

MEKENI JOINS HOSPITAL ON WHEELS MEDICAL MISSION FOR OVER 1,000 PORAC RESIDENTS



PORAC, Pampanga (December 12–13, 2025) — Mekeni Food Corporation reinforced its commitment to community health and inclusive development as it actively supported the Hospital on Wheels (HOW) medical mission that served more than 1,000 patients at the Jose Songo Lapid Gymnasium in Barangay Can-gatba, Porac, Pampanga.

The two-day mission delivered free medical, surgical, dental, and vision screening services to residents, with a strong focus on reaching indigenous peoples (IPs) and underserved communities in Porac. Mekeni joined Hos-pital on Wheels, the local government of Porac, and various partner organizations in mobiliz-ing resources and volunteer support to bring essential healthcare closer to those who need it most.



Mekeni President Mr. Prudencio “Pruds” Gar-cia underscored the value of collaboration in creating lasting impact.

“When organizations work together with a shared purpose, we can do great things for our communities. This mission is close to my heart because our parents, Mekeni founders Mr. Felix Garcia and the late Mrs. Meding Garcia, once taught indigenous peoples in the moun-tains. Supporting this initiative continues that legacy of service,” Mr. Garcia said.

Hospital on Wheels founder Dr. Jim Sanchez expressed appreciation for Mekeni’s continued partnership and the collective effort behind the mission.

“For 18 years, Hospital on Wheels has advocat-ed accessible healthcare. We are deeply grateful to Mekeni Food Corporation, the local govern-ment of Porac, and all our partners who shared their time, resources, and expertise to make this mission successful,” Sanchez said.



Porac Municipal Vice Mayor Trisha “Jen” Capil welcomed the initiative, noting its alignment with the municipality’s priorities.

“This medical mission is a big help to our com-munity, especially our indigenous peoples. We thank the Hospital on Wheels, Mekeni, and all the partners for bringing this service to Porac, as it supports our administration’s goal of in-clusive and accessible healthcare,” Capil said.



Aside from the medical, surgical, dental, and optical services, the mission also brought mo-ments of care and comfort to beneficiaries through the distribution of gift packs for IPs and children who attended the activity.



Hospital on Wheels has been conducting med-ical missions nationwide for 18 years, while Mekeni Food Corporation has supported the initiative for three consecutive years, demon-

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strating the company’s sustained commitment to health-focused community partnerships.

Other organizations that supported the mis-sion include Rotary Club of Malolos (D3770), Rotary Club of Maharlika (D3780), Philippine Travel Operators Association (PHILTOA), Aguman Capampangan, Office of Senator Imee Marcos, Eagles, BNI Pampanga, Phil-ippine Air Force (PAF), PAF Reservists, and Scrubbed BPO.



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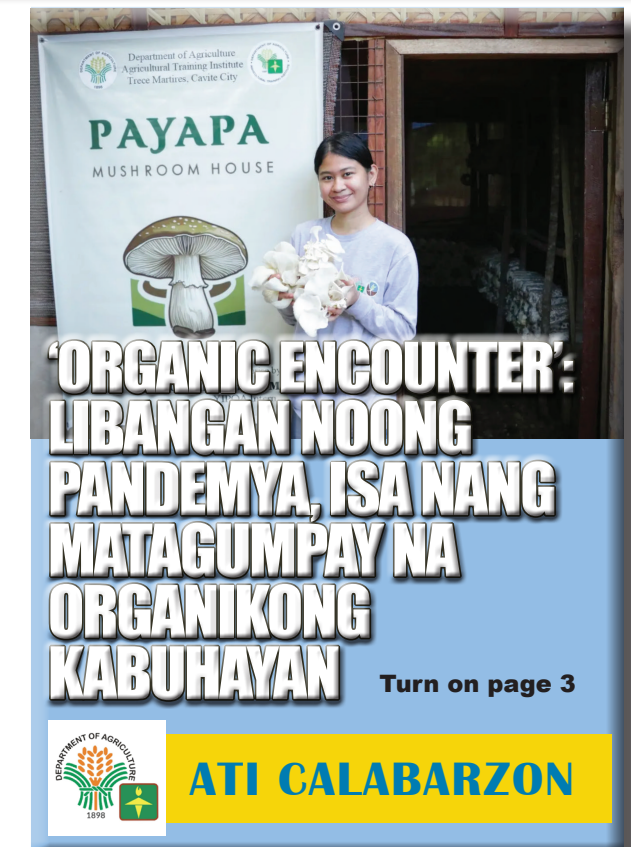
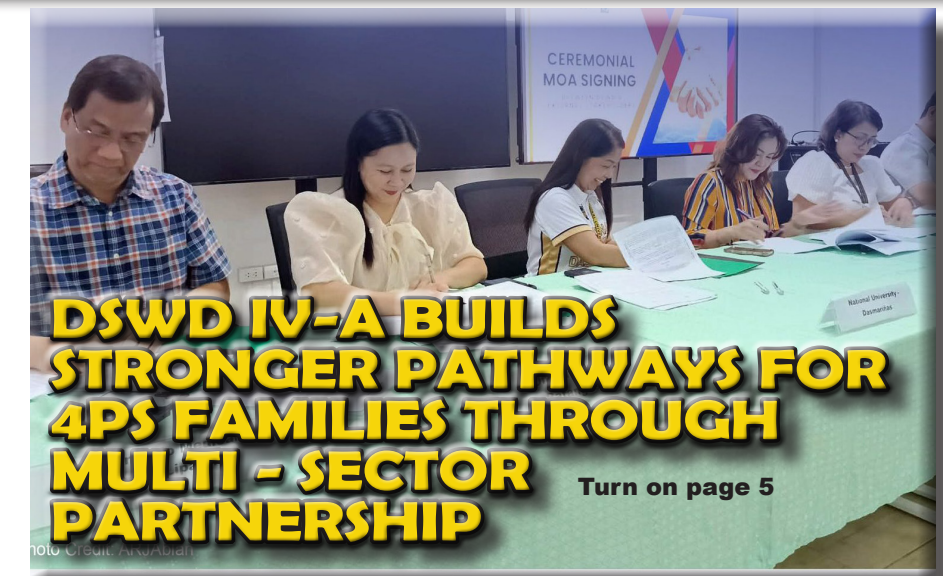
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2026: A YEAR OF CHOICES FOR THE PHILIPPINES

As the Philippines steps into 2026, the nation finds itself at a familiar yet decisive crossroads. The past year tested the country's resilience—through economic pressures, climate-related disasters, global uncertainties, and the continuing demand for better governance. What comes next will depend not only on policy directions, but on the collective choices of leaders and citizens alike.

Economically, 2026 presents both promise and caution. Infrastructure projects, digitalization, and renewed investor confidence may provide momentum for growth. Yet inflation concerns, employment quality, and the widening gap between urban progress and rural realities remain pressing challenges. Growth must translate into felt improvement in everyday Filipino lives—affordable food, stable jobs, and accessible services—or it risks becoming an empty statistic.

Governance will again

be under the microscope. With political alliances shifting and preparations for future elections quietly taking shape, 2026 demands accountability over the-atrics. Filipinos are no longer content with slogans; they expect transparency, competence, and results. Anti-corruption efforts, public service efficiency, and respect for democratic institutions will define whether trust in government deepens or further erodes.

Climate resilience will also take center stage. Each passing year makes it clearer that extreme weather is no longer an exception but a constant threat. In 2026, disaster preparedness, environmental protection, and sustainable development must move from policy papers to urgent action. Communities cannot afford delayed responses when lives and livelihoods are at stake.

On the social front, the Filipino spirit remains both the country's strength and its chal-

lenge. While bayanihan continues to surface in times of crisis, persistent issues in education, healthcare, and social protection demand long-term solutions. Investing in people—especially the youth—will determine whether the next generation inherits opportunity or uncertainty.

Ultimately, 2026 is not merely another year on the calendar. It is a test of direction. Will the Philippines choose inclusive growth over selective progress, preparedness over reaction, and accountability over complacency?

The future is not pre-written. As the country moves forward, 2026 offers Filipinos a renewed chance to shape a nation that is not only resilient, but ready—ready to confront hard truths, to demand better leadership, and to build a future worthy of the sacrifices that came before.

-Ang Kabitenya

DENR...

LAUREL, Batangas (PIA) — In its continued effort to inspire local government-led initiatives, particularly among barangays to keep waterways and water bodies clean and trash-free, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A gave honors for cleanup efforts during the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Awarding Ceremony on December 19.

According to DENR-EMB Regional Director Robert Angelo Metin, the program aims to enhance water quality and maintain the cleanliness of rivers in the Province of Cavite, demonstrating that the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Program, which was successfully implemented in the National Capital Region, can also be adopted by nearby regions as part of collective efforts to protect the environment.

"This is anchored on the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court Mandamus that calls for the cleaning and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Here in the Province of Cavite, we can see a portion of Manila Bay, which is why the Gawad Taga-Ilog Program was initially launched here," Director Metin said.

Through the dedication of barangay officials and residents, these

initiatives serve as inspiring models of sustainable environmental governance and shared responsibility for the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations.

Barangay Daine 1 in Indang, Cavite, led by Barangay Chairperson Arnold Pegollo, was hailed as the winner in the Upland Category, with the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Award serving as a testament to the community's collective efforts in promoting cleaner waterways and a sustainable environment.

"There were so many preparations from paperwork, weekly cleanup activities, and the maintenance of the river and the materials recovery facility (MRF), to Hapag ni PBBM, our community garden, vertical garden, and composting facility because everything required hard work and constant maintenance to ensure that all of these is in good condition for the Gawad Taga-Ilog," the chairperson explained.

Pegollo added that even before receiving recognition from the DENR-EMB, the barangay had already been working with partner agencies, organizations, and the community to protect the environment, especially their waterways, which he said is vital for sustainability and the well-being of future

generations.

"We continuously care for our rivers and conduct tree-planting activities along our easements, while maintaining our waterways to help increase water flow and preserve our water sources. With the prize money we received, we plan to upgrade our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) into a more efficient, organized, and user-friendly facility that promotes proper waste segregation in the community," Pegollo said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon.

As part of the first batch of the GTI Program in Cavite, Pegollo, along with other winners from the Upland and Lowland Categories, expressed their commitment to sustaining the program, particularly in maintaining, cleaning, and rehabilitating facilities to promote cleaner and sustainable waterways.

Following the success of the GTI Program 1.0, the DENR-EMB is preparing to launch GTI Program 2.0, which aims to include local government units within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), such as General Mariano Alvarez, Silang, Carmona, and Tagaytay City. (CO, AM/PIA4A)

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CARD-PCPD Medical Center opens BestHealth Clinic; Offers loanable healthcare services for CARD clients



The newly opened BestHealth Clinics and Diagnostic Center of CARD-PCPD Medical Center Inc., along with its emergency ambulance in Brgy. San Antonio 1, San Pablo City, Laguna.



CARD-PCPD Medical Center Inc. President Dr. Roderick Belen (top line, right) with the nurses and staff of BestHealth Clinics and Diagnostic Center inside the newly opened clinic.

CARD-PCPD Medical Center Inc., a new institution of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) in partnership with the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), officially opened the BestHealth Clinics and Diagnostic Center on December 1, 2025, in Brgy. San Antonio 1, San Pablo City, Laguna. With the facility situated in the barangay, residents of San Antonio 1 and nearby communities can access affordable medical services without needing to travel to the town proper. The clinic also offers loanable health service packages for CARD members and clients, further expanding access to essential healthcare in the community.

Established to bring health services closer to underserved areas, the facility ensures that residents can get immediate consultations, diagnostics, and urgent care at the newly opened clinic. CARD members and clients can enjoy additional benefits, including discounted services and the option to loan medical packages to manage health expenses better.

"As part of our mission to eradicate poverty through healthcare empowerment, we have brought CARD's health program closer so it can serve as a center for distant communities," said Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI. "Ito po ay para sa inyo... Ito po ay nilaan para sa

inyo (This is for all of you... This belongs to all of you)," he added, affirming the clinic's purpose of serving far-flung areas.

Mr. Arcatomy Guarin, Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), highlighted the significance of the partnership. "This collaboration brings together the best of two worlds—CARD MRI and PCPD. Together, we aim to drive transformation grounded in the shared belief that healthcare and wellness are rights for all. This is the beginning of a healthier future."

The clinic offers a wide range of services such as medical consultations for general healthcare, pediatrics, OB-Gyne, internal medicine, and minor surgery. It also provides laboratory and X-ray services, as well as minor surgical procedures. The clinic also houses BotiCARD Pharmacy to provide patients with the necessary medical supplies.

"Hindi lang paggamot; aalagaan rin kayo. Dito po ang pinakamagandang pag-aalaga (It's not just about treatment; you will also be cared for. Here, you will receive the best health care)," said Dr. Roderick Belen, President of CARD-PCPD Medical Center Inc., implying the meaning behind the clinic's name "BestHealth". He expressed excitement that, after years of research, the clinic is finally opening, but emphasized that this is only the first step of expanded healthcare services.

Looking ahead, Dr. Alip also shared plans, including the opening of a dialysis center targeted for April 2026 and the establishment of a full hospital before the end of next year. He likewise envisions building the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) in the area, which will offer nursing and health-related degree programs for aspiring medical professionals.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by Dr. Alip and Dr. Belen, together with Mr. Aristeo Dequito, Managing Director of CARD MRI; Dr. Dolores M. Torres, and Dr. Lorenza dT. Bañez, Senior Management Advisers of CARD Bank, Inc.; Mr. Arcatomy Guarin, Executive Director of PCPD; Dr. Mike Llanto, CEO of CARD Care Network; and Barangay Chairman Rexon Banaag of Brgy. San Antonio 1. Mrs. Paz P. Arazena, a 91-year-old CARD pioneer member and one of its eldest members, also joined them in the symbolic ribbon-cutting.



Aristotle B. Alip expresses the dedication of the new clinic to the community while sharing CARD's future plans for

Father Rizaldy Urgena of St. Francis Parish Church officiated the blessing of the clinic building and ambulance. The staff and nurses of the new clinic were also introduced during the ceremony to ensure they can be easily recognized and approached by future patients.

Also present during the event were Dr. Edzel A. Ramos, President of CMDI Inc.; Ms. Angela A. Poonin, Chief Operating Officer of Mga Likha Ni Inay, Inc.; Ms. Rosenda P. Aquino, President of CARD MRI Astro Laboratories; Mr. Raul S. Dizon, Chairman of CMIT Inc.; Mr. Vicente P. Briones Jr., Executive Director of CARD Inc.; Mrs. Jocelyn Dequito, CEO of CARD MBA; Ms. Maida B. Decano, President of CARD Property Management Inc.; Ms. Lyneth L. Derequito, President of CARD RBI, and the staff of CARD Care Network together with the barangay officials of Brgy. San Antonio 1. CARD members and the pioneer members also witnessed the ceremony to celebrate the milestone.



From left to right: Barangay Chairman Rexon Banaag; CARD-PCPD Medical Center Inc. President Dr. Roderick Belen, St. Francis Parish Lector, Father Rizaldy Urgena, CARD Bank Senior Management Adviser Dr. Dolores M. Torres, CARD Pioneer Member Paz Arazena, PCPD Executive Director Arcatomy Guarin, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo Dequito, CARD Care Network Inc. CEO Dr. Mike Llanto, and CARD MRI Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip in the ribbon-cutting and building blessing to officially open the BestHealth Clinics and Diagnostic Center.

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SM Holiday Job Fair + Upskilling Draw Hundreds at SM MOA



The SM Holiday Job Fair + Skills e-Hub officially opens at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall with national and local leaders in attendance.

PASAY CITY, Philippines — Hundreds of Filipinos explored new career opportunities today as the SM Holiday Job Fair + Skills e-Hub opened at the SM Mall of Asia Music Hall, in partnership with the Office of the President, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC), and SM Supermalls.

Held in celebration of DOLE's 92nd Founding Anniversary, the event underscored the growing strength of public-private collaboration in expanding employment access and equipping Filipinos with essential digital and AI skills.

A Nationwide Push for Opportunity

Since November 2023, SM, DOLE, and PESO have mounted more than 370 job fairs nationwide, serving over 220,000 job seekers and producing more than 30,000 hired-on-the-spot (HOTS) placements. The recent recognition of the 30,000th HOTS at SM City Tuguegarao highlighted the substantial reach of the nationwide effort.



SM Supermalls President Steven Tan welcomes partners, employers, and job seekers, emphasizing SM's commitment to opening opportunities nationwide.



Pasay City Mayor Hon. Emi Calixto-Rubiano expresses the LGU's support for initiatives that bring employment and livelihood opportunities closer to citizens.



DICT Secretary Henry Aguda highlights the DICT's commitment to advancing digital and AI training programs that prepare Filipinos for the fast-evolving workforce.

Jobs + Upskilling: Preparing Filipinos for the Future

This year's job fair strengthened the model of combining employment with upskilling. The DICT-SM Skills e-Hub featured free digital courses from SPARK, Google Career Certificates, HP LIFE, and Cisco Networking Academy. AI-focused sessions led by Asia Pacific College and IBM SkillsBuild further introduced job seekers to emerging technologies shaping the future of work.



Job seekers celebrates being hired on the spot (HOTS)—a testament to the life-changing impact of nationwide job fairs hosted across SM malls as a result of the spot result at the SM Job Fair + Skills e-Hub Holiday Career Fest.

SM Supermalls' Commitment

SM Supermalls President Steven Tan reaffirmed the company's dedication to removing barriers for Filipino workers: "Today's gathering is more than a job fair—it is a nationwide effort to open doors, strengthen skills, and create real pathways to meaningful work." SM continues to offer its nationwide mall network as an accessible venue for job fairs, livelihood programs, and government services—bringing opportunities closer to communities across the Philippines.

A Day of Hope and New Beginnings

Job seekers spent the day joining interviews, digital upskilling sessions, and mentoring workshops conducted by DOLE, DICT, APC, IBM SkillsBuild, and Go Negosyo. The event reinforced a shared mission to ensure Filipinos are equipped, confident, and future-ready as they step into 2026.

Celebrating 40 Super Years of Evolving With Every You, SM Supermalls—one of Southeast Asia's largest mall developers—remains a steadfast partner in nation-building by opening doors to employment through accessible job fairs in its 89 malls nationwide. For four decades, SM has evolved into more than just

a retail destination—it has become a platform for empowering Filipinos with livelihood opportunities, bridging job seekers with employers, and uplifting lives through strategic partnerships that foster workforce development and inclusive economic growth. For more information about SM Supermalls' upcoming job fairs and employment opportunities, please visit www.smsupermalls.com or follow @SMSupermalls on social media. /PR



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NOTICE is hereby given that the funds of the late ERLINDA GUILLERMO TECALA from BPI and Metrobank has been solely adjudicated by her sole heir, Atty. Inocentes A. Tecala, of legal age, widower, Filipino, and with residence and postal address at Unit 28A/B DV Palazzo Condominium, Eastwood, Bagumbayan, Quezon City, Metro Manila, as per AFFIDAVIT of SOLE ADJUDICATION executed and notarized on December 12, 2025 at Kavit, Cavite before Notary Public, ATTY. ANDRES JOSE M. ALBA, PTR No. CAV 9424808, under Doc No. 393, Page No. 80, Book No. CXIV, Series of 2025.

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ORGANIC...

TAGKAWAYAN, Quezon – Maraming pangarap at kabuhayan ang nahinto dahil sa pandemya mula 2020 hanggang 2022, ngunit para kay Camille Diana Maralit, isang kabataang magsasaka mula sa Tagkawayan, ito ang naging simula ng bagong oportunidad.

Nagsimula si Camille sa simpleng pagtatanim ng gulay sa mga lumang bote at paso sa kanilang bakuran, na aniya'y “trial and error” lamang. Kalaunan, sinubukan din niya ang pagtatanim ng kabute at pag-aalaga ng manok at baboy, hanggang sa mapagtan-to niyang maaari itong maging kabuhayan.

Bagama't nagtapos siya ng BS Agriculture sa Southern Luzon State University noong 2024, iginiiit ni Camille na ang tunay na pagkatuto sa pagsasaka ay nagmumula sa aktwal na karanasan. Kaya naman patuloy siyang nag-aral sa pamamagitan ng mga pagsasanay at kursong pang-agrikultura, kabilang ang mga National Certification mula sa TESDA.

Isang mahalagang oportunidad ang du-

mating nang mapili siya sa Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA) ng DA-ATI CALABARZON, kung saan siya nagsanay mula Hunyo 2024 hanggang Marso 2025 sa Ouan's Worth Farm sa Lucena City. Dito niya natutunan ang tunay na kalakaran ng pagsasakang may kasa-mang pagnegosyo.

Pagbalik sa kanilang lugar sa Brgy. Payapa, itinatag ni Camille ang Payapa Mushroom House, na may layuning makapaghatid ng masustansya at organikong produkto sa komunidad. Bagama't humarap sa mga hamon sa simula, pinili niyang nagsimula sa maliit at unti-unting palaguin ang kanyang agri-negosyo.

Sa tulong ng mga programa ng DA-ATI, paggabay ng mga mentor, at suporta ng pamilya, unti-unting nahubog si Camille bilang isang agripreneur. Ang kanyang kuwento ay patunay na kahit sa gitna ng krisis, may mga pangarap na maaaring tumubo—kung may tiyaga, tapang, at paniniwala sa sinimulan. /PR

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129th Rizal Day Anniversary Commemorated in Calamba City



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Pinangunahan ng City Government of Calamba katuwang ang National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) ang paggunita sa ika-129 anibersaryo ng kabayanihan ng pambansang bayani na si Dr. Jose Rizal bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang ng Rizal Day noong Disyembre 30.

Isinagawa ang komemorasyon sa temang “Rizal: Sa Pagbangon ng mga Mamamayan: Aral at Diwa Mo ang Tunay na Gabay,” na nagbibigay-diin sa mga aral, prinsipyo, at ambag ni Rizal sa kasaysayan ng bansa na patuloy na nagsisilbing gabay sa paghubog ng isang makatarungan at maunlad na lipunan.

Ayon kay Calamba City Mayor Roseller Rizal, ang taunang pag-alala sa kamatayan ng pambansang bayani ay patunay ng patuloy na pagpapahalaga ng mga Pilipino sa ipinamalas nitong pagmamahal sa bayan—isang pagmamahal na isinasabuhay sa pamamagitan ng integridad, malasakit sa kapwa, at tapat na paglilingkod sa Inang Bayan.

Bilang simbolo ng paggalang at pakikiisa, nag-alay ng mga bulaklak sa bantayog ni Rizal ang mga kinatawan ng tanggapan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., iba't ibang ahensya ng pambansang pamahalaan, pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Laguna, lokal na pamahalaan, mga samahang sibiko, gayundin ang ilang kaanak ng pambansang bayani.

Dumalo rin sa programa si Laguna Governor Sol Aragon, na nagbigay-diin sa mahalagang papel ng mga itinuturing na makabagong bayani ng lipunan tulad ng mga guro, health workers, kawani ng pamahalaan, at iba pang sektor na patuloy na nagsisilbi para sa kapakanan ng mamamayan.

Sa pagtatapos ng programa, muling hinikayat ng pamahalaang lungsod ang bawat Pilipino na patuloy na gawing inspirasyon ang buhay at adhika-in ni Rizal upang makamit ang isang makabayan, makatarungan, at mas maunlad na Pilipinas. (CO/PIA4A, CH/PIA Laguna)



SSS...

QUEZON CITY — The Social Security System (SSS) capped off 2025 with the implementation of its Emergency Loan Program (ELP), marking a year of major reforms and expanded services that strengthened social protection for millions of Filipino workers and pensioners.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro said 2025 marked a turning point for the state-run pension fund, citing reforms that delivered improved benefits, faster services, and wider coverage for members nationwide.

“This year was a turning point for SSS. Following the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., and with the guidance of former Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto and current Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go, we fulfilled our commitment to provide better benefits and programs, faster services, and broader coverage,” De Claro said.

Among the agency's key accomplishments in 2025 was the rollout of the Pension Reform Program, which provides annual pension increases every September from 2025 to 2027. Under the program, retirement and disability pensioners receive a 10 percent increase, while survivor pensioners receive a five percent increase, benefitting an estimated 3.8 million pensioners.

Loan programs were also enhanced during the year, with the Salary Loan Program interest rate reduced to eight percent from 10 percent, benefitting more than 600,000 member-borrowers. The Calamity Loan Program interest rate was lowered to seven percent with faster activation, assisting around 630,000 borrowers. Meanwhile, the Pension Loan Program was introduced, allowing retiree pensioners to

borrow up to P300,000 and survivor pensioners up to P150,000, benefiting more than 30,000 pensioner-borrowers.

SSS also implemented the Emergency Loan Program, offering a seven percent interest rate and a six-month moratorium on loan repayment to more than 26,000 members affected by calamities.

In support of digital transformation, SSS issued the MySSS Card with dual functionality as a valid SSS ID and automatic enrollment as a disbursement account. Nearly 10,000 cards have been received by members, while close to 100,000 disbursement accounts have been enrolled.

To expand coverage, SSS rolled out the Contribution Subsidy Provider Program, led by Double Dragon Corporation, which committed P18.2 million to subsidize contributions of 2,000 informal sector workers in Iloilo City and Roxas City. The agency also accredited 25 cooperatives as Coverage and Collection Partners, extending SSS services to more than 200,000 cooperative members.

SSS further partnered with government agencies to register job order and contract of service workers not covered by GSIS, resulting in the registration of over 500,000 workers, with more than 200,000 regularly paying contributions. Nationwide Run After Contribution Evaders (RACE) operations were likewise intensified to ensure employer compliance.

Looking ahead to 2026, De Claro said the agency will continue implementing existing programs while developing new ones, strengthening member services, and expanding its footprint both locally and overseas.

The second tranche of the Pension Reform Program is set for September 2026,

From Page 1

PhilHealth Advisory 2025-0073

Clarification on PhilHealth Circular No. 2025-0020: Implementing Guidelines for the PhilHealth Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit (OECB) Package: Facility-based Emergency (Revision 1).



Clarification on PhilHealth Circular No. 2025-0020: Implementing Guidelines for the PhilHealth Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit (OECB Package): Facility-based Emergency (Revision 1)

The OECB Package, by its title, aims to provide financial protection for patients requiring emergency care. Furthermore, the operational definition of emergency care under PhilHealth Circular (PC) No. 2025-0020 is stated as follows:

“Emergency Care – addresses medical conditions requiring immediate attention to prevent death, serious harm, or deterioration. This includes emergent and urgent care.”

This advisory aims to clarify the stated coverage of the OECB Facility-based Emergency under PC No. 2025-0020 which states:

“The FBE benefit shall cover health services and commodities provided in emergency settings to PhilHealth beneficiaries in managing acute signs and symptoms requiring emergent care”

The benefit **covers emergency care** which includes **both emergent and urgent care** which is consistent with previous issuances relating to the OECB Package. Additionally, consultations for both are paid under the Essential Emergency Care List (Annex B of PC No. 2025-0020) which are listed below

Item no.	Price Category	Price Item	Fixed Fee	Charging Unit
0004	ED Consultation	Emergent ER Consultation (outpatient)	P707.00	Per use
0005	ED Consultation	Urgent ER Consultation (outpatient)	P260.00	Per use

Further inquiries may be referred to PhilHealth Action Center at (02) 8662-2588 or email at actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph or any PhilHealth Regional Offices and Local Health Insurance Offices.

For the information and guidance of all concerned.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN M. MERCADO, MD, MHA, MMSc**
President and Chief Executive Officer
Date signed: December 17, 2025



CAYETANO...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday urged the government to assure Senator Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa of his rights and due process amid reports of his impending arrest by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

“Napaka-importante kasi na may sistema tayo ng hustisya sa bansa at ang korte ang nakaka-sakop... Ang gobyerno dapat ina-assure si Senator Bato na merong proseso,” he told reporters on the sidelines of the December 2 plenary session.

Cayetano was responding to a question on what the Minority Bloc intends to do regarding the continuing absence of dela Rosa from the Senate since session resumed on November 10, 2025.

Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla had earlier announced that the ICC had issued an arrest warrant against dela Rosa in relation to his role as Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief in implementing the Duterte administration’s war on drugs.

To date, the ICC has yet to confirm reports it had issued an arrest warrant for the senator.

“Wala akong problema kung sasabihin ng gobyerno na, ‘Kapag hinuli iyan, pwede siyang pumunta ng korte.’ Kami mismo sa Minority, at least ako, hamunin ko siya. ‘Pumasok ka, responsibility mo iyan,’ the Minority Leader said.

He also called on the Senate leadership to stand up for dela Rosa

in ensuring legal protection.

“I’ll make it simple: Kung may lumabas na warrant of arrest against a senator, dapat niyang harapin iyon... But this is a different case. This is a case where the Senate itself – the leadership at kaming lahat sa minority at majority – should stand up for a senator and ask, ‘Is he getting the legal protection that every Filipino should get?’” he said.

Cayetano said this uncertainty is likely the reason dela Rosa has yet to attend the Senate session.

“Hindi siya makatapak dito (sa Senado) kasi walang guarantee na hindi siya aarestuhin at ide-deport sa The Hague na walang sayang ang Philippine courts. Ang hinihingi lang ni Senator Bato ay katiyakan na kung may warrant of arrest, makakapunta muna siya sa ating courts,” he said.

The senator also dismissed the possibility of an ethics case being filed against dela Rosa in relation to his absences.

“Napaka-illogical na mag-prosper y’ung ethics case. Kung mag-file pwede. Lahat naman ng klase na mag-file, pwede. Ang question, may ground ba? May threat siya against his liberty,” he said.

Earlier this year, former President Rodrigo Duterte was arrested by Interpol on an ICC warrant for crimes against humanity after returning from Hong Kong. Without intervention from local courts, Duterte was immediately

flown to The Hague, Netherlands.

Cayetano cited this precedent in urging the government to assure dela Rosa of a fair legal process.

“Personal kong pananaw ito, hindi pa namin pinag-uusapan sa Minority... Kasi kung sasabihin na any time pwede kang damputin at dalhin sa ibang bansa... When your life and liberty are threatened, you really think of options,” he said.

Cayetano said the question is not why dela Rosa is absent but “why there is no assurance from the government that his rights will be protected.”

As a lawyer, he stressed the need to elevate the stature of local courts more than international ones in resolving such cases.

“Baka sa kanila, ang view nila ay pwedeng dalhin sa The Hague. Abogado ako. Never ko pwedeng maging view na inutil ang Philippine courts. Wala pa akong nakikitang treaty o batas natin na pwedeng damputin ka na lang. Kahit doon sa mga treaties natin na pagka may crime dito or doon, pwede ka munang dumulog sa korte natin,” the senator said.

“That’s my personal opinion that the leadership of the Senate should protect the rights of every single Filipino,” he added. ###



DSWD...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to reinforce its commitment to empowering Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) households by widening access to education, employment, and healthcare services through strategic partnerships across the CALABARZON region.

On December 15, 2025, the regional office entered into new partnership agreements with five institutions from the education, training, and health sectors—National University (NU) Dasmariñas, University of Batangas, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc., Technovative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc.

Assistant Regional Director Mylah Gatchalian said the partnerships are aligned with the Department’s thrust to equip 4Ps beneficiaries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and health support needed to achieve self-reliance as they prepare for transition or graduation from the program.

“These collaborations strengthen our capacity to deliver more responsive and comprehensive services, particularly in education, skills development, and health, which are critical to improving the long-term outcomes of 4Ps households,” Gatchalian noted.

Through the partnership, NU Dasmariñas and the University of Batangas will extend scholarship opportunities, competency-build-ing initiatives, and com-

munity-based programs that aim to enhance the academic performance and employability of 4Ps college students.

Meanwhile, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. and Technovative Training Center, Inc. will provide enterprise-based training programs designed to link technical education with actual industry requirements, offering beneficiaries pathways toward certification and employment through partner companies.

Dualtech Training Center President Engr. Jerry Web Muhi emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration, stating that the initiative seeks to develop learners who can contribute meaningfully to their communities and to national development.

To further support the well-being of 4Ps families, San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. will deliver medical assistance and preventive healthcare services, helping reduce health-related expenses that often hinder economic progress.

Currently, DSWD Field Office IV-A maintains active partnerships with 49 external stakeholders from civil society organizations, private institutions, and higher education sectors in the region.

The Department underscored that sustained collaboration with various sectors remains essential in advancing inclusive development, ensuring that 4Ps families are not only assisted but are fully equipped to build healthier, more productive, and self-sustaining lives. (CCM/PIA4A)



McDonald’s Opens New Store in Aniban, Bacoor



McDonald’s Philippines continued its expansion in Cavite with the opening of a new store in Barangay Aniban, Bacoor City, on December 9, 2025, bringing added convenience and dining options to residents and motorists in the area.



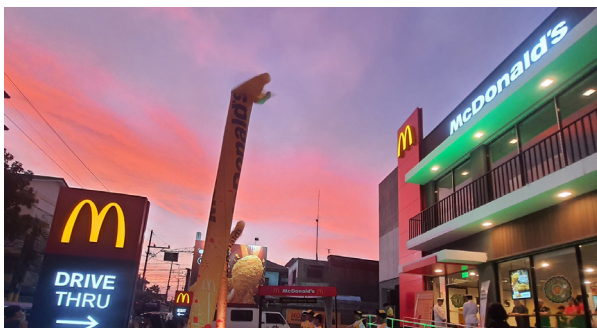
The opening of the Aniban branch underscores McDonald’s ongoing commitment to serving growing communities by providing accessible, fast, and quality food service. Strategically located along a busy stretch in Bacoor, the new store is expected to cater to nearby residents, workers, and passing commuters.



Designed with modern features focused on customer comfort and efficiency, the McDonald’s Aniban branch offers dine-in, take-out, and other service options aligned with the brand’s emphasis on convenience. The store also supports local employment, creating job opportunities for residents and contributing to economic activity in the area.



Customers welcomed the new branch during its opening day, with many taking advantage of the familiar McDonald’s menu offerings in a refreshed and contemporary setting. The Aniban store adds to the growing number of McDonald’s locations in Cavite, reflecting the province’s continued commercial growth.



With the opening of McDonald’s Aniban, the company further strengthens its presence in Bacoor City, reinforcing its role as a trusted dining destination for Filipino families and communities.