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Lumban mayor calls on youth to preserve hand-embroidery tradition amid modern printing technology

LUMBAN, Laguna (PIA) — The municipal local government unit of Lumban in Laguna called on the town's younger generation to help carry forward their rich hand-embroidery tradition while using
(Turn to p.2)



PBBM cites robotics in increasing worker productivity, expanding supply chain

BIÑAN CITY, Laguna (PIA) — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. highlighted the role of robotics, innovation, and advanced technology in improving workers' productivity and strengthening the country's supply chain in the automotive industry during his visit at the Nuvali Steel Process-

ing Center in Biñan City, Laguna on Saturday, September 26.

The Chief Executive emphasized that the adoption of modern technologies from the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) will not replace the workers but

rather enable them to perform tasks more efficiently, improve precision and production quality, and increase overall output, helping local enterprises meet the growing demands of the automotive sector not just in the country but also globally.

"Hindi na tayo kailangang mag-import ng kung ano-anong



piyesa. Karamihan na ng piyesa na ginaga-

wa na motorsiklo, dito na nanggagaling. And therefore, the value-added stays here. The supply chain is in the Philippines. The supply chain is also being encouraged here in the Philippines," Marcos said.

He added that companies supported through government technology programs not only contribute products to one part of the supply chain but also help stimulate the growth of other players within the industry.

The President like-

wise linked a stronger domestic supply chain with increased production and employment opportunities.

"Pagka matibay ang supply chain, mas malaki ang production, mas maraming trabaho, mas marami tayong magiging produkto na puwedeng gamitin, again, for assembly of various kinds of machines," he added.

He also expressed appreciation for the actual application of advanced robotics in the manufacturing facility, saying the technology demonstrates how automation can be directly used to produce components needed by industries.

"It is fascinating that the technology is already here, and it is fascinating to see state-of-the-art robot-

(Turn to p.2)

DOH urges tighter disease prevention amid leptospirosis, dengue surge in CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)— The Department of Health (DOH) is pushing for tighter disease prevention and response measures following a spike in water-borne, food-borne, and influenza-like diseases across the CALABARZON region.

Dr. Eva Marie Torio



of DOH Center for in CALABARZON, Health Development in a meeting with the

Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) last September 23, warned that the wet condition during rainy seasons facilitate the widespread transmission of diseases such as leptospirosis, influenza, and dengue.

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ics that are actually in an industrial setting. Nakikita natin 'yung mga robot sa mga display-display lang. Ito 'yung talagang kung saan nila ginagamit na para gumawa ng piyesa," the President said.

For DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr., the experience of Nuvali Steel also challenges the common perception that automation necessarily results in fewer workers.

Solidum said the company's workforce increased from 71 employees to 241 employees over the years as its production capacity, product quality, customer base, and volume of materials handled expanded.

"Simply because with the more production, the more quality production, the more customers, the more the volume of materials, the specific customer

would cater. So you can add more people, some of the robotic processes that they do, it's not standard-own robotics, but they need people to intervene in the process," Solidum said.

The DOST chief then explained that increased production and improved quality enabled the company to serve more customers and handle larger volumes of materials, creating a need for additional workers.

The President's affirmed support to strengthen local manufacturing, encourage technology adoption, and build a more integrated domestic supply chain is seen to increase production, employment, and positioning of the country in the global automotive industry. (AM/PIA CALABARZON)

PBBM remains focused on addressing present challenges



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s administration is focused on addressing the country's immediate challenges rather than on the 2028 elections, Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary and Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Monday.

Castro made the remarks when asked

about reports that the administration is considering a political tandem for the 2028 presidential election.

The Palace Press Officer said no details were given to her about the tandem because the President's focus, first and foremost, is addressing the problems posed by the upcoming Super El Niño phenomenon and

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digital technology and creativity to bring 'Burdang Lumban' to new audiences and markets.

In her message during the celebration of the 25th Burdang Lumban Festival and 448th founding anniversary of the town, Mayor Belen Raga said the youth represent the next chapter of the town's embroidery heritage and do not necessarily have to replicate the work of previous generations.

"Maaaring ang inyong generation ay digital na, creative na at mas marami nang machine for embroidery, mas connected sa mundo, at yon ay hindi kailangan maging banta sa ating tradisyon; higit na mahalaga pa rin na ipagpatuloy natin ang pagbuburda sa pagkakataong ito," Raga stated.

Known as the "Embroidery Capital of the Philippines," Lumban has long been recognized for its intricate hand-embroidered garments, particularly the traditional Barong Tagalog, Filipiniana dresses, gowns, and other formal wear.

The craft has been passed down through generations of local artisans and remains an important part of the municipality's cultural identity and livelihood.

the crisis in the Middle East.

"Marami pang dapat tugunan, pati itong mga isyu tungkol sa krisis sa Middle East. So, sa ngayon ay hindi politika o pamumultika ang iniisip ng administrasyon," Castro said.

As technology transforms the way garments and designs are produced, Raga said the challenge for the youth is to find ways to innovate without losing the skill and cultural story behind every stitch, ensuring that Lumban's identity remains alive and relevant in the modern era.

"Gamitin natin ang technology upang mas makilala ang Burdang Lumban. Gamitin natin ang creativity upang magkaroon ng bagong design, gamitin natin ang entrepreneurship para magkaroon ng bagong market, nguni't 'wag natin kalimutan ang ating tradisyon na pagbuburda," Raga said.

The Lumban mayor urges townspeople to utilize social media and show the living potential that Lumbenos carry, as she believes that preserving local traditions doesn't mean keeping it frozen in time, but rather keeping it alive while allowing it to grow.

With digital technology opening new possibilities for design, promotion, and commerce, Raga said the challenge is not to choose between tradition and innovation but to use innovation to help ensure that the tradition survives. (AM/PIA CALABARZON)

Castro also commented on the Petition for Certiorari and Prohibition with Prayer for Issuance of Status Quo Ante Order and TRO and Writ of Preliminary Injunction against the postponement of the Barangay

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"All of these diseases usually re-emerge and have an increasing number of cases after the typhoon season... Our recommendation is to strengthen the cholera prevention response efforts in the affected communities, particularly in Cavite and Laguna by promoting safe drinking water, sanitation, and good hygiene practices."

Torio also raised particular concern over the increasing number of leptospirosis cases, which has reached 925 cases-up by 17 percent from 792 cases in 2025.

"Even if media coverage are focused in NCR, here in CALABARZON there is a significant 17 percent increase in the total number of leptospirosis cases including 55 deaths, and we still have a lot of expected

typhoons."

In its data, the DOH CALABARZON cited flood-related exposure as the leading cause of leptospirosis infection which composes 72 percent or 666 reported cases in the region.

In addition to leptospirosis, the region is also seeing a rise in dengue cases with 5,404 confirmed cases and cholera with five (5) cases.

With the El Niño phenomenon causing longer dry periods and above normal rainfall likely to be expected in December, the health department's Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases (EREID) program has also launched a series of planning workshops as part of its preparations for the monsoon season later in the year. (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

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516 Residents Benefit from Health Mission in GMA

Recently, the Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted a Medical and Dental Mission in Brgy. Gavino Maderan, General Mariano Alvarez.

The outreach activity provided essential health services to 516 residents, including medical and dental consultations, ECG, and FBS testing. The mission was made possible through the support of medical teams from GEAMH and CARSIGMA District Hospital, together with Barangay Health Workers.



15 students oriented for deployment to McDonald's branches in Cavite

On September 22, a total of 15 students participated in the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) Orientation at McDonald's Buhay na Tubig, City of Imus branch, and were prepared for deployment to various McDonald's branches across the province of Cavite.

The orientation provided the students with important information and guidelines as they prepared to begin their deployment. The session was facilitated by Ms. Anina Bayot, from McDonald's, together with Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, Department Head of OPG-OPPEM. Also present during the orientation was Bacoor PESO Manager, Dr. Abraham D. De Castro, who joined the activity in support of the students and the program.

The activity aims to help equip the students with the necessary knowledge and expectations as they take their first steps toward gaining valuable workplace experience.--- OPIO

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and Sangguniang Kabataan election, which were filed at the Supreme Court.

The Office of the President has not yet received a copy, she said, noting it would

respond to whatever Supreme Court orders and the state will be represented by the Office of the Solicitor General. | PND



Cavite celebrates migrant workers, strengthens families on Migrants Day 2026

Behind every successful migrant worker is a family whose sacrifices, resilience, and unwavering support make every journey worthwhile. In recognition of these modern-day heroes, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), held the Migrants Day Celebration 2026 on September 7 at the 2nd Floor Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City, carrying the theme "Empowered Migrant Workers, Stronger Families."

The celebration gathered migrant workers and their families, partner agencies, and local stakeholders for a day of recognition, learning, entertainment, and access to government services aimed at promoting their welfare and protection.

The program opened with welcome remarks from OPSWDO Head, Ms. Felipa G. Servañez, followed by an inspirational message from 1st District Board Member Romel R. Enriquez, who underscored the valuable contributions and sacrifices of migrant workers for their families and communities.

Adding a health and wellness perspective to the celebration, Provincial Health Officer I Dr. Nelson Soriano shared insights on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, reminding participants that pursuing opportunities and providing for their families should go hand in hand with taking care of one's health.

A key feature of the event was the Service Caravan, conducted in partnership with the Cavite Office for Workers Concern (COFWC) and various national government agencies. The activity brought government services and relevant information closer to migrant workers and their families.

Participants also gained valuable insights from Ms. Maricynne L. Peniero of OWWA IV, who discussed the celebration's theme, highlighting the importance of preparedness, informed decision-making, and strong family support throughout the migration journey.

The event likewise placed emphasis on safe migration through an Anti-Illegal Recruitment Information Campaign, equipping participants with essential information to help protect themselves and others from illegal recruitment and related risks.

The program became even more lively with the Talent Contest, where participating municipalities showcased their creativity and talents. Naic emerged as the Champion, while Trece Martires City secured 1st Place, General Emilio Aguinaldo took 2nd Place, and Tanza earned 3rd Place.

The afternoon continued with an ice-breaker Zumba, attendance raffles, and a sharing of success story by Ms. Kathleen Margaret Espinol, offering an inspiring reminder of how perseverance, determination, and family support can turn challenges into opportunities.

The celebration concluded with the awarding of winners, closing activities, and photo opportunities.

More than a celebration, Migrants Day 2026 served as a reminder that empowering migrant workers means supporting the whole family.--- OPIO

**Ang tunay na kaibigan ay nagmamahal sa lahat ng panahon
At isang kapatid na maasahan kapag may problema.**

Proverbs 17:22

between gov't, private sector to improve productivity, innovation



BIÑAN CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The government commits to supporting initiatives that promote innovation and enhance productivity of Filipino businesses as President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant in Biñan City, Laguna, that utilizes robotics and artificial intelligence in its production processes.

During an inspection on Saturday, September 26, at the Nuvali Steel Processing Center Inc. (NSPCI), President Marcos Jr. praised the company for manufacturing industry-standard automobile parts, accessories, and aluminum devices locally, helping position the country as a viable player in the global supply chain for steel products.

In line with the government's Industry 4.0 agenda, which seeks to enhance productivity, boost sales, and maintain high product quality and precision, NSPCI is among the beneficiaries of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), which provides funding support to micro, small, and medium enterprises for their science and technology initiatives.

"It is government and private sector working hand-in-hand to help private sector to the state-of-the-art so that

we can compete on an international level. Hindi na tayo kailangang mag-import ng kung ano-anong piyesa. Karamihan na ng piyesa na ginagawa na motorsiklo, dito na nanggagaling. And therefore, the value-added stays here," the President said.

The Chief Executive also highlighted the opportunity to address the needs of private companies and institutions and help them improve their processes, ultimately creating more opportunities for Filipinos.

"We will do more of this, not only for Nuvali Steel, but also for the other companies. So, this is a very, very important step that we have taken in terms not only of the advancement of the technology, manufacturing technologies but also in the coordination and synchronization between government and the private sector."

In 2023, NSPCI received P3 million in support from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) through SETUP, which it used to acquire two arc-welding robots. According to the company, the intervention increased productivity and sales, ensured personnel safety, and improved product quality.

From an initial income of P923,000 and an asset value of P12 million, the company

increased its income to P15.3 million and its asset value to P61 million following the intervention.

NSPCI also nearly tripled its workforce, from 71 to 241 employees, contributing to a significant increase in sales, with gross sales reaching P154.8 million, more than triple its original sales of P44.6 million.

"It also helps the industry in terms of automating and being more efficient because of quality, the serviceability, the speed of delivery; so, dumami ang customer namin and they believe that we can improve more and we are very thankful for the grant that was given to us," Hans Chan, treasurer of NSPCI, said in a media interview.

Chan said the company wanted to showcase the gains it had achieved since receiving support from DOST and intended to encourage other companies to utilize government assistance for MSMEs.

"We would like to showcase our improvements through the help of this grant, and hopefully that we will be at the forefront of the manufacturing industry in helping the Philippine industry and we will be a model to everyone else. We will help the Philippine industry improve and we can compete with our neighboring countries," he added.

DOST continues to accept applications from Filipino-owned firms operating in the country that seek to upgrade their existing processes through appropriate technologies under SETUP.

The Science depart-

PH, Canada discuss transport initiatives in the country

QUEZON CITY (PIA) — The Philippines and Canada discussed transport initiatives in the country through possible areas of collaboration.

Department of Transportation (DOTr) Secretary Banoy Lopez and Canadian Ambassador to the Philippines David Hartman on Monday talked about the department's initiatives and big-ticket transportation infrastructure projects that will ease the daily commute of Filipinos.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has directed the DOTr to collaborate and expand partnerships with other countries to develop and modernize the Philippines' transport systems.

Lopez noted the progress of key transport infrastructure projects in the railway, avia-

tion, road and maritime sectors, saying the development of the Philippines' transport system will ensure sustainability of the country's mobility and connectivity.

"International partnerships with developed countries play a crucial role in upgrading our transportation networks, which we know will result in enhanced connectivity and promote sustainability. With our long-standing partnership with Canada, we're confident that they can help us develop our transport system for the benefit of the Filipinos," Lopez said.

Meanwhile, Hartman assured Lopez that Canada will extend its assistance in boosting the Philippines' transport system, specifically in the maritime

sector and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG).

"We particularly support the DOTr and your mandate from a marine perspective with maritime domain awareness—coastal illegal fishing monitoring, port modernization—so there's a lot of work to be done collaboratively from an inter-agency perspective and again, most importantly, around disaster resilience," Hartman said.

Earlier this month, the DOTr also met and discussed with Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Marc Innes-Brown big-ticket transport infrastructure projects to help enhance Philippine public transport reliability and ease the daily commuting experience of Filipinos. (JEG/PIA-NCR)

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o lola o tiya n'ya ang nag-aalaga sa kaniya, baka wala sa kaniyang oras para bantayan ang mga bata, tayo, bigyan natin ng tulong 'yung mga bata, kausapin at alamin natin ang kanilang sitwasyon at bigyan natin sila ng tamang paggabay sa paggamit ng internet."

While DepEd continues to strengthen phys-

ment also offers other key programs that help local industries access financing and transition to smart manufacturing, including the Venture Financing Program, the Metals and Engineering Innovation Centers, and the Connected and Unified Autonomous Technologies with Automation and Robotics (CUATRO) Program. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

ical security measures in schools, including access control and security procedures, he said equal attention must be given to what learners encounter online and how these experiences may affect their thoughts and behavior.

Angara likewise welcomed efforts by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to surveil online platforms that may expose children to harmful content or individuals.

"Natutuwa tayo dahil ang DICT ay kumilos na para doon sa mga application na alam natin na nagre-recruit ng mga kung sino-sino, 'yung mga bata nilalason na 'yung kanilang utak, at least ngayon nag-ing strikto na si DICT. Natutuwa kami dahil

'yung mga bata siyempre dapat i-supervise 'yung internet use nila, nakikita naman natin sa ibang bansa pinagbawal na nga 'yung below 15, 16 na gumamit ng mga social media apps," Angara added.

The education department is also looking at integrating mental health and social media safety initiatives into its programs for 2027, alongside the agency's existing interventions such as the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program.

The initiatives form part of the broader effort to create safer and more secure school communities in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure the safety and well-being of learners. (AM/PIA CALABARZON)

Consistent Vision of a Healthy, Ready Filipino Family: PBBM Visits DOST SETUP-Assisted Enterprise, Showing Tangible Community Benefits.

Reinforcing the national government's commitment to food security and science-driven nutrition, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited Nutridense Food Manufacturing Corporation (NPMC) in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan to witness personally how science, technology, and innovation drive the creation of healthy, nutritious food products. The President was warmly welcomed by Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr., alongside NPMC owner Mr. Racky D. Doctor, DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Engr. Sancho A. Maborang, DOST Ilocos Region Director Teresita A. Tabaog, DOST Pangasinan Provincial Director Engr. Arnold C. Santos, and the DOSTOneSciGlat family.

During the visit, Secretary Solidum and Mr. Doctor toured the facility and showcased the technologies adopted by NPMC through the DOST, demonstrating how science-based research is transformed into healthy, high-impact food products. President Marcos highlighted that solving national hunger requires addressing food quality alongside volume. "Tinitignan natin itong operation na, it's a very good example na ating ginagawa para sa ating food supply. Pero just as the slogan here, 'More than food, We provide your nutrition,' it is not only a food supply, but also about proper nutrition, dahil hindi lang sapat na isa lang ang ating kinakain, kailangang balanse ang nutritional value ng ating mga produkto," PBBM stated.



Secretary Solidum reinforced this strategic vision, pointing to NPMC as a clear example of how scientific research moves public-private collaboration forward. "Gusto nating maipakita ang partnership ng gobyerno at private sector para mapalakas ang adhikain natin na magkaroon ng food security. At dito sa Nutridense FMC, pinapakita po natin dito

yung kanilang mga operation at kung anong mga produkto na galing sa DOST ang kanilang kinocommercialize," Solidum said.

NPMC's enterprise journey illustrates how government assistance fuels long-term business transformation. The company partnered with DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) in 2009 to scale up

its operations in water disinfectant (Hyposol) and in 2015 to enhance production processes for complementary food products. Today, NPMC stands as a medium-scale model enterprise, recognized as the 2025 SETUP PRAISE National Winner by DOST and the 2025 Presidential Awardee for Outstanding MS-MEs.

The company's expansion has yielded a significant economic and social impact, growing from just 7 employees at the beginning to a total of 300 employees today. To fuel this enterprise growth, NPMC has adopted 48 DOST-related technologies, consisting of 35 DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) technologies, additional ten (10) new technologies, and three (3) DOST-Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) technologies, building a sustainable business model that strengthens the regional economy while serving as a primary private-sector partner for national agencies across 16 regions nationwide.

NPMC's impact relies on a broad portfolio of fortified and complementary products, such as Nutridense Premix (Iron Rice Premix / Iron Fortified Kernel 1) and DOST-FNRI Rice-Mongo blends used in feeding programs to combat malnutrition. Building on this momentum, the company officially signed a Technology Licensing Agreement with the DOST-FNRI for the adoption of 10 newly developed Ready-to-Eat technologies to strengthen national disaster relief pipelines,

DepEd chief urges stronger guidance for learners amid risks of digital technology, social media

PAKIL, Laguna (PIA) — Following the recent incidents of school violence involving learners, Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara emphasized the importance of strengthening learners' mental and emotional well-being alongside school security measures as children face growing risks from digital technology and social media.

Angara acknowledged the benefits of digital technology for learning, but stressed that learners must also be guided in navigating harmful influences they may encounter online.

"Although maganda na may digital technology tayo may mga bagong teknolohiya tayo, 'wag nating kalimutan 'yung pinaka-importang teknolohiya ay matatagpuan sa gitna ng ating mga tenga

pa rin dahil with the advent of new technology, social media nandyan rin po 'yung pagdating ng mga bagong banta," Angara stated during his visit in Pakil, Laguna for DepEd, Prime Infra Foundation and Ahunan Power, Inc. ceremonial launching of internet connectivity in 12 schools.

Angara said recent incidents of violence demonstrate the need to look at school safety from a broader perspective, noting that protecting learners should not be limited to strengthening physical security within school premises.

He further added, "Ngayon bilang mga pangalawang magulang ng ating mga bata sa eskwelahan, maaring wala ang kanilang mga magulang sa bahay, maaaring kuya n'ya (See p.4)

address malnutrition, and create direct market demand for local agricultural produce.

Guided by a shared mission to combat malnutrition, Nutridense demonstrates how targeted public funding, private entrepreneurship, and practical science come together to build strong local in-

dustries and secure a healthier future for Filipino families. Ultimately, the visit of the President showcases strong government support for investing in initiatives that secure food safety while continuing to deliver safe, healthy products that benefit all families and all Filipinos. (DOST IR)

ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication dated September 3, 10,& 17, 2026 filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **ROGER G. ABARICO**, in the line of twenty fifth of Transfer Certificate of Title No.057-2019063351 RICARDO A. TOLEDO Sheriff IV it should be **ANDRES B. ESPINA Sheriff VI**

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PAGASA warns of above-normal rainfall amid looming very strong El Niño

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Extremely dry conditions leading to above-normal rainfall are expected to persist until the first half of 2027 as the El Niño phenomenon intensifies, according to the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA).

PAGASA Weather Specialist Bernadeth Lucillo, in a meeting with the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC), noted that parts of the region are experiencing 'near-normal to above-normal' rainfall conditions as moderate to strong El Niño persists.

"Sa ngayon, moderate to strong El Niño ang present. Ongoing ito at puwede magtagal hanggang first half of 2027. CALABARZON may experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall conditions. Pero by January and February [2027] almost all of CALABARZON ay below-normal rainfall."

Driven by abnormally high sea surface temperature, strong El

Niño affects rainfall and temperature that can lead to dry spells, droughts, and water shortages. On the other hand, the phenomenon can also trigger extreme rainfall that causes severe flooding.

With the rising sea temperature disrupting global weather systems, Lucillo warned that extreme dry weather conditions caused by El Niño can also lead to strong typhoons that may reach 'super typhoon' categories.

"Kapag mayroong El Niño, possible po ang malakas na bagyong ito. Asahan natin na malakas 'yung mga papasok na bagyo, [at]

may possibility na mareach nila ang super typhoon category."

Although the El Niño typically recurs every five years, Lucillo added that climate change and global warming have shortened the El Niño cycle to every two years.

"There is a climate [factor] talaga. Before, the cycle of El Niño and La Niña, every five years; pero dahil ngayon na mayroon na tayong kino-consider na climate change at global warming, nangyayari na ito every two to seven years. Ibig sabihin, dumadalas na ang possibility na magkaroon tayo ng El Niño at La Niña." (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

*Just a little while longer, and the wicked will be no more;
You will look at where they were,
And they will not be there. But the meek will possess the
earth, And they will find exquisite delight in the abundance of peace*

Psalm 37:10-11



Local talents, businesses thrive in Cavite's Bakood Festival



BACoor CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Beyond a cultural and religious celebration of Cavite's marching band roots, the Bakood Festival serves as a major showcase of the Bacoor's economic potential for an international audience.

Celebrated to honor St. Michael the Archangel, the festival highlights its rich musical culture which has long earned acclaim from international stages.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, City Information and Community Relations Department (CICRD) chief Kristine Evangelista, underscored that the Bakood Festival creates a string of opportunities for various local sectors, particularly artists and small businesses.

"Ang festival ay hindi lamang cultural celebration, isa rin

itong pagkakataon para suportahan ang livelihood at local entrepreneurship. Sa Bacoor, ang development at tradition ay hindi magkalaban, ang layunin natin ay patuloy na umunlad ang ating lungsod habang nananatiling buhay ang ating kultura."

Bacoor's marching bands have long been known across the Philippines and worldwide. Recently, the city was named host of the 2028 Asian Music Games. Beyond cementing the city's title as the "Marching Band Capital of the Philippines", the international competition is expected to draw global visitors and boost the local economy.

"Malaking bagay ang international exposure dahil napapakilala nito ang Bacoor bilang isang lungsod na may malakas na musical and cultural heritage. Kapag mas nakikilala ang ating kultura, mas nagkakaroon ng potential para sa cultural tourism at mas maraming visitors at economic activity para sa ating local businesses."

Attracting competitors from parts of

Cavite, Tagkawayan, Antipolo, and Metro Manila, the festival also provided a direct boost to local hospitality, lodging, and dining sectors.

Unlike other purely recreational festivities, the Bakood Festival integrates socio-economic activities within their programme. Alongside job fairs, pop-ups and marketplaces selling souvenirs and artisanal products, the city government also highlights itself as a prime investment location through its infrastructure, local transport networks, and dining facilities.

To maintain its relevance to an era dominated by streaming services, Bakood Festival is also live-streamed across their official social media platforms.

"Ginagamit din natin ng social media at digital platforms upang mas mapalawak ang audience nito. Kasabay nito, hinihikayat natin ang kabataan na matuto, sumali, at maging bahagi ng pagpapatuloy ng ating tradisyon." (PB-PIA CALABARZON)