

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

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P10.00

# DSWD boosts disasters preparedness, produces record 3M food packs

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has a total of 3,000,658 boxes of family food packs (FFPs) prepositioned across the agency's warehouses nationwide, the biggest stockpile so far in the agency's history.

DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumla of the Disaster Response

Management Group said the enhanced relief preparation and prepositioning efforts are part of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s thrust toward a more "omnipresent" government response to disasters and calamities.

"This big number will go a long way in ensuring that our relief resources can sustain

our disaster response efforts," Dumla said in news release on Monday.

Of the total, she said 2,207,124 have already been delivered and prepositioned at various hubs, spokes and last-mile facilities across the country.

Over 790,000 FFPs, on the other hand, are ready to be dispatched from the National Re-

source Operations Center in Pasay City and the Visayas Disaster Response Center in Cebu, where production of relief items is conducted daily.

The DSWD spokesperson said the record number of FFPs also reflects the agency's untiring dedication to bolster year-round preparation for disasters and calamities.

"When Secretary Rex Gatchalian joined the Department in 2023, in less than five months, he really worked hard so we can launch the Buong Bansa Handa (BBH) initiative and transform how we manage our disaster response effort," she said.

Under the BBH, the agency has strategically prepositioned and ensured the availability of goods even

before disaster strikes. It employs two parallel supply chain mechanisms to optimize disaster preparedness and response.

The first supply chain features a national and local government-driven supply chain. The second forges partnerships with established large and small groceries, supermarkets, manufacturers, and dis-

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## DA: No chicken supply issue despite plan to ban import from Brazil

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Monday assured there will be no issue with the supply of chicken meat despite its plan to impose an import ban on poultry products from Brazil.

The looming country-wide ban is expected as Brazil, the Philippines' and the world's largest chicken exporter, reported

the first case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or bird flu from a commercial farm in Montenegro, Rio Grande do Sul.

In a Palace press briefing, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said there are other countries which can serve as alternative sources when the import ban takes effect.

"Yes, we will have to ban the whole coun-

try from exporting chicken to us. But, of course, hindi lang naman Brazil ang nag-supply sa Pilipinas (It's not only Brazil supplying to the Philippines)," he said.

"As far as supply is concerned, I really don't see any issue, baka may (there might be a) brief supply gap lang na baka (perhaps one or two weeks, because they have to

change origins. But in general, I don't see any issue, because even our local poultry industry medyo maganda ang production (somehow has a good production)."

However, there will be minimal price adjustments with the impending import ban.

"Ang advantage lang ng Brazil, kaya malakas sila, dahil sila ang

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## DepEd new teaching posts seen as investment in quality education

MANILA – Senators Joel Villanueva and Sherwin Gatchalian on Tuesday hailed the approval of 16,000 new teaching positions, framing the move as a strategic investment in strengthening the education system and securing the nation's long-term develop-

ment.

Villanueva, the commissioner of the Second Congressional Commission on Education, said hiring more educators is not merely about filling vacancies but empowering the next generation with quality instruction that can uplift

communities and drive national progress.

"We're not just hiring teachers. We're building the foundation for a more skilled, competitive and enlightened Filipino workforce," he said in a statement.

"With 18 million Filipinos still functionally

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**CHICKEN SUPPLY.** Vendors attend to customers buying pork and chicken at a market in Caloocan City in this 2024 file photo. The Department of Agriculture on Monday (May 19, 2025) assured there will be no issue with the supply of chicken meat in the country despite a plan to impose an import ban on poultry products from bird flu-affected Brazil. (PNA photo by Ben Briones)

**MORE WATER ... FR. P. 5**

tion and to consistently deliver excellence for our nation and its people. Together, we aspire to even greater achievements in the future."

"The 12th Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards received an impressive array of outstanding entries," said Maggie Miller, President of the Stevie Awards. "This year's winners have clearly shown their dedication to innovation, and we commend their resilience and imaginative efforts."

About MPT South

MPT South is a sub-

sidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). Beyond its management of the CALAX and CAVITEX networks, MPTC's domestic portfolio encompasses concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

**PBBM . . FR. P. 5**

ration process with the National Budget Call Forum, marking the official start of the preparation phase for the National Expenditure Program which outlines the President's proposed budget for next year.

The target spending level for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 is based on the government's Medium-Term Fiscal Framework, which estimates a budget of almost PHP7 trillion.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) is scheduled to meet on May 26 to finalize and

announce the official budget ceiling, which would depend on revenue projections from the Department of Finance (DOF), Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Bureau of Customs.

Once the budget ceiling and proposed programs are finalized, the DBM, together with the DBCC, DOF, and the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development will meet with Marcos to review key projects, especially those under the administration's priority agenda. (PNA)

**I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.**

*Ecclesiastes 9:11*

**DSWD... FR. P. 1**

tributors to leverage on their technical expertise and resources to create a private sector-driven supply chain.

Dumlao thanked the people who continue to help fast-track the agency's prepositioning efforts.

"We also want to honor our ever-hardworking and tireless em-

ployees -- our Angels in Red Vests -- as well as our volunteers who flock to our production centers to help with our daily operations. Your compassion and commitment reflect the true spirit of modern bayanihan, bringing hope and relief to our kababayan (compatriots) in need," she said. (PNA)

**DA...FR. P. 1**

pinakamura. So, baka mas makabili lang tayo ng, iyong mga importers o processors, na mas mahal na kaunti pero (The advantage of Brazil, the reason why they're so strong because they are the cheapest. So, maybe our importers or processors will buy at a slightly higher price, but) I think the price difference is only a few percentage," Tu Laurel said.

As of February, 44.15 million kilograms of chicken have been imported from Brazil, according to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).

Other countries of origin for poultry imports for the said month include Belgium, Canada, Chile, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

In terms of production, the country logged 550,499 metric tons (MT) of local chicken production during the first quarter of 2025, which is higher than 506,277 MT logged for the same period in 2024, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority.

**Safe for consumption**

The BAI, meanwhile, maintained that the country's poultry products are safe for

**DepEd . . FR. P. 1**

illiterate, this investment is long overdue."

Villanueva also pointed out that adding educators is crucial to easing classroom burdens, particularly in remote and underserved areas where teacher-to-student ratios remain alarmingly high.

To further boost teacher quality, Villanueva cited Republic Act 11713 or Excellence in Teacher Education Act, which enhances teacher training, offers scholarships and promotes career-long professional development.

Gatchalian noted that the additional positions will help improve learning outcomes by

ensuring that students receive adequate attention and instruction, particularly as the country confronts learning losses amplified by the pandemic.

He warned, however, that the benefits of the new posts hinge on the Department of Education's (DepEd) ability to streamline its hiring process.

"The new teaching items are only as effective as our ability to fill them promptly with qualified educators," he said, renewing his call for DepEd to revise its recruitment rules to shorten the current six-month average hiring time. (PNA)

# CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

## WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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Bacooreños benefitted in another medical and dental mission. On May 8, 2025, a total of 209 Bacooreños benefitted in the medical and dental mission program held at Brgy. Dulong Bayan, Bacoor City.

The dedicated medical team of Office of the Provincial Health Officer provided basic medical consultation, dental check-up and tooth extraction. Likewise, medicines and vitamins were handed out to complement the services.

The PGC's health outreach program continues to bring the healthcare services closer to the doorstep of the Caviteños in need.--- OPIO

## PBBM hands-on in 2026 nat'l budget preparation, says DBM

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. is keeping tabs on the entire 2026 national budget process to keep it aligned with government priorities and make sure it only includes “shovel-ready projects,” Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said on Tuesday.

In an interview, Pangandaman said Marcos was even willing to join the bicameral conference committee’s budget deliberations on the proposed 2026 national budget, if needed.

“As early as January po nung matapos po ang budget ng 2025, may mga bilin na po ang ating Presidente sa ating (when the 2025 budget was finalized, our President already had instructions on our [2026]) budget,” Pangandaman said.

“Every once in a while, in fact, bago mag-eleksyon may mga bilin po siya. Uupuan po namin lagi



*Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman. (File photo)*

‘yan [budget process] hanggang sa dulo po. Kung kinakailangan na umupo siya sa bicam, uupo ang ating Pangulo sa bicam (before the elections, he had instructions. We will always sit down for the budget process until the end. If it is necessary for him to sit down with the bicam, our President will sit in the bicam),” she added.

Pangandaman said the Department of Budget and Management’s (DBM) Two-Tier Budgeting Approach (2TBA) is used for the budget process.

Tier 1 covers regular expenses such as

salaries (personnel services), operating costs (maintenance and other operating expenses), and ongoing capital projects, while Tier 2 includes big or new projects that need additional funds, as per requests from concerned agencies.

“Ito po ‘yung talagang tinitignan natin. Kasi po ‘yung iba po sa mga [projects] hindi pa ready. Mahirap naman po pondohan kung hindi shovel-ready. Sayang naman po. Titignan po natin ‘yung mga utilization rate (This is what we are really looking at. Because the other projects are not ready yet.

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## Study: More water intake may cut risk of hypertension, heart failure

JERUSALEM – People with higher sodium levels — still within the normal range — are more likely to develop high blood pressure and heart failure, but staying well-hydrated can help prevent these problems, Israeli scientists said on Sunday.

A team of researchers from Bar-Ilan University examined 20 years of electronic health records from more than 407,000 healthy adults enrolled in Leumit Healthcare Services, one of Israel’s largest health providers.

Their findings, published in the peer-reviewed European Journal of Preventive Cardiology, suggest that individuals with sodium levels at the higher end of the normal range face significantly elevated risks for high blood pressure and heart failure.

Till now, the 135–146 mmol/L sodium range was broadly accepted as “normal,” with little clinical concern unless levels were outside

It is difficult to fund if they are not shovel-ready. It would just go to waste. We will look at the utilization rates,” Pangandaman said.

Pangandaman stressed that the national budget continues to play a key role in stimulating the Philippine economy, noting that the increase in the economic growth is “very high” because of government spending.

In January, the DBM launched the 2026 national budget prepara-



*(TPS photo)*

this band.

But the Bar-Ilan study found that otherwise healthy individuals with sodium levels between 140–146 mmol/L still face measurably higher risks of developing chronic cardiovascular conditions.

For those with levels above 143 mmol/L, the risk jumped to 29 percent for hypertension and 20 percent for heart failure.

“Our findings point to hydration as a critical and overlooked part of chronic disease prevention,” said Prof. Jonathan Rabinowitz of the Weisfeld School of Social Work at Bar-Ilan University, who led the study.

“A simple blood test might flag people who could benefit from basic lifestyle adjustments—like drinking more water, which reduces sodium levels.”

The researchers tied in hydration by using blood sodium levels as an indirect marker of a person’s hydration status.

Sodium concentration in the blood rises when the body is underhydrated because there’s not enough water to dilute the sodium.

Nearly 60 percent of participants had

sodium levels falling within the risk-associated range, underscoring how widespread the issue may be even among healthy populations.

The associations held firm even after accounting for variables such as age, sex, body mass index, smoking, potassium levels, and blood pressure. To ensure the data accurately reflected hydration-related risks, individuals with conditions affecting water balance were excluded from the analysis.

“Hydration is often overlooked in chronic disease prevention,” Rabinowitz added. “This study adds compelling evidence that staying well-hydrated may help reduce the long-term risk of serious conditions like hypertension and heart failure.”

The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine recommends a daily fluid intake of approximately 3.7 liters for adult men and 2.7 liters for adult women.

However, individual hydration needs can vary based on factors such as age, activity level, climate, and health status. (TPS-IL)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-244-25

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION,  
(in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.,  
Petitioner-Mortgagee,  
-versus-  
CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.,  
Respondents-Mortgagors,

X-----X

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, **RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION, (in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.**, with business address at 28th Floor At Yuchengco Centre, 25th & 26th Sts., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, against the Respondents-Mortgagors, **CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.**, with residence and postal address at Pili Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro/Gumamela St., Brgy. Cacawan Pinamalayan, Oriental, Mindoro, Philippines / Blk 34 Lot 35 Meridian Place Phl. Brgy. Pasong Kawayan 4107, General Trias, Cavite, Philippines to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of FEBRUARY 24, 2025 amounts to **FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE AND 43/100 ONLY (PHP484,243.43)** inclusive of interest and other charges, attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on **MAY 21, 2025** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE**  
No. 057-2021059234

LOT NO: 35 BLOCK NO: 34 PLAN NO:PCS-04-029079  
PORTION OF: THE CONS/SUBD OF LOT 2324-A, FLS-168-D, S.F.D.M. ESTATE & LOT 3296-D, PSD-04-051993; LRC RECORD NO. 5964  
LOCATION: BARANGAY PASONG KAWAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

**BOUNDARIES:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT(S)
1-2	NE	ROAD LOT 3 (8.00M WIDE R.O.W.), PCS-04-029079
2-3	SE	LOT 37, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
3-4	SW	LOT 36, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
4-5	SW	LOT 34, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079
5-1	NW	LOT 33, BLOCK 34, PCS-04-029079

**AREA: SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS.**

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on JUNE 4, 2025 without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, April 24, 2025

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG  
Sheriff IV

**Copy Furnished:**

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION  
(in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.,  
28th Floor AT Yuchengco Centre, 25th & 26th Sts., Bonifacio

## DOST to hold 3rd international smart city expo in Isabela

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in partnership with the local government unit of Cauayan City Isabela (ISU) is set to hold the 3rd International Smart City Exposition and Networking Engagement (iSCENE) on May 22-24, 2025, at the Isabela Convention Center, Cauayan City. Cauayan City, Isabela

is the first smart city in the Philippines, designated by the DOST in 2025. The city has implemented various digital solutions to improve network and services such as the installment of free WiFi in its 65 barangays.

With the theme, "Empowering Smart and Sustainable Communities through Govern-

ment-Academe-Industry Collaboration," the three-day event will showcase a wide range of activities including talks on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster management, smart cities and communities, and in mobility and smart transportation.

Also, some of the highlights of the event will be the Philippine Smart and Sustainable Cities Awards, the Mobile Command and Control Vehicle (MOCCOV) Operations Olympics, E-Sports tournament, and the Hackathon.

There were also exhibits of AI, robotics and startup innovations, and cutting-edge advancements in water management, textiles, smart agriculture, and circular economy. These exhibits will serve as a platform to discuss details and commitment for possible transfer of technologies and commercialization.

Moreover, with the aim to transform com-

munities through active citizen-engagement, and to further promote the Smarter Philippines mission, the DOST Regional Office 2 is also set to secure its partnership with various government agencies, and academic institutions such as the Department of Human Settlement and Urban Development (DHSUD) Region 2, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Isabela State University (ISU), King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) in Thailand and the Cauayan City LGU.

For the past two years, the iSCENE has become an opportunity to bring together government agencies, academe, industry players, and international partners for collaboration and knowledge-sharing to achieve smart, resilient, and sustainable communities.

### EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased spouses **ANTONIO G. ERMENO**, who died on June 20, 1998 at kayquit, Indang, Cavite, and **MARINA M. ERMENO** who died on January 20, 2000 at Bagumbayan, General Trias, Cavite, and the deceased spouses left two (2) parcels of land described as **TCT No. T-55604** with an area of **Three Hundred Twenty Five (325)** square meters located at Bario Manggang Bukol, General Trias, Cavite, and **TCT No. T-325414** with an area of **Two Hundred Sixteen (216)** square meters located at Barrio Poblacion, General Trias, Cavite, and has been extrajudicially settled by among their heirs through Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of **ANTONIO G. ERMENO AND MARINA M. ERMENO** with Waiver of Rights executed on May 18, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 102, Page No. 22, Book No. II, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

**Published at: Cavite News Publishing**  
**Dates: May 22, 29, - June 5, 2025**

### ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication dated April 1, 8, & 15, 2025 filed by Petitioner-Mortgagee, **RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION (in its capacity as successor-in-interest of RCBC Savings Bank, Inc.) represented by Atty. Leonardo A. Yepes Jr.** against the Respondents-Mortgagors, **CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.** in the date of publication April 1, 8, & 15, 2025 it should be **May 1, 8, & 15, 2025**

**Published at: Cavite News Publishing**  
**Date: May 22, 2025, 2025**

Global City, Taguig City

**CRISANTA PALERMO LEYCO AND PEDRO PALERMO LEYCO JR.**  
Pili Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro/Gumamela St., Brgy. Cacawan Pinamalayan, Oriental, Mindoro, Philippines/ Blk. 34 Lot 35 Meridian Place Phl. Brgy. Pasong Kawayan 4107, General Trias, Cavite, Philippines

**WARNING:** It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

**Published at: Cavite News Publishing**  
**Dates: April 1, 8, & 15, 2025**

### EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased **ARNEL VILLANUEVA MOYA** who died on June 27, 2010 in Bagumbayan, General Trias, Cavite and the deceased left one parcel of land described as **TCT No. T-916375** with an area of **eighty -six (86)** square meters located at Brgy. Umboy, Tanza, Cavite, and has been extrajudicially settled by among his heirs through Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of **"ARNEL VILLANUEVA MOYA"** with Waiver of Rights executed on May 8, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 48, Page No. 11, Book No. II, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

**Published at: Cavite News Publishing**  
**Dates: May 15, 22, & 29, 2025**

### EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given **TO THE PUBLIC** of the deceased **DANILO DELA CRUZ CASOR** who died on March 15, 2024 in Malate, Metro Manila and the deceased left one personal property, an Alinma Bank check in the amount of **Eleven Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Five**, Saudi Arabian Riyal Currency (11565) and has been extrajudicially settled by among his heirs thorough Extrajudicial Settlement of Estate of **"DANILO DELA CRUZ CASOR"** executed on May 1, 2025 by **Atty. Nathalie T. Almazan** as per Doc. No. 512, Page No. 104, Book No. I, Series of 2025 in General Trias City, Cavite.

**Published at: Cavite News Publishing**  
**Dates: May 15, 22, & 29, 2025**

## 'Benteng Bigas Meron Na' rolls out in Calabarzon

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Vulnerable sectors in various parts of Cavite, Laguna, and Rizal were able to purchase rice at just P20 per kilo through the Department of Agriculture's "Bente Bigas, Meron Na" program.

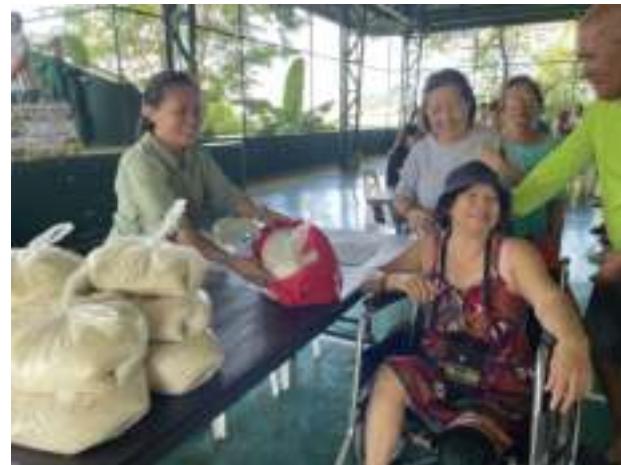
In Dasmariñas City, residents of Barangay Salitran III expressed their gratitude to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for fulfilling his promise to make rice more affordable for the public.

"Maraming salamat po kay Pangulong Bongbong Marcos sa pagsasakatuparan ninyo ng pangakong gawing bente pesos ang presyo ng bigas. Sana po ay laging may ganito dahil malaki po talaga ang maitutulong nito sa amin," said Bella Maneses, who lined up early to avail of the discounted rice.

Maneses added that the low-cost rice is a big help to her family, especially amid the rising prices of basic goods.

According to City Agriculturist Jennifer Ibayan, the program prioritizes members of the vulnerable sector, such as senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PWDs), solo parents, and beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

"Suportado ng pambalang lungsod ang pagbebenta ng murang bigas na layuning tulungan ang ating mga kababayang kabilang sa vulnerable sector upang magkaroon sila ng sapat at masus-



tansyang pagkain," Ibayan said.

In Santa Rosa City, Laguna, the local government has also begun rolling out the P20-per-kilo rice program, made available every Friday through the Kadiwa ng Pangulo Center.

"Maraming mama-mayan ng Santa Rosa ang tumangkilik sa pagbebenta ng mas murang bigas—lalo na ang mga senior citizen, PWD, solo parents, at 4Ps beneficiaries. Alinsunod ito sa direkta ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na palawigin ang access ng publiko sa abot-kayang at dekalidad na bigas," the Santa Rosa City Agriculture Office said in a statement.

Aside from affordable rice, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo also offers a variety of quality agricultural products, including fresh fruits and vegetables, other food items, and locally made goods from various parts of Calabarzon.

The Santa Rosa City Agriculture Office reaffirmed the local government's full commitment to ensuring continuous access to affordable and nutritious food for its constituents. (PB, PIA4A)

Meanwhile, in Antipolo City, stocks of P20 rice were quickly sold out, reflecting high demand and strong community support for the initiative.

Antipolo City Mayor Andeng Ynares also underscored the local government's full support for the "Bente Bigas, Meron Na!" program, which she said aligns with efforts to make rice more accessible to the general public.

Other LGUs participating in this initiative are Naic in Cavite; and Rodriguez, and Binangonan in Rizal, which are scheduled to sell the affordable rice every Thursday and Friday at designated Kadiwa Centers.

Meanwhile, Kadiwa Centers in Kalayaan in Laguna; and San Mateo, Rizal will offer the subsidized rice every Friday.

The "Bente Bigas, Meron Na!" initiative is part of the Marcos administration's broader commitment to ensuring food affordability and strengthening local food systems under the Bagong Pilipinas governance agenda. (PB, PIA4A)

## MPT South Garners Prestigious Stevie® Award for Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy

Seoul, South Korea — May 13, 2025 — MPT South gained recognition as a Bronze Stevie® Award winner in the Innovation in Communications/Public Relations category for its impactful Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy Campaign at the prestigious 12th annual Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards held in Seoul, South Korea. This esteemed accolade marks a significant milestone for MPT South, representing its inaugural Stevie® Award and underscoring the company's growing influence and commitment to exemplary advocacy initiatives such as the Drayberks Road Safety Program.

The Asia-Pacific Stevie Awards stand as the premier business awards program honoring innovation across all 29 markets within the Asia-Pacific region. Globally recognized, the Stevie Awards celebrate achievements through distinguished programs like The International Business Awards®, now in its 23rd year.

Since its inception in 2018, MPT South's Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy Program has pioneered efforts to cultivate responsible driving behaviors and elevate road safety awareness among Filipino drivers of all classifications. Targeting a broad spectrum, including public utility drivers, transport groups, logistics companies, and various mobility stakeholders,



the program embodies a proactive approach. Recognizing drivers as central to road mobility and safety, Drayberks was thoughtfully designed as an ongoing, adaptive educational initiative. It transcends the limitations of a singular seminar, providing a continuous reinforcement of traffic discipline and awareness, effectively bridging the crucial gap between theoretical traffic regulations and their practical application in real-world scenarios.

The Drayberks Road Safety Advocacy program was lauded by the Stevie® Award committee for its innovative approach to public engagement and its demonstrable positive impact on commuter safety

throughout Metro Manila and Southern Luzon.

Ms. Elnora D. Rumawak, Officer-in-charge of MPT South, expressed her profound gratitude, stating, "The Bronze Stevie® Award for our Drayberks Road Safety Campaign is a deeply cherished honor for the entire MPT South team. Our vision was straightforward: to empower drivers to become safer and more informed road users. Through collaborative spirit, creative ingenuity, and unwavering dedication to our purpose, the Drayberks Campaign has evolved into a true advocacy. This recognition fuels our motivation to continue pushing the boundaries of innovation."

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Make your summer count at the SM Active Hub in SM City Trece Martires!

Head to the Level 2 Event Area and dive into exciting free play activities like table tennis, chess, and billiards—happening now until May 29! Just register via the SM Malls Online app or scan the SMO QR code on-site to claim your swipe coupon and join in the fun!



Calling all job seekers! Your career journey begins at the SM Retail Job Fair on May 29, 2025 at the Main Event Center, SM City Dasmariñas! Whether you're into fashion, hardware, customer service, or more, there's a spot waiting for you. Get hired on the spot by top brands like The SM Store, Watsons, SM Supermarket, Ace Hardware, and many more!

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## DepEd chief thanks PBBM, DBM for hire of 16K new teachers

MANILA — Education Secretary Sonny Angara on Tuesday thanked President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for supporting the hiring of 16,000 additional teachers in public schools.

This is still in line with the Marcos administration's goal to ensure quality education for learners alongside easing the workload of public school teachers.

"We thank President Marcos for his firm instruction to prioritize our teachers and learners. These new teaching items directly respond to his call to reduce class sizes and lighten the workload of our educators on the ground," Angara said in a statement.

The new positions will help address the need for specialized and sub-

ject-specific educators from Kinder to Senior High School (SHS); improve the teacher-student ratio; and enhance learning outcomes through optimized class sizes, among others.

The deployment of the new hires is expected at the opening of the school year, with a target timeline to fill the 16,000 positions by the end of the third quarter.

The DepEd earlier requested the recruitment and deployment of 80 percent of the 20,000 teaching positions created under the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) from the DBM.

"We also extend our gratitude to Secretary Amenah Pangandaman and the DBM for acting swiftly on our request. Their support ensures that our schools will be ready to welcome

more teachers before classes begin," Angara said.

Besides the 16,000 new teaching positions, the DepEd said the DBM also commenced the issuance of the Notices of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action (NOSCAs) for 10,000 Administrative Officer II items to help alleviate non-teaching loads of public school teachers.

To ensure there will be no delays in the hiring process, the DepEd will monitor compliance and the hiring pace in different regions.

All Schools Division Offices (SDOs) were also ordered to begin the publication, hiring, and appointment of the said items upon receipt of respective NOSCAs from DBM regional offices. (PNA)