



Cavite Career Caravan Opens Doors to Thousands of Jobs for Caviteños

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) led by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, Provincial PESO Manager, successfully conducted the Cavite Career Caravan on October 2, 2026, at SM City Rosario.

The event brought together 55 participating companies offering a combined 11,573 vacancies, giving jobseekers access to diverse employment opportunities. Participating national government agencies (NGAs) likewise provided complementary services and assistance, making the caravan a meaningful convergence of employment and public service.

CAVITE CAREER • 5

Healthcare gets closer to home in Maragondon

Residents of Maragondon received a welcome dose of care as the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) conducted a Medical Mission at Maragondon Town Plaza recently, bringing essential health services closer to the community.



A total of 439 individuals benefited from the mission, with 334 medical consultations, 55 ECG tests, and 50 FBS tests

provided to residents. The activity was supported by Mayor Lawrence 'Umbe' Arca and carried out in col-

laboration with doctors of the Cavite Medical Society, whose expertise and commitment helped

HEALTHCARE • 5

DOST Batanes, LGU Basco Celebrate Linggo ng Katandaang Pilipino Through 'Golden Age Golden Health Program



BASCO, BATANES — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Batanes and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Basco highlighted the importance of healthy and active aging through the culmination of the Golden Age, Golden Health Activity on October 1, 2026.

DOST BATANES • 4

NEWS

PGC Honors 325 Employees in 2026 Loyalty Service Awards

A total of 325 employees of the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) were recognized for their years of dedicated and loyal service during the 2026 Loyalty Service Awards held on September 30, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The recognition formed part of the province's Employees Month Celebration, honoring government workers who have devoted significant milestones of their careers to public service and to the people of Cavite.

Of the 325 awardees, 79 employees were recognized for 10 years of service, 112 for 15 years, 52 for 20 years, 36 for 25 years, 29 for 30 years, 12 for 35 years, four for 40 years, and one employee

for an impressive 45 years of service.

The ceremony highlighted the invaluable contributions of employees whose years of commitment, dedication, and professionalism have helped advance the programs and services of the provincial government.

Dir. Shiela G. Acuña, Assistant Regional Director – CSC Regional Office IV served as the resource speaker on behalf of Atty. Marites Lappay,

Director IV- CSC Regional Office IV, sharing a message of appreciation and encouragement to the awardees and emphasizing the significance of sustained commitment to government service.

Also present during the occasion were Gov. Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla and BM Maurito Sison, Chair – Committee on Personnel Affairs who joined the provincial government in honoring the employees



and celebrating their respective service milestones.

The 2026 Loyalty Service Awards served as a tribute to the men and women of the PGC who have remained steadfast in their commitment to

public service, with their years of service reflecting a continuing dedication to fulfilling the government's mandate of serving the Caviteño people.

The celebration likewise underscored that

every year spent in government service represents not only a milestone in an employee's career, but also a meaningful contribution to the province and its communities. — OPIO

Philippine Communities Demand World Bank Reinvest \$39 Million of Toxic Returns in Remedy for Affected People

MANILA, 7 October 2026 — On the eve of the World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bangkok, new analysis reveals the International Financial Corporation (IFC) and its Capitalisation Fund made an estimated US\$39 million in total return from its investment in a Philippine bank, whose financing of coal-fired power plants left a trail of destruction affecting more than 120,000 people.



The World Bank's private sector arm pocketed millions from an equity investment in a Philippine bank, while spending nothing on remedy for the harm caused by 10 new coal-fired power plants it financed.

"Our people continue to bear the devastating consequences of IFC's profiteering," said Aaron Pedrosa, complainant representative and legal counsel of the Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCSO). "While the bank amassed millions, frontline communities in the Philippines were forced from their

lands, suffered respiratory diseases, and faced violence and intimidation for speaking out. Fisherfolk, farmers, and Indigenous Peoples have lost their livelihoods and local ecosystems have been destroyed. The bank to this day has not spent a single dollar for much-needed remedies as impacts continue to

be lived realities for affected communities throughout the Philippines. The bank can afford to fund community-level interventions to address livelihood, environmental and health impacts. It has chosen to do nothing."

The analysis published today uncovers a calculated commercial strategy. Between 2011 and 2013, the IFC and the IFC Capitalisation Fund acquired a significant stake in Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), investing nearly US\$148 million. It held shares for 13 years, earning more than

US\$25 million in dividends from RCBC's earnings. Despite holding a designated seat on RCBC's Board of Directors, the IFC stood by as its client bankrolled new coal-fired power plants. The IFC sold shares in 2015 and again in 2025, generating nearly US\$14 million in capital gains. This brought the IFC's total return to an estimated US\$39 million.

PMCSO, IDI and Recourse are calling on the World Bank Board of Directors to surrender the IFC's multi-million-dollar windfall to those who were harmed by the RCBC investments by contributing to a dedicated fund for the coal-affected communities.

"This case is the ultimate test of the World Bank's institutional integrity," said David Pred, executive director of Inclusive Development International (IDI). "The IFC cannot treat human suffering as a profit-making strategy. While IFC has made a financial killing, thousands of Filipino farmers and fisherfolk are paying the price with their health, livelihoods, and environment. IFC's Remedial Action Framework exists precisely for these moments – to enable remedy throughout the project cycle and to step in and address harms directly when its clients are unable or unwilling to do so. The World Bank Board must reject the IFC's excuses and

uphold its development mandate by redirecting the returns it earned from the RCBC investment to alleviate the suffering of the impacted communities."

Approved by the Board in 2025, the IFC's Interim Remedial Action Framework (RAF) provides a structured approach to addressing harm arising from IFC investments. Under the framework, IFC can make contributions to remedial action on a case-by-case basis.

Following an investigation into IFC's investment in RCBC prompted by a 2017 complaint, the IFC's independent accountability mechanism, the Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), found that the IFC had contributed to environmental, social and climate-related harms associated with the RCBC-backed coal plants and concluded the IFC should contribute to remedying those harms.

Under its Board-approved Management Action Plan, IFC commissioned an independent gap analysis which confirmed that many of the community-reported harms could be attributed to the power plants and provided 186 recommendations to address the issues. However, following objections from RCBC to the findings, progress has stalled. IFC claims that it has exhausted all options and has refused to

publicly disclose the gap analysis reports.

"Communities across the Philippines are relying on the Board to reject IFC's total abdication of its responsibilities and restore the integrity of the World Bank on the ground," said Daniel Willis, Upholding Rights Lead at Recourse. "The independent gap analysis provided 186 clear solutions to fix the harms. Yet, the moment RCBC objected, the IFC folded, hid the findings behind a wall of corporate secrecy, and refused to disclose them to the public. It is a travesty for the IFC to claim its hands are tied while its bank accounts swell with millions from this investment."

As the coal plants continue to operate, affected people have demanded that the World Bank Group's leadership not allow their communities to become sacrifice zones.

"The IFC made money from funding these coal plants. Now they made money again for selling its shares. That profit was made from our backs," said Derek Cabe, complainant community member. "That money should go back to us and our communities that the IFC harmed. If the World Bank is serious about being a faster, simpler, bolder, and more efficient bank, there is no better way to prove it than paying for remedies."

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Editorial

The sieve of Philippine justice

THIS week, much to the consternation of the public, news emerged that former House speaker Lord Allan Velasco abruptly left the country after allegations were made of his involvement in the transfer of P100 million in cash, and possibly more, representing kickbacks from contractors in the ongoing flood control scandal. Velasco is the latest in a string of legislators and other high-profile officials to have made themselves scarce with ease once they come under suspicion.

It must be emphasized that the accusations against Velasco still require investigation; he is not charged with any crime, and he remains under the presumption of innocence until proven otherwise. Be that as it may, the Marcos administration must understand that its constant protestations of powerlessness to stop political figures under suspicion or actual charges from fleeing the country is feeding rapidly growing public skepticism of its sincerity in rooting out systemic corruption.

The allegations against Velasco, who served as speaker from October 2020 to June 2022, came from a detailed affidavit by a former Philippine National Police (PNP) officer, Rodolfo Gracioso Jr., whom the PNP confirmed was once assigned as part of Velasco's security detail. In his affidavit, Gracioso alleged that he participated in the delivery of kickback money, totaling at least P100 million in cash, to Velasco's house in the upscale Valle Verde neighborhood in Pasig, naming a number of other already well-known personalities in the flood control scandal as being part of the operation.

Velasco's disappearance follows other politicians involved in the flood control or other scandals. These include former lawmaker Elizaldy "Zaldy" Co, who is under multiple charges and the subject of an arrest warrant; Sen. Loren Legarda and her son, Rep. Leandro Leviste, facing fraud charges in connection with solar power service contracts; Sen. Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa, who is in hiding following the issuance of an arrest warrant for him by the International Criminal



Court in connection with the bloody "drug war" during the term of former president Rodrigo Duterte; and former Public Works secretary Manuel Bonoan, who spent several months on the lam after being charged as a key figure in the flood control scandal, and only returned after he was assured — in what we consider one of the grossest miscarriages of justice in the country's history — of immunity from those charges by the Ombudsman in exchange for his testimony.

Co has inexplicably found a way to render himself untouchable somewhere in Europe, reportedly in France. Legarda is in the United States at last reporting for "medical treatment," with her son tagging along to help care for her, according to his own explanation; and dela Rosa is believed to be hiding out somewhere in Mindanao with the aid of Duterte supporters.

We appreciate that there are tricky legal questions involved with all of these "disappearances." In the case of Velasco, for instance, he has only been accused of but not charged with any wrongdoing, and thus could not be stopped from leaving, in the absence of a legal issuance to the contrary from a court. It is also a bit of a complication in that sense that Velasco is not now an elected or appointed official; after having been term-limited in the House, he ran for governor of Marinduque in 2025, but lost, and

so is at least temporarily a private citizen.

Nevertheless, there must be some middle ground between protecting personal freedoms of individuals, and assuring accountability of public officials, whether current, or whether they are the subject of investigation for issues that occurred while they were still in office. It is not unreasonable to hold elected or appointed officials to a somewhat higher standard than an ordinary citizen, by the simple fact that they are servants of those ordinary citizens. Thus, we would propose some new rules governing their travel outside the country, and outside the jurisdiction of our legal system.

First, if one is no longer in office, but is subject to an investigation that encompasses the period the subject was in office, then restrictions should be applied. These might include securing a travel clearance — with the destination, purpose and duration of the travel being made available to the public — from the National Bureau of Investigation, Office of the Ombudsman, or other relevant agency; and for elected or appointed officials, securing a travel clearance under the same terms from the offices of the House speaker, Senate president, the president, or the Department of the Interior and Local Government, as the case may be.

Sardinas: Super Sa Sustansya

Basahin po ang mga ebidensya:

1. May taglay na Omega 3 fatty acids — Ang sardinas ay sagana sa Omega 3 na nagpapataas ng good cholesterol at pinoprotektahan ang ating puso at ugat. Dahil dito, makaiwas tayo sa atake sa puso at sa istrok.

2. May Coenzyme Q10 — Ang sardinas ay may mataas na lebel ng Coenzyme Q10, isang anti-oxidant na nagpapalakas ng katawan.

3. May Calcium — Ang calcium mula sa sardinas ay nagpapatigas ng ating buto. Kapag sasabayan ito ng ehersisyo, mas titibay ang ating buto at makaiwas sa osteoporosis.

4. May Vitamin D — Ang vitamin D ay tumutulong sa pag-absorb ng calcium ng ating katawan.

5. May Vitamin B12 — Napakahalaga ng Vitamin B12 para sa kalusugan ng ating mga ugat (nerves), utak, at spinal cord. Ang vitamin B12 ay nagpapalakas din ng katawan at tumutulong sa paggawa ng dugo.

6. May Phosphorus — Ang sardinas ay iilan lamang sa mga pagkain na may phosphorus, na kailangan ng ating buto at ngipin.

7. Hindi nakatataba — Dahil mababa sa calories and sardinas, puwede ito sa mga taong nag-di-diyeta. Mataas ito sa protina at Omega 3 na nagbibigay sa

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



atin ng lakas (energy).

8. Mababa sa masamang Mercury — Isang dapat tandaan sa pagkain ng isda ay ang pag-iwas sa mga isda na mataas sa mercury. Ang mga maliliit na isda tulad ng sardinas, dilis, hito, galunggong at bangus ay mababa sa mercury at ligtas kainin. Limitahan lang ang pagkain ng lapu-lapu, sea bass at tuna sashimi na may kataasan sa mercury.

Sardinas Na May Tomato Sauce: OK iyan!

Para sa masustansyang ulam, piliin ang sardinas na may tomato sauce. Bukod sa lahat ng benepisyo ng sardinas, makukuha din ninyo ang sustansya mula sa kamatis (tomato sauce). Ang kamatis ay may sangkap na lycopene at beta-carotene na makatutulong sa pag-iwas sa sakit sa puso, kanser sa prostata at kanser sa bituka.

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NEWS

DTI Laguna, OCCDO equip 22 start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs, MSMEs in Santa Rosa

SANTA ROSA CITY, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry – Laguna Provincial Office (DTI Laguna), in partnership with the Office of the City Cooperative Development Officer (OCCDO), equipped 22 start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs, and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with practical knowledge on starting and developing a business through the seminar entitled “Turning Ideas into Enterprise: How to Start a Business cum Business Ideas” on September 22, 2026, at the Barangay Hall of Barangay Sinalhan, Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

The activity was organized to strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem by equipping participants with practical knowledge on transforming innovative con-

cepts into sustainable enterprises. The seminar focused on the critical stages of entrepreneurship — from developing ideas into viable business models to un-

derstanding business registration, compliance, and operational management.

Participants gained insights into identifying opportunities, refining busi-

ness concepts, and accessing DTI programs that provide training, mentorship, and financial assistance. The seminar also provided participants with practical business ideas and strategies to build enterprises that are resilient, competitive, and sustainable.

“Every idea has the potential to evolve into a



DOST Batanes

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The culminating activity coincided with the opening of Elderly Filipino Week, observed from October 1 to 7, and recognized the participation and achievements of senior citizens who took part in the nearly two-month health and wellness initiative.

The program was jointly implemented by the DOST Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) Batanes and LGU Basco through the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA) and the Municipal Health Office. Conducted from July 16 to August 21, the initiative promoted evidence-based health practices, physical activity, proper nutrition and social engagement among senior citizens.

Activities during the program included health assessments, nutritional feeding, physical exercises and friendly competitions designed to support physical fitness, mental agility and social

interaction.

The October 1 culmination featured a final health assessment, tournament games, cognitive-motor agility activities and a Zumba session, allowing participants to demonstrate the progress and skills developed throughout the program.

Batanes Governor Ronald P. Aguto, Jr. graced the activity and delivered a message to the senior citizens. He also presented awards to the winners and outstanding participants in recognition of their active participation in the program.

Representing Basco Municipal Mayor German A. Caccam, Sangguniang Bayan Member Carla Corder also joined the celebration on behalf of the municipal government.

OSCA Head Elda B. Lechuga and Senior Citizens President Rosemarie V. Delatado shared inspirational messages and testimonials,

while DOST Batanes Provincial Director Nora T. Garcia emphasized the role of science, health awareness and community partnerships in promoting the well-being of senior citizens.

Participants were also recognized through various awards, including the Golden Vitality Award, Mental Agility Award and Tournament Grand Champion.

The activity concluded with a message from Dr. Jeniffer Robillos, Municipal Health Officer of Basco.

The Golden Age, Golden Health Activity demonstrated how science-based health practices and collaboration among government agencies, health workers and the community can help senior citizens maintain active, healthy and socially engaged lives.

Through the initiative, DOST Batanes and its partners reaffirmed the importance of creating opportunities for senior citizens to remain active participants in their families and communities. **(Nelson Santos)**



thriving enterprise when supported by the right knowledge and institutional guidance,” said Nicka Jean D. Atayde, Negosyo Center Business Counselor of Santa Rosa City.

The activity high-

lighted the continuing partnership between DTI Laguna and OCCDO in supporting local entrepreneurs and advancing local economic development.

DTI reiterated its continued support for MSMEs

through its programs, seminars, and services that provide entrepreneurs with resources to enhance their competitiveness, resilience, and long-term growth. **(NJDAtayde, DTI Laguna)**

Local Products

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One of the key challenges discussed was the lack of “digital confidence” or the hesitation to enter online selling due to the lack of knowledge in using smartphones, computers, or running a digital store. Mr. Madrid clarified that it is not necessary to be tech-savvy right away before starting, as the most important thing is the willingness to learn.

With the help of training from Lazada University, MSMEs will be taught from creating seller accounts, taking good product photos, and writing clear product descriptions, up to processing orders and inventory.

In addition to training on using the platform, the DOST Ilocos Region also provides support in preparing products to be attractive online. Through various Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) inter-

ventions, the agency helps food and processed products with food safety, packaging and labeling, shelf-life testing, and laboratory analysis, while manufacturing and handicraft sectors are supported by equipment upgrading and process improvement.

Mr. Madrid emphasized that since customers do not personally see the products, proper product presentation and packaging are crucial while on the road.

The agency also emphasized that having these documents should not be feared, but rather seen as an opportunity to properly establish the business foundation, branding, and identity of the business. The agency is committed to guiding entrepreneurs and engaging with other government agencies and local government units (LGUs) to complete the necessary documents.

To ensure the sustainability or continued growth of the initiative, Mr. Madrid emphasized that the success of the project is not measured by the number of online accounts engaged, but by the actual increase in sales and expansion of the business. Through continuous learning from customer feedback, improving pricing strategies, and increasing production capacity, local businesses in the region will gradually grow with the help of DOST’s technical expertise and Lazada’s infrastructure.

As a conclusion, Mr. Madrid left an important challenge and call to all business owners in the region to be bold in trying and not limit their market. The DOST Ilocos Region invites all MSMEs to visit the nearest Regional Office or Provincial Science and Technology Offices (PSTOs) to help them transition to the digital platform and jointly bring local products to the national and international market.



BLESSING AND TURNOVER OF TWO-STOREY SCHOOL ANNEX BUILDING. Bulacan Governor Daniel R. Fernando with school officials, teachers, students and community representatives during the blessing and turnover ceremony of the newly constructed two-storey school building at Rueda Elementary School in Plaridel, Bulacan on October 1, 2026. **INSET: The newly constructed two-storey annex school building in Rueda Elementary School.**

Genki Sushi

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Matatagpuan sa SM BACOOR ang bagong sangay na nagdadala ng kakaibang kumbinasyon ng lutuing Hapones, makabagong teknolohiya sa pag-order, at serbisyong pampamilya — na dating kailangan pang labayin sa Metro Manila. Itinatag ang Genki

Sushi sa Utsunomiya, Hapon noong Disyembre 1968, at nakapasok sa Pilipinas noong 2015 sa Bonifacio Global City. Ang pangalang “Genki” ay nangangahulugang masigla, puno ng lakas, at may positibong pananaw — na siyang diwa ng tatak.

Sa halip na karaniwang umiikot na plataporma, gumagamit ang restawran ng tablet o iPad sa pag-order. Kapag nakumpirma na, inihahatid ang pagkain sa mesa sa pamamagitan ng Express Train system — na hango sa sikat na Shinkansen o bala ng tren sa Hapon — upang matiyak ang bilis at pagiging sariwa ng bawat paghahanda.



Iba't ibang uri ng sushi, sashimi, makimono, udon, pritong manok, at bento ang iniaalok. Mayroon ding Kodomo Bento Set para sa mga bata, at Pinoy Fusion — mga lutuing Hapones na hinaluan ng paboritong lasang Pilipino — upang umangkop sa panlasa ng lokal na mamimili.

Ayon kay Mary Ann Villamater, Marketing Manager, gumagamit ang restawran ng mga de-

kalidad na sangkap, kabilang ang mga galing mismo sa Hapon, habang nananatiling abot-kaya — nasa ₱500 hanggang ₱800 ang karaniwang gastos ng bawat bisita.

Hindi nagtatapos sa Bacoor ang paglago. Nakatakdang magbukas pa ang Genki Sushi sa SM City General Trias at SM City Santa Rosa, Laguna, habang isinasayos din ang pagpasok sa Cebu —

bilang bahagi ng mas malawak na pagpapalawak sa labas ng Metro Manila.

Ang pagdating nito sa Bacoor ay patunay sa patuloy na pag-angat ng Cavite bilang destinasyon ng pandaigdigang tatak at pagkain — na nagbibigay-daan sa mas maraming pamilya na makaranas ng ibang kultura nang hindi na kailangang lumayo sa sariling lalawigan.

Healthcare

from
page 1

bring quality healthcare within easier reach of the community.

The mission reaffirmed the PGC's commitment to making

healthcare more accessible, responsive, and closer to the people — because staying healthy should never be a long-distance affair. —OPIO



MEDICAL MISSION PROGRAM
13 SEPTEMBER 2026 | MARAGONDON TOWN PLAZA, MARAGONDON, CAVITE

Cavite Career

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Thirty – four (34) applicants were hired on the spot and 99 others nearly hired, bringing them closer to securing employment.

More than matching people with jobs, the

career caravan demonstrated the PGC's continuing commitment to bringing employment opportunities closer to Caviteños and strengthening partnerships with employers

and government agencies.

Through the OPPEM, the Provincial Government of Cavite remains committed to creating accessible employment opportunities and empowering Caviteños to take the next step toward productive and sustainable careers. —OPIO

Peace Through

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fighting iron deficiency and anemia

Enhanced Nutribun — nutritious bread packed with local vegetables

Brown Rice Nutty Fruity Bar — a ready-to-eat snack with brown rice, nuts, seeds, dried fruits & honey

Nutricookies — delicious, nutrient-rich cookies

A total of 602 MNLF beneficiaries availed of these technologies, showing how science can improve everyday nutrition and well-being.

The event also spotlighted the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program — a pathway for organized MNLF communities to access technologies, ca-

capacity-building, and technical assistance tailored to their needs.

In Maasim alone, two organized ex-combatant groups are already thriving under CEST:

One group is advancing smart aquaculture through African catfish fingerling production, another is building a community-based enterprise producing footwear, bags, and clothing using modern technologies

These former combatants are now using Science and Technology not only to create sustainable livelihoods but also to uplift their entire communities — proving that S&T can transform conflict-affected areas into productive, peaceful, self-reliant, and resilient

ones.

OPAPRU recognized DOST XII's strong partnership by awarding a Plaque of Appreciation to Regional Director Dr. Sammy P. Malawan, RABE, represented by Supervising SRS For. Nabil A. Hadji Yassin.

From conflict to livelihood... from limited opportunities to productive enterprises... from dependence to empowerment. DOST XII continues to prove that Science, Technology, and Innovation are powerful partners in peace and development.

Through CEST and its ongoing collaboration with OPAPRU, DOST XII remains committed to making S&T accessible and relevant, turning local potential into lasting opportunities for sustainable, empowered, and resilient communities.

PAGASA provides

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During the soft launch, Engr. Mark Ventolero presented the project and discussed how science and technology can provide practical and life-saving solutions for personnel and fishermen operating in the remote waters surrounding Mavulis Island in Itbayat, Batanes.

The project includes an Automated Weather Station (AWS), satellite-fed internet, digital light-house, solar power system, solar-powered water desalination system, RxBox telemedicine device, communication equipment, and solar-powered lights and pumps.

The AWS is designed to serve as an early-warning node that will monitor wind gust speed, barometric pressure, rainfall intensity, and humidity. Through satellite telemetry, weather data can be transmitted every 10 minutes to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and disaster management nodes to support weather monitoring and early-warning operations.

The project also addresses the island's limited

access to freshwater through a portable desalination system designed to convert seawater into potable water. The unit can produce up to 200 liters of purified water daily, providing an additional water source for personnel and fishermen in the area.

For health services, the project includes an RxBox Telemedicine Suite equipped with an electrocardiogram (ECG), pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor, and temperature sensors.

Through satellite connectivity, the system is designed to facilitate remote consultations with medical specialists and support the electronic recording of medical information even when the island is operating off-grid.

The initiative further integrates renewable energy and communications systems to support its operations. Solar power will provide electricity for the various facilities and equipment, while satellite connectivity will facilitate the transmission of weather, health, and other critical information to concerned agencies.

During the event, Dr. Marcelino Q. Villafuerte

II, Deputy Administrator for Research and Development of PAGASA, presented the agency's ₱9-million funding support for the ISLA Mavulis Project.

As presented during the event, the project had reached 36 percent accomplishment. The desalination machine and RxBox had already been procured and delivered, while negotiated procurement for the Automated Weather Station was ongoing.

The integrated system is expected to strengthen disaster resilience and humanitarian support in Mavulis Island by providing access to weather information, potable water, medical assistance, communications, and renewable energy.

The project also seeks to support Filipino fishermen operating in the country's northernmost waters by providing critical facilities and services they may need during emergencies and severe weather conditions.

Through the ISLA Mavulis Project, government agencies aim to establish a more sustainable off-grid support system in the remote island while strengthening science- and technology-based services in one of the country's most geographically isolated areas. (Nelson Santos)

CBCP NEWS



Pope Leo XIV addresses bishops from around the world at a meeting marking the 10th anniversary of *Amoris Laetitia*, an apostolic exhortation by Pope Francis. VATICAN MEDIA

Pope Leo XIV urges bishops to show courage in responding to struggling families

VATICAN— Pope Leo XIV on Wednesday urged bishops from around the world gathered at the Vatican for a meeting on the family to face with “courage” the challenge of learning from and responding to families marked by hardship and “apparent failure.”

“The wisdom of the people of God reaches us through our common faith, which enlightens all families, including situations marked by difficulties, loneliness, and at times even apparent failure,” the pope said in his opening address to the gathering, being held in the Paul VI Audience Hall and scheduled to conclude Oct. 14.

The closed-door assembly, which is not open to journalists, is expected to produce a synthesis document without doctrinal authority that will later be presented to the pope.

The meeting is part of the synodal evaluation assemblies proposed at the conclusion of the 2021-2024 Synod on Synodality process.

Ten years after the two synods on the family and the widespread debate sparked by *Amoris Laetitia*, 154 bishops and cardinals, 53 priests and lay faithful, and 11 invited families began a series of meetings Wednesday aimed at assessing the current situation and evaluating the reception of Pope Francis’ 2016 apostolic exhortation on the family.

The document generated significant debate after its publication because it opened the possibility, in certain cases, for some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to receive the sacraments of reconciliation and the Eucharist.

The pope made no direct reference to that issue during his address, which he delivered in English following a time of

prayer.

Leo XIV said the lives of families pose to the Church “questions that deserve to be faced with courage” and highlighted several situations that concern him.

“In many contexts, a growing distance has emerged between the ways in which sex and intimacy are lived and the Christian vision of marriage,” he said.

“Young people continue to long for love, fidelity, and belonging, yet many find it difficult to embrace how such a vision of love can take shape in their own lives or to believe that a lifelong commitment is the condition for reaching what they desire,” he continued.

“Economic insecurity, migration, violence, loneliness, and other forms of emotional fragility also shape the choices people make and the possibilities they can imagine for their future,” he added.

‘What are people truly seeking?’

Focusing on contemporary challenges, the pope encouraged bishops to listen to families and stressed that the Church still has much to learn from them.

In that context, he posed a series of questions that he said should accompany the meeting’s work, which is being conducted according to the synodal method and conceived as a space for listening and discernment.

“What are people truly seeking beneath these cultural changes? What do their joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties re-

veal to us? Where do our pastoral language and practices succeed in opening a path, and where do they fail to touch people’s hearts or assist their efforts to do what is good? What is the lived experience of families teaching us — an experience from which we have not yet fully learned? What can we offer as formation for healthy and holy family life? In particular, what can we learn from parents as they seek to accompany their children and young people in such contexts?”

‘Fragility deserves special attention’

The Holy Father also emphasized that “fragility deserves special attention” because it can “profoundly shape the way people see themselves, their future, and even their relationship with God and with the Church.”

“We all know the gap between the good we desire and what we are able to live. We need grace, forgiveness, and new beginnings to accomplish God’s will, and we learn that fidelity is itself a grace to be received and a path to be gradually renewed, often through trial,” he said.

He added that recognizing this “shared challenge” should shape the way members of the Church accompany families. He then posed additional questions to participants.

“What kind of Church, then, do people encounter precisely when they are most fragile? Do our communities help them discover that they still have

a place, a responsibility, and gifts to offer? Can the truth we proclaim be encountered through the patience, closeness, and mercy of our pastoral presence? How can we announce to them the fullness of the Gospel’s teaching about the family?”

The pope urged participants to give these questions the attention they deserve.

“The Holy Spirit often speaks through the very situations that challenge us and enlightens us that we may discover how God’s mercy and the salvific grace of Christ can reach our families today, particularly in their weakness and resilience, in their hopes and disappointments, in their longing for communion and their search for meaning,” he said.

In the final portion of his address, Leo XIV called for the meeting’s work to unfold in a spirit of authentic “evangelical freedom” and encouraged participants to share honestly both the joys and challenges experienced in their local Churches.

Confidentiality requested

The pope also underscored the importance of prayer during the gathering and expressed hope that the meeting would help develop a shared assessment of the past decade of family ministry in the Church.

Finally, he asked all participants to exercise “discretion” and preserve “the confidentiality that this time of listening and discernment requires.”

Asian cardinal urges Church to make families partners in mission

The head of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences on Thursday called on the Catholic Church to treat families as partners in its mission, not simply recipients of pastoral care.



Pope Leo XIV talks with prelates and laypeople at a table Oct. 7, 2026, after opening a weeklong Vatican meeting of bishops’ conference presidents marking the 10th anniversary of “*Amoris Laetitia*” (“The Joy of Love”). VATICAN MEDIA

Cardinal Filipe Neri Ferrão of Goa and Daman, FABC president, urged a shift “from mission to families to mission among families” according to an article by Vatican News.

Families are not simply recipients of pastoral care, but “the Church’s partners in mission,” Ferrão said during Pope Leo XIV’s meeting with Eastern Church leaders and presidents bishops’ conference.

The weeklong meeting marked 10 years since Pope Francis’ *Amoris laetitia*, which examined the realities facing families and the Church’s pastoral response.

Ferrão said Asian families are changing amid smaller households, new forms of cohabitation, interreligious marriages and increased migration.

Many also face poverty, unemployment and economic insecurity, while Christian families in parts of India and Asia face “growing religious polarisation and hostility,” he said.

Such pressures can make it harder for families to publicly express their faith and pass it on to younger generations, Ferrão said.

Yet families continue

to embody Christian life through their care for children, older people, the sick and other vulnerable members, he said.

Ferrão urged Church leaders to ask during synodal discernment: “What is the Holy Spirit asking the Church to change?”

The question should extend beyond what the Church does for families to how it understands, accompanies and empowers them as “protagonists of the Gospel,” he said.

Churches in India and across Asia have increasingly listened to families since *Amoris laetitia*, shaping marriage preparation, counseling and formation around their experiences, Ferrão said.

He described families as “enduring loci of God’s revelation,” where the Gospel comes alive across generations.

Ferrão recalled a priest who began family ministry by visiting a troubled household, listening to its members and opening a conversation.

The experience showed that pastoral ministry can begin not with a program but with “a conversation and a willingness to listen,” he said.

MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Mali ang inaakala mong hindi ka mapalad ngayon. Wala sa malayo ang suwerte mo. Kaya 'wag mo na itong hanapin sa malayo, bagkus luminga-linga ka lang d'yan sa paligid mo. Masuwerteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-3-10-18-23-30-42.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Ilabas at bigyan mo ng bagong kinang ang luma mong alahas. Gamitin at isuot mo ito dahil sa araw na ito at sa ilang araw pang darating, ito mismo ang iyong pampabuwas. Masuwerteng kulay-purple. Tips sa lotto-4-11-19-23-25-35.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Kung ano ang unang maisip mo, iyon ang gawin mo. Makakaasa ka na ang mga suwerte ay dadapo sa iyo. Hindi mo kailangan ngayon ang matagalang pag-aaral sa anumang uri ng sitwasyon. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-6-13-27-30-36-42.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Kung sino ang may bait sa kilos at pagsasalita, siya ang dadatnan ng magagandang kapalaran. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-5-13-16-28-38-41.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Tumayo ka sa tabi ng isang taong marangal. Ito ang pampasuwerte mo ngayon. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-2-15-17-26-33-45.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Hindi makakaganda sa iyo ang kawalang-kilos. Ang panghatak mo ng magandang kapalaran ay ang pagkilos ng iyong katawan o hindi pananatili sa iisang puwesto o sa iisang posisyon lamang. Masuwerteng kulay-black. Tips sa lotto-9-18-21-29-32-35.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Isuot mo ang pinakabago mong damit dahil ito ang magsisilbi mong pampasuwerte, na nagsasabing ang mga bagong magagandang kapalaran ay magdadagsaan na sa buhay mo. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-8-11-13-27-34-40.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Mahirap paniwalaan na ang iyong pampabuwas ay ang metal na bagay na iyong iniingatan. Ang kailangan lang ay simpleng hawakan mo ito nang medyo may katagalan. Masuwerteng kulay-peach. Tips sa lotto-4-10-14-22-38-41.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Tumingin ka sa langit. Oo, sa pinakamataas na kalangitan. Tumitig ka lang at sabihin mo ang iyong kagustuhan. Makakaasa ka na matutupad agad ito. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-1-17-29-31-36-42.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Ituloy mo lang ang iyong pagsusumikap. Nakikita ng nasa Itaas ang iyong mga lantaran at lihim na ginagawa. Kaya ngayon, nagpasya na ang langit na gantimpalaan ka ng sobrang laking halaga na sapat sa iyong retirement age. Masuwerteng kulay-orange. Tips sa lotto-8-12-23-26-32-45.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Magparaya ka. Huwag kang magalit kapag nalamangan o naisahan ka, dahil ito ang kondisyon para mapasaiyo ang malalaking suwerte. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-4-10-17-25-38-44.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Maniwala ka sa sarili mo, at huwag sa ibang tao. Kapag malaki ang bilib mo sa iyong kakayahan, ang naglalakihang magagandang kapalaran ay agad na guguhit sa iyong buhay. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-8-11-19-27-31-43.

SUDOKU

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

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 23 #31

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

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.

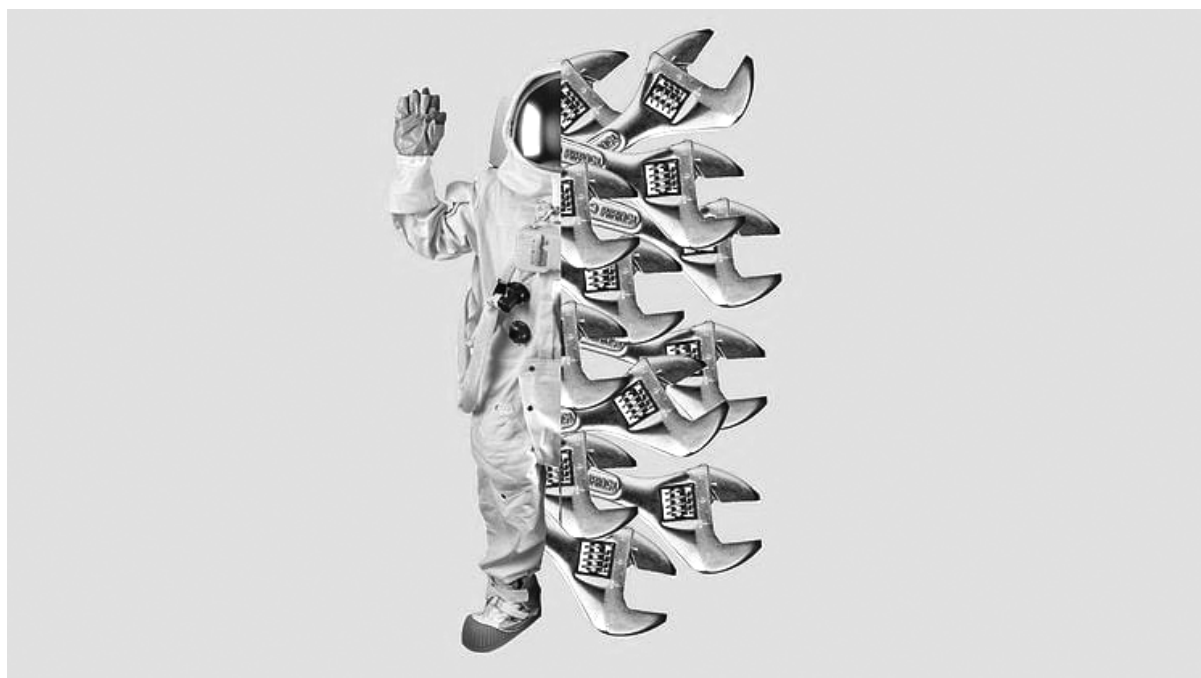
• Each number can only appear once in every row, column or box.

• Every puzzle has only one correct solution!

Did You Know?

THANKS TO 3D PRINTING, NASA CAN BASICALLY EMAIL TOOLS TO ASTRONAUTS

Getting new equipment to the Space Station used to take months or years, but the new technology means the tools are ready within hours.



WORD HUNT

Greek and Roman Gods

S	S	E	O	O	N	H	Y	P	N	O	S	C	I
E	P	D	S	E	U	N	P	M	A	S	D	O	S
R	H	R	R	S	E	S	A	S	R	U	I	L	H
A	A	N	A	U	R	I	N	S	T	N	O	L	Y
M	D	S	R	T	T	E	O	A	E	E	N	O	E
A	E	L	N	S	M	D	D	E	M	V	Y	P	E
P	S	S	E	E	E	E	I	R	I	E	S	A	O
H	N	H	P	A	R	M	E	O	S	S	U	N	H
R	S	N	T	H	C	E	S	S	A	T	S	A	E
O	E	S	U	P	U	T	O	D	H	A	C	I	Z
D	M	S	N	E	R	E	P	R	R	E	E	D	E
I	R	I	E	H	Y	R	S	S	D	S	R	Z	U
T	E	R	E	T	I	P	U	J	U	M	E	A	S
E	H	E	N	A	N	E	H	T	A	E	S	P	M

MARS
POSEIDON
DIONYSUS
HESTIA
DEMETER
ARTEMIS
JUPITER
HERA
HERMES
ARES
ATHENA
HYPNOS
ZEUS
HADES
APOLLO
HEPHAESTUS
VESTA
EROS
MERCURY
APHRODITE
VENUS
NEPTUNE
DIANA
CERES

PAGASA provides P9M support for ISLA Mavulis Project

BASCO, BATANES — The ISLA Mavulis Project, a P9-million initiative aimed at strengthening weather monitoring, water security, health services, communications, and emergency support on Mavulis Island, was soft-launched during the 2026 Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Caravan in Basco, Batanes.



ISLA Mavulis, which stands for Island Support and Life Saving Assistance to Mavulis, is being implemented by the Provincial Local Government of Batanes, with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batanes serving as the monitoring agency.

PAGASA PROVIDES • 5

Peace Through Science & Technology DOST XII brings life-changing innovations closer to MNLF communities

Peace is more than the absence of conflict — it's the presence of real opportunities for healthy, productive, and dignified lives.



On September 22, 2026, the Department of Science and Technology SOCCSKSARGEN (DOST XII) made this vision real during the Service Caravan in Maasim, Sarangani Province. Held at the Municipal Gymnasium and organized by the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace,

Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) through the MNLF Peace Process Office, the event marked National Peace Consciousness Month and the 30th Anniversary of the 1996 Final Peace Agreement between the Philippine Government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Through the DOST

Provincial Science and Technology Office — Sarangani and General Santos City (PSTO-SarGen), the agency brought practical food technologies developed by the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) directly to the people:

Iron-Fortified Rice —
PEACE THROUGH • 5



GENKI SUSHI, DUMATING NA SA CAVITE; PATULOY ANG PAGPAPALAWAK SA TIMOG NG LUZON



BACOR CITY, CAVITE — Mas lalo nang nalalapit sa mga Caviteño ang tunay na karanasan sa hapag-kainang Hapones matapos pormal na magbukas ang Genki Sushi ng kauna-unahang sangay sa lalawigan ng Cavite.

GENKI SUSHI • 5

Local Products in Glo-cal Market: DOST and Lazada PH, Join Forces to Advance Digital Transformation of Local MSMEs

To strengthen the capabilities of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in e-commerce, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Lazada Philippines continue to expand their collaboration for the digital transformation of local businesses in the country. In the recently held TechnoPreSyensya Episode 16 on September 10, 2026, Mr. Justin N. Madrid, Science Research Specialist II of DOST Ilocos Region, discussed the "Expanding Digital Opportunities for MSMEs" initiative to establish concrete steps in introducing local products within and outside the country with the help of Lazada PH.



Mr. Madrid emphasized that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two institutions is a comprehensive ecosystem aimed at helping DOST-assisted MSMEs become competitive. Through this collaboration, busi-

ness owners receive free onboarding training, digital marketing knowledge, customer engagement, and supply chain management, as well as access to logistics and payment systems from Lazada. He explained that this initiative pro-

vides a fair opportunity for producers in Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, La Union, and Pangasinan to reach customers in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao without going through large distributors in Metro Manila.

LOCAL PRODUCTS • 4