede ring kainin ng hilaw ang bawang, pero mag-ingat lang at nakahahapdi ito ng sikmura.

2. Shitake mushrooms na nabibili sa palengke - Ang Shitake mushroom ay may polysaccharides at lentinian, na nagpapalakas sa ating immune system (katawan). Kapag malakas ang ating immune system, mas hindi tayo magkakasakit. Sa Japan, ang mga pasyeteng nag-che-chemotherapy ay pinapakain ng Shitake mushrooms para bumilis ang kanilang paggaling.

3. Carrots - Ang madilaw na prutas at gulay ay may taglay na vitamin A at lycopene na tumutulong makaiwas sa kanser. Kasama ang mga carrots, kamote, kalabasa at kamatis. Sa isang 6 na taong pagsusuri sa breast cancer, napag-alaman na ang mga pasyeteng kumakain ng ganitong pagkain ay mas humaba ang buhay kumpara sa hindi kumakain nito.

4. Broccoli o cauliflower – Ang mga cabbages tulad ng bok choy, broccoli, cauliflower at brussels sprouts ay may sangkap na sulforaphane, na mabisang

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



panlaban sa kanser. Sa pagluluto ng gulay, i-steam o lutuin lang ng bahagya na may kasamang olive oil. Huwag pakuluan ang gulay dahil mawawala ang bisa nito laban sa kanser.

Paraan ng Pagluto:

1. Gamitan ng konting mantika lang. Igisa ang bawang at sibuyas.

2. Ilagay na ang half cup ng Shitake mushrooms.

3. Pagkaraan ng 2 minuto, ilagay ang one cup ng hiniwang carrots. Lagyan ng 2 kutsarang oyster sauce at one-fourth na basong tubig.

4. Pagkaraan ng 2 minuto, ilagay na ang two cups ng broccoli. Lagyan ng tubig kapag natutuyo na ang gulay. Maghintay ng 5 minuto hanggang maluto na ang gulay.

5. Huwag i-overcook ang gulay para maiwan ang sustansya. Huwag din damihan ang sarsa para manatili ang bitamina sa gulay.

Ihanda ng madalas ang ulam na ito at mababawasan ang tsansang magkasakit ng ating mga kapamilya.

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NEWS

PGC welcomes

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The activity aimed to learn from the best practices and successful programs of the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM) particularly in strengthening employment facilitation, industry linkages, and career development initiatives.

Provincial Administrator

Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia delivered the welcome remarks, highlighting the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing among local government units to further enhance public service delivery.

Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, OPPEM Head, presented the office's key programs and activities,

and discussed the department's best practices in employment services, partnerships, and workforce development. Also present during the program was Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide, Chief of Staff, who expressed support for initiatives that promote institutional learning and inter-LGU cooperation.

Ms. Clarisse S. Quimpo, Tourist Receptionist I from the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer, assisted the guests throughout the event and ensured the smooth coordination of the visit.

As part of their benchmarking itinerary, the delegation headed by Ms. Sofia Ala Logmao – Supervising Labor and Employment Officer of PESO Oriental Mindoro and Mr. Ronald F. Cantos, DPA – City College of

Calapan Administrator, also conducted industry partner facility visits at EEI Training Academy Corporation, a TESDA-accredited Training and Assessment Center located in Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite, and Yazaki-EMI (Eds Manu-

facturing Inc.) in the City Imus. The visits provided valuable insights into industry-based training, technical skills development, and strong collaboration between government and private sector partners.

The benchmarking ac-

tivity further strengthened ties between Cavite and Oriental Mindoro, fostering the exchange of innovative strategies that contribute to improved employment services and sustainable workforce development. — **R. Dones**



BENCHMARKING ACTIVITY
24 FEBRUARY 2026 NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE

PNFPWD National

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from Philippine National Federation Chair Bonifacio Castigador, who underscored the importance of unity and collective action in advancing the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities (PWDs) nationwide.

Delivering the keynote message was Glenda D. Relova, Director of the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA), who highlighted the government's continued commitment to mainstreaming disability-inclusive policies and strengthening partnerships with federations and local government units. She emphasized that inclusion must go beyond compliance—it must be embedded in governance, development planning, and everyday community life.

Representing the host region, REGION IV-A

Federation President Danilo Emelo expressed gratitude for the overwhelming participation and reaffirmed CALABARZON's support for national initiatives that uplift the PWD community.

Ms. Marie Shiela Haloc, Provincial Disability Affairs Officer, attended the event on behalf of Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, conveying the Provincial Government of Cavite's full support for programs that champion inclusivity and accessibility.

On Day 1 (February 24), participants engaged in an eye-opening learning session entitled "Katawa-tawa lang ba ang PWD?" facilitated by Mr. Crisaldo Pablo of PWDigitables Channel. The discussion tackled persistent stereotypes, discrimination, and the importance of respectful

representation of persons with disabilities in media and society. The session sparked meaningful dialogue among delegates, reinforcing the need to challenge harmful narratives and promote dignity and empowerment.

Meanwhile, the Tagaytay City Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) shared the city's best practices in implementing disability-friendly initiatives, showcasing local efforts that can serve as models for other LGUs.

In the succeeding days, the summit will delve into critical thematic discussions including Inclusive Tourism, Inclusive Agriculture, and Inclusive Services Industry. These sessions will explore innovative strategies and practical approaches to ensure that PWDs are not merely beneficiaries but active contributors to economic development across various sectors. — **OPIO**



2026 NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
FEDERATION OF PWD
24 FEBRUARY 2026
ONE TAGAYTAY PLACE HOTEL SUITES, TAGAYTAY CITY

DOST-CALABARZON

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The one-day training combined theory and practice. Participants reviewed material properties, common defects, and structural behavior under stress. Simulation exercises followed, allowing teams from

Technical Operations Division, Finance and Administrative Services Division, and Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs) to generate and process actual audit data similar to

post-earthquake conditions.

Standardizing the IA Tool addresses previous gaps in assessment practices. With a single framework, audit data gathered in one province now aligns with data from another, improving regional coordination and decision-making.

One participant from PSTO - Quezon, Mr. Michael Florendo, shared how the training equips them to bring

added value to their home provinces, "This strengthens staff competence and allows us to offer stronger services to MSMEs and LGUs at the provincial level."

As CALABARZON continues to face seismic risks, initiatives like this ensure that government action remains proactive, data-driven, and resilient. The training reflects a long-term commitment to safeguarding the infrastructure that communities rely on every day. (By **Vence Ralf D. Llorente**)

CALABARZON

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- Gov. Nina Ynares upholds Rizal's legacy of environmental stewardship, ensuring that development goes hand in hand with ecological preservation.

- Gov. Sol Aragonés advocates for health, education, and social welfare, making Laguna a province where people's well-being comes first.

- Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto, a beloved figure in Batangas, combines cultural pride with progressive governance, strengthening both heritage and modern growth.

- Gov. Helen Tan leads Quezon with compassion and resilience, focusing on healthcare and agricultural advancement to empower rural communities.

ties.

Together, these leaders represent the spirit of solidarity and service. Their collective vision is to make CALABARZON not only the country's economic powerhouse but also a region where every family thrives.

This historic moment of unity among the governors is a testament to the region's strength: diverse provinces, one shared mission — progress for all.

DOST

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fice System for Government Excellence.

By establishing Provincial and Regional Innovation Hubs (iHubs), DOST aims to provide shared spaces for ideation, incubation, mentoring, prototyping, and access to funding and technical support. In SOCCSKSARGEN, one Innovation Hub has recently been established at the University of Southern Mindanao in Cotabato Province, serving as a collaborative space for students, faculty researchers, and local innovators.

The participation of DOST SOCCSKSARGEN in this national initiative opens greater opportunities to cultivate more technology-based startups in the region. Moving forward, the agency aims to establish additional innovation hubs across the region and strengthen partnerships with higher education institutions, local government units, and private sector stakeholders to further nurture a vibrant and sustainable startup ecosystem in SOCCSKSARGEN.

AI Harmonization Workshop

Watergate Hotel, Butuan City
24 February 2026



DTI Laguna Strengthens Youth Entrepreneurship Through Start-up Seminar at LSPU San Pablo-ARCAlinios

San Pablo City, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center San Pablo City, strengthened its advocacy for youth entrepreneurship by conducting a Business Start-up Seminar titled “From Idea to Enterprise: Business Discussion Session on Start-up Business for Latest Generation Trends” at the Laguna State Polytechnic University – San Pablo City Campus (LSPU-SPCC) Gymnasium.



The seminar gathered around 400 students from the College of Business Administration and

Accountancy and aimed not only to raise awareness of DTI's core programs and services de-

signed to support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) but also to provide practical



knowledge on establishing compliant, sustainable, and market-ready enterprises.

Aligned with DTI's mandate to expand client reach and strengthen entrepreneurial capacity across Laguna, the session emphasized that starting a business goes beyond launching an idea—it requires proper registration, compliance with national and local regulations, sound financial management, and a clear marketing direction.

Serving as resource speakers were Ms. Ma. Nicole C. Concejero, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Rizal, Laguna, and Ms. Arianne Rose C. Alinios, Trade-Industry Development Analyst of Negosyo Center San Pablo City.

Ms. Concejero highlighted the programs and services available to MSMEs, including business name registration assistance, advisory services, mentoring, and enterprise development support accessible

through Negosyo Centers.

“Through our Negosyo Centers, DTI ensures that aspiring entrepreneurs have access to the right programs and guidance at every stage of their business journey. We want students to know that government support is readily available to help them start, grow, and sustain their business,” Concejero said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Alinios delivered a discussion on the importance of business formalization and walked participants through the step-by-step process of registering a business name, securing the necessary permits and licenses, and complying with national and local regulatory requirements.

Beyond compliance, the session briefly covered practical start-up fundamentals, including opening a business bank account, maintaining proper accounting and record-keeping systems, and preparing a simple

marketing plan to identify target customers and promote products effectively.

“Compliance is the foundation of a sustainable enterprise. Proper registration, organized finances, and a clear marketing direction help businesses grow with credibility and confidence,” Alinios emphasized.

Conducted in partnership with the College of Business Administration and Accountancy – Student Council of LSPU-SPCC, the initiative demonstrates the importance of collaboration between government and the academe in cultivating future entrepreneurs and supporting local economic development.

Through sustained outreach initiatives in educational institutions, DTI Laguna continues to promote entrepreneurship, improve access to government services, and contribute to inclusive economic growth in the province (ARCAlinios, DTI Laguna).

Sun Drying

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At the center of discussions was PORTASOL, short for Portable Solar Dryer, developed by Mr. Francisco Popoy Pagayon. Originally designed for drying palay, the technology has evolved with the support of DOST to accommodate nearly all types of farm produce, including corn, coffee beans, cacao, fish, and high value crops. According to Mr. Pagayon, what began as a solution for rice farmers has expanded into a versatile system that responds to the varied drying needs of agricultural and fishery communities.

PORTASOL offers a hygienic and enclosed drying facility powered by renewable solar energy. Unlike traditional open sun drying methods that

expose produce to dust, animals, sudden rain, and uneven heat, the system provides controlled airflow and protection from contaminants. This results in better product quality, improved food safety, and reduced postharvest losses. Its portable design also allows farmers and fisherfolk to deploy the unit in different locations, making it adaptable to community based operations and small scale enterprises.

The first two days of the summit were dedicated to regional accomplishment reports, deployment updates, and sustainability plans. Regional offices presented data on the number of units distributed, beneficiary profiles, training activities con-

ducted, and income improvements observed in pilot communities. Discussions also tackled operational challenges such as maintenance concerns, site selection, weather variability, and strategies for strengthening local ownership. Mr. Pagayon actively engaged with participants to address technical issues and gather feedback for further refinement of the technology.

On the final day, participants conducted a project visit within the National Capital Region to observe PORTASOL in actual operation and to engage directly with beneficiaries. Farmers and processors shared testimonies on how the technology improved drying time, reduced spoilage, and enabled them to command better prices in the market due to higher quality produce.



Volunteer

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restoration of historical markers within Samonte Park.

Led by the City Tourism Office and volunteers from the Manileños for Heritage Group, a non-government organization dedicated to restoring historical markers and monuments in Manila City, the cleaning and restoration activity

included key historical items such as the 1872 Cavite Mutiny marker, Capital Marker, and the Ermita de Porta Vaga Façade and Marker.

In a statement, the city government noted that the project will prioritize the restoration of the Ermita de Porta Vaga replica monument and its marker. “Recognizing our city's

historical value as a cradle of revolutionary heroes and martyrs, they vowed to help the City Government in restoring these markers and monuments to their former glory.”

The Ermita de Porta Vaga has been repeatedly defaced and vandalized over the past year, which captured the attention of civil society organizations. (P B - P I A CALABARZON, City Government of Cavite)

NEWS

DOST-PTRI and URS in talks for possible R&D collaborations

Morong, Rizal — The Department of Science and Technology - Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI), alongside DOST PSTO-Rizal, conducted a courtesy visit to the University of Rizal System (URS) last February 16. They engaged in an exploratory meeting on the possible R&D collaborations on natural fiber processing, textile academy, and yarn production within the province.



The visit served as a vital platform for aligning DOST's technical expertise with the university's academic mission, laying the groundwork for a partnership rooted in innovation and sustainable development.

Ms. Charmaine Leyson, Science Research Analyst (SRA) of DOST-PTRI, explained

the mandates of Republic Act No. 9242 (Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law). By localizing the production of high-quality yarns, this possible collaboration aims to bridge gaps in the textile supply chain, ensuring that government-mandated uniforms are sourced from indigenous Philippine materials.

Beyond legal compliance, the initiative creates a robust support system for local farmers and weavers by providing a steady market for natural fibers. The potential initiative for a yarn production center will foster sustainability while incorporating research, industrial production, and entrepreneurship directly into the

university's ecosystem.

The URS management expressed profound appreciation for being considered as one of the strategic partners for this landmark project.

Recognizing the potential for both academic growth and regional impact, the university conveyed its enthusiastic commitment in textile processing and yarn pro-

duction.

The meeting was attended by the university's top management and technical heads: Dr. Nancy T. Pascual (University President), Dr. Marites M. Rio (VP for RDEP), Dr. Jerry C. Esperanza (Director of R&D), Dr. Fe Esperanza T. Mateo (Director of Extension Services), Ms. Maria Jessica A. Cristorum (Director

of Production Services), Ms. Clarissa N. Marina (Director of Finance Services), and Engr. Merie Ann C. Dudang (Head of IP Innovation and Technology Support Hub).

The stakeholders concluded the discussion with a commemorative photo to mark the beginning of this journey toward textile self-sufficiency. **(By Arthea Marie M. Genova)**

FDC Misamis Solar Project, a Token Gesture; Climate Justice Advocates Call for Full Coal Phaseout

Misamis Oriental, Philippines — The Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ) criticized the recently announced solar plant project of Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC)'s FDC Utilities, Inc. as a "minuscule and misleading step" that fails to address the company's continued and primary reliance on coal-fired power.

While acknowledging that any addition of renewable energy capacity is preferable to none, PMCJ emphasized that the scale of the proposed solar facility is negligible compared to the company's existing coal operations. FDC currently owns three coal-fired power plants, totalling 405 megawatts (MW). This year, these coal plants will mark their 10th year of commercial operations and welcome two additional units, bringing their total coal portfolio capacity to 675 MW. The FDC Misamis Power Corporation targets the testing and commissioning of one of its coal expansion units in December 2026.

The 21-MW solar farm in Misamis Oriental, with 34,000 solar panels, was described as the largest in Mindanao. According to PMCJ, presenting the solar project as a major sustainability milestone risks misleading the public and investors about the company's true energy portfolio.

Nora Galceran, a member of the Old Balacanas Fisherfolk Association, is one of the residents displaced by the FDC Misamis coal-fired power plant. "Back then, life was simple. The sea provided enough for our family, and the municipal waters were once rich with fish before industrialization reached Villanueva. With no

choice, we tried to adapt. We were expected to become farmers, even though we had no land of our own to cultivate. The area allocated to us falls under the administration of PHIVIDEC Industrial Authority. Because of this setup, we are left dependent on their directives, with little control over our own means of survival," Nanay Nora lamented.

"A small solar installation does not erase the massive carbon footprint of coal plants that continue to operate daily. FDC's coal-fired power plant in Misamis Oriental continues to disrupt people's livelihood and endanger their health. This is not a transition; it is tokenism. It is a classic case of greenwashing," said Ian Rivera, PMCJ national coordinator.

"In order for the planet to get back on track and not breach 1.5 C at the end of the century, fossil fuel projects in the Philippines must be phased out before 2050. The aspirational goal cannot be met by renewables alone," Rivera stressed.

PMCJ underscored that coal remains one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, and public health risks in the country. Communities near coal facilities continue to bear the brunt of environmental degradation, from contaminated

water sources to increased respiratory illnesses.

"The real solution lies not in marginal renewable additions but in a clear, time-bound commitment to phase out coal operations entirely. If FDC is serious about developing renewable energy (RE), it must immediately divest from its existing coal infrastructure, redirect its capital expenditures toward large-scale RE development, and ensure a just transition for workers and affected communities," said Edwin Tesaluna, PMCJ senior RE officer.

PMCJ also called on government regulators, financial institutions, and local government units to scrutinize corporate sustainability claims more closely and to prioritize policies that accelerate a full shift to RE.

"As the climate crisis intensifies, half-measures are no longer acceptable. RE should not be a side project; it must become the core of our energy system. Companies cannot continue profiting from coal while using small RE projects as public relations shields. Corporate accountability means aligning investments with science-based climate targets. That starts with divesting from coal, not decorating it with a few solar panels," ended Tesaluna.



NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE IV-A AND BJMP CALABARZON PARTNER FOR INCLUSIVE PDL HEALTHCARE

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was officially entered into by PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A (PRO IV-A), under the leadership of Acting Regional Vice President Edwin M. Oriña, MD and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Regional Office CALABARZON, headed by JCSUPT ISABELO V. CARTIN JR, DSC, MBA, Regional Director of the Jail Bureau, to ensure the efficient reimbursement of the TB-DOTS benefit for the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in the region.

The signing ceremony highlighted a shared commitment between PRO IV-A and BJMP CALABARZON to improve access to quality healthcare services within jail facilities, particularly for tuberculosis prevention and treatment.

During the event, Dr. Oriña also presented an overview of key PhilHealth programs, including the PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), which aims to further enhance the health and well-being of PDLs across Region IV-A through expanded benefits, streamlined processes, and improved service delivery.

This partnership represents a concrete step toward the full realization of Universal Health Care. By reinforcing coordinated efforts between PhilHealth and BJMP CALABARZON, the agreement ensures that even the most vulnerable sectors—including PDLs—are provided with equitable access to essential health services, affirming the principle that no one is left behind.



MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Ito ang araw na kailangan mong mapag-isa. Sa malalim na pagmumuni-muni, makahuhugot ka ng bagong lakas at enerhiya na magbibigay sa iyo ng dagdag pang suwerte at magagandang kapalaran. Masuwerteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-3-19-25-29-35-40.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Hindi ka kakapusin sa mga taong gustong tumulong para matupad ang pangarap mo sa buhay. Masuwerteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto-2-11-16-21-34-43.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Mapapasaiyo ang panalo, at pagkatapos nito, ang labis-labis na kasiyahan ay sa iyo pa rin. Huwag na huwag mong talikuran ang pangako mo na tulungan ang mga kaibigan at ang mga taong malalapit sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-8-17-24-28-37-45.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Bilisan mo ang pagpapasya at bilisan mo rin ang pagkilos. Sa ganitong paraan, masosorpresa mo ang mga kontrabida sa buhay mo. Ito ang susi para mapasaiyo ang huling halakhak. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-2-18-27-30-35-40.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Nakatutuwa ang kapalaran mo ngayon dahil ang kamay mo mismo ang kikilos kahit na tutol ang isip mo na muling pagbigyan ang lumalapit sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-4-11-15-26-38-41.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Didikit sa iyo ang panalo, at mananalo ka kung lalakasan mo ang loob mo. Pero kung mananatili kang mapag-alinlangan, masasayang lang ang mga suwerte mo. Masuwerteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-7-10-22-27-37-44.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Hindi lang ang pisikal mong itsura ang maganda, bagkus maganda rin ang panloob mong pagkatao. Ang lahat ng ito ay natatanggalan ng langit. Dahil dito, gaganda rin ang kapalaran mo at sa susunod na mga araw, lalo pa itong gaganda nang gaganda. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-9-18-21-24-29-32.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Sundin mo ang sasabihin ng isip mo at bilisan mo ang pagsunod upang hindi makasingit ang iutos ng iyong damdamin na manatili sa maling sitwasyon ng buhay mo. Masuwerteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-5-14-22-25-31-40.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Binabalaan ka na kapag binago mo ang mga plano mo, hindi ka lang mabibigo, dahil malaki rin ang mawawala sa iyo, at sa huli ay sisihin mo pa ang iba. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-3-17-28-30-33-41.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Malabo mong magawa ang pangako mo sa sarili mo na lilimitahan mo ang pagkain. Hindi ngayon ang panahon ng pagda-diet at pagdadamot sa sarili. Masuwerteng kulay-lavender. Tips sa lotto-8-16-21-27-34-42.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Huwag kang malito! Hindi lahat ng nagpapakita ng kabutihan ay maganda ang ugali at maganda ang idudulot sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-3-13-25-29-35-44.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Huwag kang patatangay sa masasayang bagay. May mandadaya na pasasayahin ka, pero sa huli ay pawang kalungkutan lang pala ang iyong mapapala. Mag-ingat ka sa mga traydor at mapagsamantala na noon pa man ay tahimik lang na umaaligid sa paligid mo. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-9-16-22-28-30-41.

SUDOKU

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

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 22 #52

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

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 FIRST PERSON PROCESSED AT ELLIS ISLAND WAS A 15-YEAR-OLD GIRL FROM IRELAND

On Jan. 1, 1892, Annie Moore was the first passenger to pass through Ellis Island immigration on its opening day. She had traveled to the United States with her two younger brothers aboard the S.S. Nevada after departing from Queenstown, Ireland (now known as Cobh). And here's another amazing fact about Ellis Island for you: It's busiest day ever, when it welcomed the most immigrants, was April 17, 1907.

WORD HUNT

Customer Service

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

SERVICE
GREETING
CARING
SMILE
DEDICATION
ENTHUSIASM
ACKNOWLEDGE
RESOLUTION
PLEASANT
TELEPHONE
AWARE
TEAMWORK
HELPFUL
AVAILABLE
LISTEN
ASSISTANCE
THANK YOU
PATIENT

Sun Drying Innovation Gains Ground at 2026 National Summit



The 2026 National Sun Drying Tray Summit and Presentation of Accomplishments gathered science leaders, regional implementers, and technology partners from February 24 to 26 at La Breza Hotel in Quezon City. The three day event brought together representatives from all regional offices of the Department of Science and Technology, the National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP), and the Office of the Undersecretary for Regional Operations (OUSECRO). Hosted by the DOST Regional Office II in Cagayan Valley, the summit underscored strong interregional collaboration in advancing postharvest technologies for Filipino farmers and fisherfolk. **SUN DRYING • 5**

DOST-CALABARZON strengthens structural safety through infrastructure audit training

In a proactive move to fortify the region's disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - CALABARZON convened its Emergency Response Team (ERT) members on February 26, 2026 for an Infrastructure Audit Tool Re-Echoing Training at the RFSQAC Multipurpose Hall, Los Baños, Laguna. The activity reinforced a unified, science-based approach to structural safety assessment across Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon.



The training re-echoed methodologies developed under the CALABARZON Local Infrastructure Learning Hub (LILHub) in partnership with DILG IV-A. It aimed to cascade technical knowledge from earlier sessions to provincial offices, ensuring consistency in how infrastructure risks are evaluated before and after disasters.

At the core of the program is the Infrastructure Audit Tool, a standardized method used to identify structural vulnerabilities before disasters and conduct rapid damage assessments after earthquakes. In a seismically active country, accurate and timely assessments directly support life-saving decisions and recovery planning. **DOST-CALABARZON • 4**

PGC welcomes Oriental Mindoro PESO, Calapan City College for benchmarking activity



The Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Oriental Mindoro and the City College of Calapan conducted a benchmarking activity on February 24, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, Cavite. **PGC WELCOMES • 4**

Volunteer groups scrub vandalized Cavite City historical markers clean

CAVITE CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Known for their pride in Cavite's role in history, Caviteños are wrapping up the National Arts Month with a series of restoration efforts of historical markers within the City of Cavite.

Last February 27, volunteers from the Cavite Historical Society, Cavite State University, Kabataang Cavitenyo and Temple Street Primera Familia led the city-wide cleaning and



EMPOWERING THE YOUTH THROUGH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE. Bulacan Governor Daniel R. Fernando and Vice Governor Alexis C. Castro with the Bulakenyo scholars during the Tulong Pang-Edukasyon para sa Bulakenyo General Assembly held at the Bulacan Capitol Gymnasium, Provincial Capitol Compound, City of Malolos, Bulacan earlier today. Also in the photo are (fifth from left) Provincial Administrator's Office Assistant Department Head Catherine A. Inocencio, Provincial Administrator Antonia V. Constantino, (second from right) Gender and Development Secretariat Member Gladilyn S. Burgos, Provincial Health Office Health Education and Promotion Officer I Jaynellen A. Anis, and officials of Landbank of the Philippines.

VOLUNTEER • 5