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## DA eyes to modernize agri sector with private sector participation

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) said Tuesday it aims to build modern and stronger agricultural infrastructure through private sector participation to achieve sustainable food security and

boost farmers' income. On Monday, the DA signed a landmark agreement with the publicly listed Megawide Construction Corp. to develop an integrated agricultural infrastructure project.

In a statement, DA

Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the partnership not only seeks to reduce post-harvest losses but also advance the government's food security targets.

"This memorandum of  
(Turn to p. 2)

# Power subsidies eyed to ease burden on consumers

MANILA – Electricity subsidies and mandated discounts should be funded through the national budget instead of being passed on to consumers, a senator said Tuesday.

In Senate Resolution 375, Senator Bam Aquino called for an inquiry into the design, targeting, and financing of the lifeline rate subsidy and other electricity discounts to ensure their "fair and sustainable implementation without placing undue burden on electricity consumers."

"Busisiin natin ang karagdang bayad na ito. Marami nang naghihirap na Pilipino at middle class. Hindi na dapat dagdagan ang gastusin ng taumbayan kung may pera naman ang gobyerno para sa ayuda (Let us scrutinize these additional charges. Many Filipinos, including the middle class, are already struggling. The public should not bear additional costs if the government has funds for assistance)," Aquino said.

The resolution seeks

to review the current cross-subsidy mechanism, where discounts granted to marginalized users are recovered from other electricity consumers, raising concerns over equity and sustainability.

"Current reliance on cross-subsidy mechanisms results in a redistribution of costs that may place a disproportionate and cumulative burden on non-beneficiary consumers, particularly low- and middle-in-

(Turn to p.2)



REFUND. A Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) worker conducts a routine inspection of overhead power meters along Road 10 in Tondo, Manila on April 23, 2026. Senator Bam Aquino said Tuesday (April 28, 2026) that electricity subsidies and mandated discounts should be funded through the national budget instead of being passed on to consumers. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

## 'Trabaho Para sa Bayan' pushes for inclusivity, improved job matching in labor market

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — A new roadmap calling for improved job-skill matching and inclusivity is expected to bolster the employment landscape in the CALABARZON region.

Last April 23, the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DepDev) unveiled its Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) Roadshow to highlight the importance of cultivating a high-quality



job market where policies, programs and strategies are geared toward improving job-skill matching and inclusivity.

Agnes Tolentino, Re-

gional Development Group Assistant Secretary for DepDev, noted that job quality remains a challenge for the CALABARZON regions despite

the various opportunities available.

Tolentino underscored that inclusivity is a concern for local employment where marginalized sectors, including senior citizens, Persons With Disabilities (PWD) and even women remain a minority in the workforce.

"Available jobs and those that are being created do not always translate into decent  
(Turn to p.2)

## Lawmaker calls for El Niño readiness

MANILA – The country should prepare for the possible onset of El Niño as early as now, as the failure to implement countermeasures could sink the country deeper into crisis, a lawmaker said on Tuesday.

"El Niño will negatively impact food security and public health, and it is up to us in government to exhaust all efforts to

minimize its effects on the people," Abra Lone District Rep. JB Bernos said in a statement.

He said preparations should include adequate financial support to boost productivity and re-energize the country's agriculture sector.

"The key to surviving El Niño is also the key to improving our  
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**POWER . . FR. P. 1**

come households who do not qualify for existing subsidies,” Aquino said.

Based on initial estimates cited in the resolution, subsidy-related charges may add several centavos per kilowatt-hour, or about PHP20 to PHP100 per month, to the electricity bills of non-beneficiary households, depending on consumption levels.

Aquino said exploring alternative financing, including partial or full funding through the national budget, could improve transparency, accountability, and sustainability of subsidy programs.

“Mahalagang malaman natin ang sistema ng pangongolekta at hindi ito napapasan ng mga kapwa naghihirap na kababayan natin sa middle class (It is important to understand how these are collected and ensure that the burden is not carried by fellow Filipinos who are also struggling in the middle class),” he said.

Under Section 73 of Republic Act 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, a lifeline rate provides discounted electricity bills for marginalized end-users who have difficulty paying at full

cost, while Republic Act 11552 expanded the coverage to include households under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

Rules issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission allow qualified beneficiaries consuming up to 50 kilowatt-hours per month to receive discounts of up to 100 percent, based on standardized eligibility criteria implemented in January 2026.

The resolution noted that while the lifeline rate remains a vital social protection measure, its current design may result in additional charges reflected in electricity bills.

Senior citizens, meanwhile, receive a 5 percent discount on electricity consumption of up to 100 kWh per month under Republic Act 9994, which may likewise contribute to costs being borne by other users.

“The objective of this policy review is not to remove or diminish the lifeline rate subsidy, but to ensure that it remains well-targeted, fiscally sustainable, and equitably financed, without unduly shifting the burden to other electricity consumers,” Aquino said. (PNA)

**LAWMAKER . . . FR. P. 1**

nation’s agriculture. Hindi naman sikreto ito — kailangan natin pondohan ang (This is no secret – we need to fund) farm inputs and post-harvest facilities to make agriculture more viable for our producers,” he said.

He added the country’s crop insurance

system should also be improved to ensure that small farmers are able to immediately claim their benefits during climate-related calamities.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) has an-

**TRABAHO . . FR. P. 1**

and quality employment. Limited work opportunities are also available to the marginalized sector such as senior citizens, and Persons With Disability, [while] women’s vulnerability is also reflected in their work participation compared to men.”

Tolentino, a former regional director for DepDev CALABARZON, noted that the labor force participation among women in the region remains at 53 percent, compared to men with 76 percent.

For the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), addressing challenges in the labor market such as job and education mismatch, anticipating future occupations, and preparing the workforce for future opportunities are crucial in ensuring the viability of the region’s workforce.

Jorge Manuel Laude, Labor and Employment Officer III for DOLE CALABARZON, emphasized the role of the TPB in nurturing the workforce.

“Aside from industrial growth, we must ad-

nounced that there is a 79 percent probability of El Niño developing during the June-July-August season, with forecasts suggesting the climate phenomenon could persist until early 2027.

Bernos is also seeking the passage of House Bill No. 6519 or the Weather Ready Farmers bill, which seeks to

dress the challenges in the labor market such as mismatches both in jobs and education, anticipate future occupations, and ensure that our workforce is prepared for tomorrow’s opportunities.”

But as the employment sector continues to address gaps in the labor market and the existing workforce in the region, the DepDev CALABARZON reiterated its call for concerted action among all sectors in ensuring that the actions, policies, and programs highlighted in the TPB are translated into programs.

“At the heart of this initiative is a simple but powerful principle that employment generation is a shared responsibility. The government alone cannot achieve the goals under the TPB, but also the active participation and support of all sectors and each of us plays a critical role in translating these plans into actions, policies, programs, and strategies into tangible programs that can benefit our people.” (PB-PIA CALABARZON)

establish a free weather index-based crop insurance (FIBCI) with an automatic payout system to help farmers cope with the effects of climate change.

He also vowed to advocate for a greater budget for the agriculture next year to help the sector weather the effects of El Niño. (PNA)

**DOJ hits 20% energy savings target amid global oil crisis**

MANILA – The Department of Justice (DOJ) has successfully met its 20 percent energy savings target through work-from-home (WFH) arrangements and solar panel installations at its main office in Manila without interrupting any public service.

The DOJ’s power usage decreased to 72,000 kWh from Feb. 26 to March 26, as compared to 108,000 kWh recorded in the prior period of Jan. 26 to Feb. 26, delivering 33 percent actual savings.

The DOJ actively aligned its operations with sustainability objectives by adopting practical and innovative measures in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s

directive to national government agencies to conserve energy amid global oil crisis due to ongoing tensions in the Middle East.

This achievement highlights its commitment and meaningful contribution to the government’s “Go Green” campaign, advancing sustainability, operational efficiency, and responsible governance.

“We are committed to continuously exploring long-term solutions that enhance efficiency while upholding our mandate to serve the Filipino people without hindrance or delay. Real justice for all will always prevail in the face of any crisis, and this is our vow as your  
(Turn to p.4)

## CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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**A joyful heart is good  
medicine, But a crushed spirit saps one’s strength**  
*Proverbs 17:22*



The Provincial Government of Cavite held another leg of Ugnayan sa Barangay program recently, in Barangay Matagbak I, Alfonso. Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” Remulla led the visit, joined by Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, 8th District Board Member Jasmin Angelli Maligaya-Bautista and Alfonso local officials.

The activity aimed to enhance community engagement by bringing essential government services closer to the people. Governor Remulla also provided updates on ongoing initiatives in infrastructure, healthcare, and livelihood programs.--- OPIO



Hundreds of residents benefited from a Medical and Dental Mission held recently at Barangay Mabuhay Covered Court, City of Carmona. The initiative was led by Office of the Governor - Medical Mission Team in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, and the City Government of Carmona.

A total of 447 patients received free medical consultations, while 78 individuals underwent tooth extractions. Services were ECG, X-ray, and FBS testing, highlighting the program’s focus on comprehensive and preventive healthcare.

The medical mission team aims to expand the initiative across Cavite, further strengthening its commitment to improving public health and delivering accessible healthcare services to communities.--- OPIO



**59 Young Boys Benefit from Free Operation Tuli in Trece Martires City**

A total of 59 young males received free circumcision services during the



**PG-COPS Conducts Security Foundations Workshop for Personnel**

Strengthening the readiness and professional capabilities of its workforce, the Provincial Government – Cavite Office of Public Safety (PG-COPS), successfully conducted a Security Foundations Workshop for PG-COPS Personnel recently at the 2/F Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The activity was led by PG-COPS Department Head Cecil Miranda, as part of the office’s continuing efforts to enhance the competence and responsiveness of its personnel in ensuring public safety and security.

A total of 50 personnel from the Administrative Division, Environmental Protection and Operations Division (EPOD), and Personal Protection Division actively participated in the workshop. The activity was facilitated by Ms. Trixia Flores who guided the participants throughout the training sessions.

Building on techniques previously introduced during Civilian Defense training, the workshop was structured into two comprehensive sessions. The morning session focused on self-defense fundamentals, particularly physical contact techniques designed to protect personnel in high-risk situations. In the afternoon, participants advanced to more tactical applications, including the transition from self-defense to control measures such as restraint techniques, takedowns, and coordinated response strategies for both single operators and two-man teams.

The training emphasized methods that enable personnel to effectively neutralize threats while minimizing risk and injury to themselves, promoting controlled and disciplined responses during operations. Participants were also given hands-on experience using training materials such as punching bags and arnis sticks to simulate real-life scenarios and reinforce proper execution of techniques.

The workshop was led by expert trainers from Krav Maga Training, namely Mr. Von Eric Ng, Krav Maga Instructor/Head Coach; Ms. Yonina Colleen Chan, Assistant Coach; and Mr. Ronald B. Bardin, Assistant Coach. Their practical demonstrations and guided exercises provided participants with valuable insights into situational awareness, self-defense, and tactical control.

More than enhancing technical competencies, the activity empowered and encouraged participants to continuously develop their skills for personal protection and to perform their duties more effectively in service of the public.

Through initiatives like this, PG-COPS reaffirms its commitment to building a highly capable and disciplined workforce dedicated to maintaining peace, order, and safety across the province.--- OPIO

conduct of Provincial Government of Cavite’s Operation Tuli Program on April 14, 2026, held at Barangay San Agustin, Trece Martires City.

The initiative aimed to promote proper hygiene and preventive healthcare among the youth while easing the financial burden on families by providing safe and accessible medical services at no cost.

Present during the activity were 7th District Board Member Camille Del Rosario and Trece Martires City Mayor Gemma Lubigan, who both expressed their support and gratitude for the health programs that directly benefit the community, especially the younger population.

Prior to the procedure, parents and guardians were given an orientation on proper aftercare to ensure the safe and fast recovery of the beneficiaries. Medical personnel emphasized the importance of hygiene, wound care, and monitoring to prevent possible complications following the procedure.--- OPIO

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-144-26

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,**  
Mortgagee,

-versus-

**SPS. ERICK T. YECYEC AND  
JACQUELYN D. YECYEC**  
Debtors/Mortgagors,

X-----X

**NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE**

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, with business address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas, No. 12 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City against the Debtors/Mortgagors, **SPS. ERICK T. YECYEC and JACQUELYN D. YECYEC**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Block 6, Lot 9 Lemon St., Summerwind 3, Salitran 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite (occupied by third party) and (2) Block 6, Lot 5, Phase 1, Westwood, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, Gen. Trias City, Cavite (currently occupied), to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of **February 6, 2026** amounts to **ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED NINETY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE PESOS and 74/100 (PhP1,692,779.74)**, Philippine Currency, including interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **MAY 29, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock 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. 057-2020027001**

**LOT NO:5 Block No. 6 Plan No. Pcs-04-029302**  
**Portion of:** the cons/subd of Lots 1928, 1929, 1932 & 1933, San Francisco de Malabon Estate, & Lots 1939-B & 1939-C (LRC) Psd-29632, Decreed No. 4270, LRC Rec. No. 5964  
**Location:** Barangay of Pasong Camachile, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

**Boundaries:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SE	Lot 38, Block 6, Pcs-04-029302
2-3	SW	Lot 6, Block 6, Pcs-04-029302
3-4	NW	Road Lot 1, Pcs-04-029302
4-1	NE	Lot 4, Block 6, Pcs-04-029302

**AREA: FIFTY SQUARE METERS (50), more or less**

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 05, 2026** 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 11, 2026**

**RICARDO A. TOLEDO**  
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.**  
**CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT**  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas  
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

**SPS. ERICK T. YECYEC & JACQUELYN D. YECYEC**  
(1) Block 6, Lot 9 Lemon St., Summerwind 3, Salitran 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite  
(2) Block 6, Lot 5, Phase 1, Westwood, Brgy. Pasong Camachile, Gen. Trias City, Cavite

Published at: Cavite News Publishing  
Dates: April 23-May 7, 14, 2026

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

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-166-26

**BDO UNIBANK, INC.,**  
Mortgagee,

-versus-

**SPS. EVANGELINE B. GONZALES AND  
TITO J. GONZALES,**  
Debtor/Mortgagor,

X-----X

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**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2021068986**

**LOT NO:4 Block No. 2 Plan No. Pcs-04-029031**  
**Portion of:** Lots 1548 (RS-04-002232); 1553 (RS-04-003334), 1573 (RS-04-002132), 1556, 1558, 1559, all of San Francisco de Malabon Estate; 1572-A & 1572-D, both of Psd-042108-055969 1557-A, 1557 B, 1557-C, all of (LRC) Psd-117597, Blk. 120, Blk. 122, Blk. 123 & Road Lot 1, all of Pcs-04-017881, (LRC) Rec. No. 5964

**Location:** Barangay of Bacao I & II, Municipality of General Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

**Boundaries:**

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SW	Lot 3, Block 2, Pcs-04-02031
2-3-4-5	NW,SW	Lot 11, Block 2, Pcs-04-02031
5-6	SW	Lot 10, Block 2, Pcs-04-02031
6-7	NW	Lot 5,Block 2, Pcs-04-02031
7-8-9-10-11-1	SE	Road Lot 3 (15M wide), Pcs-04-029031

**AREA: TWO HUNDRED TWO SQUARE METERS (202), more or less**

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 05, 2026** 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 11, 2026**

**ANDRES B. ESPINA**  
Sheriff IV

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**BDO UNIBANK, INC.**  
**CONSUMER REMEDIAL MANAGEMENT**  
33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center Ortigas  
No. 12, ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City

**SPS. EVANGELINE B. GONZALES & TITO J. GONZALES**  
(1) Block 2, Lot 17, Model Community, C.P. Garcia Street, Tondo, Manila  
(2) Block 02, Lot 04, Grand Oak Ridge, Antel Grand Village, Brgy. Bacao I, Gen. Trias, Cavite

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

understanding (MOU) is a realization of the vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a modern and sustainable farm sector for the country's food security and farmers' prosperity," he said.

Under the MOU, Megawide will support the rollout of agro-solar farming systems that integrate crop production with renewable energy generation.

The partnership also covers the construction of food-processing facilities and the establishment of food terminals designed to improve logistics, storage, and distribution efficiency across agricultural value chains.

The DA said the infrastructure package is expected to cut post-harvest losses by 30 percent to 50 percent, a persistent challenge that has reduced farmer incomes and limited competitiveness in both domestic and export markets.

The project also promotes clustered farming enterprises, enabling small-holders to pool resources, access modern technology, and transition from subsistence farming to commercial-scale agribusiness operations.

The shift is intended to strengthen rural economies and attract private sector investment into agriculture. The initiative is part of a wider strategy to reposition farmers as agri-entrepreneurs and integrate agriculture with energy, logistics, and industrial systems.

It also supports efforts to develop branded, high-value agricultural products for broader market access. (PNA)

**ERRATUM**

This is to correct the error made in the publication dated April 23-May 7, & 14, 2026 filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, against the Debtors/Mortgagors, **SPS. ERICK T. YECYEC and JACQUELYN D. YECYEC. JACKQUELYN D. YECYEC it should be JACQUELYN D. YECYEC** in the third line of Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale business address at BDO Corporate Center it should be business address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center, Ortigas, in the third line of Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2020027001 Lots 1939,-B it should be Lots 1939-B in the fifth line of Copy furnished JACKQUELYN it should be JACQUELYN.

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**ERRATUM**

This is to correct the error made in the publication dated April 23-May 7, & 14, 2026 filed by Mortgagee, **BDO UNIBANK, INC.**, against the Debtor/Mortgagor, **SPS. EVANGELINE B. GONZALES and TITO J. GONZALES** in the third line of Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale business address at BDO Corporate Center it should be business address at 33rd Floor, BDO Corporate Center, Ortigas, in the line of ninth line Lot 4 it should be Lot 04 in the third line of Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2021068986 (RS-002132) it should be (RS-04-002132) in the fourth line Psd-04208-055969 it should be Psd-042108-055969 in the seventh line of Boundaries Pcs-04-02031 it should be Pcs-04-029031 in the eight line of Copy Furnished Lot 4 it should be Lot 04

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Date: April 30, 2025

## SSS responds to economic challenges with expanded relief programs, ₱60B in support for members and pensioners

QUEZON CITY (April 16, 2026) – Following the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and under the guidance of Social Security Commission (SSC) Chair Secretary Frederick D. Go, the Social Security System (SSS) is strengthening access to its existing programs in response to rising energy costs, inflationary pressures, and the broader economic impact of ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. These initiatives include policy enhancements to improve accessibility, and the early implementation of this year's pension increase to provide timely financial relief to members, pensioners, and employers.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro said, "We recognize that rising prices and economic uncertainty continue to place pressure on Filipino families and businesses. Through these enhanced programs, SSS is ensuring that our members and pensioners have access to timely, affordable and reliable financial support when they need it most."

Collectively, these programs are expected to provide up to approximately ₱60 billion in financial assistance and benefit support.

### Emergency Loan Program

Members facing urgent financial needs may apply for the enhanced Emergency Loan Program, which offers up to ₱20,000 at a reduced interest rate of 7% per annum, with

a six-month repayment moratorium.

To improve accessibility, SSS has relaxed the eligibility requirements from 36 to 18 months of posted contributions, with at least six (6) contributions posted within the last 12 months. The program now also covers members with minimal past-due loans of up to three (3) monthly amortizations, as well as overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) through simplified eligibility requirements.

Around ₱27 billion has been allocated for this program, which is expected to benefit an estimated 2.24 million eligible members, providing a safe and affordable alternative to informal lenders and helping them cover essential expenses such as medical needs, education and daily household requirements.

### Micro-Loan Program

SSS is set to roll out short-term loans ranging from ₱1,000 to ₱20,000 with repayment terms of 15 to 90 days and an affordable rate of 8% per annum.

The program will be delivered through digital platforms and partner financial institutions, enabling faster and more convenient access to funds. It aims to provide immediate liquidity support while promoting financial inclusion, with a target loan portfolio of up to ₱40 billion within the next two (2) years.

### Loan penalty condonation

For members with past-due loans, SSS continues to implement the Consolidation of Past Due Short-

Term Member Loans with Condonation of Penalty Program.

Under this program, penalties of unpaid loans are fully waived upon settlement of the principal and interest. Members may choose flexible payment options: one-time settlement or installment terms up to 60 months with a minimum down payment of 10%.

Applications may be conveniently filed online via My.SSS portal.

### Employer contribution delinquency reliefs

SSS is also providing relief to delinquent employers through penalty condonation and restructuring programs.

These include the Contribution Penalty Condonation, Delinquency Management, and Restructuring Program (CPCoDe MRP) for businesses and the Contribution Penalty Condonation and Restructuring Program (CPCR-P) for household employers.

These measures allow employers to settle contribution obligations through structured payment arrangements without additional penalties, ensuring continued social security coverage and protection for their employees.

### Early implementation of pension increase

In support of pensioners, SSS is advancing the implementation of the scheduled 2026 pension increase under the SSS Pension Reform Program, from September to June 2026, providing earlier financial relief. Retirement and disability

## DOH, San Juan City step up vax campaign for World Immunization Week

MANILA – The Department of Health – Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) and the San Juan City government on Monday intensified local vaccination efforts to mark the celebration of World Immunization Week 2026.

Held at the Makabagong San Juan Theater, the initiative aims to promote the life-saving benefits of vaccines and strengthen public confidence in the country's immunization programs.

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the national immunization program in the Philippines, the DOH adopted the local theme "Bakuna at Proteksyon ni Baby, My Responsibility" to highlight the collective duty of parents and communities to protect every child.

The aim is for a 95 percent full immunization rate for children aged zero to 59 months against vaccine-preventable diseases like

pneumonia, measles, polio, and rubella. Vaccines will increase by 10%, while death and survivor benefits will increase by 5%.

SSS is expected to release approximately ₱6.5 billion for the early implementation of pension increase from June to August 2026, directly supporting millions of pensioners and their families.

In fulfilling its mandate, SSS remains committed to responding to the needs of its members while ensuring the prudent management and long-term sustainability of the social security fund for present and future generations.



**PROTECTION.** An infant is tagged with a blue bracelet for free vaccination at the start of World Immunization Week at the Makabagong San Juan National Government Center on Monday (April 27, 2026). The Department of Health aims for a 95 percent full immunization rate for children aged zero to 59 months against vaccine-preventable diseases like measles, polio, and rubella. (PNA photo by Joan Bondoc)

measles, polio, and rubella.

"Ang immunization ay nananatiling isa sa pinakaepektibo at cost-efficient na interbensyon sa pampublikong kalusugan (Immunization remains one of the most effective and cost-efficient public health interventions), DOH-MMCHD Regional Director Lester Tan said in his speech.

Vaccines have saved millions of lives globally and continue to play a vital role in preventing the spread of diseases and safeguarding public health, he added.

The activity provided a wide range of health services, including routine and catch-up immunization for infants aged 0 to 12

months, with a broader focus on children up to 23 months old.

Other services included Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations for grade 4 students and tetanus-diphtheria (Td) shots for pregnant women.

DOH's primary priority for the 2026 campaign is reaching "zero-dose children" or those who have not received a single routine vaccine.

By strengthening routine immunization at the barangay (village) level, the DOH and the San Juan local government aim to close the gap in vaccination coverage and ensure a healthier future for the next generation of Filipinos. (PNA)

### DOJ... FR. P. 1

DOJ," Justice Secretary Frederick Vida said as quoted in a news release on Tuesday.

The WFH arrangement and other energy conservation efforts were implemented na-

tionwide across DOJ offices pursuant to Department Circular No. 10, issued on March 9, while the solar panels became operational on March 3. (Benjamin Pulta/PNA)

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## SSS partners with EastWest Rural Bank to bring MySSS Card services closer to rural areas

QUEZON CITY - The Social Security System (SSS) today announced that its MySSS Card will soon reach members in unbanked areas after EastWest Rural Bank (EWRB) became its first rural bank card issuer, a move to expand financial inclusion in underserved communities.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro (right) and EWRB President Shiela Marasigan-Bajado (left) led the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement, authorizing the bank to issue MySSS Cards, primarily for members in rural areas while remaining accessible to qualified members nationwide.

De Claro praised the partnership as a significant project that will simplify disbursement account enrollment and improve convenience for members, highlighting the card's dual role as an official SSS ID and debit card.

"The MySSS card also allows SSS to provide digital payment facilities for our registrants, members, pensioners and beneficiaries," De Claro added.



The SSS uses National ID database checks to confirm that applicants are registered SSS members, ensuring secure card issuance by its partner bank and accurate benefit disbursement through the linked account. The card also enables members to manage their daily financial transactions with ease.

Bajado said that a streamlined MySSS Card application process will be available at EWRB's 112 branches and branch-lites nationwide this year, most of which are in the provinces, particularly in Mindanao and the Visayas. The card may also be offered at Cross-Selling Desks inside EastWest Bank branches, their parent

bank, through a digital channel.

"We will waive maintaining balance requirements for MySSS cardholders, who may also earn interest once their balance reaches at least ₱500, allowing them to grow their savings while enjoying flexible account features," Bajado said.

De Claro said that SSS has maintained a decade-long collaboration with EWRB, which began in 2017 when the bank was recognized as the Best Collecting and Best Paying Partner in the rural category of the SSS Balikang Bayan Awards. "We hope our collaboration will help SSS better serve members wherever they are," he said. #

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## FEU-D, Ateneo triumph in UAAP 3x3 basketball opener



**FOCUS.** Marc Burgos of Far Eastern University-Diliman about to take a freethrow shot during their game against Adamson University in the Under-19 division of the UAAP Season 88 high school 3x3 basketball tournament at Ayala Malls Manila Bay in Parañaque City on Monday (April 27, 2026). The defending champion Baby Tamaraws won, 22-9. (UAAP photo)

MANILA – Far Eastern University-Diliman (FEU-D) opened its title defense with a 22-9 rout of Adamson University in the Under-19 division of the UAAP Season 88 high school 3x3 basketball tournament at Ayala Malls Manila Bay in Parañaque City on Monday.

Marc Burgos and Sam Hall paced the Baby Tamaraws with six points apiece, while graduating forward Cabs Cabonilas and JB Cagurangan added five points each.

"I'll just do my best and help win the championship for my teammates," Cabonilas, who also had six rebounds and four assists, said.

FEU-D is seeking a "golden double" after dominating the 5-on-5 tournament in March.

"I will do my best so that we can finish well in my last tournament in high school. I also want to pass on to my teammates what I learned," Cabonilas said.

In other results, De La Salle Zobel (DLSZ) nipped University of the Philippines Integrated School (UPIS), 20-19; National University Nazareth School defeated Ateneo de Manila University in overtime, 21-18; and University of Santo Tomas (UST) downed University of the East (UE), 21-16.

In the U-16 division, Ateneo kicked off its

title campaign with a 21-14 win over UPIS.

Reigning Most Valuable Player Sky Jazul led the Blue Eaglets with 11 points.

"Our mindset is to play as one and try to defend the championship. But we have to take it one game at a time," the 15-year-old son of retired Philippine Basketball Association player RJ Jazul said.

"I just try to become this year's leader. I'll try my best to encourage them and give them confidence to make it to the championship."

Other winners were FEU-D over UST, 21-16; and DLSZ over UE, 16-15. (PNA)

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

*Psalm 37:10-11*