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DSWD sends P719-K initial aid to families affected by Bising, habagat

MANILA – Families and individuals in Northern and Central Luzon drenched by the effects of Typhoon “Bising” and the southwest monsoon or “habagat” have so far received PHP719,187 in relief assistance from the

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), an agency official reported on Tuesday.

In a statement, Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao of the DSWD’s Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG)

said the amount covers the 1,068 family food packs (FFPs) and emergency kits that were swiftly delivered to Bising-hit local government units (LGUs) since last week, particularly in areas hit by intense rains, flooding, *(Turn to p. 3)*

DSWD assists more than 12K child laborers via SHIELD program

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) assisted more than 12,000 child laborers from 2021 to 2024 through the Strategic Help desks for Information, Education, Livelihood, and Other Developmental Interventions (SHIELD) Against Child Labor Program.

Of the total, 3,887 minors have already been reintegrated into their families and communities, the DSWD said.

“Child labor is a se-

rious concern that hinders the development of children. To address this problem, the DSWD implements the SHIELD Against Child Labor Program, which is a community-based program that taps the whole-of-society approach to provide holistic and immediate interventions to child laborers and their families,” Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlao said in a news release on Tuesday.

Dumlaao noted that to strengthen the

DSWD’s campaign to end all forms of child labor in the country, the agency held a four-day training of Field Office focal persons involved in the implementation of SHIELD in Malay, Aklan from July 1 to 4.

The training focused on upskilling the competencies of service providers on the provision of technical assistance to local government units (LGUs) by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and attitude in program



(File photo)

implementation and case management processes.

“This is to ensure the sustainability of program implementation, particularly at the local level,” the DSWD spokesperson said.

Laguna LGUs intensify flood control efforts

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)—Government leaders in Laguna have started ramping up flood control efforts to prepare for the onset of the rainy season.

Re-elected San Pedro City Mayor Art Joseph Francis Mercado signed Executive Order No. 1 enjoining all barangay officials in the city to prioritize clean-up of clogged

The SHIELD Program, which is being implemented in all 16 regions of the country, aims to strengthen anti-child labor efforts at the local level, including the setting up of help desks and a local

registry on child labor for referral and convergence of support services.

“In the establishment of barangay help desks, convergence of services will take *(Turn to p. 2)*



drainage systems, creeks, water inlets, and other waterways.

Mercado said the city often experiences flashfloods and that the clean-up of waterways is just one of the

solutions eyed to solve the perennial problem of flooding.

“We are all aware of the news reports about places that get flooded even with just short *(Turn to p. 2)*

Gov’t to work harder to generate more jobs for Filipinos, says Palace

MANILA – The Marcos administration will double its efforts to open more job opportunities for Filipinos, Malacañang vowed Tuesday, as it welcomed the increase in employment in May 2025.

This, after the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported that the country’s labor force now reached 65.8 percent of the population as of May 2025, higher than the 64.8 percent logged in May 2024.

In a press briefing,

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is “happy” that government efforts to provide quality jobs to Filipinos are bearing fruit.

“Pagpu-pursigihin pa. Hindi ito natatapos dito. Kumbaga hindi ito para magpunyagi. Kailangan mas maganda pa ang ipakita ng administration para makapagbigay pa na mas maraming trabaho sa ating mga kababayan (We will work harder. It doesn’t end here. Apparently, it’s

not something to celebrate. The administration needs to show better performance so that it can provide more jobs to our countrymen),” Castro said.

“Layon ng Marcos administration na patasasin pa ang bilang ng mga Pilipino na mabigyan ng trabaho sa ilalim ng Bagong Pilipinas (The Marcos administration aims to further increase the number of Filipinos who will be given jobs under the New Philippines).”

(Turn to p. 2)

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place to respond to the needs of the child laborers and their families,” Dumlao said.

Barangay help desk services may include health support; rescue and recovery; counseling; skills training; legal facilitation, livelihood skills development; and educational, financial, and capital assistance.

The SHIELD Program works on raising the awareness of the

parents not only on the laws against child labor, but also on the rights of their children and on how they can better provide for them.

“Parents are not prosecuted but are made to understand their roles as parents. The parents and communities are also organized to help in combating child labor,” Dumlao said. (PNA)

WORK HARDER . . . FR. P. 1

The government has provided 170,000 jobs for Filipinos through job fairs held from 2022 to May 1, 2025, according to government data.

According to the PSA’s Labor Force Survey, an additional 1.4 million Filipinos have joined the labor force, which now consists of 52.32 million individuals.

The unemployment rate declined to 3.9

percent in May 2025, down from 4.1 percent in May 2024.

The underemployment rate rose to 13.1 percent in May 2025 from 9.9 percent in May 2024, as more part-time workers seeking extra work hours cited variable working schedules or the nature of work as the reasons for working less than 40 hours per week, according to the PSA report. (PNA)

DSWD SENDS P719K. . . FR. P. 1

and landslide incidents.

“Even when Bising was still a low-pressure area, we assured our LGUs that we will support their relief efforts, especially in areas forecast to bear the brunt of the weather disturbance. And that’s exactly what or disaster response teams did. We ensured that affected families were provided prompt assistance in line with the directives of our President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.,” the DSWD spokesperson said.

As of 6 a.m. on Tuesday, a total of 30,683 families or 95,910 per-

sons in 61 barangays in Regions 1 (Ilocos Region), 3 (Central Luzon), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) have been affected, according to the Disaster Response Operations Management, Information, and Communication (DROMIC).

“In Region 3, where various areas were submerged with flood waters, the DSWD-Central Luzon facilitated the distribution of 225 FFPs to Bising-hit families in the city of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija,” Dumlao said.

She said the DSWD has already started re-

LAGUNA. . . FR. P. 1

periods of rainfall. We are listening to your concerns. The entire city government and I are taking action to find solutions to this problem. This is just the beginning of a series of steps to address the issues that are burdening our community,” Mercado said.

He directed barangay chairpersons, in coordination with the City Environment and Natural Resources Office, City Health Office, and the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, and other national government agencies to start the operations by July 5 and every second and fourth Saturdays of the month.

Mercado said public participation is crucial to the cause of making the city clean, safe, and orderly.

“A reminder to all our fellow constituents: you have an important role to play in this. Let’s start with the simple discipline of proper waste disposal. Every drain we keep clean is a step away

from disaster.”

Our supplies are also sufficient across the affected regions,” she added.

The agency’s Field Offices in Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, and CAR maintain a total of 493,457 FFPs and PHP9 million in stand-by funds. (PNA)

lief distribution in Ilocos Region since July 5, reaching disaster-hit families in the towns of Narvacan, Sta. Maria, and the city of Vi-gan in Ilocos Sur.

“Rest assured that we continuously monitor the affected communities with the help of concerned LGUs.

**The one walking with the wise
will become wise, But the one
who has dealings with the stupid
will fare badly.
Proverbs 13:20**

anti-flooding facilities. ect in Laguna Lake,”

Reyes adds.

Meanwhile, Governor Sol Aragonés said in a statement that she will propose the improvement of waste management policies, modern urban planning, and the enactment of modern eco-friendly initiatives as part of a plan for the Laguna de Bay rehabilitation to lessen incidents of flooding in communities.

“Through infrastructure projects and the strengthening of solid waste management programs, residents will achieve a more comfortable, cleaner, and prosperous way of life. Our initiatives focus on improving safety, health, and the quality of life of every Lagunense,” the governor said. (CH/

PIA-Laguna)

“Even before, we have already been working on projects to address the flooding problem, such as rehabilitating the drainage systems in Biñan and constructing riprap along our rivers.”

Biñan officials noted that dredging of Laguna de Bay remains the long-term solution to flooding. They expressed the hope that Congress and national government agencies involved will support the measure.

“We will also need the help of our Lone District Representative, Cong. Arman Dimaguila, to coordinate with the national government and encourage the representatives of all the towns surrounding Laguna Lake to work together on Mayor Gel’s proposed dredging proj-

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AMIGA District Hospital celebrates first founding anniversary

AMIGA District Hospital joyfully marked its 1st Founding Anniversary on July 1, 2025, with a day of celebration, reflection, and gratitude. The commemorative event began with a solemn Thanksgiving Mass, followed by a spirited motorcade that brought together hospital staff, partners, and supporters in a show of unity and pride for the institution's continuing journey of service.

Aside from the AMIGA Hospital workforce, the anniversary was joined by local officials of AMIGA municipalities (Alfonso, Mendez, Indang and Gen. Aguinaldo) including Amadeo Mayor Jose Domingo, Jr. Mendez Vice Mayor Raygan Dimapilis and councilors, together with Dr. Maria Victoria Salvatus-Torres, officer-in-charge for the provincial satellite hospitals.

The event served not only as a celebration of the hospital's milestones but also as an opportunity to renew its commitment to providing accessible, quality healthcare to the people of Cavite.--- OPIO



In celebration of the 1st Founding Anniversary of Amiga District Hospital, the Office of the Provincial Governor – Medical Mission Team, in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, conducted a successful Medical and Dental Mission on July 3, 2025, in Mendez, Cavite.

The initiative was designed to bring much-needed healthcare services directly to the community, especially those with limited access to medical and dental facilities.

A key feature of the mission was the deployment of the Lab For All Truck, which provided free X-ray examinations to 79 patients and conducted HIV testing for 23 individuals. These specialized services allowed for early detection and diagnosis of health conditions, significantly contributing to the preventive aspect of community healthcare.

The dental team also played a vital role, offering free tooth extraction services to 93 patients. Recognizing that oral health is a frequently neglected area, the team ensured that individuals suffering from dental pain or complications received the care they needed.

In addition to specialized services, the mission catered to the general



Governance that listens: Cavite SP pledges to uphold innovation, sustainability and inclusivity

Marking a new era of legislation and responsive governance, the 12th Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Cavite convened its inaugural session on July 1, 2025, with Vice Governor Ramon Vicente “Ram” Bautista presiding. The session was attended by Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla, all members of the Provincial Board, 1st District Representative Jolo Revilla, and department heads of the Provincial Government of Cavite.

During the session, organizational matters were finalized to ensure a smooth legislative process. Cavite 3rd District Board Member Arnel “Ony” Cantimbuhan was elected as the Presiding Officer Pro Tempore, while 2nd District Board Member Alde Joselito Pagulayan was elected as the Majority Floor Leader. In addition, the chairs of the various standing committees were selected, paving the way for focused legislative oversight and action across different sectors of provincial governance.

In his message, Governor Abeng Remulla extended his heartfelt gratitude to the people of Cavite for their continued trust and support. He noted that today's challenges are different and more complex requiring innovative solutions. He emphasized that the new administration reflects a new generation of leadership, one that is able to listen and makes prompt and concrete actions. Among the areas of development he mentioned are tourism, agriculture, youth, education and sports development, accessible healthcare, and infrastructure development.

“Sa bawat bayan at lungsod...isa lang ang direksyon nating lahat, paangat at sama-sama,” Gov. Remulla stated.

Vice Governor Ram Bautista, in his inaugural address, echoed the commitment that the Sangguniang Panlalawigan will be sustainable, smart, and inclusive. He underscored the Sanggunian's role in formulating legislation that directly responds to the needs of Caviteños.

“Our Sangguniang Panlalawigan shall be more inclusive, each and every Caviteño is represented in this Sanggunian. We shall prioritize the marginalized and voiceless, we are the Sanggunian that has shared values. Ours is a Sanggunian that listens”, he added, affirming the board's commitment to participatory governance.

The inaugural session marks the start of a collaborative and citizen-centered provincial government, one that is committed to addressing the needs of every Caviteño through responsive legislation, inclusive governance, and progressive action.--- OPIO

medical needs of the community by providing free medical check-ups and medicines to 375 residents. This comprehensive support addressed a wide range of health concerns and offered immediate assistance to individuals from diverse age groups.

The event was met with enthusiastic participation and gratitude from the local population, underscoring the importance of sustained, accessible healthcare outreach programs. Through collaborative efforts, the mission not only celebrated a milestone in public health infrastructure but also reaffirmed a shared commitment to community wellness. --- OPIO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Fourth Judicial Region
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
BRANCH 129
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SP Case No. DC-1564-24

PETITION FOR JUDICIAL RECOGNITION OF
A FOREIGN DECREE OF DIVORCE AND
FOR THE JUDICIAL DECLARATION OF A
LEGAL CAPACITY TO REMARRY,

JOYCE I. OBIAS
Petitioner,

-versus-

BONGYU JANG, THE LOCAL CIVIL
REGISTRY OF DASMARIÑAS CITY, CAVITE
AND THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS OFFICE
Respondent,

X-----X

ORDER

Before this Court is an Amended Petition for judicial recognition of a foreign decree of divorce and for the judicial declaration of legal capacity to remarry filed by petitioner, through counsel, praying that judgment be rendered declaring the foreign divorce decree obtained by Korean Spouse Bongyu Jang in the Republic of Korea (South Korea) be recognized in the Philippines, in accordance with the second paragraph of Article 26 of the New Family Code, capacitating petitioner to remarry and for the Philippine Statistics Authority be directed to record and annotate the aforementioned decree of divorce in its registry. The marriage of Petitioner Joyce I Obias and Respondent Bongyu Jang on March 27, 2014 in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite was registered under Registry No. 2014-441.

Finding the instant Amended Petition to be sufficient in form and substance, this Court hereby sets the hearing thereof at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 129, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Brgy. Buro 2, Congressional Road, Dasmariñas City, Cavite on **August 13, 2025 at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon** whereby any interested persons may appear and show cause if any why the amended verified petition should not be granted.

Let this Order be published, at the expense of the Petitioner in a newspaper of General Circulation, which will be raffled by the Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court Branch, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, among the duly accredited newspaper in the Province of Cavite, before the scheduled date of hearing, at least once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks.

Petitioner is directed to furnish the Office of the Solicitor General, the Local Civil Registrar of Dasmariñas City, Cavite, and the Philippine Statistics Authority with copies of the Amended Petition and of this Order within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.

SO ORDERED.

City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, May 6, 2025

JOSIELYN D. LARA-DE LUNA
Executive Judge

cc:
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Jobless Filipinos decline in May

MANILA – The number of unemployed Filipinos declined in May this year while employment rate rose to more than 90 percent, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

In a briefing Tuesday, National Statistician Dennis Mapa said results of the latest Labor Force Survey showed that the country’s labor force participation rate (LFPR) in May 2025 was estimated at 65.8 percent, higher than the estimated LFPR in May 2024 at 64.8 percent and in April 2025 at 63.7 percent.

Persons in the labor force are those aged 15 years and over who are either employed or unemployed.

The reported LFPR in May 2025 translates to a total of 52.32 million Filipinos aged 15 years and over who were in the labor force, the highest recorded number since April 2005.

Mapa said the number of unemployed individuals fell to 2.03 million in May from 2.11 million in May last year, and 2.06 million in April this year.

The unemployment rate was recorded at 3.9 percent, down from its rate in May 2024 and in the previous month, which were both at 4.1 percent.

Compared to other Asian countries, the Philippines’ unemployment rate is lower than that of China (5 percent) and India (5.6 percent).

The employment went up to 96.1 percent from its rate in May 2024 and in April 2025, which were both at 95.9 percent.

In terms of magnitude, the number of employed persons in May 2025 rose to 50.29 million from 48.87 million in May 2024 and 48.67 million in the previous month.

Industries with the largest increase in employment were wholesale and retail trade (+489,000), agriculture and forestry (+469,000), administrative and support service activities (+371,000), accommodation and food service activities (+365,000), and other service activities (+175,000).

The underemployment rate, meanwhile, settled at 13.1 percent, translating to 6.60 million employed individuals who expressed the desire to have additional hours of work in their present job or to have additional job, or to have a new job with longer hours of work.

In a separate statement, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) said the Marcos administration remains committed to creating high-quality and high-paying jobs for Filipinos.

DEPDev said the highest recorded labor participation rate in May also means that

more Filipinos joined the labor force.

“We welcome this development in labor force participation because it indicates a healthy and competitive Philippine labor market. Generally, a larger workforce can lead to increased economic output and potentially higher GDP (gross domestic product) growth, as more people contribute to the economy,” Economy, Planning, and Development Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said.

“This also reflects growing confidence in the labor market and the impact of ongoing efforts to expand access to employment opportunities across sectors.”

Balisacan said the government continues to push for critical infrastructure flagship projects that would address gaps and attract job-generating investments.

The government also aims to enhance the efficiency of public spending and allocate limited fiscal resources to high-impact areas, including quality education, healthcare, food security, and connectivity infrastructure.

Balisacan said equipping Filipinos with in-demand skills and competencies would ensure that the country’s workforce remains agile in an increasingly competitive and dynamic labor market.

“We will leverage recently enacted policy reforms to improve upskilling and reskilling initiatives,” he said.

Balisacan said this involve stronger industry partnerships under the Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) Framework Act, as well as the implementation of the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) and the passage of the Lifelong Learning Development Framework Bill.

“These initiatives, and more, are outlined in more detail in the Trabaho para sa Bayan Plan, which was recently launched,” he said.

Balisacan said the government is working to create an enabling environment that will attract more Global Capability Centers to the Philippines, in line with the country’s shift toward high-value information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) services. To support this, efforts will focus on strengthening workforce competencies in digitalization and generative artificial intelligence (AI).

The government is also set to release timely guidelines on the Future Workforce in an AI Workplace to help government agencies, industry players, labor groups, academic institutions, and workers integrate AI into their operations while safeguarding jobs through enhanced digital literacy and AI-related skills.

Balisacan said the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 midterm update is scheduled for release this month. (PNA)

Office of the City Prosecutor
OCP City of Dasmariñas, Cavite

Office of the Clerk of Court
RTC, Dasmariñas City, Cavite

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OWWA empowers OFW groups thru training sessions, support services



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in Calabarzon is visiting various parts of the region to empower overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) organizations through training and support services.

As part of its ongoing initiatives, OWWA is conducting Organizational Development and Management Training (ODMT) sessions for OFW associations. These aim to enhance their management capabilities, promote effective leadership, and strengthen teamwork and sustainability within OFW communities.

Among the recent beneficiaries are the Samahang OFW in Kawit, Cavite; Barangay Burgos and Duhat OFW Associations in Padre Burgos, Quezon; and the Pundasyon Buklod ng Pag-ibig OFW in San Pablo City, Laguna.

Regional Director Rosario C. Burayag explained that the training seeks to deepen the connection and collaboration between leaders and members by sharing knowledge and experiences that help build stronger support systems and

networks.

"This initiative is part of OWWA Calabarzon's continuing goal to strengthen the capacity of OFW organizations toward stronger relationships, more successful programs, and more meaningful participation in community activities," she said.

Burayag also reaffirmed OWWA's commitment to providing necessary support to OFWs and their families.

"Our office is committed to wholeheartedly and efficiently serving every OFW and their family, and to continuously be a channel of hope for every Filipino migrant worker in Calabarzon."

The ODMT featured a series of lectures, hands-on workshops, and collaborative group discussions, all designed to improve participants' skills in organizational development and management.

OWWA Calabarzon is confident that the knowledge and insights gained through these trainings will be meaningfully applied by participants in their respective organizations.

In addition to ODMT sessions, OWWA Cal-

Phivolcs to communities around Taal: Be vigilant but don't worry



Taal Volcano (File photo)

MANILA — While communities around the Taal Volcano must stay vigilant, the head of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Tuesday they have nothing to worry about.

"They just have to stay vigilant and refrain from entering the permanent danger zone which is the whole Taal Volcano Island," Phivolcs Director Teresito Bacolcol told the Philippine News Agency in an interview.

Based on the 24-hour observation from 12 a.m. Monday to 12 a.m. Tuesday, there is an ongoing volcanic tremor in Taal since 3:37 a.m. Sunday.

Bacolcol said continuous volcanic tremor may last for several days.

"There were instances in the past when Taal Volcano had volcanic tremor for several days," he added.

Volcanic tremor, Bacolcol said, is triggered by the continuous flow of magma or gas inside a volcano. This is different from volcanic earthquake, which usually happens when rocks inside the volcano break or crack.

Moreover, volcanic earthquake's duration usually lasts for seconds. Meanwhile, Taal Volcano is still under alert Level 1 (low-level unrest) and Bacolcol said "the possibility of a phreatic eruption is still there."

Sulfur dioxide emission measured 377 tonnes on July 4. For the past 24 hours, weak emission of plume reaching 900 meters high was observed.

Pilots are advised to avoid flying close to Taal Volcano, as airborne ash and ballistic fragments from sudden explosions may pose hazards to aircraft. (PNA)

Public Employment Service Offices (PE-SOs) and partner agencies for their continued support and commitment to promoting the welfare of OFWs and their families. (CCM, PIA4A)

DOE focuses on habits for power conservation, efficiency bid

MANILA — The Department of Energy (DOE) has partnered with other government agencies and the private sector to help the youth develop habits that promote energy efficiency and power conservation.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon briefing Tuesday, Patrick Aquino, Director of DOE's Energy Utilization and Management Bureau, said they started the mall caravan for the "You Have The Power" campaign on Monday.

"We started this yesterday with the help of the Presidential Communications Office and those from the private sectors such as SM and Daikin to name a few. The 'You Have The Power' campaign aims to give the youth information that will empower them such as on energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as energy conservation tips that they can use in their everyday lives," he said.

"Our goal is if you establish among the youth habit-forming concepts they will use these until they grow up and will help relay it to their parents and friends."

He said the program's first week would be held in various malls in Metro Manila, and the rest will be in several malls nationwide, until September.

The caravan provides games that promote energy conservation as well as showcase galleries toward this goal.

"The youth have an important role because they are the next generation. If they are careful and smart in conserving energy, renewable energy sources might be enough to meet future demand, consumption will decline, and we will be able to lower our greenhouse emission," Aquino said.

Meanwhile, Aquino said more government agencies continue to comply with Malacañang's Government Energy Management Program, which is aimed to cut the government's power and fuel consumption by 10 percent monthly.

He said the program has generated some savings for the government, but he declined to elaborate.

"Just a reminder under GEMP, quality of service of our front-line services should not be compromised. We also remind our public servants to turn off the lights when not in use, set air conditioning units not lower than 24 degree Celsius, and help our maintenance crews to have the aircon filters cleaned, and to switch to light-emitting diode or LED lights," he added. (PNA)

**Better is a handful of rest
than two handfuls of hard
work and chasing
after the wind.**

Ecclesiastes 4:6

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Rediscover Cavite with MPT South's “Tara! Let's Explore Cavite”

June 27, 2025—Steeped in history, faith, and culinary flavor, Cavite remains one of the most culturally vibrant provinces in the South.

As part of its commitment to promoting regional tourism and local pride, Biyaheng South, Metro Pacific

Tollways South (MPT South)'s tourism advocacy program, has launched “Tara! Let's Explore Cavite,” a full-day heritage tour that brought selected participants on a journey through some of the province's most iconic churches, landmarks, and local food spots—now made easier than ever to explore, thanks to the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX).

The lucky participants were chosen through an online raffle held via the Biyaheng South Facebook page.

They were accompanied by media partners, influencers, and a team of talented reenactors who recreated key moments in Cavite's storied past, which made the tour more meaningful and unique.

Exploring Cavite's Iconic Churches

The province's heritage tour started in Kawit at the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene, an 18th-century church that stands as one of the oldest stone churches in the Philippines. Known for housing the miraculous image of Santa Maria Magdalena, it has long served as the spiritual center of the town. This church is also historically significant as the baptismal site of General Emilio

Aguinaldo, the first President of the Philippines.

How to get there: From Metro Manila, take CAVITEX and exit at Marulas Exit. The Diocesan Shrine and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene is just a short drive from there.

From there, the group visited the Diocesan Shrine of Saint Augustine and Parish of Holy Cross in Tanza.

While Kawit pays homage to Santa Maria Magdalena, Tanza honors St. Augustine—the town's patron saint. They then went to Sta. Cruz Convent Museum, just right beside the church. This museum features a

carefully curated collection of religious artifacts, vintage memorabilia, and traditional artworks that reflect the deep faith and rich cultural identity of Tanza.

How to get there: From Metro Manila, simply take CAVITEX via Roxas Boulevard, then head straight to Centennial going to Tanza.

After, the participants went to General Trias where they marveled at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Church,

another heritage structure known for its Spanish-era architecture and significance in local religious tradition.

How to get there: From Metro Manila, simply take CAVITEX via Roxas Boulevard or Coastal Road, then head straight to Centennial going to General Trias.

Walking Through Cavite's Revolutionary Past

After a heritage-rich morning, the group headed to Café Antix in Cavite City for lunch, where local flavors

met modern twists in a cozy, retro-inspired setting.

After the meal, the tour continued with visits to historically significant landmarks in Cavite City. First on the list was the Ladislao Diwa Shrine, the preserved ancestral home of Don Ladislao Diwa, one of the founding members of the Katipunan. Recognized for his pivotal role in the Philippine revolution, the site has been declared a national shrine by the National Historical Institute (NHI)—a lasting tribute to his legacy and contribution to the country's fight for independence.

Then, they went to Plaza De Armas, 13 Martyrs Monument, a solemn landmark honoring the brave Caviteños who were executed by Spanish authorities on September 12, 1896, for their alleged involvement in the Philippine Revolution. The monument stands as a powerful symbol of sacrifice and patriotism. After, they went to Samonte Park, a popular public space for locals to unwind.

The Ka-Biyaheros then enjoyed a rare chance to explore Fort San Felipe, a historical site located within the Philippine Navy's Naval Base in Cavite. Originally built by the Spanish in 1609, the fort served as a military stronghold designed to protect the province's coastline from pirates and foreign invaders. During the tour, the participants were given an exclusive walkthrough of the fort's restricted interior, allowing them to walk through old corridors and stone courtyards that

echoed centuries of history.

The day wrapped up with a guided tour of the newly renovated Cavite City Hall. Beyond its government function, the City Hall has become a cultural and civic hub with new developments that reflect the city's vision for inclusive growth. At the back of the building lies the Unlad Cavite Pier, a scenic baywalk-style destination that offers a stunning panoramic view of Manila Bay. Here, participants took a relaxing pause to enjoy the sea breeze. Adjacent to the pier is the newly constructed amphitheater, a public performance space designed to host cultural shows, events, and community gatherings.

How to get to Cavite City: From Metro Manila, simply take CAVITEX via Roxas Boulevard, then head straight toward Marulas Exit going to Tirona Highway. After the Aguinaldo Shrine, turn left onto Magdiwang Highway, then to Tabon. Once you get to Jollibee Noveleta, turn right. From there, it's just a few minutes to the city proper.

“We hold a deep conviction that heritage should be actively experienced rather than merely recalled. Cavite

is a treasure trove of narratives that have significantly influenced our nation's history. With Biyaheng South's “Tara! Let's Explore Cavite,” we are honored to illuminate these vital heritage sites and invite

everyone to engage with the rich cultural tapestry they represent,” stated Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management at MPT South.

“Tara! Let's Explore Cavite” leg of our Biyaheng South is more than just a road trip—it's a celebration of heritage, culture, and identity. Through initiatives like this, MPT South continues to shine light on the stories that shaped our nation. With Cavite's cultural gems just a smooth drive away via CAVITEX, there's no better time to explore, learn, and rediscover the roots of our history, one destination at a time.



Tara, let's explore Cavite at Shrine and Parish of St. Mary Magdalene in Kawit



Reenactment of Gen. Aguinaldo's oath as President of the 1st Republic at the Shrine of St. Augustine and Parish of Holy Cross in Tanza



Participants after a luncheon at Cafe Antix in Cavite City



Tara, let's explore Cavite participants at Cavite City Hall



Tara, let's explore Cavite participants at Fort San Felipe, Cavite City



The historic Fort San Felipe in Cavite City