

## KASAL.COM HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE AHEAD OF VERMOSA WEDDING EXPO IN IMUS



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IMUS, Cavite — Wedding planning platform Kasal.com gathered media affiliates, local vloggers, and tourism stakeholders for a press conference on March 20, 2026, in preparation for its much-anticipated wedding expo set on April 11 and 12 at Vermosa.

trusted suppliers while promoting Cavite as a vibrant destination for weddings and special events.



Guests were served light snacks and appetizers prepared by partner sponsor Valeria's Catering, showcasing the culinary offerings that will also be featured during the expo.

The event was held at Sañez Farm, providing a relaxed and scenic venue for discussions on the upcoming bridal showcase, which is expected to bring together top wedding suppliers, event stylists, and industry professionals in the region.



Adding to the experience, sponsor Scentaire provided guests with sample scent giveaways, offering a glimpse into fragrance options that can enhance wedding venues and celebrations.

The press conference was hosted by Ms. Maria Thelma Ong, editor-in-chief of Kasal.com, who welcomed guests and led the program, highlighting the vision and offerings of the upcoming wedding expo.

Representatives from local media outlets and content creators attended the gathering, signaling strong support from Cavite's growing wedding and events community. Organizers shared that the expo aims to connect soon-to-wed couples with

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## WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE

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Also present during the press conference were tourism officials, including Dr. Emmanuel Paredes of the Imus Tourism Office, alongside Louis Miguel Ilustrismo of the Alfonso Tourism Office. Their participation underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in promoting local tourism and supporting events that boost economic activity in Cavite



Organizers expressed optimism that the upcoming wedding expo will not only serve as a one-stop shop for couples but also strengthen partnerships among local businesses, tourism offices, and creative professionals.

With preparations underway, Kasal.com invites the public, especially engaged couples, to attend the two-day event and explore a wide range of wedding services, exclusive deals, and expert consultations—all in one venue.



For we walk by faith, not by sight

2 Corinthians 5:7

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## WEDNESDAY CHRONICLE

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## CALABARZON PUV DRIVERS HOPEFUL FOR FUEL SUBSIDY ROLLOUT TO EASE COSTS

Some Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers in the Calabarzon region praised the expected rollout of the government's fuel subsidy which aims to help them cope with rising oil prices amid tensions in the Middle East.

felt across the world, jeepney drivers have become one of the most vulnerable sectors, as they are heavily affected by the rising cost of fuel, particularly diesel, which they rely on for their operations.

Since the effects of the crisis have been

Once the financial assistance is distributed to other regions follow-



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**FUEL CRISIS IN THE PHILIPPINES: A BURDEN THAT DEMANDS URGENT ACTION**

The continuing rise in fuel prices is hitting close to home for many residents of Cavite, where daily life depends heavily on transportation. From commuters traveling between cities like Imus, Bacoor, and Dasmariñas to workers heading to Metro Manila, the burden of expensive fuel is felt in every jeepney ride, tricycle fare, and delivery cost.

For public utility drivers across the province, the situation is becoming increasingly difficult. Jeepney and tricycle operators are forced to stretch limited earnings as fuel prices continue to climb. While fare adjustments are sometimes implemented, these often fail to keep pace with the rising cost of fuel, leaving drivers struggling to make ends meet. At the same time, commuters—many of whom are minimum wage earners—are left with fewer options as

transportation costs eat into their daily budget.

The effects extend beyond transportation. In local markets across Cavite, the price of basic goods continues to rise, driven by higher delivery and logistics costs. Small businesses, particularly carinderias and sari-sari stores, are also feeling the strain as operating expenses increase while customers become more cautious in spending.

While government fuel subsidies and assistance programs offer temporary relief, they do little to address the deeper issue. Cavite, like the rest of the country, remains dependent on imported oil—making it vulnerable to global price fluctuations that local communities cannot control.

This is where both local and national action becomes crucial. Local government units in Cavite can

strengthen support for public transport groups, promote fuel-efficient programs, and explore alternative mobility solutions such as bike-friendly infrastructure and organized transport systems. At the national level, stronger investments in renewable energy and sustainable transport are urgently needed to reduce long-term dependence on imported fuel.

The fuel crisis is no longer a distant, abstract issue—it is a daily reality for Caviteños. It affects how people travel, how businesses operate, and how families budget their already limited income.

If left unaddressed, the burden will only grow heavier. What Cavite—and the entire country—needs now is not just short-term relief, but a clear and lasting path toward energy security and affordability.

**CALABARZON...**

ing the National Capital Region (NCR), PUV drivers are expected to feel some relief, as it will help ease their financial burden.

For Julius Castor, a jeepney driver from Laguna, the financial assistance to be distributed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will help cover their daily expenses, particularly fuel costs, allowing them to continue operating.

“Malaki po, gawa ng siyempre yung kakarampot lang na kita ay napupunta na lang sa pang-krudo, tapos pag hindi naman kami naghanapbuhay at hindi nakakapamasada, wala din kaming kikitain, wala kaming kakainin, saktuhan lang po sa pambili ng pagkain, boundary pa, eh siyempre kakayod ka talaga,” Castor said.

Although the said financial assistance will be rolled out in other regions in April 2026, the P5,000 fuel subsidy under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) of the DSWD is expected to ease the burden on PUV drivers—but it also leaves many wondering, what happens once the aid runs out?

“Makakatulong din naman kahit papaano,

dahil para rin iyon sa pambili ng krudo. Pero sa tingin ko, hindi rin ito magtatagal dahil mahal pa rin ang presyo ng krudo. Mas mabuti sana kung pagkatapos ibigay ang tulong, bababa agad ang presyo kahit ilang araw lang. Gayunpaman, makakatulong pa rin ito, lalo na sa iba pang gastusin sa bahay tulad ng pagkain.”

Despite the anticipated government assistance, PUV drivers acknowledge that rising petroleum prices remain inevitable due to ongoing international crises. Still, they express hope that measures will be implemented to help lessen the direct impact on their livelihood.

Roberto Macapagal, a tricycle driver from Calamba, Laguna, said that they are fully aware of the ongoing crisis and recognize themselves as among the most affected sectors.

“Talagang aray po kami sa hina na nga rin po ng pamamasada namin wala na rin po kaming maisakay minsan, lalo na ngayon na tumaas talaga ang gasolina hindi naman po kami makapagtaas ng presyo gawa ng meron din po kaming taripa, yun po ang iniisip namin kaya po kami ngayon ay talagang tiyaga din po talaga para po at least meron din po kaming pangtu-

stos sa aming pamilya,” Macapagal stated.

Amid the challenges posed by the ongoing crisis and rising fuel costs, he expressed appreciation for the government’s move to provide financial assistance, noting that it still offers some relief to drivers struggling with daily expenses.

“Sa ipagkakaloob po ng Malacañang na ibibigay sa amin, malaking tulong na rin po ‘yun; ‘yun po ang magiging karagdanan na rin po para masapatan yung pang-araw-araw namin na minsan wala kaming kita, at least merong dumating sa amin na subsidy na gano’n, malaki din ang pasasalamat namin na mangyari yung gano’n kapag ganayan na may krisis.”

With ongoing tensions in the Middle East, sectors like theirs are among the hardest hit, but the government has assured that aid will be provided to ease the impact.

In line with this, prices of basic commodities such as canned meat and sardines are being closely monitored, with manufacturers guaranteeing adequate supply despite global uncertainties. (COP/PIA-CALABARZON)

From Page 1

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE

BDO UNIBANK, INC.,  
Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-2058-26  
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORE  
CLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE  
MORTGAGE UNDER ACT  
3135, AS AMENDED BY  
ACT 4118

-versus-  
ALEXANDRA KIM O. ABANTO,  
Debtor/Mortgagor,  
x - - - - - x

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee **BDO UNIBANK, INC.** with postal address at 33rd Floor BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the debtor/mortgagor **ALEXANDRA KIM O. ABANTO** with postal addresses at (1) C2 10Q Suntrust Treetop Villas, Coronado Street, Brgy. Hulo, Mandaluyong City; (2) Block 5 Lot 10, Phase 1, Camella Dasma at the Islands, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of **FEBRUARY 06, 2026 amounts to ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINETY ONE PESOS & 85/100 (Php1,496,291.85)**, exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned sheriff will sell at public auction on **APRIL 22, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Lobby of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Groundfloor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for **CASH** or **CERTIFIED CHECK**, in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title  
No. 057-2021017294

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BARANGAY OF SALAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, bounded and described as follows:

**LOT NO: 10 BLOCK NO: 5 PLAN NO: PCS-04-027967 PORTION OF: THE CONS. OF LOT 6349-EE, (IDEN. TO LOT 6991) & LOT 6992 FLS-2006 (IMUS ESTATE); LRC RECORD NO. 8843**

**LOCATION: BRGY. OF SALAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE (Continued on next page)**

is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration decree in the name of

**Owner: ALEXANDRA KIM ORTEGA ABANTO, SINGLE, OF LEGAL AGE,**

**Address: BLK. 1C L5 PAMPLONA ST., CAMELLA LESSA MOLINO 1, BACOR CAVITE**

**TCT No.:** 057-2021017294  
**Page No.:** 2

**TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (Continued from page 1)**  
OF CAVITE

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	NW	ROAD LOT 4, PCS-04-027967
2-3	NE	LOT 9, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-027967
3-4	SE	LOT 24, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-027967
4-5		LOT 23, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-027967
5-1	SW	LOT 11, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-027967

**TIE POINT: MON. NO. 162, IMUS ESTATE**

LINE BEARING DISTANCE

TO CORNER 1	S. 13° 46' W	2302.18 M.
1-2	N. 20° 58' E	6.00 M.
2-3	S. 69° 02' E	9.00 M.
3-4	S. 20° 58' W	0.95 M.
4-5	S. 20° 58' W	5.05 M.
5-1	N. 69° 02' W	9.00 M.

**AREA: FIFTY FOUR (54) SQ. M.**

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **MAY 6, 2026**, at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Cavite, March 9, 2026.

(SGD)ARLYN P. BARCELON  
Sheriff IV

(SGD)ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

**PUBLICATION: Wednesday Chronicle**  
**DATES: Mar. 11, 18 & 25, 2026**  
Raffle Date of Judicial Notice: March 2, 2026

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(1) C2 10Q Suntrust Treetop Villas, Coronado Street, Brgy. Hulo, Mandaluyong City;  
(2) Block 5 Lot 10, Phase 1, Camella Dasma at the Islands, Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Notice posted at:  
1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite  
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall  
3. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office  
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

**NOTICE**

**AFFIDAVIT OF SELF-ADJUDICATION WITH DEED OF DONATION**

Notice is hereby given that **ROSARIO A. ALJIBE**, of legal age, Filipino, and a resident of Cavite, being the sole and exclusive heir of the late **MA. ROSANNA A. ALJIBE**, who died intestate in Bacoor, Cavite on June 22, 2025, without leaving any will and without any outstanding debts, has executed an Affidavit of Self-Adjudication with Deed of Donation pursuant to Section 1, Rule 74 of the Rules of Court, whereby the entire estate of the deceased, with TCT No. 057-2011007442, consisting of a parcel of land (Lot 18, Blk. 1 of the cons. subd. plan, PCS-04-017711, being a portion of the cons. of lot 1-A and 1-C, PSD-04-021774, and Lot 2, (LRC) PSD-290468, L.R.C. Rec. No. ) Situated in the Brgy. Habay, Mun. of Bacoor, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon, has been adjudicated unto herself. That thereafter, the said sole heir, **ROSARIO A. ALJIBE**, has voluntarily agreed to donate the above-described property in favor of **Spouses ANTONIO L. ALDAY and ROSEMARIE A. ALDAY**, both of legal age, Filipinos, and residents of Bacoor, Cavite, under the terms and conditions set forth in the Deed of Donation. That said instrument was duly notarized on **SEPTEMBER 12, 2025**, AT IMUS CITY, CAVITE before Notary Public **ATTY. CRISANTO U. PASCUAL JR.** PTR No. 2482746, under Doc No. 219, Page No. 44, Book No. II, Series of 2025.

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**40 BAGONG SILANG RESIDENTS JOIN LIVELIHOOD SKILLS TRAINING**



**IMUS CITY, Cavite** — Forty residents of Barangay Bagong Silang participated in a Livelihood Skills Training conducted by the Office of the City Cooperatives Development Officer (OCCDO) on Thursday, March 12.

The training aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge in meat processing as a potential source of livelihood.



During the session, resource speaker Maria Charissa Geronimo discussed the basic processes and techniques in making tapa and longganisa, including the proper ingredients and preparation methods to produce quality products.

Participants were also guided on proper food preparation practices to help ensure product quality and safety.

According to the OCCDO, the training seeks to help participants start small income-generating activities and provide additional livelihood opportunities for their families and communities.

The activity also aimed to expand the participants’ knowledge in meat processing as part of the city government’s continuing efforts to support community-based livelihood initiatives.



ALL SET FOR ASIAN TRACK CYCLING CHAMPIONSHIPS IN CAVITE



MANILA – All is set for the 45th Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track Cycling Championships and 14th Asian Para Track Cycling Championships which will kick off on March 25 at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome in Cavite.

ACC president Dato' Amarjit Singh Gill and Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) chairperson John Patrick Gregorio lead a list of distinguished sports officials for the opening ceremony.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Abaham Tolentino will join Gill and Gregorio in opening the tournaments to be held in the country for the first time since the 1995 edition of the annual event at the brand-new Tagaytay CT Velodrome, a UCI-standard 250-meter indoor track facility.

"This is the biggest international track cycling event that Tagaytay City, and the country for that matter, is hosting in three decades," said Tolentino in a news release Monday.

"In terms of participation, we also have one of the biggest in ACC track championships history," added the president of PhilCycling, the national sports association of cycling.

The opening ceremony is set at 9 a.m. and the first event starts at 10 a.m. among the more than 600 athletes from 16 Asian countries competing in track and para track.

Mayor Brent Tolentino of host Tagaytay City is supporting the championships along with the PSC, MVP Sports Foundation, Sports Plus PH, Toyota and Peak.

The Asian championships offer 44 gold medals, while 30 golds are staked in the para track competitions that will be held simultaneously until March 31.

Competitions in the ACC championships will be in individual and team pursuit, sprint, keirin, elimination race, omnium, points race, scratch race, Madison and 1-kilometer for both men and women categories.

The events in the para track cycling competitions are the individual pursuit, 1,000 meters time trial, sprint, elimination, scratch race and mixed team and tandem sprints.

Participating countries are Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong-China, Indonesia, India, Japan, Kazakhstan, Macao-China, Malaysia, China, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and host Philippines. (PNA)

TAGAYTAY CITY CALLS FOR BLOOD DONORS IN LIFE-SAVING DRIVE



TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite — A bloodletting activity will be held on March 27, 2026, at Summit Ridge Hotel, calling on residents and visitors to donate blood and help save lives.

Organizers stressed that even a single donation can make a life-saving difference for patients in need. "May buhay na nakasalalay sa isang pak-tak ng dugo—maaring ikaw ang sagot," they said.

The initiative aims to boost the local blood supply and encourage more individuals to become voluntary donors, promoting a simple yet meaningful way to serve the community.

PHILHEALTH...

CALABARZON, Philippines — In a significant move toward inclusive healthcare, the PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A (PRO IV-A) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) CALABARZON formally entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to strengthen healthcare services for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) across the region.

The agreement, signed under the leadership of Acting Regional Vice President Dr. Edwin M. Oriña of PhilHealth PRO IV-A and Regional Director JCSUPT Isabelo V. Cartin Jr. of BJMP CALABARZON, aims to ensure the efficient reimbursement of tuberculosis treatment services under the TB-DOTS benefit program.

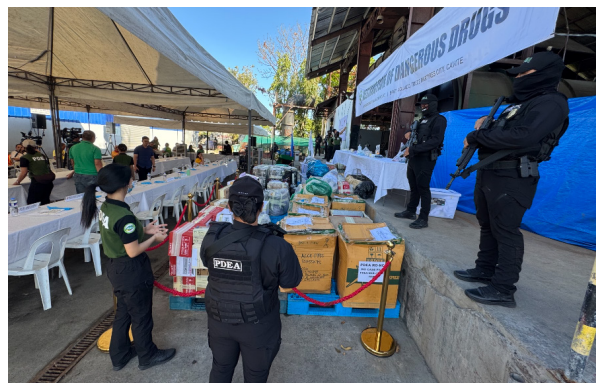
Officials highlighted that the partnership underscores a shared commitment to improving access to quality healthcare within jail facilities, particu-

larly in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis—a persistent health concern among PDL populations.

During the signing ceremony, Dr. Oriña presented key initiatives of PhilHealth, including the PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP). The program is designed to enhance the overall health and well-being of PDLs in Region IV-A by expanding benefit coverage, streamlining administrative processes, and improving service delivery.

The collaboration marks a concrete step toward the realization of the country's Universal Health Care agenda, reinforcing the principle of equitable access to essential health services. Through strengthened coordination between PhilHealth and BJMP CALABARZON, the initiative seeks to ensure that even the most vulnerable sectors of society are not left behind.

PDEA DESTROYS P4.56B WORTH OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN CAVITE



MANILA – Authorities on Tuesday destroyed around PHP4.56 billion worth of dangerous drugs and controlled precursors and essential chemicals (CPECs) at a waste management facility in Trece Martires City, Cavite.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), which led the operation, said the haul included 1,136,521 kilograms of solid illegal drugs and 657,130 milliliters of liquid substances. The seized narcotics were disposed of through thermal decomposition, or thermolysis.

The destroyed substances consisted of 555,2393 kg of shabu, 442,9399 kg of marijuana, 1,6651 kg of ecstasy, 117,3860 kg of cocaine, 15,8149 kg of ephedrine, and 0,5070 kg of ketamine.

Also among those incinerated were over 43,000 grams of marijuana (kush) and more than 102,000 grams of cocaine recovered along the shorelines of coastal areas in Palawan between late 2025 and early 2026.

PDEA said the drugs were seized in various anti-drug operations or turned over following court orders for destruction after the successful prosecution and resolution of the cases where they were presented as evidence.

Under strict security protocols, the confiscated drugs were placed inside a high-capacity incinerator and are expected to be completely destroyed beyond recovery within 24 hours.

The destruction was witnessed by Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla, Dangerous Drugs Board Chairperson Oscar Valenzuela, and representatives from other law enforcement agencies.

"To ay mensahe sa lahat na sumusunod sa proseso ang gobyerno na, kung may nakuha [na droga], kakasuhan, ilalagay sa korte at, kung ibibigay na sa destruction, gagawin namin (This is a message to all that the government is following the process that, if we intercept drugs, we will file the complaints, bring them to the courts and, if they're ordered to be destroyed, we will destroy them)," Remulla told reporters on the sidelines of the event.

Remulla said there is no "war on drugs" in the Marcos administration but a coordinated "campaign" that prioritizes legal processes and inter-agency collaboration.

"Ayokong gamitin ang salitang war on drugs kasi ang war on drugs is may casualty (I don't want to use the phrase 'war on drugs' because in war there is casualty). This is a campaign against illegal drugs," he said.

"This is the product of hard work, this is the product of collaboration. Trust the process. Trust your local officials. We will do our best for the country," he added.

For his part, PDEA Director General Undersecretary Isagani Nerez said the agency remains relentless not only in seizing illegal drugs "but also in ensuring that once they are taken off the streets, they are permanently destroyed."

He added the quarterly destruction of seized drugs is conducted in full public view to eliminate any risk of recycling and to uphold public trust. (PNA)

DSWD...

MANILA – More vulnerable families and individuals in street situations (FISS) will be protected from hazardous and untoward incidents as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is set to open a new Pag-abot Program processing center in Bacoor City, Cavite.

"As part of the efforts to reach out to more families and individuals who live on the streets, the DSWD, through its Field Office (FO) 4-A (Calabarzon), recently signed a Deed of Usufruct Agreement with the City Government of Bacoor to set up a new processing center in the locality," DSWD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlaog said in a news release on Tuesday.

The partnership was formally signed by DSWD 4-A Assistant Director for Administration Alkent Bacolod and Bacoor City Mayor Strike Revilla at the S.T.R.I.K.E. Gymnasium on March 9.

The Deed of Usufruct grants the DSWD the temporary rights to establish a Pag-abot Regional Processing Center in Barangay Poblacion (formerly Barangay Camposanto).

"Considering Calabarzon's proximity to Metro Manila, the establishment of the new Pag-abot process-

ing center will enable the DSWD to provide various immediate interventions, using a rights-based approach, to reach out to people living and staying on the streets in the Southern Tagalog region, one of the highly urbanized areas in the country," Dumlaog said.

Started by the DSWD in 2023, the Pag-abot Program was institutionalized in January 2024 through Executive Order 52, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The program provides a wide array of comprehensive interventions, as well as opportunities, to improve the social and economic status and fundamental rights of FISS.

These interventions include medical assistance, food aid, transportation and relocation assistance, livelihood opportunities, transitory family support packages, and emergency financial and transitory shelter assistance, among others.

To connect with the program or refer someone in need, interested parties can reach the DSWD Pag-abot Program via their Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/DSWD-Pagabot/, email them at pagabotcms@dswd.gov.ph, or call their hotline at 8-931-9141. (PNA)

ADVERTISING RATES table with columns for Commercial (P200/col.cm), Legal/Notices (P160/co.cm), Heading (10), Body Text (8), and Space (Single space).

From Page 1

28 MSMEs JOIN WOMEN'S TRADE FAIR AT SM CENTER IMUS



IMUS, Cavite — A total of 28 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) participated in the Women's Trade Fair held at SM Center Imus from March 16 to 22, 2026, as part of the city's celebration of Women's Month.

The week-long event was spearheaded by the Office of the City Cooperatives Development Officer (OCCDO), showcasing a diverse range of products made and managed by women entrepreneurs from Imus.

Featured in the trade fair were locally produced goods, highlighting the creativity, skill, and resilience of women-led businesses in the city. The initiative provided participants with an opportunity to promote their products, connect with customers, and expand their market reach.

Several city officials and councilors from the City Government of Imus also showed their support by visiting the booths and engaging with the exhibitors throughout the event.

According to OCCDO, the primary goal of the trade fair is to empower women entrepreneurs by providing a platform where they can showcase their products and strengthen their presence in the local market.

The Women's Trade Fair underscores the city's commitment to supporting inclusive economic growth and recognizing the vital role of women in driving local enterprise and community development.

EASYTRIP RFID STATIONS ALONG CALAX map showing various stations like Mampalanan Toll Plaza, Laguna Boulevard Int., and Santa Rosa - Tagaytay Int.

CAYETANO...

From Page 1

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday welcomed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s directive to create a government crisis committee amid tensions in the Middle East, saying the move aligns with earlier calls from the Senate to strengthen the country's preparedness for major disruptions.

Earlier this month, the chamber adopted Senate Resolution No. 343, introduced by Cayetano, urging the Executive Branch to establish a National Contingency Framework and develop a comprehensive plan to guide the country's response to large-scale crises.

The resolution pushed for urgent action, highlighting how global conflicts, particularly those affecting oil supply, can quickly translate into higher fuel prices, transport costs, and overall inflation in the Philippines.

With the need for a more coordinated approach becoming increasingly evident, senators subsequently adopted Senate Resolution No. 350, co-authored by Cayetano along with Senate President Vicente Sotto III and Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri, proposing the creation of a Senate-led ad hoc committee to help advance the development of the national contingency plan.

The proposed body, to be known as the Proactive Response and Oversight for Timely and Effective Crisis sTrategy (PROTECT), will be led by the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance and composed of the chairpersons of all standing committees of the Senate, and tasked

to bring together inputs from various sectors while ensuring coordination across government.

The initiative is intended to complement efforts from the Executive Branch by taking an active role in the development of the national contingency plan, oversight, and ensuring that the framework moves forward in a coordinated and timely manner.

Cayetano emphasized that while government agencies often implement individual measures during crises, the absence of a single guiding framework can lead to gaps in coordination and timing.

"Nasusubukan ang ating pundasyon 'pag merong kalamidad o sakuna... I don't think there's a problem that we expect the worst or prepare for the worst. Kung hindi, nandiyan y'ung contingency plan [to implement]," he said.

The creation of a Senate-led body is expected to help align national agencies, local governments, and the private sector, while ensuring that preparations for potential disruptions do not lose direction over time.

With Malacañang now moving to establish its own crisis committee, Cayetano said the effort reinforces the need to build stronger and more coordinated foundations across institutions so the country is better prepared when crises arise.

"Ang pundasyon ng isang bansa, ng isang bayan, ng isang senado, ng isang pamilya o ang pundasyon ng mga Pilipino ay napakahalaga," he said. ###

## Beyond Barriers: How CARD Bank ensures financial accessibility for deaf clients



CARD MRI Senior Adviser Dr. Dolores M. Torres (1st row, 2nd from right) with CARD Bank staff and deaf clients (front rows), using hand language sign "CARD Bank" at Barleta Branch, Laguna.

In a banking environment where spoken communication is central to daily transactions, CARD Bank, Inc., a microfinance-oriented rural bank, is redefining accessibility by creating spaces and initiatives that allow persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly deaf clients, to access financial services with convenience and dignity.

Inclusive communication Guided by national policies such as Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, CARD Bank has made its deposit account opening and customer verification processes more inclusive. The goal is simple: make every client feel welcome from the very first step.

Across its branches, accessibility ramps and priority lanes help make physical access easier. Clear welcome signage at entrances and in Customer Service Sections lets Deaf clients know that fair accommodation is available and accessible to all.

To support smoother communication, branches provide Filipino Sign Language (FSL) booklets, easy-to-read product guides, and instructional videos with FSL insets. The staff, including guards, customer service representatives, and cashiers, are required to keep a pen and paper on hand at all times to facilitate immediate written communication.

They are also trained to guide clients through forms and requirements while adhering to the Know-Your-Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) rules. Clients must still submit standard documents such as valid IDs and profile forms, and once their application is approved, they may open a deposit account with an initial deposit of PHP 200. In this process, accessibility goes hand in hand with compliance.

Financial inclusion across barriers Inclusion at CARD Bank extends beyond physical modifications and documentation processes. It begins with a transformation in mindset.

On June 15, 2024, the bank held a whole-day Deaf Awareness Seminar at the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) in Bay, Laguna. Sixty staff and faculty members joined the session, led by Inclusion Consultant Bayani Generoso Jr. and six Deaf teachers.

Participants learned about Deaf culture, the basics of Filipino Sign Language, and the role of hearing

individuals in advancing inclusion. Sessions covered visual-gestural communication, FSL guidelines, and practical ways to make financial services more accessible.

Through interactive activities such as practicing facial expressions, learning basic FSL signs, and joining open discussions, staff gain a deeper understanding of the Deaf community's everyday experiences.

Feedback from the seminar reflected a renewed staff commitment to practicing inclusive communication. It reminded everyone that real financial inclusion means removing not only physical barriers, but also communication gaps and outdated mindsets.

Bukas, Para sa Lahat

As part of its social responsibility efforts, CARD Bank continues to work with underserved communities to improve lives through financial services, livelihood support, and capacity-building programs.

Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI, emphasized this effort as part of promoting financial inclusion by removing barriers for persons with disabilities (PWDs). "Our mission has always been clear. Financial services should reach those who are often left behind. Financial inclusion is not just about opening accounts; it is about opening opportunities," he said. Meanwhile, CARD Bank, Inc. President Marivic Austria reaffirmed this commitment, stating, "When we remove barriers for persons with disabilities and other underserved sectors, we affirm their dignity and strengthen our communities." She added, "Inclusion is not an option; it is our responsibility."

Account opening services for Deaf clients are now implemented across CARD Bank branches in several provinces, including La Union, Pangasinan, Benguet, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Quezon, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Tarlac, Batangas, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Iloilo, Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar, Marinduque, Bohol, Antique, Capiz, Masbate, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Cotabato, as well as in Metro Manila. Alongside these services, the bank continues to introduce and promote deaf-friendly and inclusive measures to further improve banking accessibility. As of January 2026, CARD Bank serves 367 Deaf clients with active accounts.

By reaching out to the nearly 10% of the population living with disabilities, many of whom remain underserved by traditional institutions, CARD Bank, Inc. strengthens its ongoing commitment to inclusion.

Through accessible spaces, informed training, and active community engagement, CARD Bank shows that financial empowerment should not depend on one's physical barrier. It is a shared right, open to all.



Bukas, para sa lahat.

## SILANG...

SILANG, Cavite — Local tricycle drivers in the Municipality of Silang, Cavite, will receive financial relief as the local government rolls out its fuel subsidy program to combat rising oil prices amid global tensions.

Although details on the fuel subsidy distribution will be posted in the coming days, local Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators are already expressing their gratitude for the assistance that the local government will provide.

Joel Diosina of the OBH Bayani Drivers and Operators Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DOMPC) thanked the municipal government for the subsidy. "It's a relief, especially with the rising cost of fuel. We're grateful for the support from the local government," he said.

"Maraming salamat po kay Mayor Ted Carranza para sa fuel subsidy. Muli, nagpapasalamat po ang buong members ng OBH Bayani DOMPC." Mayor Ted Carranza announced on March 17 that the Municipal Government will distribute P1,500 fuel subsidy for 5,000 registered tricycle drivers to help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs triggered by ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. Carranza clarified that the subsidy will be exclusive to tricycle drivers with franchise plying routes within the Silang municipality.

## Think Talk Forum 2026 Promotes Safe and Responsible Use of AI Among Imus Students



IMUS, Cavite — More than 400 Grade 5 and Grade 6 students participated in the Think Talk Forum 2026 held on March 17 at the City of Imus Children and Youth Development Center located within Imus Pilot Elementary School.

Organized by the Local Youth Development Office (LYDO), the forum aimed to raise awareness on the safe and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly among young learners navigating digital platforms.

Serving as resource speaker, Project Development Officer II Nicaïella Jones S. Ringor of the National Coordination Against Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children – Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials Secretariat led discussions on the "Safe and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence." The session emphasized the importance of digital responsibility, critical thinking, and online safety in an increasingly technology-driven environment.

Also present as guest of honor was Yen Saquilayan, chairperson of the Committee on Women and Family Welfare, who expressed strong support for initiatives that promote the ethical and humane use of technology among the youth.

According to LYDO, the activity forms part of its ongoing efforts to empower young individuals with the knowledge and awareness needed to responsibly engage with emerging technologies. By equipping students with proper guidance, the office hopes to foster a safer digital environment and encourage mindful use of AI tools.

The Think Talk Forum 2026 underscores the importance of early education in digital literacy, reinforcing the role of schools and local government in shaping responsible digital citizens.

## STUDENTS' HAVEN MARKS 17TH ANNIVERSARY WITH MASS, MUSIC, AND SPORTSFEST IN KAWIT



KAWIT, Cavite — Students' Haven Tutorial and Learning Center celebrated its 17th anniversary on March 23, 2026, with a day-long program filled with thanksgiving, student performances, and friendly competition among learners.

The celebration began with a morning Mass, bringing together students, teachers, and parents in gratitude for the institution's continued commitment to academic excellence and holistic development.



Following the Mass, students showcased their musical talents through melodica performances, highlighting not only their skills but also the center's support for creative expression alongside academics.



The program then shifted to one of the most anticipated segments of the celebration—the sportsfest. Upper elementary students competed in kickball and volleyball, grouped into two teams: Blue and Yellow. The kickball match saw the Blue Team, composed of Grade 4 and Grade 5 students, emerge victorious after a spirited game. Meanwhile, the Yellow Team, made up of Grade 5 and Grade 6 students, claimed victory in the volleyball competition.

For the lower elementary students, relay games brought equal excitement, encouraging teamwork

and participation among the younger learners.



An awarding ceremony followed the sports activities, recognizing the efforts and achievements of students, as well as the support of teachers and parents who continue to play a vital role in the center's success.



The celebration concluded with a potluck gathering, where families, students, and faculty shared meals and strengthened their sense of community—an enduring hallmark of Students' Haven.

Now on its 17th year, Students' Haven Tutorial and Learning Center continues to serve as a nurturing environment for young learners in Kawit, fostering both academic growth and character development.