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NATIONAL FLAG DAYS

28 MAY 2026 | DAMBANA NG PAMBANSANAG WATAWAT, IMUS, CAVITE

Imus hosts National Flag Day rites, opens 128th Independence Day celebration

Government officials, educators, students, and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines gathered at the Dambana ng Pambansang Watawat in Alapan, Imus City on May 28 to commemorate the National Flag Days and formally launch the nationwide observance of the 128th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Carrying the theme, “Kalayaan. Kinabukasan. Kasaysayan” the ceremony highlighted the enduring significance of the Philippine flag as a symbol of unity, patriotism, and national identity.

Leading the event were Cavite Governor Francisco Gabriel D. Remulla, Imus City Mayor Alex L. Advincula, Senator Joseph Victor “JV” Ejercito, Congressman Adrian Jay C. Advincula, DILG Secretary Juanito Victor C. Remulla, and National Historical Commission of the Philippines Chair Regalado Trota Jose Jr., among other dignitaries.

The ceremony also featured cultural performances, messages from national and local leaders, and a wreath-laying activity, underscoring the province's historic role in the country's struggle for freedom. — **OPIO**

PGCECC celebrates 23rd anniversary



The Provincial Government of Cavite Employees and Community Multi-purpose Cooperative (PGCECC) marked its 23rd Founding Anniversary on May 26, in their new office at the Old Cavite Government Center in Trece Martires City, bringing together officers, members, and guests in a celebration of the cooperative's achievements and continued commitment to serving its members.

PGCECC • 5

Grand Ease of Doing Business Fair in Cavite delivers gov't services to 1,700 clients

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Featuring services from 26 national government agencies, including those from the city government of Tagaytay, the Grand Ease of Doing Business (EODB) Fair underscored the vital role of citizen participation in improving public services.



Led by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA), the Grand EODB Fair last May 28 gathered various national government agencies to provide essential services, including license renewals to registration, official registrations, and e-government services to over 1,780 clients.

Chrishnalyn Castro travelled all the way from Isabela to renew her license from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for the very first time at the EODB Fair.

GRAND EASE • 4

NEWS

Rizal ARBs level up food production with safety seminar

Tanay, Rizal — To sharpen the competitive edge of locally-made goods, Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) across Rizal province recently underwent training on safe food handling and quality control.

The food safety awareness seminar last May 5 was a collaborative initiative between the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Rizal and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Rizal. The seminar focused on bridging the gap between raw production and market-ready standards by equipping farmers with the tools to manage sanitation, allergens, and temperature control.

The seminar brought together representatives from six key agrarian reform cooperatives, signaling a province-wide

push for better food standards: Silihan Agrarian Reform Cooperative (SARCO) of Angono; Corazon De Jesus Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CDJMPC) of Baras; Halang Agricultural Livelihood Association for Nurturing Growers Corporation (HALANG), Sipsipin Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC), and Llano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LFMPC) of Jalajala; and Sampaloc Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SARBMPC) of Tanay.

DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer



(PARPO) II, Mr. Raul M. Leonin, opened the event by stressing that food safety is not just a regulatory hurdle but also a foundation for community growth. The training objectives were discussed by ARPO I, Mr. Richard Harold F. Mapula, in terms of actionable steps for participants.

Expert insights were

provided by Mr. Rjay M. Salabao of the DOST CALABARZON Food Safety Team, in which complex safety protocols were broken down into manageable practices, focusing on hazard identification, operational safety (hand hygiene, cross-contamination prevention, and storage protocols), and myth-bust-

ing, specifically the need for vigilance throughout the entire supply chain.

The seminar concluded with a clear message: food safety is a shared, continuous responsibility. By shifting the focus from simple farming to professional food processing, Rizal ARBs are better positioned to protect con-

sumers and scale their local enterprise.

The partnership between DOST and DAR remains steadfast in empowering agrarian communities, ensuring that the food on Filipino tables is not only locally grown but meets the highest standards of safety and excellence. **(By Arthea Marie M. Genova)**

DTI QUEZON CONDUCTS KAPE AT NEGOSYO: DTI QUEZON COFFEE B2B AND BUSINESS TALKS

The Department of Trade and Industry Quezon successfully conducted the Kape at Negosyo: DTI Quezon Coffee B2B and Business Talks at the DTI Quezon Conference Room, Ilayang Dupay, Lucena City on May 26, 2026. This activity aimed to enhance the capacity of coffee producers and other coffee value chain players in Quezon Province in terms of market access, business competitiveness, and linkages.

DTI Quezon Provincial Director Julieta L. Tadiosa delivered the welcome remarks, emphasizing the vital role of collaboration among stakeholders in strengthening and advancing the local coffee industry. This was followed by the acknowledgment of participants by STIDS Ma. Graciela

C. Ledesma, Head of the Investment and Industry Cluster Unit. Subsequently, Business Development Division Chief Ms. Anna Marie V. Quincina presented a comprehensive overview of the program, outlining its objectives, key activities, and expected outcomes.

Mr. Joel Caalamán, In-



tellectual Property Rights Specialist II from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL), provided an informative discussion on IPO programs and services. This was followed by a presentation on the Small Business Corporation's loan programs by Mr. Edward S. Orge, P3 Credit Investigator, highlighting available financing opportu-

nities for Coffee MSMEs.

During the afternoon session, Mr. Ohmar Lorena of DOLE Quezon presented the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program via zoom teleconference, underscoring potential livelihood opportunities available to coffee MSMEs. This was followed by a Business-to-Business (B2B) session, where coffee producers showcased their

products and engaged with fellow stakeholders across the coffee value chain, fostering potential partnerships and market linkages. The activity concluded with a closing message delivered by BDD Chief Anna Marie V. Quincina, emphasizing the importance of sustained collaboration and support for the growth of the Quezon Coffee Industry.

Editorial

Reshaping the response to global health emergencies

AT the opening of the World Health Assembly in Geneva on Tuesday, World Health Organization (WHO) Secretary-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlighted the need to “build a new global health architecture fit for the future.”

Tedros said the hantavirus and Ebola outbreaks were only the latest crises in a world that is going through “difficult, dangerous and divisive” times.

A rare strain of the hantavirus spread among the passengers and crew of the cruise ship MV Hondius during its Atlantic voyage, killing at least three people.

Just last week, the WHO declared an international emergency as Ebola broke out again in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and neighboring Uganda.

More than 500 suspected cases and 131 deaths were linked to the deadly virus in the DRC, and two cases and one death were reported in Uganda.

The outbreaks underscored the urgency for rapid international coordination in responding to global health threats. The question the Geneva meeting must confront is whether the WHO can still effectively handle such a task.

The United Nations health agency had come under heavy criticism for the crucial delay in responding to Covid-19. The virus causing it, first detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, was already racing across the world by the time the WHO declared it as a pandemic in March 2020.

That's not all. Faced with a virtually unknown coronavirus variant, the WHO initially issued contradictory advice regarding the wearing of face masks and border closure guidelines.

“Covid-19 exposed the extent to which pandemic preparedness was limited and disjointed, leaving health systems overwhelmed when actually confronted by a fast-moving and exponentially spreading virus,” the Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response concluded.

It said the “combination of poor strategic choices, unwillingness to tackle inequalities and an uncoordinated response system al-



lowed the pandemic to trigger a catastrophic human and socioeconomic crisis.”

On the plus side, the WHO led in establishing Covax, the mechanism that speeded up the development of Covid vaccines and enabled doses to be distributed worldwide. It also began work on the Pandemic Agreement, a legally binding framework for equitable access to vaccines and other medical countermeasures, supply chain resilience and transparent data-sharing during future outbreaks.

Acknowledging that Covid-19 exposed “deep vulnerabilities,” the agency last year launched the Strategic Joint Evaluation of the Collective International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Response to Covid-19.

The evaluation is the WHO's call to action “to confront a simple truth: the next pandemic is not a question of if, but when. What the world chooses to do now will determine how prepared we are when that moment comes.”

The organization, however, was hamstrung by major challenges last year, the biggest of which was severe cuts in funding.

In 2025, the United States announced it was officially withdrawing from the organization. The US has been the WHO's most generous donor, shelling out as much as \$550 million annually in mandatory dues and voluntary funding.

The funding shutdown triggered a \$2.5-million budget deficit, forcing the agency to slash allocations for frontline humanitarian programs

for HIV/AIDs, maternal and child health, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The participants at this year's assembly have a lot on the table. They have to finalize the Pandemic Agreement, which has stalled because negotiations are deadlocked over a key annex, the pathogen access and benefit-sharing system. A compromise between wealthy nations and developing countries on equitable vaccines and data remains elusive.

The WHO must also find a way to mesh climate mitigation into global health care delivery and infuse more assistance to economically strapped countries in reinforcing clinics to withstand extreme weather, mapping shifting vector-borne disease zones and tracking the impacts of pollution on health.

It must scale up pathogen surveillance networks to ensure that lessons learned from Covid-19 translate into standard procedure for tracking influenza-related diseases.

Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Center at the Geneva Graduate Institute, believes the WHO had weathered the storm, and that the hantavirus crisis provided “a clear illustration of why the world needs an effective, trusted, impartial, reliably funded WHO.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated changes in the world health architecture. The WHO must build on the momentum of those changes in reshaping its response approach from reactive emergency management to proactive, long-term global resilience.

Prevent Disease: Drink 8 Glasses of Water

Did you know that our body is full of water? Our brain has 74% water. Our muscle is 75% water. Even our hard bones have 22% water.

That's why I don't understand why so many Filipinos don't want to drink water? There it is, only 3 glasses if drank a day. This is lacking. Here are the diseases that drinking water can help:

1. For kidney disease – The cause of kidney stones (kidney stones) is lack of water. Because of this, the urine turns yellow and then the kidney forms. Be careful and it might lead to kidney failure and dialysis.

2. For urinary tract infections – When you lack water, you will get more prone to urinary tract or diarrhea.

3. For fever - Drinking water can reduce fever. This is because you can pee the “heat” all over your body. Drink water and juice to those who have fever.

4. For cough, cold and flu – Sufficient water cools down cold and phlegm. The flu will also get better faster.

5. For stomach acid - Water is a great help to wash away the acid in our stomach. Drinking water will reduce ulcers, stroke and stomach pain. Stomach prefers lukewarm water.

6. To get stronger - When you are dehydrated,

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



you become lethargic and weak. Drink lots of water especially when the weather is hot.

7. For headache – Water helps in relieving migraine or headache.

8. To lose weight - Before eating, drink 1-2 glasses of water first. It will fill you up and not feed many. Water doesn't make you fat.

9. To be beautiful - This is what matters most. The beauty secret of dermatologists is just water. When you are dehydrated, your eye will sink and your skin will wrinkle (wrinkles). Drink water to make your skin smooth and shiny. You also avoid the sun so you don't wrinkle.

What kind of water should I drink? I know there's luxury, but just drink bottled water, purified water or boiled water. We cannot make sure tap water is safe. Note: To avoid illness, drink water.

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LEGAL NOTICES

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Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
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2nd Floor, Main Square Mall, Molino Blvd.,
Bacoor City, Cavite
Email: rtc1bcr114@judiciary.gov.ph
Phone No: 0908-499-0181

IN RE: PETITION FOR ISSUANCE OF
NEW OWNER'S DUPLICATE
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE IN LIEU OF
LOST TCT NO. T-978542,

VINCENT B. PALATTAO AND
DOMINIC NAVARRA, HEREIN
REPRESENTED BY CAROLINA V.
IBANEZ, ATTORNEY-IN-FACT,
Petitioner.

-versus- LRC CASE NO. 8843-2026-56

THE REGISTER OF DEEDS FOR
BACOOR CITY

Respondent.

X----- X

ORDER

On May 8, 2026, petitioners, through counsel, filed this instant petition alleging among others that: (a) petitioners are the registered owners of a parcel of land covered by **TCT No. T-978542**; (b) on July 23, 2009, petitioners obtained a loan from Spouses Rolando and Virginia Jabinal and said title was delivered to them as collateral for the loan; (c) Spouses Jabinal entrusted the title to **Carolina Ibanez** for safekeeping; (c) Carolina Ibanez informed the petitioners that the title was lost during a big flood; and (d) an Affidavit of Loss was executed to explain the circumstances surrounding the loss of title. Petitioners are praying that the court, after due notice and hearing, render judgment directing the Register of Deeds for the Province of Cavite, Bacoor City Branch to issue another **Owner's Duplicate Copy of Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-978542** with the same force and effect in lieu of the loss one.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is set for initial hearing on September 29, 2026 (Tuesday) at 10:00 in the morning at 2nd floor, Main Square Mall, Bacoor Boulevard (formerly Molino Boulevard), Barangay Bayanan, City of Bacoor, Cavite, at which date, place, and hour, any interested person may appear and show cause why the said petition should not be granted. Petitioners **VINCENT B. PALATTAO AND DOMINIC NAVARRA** are directed to personally appear on the scheduled hearing.

Petitioners are directed to cause the publication of the copy of this Order at their expense once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Cities and Province of Cavite at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date of hearing.

The Sheriff of this Court is ordered to post this Order in six (6) conspicuous places in the Province of Cavite, where the subject property is situated at least one (1) month prior to the aforesaid date of hearing, particularly at the bulletin boards of the following: (1) the main entrance of the Provincial Building of Cavite; (2) the main entrance of the City Hall Building of Bacoor City, Cavite; (3) the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City; (4) 2nd floor, Main Square Mall, Bacoor Boulevard (formerly Molino Boulevard), Barangay Bayanan, City of Bacoor, Cavite; (5) the Registry of Deeds, Bacoor City, Cavite; and (6) the Barangay Hall where the property is situated.

SO ORDERED.

IN CHAMBERS, this 12th day of May, 2026 in the City of Bacoor, Cavite.

(Sgd.) **NIKKI ROSE DELA PEÑA ESPERANZA**
Presiding Judge

Copy Furnished:

Innovate

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The conference gathered business leaders, entrepreneurs, innovators, and development partners across the province to discuss opportunities, collaborations, and strategies that will further strengthen South

Cotabato's growing economy and thriving business ecosystem.

A highlight of the event was the participation of Hon. Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo Jr. during the Governor's Hour, where he shared significant developments on the

province's improving economy and the continued growth of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), emphasizing the province's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable development.

Meanwhile, Provincial Director Giselle Eve O. Siladan presented the various Programs, Projects, and Activities

highlighted were the establishment of Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) for startups and the proposed Innovation Hub (iHub) facility in the province, which aims to become a collaborative space for innovators, researchers, students, MSMEs, and aspiring entrepreneurs to transform ideas into impactful solutions and sustainable enterprises.

The event was spearheaded by the South Cotabato Economic and Investments Promotion Center (SCEIPC) headed by Mr. Tyrone Jann Villanueva, RN, MPA, in partnership with various stakeholders dedicated to advancing economic development and innovation in the province.

Through initiatives like this and with the support of RD Malawan, DOST XII - PSTO SoCot continues to strengthen its commitment to fostering a vibrant culture of innovation, empowering local entrepreneurs, and creating more opportunities for science, technology, and innovation to drive inclusive and sustainable development in South Cotabato and the entire SOCCSKSARGEN Region.

(PPAs) of DOST, particularly initiatives that support innovation-driven entrepreneurship and startup development. Among the key initiatives



VINCENT B. PALATTAO and DOMINIC NAVARRA
Petitioners

Blk 18 Lot 2 Phase II, Citta Italia Subd., Molino, Bacoor City, Cavite

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

ATTY. SIKAT G. VILLACORTE-AGBUNAG

Counsel for Petitioner

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agbunaglawfirm@gmail.com

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

RTC OCC

2/F Old City Hall, Bacoor City, Cavite

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

REGISTRY OF DEEDS - CAVITE

Public Respondent

Provincial Capitol

Trece Martires City, Cavite

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

REGISTRY OF DEEDS - BACOOR CITY

Public Respondent

Bacoor Government Center

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

CAROLINA IBANEZ

Representative

#75 San Juan I, Noveleta, Cavite

Order/Resolution served thru:

Date: _____

Remarks: _____

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Grand Ease

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"Very efficient and convenient. Napabilis ng registration for renewal. Napakasulit dahil galing pa kaming Isabela at pumunta kami dito para mag-renew ng aming ID."

Josephine Basiño, a stay-at-home mom, also found the services carried by the EODB Fair incredibly convenient. Aside from bringing essential government services under one roof, Basiño also lauded for patiently answering her queries.

"Malinaw naman. Magaling silang mag-assist at sumagot. Less hassle lalo na sa mga busy mom na katulad ko. Malaking tulong na inilapit nila sa masa ang mga ito."

Undersecretary Juabilly Racho, ARTA Deputy Director General, emphasized that working closely constituents to

improve public services delivery are key in driving job creation and access to business opportunities.

As the primary clients of government services, Racho urged the public to remain vigilant and report bureaucratic delays and excessive processes that prevent access to action.

"Kapag nakakita kayo ng hindi normal sa inyong pagpila sa mga tanggapan ng gobyerno, abisuhan ninyo ang inyong mayor at munisipyo. Humingi po kayo ng tulong kasi sila rin, ayaw rin na kayo ay naghihintay at naa-abala. Kapag may red tape, magsabi po kayo sa inyong munisipyo. Ginawa po ang ARTA upang ang mga ganyang bagay na inyong pino-problema ay ma-address." **(PB-PIA CALABARZON)**

NLEX

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forts to help protect communities, sustain economic activity, and support long-term growth.

"Pampanga serves as one of the vital links between Metro Manila and Central and Northern Luzon.

Through this initiative, we aim to help strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities while maintaining the reliability of this vital transport corridor that supports regional growth and connectivity," said NLEX President and GM Luis S. Reñon.

Second District Board Member Atty. Claire Lim emphasized that the pri-

ority remains the safety of her constituents and the protection of their homes. "In situations where the lives and livelihoods

of Kapampangans are at stake, we welcome this help because even if we are resilient, we still need outside assistance," she said.

First District Board Member Cherry Manalo also expressed her gratitude for the collaboration and the dedication of the provincial staff. "We are grateful to NLEX and PDRF for helping us skill our frontliners. This workshop demonstrates our shared commitment to strengthening the province's disaster management and

ensuring we are better prepared to protect every Kapampangan," she noted.

By ensuring seamless coordination between the government and NLEX, the partnership aims to keep the province's main transit routes open for emergency services and the delivery of basic goods. PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili underscored that a proactive mindset is key to saving lives, stating that true disaster management must strike a balance between immediate response and long-term climate change adaptation.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

Exploring

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practical solutions that can help strengthen local enterprises, im-

prove competitiveness, and create greater economic opportunities for

sugarcane farming communities while addressing operational constraints that may affect long-term growth and sustainability.



DOST Laguna

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A pre-test was administered to assess their awareness level regarding HACCP. Provincial Director of DOST PSTO-Laguna, Ms. Agnes G. Morales commenced by defining HACCP, describing it as a systematic approach designed to ensure food safety by identifying, evaluating, and managing potential hazards throughout the food production process. She proceeded to outline the history and significance of HACCP, emphasizing its development as a re-

sponse to food safety challenges and its transformation into a global standard mandated by various regulatory bodies. The presentation encompassed a discussion of the seven principles of HACCP, which include conducting hazard analyses, identifying critical control points (CCPs), establishing critical limits, and implementing monitoring and corrective actions. Moreover, the importance of thorough verification and record-keeping to ensure the effec-

tiveness of the HACCP plan was highlighted.

The training placed significant emphasis on the HACCP implementation process, outlining essential steps including the formation of a HACCP team, product description, development of flow diagrams, and conducting thorough hazard analyses. Ms. Fabie Comendador, the Head of Roastery, indicated that one of their objectives following the HACCP training is to officially create a multidisciplinary HACCP team that will develop their HACCP Plan in the future. **(By Jherome L. Lusterio)**



PGCECC

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A highlight of the celebration was the blessing of the cooperative's new office, symbolizing another milestone in PGCECC's journey of growth and development. The blessing ceremony was attended by cooperative officials, members, and invited guests who witnessed the inauguration of the

new facility, which is expected to further enhance the delivery of services to its members.

Since its establishment, PGCECC has remained dedicated to promoting financial empowerment and providing accessible services and opportunities to its growing membership. Through various programs and ini-

tiatives, the cooperative continues to support the economic well-being of its members by promoting financial literacy and fostering the values of responsibility, cooperation, and mutual assistance.

As PGCECC celebrates its 23rd year, the cooperative looks forward to achieving greater milestones and strengthening its role as a reliable partner in improving the lives of its members for years to come. — **OPIO**



PGCECC 23RD ANNIVERSARY
26 MAY 2026
OLD CAVITE GOVERNMENT CENTER, TRECE MARTIRES CITY

PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A
ADVISORY
No. 2026 - 008

PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health



USE OF PRIMARY CARE SELECTION FORM (PCSF) FOR YAKAP SELECTION/ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER

In reference to **PhilHealth Circular No. 2025 - 0017 (Guidelines on the Selection and Empanelment for PhilHealth's Primary Care benefit Package)**, all YAKAP assignment and transfer transaction shall utilize the Primary Care Selection Form (PCSF) as the official form for beneficiary selection, assignment, and transfer of Primary Care Clinics.

In view there of all concerned facilities and personnel are advised to:

- Use the **Primary Care Selection Form (PCSF)** for all YAKAP selection, assignment, and transfer transactions.
- Discontinue the use of the old PhilHealth Konsulta Registration Form (PKRF).
- Ensure that the beneficiaries accomplish the updated PCSF when requesting assignment, selection, or transfer of their YAKAP Clinic.

This advisory shall take effect immediately to ensure an orderly, accurate, and policy-compliant process for the selection, assignment, and transfer of members to their chosen Primary Care Facility.

For information, guidance, and strict compliance of all concerned.

(Sgd.) EDWIN M. ORIÑA, MD
Acting Regional Vice President

Date signed: 06/03/2026

NEWS

DOLE mobilizes TUPAD workers for Brigada Eskwela across Calabarzon

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in Calabarzon is mobilizing beneficiaries of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program to assist in various Brigada Eskwela activities in preparation for the opening of classes on June 8.

This is in response to the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to simultaneously prepare learning facilities for the incoming school year and provide temporary employment opportunities to disadvantaged, displaced, and underemployed workers.

In Antipolo City, Rizal, a total of 20 TUPAD workers were deployed to each participating school to render 10 days of community work focused on improving school facilities and learning environments.

According to DOLE Rizal, beneficiaries will assist in repainting classrooms and school facilities, cleaning school grounds, clearing overgrown vegetation, repairing and refurbishing school furniture, organizing learning spaces, beautifying school premises, and carrying out other maintenance activities identified by school administrators.

"The initiative forms part of Secretary (Francis) Tolentino's effort to maximize the impact of TUPAD by providing temporary employment opportunities while supporting priority government programs. By integrating TUPAD into Brigada Eskwela, disadvantaged and displaced workers are able to earn income while contributing to the improvement of public schools before the start of classes," DOLE Rizal Supervising Labor and Employment Officer Victoria B. Natanauan said in a statement.

School officials welcomed the deployment of TUPAD workers, noting that the additional manpower would help expedite school preparation activities and address maintenance needs ahead of the opening of classes.

Natanauan said that the partnership between DOLE and the Department of Education (DepEd) reflects the government's



commitment to strengthening both education and employment initiatives.

"As schools across Rizal finalize preparations for the incoming school year, the partnership between DOLE and the Department of Education underscores the government's commitment to both education and employment, ensuring that schools are ready to receive students while providing meaningful work opportunities to

Brigada Eskwela activities in 28 public schools across the city.

The beneficiaries will be deployed to a mix of elementary, integrated, and national high schools strategically located in various barangays, ensuring wider coverage of school maintenance and preparation efforts before students return to their classrooms.

DOLE Laguna Officer-in-Charge Provincial Head

communities in promoting quality education and community development.

"The implementation of the TUPAD-Brigada Eskwela program highlights the strong collaboration between DOLE, DepEd, local government units, and school communities in ensuring that public schools are prepared and ready for the incoming school year," Matre said.

"At the same time, the initiative provides imme-

diate financial assistance and temporary employment to workers in need, especially those affected by economic challenges and displacement. Through programs such as TUPAD, the government continues to promote inclusive opportunities while empowering communities through meaningful and productive work," he added. **(PIA4A with reports from DOLE 4A)**

Pag-IBIG Fund raises housing loan limit to ₱10M to serve more Filipino workers

To further widen the reach of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s flagship Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino, or Expanded 4PH Program, and help address the oversupply of available housing inventory, Pag-IBIG Fund has raised its maximum housing loan amount per borrower to ₱10 million, providing middle-income and higher-earning Filipino workers access to affordable long-term home financing, particularly in Metro Manila and other highly urbanized areas, top officials announced on May 26.

The higher loan ceiling complements the program's ongoing subsidized 3% housing loan rate for qualified buyers of socialized housing, enabling Pag-IBIG Fund to serve more members seeking homes beyond the socialized housing segment through affordable long-term financing.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon P. Aliling, who also chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the increase is part of the government's broader effort to make homeownership more accessible to Filipino workers across income segments.

"With the higher ₱10-million loan ceiling, Pag-IBIG Fund can now serve more members, espe-

cially Filipino workers who seek homes in higher price segments but still require long-term and affordable financing to own homes near their workplaces, schools and sources of livelihood. This move allows Pag-IBIG Fund to widen access to home financing across more income segments, in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to make decent and affordable housing more inclusive and accessible to more Filipino families," Aliling said.

Aliling said the move also supports efforts to improve the take-up of available housing units, particularly in Metro Manila and other urban centers where there is an oversupply of ready-for-

occupancy condominium units. He said the higher loan ceiling, combined with Pag-IBIG Fund's long-term home financing, can make the purchase of these units more affordable for qualified members.

"This is also our call to developers: let us make the numbers meet. Pag-IBIG Fund is expanding the financing available to qualified borrowers. We urge our developer-partners to recalibrate their prices, offer reasonable packages and help bring their available units within the reach of Pag-IBIG Fund members. When housing prices, borrower capacity and affordable financing meet, more Filipino workers can finally own homes of their own,"

Aliling said.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta said the increase in loan ceiling reflects Pag-IBIG Fund's mandate to serve Filipino workers from all income segments.

"At Pag-IBIG Fund, our mandate is to serve all Filipino workers. This means serving first-time homebuyers and members who need subsidized support, as well as middle-income and higher-earning members who also need affordable long-term financing to buy homes for their families.

Because of our strong financial position, we are able to offer a higher loanable amount while keeping our housing loan rates not only affordable, but among the lowest in the market. With the higher loan ceiling, qualified borrowers now have even better access to home financing payable for up to 30 years, with interest rates that may go

as low as 5.75% a year depending on their chosen fixing period. More importantly, this allows us to widen the reach of the Expanded 4PH Program so that more members, across more income segments, can gain access to decent and affordable homes, while eligible socialized housing borrowers continue to benefit from the 3% subsidized rate," Acosta said.

Acosta said the broader Pag-IBIG Housing Loan Program is intended to make homeownership a practical alternative to renting for more Filipino workers, especially when available housing units are offered at prices that match members' income and borrowing capacity.

"For many families, rent is already one of their biggest monthly expenses. Through Pag-IBIG Fund's affordable housing loan terms, monthly amortizations for reasonably priced

homes can be lower than rent in many urban areas. This is the value we want to give our members: instead of paying rent month after month, they can use their hard-earned income to pay for a home they can eventually call their own," Acosta added.

Pag-IBIG Fund emphasized that the higher maximum loan amount remains subject to credit evaluation, capacity-to-pay requirements, collateral appraisal and other housing loan guidelines to ensure that borrowing remains responsible and sustainable for members.

Officials said the higher loan ceiling strengthens Pag-IBIG Fund's role in bridging available housing supply to actual homebuyer capacity, while encouraging developers to offer homes at prices that better match the income and financing ability of Filipino workers. **(PAGIBIG FUND)**

MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Huwag mong labanan ang mahihina; sa halip ay kaawaan mo sila. Malakas ka, kaya kahit wala kang gawin laban sa kanila, ang kabiguan ay kanilang mararanasan. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-7-11-23-28-30-37.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Hindi totoong masikip ang daan ng kaligayahan. Ang totoo ay sinusubukan lang ang tao na maging matatag. Kapag naging matatag ka sa mga pagsubok, ang pag-unlad at wagas na kaligayahan ang matitikman mong magiging kasunod. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-2-17-19-29-33-38.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Mag-aalinlangan ka sa isang pagkakataong lalagay sa iyong harapan. Pero ang payo ay nagsasabing kahit pa nag-aalinlangan ka, kailangan mo pa rin itong sunggaban. Masuwerteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto-9-12-16-25-39-42.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Huwag mong akalain na ang mataas na kalagayan ay dapat mong iwasan. Dahil ang nasa iyong harapan ay lihim na nakatanggap ng utos mula sa langit na ikaw ay alalayan. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-6-7-14-20-36-40.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Ganito ang sabi ng dakilang guro: "Mapalad ang matulungin, kaya tiyak na tutulungan din siya ng langit." Tandaan, ang hindi matulungin ay walang tulong na ipagkakaloob ang langit. Ito ang mensahe para sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-2-19-21-27-32-35.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Pagbigyan mo ang mga taong mahirap kausap at hindi marunong umunawa. Huwag mong banggain dahil walang mabuting idudulot ang pakikipagtalos sa makitid ang isip. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-3-17-28-30-33-34.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Magdaratingan muli ang mga suwerte mo sa buhay pero may mga pangyayaring maaaring hindi mo magustuhan sa simula, subalit may napakalaking suwerte pala sa dakong huli. Kaya tanggap lang nang tanggap sa mga pangyayari. Masuwerteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-7-11-18-22-38-41.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Lagpasan mo ang hindi mo kaya. Kumbaga, huwag mo nang ipagpilitan pa na kayanin ang talagang hindi mo naman kaya. Masuwerteng kulay-lilac. Tips sa lotto-6-16-20-25-39-44.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Malaya mong magagawa ang gusto mo pero may kondisyon na ikaw na lang mag-isa ang gumawa dahil kapag may tumulong sa iyo, mas lalo ka lang mahihirapan. Masuwerteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-5-15-26-31-37-42.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Sisipa ang kapalaran mo ngayon, na ang ibig sabihin ay biglaan at malakas ang dating. Ikaw mismo ay magugulat dahil ang mga suwerte ay biglang nasa harapan mo. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-8-12-19-27-33-43.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Kunin mo ang pang-unawa at huwag mong kunin ang galit. Oo, ang piliin mo ay ang pagkakasundo at hindi ang paghihiwalay. Masuwerteng kulay-golden yellow. Tips sa lotto-1-13-16-21-24-36.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Nagkakabanggaan ang magkakadikit. Umagwat ka sa matigas magsalita na hindi tumatanggap ng opinyon. Ang nabubuhay nang payapa ay kusang dadapuan ng mga suwerte. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-4-17-22-28-30-45.

SUDOKU

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

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 23 #13

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



SAMSUNG TESTED PHONE DURABILITY WITH A BUTT- SHAPED ROBOT

People stash their phones in their back pockets all the time, which is why Samsung created a robot shaped like a butt to "sit" on their phones to make sure they can take the pressure. Believe it or not, the robot even wore jeans.

WORD HUNT

Manors, Kings and all things Medieval

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

CRUSADE

COURT

COLLEGE

MOAT

MEDIEVAL

KING

AMROUR

JESTER

TUNIC

FORT

CATAPULT

KNIGHT

DISCOVERY

CASTLE

SWORD

TAPESTRY

QUEEN

Exploring Engineering Solutions to Enhance Muscovado Production for Bukidnon Sugarcane Farmers

Sugarcane farmers of the Bukidnon Farmers CARP Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BUKIFCARB MPC) in Don Carlos, Bukidnon continue to produce quality muscovado sugar as a source of livelihood and community pride, yet operational challenges and production bottlenecks can limit their efficiency and growth potential. To better understand these needs and identify appropriate interventions, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Bukidnon conducted a Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) on May 28, 2026, as part of its continuing efforts to support farmer-led enterprises through science, technology, and innovation.



On the same day, DOST Bukidnon also met with the Central Mindanao University–Mechanical Engineering Department to explore possible technical solutions and areas for collaboration that may help address the cooperative's operational concerns.

Through this initiative, potential opportunities for process improvement, enhanced productivity, and better product quality were discussed, laying the groundwork

for future science and engineering-based interventions. By fostering collaboration among farmers, academic institutions, and government agencies, the activity supports the development of

EXPLORING • 5

NLEX and Pampanga Provincial Government bolster disaster preparedness

NLEX Corporation and the Provincial Government of Pampanga have joined forces to strengthen the province's disaster resilience as the rainy season approaches.



Workshop participants posed for a photo with (L–R, front row) PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili, Pampanga PDRRM Officer Janica Mikhail Yambao, NLEX Government Relations Manager Kiko Dagohoy, and MPT South Stakeholder Engagement Assistant Manager Mhanny Agosto.

Some 40 participants from key provincial departments, including the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and the Provincial Health Office, attended a two-day Policy-Making on Disaster

Management Workshop facilitated by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). The primary goal of the session was to identify critical safety gaps and ensure that the province's disaster management protocols are robust enough to protect residents during a disaster.

Pampanga has demonstrated resilience through various natural events in its history, including the 1990 earthquake and the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption. As a rapidly growing economic hub, the province continues to strengthen its disaster preparedness and resilience effort.

NLEX • 5

Innovate. Collaborate. Elevate. -DOST XII-PSTO Socot Highlights Startup and iHub Initiatives at South Cotabato Business Conference 2026



The Department of Science and Technology – SOCCSKSARGEN Region (DOST XII), through its Provincial Science and Technology Office – South Cotabato headed by Provincial Director Giselle Eve O. Siladan, proudly served as one of the resource speakers during the 2026 South Cotabato Federation of Local Chambers of Commerce Conference held in line with the celebration of the South Cotabato Business Week.

INNOVATE • 4

DOST Laguna strengthens EBlue Holdings and Trading Corp's Coffee roastery operations through HACCP training and hands-on food safety workshops



The Department of Science and Technology Provincial Science and Technology Office - Laguna (DOST PSTO-Laguna) organized a training and workshop session centered on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) in alignment with the Codex Alimentarius CXC 1-1969 Rev 2023 guidelines for EBlue Holdings and Trading Corp on May 6, 2026. The company offers a wide array of high-quality products and innovative solutions for coffee, tea, and specialty beverages. Additionally, the company boasts a nationwide presence with nine branches distributed across the Philippines.

DOST LAGUNA • 5