

## DepEd, Phivolcs intensify prompt, science-based disaster preps

MANILA – Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. on Tuesday strengthened DepEd's partnership with the Philippine Institute of Volca-

nology and Seismology (Phivolcs) to ensure prompt and science-based disaster preparedness.

In a statement, Angara said the government's disaster response measures must be both swift and accurate.

"Kaya mahalaga ang pakikipag-ugnayan

sa Phivolcs para ang bawat desisyon, mula sa pagsuspende ng klase hanggang sa pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral, ay nakabatay sa siyensya at hindi sa pangamba (That's why coordination with Phivolcs is very important so that every decision, (Turn to p. 2)

# DSWD employs 3-phase approach to ensure IDPs' recovery from calamities

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is employing a three-phase and rights-based approach to ensure that no internally displaced person (IDP) is left behind in "building back better" after the multiple calamities in recent weeks.

"Our country is disas-

ter-prone. The affected families are often suffering from profound disaster fatigue, characterized by exhaustion, despair and a diminished capacity to cope with ongoing adversity," Director Maria Isabel Lanada of the DSWD - Disaster Response Management Bureau (DRMB) said in a news release

on Tuesday.

She said the systematic and rights-based approach to responding to the needs of IDPs ensures that families are comprehensively supported toward recovery, especially for those affected by successive disasters, ranging from tropical storms to earthquakes.

Lanada said the

Phase 1 (meeting basic needs) approach is to respond to the basic rights of the IDPs to life, safety and subsistence. This includes providing food and water, ensuring safe shelter through camp management, and protecting the rights of vulnerable IDPs.

"In areas recently ravaged by the Davao

and Cebu earthquakes, interventions involved immediate deployment of pre-positioned family food packs (FFP) and ready-to-eat food (RTEF) to provide instant nutrition. Aside from food, the agency provided temporary shelter by setting up and operating safe, sanitary, and gender-sensitive evacuation centers in accordance with Camp Coordination and Camp Management and Internally Displaced Persons protection standards," she said.

To strengthen the initial response, the DSWD acquired mobile kitchens, mobile command centers (MCCs) and water tankers for potable water.

"Under the leadership of Secretary Rex Gatchalian, the DSWD embarked on continuous innovations, especially in disaster management. That is

why, aside from our FFPs and RTEF, we have mobile kitchens that provide hot meals to IDPs, as well as water tankers that are now operating in Cebu and Davao disaster operations," Lanada said.

The MCC, meanwhile, ensures uninterrupted communication with local government units and other government agencies, and are helpful when a calamity disrupts regular means of communication.

Lanada said the DSWD transitions to Phase 2 (early recovery efforts) when the food, water, safety, and shelter needs of the affected population are already met.

"The crucial step to a disaster operation is to start efforts at recovery. The DSWD helps in providing intervention to assist families toward achieving normalcy, and start that process of building (Turn to p. 1)

## Laguna hospitals placed on high alert as quake readiness protocol

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Laguna's hospitals were placed on high alert after a series of powerful earthquakes that rocked different parts of the country left hundreds of residents injured and overwhelmed hospitals.

Governor Sol Aragon directed hospitals in Laguna to ensure their readiness in responding to medical needs in the event of an earthquake.

Former Health Undersecretary-now Laguna's health consultant Dr. Eric Tayag said that heightened alert in hos-

pitals is part of the earthquake preparedness plan and that hospitals will be on standby to accommodate and treat casualties should the earthquake occur.

"Sasabayan ito ng paghahanda sa mga ospital sa buong Laguna, kaya po kasama po namin dito si Doctor Odie Inoncillo. Dapat po maintindihan po ng lahat na bagaman naghahanda tayong lahat sa posibleng lindol ay hindi po ito dapat nating paghinayangan sapagkat ito ay makakatulong sa ating preparasyon," he added.



Tayag reminded the public to remain vigilant even when no earthquake occurs.

He added: "Kung hindi naman po mangyayari ay isa itong oportunidad para tayo po ay palaging

hand. Ang ibig sabihin po niyan, kung sakaling magkaroon tayo ng lindol, nakaagapay na kaagad ang mga ospital, ngayon pa lamang po ay binigyan na ng (Turn to p. 5)

## DSWD... FR. P. 1

back better. The Department utilizes its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) and Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) program to help affected families rebuild their lives," she said.

The ECT is a cash assistance specifically provided to those most affected by disasters and calamities, enabling them to purchase their most pressing post-disaster needs.

"By injecting monetary resources into the community through the cash assistance, the ECT not only benefits families but also speeds up the economic recovery of the community," Lanada said.

The third phase of DSWD's disaster operations focuses on helping restore the well-being and psychosocial health of the affected families.

"Calamities cause trauma. Beyond just ensuring food, shelter and water, the DSWD contributes to that important role of helping those affected cope with the mental strains of a calamity by providing psychosocial support services," she said.

"Genuine recovery needs to be holistic, addressing the intangible

aftermath of disaster. The psychological and emotional impact of losing one's livelihood, home, and sense of security -- typical after large incidents such as the recent tropical storms or the powerful Davao and Cebu earthquakes -- needs focused intervention," she added.

Currently, the DSWD is conducting psychosocial first aid, stress debriefing and play therapy for the IDPs of the magnitude 6.9 earthquake in northern Cebu on Sept. 30.

The same psychosocial activities were also provided in other disaster operations and will be replicated by the social workers for the Davao disaster operations.

"The mental health and psychosocial support services of the Department aim to help disaster-affected Filipinos achieve psychosocial resilience, which includes not only physical healing, but also complete emotional stability and social reintegration," the DSWD official said.

In all its disaster operations, Lanada said the three-phase approach is the DSWD's guide in responding to the needs of the disaster-affected families and individuals. (PNA)

## DepEd... FR. P. 1

from class suspensions to learning continuity, are science-based, not from fear)," he said.

Angara said that following his visit in Cebu and Davao Oriental to assess the damage wrought by earthquakes, he understood more deeply how crucial accurate data and coordination are.

"Sa tulong ng Phivolcs, masisiguro nating ang bawat hakbang ng DepEd ay mabilis, ligtas, at may batayang siyentipiko (With the help of Phivolcs, we can ensure that every action of DepEd is swift, safe, and science-based)."

Under the strategic partnership, Phivolcs will provide training

programs to capacitate DepEd regional and field offices in building integrity assessment and earthquake response, using checklist-based procedures for automatic safety alerts.

In particular, the partnership aims to ensure that all schools near fault lines are "over-engineered" to withstand strong earthquakes.

The collaboration is expected to result in a faster and more coordinated emergency response.

DepEd also proposed the establishment of a DepEd Command Center with Phivolcs, which will serve as a monitoring hub for both early warning and disaster re-

## DBP opens new Sta. Rosa branch to bring banking services to communities

Sta. Rosa, LAGUNA (PIA)—The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) unveiled its new branch in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna, on October 10, to expand financial services and provide efficient banking transactions to client needs.

According to DBP Board Director Eddie Abel C. Dorotan, the bank's mission is to reach its banking programs and services to the grassroots communities.

"We want to bring [banking] services closer to the local community. To be able to do that, we are trying to expand and improve branches," Dorotan said.

"Here at Sta. Rosa's new site, [we want to reach] first things first the barangay and city, and through the branch we can cater to the local community and offer [them] proper products," he added.

Started in 1996, DBP's Sta. Rosa branch offers deposits, investment products, salary loans, and financial needs to industries like the local government units (LGUs) and nearby communities.

sponse.

To prevent misinformation, both agencies also vowed to release science-based advisories and information materials.

Angara, however, underscored the need to balance disaster preparedness with the continuity of learning.

Temporary class suspensions, the DepEd said, must be based on



DBP also provides financial programs for fisherfolk and the agriculture sector.

Sta. Rosa is known as the center of major industries and commerce in the Philippines and a hub for technology and innovation. DBP is known to contribute to and support the growth of the local economy.

DBP Chairman Philip G. Lo said that "DBP remains committed to working hand in hand in the city of Sta. Rosa to make financial services more inclusive, empowering, and transformative for individuals, families, and enterprises alike."

Assistant Vice President Ched B. Sy emphasized that the Sta. Rosa branch will continue to serve as the vital link to the DBP and the locals of Laguna by providing financial solutions and support to individuals,

businesses, and institutions.

Through this initiative, DBP, as a government financial institution, hopes that the branch will serve as an invaluable partner in the community of Laguna in sustainable growth and creating new opportunities.

Meanwhile, executives encouraged the

public to take advantage of the DBP's products and services, from deposit to investment solutions and transfer and remittance facilities for personal and business needs.

"The new site marks a stronger connection to the bank and the people it serves," DBP said. (KA PIA4A)

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## SAY NO TO DRUGS





### PhilHealth brings 'Yakap' Program and Services closer to Cavite provincial employees

Cavite Provincial Government employees gained valuable updates on their healthcare benefits as the Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management Officer (OPHRMO) spearheaded a PhilHealth Orientation and Updates Session on October 2 at the New Provincial Government Center.

The activity brought together employees from various provincial offices and departments, reflecting the Provincial Government's commitment to promoting employee welfare through accessible healthcare information and services.

Ms. Evelyn V. Rodil, Social Insurance Officer II, led the discussion on PhilHealth's "Yakap" Program and other relevant services. She provided clear and practical insights on the latest policies, programs, and membership guidelines, ensuring that participants are well-informed about their benefits.

Aside from the orientation, onsite services were also made available for employees. These included ID release for new applicants, re-issuance of PhilHealth IDs, and issuance of Member Data Records (MDR), making it more convenient for employees to update and access their PhilHealth information without leaving the workplace.

Through the initiative, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to strengthen its efforts in building a well-informed, healthy, and empowered workforce by bringing essential services closer to its employee. --- OPIO



### Ceremonial awarding of Rice Assistance Allocation in Cavite.

On October 2, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and Cavite 7th District Representative, Hon. Crispin Diego "Ping" D. Remulla, marked the Ceremonial Awarding of Rice Assistance Allocation to four local government units of District 7 – Trece Martires City, Indang, Amadeo, and Tanza, at the New Provincial Government Center.

Gracing the event were Governor Abeng Remulla and 7th District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, who have shown gratitude for the assistance being extended to the communities through the initiative.

The highlight of the event was the turnover of cheques led by DSWD Representative Ms. Marivi Elnar, alongside Governor Abeng Remulla and Cong. Ping Remulla. Cheques were received by the chief executives of the beneficiary LGUs: for the Municipality of Tanza, it was received by Mayor Archangelo "SM" Matro; for Indang, by Mayor Virgilio "Vergel" Fidel; for Amadeo, it was received by Mayor Jose "Jojo" Domingo Jr; and for Trece Martires City, by Mayor Gemma Lubigan and



### Cavite MSMEs complete 2025 OTOP Next Gen training

The Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO), in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Cavite, successfully concluded the 2025 OTOP Next Gen Session 8: Seminar on Virtual Merchandise and Graduation Ceremony on October 3, at D'Banquet Bakeshop and Restaurant, Tagaytay City, marking the culmination of a six-month training program that ran from May to October.

A total of 20 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from across the province participated in the training, which aimed to strengthen their entrepreneurial capabilities and enhance their market competitiveness through innovative design development and digital product promotion under the One Town, One Product (OTOP) Next Gen Program.

The closing event gathered key DTI officers and provincial government representatives who expressed their continued support for local entrepreneurs. Present were DTI Region IV-A Assistant Regional Director Revelyn Cortez, DTI Cavite OIC-Provincial Director Lilibeth R. Chavez and Senior Trade and Industry Development Specialist (STIDS) Ms. Julita Salvacion, and OPCDO-OIC Myrachel P. Cuadra, all of whom delivered inspiring messages highlighting the importance of innovation, creativity, and digital transformation in sustaining local business growth.

The event also featured the presentation of the final OTOP designs crafted by the 2025 OTOP Designer Mr. Christian J. Millare. This was followed by the graduation ceremony, where each participant was awarded a Certificate of Completion, signifying their successful participation in the 2025 OTOP Next Gen training series.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Rebecca S. Tarasona, Division Chief of the Business Development Division (BDD) of DTI Cavite, commended the graduates for their dedication and eagerness to learn, emphasizing that their newfound knowledge and skills in virtual merchandising would serve as valuable tools in navigating today's competitive market.

Through initiatives like OTOP Next Gen, the Provincial Government of Cavite and DTI continue to empower local entrepreneurs, helping them innovate, adapt to modern business practices, and proudly bring Cavite's products to broader markets, both online and beyond.--- OPIO

Vice Mayor Romeo "Bobby" Montehermoso.

Afterwards, an orientation on AKAP was facilitated by the DSWD staff who discussed the ABCs of the program.--- OPIO



### SPES initiative boosts employment prospects for GenTri youth

Seventy-three young hopefuls from the City of Gen. Trias took a meaningful step toward brighter futures as the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) successfully rolled out the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) activity on October 2, in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment and the management of McDonalds, Bacao branch, where the activity was held.

SPES is a flagship youth employment initiative designed to equip students with practical skills and financial assistance during school breaks. It served as a gateway for students and out-of-school youth to gain real-world work experience while earning financial support for their education.

Through sustained programs like SPES, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to champion youth empowerment, ensuring that every opportunity brings them closer to their goals.--- OPIO



The Ugnayan sa Barangay program of the Provincial Government of Cavite, under the leadership of Gov. Abeng Remulla, once again sets on its mission of delivering public service directly to the communities during its opening run in Barangay Amaya VII, Tanza on October 2.

Present during the activity were Tanza Mayor SM Matro, members of the Sangguniang Bayan, and 7th District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, who joined in supporting the program and the province's continued efforts to serve every Caviteño.

### DTI . . FR. P. 4

ment "will closely monitor the implementation and impact of the safeguard measure on cement prices to prevent any unwarranted price adjustments and to ensure that the duties remain at levels necessary to address the serious injury suffered by the domestic industry."

"The DTI will regularly review the safeguard duty to adjust its scope and intensity in response to market conditions. The Department will actively regulate the effects of safeguard tariffs to maintain a balanced environment where both local manufacturers and cement importers can adapt, compete, and thrive, particularly during periods of calamities or supply disruptions," Roque said. (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA)



## DOH Calabarzon strengthens mental health support for victims of disaster

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — In line with the observance of World Mental Health Day 2025, the Department of Health, Center for Health Development (DOH-CHD) CALABARZON has called for stronger collective action to ensure that mental health care remains a core part of disaster response, and recovery efforts.

With this year's theme 'Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies,' the DOH highlights the urgent need to integrate Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) in all levels of disaster preparedness and response.

"Kapag may kalamidad, hindi lang pisikal na aspeto ng ating mga kababayan ang dapat tugunan. Kailangan din nating alagaan ang kanilang isip at damdamin," said Geneva C. Calanog, RN, MPH, Nurse III and Outcome Manager for the Mental Health Program of DOH CALABARZON.

Calanog noted that the effects of disasters—such as earthquakes, typhoons, fires, and even the COVID-19 pandemic—extend beyond physical injuries and property damage, often leading to anxiety, grief, and post-traumatic stress.

The MHPSS framework provides a comprehensive set of services aimed at maintaining and improving mental well-being during emergencies. It includes psychological first aid, community-based interventions, referral systems for specialized care, and support for vulnerable groups such as chil-



dren, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and individuals with pre-existing mental health conditions.

"Ang MHPSS ay tulong na makatao, galang sa puso. Layunin nito na tulungan ang mga naapektuhan na makabangon — hindi lamang sa pisikal na aspeto kundi maging sa emosyonal at sikolohikal," Calanog said. "Our goal is to turn victims into survivors."

Throughout September, DOH CALABARZON rolled out a series of MHPSS training activities across the region to enhance the capacity of local government units and community responders. These trainings aim to ensure that every community can provide timely and compassionate mental health care in times of crisis.

The initiative also seeks to promote "caring for the carers" — extending psychosocial support to

health workers and responders who, despite helping others, also experience stress and emotional exhaustion.

"Gusto rin naming mapangalagaan ang mental health ng mga nagbibigay ng kalinaga," Calanog emphasized. "Kapag matatag ang mga tagapaglingkod, mas matatag din ang komunidad."

Calanog encouraged the public to recognize that asking for help is not a sign of weakness but a step toward healing.

"Ang paghingi ng tulong ay hindi kahiinaan. Ito ay pagpapakita ng lakas at pagnanais na gumaling," she added.

As disasters continue to test the resilience of Filipino communities, DOH CALABARZON reminds everyone that true recovery includes not only rebuilding homes and livelihoods but also restoring hope, emotional balance, and mental well-being. (CM PIA4A)

## DTI to adopt safeguard duty recommendation for imported cement

MANILA – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) will impose the safeguard duty amounting to PHP14 per 40-kg bag of cement, based on the recommendation of the Tariff Commission, for the next three years.

In a statement, DTI Secretary Cristina

Roque said safeguard duty on Ordinary Portland Cement Type 1 and Blended Cement will "level the playing field between domestic manufacturers and importers and is not expected to be passed on to consumers, as the safeguard duty applies solely to imported cement."

## Gov't services offered through OFW Serbisyo caravan in Rome

ROME – Migrant and overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), most of them based in Italy, availed of government services through "Bagong Bayani ng Mundo – OFW Serbisyo Caravan" held in Rome on Oct. 12.

First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos visited the government booths providing services to Filipino workers in Atlantica Live after attending the Jubilee Mass celebrated by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle.

Marcos also tried some of the food at the booths of members of the Philippine Chambers of Commerce in Italy.

Department of Migrant Workers Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) chief Patricia Yvonne Caunan, and Philippine Ambassador to Italy Neal Imperial joined the First Lady.

Cacdac took the opportunity to talk and listen to the grievances of the OFWs during the caravan, which was held in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to bring government services closer to Filipinos abroad.

He said the activity showed the govern-



**OFW SERBISYO CARAVAN.** First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos joins government officials during the "Bagong Bayani ng Mundo – OFW Serbisyo Caravan" at Atlantica in Rome on Oct. 12, 2025. The caravan was held in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to bring government services closer to Filipinos abroad. (Photo courtesy of DMW)

ment's continued concern and dedication "to the welfare of new heroes abroad."

Caunan lauded the Filipino organizations in Italy for their bayanihan (communal cooperation) spirit and volunteerism, emphasizing that their unity mirrors the strength and compassion of the global Filipino community.

Aside from government services, the Filipino workers were also entertained by the popular Filipino boy band SB19.

The group's appearance turned the caravan into a memorable experience, as OFWs sang and danced along, celebrating their Filipino pride in the heart of Rome.

Local Filipino talents in Italy, includ-

ing Maricel Calimlim, SPYM Band, Pinoy Teens Hermes, Gabriel Sarmiento and Armand Curaming, also performed during the program, showcasing the creativity and artistry of the Filipino diaspora.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Tourism, and Social Security System also offered on-site assistance.

Services included OWWA membership enrollment and renewal, passport processing, welfare consultations, and free health checks, ensuring that essential support was brought directly to the Filipino community in Italy. (Alona Cochon/PNA)

cient to cover demand at any given time," the statement reads.

The statement clarified that "the excess cash bond paid by importers or the difference between the provisional and final duty assessed will be refunded once the corresponding Department Order is issued."

It said Roque "remains mindful of the recent earthquakes that have severely affected several areas across the country, underscoring the critical need for cement in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of impacted communities."

It added the department (Back to p. 3)



# DOH caravan to bring mental health services to Calabarzon schools

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Health – Center for Health Development CALABARZON (DOH CHD CALABARZON) will bring mental health education right at the doorsteps of schools to help the youth deal with their psychosocial issues.

Billed the “Katatagan Caravan,” the mental health service is aimed at strengthening mental health awareness and resilience among students and school personnel.

The caravan will visit 31 schools across 31 congressional districts in the region, bringing mental health education and psychosocial support directly to young people. The initiative aims to empower learners to seek help without stigma and to equip teachers and guidance counselors with skills to recognize and respond to mental health concerns.

“We want our youth to understand that seeking help is normal and that mental health is just as important as physical health,” said Geneva C. Calanog, Outcome Manager for the Mental Health Program of DOH CALABARZON.

The upcoming program is part of DOH CALABARZON’s continuing advocacy to promote Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) in schools. Through the caravan, participants will take part in interactive learning sessions,



mental health talks, and peer support activities that foster emotional resilience and empathy.

The initiative also aims to enhance the capacity of teachers, guidance counselors, school nurses, and medical officers through training on MHPSS, the Mental Health Gap Action Program (mhGAP), and peer support systems for youth. These will ensure that schools can provide timely and compassionate care to students who may be experiencing distress.

“Hindi lang community health care providers ang dapat marunong magbigay ng mental health support. Importante rin na ang mga nasa paaralan ay may sapat na kasanayan upang matulungan ang ating mga kabataan,” Calanog explained.

The DOH continues to work closely with the Department of Education (DepEd) to strengthen the region’s school-based mental health programs. Earlier this year, DepEd personnel joined the DOH in capacity-building activities at the National Center

for Mental Health, underscoring the strong partnership between the two agencies.

“We want mental health services to be inclusive, especially in underserved and hard-to-reach areas. Walang maiwan pagdating sa kalinga at serbisyo ng kalusugang pangkaisipan,” Calanog said.

The Katatagan Caravan reinforces this year’s World Mental Health Day theme, “Access to Services: Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies,” by promoting the integration of mental health care into all aspects of community life, including education.

Through this initiative, the DOH CALABARZON envisions resilient, compassionate, and mentally

healthy school communities across the region.

“Ang pangangalaga sa mental health ay hindi lamang tuwing may okasyon,” Calanog emphasized.

“Sa bawat pakikinig, pag-abot ng tulong, at pagpapakita ng malasakit, tayo ay nagiging bahagi ng mas matatag at mas mahabaging komunidad.”

Through the upcoming Katatagan Caravan, DOH CALABARZON reaffirms its commitment to building resilient and compassionate school communities where mental health is prioritized, help-seeking is normalized, and every learner has access to care and support when they need it most. (Cecille Maloles)

## LAGUNA... FR. P. 1

instruksyon ang mga ospital sa kanilang paghahanda lalo na sa inaasahan pong mga kasualties dahil na din po sa lindol, bagaman naghahanda tayo dyan, ipagdadasal po natin na hindi po mangyariyan.”

Aragones earlier announced the suspension of all face-to-face classes in Laguna from

October 14-31 in all levels for both public and private schools as a readiness measure for a possible earthquake.

She also urged families to stock up on essential supplies that may be used in times of disaster even as the provincial government is looking at fund sources to provide



Cavite Career Caravan brings opportunities to residents of Noveleta

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), headed by Ms. Rizalie Pinpin Enero, in partnership with the local government of Noveleta under the leadership of Mayor Davey Reyes Chua, successfully organized the Cavite Career Caravan on October 3 at Noveleta Town Plaza.

The initiative brought together 35 local companies and 4 international employers, offering a wide range of job opportunities to a total of 176 registered job-seekers, 23 of whom were hired on the spot.

National government agencies such as PSA, OWWA, DTI, BIR, SSS, Pag-IBIG Fund, and TESDA were also at the Cavite Career Caravan to help applicants and Noveleta residents update their records. The Bank of the Philippine Islands also offered valuable job opportunities.

To encourage community participation, Mayor Chua went live on Facebook during the event, providing real-time updates reflecting his commitment to keeping the public informed and engaged, ensuring that residents had access to the latest event details.

Mayor Chua also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Governor Abeng Remulla, OPPEM, and all partner organizations and agencies that contributed to the success of the Cavite Career Caravan. Their collaborative efforts ensured the smooth execution of the event and its positive impact on the local community.--- OPIO



In honor of World Teachers’ Day, the medical mission team from the Office of the Provincial Governor visited Magallanes Elementary School on October 3 to distribute free prescribed medicines and vitamins. This thoughtful initiative reached not only teachers but also residents of the community, providing essential health support to a total of 88 individuals.

The initiative aimed to express appreciation to teachers for their invaluable contribution to education while fostering community well-being by providing accessible healthcare services to the people of Magallanes.--- OPIO

emergency supplies.

“Habang hinihikayat din po natin ang mga magulang at mga estudyante na alamin natin ang paraan kung

paanong kahit nasa bahay tayo ay magiging ligtas tayo. Ligtas ang may alam – mahalaga po iyan.” (CO/PIA-4A)



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## POC sees big fighting chance for Team PH in Asian Youth Games

MANILA — The head of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) said he believes that the 141-strong national contingent has a big fighting chance in the 3rd Asian Youth Games (AYG), set to be held in Manama, Bahrain from Oct. 22 to 31.

“Yes, this team has a strong fighting chance,” POC president Abraham “Bambol” Tolentino said during the national team’s photo shoot at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum on Monday.

Tolentino said the goal is to match or surpass the gold medals won by taekwondo’s Pauline Lopez and golfer Mia Legaspi, along with the three silver medals in the 2013 edition held in Nanjing, China.

Boxer Leo Mhar Lobrido and volleyball player Harlene Serneche will serve as flagbearers during the opening ceremony of the second-largest multi-sport competition on the continent after the Asian Games.

“We’ll train and do our best to get a medal,” Lobrido said during the photo session.

The 16-year-old Lobrido from Bago City, Negros Occidental, is one of the medal contenders. He topped the



Fourth Greater Area Bay Youth Boxing Challenge in Shenzhen, China last year.

“We have potential and hopefully, we’ll be competitive there,” said the 18-year-old Serneche, an incoming National University freshman.

The photo shoot featured 30 athletes, including Pi Durden Wangkay and Lorraine Batalla (athletics), Jan Brix Ramiscal (Muay), siblings Charlie and Travis Ratcliff (MMA), and Rhose Almendralejo (volleyball).

The volleyball team is composed of National University’s high school squad.

“It’s a big pressure for me because this is only the second time I’m competing outside the country. I hope to help

the team and do well,” said Almendralejo, a grade 11 student of Tay Tung High School in Bacolod City.

Philippine National Volleyball Federation president Ramon “Tats” Suzara is the chef de mission of Team Philippines.

The Filipino athletes will join 18 of 26 sports in the AYG program. These are volleyball, teqball, golf, triathlon, mixed martial arts, taekwondo, muay, athletics, boxing, cycling, weightlifting, table tennis, badminton, wrestling, aquatics, jiu-jitsu, kushin, and pencak silat.

Tolentino said Bahrain is ready to host 4,250 athletes, 900 team and technical officials, and 700 coaches in the games. (PNA)

## MPT South Recognized as Key Tourism Partner at Cavite Tourism Excellence Awards 2025

Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. (MPTC), has once again been recognized as a valued tourism partner by the Office of the Provincial Government of Cavite during the Cavite Tourism Excellence Awards 2025, held last September 30, 2025, at the Cavite Provincial Capitol, Trece Martires City.

The Cavite Tourism Excellence Awards serves as a platform to recognize individuals and organizations whose invaluable contributions help shape the province’s tourism landscape and promote Cavite as a thriving cultural and travel destination.

MPT South received a Plaque of Appreciation from Cavite Tourism, marking its second consecutive year of recognition for its strong partnership and contribution to the province’s tourism initiatives.

Through its tourism advocacy program, Biaheng South, MPT South has actively collaborated with the Department of Tourism Region IV-A (DOT IV-A) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) IV-A on various initiatives that spotlight Cavite’s rich heritage and culture. Some of these initiatives include the following: Cavite Tourism Passport, Tara! Let’s Explore Cavite, Tara! Let’s Explore Manila, Biaheng South Summer Tour and Experiential Tour, and various trimestral



tours that have encouraged travelers to rediscover the beauty of the south, made accessible through Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX).

“This recognition inspires us to continue bridging communities through our expressways and initiatives that celebrate the culture, people, and destinations of the South. Together with Cavite Provincial Tourism Office, we aim to keep driving tourism forward,” said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South.

This recognition follows MPT South’s recent win at the 21st Philippine Quill Awards, where it earned an Award of

Merit for its Biaheng South tourism advocacy program, underscoring the company’s growing impact in promoting local travel, culture, and sustainable mobility.

MPT South remains steadfast in its mission to promote sustainable tourism and inclusive growth in Southern Luzon by providing motorists with safe, convenient access to the region’s thriving destinations and cultural landmarks.

About Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation MPTC is the leading toll road developer and operator in the Philippines and the holding company of premier tollways, including NLEX, SCTEX, CAVITEX, CALAX, NLEX Connector, and CCLEX in Cebu.

**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**

*Psalms 37:10-11*