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Assistance to Indigent Individuals or Families- Food Assistance/Rice Distribution Project



The Provincial Government of Cavite is facilitating the ongoing Food Assistance–Rice Distribution Program (AIIF-FA-RDP), August 18, in Amadeo, Cavite.

The initiative is part of the national government's Assistance to Indigent Individuals or Families through Food Assistance–Rice Distribution Program (AIIF-FA-RDP) under the Bagong Pilipinas agenda and is funded through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF - FA).

The program aims to strengthen food security and help ease the impact of rising living costs by providing essential food assistance to families in need.

Joining the activity is Mayor Jose "Jojo" Domingo Jr., as the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to work with local partners in bringing government assistance closer to Caviteño communities.

Kidz Groove Special Advocacy Show Celebrates Talent, Inclusion, and Confidence at SM City Tanza

SM City Tanza came alive with music, laughter, and inspiring performances during the Kidz Groove Special Advocacy Show, a celebration of talent, confidence, and inclusion for neurodivergent children.

278 schools in Cebu under police watch City of Naga provides initial 56 low-cost housing units to qualified beneficiaries



The special event featured Ms. Gladys Reyes, Christof, Macoy, Coach Dar, and Kidz Groove Founder Ms. Princess Ryan, who joined the celebration and helped create a fun and meaningful experience for the young participants.

More than a showcase of talent, the event highlighted the importance of providing an inclusive space where every child can express themselves, build confidence, and shine in their own way.

The advocacy continues through the Kidz Groove weekly dance workshop, held every Monday from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at SM City Tanza, where children can learn, connect, and groove together in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Distribution of DSWD Foodpacks August 12, 2026 Through the DSWD Food Packs, we were able to deliver assistance to those severely affected by the typhoon and storm—this includes our construction workers, street sweepers, riders, volunteers, and others who temporarily lost their livelihoods. Thank you very much to 7th District Representative Ping Remulla for your unwavering support and care for our city and for all the Treceños. We were also joined in the distribution by BM Aldrin Anacan, Vice Mayor Bobby Montehermoso and members of the 12th Sangguniang Panglunsod.

Remember, you may choose your sin, but you cannot choose the consequences.

ON THE WATCH

Rico Osmeña



For 18 years, Rubylyn Dumdum, 49 years old served as sole cook at the Cebu Provincial Hospital in Balamban, secured her permanent position.

She was among the 118 health workers either regularized or promoted.

These include nurses, doctors, medical

City of Naga provides initial 56 low-cost housing units to qualified beneficiaries

The City of Naga, Cebu Province turned over 56 low-cost housing units to qualified beneficiaries on Thursday.

City Mayor Valdemar Chiong said the program is intended to provide safe, decent, and affordable housing to disadvantaged families, particularly those living vulnerable to heavy rains, strong winds, and other hazards," Chiong said. He added that the City Government aims to complete the 168-unit housing project by the end of 2026.

More than 70 of the 168 housing units are still under construction.

118 Capitol health workers promoted, regularized

specialists, radiologic specialists, medical technologists, pharmacists, midwives, laboratory aides, respiratory therapists, and administrative support staff.

Cebu Governor Pamela Baricuatro said increasing the workforce of the 16 Capitol-managed hospitals and regularizing employees who have been in service for many years is part of her reforms.

100 of the health personnel came from Cph-Balamban which was established 41 years ago.

"I became emotional witnessing the mass oath-taking, it makes my stand on end," said Capitol Health Piso-Consultant Dr Elisse Nicole Catalan, the daughter of the Governor.

For some employees, this marked the end of

years of waiting for permanent appointments.

Catalan was tasked by the governor to oversee the upgrades and improvements of the 16 Capitol-managed Hospitals.

Please watch and listen to Karon SUGBO or TODAY CEBU business news and public affairs radio program over Rico Osmeña/ Daily Tribune livestream/ DYLA Cebu radio, every 11 00am-12 00nn from Monday to Friday. Hosted by yours truly RICO MIRASOL OSMEÑA.

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Among the beneficiaries is 38-year old Diosa Recivas of Barangay Uling, whose family of five previously lived near an area prone to rock falls.

"We are very thankful because, at least, we are already safe, and the place we are staying in is also strong and secure," said Recivas in Cebuano.

Each housing unit cost ₱160,000 to build and has a floor area of 20 square meters, with one room and a comfort room. The houses are donated free of charge to qualified beneficiaries.

On the beneficiary selection, Chiong explained

that barangay officials identify families in need and the City Government assesses their housing needs.

Beneficiaries are required to submit photographs of their old houses as part of the assessment.

The program aims to helping economically disadvantaged families obtain decent housing without additional financial burden on the beneficiary.

The City Government has allocated another ₱20 million for 100 additional housing units. Which will cost ₱200,000 per unit compared to the previous at ₱160,000.

(By RICO MIRASOL OSMEÑA)

Pakistanis pouring in import, food businesses in Cebu as Ambassador Rabbani graced its 80th Independence day

Pakistani businessmen are pouring in investments in Metro Cebu especially on importations and food businesses.

This was disclosed by Rey Calooy, the President of the Filipino Cebuano Business Club Inc (FilCeb).

"Pakistani businesses here in Cebu are into importation from Japan and food businesses like restaurants to cater to the growing Pakistani population," Calooy told DAILY TRIBUNE.

This Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Pakistan to the Philippines Dr. Asima Rabbani, in her first visit to Cebu in celebrating Pakistan's 80th Independence Day on August 14, cited the importance

of protecting national sovereignty, promoting peace, and strengthening ties between Pakistan and the Philippines.

"Your participation reflect the warmth that has long characterized relations between Pakistan and the Philippines, she said.

She reminded Pakistanis that August 14 holds a special place in the hearts of Pakistanis as it commemorates the country's independence in 1947.

The ambassador narrated that the Independence Day should not only be viewed as celebration but as a reminder that freedom was achieved through sacrifice and must continue to be protected.

She praised the Pakistani community in Cebu for

its integration into Philippine society while maintaining ties with their homeland.

Adding that the Pakistani community also contributed to helping the vulnerable communities in Metro Cebu, especially during the earthquake in North Cebu and Typhoon Tino.

"I am so glad to see that there is a very vibrant community here and they have integrated well into the society," Rabbani added.

Rabbani met with Cebu Governor Pamela Baricuatro for possible economic ties. (By RICO MIRASOL OSMEÑA)

278 schools in Cebu under police watch

Right after the incident in Zamboanga City, Cebu Governor Pamela Baricuatro ordered the immediate preventive security measures on 223 public schools and 55 private schools in the province.

"The safety and security of our students, teachers, and school personnel remain among our foremost priorities. We must remain vigilant and united in protecting our children," said the governor.

"Our schools should be safe spaces for learning, growth, and hope, and the Provincial Government of Cebu will continue to work with the police, schools, and

communities to safeguard our students and ensure their safety," she stressed.

CPPO Provincial Director Police Col. Abubakar Udang Mangelen JR. instructed local police chiefs to lead the deployment of police personnel per school.

He emphasized that the goal is to make officers more approachable and responsive to the needs of the school community.

"We want our police officers to be visible, approachable, and responsive," he said.

"Their presence in our schools should give our

students, teachers and parents a sense of security while also strengthening our partnership with school authorities.

We will continue to assess the situation on the ground and adjust our deployment according to the security needs of every community," Mangelen added.

Currently, Danao City has the highest number of secured schools with 14, followed by Talisay City and Santander with 13 each.

Security measures also extends to major universities and colleges, including campuses of Cebu Technological University, Cebu Normal University, and the University of the Visayas. (By RICO MIRASOL OSMEÑA)

PhilHealth to expand primary care, NBB under DOH-aligned framework

MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is committed to accelerating primary care expansion and reinforcing financial protection through the No Balance Billing (NBB) policy nationwide under a unified strategic format with the Department of Health (DOH).

In a press briefing on Thursday, PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Beverly Ho said the shared mandate, Unified National Agenda (UNA), aims at improving health outcomes, scaling up access sites and broadening benefit packages for all Filipinos.

"Our job now is to ensure that we continue to progress by increasing access points, improving benefit packages, and ensuring that every member receives quality care," she said.

"(We will) build on previous gains rather than start from scratch.

Focus on better execution and systematically addressing feedback and challenges to reduce friction and improve access for members, physicians, and providers," she added.

When asked about the state insurer's priorities under her watch, Ho disclosed a five-pillar shared agenda with the DOH.

These include bringing primary care to schools and workplaces; strengthening and integrating public health programs into primary care; expanding NBB to reduce hospital cost fears; cutting red tape by streamlining DOH and PhilHealth processes via a unified IT system; and organizational strengthening through smooth

reorganization and empowering health workers with fair compensation and greater responsibilities.

For the benefit package for children with developmental disabilities, Ho said the PhilHealth is enhancing the package and increasing therapy sessions.

The implementation is anticipated within the year as the state insurer revalidates with healthcare professionals the original costing from 2017 to ensure rates are adequate.

PhilHealth is collaborating with the Department of Education and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to streamline referral pathways and facilitate therapy sessions in select schools, Ho said.

To improve public access to essential medicines, Ho said 21 medicines currently under YAKAP (Yaman ng Kalusugan Program) will be transferred to the Gamot program.

This move will integrate the medicines into the annual twenty-thousand-peso benefit under GAMOT (Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment) program.

Addressing concerns regarding value for paying contributors, Ho underscored the need to prevent benefit increases from triggering price inflation in healthcare facilities.

She said that PhilHealth will work closely with medical providers to ensure members experience tangible value from their contributions, fostering consistent participation across the board. (PNA)



UNIFIED ROADMAP. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) President and Chief Executive Officer Beverly Ho shares the agency's strategic direction toward expanded primary care services, benefits, and operational transparency to restore public trust during a press briefing on Thursday (Aug. 20, 2026). Ho emphasized that strengthening preventive health programs under the Unified Agenda for Health framework together with the Department of Health will improve long-term fund sustainability and lessen out-of-pocket medical costs for Filipinos. (PNA photo by Teresa Montemayor)

FROM THE CUSTOMS CORRIDOR

by Sensei Ryu

May malinaw at matinding mensahe ang Bureau of Customs: matututo kang sumunod, o matitikman mo ang matinding parusa ng batas.

Sa dalawang magkasunod na kaganapan, ipinapakita ng BOC sa ilalim ni Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno ang dalawang magkahiwalay ngunit magkaugnay na mukha ng enforcement—ang paglilinis sa sariling bakod at ang pagpupuksa sa mga sindikato sa labas.

Hindi maikakaila na ang pinakamalaking kalaban ng anumang ahensya ng gobyerno ay ang anay sa loob. Ito ang dahilan kung bakit napapanahon ang inilabas na OCOM Memorandum No. 95-2026 ni Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno noong Agosto 3. Ang huling babalang ito laban sa paganakaw at ilegal na paglalabas ng mga kumpiskadong sigarilyo sa mga bodega ay isang direktang hamon sa mga tiwaling kawani.

Sa ilalim ng utos na ito, inatasan ni Nepomuceno ang lahat ng District Commanders ng Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) at Chief ng Auction and Cargo Disposal Division (ACDD) na higpitan ang seguridad. Binigyang-diin din ang OCOM Memorandum No. 87-2026 na nagpapatupad ng "One-Strike Policy" laban sa tiwaling gawain at smuggling.

Upang tiyakin ang agarang pagbabago sa mga pasilidad at bodega, inatasan din si Deputy Commissioner Raul S. Nagrampa ng Internal Administration Group (IAG) na makipag-ugnayan sa Enforcement Group under Deputy Commissioner Gen. Nolasco Bathan, Intelligence Group under Deputy Commissioner Gen. Luis Licup, at Assessment and Operations Coordinating Group under Deputy Commissioner Atty. Agaton Uvero upang magsumite ng mga rekomendasyon sa loob ng limang araw. Ang mabilis na pagsasampa ng kaso at

Paglilinis at Parangal: Ang Matinding Babala, Operasyon, at Pagkilala sa Bureau of Customs

pagpapatupad ng Command Responsibility ay angkop lamang upang ibalik ang tiwala ng publiko sa integridad ng ahensya.

₱700M Hukay sa Imus: Tagumpay ng Kooperasyon

Samantala, kung may babala sa loob, may matinding hagupit naman sa labas.

Ang matagumpay na joint operation sa Imus City, Cavite noong Agosto 3—kung saan nasamsam ang tinatayang ₱700 milyong halaga ng mga pekeng sapatos mula sa mga sikat na brand tulad ng Adidas, On Cloud, New Balance, Asics, Crocs, Nike, Jordan, Puma, Converse, Skechers, at Louis Vuitton (LV)—ay patunay ng lakas ng koordinasyon ng pambansang pamahalaan.

Ang matagumpay na raid na ito ay naisagawa sa pamamagitan ng masusing koordinasyon ng enforcement team sa ilalim nina: Antonio Aylemer R. Percela (Chief, Intellectual Property Rights Division - IPRD), Antero Prado Jr., (Chief, CIIS Port of Batangas). Atty. Serwin Tio (Chief, CIIS Port of Manila), Joel Pinawin (Chief, CIIS-MICP), aDir. Noel Estanislao (Enforcement and Security Service - ESS), at Dir. Atty. Victor Pablo C. Trinidad (Legal Service).

Katuwang din ng BOC sa operasyon ang PNP-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) partikular ang PNP-CIDG Cavite Provincial Field Unit, ang PNP Imus Component City Police Station, at ang Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

Ang Ating Puna

Ang pagpasok ng mga pekeng produkto at ang paganakaw sa mga nakumpiskang kargamento ay dalawang bahagi ng iisang suliranin: ang kawalan ng respeto sa batas. Pinalakpakan ni Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno ang mabilis na pakikipagtulungan ng mga ahensyang ito, na direktang pagsunod sa utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na paigtingin ang border protection, labanan ang smuggling, at protektahan ang patas na kalakalan sa bansa.

Ang pagkalat ng pekeng kagamitan ay hindi lamang simpleng paganakaw sa interes ng mga

lehitimong negosyo; ito ay hayag na panloloko sa mga mamimiling Pilipino na nagbubuwis ng kanilang pawis para sa maayos na produkto.

Narapat lamang palakpakan ang mabilis na galaw ng BOC, PNP-CIDG, at PCG sa Cavite. Subalit ang tunay na sukatan ng tagumpay ay wala lamang sa dami ng nasamsam na pekeng sapatos o sa ganda ng mga inilabas na memorandum—ito ay nasa patuloy na pagpapanagot sa mga utak ng sindikato at sa tuluyang paglilinis sa mga pasilyo ng Kawanihan.

Good Job Bureau of Customs and Congratulations!

Formal na kinilala ng Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), sa pamumuno ni Commissioner Charlito Mendoza, ang Bureau of Customs (BOC) bilang isa sa mga "BIR KAAGAPAY" noong Hulyo 31, 2026. Ang pagkilala ay iginawad sa ika-122 Anibersaryo ng BIR na may temang "Husay at Dangal ng Lingkod-Bayan ng BIR," na dinaluhan din ni Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary Frederick Go.

Tinanggap ni Assistant Commissioner Atty. Vincent Philip C. Maronilla ang parangal sa ngalan ng kawanihan. Binigyang-diin niya na ang tagumpay na ito ay nakalaan para sa lahat ng kawani ng BOC na patuloy na naglilingkod nang may integridad at husay, pati na rin sa matatag na koordinasyon ng dalawang ahensya.

Ikinagalak din ni Customs Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno ang nasabing parangal. Ayon sa kanya, patunay ito na mas malaki ang nagagawa ng pamahalaan kapag may nagkakaisang layunin. Alinsunod sa mga direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. at sa isinusulong na Integrity, Accountability, and Modernization (IAM) Movement, nananatiling committed ang BOC sa mga sumusunod na layunin:

- Palakas ang pambansang revenue collection;
- Sugpuin ang katiwalian sa pamahalaan; at
- Maghatid ng mabilis, transparent, at episyenteng serbisyo publiko para sa sustenableng pag-unlad ng bansa.

4 Modelong Sakahan sa CALABARZON, Inilunsad bilang mga Bagong Learning Site for Agriculture

Patuloy na pinalalawak ng Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON ang akreditasyon ng mga modelong farm sa rehiyon na nagpapakita ng iba't ibang teknolohiya at mabisang pamamaraan sa matagumpay na pagsasaka sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Ngayong Agosto, sa pangunguna ni Center Director Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, RAgr, apat (4) na sakahanang inilunsad ng ahensiya bilang mga bagong Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) na magsisilbing katuwang ng DA-ATI CALABARZON sa pagpapalaganap ng makabagong kaalaman at kasanayan sa agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng praktikal na pagkatuto mula sa mga teknolohiya na isinasagawa sa sakahan.

Opisyal na inilunsad noong Agosto 14 ang Jardin Erlinda Events Place Rental bilang LSA I na matatagpuan sa Brgy. Sta. Catalina, San Pablo City, Laguna—ang ikatlong LSA sa lungsod. Dinaluhan ito nina Bb. Nela C. Sotalbo, may-ari ng farm, at G. Renato A. Ignacio, RAgr, kinatawan ng sakahan.

Nakiisa rin si Bb. Abegail F. Agnes, City Agriculturist ng San Pablo, gayundin ang Sangguniang Barangay ng Sta. Catalina, sa pangunguna ni Kap. Damaso B. Brion, bilang pagpapakita ng kanilang suporta sa pagpapaunlad ng sektor ng agrikultura sa lungsod.

Samantala, mas mapapalawak din ang akses ng mga magsasaka sa mga makabagong teknolohiya sa pagniniyog sa pamamagitan ng paglunsad sa Bantoc Coconut Farm bilang Coconut-based LSA (Coco LSA I) at pagkilala sa extension site ng Rallos Integrated Farm bilang LSA I noong Agosto 12.

Matatagpuan ang dalawang LSAs sa Brgy. Liwayway at Brgy. Santol, Mauban, Quezon, at magsisilbing sentro ng pagkatuto para sa mga magsasaka, agricultural extension workers (AEWs), at iba pang katuwang sa sektor. Dumalo sa aktibidad sina Bb. Jolita Carandang, Bb. Maristhel Rallos, at G. Werner Decena, RAgr, Municipal Agriculturist ng Mauban, Quezon—bilang hudyat sa pagsisimula ng limang taong pagtutulongan sa pagsusulong ng serbisyong pang-ekstensyon sa bayan.

Nito namang Agosto 3, inilunsad din ng DA-ATI CALABARZON ang nee.yo.G Carefarm and Sanctuary Learning Center bilang isa ring Coco LSA—ang kauna-unahang Coco LSA sa San Andres, Quezon.



Magsisilbi rin itong expansion site ng MoCa Family Farm RLearning Center, Inc. (isang Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Provider) na patuloy na nagpapakita ng kanilang dedikasyon sa pagpapalawak ng de-kalidad na agricultural extension at hands-on learning para sa mga komunidad.

Nakiisa sa aktibidad sina Bb. Nonica Clarin ng MoCa, at mga kinatawan mula sa Lokal na Pamahalaan ng San Andres, sa pangunguna ng Pambayang Agrikultor na si G. Allan Ray Abesamis, RAgr; Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Quezon II, at Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) bilang suporta sa pagpapaunlad ng sektor ng agrikultura sa bayan.

Inaasahang magbibigay ng inspirasyon ang apat na modelong farm sa mas marami pang magsasaka at kabataang nais matuto, magbahagi ng kaalaman, at maging katuwang sa pagpapaunlad ng agrikultura sa CALABARZON. *Ulat ni: Archie C. Linsasagin*



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Silang town touts health programs in State of the Municipality Address

SILANG, Cavite (PIA) – With a stronger push for inclusive and affordable health services, the Municipal Government of Silang touted its policies and reforms that ensured equal access to healthcare.

In his very first State of the Municipality Address (SOMA) last August 17, Mayor Edward Carranza revealed that the passage of the Carranza Bill has been the highlight of this first year as local chief executive, which resulted to equitable access to healthcare services especially during emergencies.

In an interview, Carranza noted that the Municipality of Silang is pushing for services where indigent patients no longer need to secure guarantee letters to receive care from healthcare facilities.

“Ang very proud ako is ‘yung Carranza Bill kung saan walang Silangueno na may emergency cases ang maiiwan at hindi magagamot. Hindi ‘nyo na rin kailangang hanapin ang mga pulitiko para gamutin kayo sa pribadong ospital sa bayan ng Silang. Ayokong may mga kababayan tayong hindi ginagamot dahil sa kahirapan.”

Since its passage in 2022, the Carranza Bill has provided Php 10,000 deposit in local hospitals as a subsidy for residents needing emergency treatment. Currently, this program is being patronized in Silang Specialist Medical Center, Velazco Hospital, Estrella Hospital, and St. Mazenod Hospital.

“Sa ilalim ng programang ito, nagbibigay ang ating pamahalaan ng Php 10,000 hospital deposit assistance upang hindi maantala ang agarang pagpapaga mot ng ating mga kababayan sa oras ng emergency. Hindi natin kayang pigilan ang aksidente o karamdaman ngunit kaya nating tiyakin na walang mawawalan ng pag-asakang mabuhay dahil lamang sa kakulangan ng perang pang-deposito.”

Aside from its services, the Municipality also provided training for Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars as part of their efforts towards



a stronger community-based anti-dengue drive.

In the coming years, the residents will also receive a wider range of services upon the completion of the Silang Public Hospital, which is currently in its third phase. **(PB-PIA CALABARZON)**

AFP to China: We will never abandon BRP Sierra Madre

MANILA – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) rejected the Chinese Embassy’s latest claims regarding the BRP Sierra Madre at Ayungin Shoal, saying no binding commitment was made to remove the grounded Philippine Navy vessel from the disputed feature. In a statement Saturday, AFP spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea (WPS) retired Rear Adm. Roy Vincent Trinidad said Beijing was attempting to “rewrite history” while overlooking what the military described as China’s own record of deceptive narratives in the WPS.

“The AFP rejects the recent statement from the Chinese Embassy in Manila attempting to rewrite history regarding the presence of the BRP Sierra Madre at Ayungin Shoal,” Trinidad said.

He pointed to China’s occupation of Panganiban Reef, internationally known as Mischief Reef, in 1995.

China initially described structures built on the feature as shelters for fishers and said they had no military purpose, Trinidad said.

The structures have since been transformed into a large military installation with an airstrip, radar facilities and naval infrastructure.

“Mischief Reef stands as a permanent, concrete monument to their deceptive strategy in the West Philippine Sea,” he said.

Trinidad maintained that the presence of the BRP Sierra Madre at Ayungin Shoal is a lawful sovereign deployment.

The Philippine Navy deliberately grounded the World War II-era landing ship on Ayungin Shoal in 1999 to serve as a military outpost.

China has repeatedly demanded the removal of the vessel and claimed the Philippines had made commitments to do so, an assertion Manila has consistently denied.

“No binding commitment was made to remove the BRP Sierra Madre from Ayungin Shoal,” Trinidad said.

He cited the 2016 arbitral award, which ruled that Ayungin Shoal is a low-tide elevation within the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone.

The arbitral tribunal also ruled that China’s sweeping claims to historic rights within the nine-dash line have no legal basis under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

“The AFP remains firm in executing its mandate to protect Philippine national sovereignty, uphold international law, and maintain our presence on Ayungin Shoal,” Trinidad said.

“We will never abandon BRP Sierra Madre.”



The statement came as Manila continues to deepen security cooperation with allies and partners.

Another PH, Japan deal in force

Also on Saturday, the Department of National Defense welcomed the entry into force of the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between the Philippines and Japan.

The agreement, signed in January, establishes a framework for the efficient and coordinated provision of supplies and services between the AFP and Japan’s Self-Defense Forces.

The DND said the ACSA would strengthen bilateral activities, including joint exercises and humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations.

The agreement is part of the practical implementation of the Philippines and Japan’s comprehensive strategic partnership, which seeks to deepen cooperation based on mutual trust and support for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

It follows the Reciprocal Access Agreement, which sets the legal framework for joint military training, disaster response, and defense cooperation. **(With Priam F. Nepomuceno/PNA)**



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Governor Daniel R. Fernando on Service, Accountability, and Bulacan's Flood Control Projects



KATROPA N'YO

Vic Billones III

For nearly eight years, Governor Daniel R. Fernando has served Bulacan with consistent dedication, providing medical missions, rice distribution, disaster relief, and essential local infrastructure for millions of residents. Recently, however, he has faced public scrutiny regarding national government-funded flood control projects within the province.



In a candid interview with broadcasters Ted Failon and DJ ChaCha, Governor Fernando confirmed that flooding in Bulacan has worsened due to rising high tides, upstream water flow, and changing climate patterns. He clarified that the provincial government's ₱900 million investment has been allocated to road elevation, drainage improvements, and community infrastructure. These projects are distinct from the large-scale flood control initiatives funded and implemented by the national government.

Regarding the ₱41.358 billion allocated for flood control in Bulacan under the 2022–2025 General Appropriations Act, the Governor stated: "These are national projects implemented entirely by the Department of Public Works and Highways. They did not coordinate with the provincial government, share project details, or seek our review, leaving us with no oversight authority." To address this lack of coordination, he issued Executive Order No. 16-B (Series of 2025), requiring all future national flood control projects in Bulacan to submit full documentation, undergo provincial review, and obtain formal clearance before proceeding. He has also engaged the new DPWH leadership to establish regular coordination. Verified official records provide critical context.

The Commission on Audit has issued reports identifying anomalies in Bulacan flood control projects, including unfinished works, substandard construction, and non-compliance with specifications. These findings have prompted recommendations for further investigation and appropriate action against the responsible Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) personnel and contractors. Senate hearings have clarified that these national-level funds were allocated through the national budget process and implemented by the DPWH, placing them outside the provincial government's jurisdiction.

This context highlights a critical point: while the Governor, as the province's highest elected official, bears

moral responsibility for Bulacan's general welfare and remains subject to public inquiry, legal and implementing accountability for these projects lies with the agencies and officials who controlled the funds, executed the works, and were mandated to ensure their completion. Fair and thorough accountability requires that all parties identified in official audit and investigation findings—regardless of position—be subject to full examination and due process.

Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! Throughout this period of public scrutiny, Governor Fernando has remained focused on his core mission: serving the people of Bulacan. "We cannot stop storms, but we can prepare, unite, and rise together. Every Bulakenyo matters; in times of trial, we stand as one," he stated. His administration continues to provide relief, livelihood support, and long-term community programs, reflecting his enduring commitment to the province and its people.

oOo

Save Our Children, Secure Our Guns

We acknowledge the report from the Manila Times regarding the tragic shooting at Ateneo de Zamboanga University, an event that has deeply saddened our nation. The loss of students, security personnel, and the young perpetrator is profound. We extend our deepest condolences to the families, the institution, and the Zamboanga community.

This tragedy necessitates a firm stance: the exposure of minors to war games, firearm imagery, and violent content on social media must be strictly regulated. All content platforms must be held accountable and enforce stricter regulations to shield children from violence-glorifying games and firearm-related content. Because media consumption shapes development, these platforms must be held responsible for the material they host.

Beyond digital oversight, securing firearms is an urgent necessity. Firearms must be locked, with ammunition stored separately and keys kept inaccessible to children. Licensed owners, particularly public servants, must be held accountable if their weapons are mishandled; an unsecured firearm in the home poses a severe risk to public safety.

We commend the proactive initiative of Bulacan Governor Daniel Fernando and Vice Governor Alexis Castro in equipping school security personnel with metal detectors. This measure represents a prudent approach to public safety. We advocate for the adoption of this practice across all educational institutions and high-traffic public areas, such as commercial centers, to ensure comprehensive protection for the community.

Prioritizing public safety is essential. We urge all citizens to practice responsible firearm ownership and maintain secure households to safeguard our children and neighbors. Monitor your children's online activity.

Tsk! Tsk! Tsk! Let this tragedy not be in vain; may it awaken every heart to protect our youth before more lives are lost.

oOo

Basura ang Tunay na Banta, hindi baha

Habang bumababa ang tubig-baha sa buong Kalakhang Maynila, Bulacan, at mga karatig-lalawigan, nananatili ang isang matinding suliranin: ang daan-daang toneladang basurang iniwan ng mga ulan habagat at



bagyo. Ang malalakas na buhos ng ulan ay nagdadala ng napakaraming plastik na kalat patungo sa mga ilog, kanal, at daluyan ng tubig. Ang mga ito ay bumabara sa mga daluyan ng tubig at humahadlang sa likas na agos, na lalong nagpapalala sa pagbaha nang higit pa sa nararapat.

Hindi na ito bagong suliranin; isa itong paulit-ulit na krisis na taun-taong tinitis ng mga pamayanan. Ang mga basura—kabilang ang mga plastik na supot, lalagyan ng pagkain, at mga itinapong balot—ay naiipon, bumabara sa mga daluyan, at ginagawang panganib sa mga tahanan at buhay ang matinding pag-ulan.

Dapat isalin ng mga namumuno sa bayan ang mga salita sa gawa. Nang mangako silang babawasan, pamamahalaan, at tatanggalin ang basurang ito, kailangan na nilang tuparin ang mga pangakong iyon. Hindi sapat ang pagpapakita ng pakikiramay tuwing may baha; kailangan ng taumbayan ang matibay na paninindigan upang isakatuparan ang mga kinakailangan at pangmatagalang lunas.

Pagkatapos ng bawat pagbaha, sinasabi ng mga kinatawan na "nilulutas na ang suliranin sa basura." Subalit, kailangang harapin ito hindi lamang sa panahon ng pagtaas ng tubig. Ang mabuting pamamahala ng basura ay nangangailangan ng patuloy na pagsisikap—bago, habang, at pagkatapos ng bawat panahon ng tag-ulan—sa pamamagitan ng pangmatagalang paghahanda, mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng mga batas pangkalikasan, at tapat na pagsisikap na panatilihin malinis ang mga daluyan ng tubig.

Madaling magsalita, ngunit kailangan ang tunay na gawa. Dapat ipakita ng mga namumuno ang matibay na layunin na linisin ang mga daluyan ng tubig, bawasan ang polusyon mula sa plastik, at tiyaking hindi na lalong paglala ng basura ang mga pagbaha.

Tsk! Tsk! Nakatingin ang taumbayan; nararapat lamang na makatanggap ang ating mga pamayanan ng buong, tapat, at tunay na paglilingkod.

SSS offers existing Emergency Loan Program to members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay, Habagat

QUEZON CITY, 17 August 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) announced that members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon (Habagat) may avail themselves of the existing Emergency Loan Program (ELP) to help address their financial needs arising from the calamity.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro said the ELP remains available to qualified members nationwide and serves as a readily accessible source of financial assistance for those experiencing financial hardship due to calamities and other emergency situations.

"The ELP is part of SSS' continuing commitment to provide immediate financial relief to members affected by unforeseen events. Through the ELP, qualified members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon may access much-needed financial assistance under more flexible eligibility requirements," de Claro said.

"Under the ELP, which has been in effect since 01 May 2026, the required number of monthly contributions has been reduced from 36 to 18, provided that the member has at least six posted contributions in the last 12 months,"

de Claro said.

He added that self-employed, voluntary, non-working spouse, and land-based Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) members must have at least six-monthly contributions under their current membership type before the month of loan application.

Other eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Under 65 years old at the time of loan application;
- Have a valid Philippine home address on SSS records;
- Have an updated contact information in the SSS database;
- Have no past-due emergency, calamity, salary, Educational Assistance Loan, or other short-term or long-term member loans;
- Have no outstanding restructured loan;
- Have not been disqualified due to fraud committed against the SSS;
- Have not been granted any final benefit like retirement or permanent total disability benefits; and
- Have an active disbursement account enrolled through the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM) in the My.SSS Portal.

Qualified members may borrow up to ₱20,000 at an interest rate as low as 7% per annum. The loan is



payable over 30 months, inclusive of a six-month moratorium period.

"Members are not required to make monthly amortization payments during the first six months from the date of loan approval. No penalties will be imposed during this period. Regular monthly amortization payments will begin in the seventh month," de Claro explained.

De Claro added that members affected by the tropical cyclone may also apply for an SSS salary loan at the same time, subject to the eligibility requirements.

Members may apply online for both the ELP and the salary loan through the My.SSS Portal at www.sss.gov.ph. (JOHND. OBLANCA)

BOC COM. NEPOMUCENO TUMANGGAP NG GOLDEN PEACOCK AWARD HABANG SINUSUPOORTAHAN NG INDUSTRIYA ANG MGA REPORMA SA CUSTOMS



Mga katoto sadyang malaki ang inunlad at kahusayan partikular sa kalakalan na pabor sa mga stakeholder na pawang napapansin mga katotong ng ibang mga negosyante na alalaumbagay taglay ang dakilang layuning maitaas ang antas ng KAGAWARAN NG ADUANA.

Kung karangalan mga katoto ang paguusapan simula ng maitalagang Customs Commissioner si katotong Ariel Nepomuceno ay marami ng parangal ang naigawad dyan, tulad ng iginawad ng Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce (Philippines) Inc. (FICCI) ang Golden Peacock Award para sa Kahusayan sa Serbisyo ng Gobyerno kay Bureau of Customs katotong (BOC) Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno sa ika-6 na Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council (CICAC) General Assembly noong ika-06 ng Agosto 2026, bilang pagkilala sa kanyang pamumuno at sa patuloy na mga reporma ng Bureau upang palakasin ang administrasyon ng customs at suportahan ang lehitimong kalakalan.

Itinampok ng pagkilala mga katoto ang malakas na suporta ng komunidad ng negosyo para sa adyenda ng reporma ng BOC at ang patuloy na pakikipagtulungan nito sa mga stakeholder ng industriya tungo sa isang mas moderno, tumutugon, at nagpapadali sa kalakalan na administrasyon ng customs.

Sa pagbibigay ng parangal mga katoto, binanggit ng FICCI ang pamumuno, integridad, at pangako ni katotong Commissioner Nepomuceno sa pagpapalakas ng administrasyon ng customs at pagpapadali ng lehitimong kalakalan.

“Ang paboreal ang pambansang ibon ng India, sumisimbolo sa integridad, karunungan, kahusayan at pamumuno, mga pagpapahalagang sumasalamin sa pinakamataas na pamantayan ng serbisyo publiko. Ipinakita ni Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno ang mga katangiang ito sa pamamagitan ng kanyang matatag na pangako na palakasin ang Bureau of Customs, itaguyod ang integridad, mapadali ang lehitimong kalakalan, at paglingkuran ang buong bansa nang may dedikasyon at pananaw,” sabi ng FICCI sa paggawad ng parangal.

Ang pagkilala mga katoto ay iginawad sa ika-6 na Pangkalahatang Asembleya ng CICAC, na nagtipon sa BOC at mga pangunahing stakeholder ng industriya upang talakayin ang patuloy na mga reporma sa customs, mga alalahanin sa operasyon, at mga hakbang upang higit pang mapadali ang lehitimong kalakalan.

Sa asembleya, binalangkas ni katotong Commissioner Nepomuceno ang patuloy na adyenda ng reporma ng Bureau, kung saan itinampok ang pag-unlad sa reporma sa institusyon, pangongolekta ng kita, at ang modernisasyon at digital na pagbabago ng mga proseso ng customs.

Binigyang-diin ni katotong Commissioner Nepomuceno na ang reporma sa Bureau ay maaaring kasabay ng malakas na pangongolekta ng kita, na binanggit na ang mga reporma sa institusyon ay hindi kailangang kapalit ng pagganap sa pangongolekta.

Nasa sentro ng modernisasyon mga katoto Kawanihan ang ganap na digitalisasyon ng mga proseso ng customs, kabilang ang pagbabayad, akreditasyon, pagsubaybay sa container, mga operasyon ng X-ray, at ang Customs Processing System (CPS), na kinukumpleto ng mga reporma sa organisasyon at imprastraktura na naglalayong mapabuti ang paghahatid ng mga serbisyo ng customs.

Isang mahalagang bagay na tinalakay sa asembleya ay ang mga bagong alituntunin sa akreditasyon ng mga importer at customs broker sa pamamagitan ng Account Management Office (AMO). Ang talakayan ay nagbigay sa mga stakeholder ng mga update sa proseso ng akreditasyon at isang paraan upang maipahayag ang mga alalahanin at linawin ang mga pamamaraan, alinsunod sa patuloy na pagsisikap ng Kawanihan na gawing mas pinasimple, mahusay, at tumutugon ang akreditasyon sa mga pangangailangan ng komunidad ng kalakalan.

Tinalakay din mga katoto sa pulong ang mga solusyon sa pagsisikap ng daungan at paliparan, ang katayuan ng mga alituntunin sa mga lokal na singil na ipinapataw ng mga internasyonal na linya ng pagpapadala at mga tagapagbigay ng serbisyo ng logistik, at mga panukala ng stakeholder sa pagbabawas ng mga gastos sa paglilinis ng kargamento at pagtugon sa pagsisikap ng daungan sa pamamagitan ng pag-diversify ng supply chain.



Tumanggap ng Golden Peacock Award si Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno (gitna) sa ginanap na CICAC General Assembly kamakailan kabilang ang mga nagsidalong mga stakeholder na taga ibang bansa na kasapi ng Customs Industry Consultative and Advisory Council. Pasky Natividad

Binibigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pribadong sektor sa paglago ng ekonomiya ng bansa, muling pinagtibay ni Commissioner Nepomuceno ang pangako ng Kawanihan na maging isang maaasahang kasosyo ng mga negosyo.

“Nais naming maging matibay na katuwang ninyo sa pagpapalago ng inyong mga negosyo. Kailangan lang ninyong magtiwala sa amin,” sabi ni Commissioner Nepomuceno.

Dagdag pa niya ang mas malawak na responsibilidad ng BOC sa pagbuo ng bansa na higit pa sa mga pangunahing mandato nito na pangongolekta ng kita, pagpapadali ng kalakalan, at proteksyon sa hangganan.

“Dahil lubos naming nauunawaan na ang Bureau of Customs ay isang mahalagang ahensya na kailangan upang umunlad ang ating bansa. At upang umunlad ang bansa, nangangahulugan lamang ito na dapat umunlad ang sektor ng negosyo. At alam namin ang aming tungkulin, at gagampanan namin ang aming tungkulin sa abot ng aming makakaya at kakayahang,” sabi ni Commissioner Nepomuceno.

Ang Golden Peacock Award at ang aktibong pakikilahok ng mga stakeholder ng industriya sa CICAC General Assembly ay nagbibigay-diin sa kahalagahan ng patuloy na pakikipagtulungan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor habang isinusulong ng BOC ang mga repormang naglalayong mapadali ang kalakalan, palakasin ang administrasyon ng customs, at suportahan ang pambansang paglago ng ekonomiya.

Sa pagtatapos ng kanyang mensahe, nanawagan si Commissioner Nepomuceno sa mga stakeholder na patuloy na makipagtulungan sa Bureau sa buong pagbabago nito.

“Magtiwala kayo sa amin at tutulungan namin kayo. At maging bukas, maging magkakaibigan tayo sa paglakad nang sama-sama sa mahabang paglalakbay na ito ng paggawa sa Bureau of Customs na moderno at tumutugon,” pagtatapos ni Commissioner Nepomuceno.

GREETINGS: Special greetings and sincere gratitude to the President and CEO, Mr. Joseph “buddy” Madrigal and Chairman, Mr. Jefferson Cheng and also thanks to Special Assistant to the Chairman, Ms. Shirley Reniedo for your continued support kindness, thank you very much! God bless u more!!!!

Hi katotong DR. SIEGFRED “YEYE” L MANAOIS, isang taong tunay na may malasakit at sadyang ipinamalas ang sakripisyo bilang lingkod bayan, kung saan sadyang kapuripuri ang ipanamalas na sakripisyo sa pagpanik ng pagtaas ng koleksyon simula ng maitalaga ito sa bodega ng PAIRCARGO sa Bureau of Customs (BOC) sa Ninoy Aquino International Airport, ang walang kupas na hinahangaan ng lahat sa taglay nitong kabaitan at pakikisama, walang mataas at mababa, lahat ay pantay-pantay ang kanyang pagtingin na alalaumbagay taglay ang dakilang hangaring maitaas ang koleksyon ng Kagawaran.

Kung kayat ‘sang damukal ang mga nakamit na parangal partikular sa ibat-ibang bansa tulad ng U.S. Embassy, Russian Embassy, China, at iba pa, ganyan katindi mga katoto ang tinutukoy kong tao si katotong DR. SIEGFRED “YEYE” MANAOIS SPL DEPUTY COLLECTOR PAIRCARGO ASSESSMENT COMPOSITE DIVISION BOC NAIA, kung saan nagtatrabaho ng 24/7 umulan at bumagyo, gabi na kung umuwi sa paglalalang makatulong sa mga taong nais

makapaglabas ng kargamento upang mkadagdag sa pagtaas ng revenue collection. Mabuhay ka katotong DR. YEYE!!! GOD bless u more katoto!!!!

Hi to Deputy Collector for Assesstment DAN OQUIAS of Bureau of Customs (BOC) Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) sa kabila ng isang suma kumlaude nagtapos sa San Sebastian College ay nagtiis parin ng ilang taon kawani ng BOC bilang hawshiao kung saan nagtiis at nagpunyagi paring nagsumikap hanggang nabigyan ng brake gawa ng kakayanang magsumite ng maayos na report sa bawat tanggapan kinapapalooban hanggang sa unti-unting tumaas ang pusisyon nito sa sariling sikap at kakayanang na hindi lumapit kaninuman.

Batid niyo ba mga katoto na pitong bodega sa BOC NAIA ang nasa ilalim ng pinamumnuan nito, kung saan ang lahat ng stake holder dito ay si katotong Dan ang halos nagmamarket na alalaumbagay taglay ang dakilang layuning maitaas ang antas ng koleksyon ng Kagawaran para sa bayan.

Palibhasa’y mabait at mapagpakumbaba walang makitang yabang at matulungin sa kapuwa kung kayat respetado ng marami at hinahangaan sa angking talinong taglay, bilang patunay mga katoto si katotong Dan ay umani na rin ng ibat ibang parangal bunga ng kakayanan nito sa bawat deprtamento nitong pinanggalingan. Mabuhay ka katotong DAN! God bless u more katoto!!!!

Hi to biyuting Atty. Edith Napalan Chief City Treasurer’s Office of Bacoar City Province of Cavite, and Asst. Chief Carol Marges, same as their Staff Ma. Florentina, Roselyn, & Chistina. God bless u more mga katoto!!!! Hi to Atty. Marites Tamayo Register of Deeds (RD) & RD examiner Darwin Bantiles of Bacoar City province of Cavite! God bless u more mga katoto!!!! Hi to MANILA HEALTH DEPARTMENT Head & concurrent OMMC Hospital Director DRA. GRACE PADILLA! God bless you more katoto!!!!

Hi to MHD Dr. Creselda Coroza- Head District 1 Officer, District 1 Manila, God bless u more katoto!!!! Dr. Robin Medalle at Dra. Gina Espinosa! Hi to POC XRAY RECORDS Head Gina Geronimo, Marivel, Ronnie, & Marvin God bless you more mga katoto! Hi to BIR Commissioner Carlito Martin Mendoza and BIR Deputy Commissioner Vener Vaquiran! God bless you more mga katoto!!!! Hi to Atty. Rosario M, Padilla Chief BIR Collection Department! God bless you more katoto! Hi to BIR Chief of Staff Ms. Bianca Hernandez and Ms. Angel of DepCom Vaquiran’s Office! God bless you more mga katoto

Congrats sa remodeling and renovation of UNO SEAFOOD WHARF PALACE INC. sa Escolta Manila, kung saan malinis, masarap na lutong pagkain at mura pa, hanapin niyo ang masisipag at mabait na sila katotong MANAGER ERICK, WALTER ang byuting SUSAN at JOAN kabilang na ang mga pogiing waiter at mga byuting waitress, sa itsura palang nila busog na kayo sa ganda!!!! Hehehe! Ayos ba mga katoto, dapat pa bang imemorize yan mga katoto!!!!

Usaping DABAKARDS lalo na sa mga kalapit na tanggapan sa paligid ng Intramuros!! Mga Katoto, kung nais niyong masarap na Lutong Pinoy na tsibug. Mag- aliw at mag relax habang nakikinig ng live acoustic at folk songs mag tungo sa I-TOP VIEW CAFE & RESTAURANT 4th floor, Roof Deck Intramall Bldg. 706 Escuela st. Intamuros, Manila. Lets eat, enjoy, and relax.

Palace urges discipline amid crisis on improper waste disposal

MANILA— Metro Manila does not face a garbage crisis but a crisis in improper waste disposal, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto said as he called for a “culture of discipline” to prevent trash from clogging waterways and worsening floods.

Recto made the assessment after leading a meeting of key government agencies and local government representatives on Aug. 20 to accelerate clearing operations and pursue longer-term solutions to garbage and flooding.

“Lumalabas sa aming pagpupulong na walang garbage crisis sa Metro Manila, pero may krisis sa hindi wastong pagtatapon ng basura (Our meeting showed that there is no garbage crisis in Metro Manila, but there is a crisis in improper waste disposal),” Recto said in statement Sunday.

He said the government must stop garbage while it is still within communities, stressing that national agencies and local governments need the participation of residents.

“The message of the President is clear: isa itong suliranin na kailangan ng whole-of-society approach, kasama ang ating mga mamamayan (The message of the President is clear: this is a problem that requires a whole-of-society approach, including our citizens),” he added.

Recto warned that improperly discarded waste is carried from streets and drainage systems into rivers and other waterways during heavy rains.

“Kapag ginawang basurahan ang kanal at mga kalye, nagiging expressway ng basura ang mga ilog pagbuhos ng malakas na ulan. Walang toll gate ang kalat, kaya tuloy-tuloy ang biyahe hanggang Manila Bay o sa mas malaking waterways natin (When canals and streets are turned into garbage dumps, rivers become expressways for trash when heavy rains come. There are no toll gates for garbage, so it continues its journey to Manila Bay or our

larger waterways).”

He called for wider observance of proper waste segregation and disposal.

“Kailangan nating magkaroon ng malawakang pagpapalaganap ng kultura ng disiplina. Sabi nga natin dati, ang basurang itinapon mo nang hindi wasto, babalik din sa iyo (We need to widely promote a culture of discipline. As we have said before, garbage that you improperly throw away will eventually come back to you),” Recto said.

Under the Department of Public Works and Highways’ (DPWH) Oplan Kontra Baha, clearing, declogging and desilting operations are continuing in coordination with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and local government units.

The government is also strengthening garbage collection, hauling and disposal systems, including the use of trash traps in waterways and the deployment of Estero Rangers and Environmental Monitoring Officers.

Other measures include the expansion of the Adopt-an-Estero Program and Bayanihan sa Estero or TUPAD initiative, procurement of solid waste management equipment for 16 local government units, and the proposed Cleanest Barangay Program.

The government is also studying the possible allocation of a portion of local governments’ National Tax Allotment for solid waste management projects.

Recto said pumping stations must remain operational and logistics strengthened to ensure faster collection, hauling and proper disposal of garbage.

“Ang Manila Bay ay hindi inidorong ng plastic (Manila Bay is not a toilet for plastic),” he said. Recto said Filipinos should show the same discipline in waste management at home that they observe when abroad.

“Hindi mahirap gawin ito dahil kapag nasa ibang bansa ang Pilipino, marunong tayong sumunod sa batas:



WASTE MANAGEMENT. Executive Secretary Ralph G. Recto leads an interagency meeting on Thursday (Aug. 20, 2026) with national government agencies and local government representatives to strengthen garbage clearing, solid waste management and flood mitigation efforts in Metro Manila. The meeting brought together officials from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of Public Works and Highways, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority and local government leagues as the Marcos administration pushes a whole-of-society approach to keeping waste out of drainage systems and waterways. (Office of the Executive Secretary)

sa oras ng koleksyon ng basura, sa pag-segregate at sa pagtatapon sa tamang lugar. May disiplina naman tayo, sana’y lalong ipamalas pag nasa sariling bayan (This is not difficult to do because when Filipinos are abroad, we know how to follow the rules: collection schedules, segregation and proper disposal. We have discipline; hopefully, we can show it even more in our own country),” he said.

The meeting was attended by Environment Secretary Mitch Cuna, Human Settlements Secretary Ping Aliling, Public Works Undersecretary Charles Calima Jr. and MMDA Romando Artes, as well as representatives of concerned agencies and local government leagues. **(PNA)**

DOH forms local health zone to improve Universal Health Care access in Laguna

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Health (DOH), in its thrust to fully implement the Universal Health Care Act and help empower local government units and health institutions in Laguna, has formed the Metro Laguna Inter-Local Health Zone (MLILHZ).

The health zone, which encompasses the cities of San Pedro, Biñan, Santa Rosa, and Cabuyao, seeks to improve the coordination and integration of public health services, including primary care, referral systems, health facilities, and human resources among LGUs, health facilities, and local health offices.

Among the primary objectives of the MLILHZ are to widen people’s access to health services, strengthen coordination and referrals from primary care providers to secondary and tertiary care facilities, and upgrade health facilities and other services in accordance with the quality and safety standards set by the DOH and PhilHealth, as mandated under Republic Act No. 11223, or the Universal Health Care Act.

MLILHZ Chairperson and Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas acknowledged the interoperability mandate of the health zone, which is expected to provide easier access to healthcare services for more than 1.7 million residents of the four Laguna cities.

“We have always recognized that protecting the health and well-being of our people is one of our greatest responsibilities as public servants. It is a shared responsibility among LGUs, in partnership, of course, with the national government, healthcare institutions, and our dedicated healthcare workers.”

She emphasized the importance of collaboration among her fellow local chief executives and their readiness to work together toward establishing a more functional and efficient public health system.

“Through this partnership, we can ensure that every Filipino, not just Rosenses, has access to quality, accessible, and continuous healthcare services... Universal Health Care wouldn’t be possible without each and everyone of you. Muli po, we are fully committed and we’ll always do this for our people,” Arcillas added.

The signing ceremony on August 7 was also attended by Biñan City Mayor Angelo Alonte, Cabuyao City Mayor Dennis Hain, and San Pedro City Administrator lawyer Henry Salazar.

The health zone will be guided by the Metro Laguna Sub-Provincial Health System and governed by a Technical Management Committee, which will oversee strategic planning, close coordination, and regular monitoring of integrated medical services across Metro Laguna.

Alonte acknowledged the task placed upon them



but accepted the responsibility of ensuring organized, accessible, and affordable medical services for their constituents.

“I understand the enormity of our responsibility to our constituents especially in ensuring their health and well-being. Maraming salamat po RD, asahan n’yo po ang aming buong suporta sa programang ito at magsasama-sama tayo sa ikauunlad ng kalusugan ng ating kapuwa Lagunense, sa ating mga health workers, ating mga public servant sa buong lalawigan ng Laguna,” the Biñan mayor said.

Meanwhile, Hain stressed that Universal Health Care is a huge task that cannot be accomplished by a single entity and expressed his full cooperation in the endeavor.

“Ang Universal Health Care ay hindi lamang po gawain ng iisa. Ito po ay bayanihan. Hindi po ito magtatagumpay kung hindi tayo magtutulong-tulong. Sama-sama po nating pagtulong-tulungan ang isang malusog na Pilipinas, ang ating kalusugan para sa ating lahat,” he added.

The formation of inter-local health zones is subject to the provisions of Executive Order No. 205, s. 2000, and Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991. These laws provide for the devolution of the effective delivery of integrated healthcare and coordination

among cities and municipalities to local governments, with the national government providing technical and administrative guidance and support.

ILHZs are also instituted to ensure that local chief executives are fully informed of the situation of public health services and that public and private institutions and sectors whose activities contribute to improved healthcare delivery are integrated within a specified zone to ensure the effectiveness of health reforms. **(CH/PIA-Laguna)**

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Tech and Play Month Takes Over SM City Trece Martires: Technology and fun come together at Tech and Play Month at SM City Trece Martires, featuring exciting tech finds, cool gadgets, and engaging experiences for tech and gaming enthusiasts. Visitors can explore, play, and discover something new at the Lower Ground Floor, Event Center throughout the month.



BJMPRO-CALABARZON HONORS CITY MAYOR DAHLIA A. LOYOLA HONORED WITH PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION: Malugod ko pong ipinapabatid sa lahat na tayo po ay pinagkalooban ng Plaque of Appreciation mula sa Bureau of Jail Management and Penology Regional Office (BJMPRO) - CALABARZON para sa ating naging mahalagang ambag sa kanilang mandato upang makapagbigay ng Humane Safekeeping at Developmental Opportunities para sa mga Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL). Ang pagkilalang ito ay personal na tinanggap nina Vice Mayor Cesar L. Ines, Jr., at Hon. Almario Zamora sa idinaos na 35th Anniversary Celebration ng BJMPRO-CALABARZON alinsunod sa temang "BJMP@35: Disiplina at Responsibilidad, Sandigan sa Serbisyong may Kredibilidad". Asahan niyo po na patuloy nating paigtingin ang mga ugnayan at pakikipagtulungan sa ating mga katuwag na ahensya upang maisulong ang serbisyong may malasakit para sa ating mga mamamayan, kabilang ang ating mga PDL. Taos-pusong pasasalamat sa BJMPRO-CALABARZON para sa pagkilalang ito! #CityOfCarmona #LungsodNgCarmona #LGUCarmona #BayanMunaLagi #DapatAngatLahat



REVENUE PARTNERSHIP: Bureau of Customs (BOC) Assistant Commissioner Atty. Vincent Philip C. Maronilla receives the BIR KAAGAPAY award on behalf of BOC Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno during the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 122nd Anniversary Celebration, "Husay at Dangal ng Lingkod-Bayan ng BIR," on July 31, 2026. The ceremony, graced by Secretary of Finance Frederick Go and led by BIR Commissioner Charlito Mendoza, recognized the BOC's valuable support in advancing government revenue generation and anti-corruption directives set by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (BELOW PHOTO) ASE OF DOING BUSINESS: Post Clearance Audit Group (PCAG) Assistant Commissioner Atty. Vincent Philip C. Maronilla, together with Atty. Melvin Joseph Banzon, Atty. Christopher Dy Buco, and other officials, lead a stakeholder forum on Accounts Management Office (AMO) reforms on July 28, 2026. Held under the leadership of Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno, the forum highlighted key accreditation updates—including extending importer and customs broker accreditation validity from one to three years—to simplify transactions and promote transparency.

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