

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 Songco 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 Hospital on Wheels, the local government of Porac, and various partner organizations in mobilizing resources and volunteer support to bring essential healthcare closer to those who need it most.



Mekeni President Mr. Prudencio "Pruds" Garcia 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 mountains. 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 advocated accessible healthcare. We are deeply grateful to Mekeni Food Corporation, the local government 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 community, 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 inclusive and accessible healthcare," Capil said.



Aside from the medical, surgical, dental, and optical services, the mission also brought moments 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 medical 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 mission 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, Philippine Air Force (PAF), PAF Reservists, and Scrubbed BPO.



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For we walk by faith, not by sight

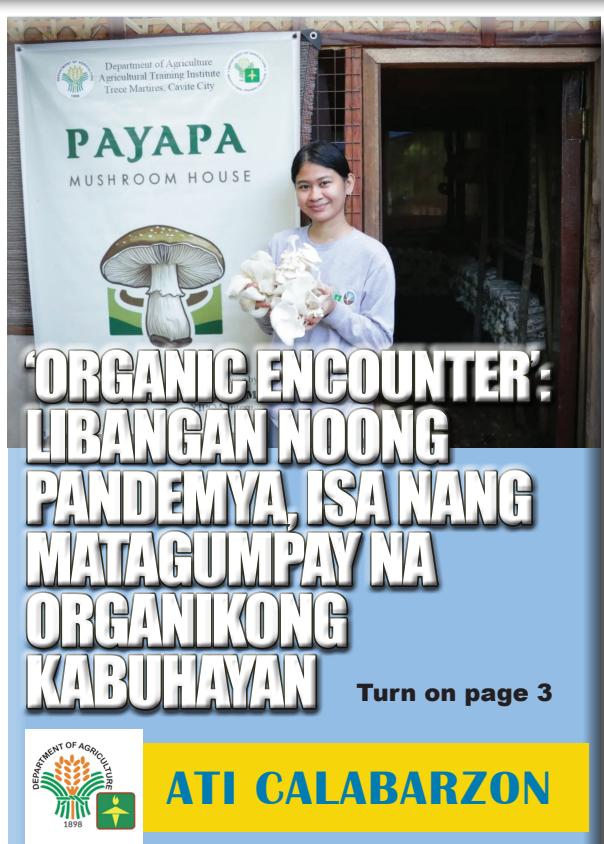
2 Corinthians 5:7

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Turn on page 3

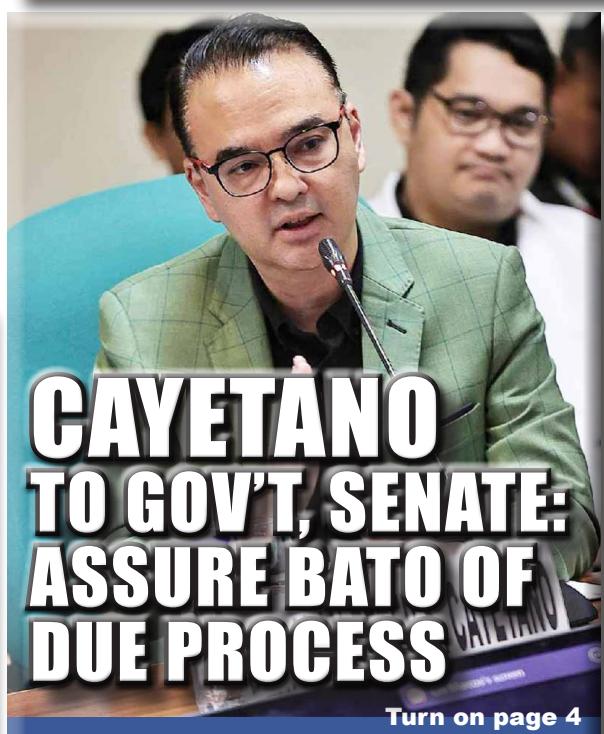
ATI CALABARZON

DENR RECOGNIZES BARANGAY DAIN 1, INDANG WITH GAWAD TAGA-ILOG UPLAND AWARD

Turn on page 2



Turn on page 3



Turn on page 4

ISSN: 3028-0044

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.



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

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.



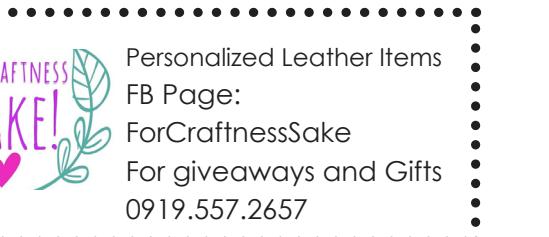
Pasay City Mayor Hon. Emi Calixto-Rubiano expresses the LGU's support for initiatives that bring employment and livelihood opportunities closer to citizens.

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



NOTICE

AFFIDAVIT OF SOLE ADJUDICATION

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 Ouari's Worth Farm sa Lucena City. Dito niya natutunang ang tunay na kalakaran ng pagsasakang may kasamang pagnenego.

Nagsimula si Camille sa simpleng pagtatanim ng gulay sa mga lumang bote at paso sa kanilang bakuran, na aniyá "trial and error" lamang. Kalaunan, sinubukan din niya ang pagtatanim ng kabute at pag-aalaga ng manok at baboy, hanggang sa mapagtanto niyang maaari itong maging kabuhayan.

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 mag-simula sa malit at anti-unting paluguan ang kanyang agri-negosyo.

Sa tulong ng mga programa ng DA-ATI, paggabay ng mga mentor, at suporta ng pamilya, anti-unting na-hubog 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 paninawala sa simulan. /PR

Isang mahalagang oportunidad ang du-



From Page 1

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, prinsipyos, 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 tanggap 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 Aragones, na nagbibigay-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 adhikain ni Rizal upang makamit ang isang makabayan, makatarungan, at mas maunlad na Pilipinas. (COPIA4A, 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 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, Meanwhile, the Pension Loan Program was introduced, allowing retiree pensioners to

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)	P70.00	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



From Page 1

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 nakasakop... 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.

"Napaka-illogical na mag-prosper yung 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

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 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 nakikitung 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.

"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

flown to The Hague, Netherlands.

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



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., Techno-creative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc.

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.

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.

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)

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

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