

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME III • NO. 24

JANUARY 12 - 18, 2025

P10.00

Megawide bags P1.87-billion Cavite Bus Rapid Transit project

Good news for those based in Cavite — a new 42-kilometer bus transportation system will soon be constructed.

In a disclosure to the exchange on Thursday, January 9, Megawide Construction Corporation said it received the Notice of Award from the provincial government to implement the Cavite Bus Rapid Transit project on Wednesday, January 8.

Through a joint venture, Megawide and Maplecrest Group, Inc. will develop the BRT project and a point to point (P2P) bus system. The BRT will connect Kawit, Imus, General Trias, Tanza, and Trece Martires, while the P2P will link the province to the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange (PITX).

However, the award is still subject to the joint venture's fulfillment of "all necessary conditions and submitting required documentation." The actual date of groundbreaking and when construction commences has yet to be disclosed pending the requirements.

Megawide and Maplecrest submitted an unsolicited proposal for the project in April 2023. They then received approval on October 26, 2023 and concluded negotiations on March 12, 2024.

The first phase of the project involves the construction of Terminals 1 and 2, along with a 27 stations — that can accommodate at least one bus each — spanning 15 kilometers. The BRT route will cover all 27 stations, while the P2P alignment is estimated to cover 26.5 kilometers from the PITX to Terminal 2.

The project information memorandum notes that the first phase ► **MEGAWIDE • 3**



The Cavite Bus Rapid Transit system will connect Kawit, Imus, General Trias, Tanza, and Trece Martires, while the point-to-point bus services will link the province to the Parañaque Integrated Terminal Exchange

PHINMA completes P431.8-M acquisition of Cavite school

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Region 02 concluded 2024 on a high note with the Review and Technical Evaluation Committee (RTEC) Meeting cum SETUP iFund Awarding Ceremony. The event celebrated the year's achievements while laying the groundwork for an impactful 2025.



One of the event's highlights is the awarding of P5.7 million in SETUP iFund support to three exemplary Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) - two from Cagayan Province and one from Isabela Province.

Additionally, the event recognized the contributions of RTEC members from various sectors for their invaluable efforts in the program's success. The iFund support and awards were presented by Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera and Assistant Regional Director Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, who commended both the awardees and beneficiaries for their unwavering dedication to fostering innovation and excellence. The event also served as an opportunity to engage with RTEC members, discussing observations and recommendations to enhance SETUP implementation for even greater impact. ► **PHINMA • 3**

PGCs Medical and Dental Mission Brings Free Services to Residents of Brgy. San Mateo, Dasmariñas City

In the opening salvo of the Provincial Government of Cavite's medical outreach on January 7, 2025, the residents of Brgy. San Mateo in the City of Dasmariñas were given access to free medical and dental services in a highly successful medical and mission. A total of 393 residents benefited from the initiative, with 343 individuals receiving medical consultations and 50 undergoing dental extractions.



PGCS MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION PROGRAM

The mission was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Office of the Provincial Governor, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer. Medical and dental practitioners from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) provided their expertise, ensuring the delivery of quality healthcare services.

Brgy. Chairman Isaias C. Villanueva expressed his gratitude to the provincial government for extending much-needed services to his constituents. Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) played a crucial role in facilitating the event and assisting residents.

The mission demonstrates the commitment of bringing healthcare closer to the people, especially in communities that need it most. It underscores the provincial government's dedication to improving public health and enhancing the well-being of Caviteños. **(R. Dones)**

DOST-CALABARZON and LGU Taytay Partner to Drive S&T Innovation and Development

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON, in collaboration with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Taytay, Rizal, advanced efforts to strengthen the municipality's scientific and technological initiatives through the Innovation, Science, and Technology for Accelerating Regional Technology-based Development (iSTART) Program.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed by DOST CALABARZON Regional Director Emelita P. Bagsit and Taytay Municipal Mayor Allan Martine S. De Leon. This partnership aims to create a comprehensive Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) plan that aligns with the LGU's vision and development goals.

The key benefits of the iSTART Program are as follows: (1) Identification of STI Gaps: By analyzing LGU Taytay's needs, the program will pinpoint areas where STI interventions can make a significant impact; (2) Development of Targeted STI Solutions: The identified gaps will be addressed through the development of innovative solutions that cater to the specific needs of the community; and (3) Strengthening LGU Capacity: The iSTART program will empower LGU Taytay with the knowledge and tools to effectively implement STI initiatives.

DOST Rizal Provincial Director Fernando E. Ablaza emphasized the importance of appointing a Municipal Science and Technology Officer to oversee the implementation of iSTART and other DOST programs. He also urged LGU Taytay to coordinate with DOST to effectively schedule workshops in 2025 involving key stakeholders.

In attendance as witnesses during the MOA Signing were Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON, accompanied by iSTART regional focal persons; Ms. Niña Sherylle S. Giron, Supervising Science Research Specialist of DOST PSTO Rizal; Ms. Lyric Jo Dagandan, Environmental Specialist from the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office (MENRO); and Mr. Enrico A. Marquez Jr., Section Head of the SMILE I.T. Lab. **(By Raphael Dorutheo Martin A. San Antonio)**



Gatchalian: PMA, PNPA budgets qualify as education sector allocations

Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday dismissed concerns on the constitutionality of the 2025 Government Appropriations Act, underscoring that budgets for the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police Academy can be qualified as allocation for the education sector.

"Ang punto ko dito, since itong mga institusyon na ito nagbibigay ng (My point here is that since these institutions are offering) Bachelor of Science, it's called tertiary education institutions (TEIs). And if you are a tertiary education institution, you're a part of the education sector," Gatchalian said during the regular Kapihan sa Senado.

Gatchalian, who chairs the Senate Committee on Basic Education and the co-chair of the 2nd Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2), said the confusion arose from the thinking that education pertains only to basic education or that of the Department of Education (DepEd).

"Ang nakasulat kasi dun [sa Konstitusyon] education. Hindi sinabi basic education. Hindi rin sinabi na tertiary education.

Hindi sinabi na tech-voc (What is written there [in the Constitution] is education, not basic education. It did not also mention tertiary education, nor tech-voc). So, if you say education, that's the education sector, including tech-voc," he said.

According to Article XIV, Section 5 (5) of the



TOP PRIORITY. A file photo of students and their teacher at the Aurora A. Quezon Elementary School in Manila. Senator Sherwin Gatchalian on Wednesday (Jan. 8, 2025) said education has the highest allocation under the 2025 General Appropriations Act with PHP1.055 trillion. (PNA file photo by Yancy Lim)

Constitution, "the State shall assign the highest budgetary priority to education and ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment."

Gatchalian said the education sector still has "the highest allocation" under the 2025 GAA.

"Kasi kinompyut din namin yung mga kasama sa education sector, lamang siya. Because kapag sinama mo nga

itong mga tertiary education institutions, lamang talaga siya (Because we also computed what are included in the education sector, it's higher. Because when you include these tertiary education institutions, it is really higher)," he said.

Department of Budget and Management Secretary Amenah Pangandaman announced last week that the education sector now has the highest allocation with PHP1.055 trillion following the cuts in the budget of

the Department of Public Works and Highways which is now left with PHP1.007 trillion.

The funding is spread across DepEd, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Local Government Academy, Philippine Public Safety College, National Defense College of the Philippines, Philippine Science High School System, Science Education Institute, state universities and colleges, the PNPA and the PMA. **(PNA)**

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

EDITORIAL BOARD

ARNEL P. REYES

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

IRENE SOLIS

Circulation Manager

JR BEJASA

Layout Artist

Sunday Tribune News Publishing is a weekly newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite with Editorial and Business address at 155 Brgy. Panamitan Kawit, Cavite 4104. CP No. 0917-109-9191 Telephone No.: (046) 484-7556 E-mail Add: sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com Website: <https://sundaytribune.net/>

MEMBER:

PAPI

**Publishers Association
of the Philippines, Inc.**

SUBSCRIPTION RATE

6 Months P260.00 One Year P520.00

ADVERTISING RATE

Commercial — P200/col-cm Legal.....P160.00/col-cm.

NOTE: All news articles and opinions expressed by the writers are entirely their own and do not reflect the opinion of the Publisher, Management of this Publication.

Megawide... (FROM PAGE 1)

of the project will begin operations in 2026.

Meanwhile, the second phase of the project focuses on the construction of Terminal 3 and another set of 20 stations. The BRT alignment will add another 13.79 kilometers to its route, connecting Station 27 up until the New Capitol

Building Province of Cavite. The P2P alignment in the second phase of the project will add another 34.11 kilometers, allowing commuters to take the bus from PITX all the way to Terminal 3.

Phase 3 of the Cavite BRT project is expected to be completed by 2036.

Megawide is the

company behind the Mactan-Cebu International Airport and PITX, the country's "first landport," which can accommodate up to 100,000 daily passengers, who have the option to take the LRT1, bus, UV Express shuttles, among others.

Megawide has also recently expressed interest to develop and construct the Baguio City Integrated Terminal.

PhilHealth... (FROM PAGE 8)

He also said Z Package for PD now covers continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) for adults. These benefits have been set at PHP389,640 and PHP510,140 depending on the PD solutions a patient requires per day. These packages increased by up to 89 percent from the previous PHP270,000 per year.

For pediatric patients, CAPD and automated peritoneal dialysis are now offered. These are set at PHP510,000 and PHP765,210, while coverage for APD ranges from PHP763,000 to PHP1.2 million, according to the PhilHealth chief.

Concerned members may also avail of exit site infection and peritonitis prevention care from any of the 51 accredited PD providers nationwide.

The state insurer has also included living organ

donor transplantation in its Z Package for kidney transplantation. This increased the previous coverage of PHP600,000 to over PHP1 million. Meanwhile, deceased organ donor transplantation is set at PHP2.14 million.

The preventive oral health services are now part of the primary care services. These include mouth examination or oral screenings, dental pes milaxis (cleaning), fluoride varnish application, pit and fissure sealants, Class V restoration procedures (limited to two teeth per year), and emergency tooth extractions (when necessary and performed in accredited health facilities).

The outpatient emergency care benefit, meanwhile, will cover the cost of urgent care that does not require hospitalization of at least

24 hours.

"These will include treatment for life-threatening medical emergencies," Ledesma said.

"Ngayon po, sagot po ng PhilHealth ang sinumang itatakbo sa ER ng mga ospital (Now, PhilHealth will cover for anyone who will be sent to the ER of hospitals)," he added.

The two main components of this package are the facility-based emergency and pre-hospital emergency benefits which cover essential care in accredited hospital emergency departments and emergency transport services.

Starting Jan. 1, PhilHealth has increased the case rates of 9,000 packages by 50 percent.

Ledesma assured members that the new and expanded benefit packages will not result in premium hike this year or in the coming years. (PNA)

PHINMA... (FROM PAGE 1)

Dr. Laila A. Taguinod, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations Services, opened the event with her welcome remarks, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts in driving technological innovation. She highlighted how the evaluation of proposals plays a vital role in aligning SETUP interventions with the specific needs of MSMEs for sustainable growth. She further emphasized that the activity promotes meaningful collaboration with RTEC members, fostering the identification of challenges and the development of effective strategies to enhance program implementation and ensure its ongoing relevance and impact. She also acknowledged the awarded SETUP iFund beneficiaries, showcasing the importance of DOST SETUP in supporting MSMEs to achieve innovation and business growth.

In her keynote message, Regional Director Dr. Virginia G. Bilgera underscored the power of collaboration and sustained efforts in fostering economic development. "We are proud of how far we've come this year, but our journey doesn't end here. Together, we can achieve even greater milestones in advancing regional growth," she stated.

Dr. Bilgera also extended heartfelt gratitude to the RTEC members for their dedication and invaluable contributions. "Your expertise and commitment have been instrumental in the success of our programs," she added.

Ms. Mary Ann D. Carpio, Supervising Science Research Specialist and SETUP Center Manager, presented the accomplishments of the RTEC in 2024 and outlined the new SETUP Guidelines for RTEC endorsement and approval.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Carpio thanked all stakeholders and participants for their vital contributions to the program's success.

"SETUP is a collaborative effort, and every success we celebrate today is the result of teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision. Let's continue this momentum and transform lives through science and technology," she said.

As the ceremony concluded, attendees reflected on the achievements of 2024 and shared their aspirations for the future.

Through this year-end gathering, DOST Region 02 reaffirmed its commitment to fostering innovation, supporting MSMEs, and driving economic growth in Cagayan Valley. By emphasizing the importance of thorough evaluation and collaboration, the region looks forward to an even brighter future for its enterprises and communities.

Feast of Jesus... (FROM PAGE 8)

him more known."

"I can also feel the enthusiastic reception from the community that there is finally an official

replica in the Diocese of Bacolod, especially from senior citizens who can't physically come to Quiapo," he added.

Here are some scenes from this year's Feast of Jesus Nazareno outside the country's capital, shared by members of the faith chat room of the Rappler Communities app. — Rappler.com



Rappler Communities users from various provinces in the Philippines share how they celebrate the Feast of Jesus Nazareno

DepEd wants... (FROM PAGE 8)

education system for the benefit of all stakeholders," Education Secretary Sonny Angara said in a statement.

The DUC also aims to ensure that uniforms will be "professional and appropriate" for teachers and non-teaching staff in various environments in all public schools nationwide.

To ensure proper representation,

representatives from nine national organizations and associations of teachers and non-teaching employees will be included in the DUC, chaired by the Undersecretary for Human Resource and Organizational Development, with the Assistant Secretary for Operations as the Vice-Chairperson.

The DepEd, meanwhile,

has six months to draft and release its uniform guidelines for School Year (SY) 2024-2025 and SY 2025-2026 following the policies of the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

While the new uniform guidelines are being finalized, all DepEd personnel are subject to the existing DepEd Memorandum Order 42 in 2022 or the "Wearing of the Prescribed DepEd Uniform and Office Attire." (PNA)

LECSON PUBLISHING and SERVICES, Inc.

Address: 1846 F.B. Harrison corner Gotamco Sts., Brgy. 18, Pasay City
Email: lecsonpublishing@gmail.com | Contact Nos. 2.8527.4252 / 0917-8498730

OUR PRODUCTS & SERVICES

PRINTING SERVICES

OFFSET

- ✓ BROCHURE
- ✓ FLYERS
- ✓ FORMS
- ✓ POSTERS
- ✓ SOUVENIR PROGRAMS
- ✓ NEWSLETTER

WEB

- ✓ BOOKS
- ✓ MAGAZINE
- ✓ NEWSPAPER

OTHERS

- ✓ CAMPAIGN MATERIALS
- ✓ LARGE FORMAT
- ✓ TARPAULIN
- ✓ DIGITAL PRINTING
- ✓ RISO
- ✓ SIGNAGES
- ✓ BUSINESS CARD & PVC ID
- ✓ MODULE PRINTING

TICKETING

Doris Yin Speech to India Community - January 5, 2025



Doris Yin

Dear India GCV Ambassadors and pioneers,

Happy Sunday, and Happy New Year to all of you! I hope everyone is doing well.

I want to extend my thanks to Dr. Issack Bester, India Head of GCV Ambassador; Mr. Ramesh Shetty, Ecosystem Development GCV Ambassador; and Mr. NS Dhingra, education GCV Ambassador candidate, for inviting us to today's conference.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to communicate with your group, and I'm truly impressed by the remarkable progress the Indian community has made. Under our excellent India GCV CT leadership, the

Indian pioneers have been educated very well. I can see the hard work you are putting in, dedicating a minimum of three hours each day, and sometimes even five to six hours. Although the Indian community is just starting the GCV Movement, you have shown determination, diligence, a capacity for quick learning, and commitment.

I would like to provide a summary of the background of the GCV Movement.

1. GCV is rooted in the mission and vision outlined in the white paper.

If we delve deeply into the white paper, we can understand why Pi Network has emerged in the world. Dr. Nicolas expressed regret that blockchain technology is not truly benefiting ordinary people. Traditional cryptocurrencies cannot serve as actual currencies; instead, they function as securities or investments, with some merely facilitating speculation.

In my articles, I referenced Friedrich August von Hayek, a well-known British economist and political thinker born in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, who won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1974. His book, "Denationalization of Money," challenges conventional views of the monetary system. From my perspective, Pi Network serves as a real-world application of Hayek's theories, made feasible by blockchain technology. Pi Coin must be decentralized, dispersed, and stable.

Furthermore, the condition for the official mainnet is that GCV must be widely accepted and used beforehand. This is why we require an enclosed mainnet. Unfortunately, many pioneers have not read the white paper and, as a result, approach Pi Network with a traditional cryptocurrency mindset. This resistance has caused delays in realizing the GCV.

2. The Relationship Between Pi Network CT and the Pioneers Community

This is a critical aspect for our Pioneers. I know many Pioneers are disappointed with the extension of OM and the slow KYC process and migration of Pi. However, it is important to clarify that this is not a problem of CT. I would like to explain the relationship between us once again.

CT is like a human's right leg, while the Pioneers represent the left leg. CT is like a wife, and the Pioneers are like a husband. CT is like a mansion, while the Pioneers are the furniture, appliances, and equipment; GCV can be compared to electricity, gas, heating, etc. We are equally important. I see many Pioneers who are very proud of the Pi Network and study blockchain technology. However, that is not the correct approach. CT is responsible for technology, while the Pioneers are responsible for GCV and the ecosystem. CT cannot replace our tasks, and we cannot take on theirs. If everyone in the community focuses solely on studying blockchain, then who will handle the GCV and ecosystem, which are critical for OM?

The right approach is for Pioneers to build confidence in CT, while also building confidence in ourselves and doing our jobs. Our job is to help all Pioneers recognize the value of Pi as GCV \$314,159, and to help them keep their Pi intact instead of selling or bartering it at low value. With the current mining rates decreasing, the speed of mining will dramatically drop in the future. I see some Pioneers and merchants are pleased with their bartering for \$1 or \$10. Some misinformed Pioneers praise how great Pi is and celebrate the contributions of these Pioneers and merchants. They may believe they are satisfied, but they are hurting all Pioneers, the whole ecosystem, and the Pi Network. If all Pioneers adopt this mindset, whether OM happens or not, many Pioneers will end up using up their Pi.

Do you think CT has spent billions or tens of billions of USD over nearly ten years just for a joke? They are not involved in this for entertainment; the Pi Network is designed to last hundreds or even thousands of years.

Therefore, all Pioneers must take responsibility. Some may ask, "What can I do?" I will say: it's very simple—understand the Pi Network from the white paper. You are Pi owners, yet many of you do not understand what Pi Network is and what its mission is. Dr. Nicolas mentioned that all Pioneers will achieve great things. But can you be great if you never study or improve yourself? Of course not. If you cannot understand the white paper, please read the Pioneers Handbook. I believe everyone can understand the Handbook.

Once you understand it well, help other Pioneers. Why? Because we are part of the same community. Understanding is not enough, as many Pioneers still engage in activities that harm us and the project. If you possess talent and leadership skills, consider becoming GCV Ambassadors. If you are a merchant, please sign up on MapofPi with GCV \$314,159 to demonstrate to CT that your area is mature enough to support the long-term success of the Pi Network.

3. Addressing Confusion About Pi Price or Value

Another point I want to clarify is the difference between Pi's price and Pi's value. As I mentioned, price is generally associated with securities, such as stocks, traditional cryptocurrencies, and mutual funds. When we discuss the price of Bitcoin, we consider it a security for investment purposes. However, Pi is different; it is designed as a payment tool and belongs to the currency category. Have you ever asked, "How much is USD?" No, because it is a currency used to measure other products, assets, or liabilities.

I see many Pioneers resist the concept of GCV but refuse to study. They think GCV is too high and that we do not have sufficient wealth in the world to liquidate their Pi holdings. This is a completely misguided mindset. GCV is intended for utility within the ecosystem; it is not meant for buying or selling. Yes, after OM, Pi can be converted at a fixed rate, which I refer to as GCV. However, that conversion will be subject to various tax regulations in different countries. Therefore, you cannot expect to receive the entire amount in cash, nor can you liquidate all your holdings. Additionally, when your currency depreciates, wealthy individuals often buy Pi to preserve their wealth. Why would you exchange your stable Pi for depreciating currency? Moreover, not all Pioneers hold significant amounts of Pi.

With a total supply of 100 billion Pi, and no more being issued unless needed, this supply will likely last for hundreds of years. Our wealth will increase over time. The crucial thing to remember is that if you hold a thousand Pi, it is due to luck. Most Pioneers do not possess so much, and currently, and in the future, they can only mine a basic amount of Pi—ranging from 0.01 to 60 Pi annually. If you only think about your own holdings, consider that we have 8 billion people, and most can only hold less than 1 Pi.

I hope my speech today can clarify your doubts and help build confidence in GCV. Let us all be filled with passion and energy to assist our fellow Pioneers in India and support the global GCV movement, contributing to the growth of the Indian economy through the Pi Network. **(Doris Yin - Founder, Global GCV Movement)**

Why GCV is the Key to Pi Network's Success

As the Pi Network community grows larger, the Global Consensus Value (GCV) has emerged as a pivotal concept driving its vision for the future. While many see GCV as merely a price point for Pi, its true significance lies in how it shapes the foundation of trust, collaboration, and innovation within the ecosystem. This week, we explore why GCV is indispensable for the success of the Pi Network and its pioneers.

1. GCV: A Foundation of Stability

The blockchain world is often marked by volatility, with cryptocurrencies experiencing unpredictable price swings. GCV counters this instability by offering a globally agreed-upon value for Pi.

- Preserving Economic Integrity: By establishing a stable reference value, GCV prevents market manipulation and speculative devaluation.

- Ensuring Fair Transactions: Whether used for goods, services, or partnerships, GCV provides a clear, trusted benchmark for all parties involved.

Stability attracts trust, and trust lays the groundwork for Pi's long-term success.

2. GCV: Enabling Ecosystem Expansion

The adoption of GCV empowers the Pi Network to go beyond being just a digital currency. It unlocks its potential as the backbone of a thriving ecosystem.

- Merchant Confidence: Businesses are more willing to accept Pi as payment when its value is predictable and widely recognized.

- Global Adoption: A consistent GCV simplifies the onboarding process for new users and merchants across diverse markets.

- Encouraging Innovation: Developers can build applications and services that leverage Pi without the risk of value fluctuations undermining their efforts.

With GCV, Pi becomes more than a currency—it becomes a catalyst for economic transformation.

3. GCV: Strengthening Pioneer Unity

GCV is not just a number; it is a symbol of collective agreement and shared vision among Pioneers worldwide.

- Fostering Collaboration: The consensus behind GCV unites Pioneers under a common goal, driving efforts to grow the network.

- Building Community Trust: A strong and stable value reassures existing Pioneers and attracts new members to the movement.

- Empowering Advocacy: GCV gives Pioneers a clear and compelling message to present to potential merchants and collaborators.

By rallying around GCV, Pioneers collectively ensure the sustainability of the network.

4. GCV: A Pathway to Open Mainnet

As the Pi Network prepares for the Open Mainnet, GCV becomes even more critical. A globally recognized value will help Pi stand out in the competitive blockchain space and ensure its success.

- Attracting Institutional Interest: A strong, consensus-

driven value invites institutional partnerships and investments.

- Creating Historical Legacy: GCV ensures Pi enters the Open Mainnet with a solid foundation of trust and credibility.

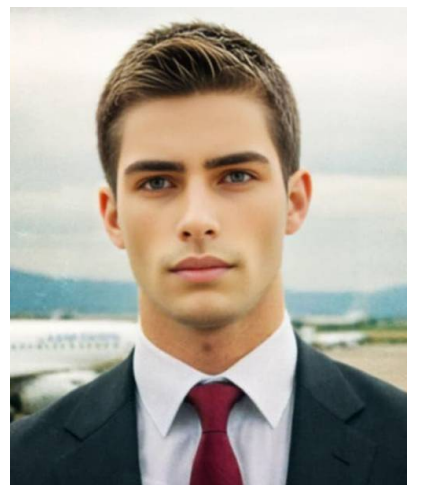
- Paving the Way for Global Impact: With GCV, Pi can seamlessly integrate into global economies and become a transformative force for financial inclusion.

Conclusion: GCV as the Key to Success

GCV is more than a concept; it is the driving force behind the Pi Network's vision for a decentralized and inclusive economy. By ensuring stability, expanding the ecosystem, uniting Pioneers, and preparing for the Open Mainnet, GCV unlocks the full potential of Pi.

Let us embrace GCV, strengthen our community, and build a brighter future for Pi Network together.

Join the movement today—be a part of Pi's journey to global success! **(Mr. JoJo - Asst Executive Director, Asst Committee Chair GCV Core Team)**



JoJo

The Philippines GCV Merchants Association: Empowering Merchants for a Thriving Ecosystem

The Philippines GCV Merchants Association is dedicated to uplifting merchants across the nation by providing them with the tools, support, and opportunities to thrive. Under the dynamic leadership of a visionary team, the association stands as a beacon of collaboration, innovation, and empowerment. Its mission is to create a thriving, inclusive merchant network that fosters growth, success, and unity through the power of collective action and innovation.

Leadership Team

The association's leadership is marked by a team of individuals whose commitment and vision drive the mission forward.

-Ms. Doris Yin, Founder of the Global GCV Movement, whose pioneering spirit has laid the foundation for the association's goals.

- Lumari, Executive Director of the GCV Core Team and Adviser, whose strategic guidance plays a pivotal role in shaping the association's direction.

National Level Ambassadors

The association's ambassadors are leaders in their respective areas, working on initiatives that make a significant impact across the nation:

- Anthony PCFix Nierra, Ecology Development Ambassador, focusing on sustainable initiatives to support environmental health.

-Marlon P. Domantay, Education Ambassador, leading efforts to enhance educational opportunities for merchants and their communities.

- Mrs. Lerma Ablan, Head Merchant Coordinator, ensuring seamless coordination and support for merchants across the Philippines.

Core Leadership

The core leadership team ensures the effective

implementation of the association's programs and strategies:

- President: Bordzki Ahente Gargar
- Vice President: Mirasol Flores Cabilla
- Secretary: Jennifer Botalon
- Treasurer: Theresa Albathani
- Legal Adviser: Atty. Omamalin
- Public Relations Officers (PRO)

The Public Relations Officers (PRO) team plays a vital role in maintaining open lines of communication and promoting the association's mission. The PRO team includes:

1. Aimnor Gajelloma Omar
2. Arnel Reyes
3. Cristina Galero
4. Daniel Bonggao Ceriola
5. Esperanza M. Samson
6. Franklin Novicio
7. George Torzar
8. John M. Doria
9. Joseph Malinao Orgen
10. Laly Solomon Casongsong
11. Marivic Temblador
12. Vangie Yazon
13. Virgie Castillo
14. Wynn Figueroa

Assistant Merchant Coordinators

The Assistant Merchant Coordinators play a critical role in regional development and support. They ensure localized assistance and effective communication between merchants and the association's leadership team:

- Alcher Capin – Region 2

Responsible for overseeing merchant activities and fostering collaboration in Region 2.

- Jomar Gallego – Region 4A, Cavite

Focused on guiding and supporting merchants in Region 4A, particularly in Cavite, to maximize their growth and engagement.

Auditor

To ensure transparency and accountability, the association relies on its Auditor:

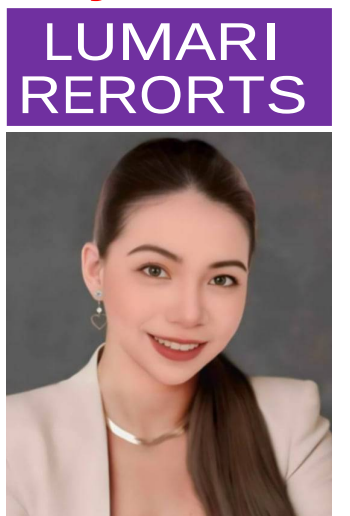
- Ron Galicia Aquino

Our Mission

At the heart of the Philippines GCV Merchants Association lies a powerful mission: to build a thriving and inclusive merchant network that empowers individuals, fosters collaboration, and drives growth. Through collective action and innovative approaches, the association strives to ensure that merchants can succeed and contribute to a brighter future for the entire nation.

Join Us

As the Philippines GCV Merchants Association continues to grow, we invite all merchants, collaborators, and visionaries to join us in empowering the merchant community and shaping a better tomorrow. Together, we can make a lasting impact and pave the way for success and prosperity for all. **(Lumari - Executive Director GCV Core Team)**



Ms. Lumari

DA: More, cheaper rice options available at Kadiwa ng Pangulo

Consumers can enjoy more and cheaper rice options at the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP) centers and kiosks, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said Friday.

In an ambush interview, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said these options would be accessible to more Filipinos with the expansion of the KNP in other areas, in collaboration with national government agencies and local government units.

"Apat iyon (That would be four options). So, just to inform everybody ang target namin (our target) by the end of February – 180 palengkes (markets) in Metro Manila," he said.

The four options are the Rice for All 5 (RFA 5), which is 5 percent broken and sells for PHP45 per kg.;

RFA 25, which is 25 percent broken rice sold at PHP40 per kg; RFA 100, also known as Sulit rice, is 100 percent broken at PHP36 per kg; and P29 or the aging but good quality rice stock of the National Food Authority (NFA) sold to vulnerable sectors at PHP29 per kg.

Supplies under the Rice for All will come from Food Terminals, Inc. (FTI).

Tiu Laurel said he is set to meet with Metro Manila mayors to ensure the timely expansion of KNP sites, which the DA hopes would help drive down the market retail prices of rice.

Sulit rice

Tiu Laurel and Trade Secretary Cristina Roque, meanwhile, showed the quality of Sulit rice during a public taste test.

He said the variety, although incomparable with 5 percent broken rice, is considered acceptable.

"Today is not yet the official launching of Sulit rice but gusto nating makita (we want to see), basically, it's a market visit, to see iyon (the) acceptability of Sulit rice," Tiu Laurel said.

"Iyong mga 100 percent broken is a by-product iyan na ibinibenta talaga ng rice miller nang mura

(This 100 percent broken is a by-product being sold by rice millers at a cheaper price). That is why it is not a subsidy."

He, however, noted the need to know the "perfect" strategy for milling to match the quality of imported ones for Sulit rice.

"Nakita namin iyong quality ng Sulit rice na imported, maganda (We saw the quality of imported Sulit rice, it's good). I'm now figuring out kung paano natin gagawin iyon dito sa Pilipinas, sa (how to replicate that in our) rice processing systems. I believe we have the



TASTE TEST. Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. (right) and Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque (center) check the quality of cooked Sulit rice during a public taste test at the Kadiwa ng Pangulo site at the Murphy public market in Quezon City on Friday (Jan. 10, 2024). Sulit rice, which sells at PHP36 per kg., is 100 percent broken but white. **(PNA photo by Robert Alfiler)**

technology to do it," Tiu Laurel said.

To date, the sale of Sulit rice is still undergoing trial

in three select sites – Murphy market, FTI, and one LRT station in Metro Manila. **(PNA)**

SCS, reg'l woes call for 'new levels' of PH-Japan cooperation: envoy

The Philippines and Japan must take their cooperation to "new levels" against the backdrop of complex challenges besetting the region, including the rapid Chinese militarization in the South China Sea, a Japanese official said Friday.

"There are many reasons why Japan-Philippine cooperation should be taken to a new level. The security landscape, both regionally and globally, has grown increasingly complex and unpredictable, marked by a series of turning points," Japanese Ambassador Endo Kazuya said in a Stratbase ADRI forum in Makati City.

Among these, he said, are China's "rapid and opaque" military build-up, repeated unilateral attempts to change the

status quo by force in the East and South China Seas, North Korea's escalating and serious military provocations, and the "alignment among China, Russia, and North Korea".

Since assuming his post in Manila, Endo said the South China Sea has remained a "flashpoint of heightened tensions" in the region.

For the envoy, facing these severe and complex security challenges requires the two states to "redouble current efforts" and forge

enhanced relations.

Endo also underscored the importance of a "regional deterrence" to ensuring stability in the region.

Meanwhile, he said Japan's participation in the maritime cooperative activity in the Philippine Exclusive Economic Zone in June, August, September, and December last year was testament to its "tangible demonstrations [and] steadfast dedication to upholding the principles of freedom of navigation

and overflight".

Military access deal

Once the Philippine-Japan Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) comes into effect, Endo said the two nations' level of cooperation will also enter a new phase.

Through this deal, Endo said the Japan Self-Defense Forces will be able to engage in advanced training with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, particularly in the joint Philippines-US exercises such as

Balikatan, Kamandag, and Sama-Sama.

As to how soon Tokyo could increase its engagement in the activities, Endo said it would depend on the "processes of the ratification".

"Japan has been an active participant as observers to the Balikatan and we also need to plan ahead. So, we'll see," he told reporters in a separate interview.

The Philippine Senate ratified the RAA in 2024, which now awaits the

concurrence by the Japanese parliament to take effect.

"We hope that the RAA will be concurred by the Japanese Diet at the earliest possible time but we are not yet sure when," Endo said.

"After the concurrence by the Japanese Diet, we will go through some procedural processes and after that it will be officially ratified by both governments and will take into effect," he added. **(PNA)**

PH, Japan volleyball federations vow to strengthen partnership

The Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) and Japan Volleyball Association (JVA) on Thursday vowed to continue strengthening their partnership to further promote the sport in the region.

The vow was made after Japan Minister and Consul General Takahiro Hanada led the turnover of volleyball supplies from the JVA at the new PNVF Office at The Bonifacio Prime in Taguig City.

"With the sport seeing record-breaking attendances and emerging talents, I believe our cooperation comes at an exciting time for volleyball's culture," Hanada said.

"We eagerly take this opportunity to support the Philippines' emerging volleyball scene... We are proud to have this equipment in the hands of young and eager Filipinos. It is my hope that these volleyballs play a vital part in fueling the dreams and connections of the Philippines' youth," he added.

Hanada handed competition volleyballs

during the turnover ceremony to Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) president and PNVF chief Ramon "Tats" Suzara, and Alas Pilipinas women's and men's team members Thea Gagate, Dawn Catindig, Vince Lorenzo and EJ Casaña.

"Through our program 'Sport for Tomorrow,' Japan realizes and harnesses the power of sports as a force for global prosperity and harmony."

Sport for Tomorrow is an international exchange and cooperation program on sports based of the commitment of the Japanese government.

Suzara thanked Hanada and the JVA as the Philippines gets another big boost nine months ahead of its hosting of the FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championships.

He said the volleyball

equipment is a big help to the PNVF's efforts to discover talent and expand the viewership of the sport.

"The Philippines is a volleyball country. That's our main slogan now," he said.

Suzara said the volleyball supplies and equipment will "fuel the enthusiasm" of many young players in the provinces.

"We appreciate Japan's continuing support of Asian volleyball and we hope to continue this relationship with Japan not only in terms of equipment but also coaching, national team training camps and even management."

Suzara also showed Hanada around the new PNVF office, which will serve as headquarters of the 2025 Men's Volleyball World Championship and additionally, houses the AVC president's office. (PNA)



SPORTS PARTNERSHIP. The Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) receive supplies from the Japan Volleyball Association at the PNVF office in The Bonifacio Prime in Taguig City on Thursday (Jan. 9, 2025). Present during the turnover ceremony were (from left) players Thea Gagate, Dawn Catindig, PNVF and Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) president Ramon "Tats" Suzara, Japan Minister and Consul General Takahiro Hanada, and players Vince Lorenzo and EJ Casaña. (Contributed photo)

Busy international calendar for Filipino athletes in 2025

Filipino athletes will be busy this year, starting with the 9th Asian Winter Games in Harbin, China on Feb. 7 to 14.



BUSY YEAR. Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (seated, center) with other members of the Executive Board after a meeting in Makati City on Tuesday (Jan. 7, 2025). They discussed Filipino athletes' international calendar this year. (Contributed photo)

Other major tournaments lined up for Team Philippines are the 12th World Games in Chengdu, in China (Aug. 7-17), 3rd Asian Youth Olympics Games in Bahrain (Oct. 22-31) and 33rd Thailand Southeast Asian Games in the cities of Bangkok, Chonburi and Songkhla (Dec. 9-20).

"It's a busy year marked with major international competitions," Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president and PhilCycling chief Abraham Tolentino said after meeting his new executive board in Makati City on Tuesday.

"We're aiming to send as many capable and qualified athletes as possible to these games and we're targeting the best possible results."

Tolentino had earlier said the Harbin Games will be the

springboard for the country's quest for its first Winter Olympics medal.

The Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games will be held in Saudi Arabia's capital city Riyadh early 2026.

First vice president Al Panlilio (basketball), treasurer Dr. Jose Raul Canlas (surfing), auditor Donald Caringal (volleyball), and board members Leonora Escollante (canoe-kayak), Alvin Aguilar (wrestling), Ferdinand Agustin (jiu-jitsu), Alexander Sulit (judo), Leah Gonzales (fencing) and Jessie Lacuna (Athletes Commission) met with Tolentino.

Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, also attended

the meeting, while second vice president Leyte 4th District Rep. Richard Gomez of modern pentathlon couldn't make it.

The POC will hold its first General Assembly next week.

The Executive Board reorganized key posts, including Wharton Chan who remained as secretary-general, Marcus Andaya (legal), Billie Sumagui (membership), Alberto Agra (arbitration), Michael Vargas (international affairs), Escollante (gender equality), Canlas (medical and anti-doping), Sulit (safe sports), and Marcus Jarwin Manalo (technical).

Before the meeting, the board offered prayers for former secretary-general Edwin Gastanes, who passed away in December 2024. (PNA)

Boxers Petecio, Villegas to receive PSA President's Award

Boxers Nesthy Petecio and Aira Villegas will receive the President's Award during the 2024 San Miguel Corporation-Philippine Sportswriters Association (SMC-PSA) Awards ceremony at the Manila Hotel Grand Ballroom on Jan. 27.



AWARDEE. Nesty Petecio, the first Filipino boxer to win back-to-back medals in the Olympics. She bagged a silver in Tokyo (2020) and a bronze in Paris (2024). (Contributed photo)

The two delivered a pair of bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics, adding to the two gold medals from gymnast Carlos Yulo in the men's floor exercise and vault events.

For his historic achievement, Yulo will be feted with the highest honor as 2024 Athlete of the Year during the proceedings co-presented by ArenaPlus, Cignal, and MediaQuest.

Petecio got the bronze in the women's 57kg division, while Villegas bagged the same color in the 50kg class.

"They may have missed the biggest prize in the 2024 Olympics, but nonetheless deserve high accolades with their

own bright moments in the Paris Games, providing extra push in the glorious Philippine performance -- a great highlight in the country's centennial year of participation in the Summer Games," PSA president Nelson Beltran, sports editor of The Philippine Star, said in a news release Monday.

The bronze in Paris was the second Olympic medal for the 32-year-old Petecio, who bagged the silver at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

She became the first Filipino boxer to win back-to-back medals in the quadrennial event.

Villegas, 29, debuted at the Paris Olympics and was an underdog in the five-member Philippine boxing team.

Executive of the Year, major awardees in other sports, Mr. Basketball both in the professional and amateur ranks, Ms. Volleyball, and the regular Tony Siddayao Awards for athletes under 17 years old will also be given out in the ceremony supported by Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, MILO, PLDT/Smart, Senator Bong Go, Januarius Holdings, PBA, 1-Pacman Party List, AcroCity, PVL, Akari, and Rain or Shine.

Philippine Olympians and Paralympians will also be recognized while another iconic Filipino athlete is set to be enshrined in the PSA Hall of Fame. (PNA)

DOST Batangas holds Technology Adopters and Cooperators Summit to boost MSME innovation and resilience

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-Batangas brought together micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that benefit from DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) and Grants-In-Aid Community-based Project (GIA-CBP) to strengthen their innovation capacities, sustainability, and resilience at the Technology Adopters and Cooperators Summit, held at the Solana Events Center in Alangilan, Batangas City, recently.



The summit was designed to provide MSMEs with knowledge and tools to improve their business operations, enhance their market competitiveness, and ensure long-term sustainability. One of the event's key highlights was the Re-Orientation on SETUP and GIA Guidelines, led by Ms. Alaiza Marie Loretizo and Ms. Maria Teresa Pamplona, the focal persons for the programs.

Their discussion emphasized the responsibilities and obligations of MSME beneficiaries, reinforcing the importance of compliance and effective implementation of DOST-supported projects. The session aimed to ensure that participants

understand how to leverage DOST resources to maximize impact while ensuring sustainability.

In line with DOST's commitment to building resilient businesses, the summit also focused on impact assessment and reporting. Ms. Loretizo and Ms. Pamplona discussed the significance of status reporting to track progress and evaluate the outcomes of supported projects. By equipping MSMEs with the tools to measure success, DOST aims to continuously improve and adapt its programs to meet the evolving needs of local businesses.

Another component of the summit was a Gender Sensitivity Seminar, led by Mr. Ristian Calderon of DOST CALABARZON's Gender and Development

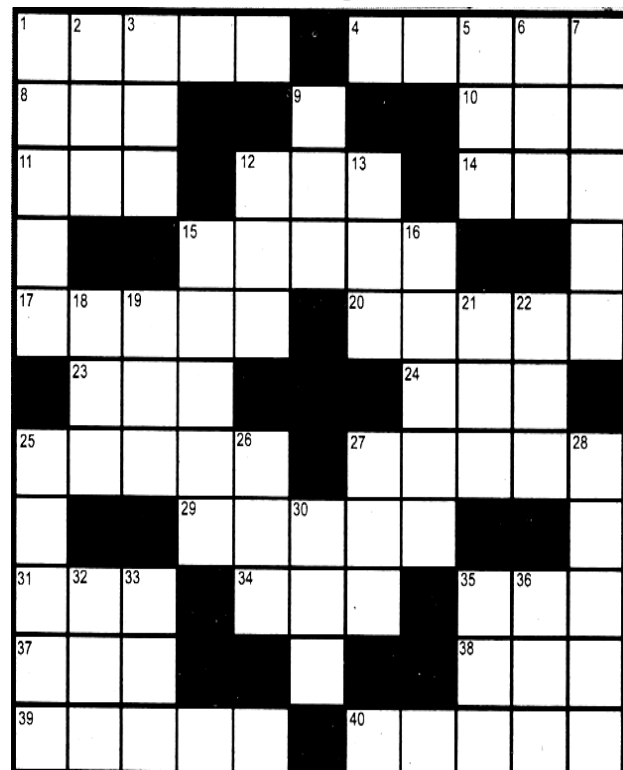
(GAD) program. The seminar underscored the importance of fostering inclusive and equitable work environments, urging MSMEs to adopt workplace practices that are welcoming and diverse. This, according to Mr. Calderon, not only enhances organizational culture but also strengthens customer relationships and business opportunities by appealing to a broader market.

The summit also included a session on Business Continuity and Resilience Planning, facilitated by Dr. Nickie Boy Manalo, Director of Batangas State University's Smart Action Center. In a time when businesses face unpredictable economic and environmental challenges, Dr. Manalo's

session provided practical strategies for MSMEs to prepare for disruptions. From disaster preparedness to adaptive business models, the session helped participants understand how to future-proof their businesses and navigate unforeseen circumstances.

The summit concluded with participants expressing their appreciation for the relevance and timeliness of the topics covered, with many noting that the discussions addressed pressing challenges they face and provided valuable insights into enhancing productivity, improving operational resilience, and driving innovation. **(By John Maico M. Hernandez)**

PALAIPIAN



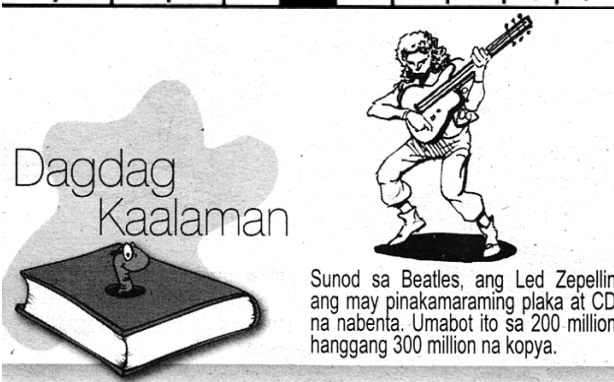
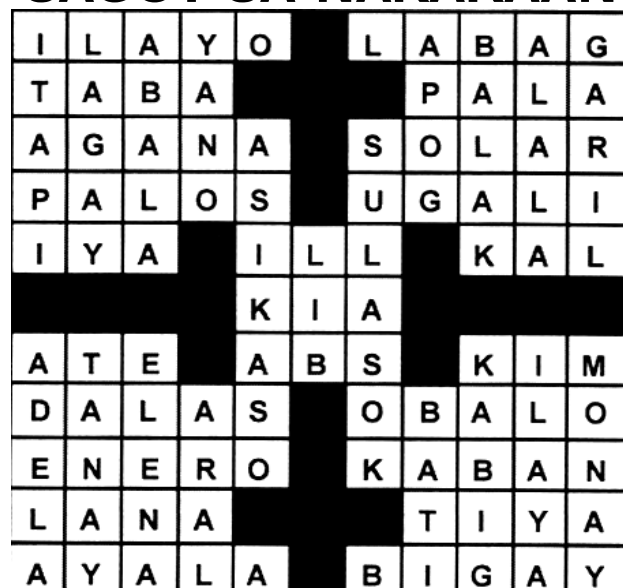
PAHALANG

- 1 Hangarin
- 4 Pango
- 8 Ikod
- 10 Ms. Capri
- 11 Yugto ng karera
- 12 Laboratory: daglat
- 14 Numero sa buwis
- 15 Talop
- 17 Hawak
- 20 Sakim
- 23 Gallon: daglat
- 24 Natural: daglat
- 25 Mantsa
- 27 Linya
- 29 Pugad
- 31 Ms. Chiu
- 34 Mr. Cone
- 35 Magazine: daglat
- 37 Aba
- 38 Sikat na boksingero
- 39 Halili
- 40 Pananakit ng sugat

PABABA

- 1 Plata
- 2 Bansag
- 3 Kapitan: daglat
- 5 Daga: Ingles
- 6 Gapas
- 7 Bantay
- 9 Philippine Airlines
- 12 Latin: daglat
- 13 Sisidlan ng gamit
- 15 Tulin
- 16 Bayan sa Rizal
- 18 Pagiging una sa takdang oras
- 19 Tawag kay Patricia
- 21 Ilog sa Asya
- 22 Agta
- 25 Marka
- 26 Kit
- 27 Palaman sa tinapay
- 28 Sukal
- 30 Mr. Samboy
- 32 Balat ng palay
- 33 Libo
- 35 Mr. Roxas
- 36 Suyu

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



Feast of Jesus Nazareno 2025 in Bacolod, Cavite, Davao Region, other areas in PH

Catholic devotees flocked to the streets of, not just Manila, but also in the different provinces around the Philippines to participate in their own Traslacion, celebrating the Feast of Jesus Nazareno.

The annual feast, held every January 9, is held in veneration of what is also known as the Black Nazarene, whose image is believed to be miraculous. [FROM OUR ARCHIVES: Things to know about the Feast of the Black Nazarene]

Cagayan de Oro City, Bacolod City, Alfonso and Magallanes in Cavite, and Laak in Davao de Oro are among the cities and towns which held their own celebrations to honor the suffering Christ.

The Diocese of Bacolod, in particular, marked the feast for the first time, after the Quiapo Church gifted it a replica of the image of the Nazarene. The replica is now enshrined at the Queen of Peace Parish, Redemptorist, in Bacolod City.

For Rappler Communities user Lance

Dolor, a Nazareno devotee from Manila who was in Bacolod City for vacation during feast day, bringing the image of the Nazarene to the provinces "makes the Poon closer to the communities and to make the devotion to ► **FEAST OF JESUS • 3**



Catholic devotees join the Traslacion for the Feast of Jesus Nazareno at St. John Nepomucene Parish in Alfonso, Cavite, on January 9, 2025. Keith Andrei Marantal via St. John Nepomucene Parish

SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME III • NO. 24 • JANUARY 12 - 18, 2025 • P10.00

PhilHealth launches new, expanded benefit packages for 2025

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) on Friday launched additional and expanded health benefit packages that its members could avail of starting this year.

According to PhilHealth president and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Ledesma Jr., required policy instruments or circulars have already been created and published for these new benefits: ischemic heart disease-acute myocardial infarction, Z Package for peritoneal dialysis, Z Package for kidney transplantation, preventive oral health services, outpatient emergency care benefit, and 50-percent adjustment in case rates packages.

"Our goal is to alleviate financial strain on the Filipino patient and ensure timely access to life-saving services from hospitalization, diagnostic tests and procedures like angioplasty, stenting, and medication," he said during the state-insurer's first stakeholders meeting for the year.

The ischemic heart disease-acute myocardial infarction consists of four different packages: the percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or coronary angioplasty increase from PHP30,000 to PHP524,000; fibrinolysis increase from PHP30,290 to PHP133,500; emergency medical services with coordinated referral and interfacility transfer at PHP21,900; and cardiac rehabilitation after PCI at PHP66,140.

"We also want to encourage the availment of peritoneal dialysis (PD) as a first line modality treatment for end stage renal disease. We want to push this option apart from hemodialysis, not just the autonomy and flexibility for members in choosing the treatment modality but also to promote the quality of life and mobility of the patients," Ledesma said. ► **PHILHEALTH • 3**



NEW BENEFITS. Philippine Health Insurance Corporation president and Chief Executive Officer Emmanuel Ledesma Jr. on Friday (Jan. 10, 2025) leads the launching of the state-insurer's new and expanded benefit packages for its members this year. Ledesma assured members that the new packages will not result in premium hike this year or in the coming years. (Screengrab from PhilHealth's livestreaming)

FREE ANTI FLU FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**JANUARY 14, 2025
9:00 AM ONWARDS**

KAWIT SUPER HEALTH CENTER
BRGY. TABON II, KAWIT, CAVITE

Dalhin ang inyong

Kawit
Senior
Citizen ID

431-9941 / 09164702070 kawitruhu@gmail.com kawitruhu@yahoo.com kawitruhuofficial

Sa darating na January 14, araw po ng Martes, atin pong inaanyayahan ang ating mga mahal na lolo at lola na magpabakuna ng Anti-Flu Vaccine. Ang bakunahan po ay gagawin po simula 9:00 ng umaga sa Kawit Super Health Center, Brgy. Tabon II. First 700 clients po ang ating babakunahan at FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS po ang ating polisiya. Kaya po sa mga nagnanais makakuha ng ating libreng bakuna, punta na po kayo at huwag kaligtan dalhin ang inyong Valid Kawit Senior Citizen ID Card. Para naman po sa mga ating mga lolo at lola na bed-ridden o may mga kapansanan na naglilimita sa kanilang pagpunta, mangyari lamang po na bisitahin ng inyong kaanak o caregiver ang inyong Barangay Midwife sa Barangay Health Center upang kayo po ay aming mailista at maikedyul para sa ating libreng bakuna. Para po sa karagdagan katanungan, mangyaring makipag-ugnayan sa amin sa numerong 431-9941 o 09164702070. Maraming salamat po at Magandang Kawit po sa ating lahat! #KawitRHU #KawitHEALTH #AlagangAngeloAguineldo #RatedTripleA #KawitSeniorCitizen

DepEd wants inclusive, practical uniform policies for teachers, staff

The Department of Education (DepEd) on Thursday said inclusivity and practicality must be incorporated into uniform policies for its teaching and non-teaching personnel.



UNIFORM. Public school teachers in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan wear the prescribed Department of Education (DepEd) uniform in this file photo. The DepEd on Thursday (Jan. 9, 2025) said it wants more inclusive and practical uniform policies for all its teaching and non-teaching personnel. (Photo courtesy of DepEd)

The newly reconstituted DepEd Uniform Committee (DUC) will oversee the "selection, implementation, and monitoring" of uniforms

under DepEd Memorandum Order No. 04. "We want to foster a more inclusive, practical, and supportive approach to uniform policies. This

initiative not only reflects DepEd's responsiveness to the needs of its personnel but also its commitment to strengthening the ► **DEPED WANTS • 3**