



PGC Employees Month celebration kicks off with general assembly, ISO Certification awarding, and new branding launch

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) officially kicked off its celebration of Provincial Employees Month, bringing together provincial government employees in a series of activities aimed at recognizing their valuable contributions, promoting employee well-being, and strengthening camaraderie in public service.

The highlight of the opening celebration was the PGC Employees General Assembly, which served as a venue for employees to come together, reflect on their shared commitment to public service, and celebrate important milestones of the provincial government.

One of the major highlights of the program was the launching of the new PGC branding, symbolizing the provincial government's continuing efforts to strengthen its identity and present a unified image across its various offices, programs, and services. The new branding reinforces the PGC's vision of a progressive, service-oriented, and people-centered provincial government while fostering a stronger sense of unity among its employees.

The activity also featured the ceremonial awarding of the ISO 9001:2015 Certification, marking another significant milestone in the PGC's continuing pursuit of quality, efficiency, and excellence in government service. The certification reflects the provincial government's commitment to maintaining effective systems and processes that promote consistent, responsive, and quality public service for the people of Cavite.

Beyond the formal program, the celebration placed equal importance on the health, wellness, and overall well-being of provincial em- **PGC EMPLOYEES • 5**

PGC Brings Free Health Services to Residents of Tanzang Luma V



The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) brought free medical and dental services closer to residents of Tanzang Luma V in Imus City through a medical and dental mission held on August 15, 2026, benefiting a total of 942 individuals.

The outreach activity provided residents with access to essential healthcare services, including medical consultations and dental services, helping address their immediate health concerns and promoting greater awareness of preventive healthcare. **PGC BRINGS • 5**

PNHRS OPENS WITH CALL FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE

SOUTH COTABATO, PHILIPPINES — "Data alone is not enough. It must lead to decisions, policies, and action."



This message marked the start of Day 1 of Philippine National Health Research System (PNHRS) Week. The event was organized by HRDC XII, DOST XII, and DOST-PCHRD.

Under the theme "Health Converge: Transforming Health Research, Connecting Cultures," local leaders, doctors, and scientists gathered to answer one big question: How can scientific research di-

rectly help families and local communities?

DOST XII Director Sammy P. Malawan opened the program by showing key health numbers. He reminded everyone that research should not just stay on paper—it must solve real problems and lead to bold actions that protect people's health.

South Cotabato Governor Reynaldo S. Tamayo shared how the province became a leader in good

healthcare. He challenged other leaders across the country, saying that if South Cotabato can build a successful healthcare system, other regions can do it too.

DOST Undersecretary Leah J. Buendia also shared the country's recent achievements in health research. She showed how scientists working together are helping local clinics give

NEWS

Batangas MSMEs tap DOST experts for packaging, labeling, food safety consultation

Micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Batangas received free technical assistance on packaging, labeling, and food safety from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas during the Batangas MSME Week Celebration held at the Batangas City Convention Center, recently.

The consultation booth, titled "Product Checkpoint: One-on-One with DOST", formed part of the three-day Batangas MSME Week Celebration from July 27 to 29, organized through the Batangas MSME Development Council, of which DOST-Batangas is a member, together with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Batangas and the City Government of Batangas. The activity provided entrepreneurs with direct access to technical experts who offered science-based recommendations to help improve product quality, regula-

tory compliance, and market competitiveness.

Participating MSMEs consulted with DOST-Batangas on various concerns related to packaging improvement, product label evaluation, food safety compliance, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeling requirements, nutrition facts information, shelf-life and storage guidance, packaging design recommendations, and product market readiness.

The one-on-one consultations enabled entrepreneurs to receive technical advice tailored to the specific needs of their products. The discus-

sions focused on helping MSMEs address common challenges in product presentation, compliance with food labeling regulations, and packaging selection to improve product protection, consumer appeal, and market acceptance.

Serving as technical consultants during the activity were Mr. John Maico M. Hernandez and Ms. Anna Marie M. Marasigan of DOST-Batangas. They provided practical recommendations grounded in food science, packaging technology, and regulatory requirements to assist enterprises in enhancing



the quality and competitiveness of their products.

Through its participation in the Batangas MSME Week Celebration, DOST-Batangas reaffirmed its commitment to supporting local enterprises by making science, technology, and innovation accessible to MSMEs

seeking to improve their products and expand their market opportunities.

DOST-Batangas continues to offer free technical consultation services on packaging, labeling, food safety, and other technology-related concerns at its Provincial

Office located within the Provincial Engineer's Office Compound, Kumintang Ilaya, Batangas City, encouraging more entrepreneurs to leverage science-based solutions in growing their businesses. **(By John Maico M. Hernandez)**

Food security gets P1.42-M push from DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program in Cavite

NAIC, Cavite (PIA) — With a goal to help ensure food security in the region, three Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) Associations in Cavite Province received seed capital funding amounting to P1.42 million from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to help kickstart their businesses.



Last August 19, each of the 70 members from San Miguel Dreamers SLP Association, Pagunlad SLP Association, and SMMED SLP Association received P20,000 as capital for their individual enterprises.

Dennis Silva, SLP Cavite Provincial Coordinator, said that these groups were organized as part of the Zero Hunger Program.

In partnership with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and

the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), these SLP associations will aid in the region's food production and ultimately push for food security.

Meanwhile, Raymond Valenzuela, President of the San Miguel Dreamers SLP Association, vowed that they will work together to grow the funding they received

"Pagsusumikapan po naming palaguin at gamitin nang maayos ang pondong

ipinagkaloob sa amin. Nawa'y maging simula ito ng pagbabago at pag-unlad ng aming buhay."

Silva added that the three SLP associations plan to use their seed capital fund to open agrobusinesses such as hog raising, vegetable farming, and fish trading and processing to provide their members with a stable source of income. **(PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from DSWD IV-A)**

Gov. Fernando Fires Back at Viral Criticism, Asks Where P41-B Went

Bulacan Governor Daniel R. Fernando clarified his viral response to a recent interview regarding more than P41 billion in flood-control projects in Bulacan, saying the public should focus on where the funds went and why flooding remains a problem in the province.

During his August 20 phone interview with broadcaster Ted Failon, Fernando was asked about the reported allocation for flood-control projects. His response, "I don't know. I have no knowledge about it," drew widespread attention and criticism on social media.

Fernando explained that he did not have the complete and exact data available at the time to provide a responsible answer. He stressed that saying he did not know the figures did not mean he was unaware of or indifferent to Bulacan's flooding problem.

"SAAN NAPUNTA ANG P41 BILYON? BAKIT LUBOG PARIN SA BAHANG BULACAN?" Fernando said, pointing to what he described as the more important questions surrounding the flood-control projects.

The governor clarified that the reported P41 billion in flood-con-



trol projects is not under the direct control of the Provincial Government of Bulacan, but is funded, planned, contracted, and implemented by national government agencies. He said the provincial government has pursued measures to strengthen coordination, monitoring, and validation of national infrastructure projects in the province.

Fernando also reiterated his call for a comprehensive approach to the province's flooding problem, saying, "The need of Bulacan is an integrated, science-based

and long-term flood-control solution."

Amid the controversy, Fernando urged the public to assess his leadership based on his work and decisions rather than a viral clip. "HUWAG NAMAN NINYO AKONG HUSGAHAN SA PARAAN LAMANG NG PAGSASALITA. HUSGAHAN NINYO AKO SA AKING TRABAHO, SA AKING MGA DESISYON, SA AKING PANININDIGAN, AT SA AKING PAGLILINGKOD SA MAMAMAYANG BULAKENYO," he said.

Editorial

Giving protection to Filipino caregivers

A GING Asia-Pacific economies are increasingly relying on Filipino caregivers, nurses and domestic workers to sustain their growing care needs. These countries include Japan, Singapore and Australia. Filipino women migrant care workers play a critical role in supporting aging populations across the Asia-Pacific despite facing significant labor and social protection gaps.

But stronger labor protections, ethical recruitment and regional cooperation are needed to ensure decent work for Filipino women migrant care workers. This is the gist of a study recently released by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS).

The study, titled "The Future of Work in Aging Societies: Filipina Migrant Workers in the Asia-Pacific Value Chains," argues that care work should no longer be viewed simply as overseas employment. Rather, it should be seen as part of regional value chains that connect training institutions, governments, recruitment agencies, employers and migrant workers in sustaining the care economies of aging societies.

As labor shortages deepen and demand for long-term care rises, the Philippines has emerged as a major supplier of skilled care workers. The study notes that Singapore employed about 250,000 foreign domestic workers in 2021, around half of whom were Filipino women. More than 3,000 Filipino nurses and caregivers have been deployed to Japan under the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement, while Australia employs an estimated 10,000 Filipino healthcare professionals.

Drawing on data from the Philippine Statistics Authority's 2023 Labor Force Survey and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), the study finds that the Philippines has developed a sustained pipeline of women entering the caregiving profession.

More than 85 percent of those enrolled in and graduating from caregiving training programs are women, while women make up the overwhelming majority of the country's care workforce. The study attributes the continued demand for Filipino care workers to their English proficiency, caregiving skills and cultural adaptability, qualities that have made them highly sought after in overseas labor markets.

Yet the study also identifies a growing paradox. Although Filipino women workers have become indispensable to healthcare, elder care and domestic-care services abroad, many continue to face challenges. These include insecure employment,



long working hours, language barriers, limited opportunities for career advancement, and unequal access to labor protections, healthcare and social security benefits.

The increasing dependence of destination countries on migrant care workers has not been matched by stronger protections for those workers.

The study also points to a less visible consequence of labor migration. While overseas employment creates jobs and generates remittances, the continued migration of caregivers and healthcare professionals may contribute to shortages in the country's own health and care sectors, creating what the authors describe as a "care deficit."

Moreover, the social cost of leaving young children behind in order to work overseas has taken its toll on many Filipino families. Reports of juvenile delinquency and marriages splitting apart have come from the field. In a stroke of irony, Filipino mothers leave for overseas to take care of other people's children, while theirs are left behind to be cared for by fathers, grandparents and assorted relatives. While these people certainly do their best, it just isn't the same.

To better understand these issues, the authors combined Philippine labor market data with policy analysis and interviews involving migration experts, government representatives, and Filipino women migrant workers in Japan, Singapore and Australia.

This enabled them to examine both the economic value of migrant care work and the everyday experi-

ences of Filipino workers while identifying policy gaps affecting both sending and receiving countries.

How can the region's care economy be sustained? The report recommends improving cross-border recognition of professional qualifications, expanding access to portable social protection and healthcare benefits, promoting ethical recruitment, investing in continuous skills development and digital training, and strengthening bilateral agreements between the Philippines and destination countries.

"Ensuring the sustainability of this care-driven interdependence demands collective action — between states, industries, and regional institutions — to secure equitable, ethical, and technologically supported care systems across the APEC region," the report noted.

As Asia-Pacific economies become increasingly care-intensive, recognizing the value of care work must go hand in hand with ensuring decent work, fair treatment, and adequate protection for the workers who support the well-being of millions of older persons across the region.

Filipino women migrant workers lie at the nexus of economic necessity and social reproduction. They sustain aging populations abroad while filling fiscal gaps at home through remittances, yet their work remains undervalued and insufficiently protected.

In a stroke of irony, those who give care overseas are not cared for themselves, in the first place. This situation should change.

Pulang Gulay at Prutas (Red Foods)

A ng mapupulang prutas at gulay ay kadalasang mabuti sa puso, utak at prostate gland. Ang mga pagkaing ito ay mayaman sa lycopene, ellagic acid, quercetin, at hesperidin. Ang mga nabanggit ay maaaring magpababa ng kolesterol, blood pressure at tsansang magkaroon ng kanser, tulad ng prostate cancer.

Heto ang ilang ehemplo:

1. Pulang Mansanas — Ang mansanas ay mataas sa quercetin. Ayon sa pag-aaral, ang mga taong kumakain ng "one apple a day" ay mas nakaiwas sa kanser sa бага at sa Alzheimer's disease. Ang balat ng mansanas ay may pectin, na nagpapababa din ng lebel ng bad cholesterol (LDL cholesterol) kaya maganda ito sa ating puso.

2. Strawberries — Ang strawberries ay may taglay na ellagic acid at polyphenols, na nagpro-rotekta laban sa kanser. Mataas ang strawberries sa anti-oxidants, vitamin B at C, at potassium na kailangan sa normal na pagtibok ng puso.

3. Kamatis, tomato sauce at ketsap — Ang kamatis ay mayaman sa anti-oxidants tulad ng lycopene at beta-carotene. Ang lycopene ay isa sa pinakamalakas na anti-oxidant. Maraming pagsusuri ang nagpapatunay na ang pagkain ng kamatis, tomato

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



sauce at ketsap ay nagpapababa ng tsansang magkaroon ng sakit sa puso, prostate cancer, at kanser sa bituka. Para lumabas ang lycopene sa kamatis, lutuin ito ng may konting mantika. Ayon sa mga eksperto, kailangan nating kumain ng 10 kutsara o 150 cc ng tomato sauce bawat linggo.

4. Pulang Pakwan — Ayon sa U.S. Department of Agriculture, ang pakwan ay may benepisyo sa puso at ugat (blood vessels). Napatunayang pinapataas ng pakwan ang lebel ng arginine sa katawan. Ang arginine ay na-co-convert sa nitric oxide, isang kemikal na nagpapa-relaks at nagpapabuka ng ating ugat. Dahil dito, makatutulong ito sa pag-iwas sa stroke at heart attack.

Ang pulang pakwan ay may taglay na lycopene na nagpapabagal sa ating pag-edad. Konting kaalaman: Ang dilaw na pakwan ay may lutein na mabuti naman sa ating mata.

Kaya kung gusto ninyong maging malusog ang inyong puso, utak at prostate, kumain ng mapupulang prutas at gulay.

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NEWS

PH to pursue faster ASEAN economic growth – Palace

MANILA – The Philippines will push for stronger regional integration and resilience as this year's chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), as it seeks to help accelerate economic growth across the region, Malacañang said Wednesday.



ASEAN LEADERSHIP. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. formally opens the 48th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and Related Meetings at the Mactan Expo Center in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu on May 8, 2026. Malacañang said Wednesday (Aug. 26) that the Philippines would continue working to strengthen regional integration and resilience as this year's ASEAN chair. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. welcomed the findings of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) recognizing ASEAN's growing economic and strategic weight and its potential to strengthen the bloc's position as a global power.

"So, the President welcomes the recognition,

the findings of PIDS. And ASEAN aims not only to maintain that gain, but it should accelerate the economic growth even further," Castro said in a Palace press briefing.

"As ASEAN chair, the Philippines will continue working to strengthen this regional integration and resilience while ensuring that the ASEAN remains united and cen-

tral to regional peace, stability, and economic growth."

The PIDS, in its study titled "ASEAN's Ascent: A Global Power in the Making," said the Philippines' 2026 ASEAN chairship provides an opportunity to advance the regional bloc's collective capacity and role in a changing global order.

The study underscored

the need for stronger regional cohesion and institutions to translate ASEAN's economic and strategic potential into sustained global influence.

It also noted that ASEAN's economic transformation provides a strong foundation for this potential, with the bloc's combined gross domestic product increasing from USD118

billion in 2000 to USD3.37 trillion in 2023, while its population surpassed 685 million.

Castro cited the importance of unity among ASEAN member-states in achieving regional stability and prosperity.

She also said preparations are ongoing for the 49th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits, which the Philippines will host in November.

"Dapat talaga magkaisa-isa ang miyembro ng ASEAN at nakikita po nila kung paano nagtatrabaho ang ASEAN sa ngayon patungo sa stability at economic growth (ASEAN member-states should indeed remain united, and they can see how ASEAN is working toward stability and economic growth)," Castro said. **(PNA)**

PG-COPS

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derstanding of environmental laws and policies, equipping them with the necessary knowledge to effectively carry out their duties in monitoring and enforcing environmental regulations across the province.

PG-COPS Department Head Cecil D. Miranda delivered the opening message, emphasizing the importance of continuous learning and capacity-building among personnel tasked with safeguarding the environment and ensuring compliance with existing laws.

The seminar featured resource speakers from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) CALABARZON and the

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) CALABARZON, who provided comprehensive discussions on key environmental laws relevant to the enforcement and monitoring functions of PG-COPS EPOD operatives.

For. Janeth R. Salazar, RPF, DPA, OIC of the Enforcement Division of DENR 4A, together with For. Xyryn Mae S. Bernardino, Special Investigator I of the same division, discussed Republic Act No. 9175, or the Chainsaw Act of 2002, which regulates the ownership, possession, sale, importation, and use of chainsaws and penalizes violations thereof.

Mr. Mark Johnes Rio M. Arista, Fishing Regu-

lation Officer 2 of BFAR 4A, discussed Republic Act No. 10654, which seeks to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and amended Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.

The lectures were complemented by question-and-answer sessions, allowing the participants to clarify concerns and gain a deeper understanding of the practical application of the laws in the performance of their duties.

Through the seminar, PG-COPS continues to strengthen the capabilities of its personnel and promote informed and effective enforcement of environmental laws, contributing to the protection and preservation of Cavite's natural resources. — **OPIO**

GSIS opens P4.4-B emergency loan facility for cyclone-hit members

MANILA – More than 166,000 government workers and pensioners in nine cyclone-hit areas in Luzon may avail of a PHP4.4-billion emergency loan facility of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), with application deadlines running until September or November depending on the locality.

In a news release Wednesday, the GSIS said the assistance is available to active members and old-age and disability pensioners affected by recent tropical cyclones and the southwest monsoon.

"The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) has earmarked nearly P4.4 billion in emergency loans for 166,789 active members and old-age and disability pensioners in nine areas in Luzon affected by recent [cyclones] and the southwest monsoon," the agency said.

The longest application periods are in Cavite and Rodriguez, Rizal, where a combined 94,750 eligible members and pensioners may ap-

ply until Nov. 12 and Nov. 16, respectively.

Meanwhile, 65,737 qualified borrowers in Pampanga; Calumpit, Bulacan; and Mangaldan and Dagupan City, Pangasinan have until Sept. 13 to apply.

Another 1,964 members and pensioners in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan may apply until Sept. 18, while applications in Hagonoy, Bulacan and Masinloc, Zambales will remain open until Sept. 20.

Qualified borrowers without an existing emergency loan may borrow up to PHP20,000, while those with an outstanding balance on a previous emergency loan may avail of up to PHP40,000, subject to



GSIS policies.

The loan is payable in 36 equal monthly installments at an annual interest rate of 6 percent, and is covered by loan redemption insurance.

Applications may be submitted through the GSIS Touch mobile application. Approved loan proceeds will be credited directly to the borrower's GSIS eCard or UMID card. **(PNA)**

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TICKETING

PGC Employees

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employees. A stress management seminar was conducted to provide employees with practical ways to manage workplace pressures, maintain a healthy mindset, and achieve better balance in their professional and personal lives. The activity underscored the importance of taking care of employees who, in turn, play a vital role in

delivering efficient and responsive services to the public.

Employees were likewise encouraged to stay active and healthy through a lively Zumba activity, providing an enjoyable opportunity for physical exercise, relaxation, and interaction with colleagues.

The energetic session brought employees to-

gether in a fun and engaging atmosphere, promoting both physical wellness and workplace camaraderie.

As part of the celebration's Personnel Care activities, employees were also treated to various personal wellness services, including haircuts, massage, and manicure and pedicure services. These activities provided employees with an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved

break from their daily work responsibilities.

Adding excitement to the celebration were various games and recreational activities designed to encourage teamwork, friendly competition, and stronger relationships among employees. The games provided a venue for employees from different offices and departments to interact outside their

usual work environment, strengthening cooperation and camaraderie within the provincial government workforce.

The kick-off activity was attended by Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, who joined provincial employees in celebrating their

important role in advancing the programs and services of the provincial government.

The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to recognize its employees as essential partners in advancing the province's development and in delivering programs and services that respond to the needs of the Caviteño community. —**OPIO**



PGC EMPLOYEES MONTH CELEBRATION KICK-OFF ACTIVITY
13 AUGUST 2026
NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CENTER, TRECE MARTIRES CITY

PGC Brings

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Through the medical mission, beneficiaries were given the opportunity to consult with healthcare professionals and receive appropriate medical advice and assistance. Dental services were likewise extended to residents as part of the provincial

government's continuing efforts to make basic healthcare services more accessible to communities.

The activity underscores the commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to bringing responsive and community-centered

health services directly to residents, particularly those who may face challenges in accessing healthcare facilities.

Through initiatives such as this, the PGC continues to strengthen its healthcare programs and advance its goal of ensuring that Caviteños receive accessible, timely and quality health services. —**OPIO**

PNHRS

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better care and helping government leaders make smarter

health laws.

The main takeaway from Day 1 was

simple, health research should not be kept in books or laboratories.

It must be used to protect, help, and improve everyday lives.

Project SIBOL

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Pormal na binuksan ni Engr. Trinidad R. Sager, Science Research Specialist II ng DOST-PSTO Rizal, ay nagbigay ng programa kung saan binigyang-diin niya ang mahalagang papel ng siyensya at teknolohiya sa pagharap sa mga hamon ng modernong pagsasaka. Hinimok niya ang mga lokal na magsasaka na tangkilikin ang mga matipid at pangmatagalang inobasyon upang mapababa ang gastos sa produksyon habang pinalalaki ang ani.

Nagsilbi namang pangunahing tagapagsalita si Ms. Vita A. Pacia, University Researcher mula sa UPLB-BIOTECH, na nagbahagi ng impormasyon tungkol sa Biotechnology for Agriculture and Forestry Program (BAFP). Ipinaliwanag ni Ms. Pacia ang siyentipikong basehan sa likod ng mga biofertilizer at microbial technologies na binuo ng institute, kabilang ang Biogro, MykoPlus, at VAMRI.

Ang mga makabagong teknolohiyang ito ay idinisenyo upang pasiglahin ang likas na taba ng lupa, mapabuti ang pagsipsip ng nutrisyon ng halaman, at pabilisin ang paglaki ng

mga ugat—na epektibong nagpapababa sa pagdepende ng mga magsasaka sa mamahaling kemikal na pataba.

Upang masiguro ang tamang paggamit nito, nagpakita rin sa webinar ng mga detalyadong video demonstration na nagtuturo ng mga tamang paraan ng pag-aaplay tulad ng seed coating (pagbabalat sa buto), seedling inoculation, pag-spray, at drenching (pagdidilig sa ugat).

Sa pamamagitan ng isang interactive na open forum, nagkaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga kinatawan mula sa iba't ibang asosasyon ng magsasaka, organisasyong pang-agrikultura, at mga grupong benepisyaryo sa Rizal na direktang makipag-usap sa mga eksperto. Kabilang sa mga mahahalagang gabay na ibinahagi ay ang mga partikular na paraan ng pag-aaplay para sa mga high-value crops sa rehiyon:

Para sa Produksyon ng Palay: Inirekomenda ni Ms. Pacia ang teknik na seed coating, kung saan ang partikular na biofertilizer ay maingat at masusing ihahalo sa mga buto ng palay bago ito itanim, gamit ang

itinakdang dami o application rate.

Para sa Siling Labuyo: Iba naman ang proseso rito dahil kinakailangan ang seed soaking o pagbababad ng mga buto sa inihandang biofertilizer solution bago itanim. Kapag inilipat na ang mga punla sa seedling tray, didiligan naman ang mga ito gamit ang inihandang microbial solution.

Nagtapos ang webinar sa isang mensahe mula kay Ms. Una Grace M. Dollete, Senior Science Research Specialist ng DOST-PSTO Rizal. Nagpasalamat siya sa mga katuwang na ahensya at sa mga nakiisang magsasaka, at muling pinagtibay ang pangmatagalang komitment ng DOST-PSTO Rizal sa pagbibigay ng tuloy-tuloy na teknikal na tulong, mga programa para sa pagpapalago ng kakayahan, at mga interbensiyong nakabatay sa siyensya para sa sektor ng agrikultura sa Rizal.

Bilang susunod na hakbang ng proyekto, nitong nagdaang Hulyo ay opisyal nang na-deploy o naipamahagi ang mga nasabing produkto sa mga nakiisang asosasyon, kooperatiba ng mga magsasaka, at iba pang benepisyaryo sa lalawigan. **(By Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio)**

Investing

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ferences, helping them share their work and contribute to the wider scientific community.

More than providing financial assistance, the scholarship program opens doors for talented Filipino youth to pursue careers in science and technology while helping build a strong pool of scientists, engineers, and other professionals who contribute to the

country's scientific advancement and development.

Through these initiatives, DOST continues to invest in Filipino talent and human resources, giving young people greater access to quality education, opportunities to develop their skills, and pathways toward meaningful careers that serve the nation.

Through Kapihan sa

Ilocos, PIA brings government programs and opportunities closer to communities, helping students and their families make informed decisions about their education and discover pathways toward careers that shape the future of Philippine science and technology.

Investing in young minds today means building a more innovative, resilient, and competitive Philippines tomorrow. **(PIA Ilocos Region)**

NIKKO S. OFO-OB
Project Technical Specialist I
Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Ilocos Region

Statement during the Kapihan sa Ilocos of the Philippine Information Agency-Region I on August 17, 2026

KAPIHAN SA ILOCOS

If you are a Department of Science and Technology–Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) scholar, you can expect these scholarship privileges.

First is the tuition and other school fees.

If our scholars are studying in a private school, DOST-SEI will shoulder up to P40,000 of their tuition per academic year.

We also have a monthly living allowance of P8,000.
For the duration of their studies, scholars receive P8,000 per month for five months each semester. We also provide clothing and transportation allowances, as well as accident insurance.

CBCP NEWS



Pope Leo XIV receives in private audience a delegation from the International Military Ordinariate of Portugal at the Apostolic Palace in the Vatican on Aug. 24, 2026. VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Leo XIV tells soldiers: It is noble to defend the sovereignty of your homeland

VATICAN— Pope Leo XIV has emphasized the nobility of a soldier's mission to defend one's homeland and uphold the rule of law.

The pontiff held a private audience on Aug. 24 at the Vatican with a delegation from the Military Ordinariate of Portugal, which celebrated 60 years since its establishment in 1966. The delegation included members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, National Republican Guard, and Public Security Police.

Leo, in his remarks, remembered two Portuguese soldiers who were killed on Aug. 21 in a car accident while helping a truck driver with a flat tire.

'Remain firm in defending your homeland'

The pope also urged the Christian soldiers present to remain steadfast in their mission to protect their citizens, citing the Roman centurion at Capernaum, who asked Jesus for a miracle for his servant.

"Every day, each of you has the noble mission of defending the sovereignty of your homeland and the rule of law, safeguarding the security of your fellow citizens and protecting them from injustice," Leo said. "Be strong in the Lord like the centurion who, in Capernaum, approached Jesus. He knew

well the values by which you shape your lives: obedience, discipline, self-denial, loyalty, camaraderie, dedication, responsibility, and courage."

The pope also highlighted the need for military personnel to remain humble, as the Roman centurion was.

"If, on the one hand, this soldier was aware of his authority, on the other hand, he showed before the Son of God the strength of faith and the courage of humility," Leo said.

Past addresses to the military

Leo has held other private audiences with military personnel, most recently meeting with the Military Ordinariate of Italy in March, during which he declared that soldiers must work to promote peace.

The pope and the Holy See have also criticized certain military actions as unjust, including those by the United States in its war with Iran. In his Palm Sunday homily in March, he sharply condemned war and the use of religion to justify violence, saying that God "does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war."

Cardinal calls for action beyond security after school shooting

The country cannot afford to let another school violence incident 'pass' without confronting the challenges facing its young people, Manila's Catholic archbishop said.



Cardinal Jose Advincula of Manila. PHOTO FROM THE MANILA CATHEDRAL

Cardinal Jose Advincula urged families, schools, churches and communities to listen to young people who may be struggling silently with loneliness, anxiety, bullying, academic pressure or family problems.

"We must not allow this tragedy to pass without listening deeply to what it tells us about the struggles of our young people," Advincula said in a statement.

He called for safe spaces where young people can speak without fear of judgment, seek help without shame and know they are valued.

Advincula made the statement after a shooting at Ateneo de Zamboanga University that killed two high school students, including the gunman.

The Zamboanga shooting followed a series of violent incidents in schools, including a June 22 attack in Tacloban City that killed three students and raised concerns about school security, access to firearms and vulnerable young people.

The Archdiocese of Zamboanga expressed solidarity with the Jesuit community, the university and those affected by the shooting.

"We join the entire ADZU community in profound grief over the loss of young lives and in deep concern for those who have been wounded, traumatized, and deeply affected by

this tragedy," the archdiocese said.

The archdiocese assured students, teachers, personnel and families of its prayers and support, saying, "In this painful moment, may no one feel alone."

It also called for schools to remain safe spaces where young people can learn, grow and discover their dignity while promoting compassion, dialogue and peace.

The archdiocese affirmed its commitment to "truth, justice, and accountability," and backed a thorough investigation and appropriate accountability for the shooting.

But Advincula said the response must go beyond security measures, calling for stronger systems of care and accompaniment.

"We need to listen to them, not only when they speak loudly, but especially when they suffer quietly," he said.

The cardinal urged the public to make prayer a starting point for practical action and to build communities where struggling young people can be heard and supported.

"In this moment of grief, let us turn to prayer, but let our prayer also lead us to united action," Advincula said.

"Together, let us strengthen a culture of care, compassion, dialogue, and accompaniment so that violence and hatred may never have the final word."

Bishop tells altar servers: Serving is more than getting the rites right

Bishop Roberto Gaa told more than 1,700 altar servers that ministry means more than performing rites correctly or avoiding mistakes at the altar.

"Serving is not just wearing an attire. Serving is not just not committing mistakes," Gaa said during the opening Mass of the fourth pilgrimage tour of the image of St. Tarcisus of Rome at the Novaliches Cathedral.

He challenged the young servers to ask whether their ministry is rooted in love for God and others, rather than simply following rituals

and rules.

"Is it all rituals? Are all the rules? Or is it your love for God and for your neighbor?" Gaa asked.

Gaa urged the servers to carry this love beyond church, shaping how they treat family, friends, classmates and even those they disagree with.

The bishop said altar serving can form young people's values, character and understanding of what truly matters.

"Often, serving becomes just a ritual and a task that we have to perform without making mistakes," Gaa said.

"But in truth, serving is formative. It forms your values, what is significant, and your heart," he added.

Gaa said the ministry can also help young people discern vocations, including calls to the priesthood or consecrated life.

He pointed to St. Tarcisus as a model of sacrificial service, recalling how the young martyr died protecting the Eucharist during Christian persecution.

"For him, it was not

just rites, it was not just tasks, but it was a sign of his love for God and for others," Gaa said.

The gathering brought together servers from the dioceses of Novaliches, Antipolo, Cubao and Malolos for worship, fellowship and vocation activities.

It included a Holy Hour for Vocations and a vocation jamboree where 44 religious congregations introduced young participants to different forms of religious life.

The pilgrimage will conclude with a closing liturgy at the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Saint Mary Magdalene in Pililla, Rizal.

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MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Bitbitin mo ngayon ang mga makalumang aral na ipinamana sa iyo ng iyong mga magulang, dahil ito ang panlaban mo sa kahirapan at katamaran. Masuwerteng kulay—burgundy. Tips sa lotto-7-19-24-29-31-42.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Huwag mong atrasan ang mga hamon ng kapalaran na nasa iyong harapan. Malalaking premyo mula sa langit ang mapapasaiyo kapag hinarap mo ito. Masuwerteng kulay—violet. Tips sa lotto-5-15-21-29-33-43.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Magdahan-dahan ka ngayon. Mas maganda kung gagawa ka muna ng isang masinop na plano bago kumilos. Masuwerteng kulay—peach. Tips sa lotto-4-10-17-20-28-34.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Kung ano ang hindi mo gusto, iyon ang mangyayari. Masuwerteng kulay—red. Tips sa lotto-2-14-18-27-30-41.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Gagamitin ka ngayon ng langit bilang ilaw ng isang taong nawawalan na ng pag-asa. Sa iyo siya magkakaroon ng sigla, saya at lakas na sapat para muli siyang makapagsimula. Masuwerteng kulay—ocher yellow. Tips sa lotto-6-12-16-22-36-40.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Hindi man aminin ng ilan, alam nila na mas tama ka kaysa sa kanila. Kaya hindi na nila igigiit ang mga sinasabi nila dahil mapapahiya lamang sila sa kanilang sarili. Masuwerteng kulay—white. Tips sa lotto-3-10-13-25-28-35.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Gumagalaw ang mga alon na parang nagsasayaw dahil sa ihip ng hangin. Magsisigalaw rin sila at magiging masaya dahil sa iyo. Sila ang mga taong ikaw ang inspirasyon. Masuwerteng kulay—green. Tips sa lotto-9-15-24-37-39-45.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Patak ng tubig sa tag-init ang mga ngiting ipupukol mo sa isang taong noon pa naghahanap ng tunay na pag-ibig. Huwag mong hayaang muli siyang malungkot. Masuwerteng kulay—orange. Tips sa lotto-5-11-19-28-38-41.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Hindi naman gaanong mahalaga kung ikaw ba ay paniniwalaan ng mga nasa paligid mo. Ang importante ay tama at makabubuti sa lahat ang mga plano at ang mga pagkilos na gagawin mo. Masuwerteng kulay—purple. Tips sa lotto-2-10-17-23-25-31.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Ito ang araw na marami ang magpapasalamat sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay—pink. Tips sa lotto-3-18-20-22-28-30.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Higit kailanman, pahinga ang iyong kailangan. At dapat mo ring malaman na hindi lang katawan ang nangangailangan ng pahinga kundi ang isip din. Huwag mo nang isipin nang isipin ang dati at luma mo nang mga pagkakautang. Masuwerteng kulay—beige. Tips sa lotto-7-16-17-21-32-45.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Gamitin mo ngayon ang iyong pandama. Kapag may nakaharap ka, pakiramdaman mo muna kung mabuti ba o masama ang motibo niya. Hindi ka mamamali sapagkat ang pandama mo ay laging tama. Masuwerteng kulay—blue. Tips sa lotto-1-13-20-27-35-40.

SUDOKU

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

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 23 #25

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

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?

TURKEYS CAN BLUSH

When turkeys are scared, agitated or excited—like when a male see a female he's interested in—the pale skin on their head and neck can change colors, turning bright red, blue or white. The flap of skin over their beaks, called a snood, also reddens.



WORD HUNT

Apple

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

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CUSTOMERS
IPOD TOUCH
IMOVIE
APP STORE
MACINTOSH
IPOD SHUFFLE
SIRI
IPHONE
IPAD
APPLE WATCH
IPOD NANO
NEWTON
OS X
POWERBOOK
ITUNES
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Investing in the Next Generation of Filipino Scientists and Innovators

The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), through Kapihan sa Ilocos, features the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in the Ilocos Region as it highlights the DOST–Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) Undergraduate Scholarship Program and its continuing efforts to nurture the next generation of Filipino scientists, engineers, and innovators.



The discussion highlights the scholarship opportunities available to incoming college students, providing comprehensive support throughout their studies—from tuition and other school fees, learning materials and connectivity, and monthly living allowances to transportation, insurance, thesis support, and other educational assistance. DOST also underscores its Research Dissemination Grant, which gives scholars additional support when they are invited to present their thesis or research at local or international conferences.

INVESTING • 5

PG-COPS Strengthens Environmental Law Enforcement



The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Provincial Government-Cavite Office of Public Safety (PG-COPS), strengthened the knowledge and capabilities of its Environmental Protection and Operations Division (EPD) operatives through the “Navigating Environmental Laws and Policies Seminar for PG-COPS EPD Operatives” held on August 12, 2026, at the Upper Ground Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The one-day seminar aimed to enhance the operatives’ un-

PG-COPS • 4

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‘Project SIBOL’ inilunsad ng DOST Rizal at mga katuwang na sektor upang ihatid ang makabagong teknolohiya sa mga magsasaka

PROBINSIYA NG RIZAL — Matagumpay na naghatid ng isang webinar kamakailan ang Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) Rizal, sa pakikipagtulungan ng University of the Philippines Los Baños Institute of Biotechnology (UPLB-BIOTECH) at Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Rizal, upang ipakilala ang mga makabagong solusyon sa agrikultura na akma sa pabago-bagong klima para sa mga lokal na komunidad ng magsasaka.



Sa pamagat na “Project SIBOL: Support for Innovative Biotechnologies towards Optimal Livelihood and Agricultural Growth through Technology Transfer,” layunin ng online na inisyatibang ito na tugunan ang mga mabibigat na suliranin sa pagbabago ng klima (climate change), nagtataasang presyo ng pataba, at pagbaba ng likas na taba at kalidad ng lupa.

PROJECT SIBOL • 5

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