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Strengthening Early Childhood Care: ECCCD Forum Held in Cavite



EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD) FORUM
08 APRIL 2026
NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CENTER, TRECE MARTIRES CITY

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer successfully conducted the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Forum on April 8, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City, gathering stakeholders committed to advancing early childhood education and development across the province.

The forum served as a vital platform for Child Development Workers (CDWs), program coordinators, and partner agencies to align initiatives, enhance knowledge, and ensure the effective implementation of ECCD programs in their respective localities. One of the key highlights of the forum was the presentation of Mr. Aries

► **STRENGTHENING • 4**

DOST Ilocos Region Backs P6.4M Tech Upgrades for Inclusive Regional Growth of MSMEs



CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, La Union - The Department of Science and Technology Ilocos Region (DOST Ilocos Region) awarded financial assistance to the 2nd batch of 2026 beneficiaries of the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) during a ceremony at the DOST Ilocos Region Innovation Hub held recently. ► **DOST ILOCOS • 4**

PH joins US-led Pax Silica; plan for industrial hub in Luzon unveiled



The Philippines has joined the United States-led Pax Silica initiative, a strategic coalition among 14 states to create a secure supply chain for semiconductors and artificial intelligence (AI) technology. ► **PH JOINS • 4**

BOC shortens import assessment valuation request to 3 days

MANILA – The Bureau of Customs (BOC) has reduced the processing period for valuation requests under the Import Assessment Service (IAS) from five down to three working days upon receipt of complete documentary requirements.

Customs Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said the new processing period streamlines valuation processes and enhance trade facilitation.

Under a memorandum he signed on April 14, the directive mandates the IAS to release clearance within three working days from receipt of complete documentary requirements.

“Delays in processing must ► **BOC SHORTENS • 4**



GenTri e-Bus line goes green with no fare hike



GENERAL TRIAS CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Public transportation in General Trias is going green as the city transitions to using electric buses.

Starting April 7, the PERJODA Transport Cooperative's electric bus line will start plying routes within the city following the launch of its charging station in Barangay San Francisco.

Mayor Luis Ferrer IV said launching the electric bus line will help Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators, as well as the riding public, save fuel amid rising costs.

Despite going electric, the local chief executive assured commuters that there will be no fare hike.

“Napapanahon po ito lalo na sa gitna ng patuloy na pagtaas ng presyo ng ► **GENTRI E-BUS • 4**

PGC Strengthens Quality Standards Ahead of SOCOTEC Recertification Audit

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through its ISO Core Team, convened a crucial meeting on April 6, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City to intensify preparations for the upcoming SOCOTEC Recertification audit scheduled on April 27-29, 2026.

The meeting centered on ensuring the readiness of all concerned offices and personnel in maintaining the province's compliance with international quality management standards. It served as a platform to align strategies, clarify responsibilities, and reinforce the importance of adherence to established ISO processes across all departments.

Ms. Michelle F. Alcid, Quality Management Representative, led the discussion by outlining the key requirements and preparations necessary for the audit. She emphasized the importance of organizing and updating documented information, including quality manuals, procedures, and records that demonstrate compliance with ISO

standards.

She also highlighted the need for offices to ensure that all processes are properly implemented, monitored, and supported by accurate and verifiable records.

Furthermore, Ms. Alcid stressed the significance of employee awareness and participation during the audit.

She encouraged all personnel to be familiar with their respective roles within the Quality Management System (QMS), as well as the policies and objectives of the organization. She also discussed possible audit scenarios, including interviews and validation of processes, reminding everyone to respond confidently and truthfully based on actual practices.

The ISO Core Team also reviewed previous



audit findings and identified areas for improvement to ensure that corrective actions have been effectively implemented.

This proactive approach aims to strengthen internal systems and sustain the province's commitment to delivering efficient and quality public service.

With the upcoming SOCOTEC recertification audit, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its dedication to continuous improvement

and excellence in governance, ensuring that its services remain responsive, reliable, and aligned with global standards. — OPIO

Laguna rolls out Libreng Sakay as high fuel prices disrupt key routes

SANTA CRUZ, Laguna (PIA) – To ensure uninterrupted mobility for commuters across Laguna, the provincial government of Laguna has launched a Libreng Sakay Program as jeepney operations face major disruptions along key routes in the province.

Laguna Governor Sol Aragon announced on Monday, April 13, that the program will run until Wednesday, April 15, coinciding with the temporary transport break declared by local PUV drivers and operators due to high diesel costs.

The free shuttle services aim to ensure that commuters can continue reaching their destinations despite reduced public transport availability.

The Free Ride Program covers major routes across Laguna, connecting the towns of Los Baños, Bay, Victoria, Pila, Majayjay, Liliw, Famy, Paete, Kalayaan, Lumban, and Pagsanjan, with designated pick-up points in strategic locations along these routes.

Some local government units and communities in the province have complemented the provincial government's efforts to assist passengers, the Laguna Public Information Office (PIO) said in a statement.

"In addition, several local government units and communities have extended their own free ride support to help stranded commuters. These include



Duhart, Pagsawitan, Oogong, Pagsanjan, Magdalena, Santa Cruz, Liliw, Biñan, and Majayjay, which provided localized shuttle assistance and transport support services for affected residents."

The temporary Libreng Sakay program was implemented in response to the transport break declared by local PUV drivers and operators due to high diesel costs.

The Laguna PIO reported that some jeepney drivers and operators plying the Santa Cruz-Lumban route have adopted a rotation scheme, allowing only five jeepneys to operate per day, followed by another set of five units on a scheduled rotation.

Transport groups said the "transport break" is an effort to sustain limited operations, ease the

burden of fuel-related challenges, and avoid a complete shutdown of routes. Some groups also noted that the system serves as compliance with warnings from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB), which has cautioned against sanctions, including possible franchise cancellation, for operators joining transport strikes.

"[Transport] officials said the coordinated measures aim to stabilize commuter movement, prevent transport paralysis, and maintain essential economic activity across Laguna amid continuing fuel and transport pressures," Laguna PIO added.

For commuters, the Libreng Sakay initiative has provided much-needed

relief, ensuring they can still reach their destinations safely and on time.

"Malaking tulong po ito sa mga commuters gaya po namin. Malaking tulong po ito dahil libre, iwas hassle sa pagiintay ng public transportation. Maraming salamat po dahil may ganitong proyekto si Gov, napakalaking tulong sa mga kababayan nating commuters," a commuter said.

Aragones also assured the transportation sector that the distribution of assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) for jeepney drivers and operators will soon be rolled out in the province, following the sustained release of aid to members of tricycle drivers and operators associations. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

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GMA LGU suspends trike franchise renewal fees amid rising fuel costs

GEN. MARIANO ALVAREZ, Cavite (PIA) — The Municipal Government of General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, suspended the collection of franchise renewal fees for tricycle drivers and operators for the rest of the year.



Last April 7, Mayor Medardo Custodio Jr. signed Ordinance No. 2026-401 to suspend the collection of tricycle franchise renewal fees amid the ongoing oil crisis. The ordinance, collectively authored by members of the Sangguniang Bayan, will suspend the collection of renewal fees to provide relief for tricycle operators and drivers plying routes

in the municipality. "The continuing increase in fuel prices and the prevailing oil and energy crisis have significantly affected the income and daily subsistence of tricycle operators and drivers in the municipality."

Although the ordinance will apply to all local tricycle operators and drivers, the Sangguniang Bayan clarified that the suspension applies only to franchise renewal fees, and not to new franchise applications, penalties, and fines. The suspension of

franchise renewal fees will be effective for the rest of the year 2026, or until oil and energy prices have been declared stabilized by the national government. **(PB-PIA CALABARZON, Public Information Office – GMA Cavite/Facebook)**

Sugar industry gets boost with P27M worth of machineries from SRA

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) on Thursday said they have granted PHP27 million worth of mechanization machinery and equipment to support Filipino sugar farmers.



BOOSTING SUGAR INDUSTRY. Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Administrator and CEO Pablo Luis Azcona leads the turnover of dump trucks for sugar farmers at the La Granja Agricultural Research and Extension Center (LGAREC) compound on Thursday (April 16, 2026). Azcona said mechanization is no longer a luxury but a necessity to boost the country's sugarcane industry. *(Photo courtesy of SRA)*

The agency turned over the grants at the La Granja Agricultural Research and Extension Center (LGAREC) compound, which includes heavy-duty vehicles and tractors. In a statement, SRA Administrator and CEO Pablo Luis Azcona said mechanization is no longer a luxury but a necessity considering the challenges in the sugarcane industry. "Our goal is to bring the Philippine sugar industry into a new era of efficiency. By providing these machineries, we are directly reducing the physical and financial burden on our farmers," he said.

These grants are also expected to address rising production costs and declining soil health, as well as improve hauling efficiency, field

preparation and support the transport of soil amendments and farm inputs. "This equipment will allow our partners to implement soil rejuvenation techniques at scale, ensuring that our sugarcane fields remain productive for the next generation of sugar farmers," Azcona added. David Andrew Sanson, Board Member-Planters' Representative, meanwhile, lauded the agency's move as it serves as a "win" for planters. "Access to this level of machinery empowers our farmers to be more independent and cost-effective," he said.

Sanson then vowed to utilize the resources given to make the sugar industry more profitable for local producers. In particular, the SRA

distributed five dump trucks to various organizations in the country. These include Iloilo Mill District Development Council Inc.; Capiz Mill District Development Council Foundation Inc.; New Namangka Farmers Association in Mabinay, Negros Oriental; Norphil Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Piat, Cagayan; and Sugarcane Growers Association of Bukidnon Inc. Others have received units for hauling, including the Cabungbungan Lingahob Farmers Association, which was granted one hauling truck. The Northern Negros Sugar Development Council Inc. likewise received one hauling truck and one farm tractor equipped with complete implements. (PNA)

Luzon, Visayas grids on yellow alert amid plant outages, tight supply

The National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) placed the Luzon grid on yellow alert Thursday due to insufficient power supply.



(PNA file photo by Avito Dalan)

In an advisory, NGCP said the alert will be in effect from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. following the tripping of several power plants. A yellow alert is issued when power supply reserves fall to a thin margin over demand. Available capacity stands at 12,223 megawatts (MW) against a peak demand of 11,996 MW. NGCP said 35 plants

are on forced outage, while 14 are operating at reduced capacity, leaving 5,137.2 MW unavailable. Among the causes were outages at Units 1, 2, and 3 of Excellent Energy Resources Inc. and Block B of the Ilijan Power Plant in Batangas, as well as the shutdown of Magat hydro units 1 to 4 in Isabela. The Visayas grid will also be under yellow alert from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., with

available capacity at 2,597 MW versus peak demand of 2,368 MW. Fifteen plants are on forced outage, and 13 are running on reduced capacity, resulting in 679.2 MW unavailable, NGCP said. The alert was also attributed to the lack of power imports from Luzon via the high-voltage direct current (HVDC) link. **(PNA)**

DOST Ilocos... (FROM PAGE 1)

Known collectively as "Batch SIBOL" (Siyensya at Inobasyon para sa Bagong Oportunidad at Luntlunting Pagyabong), six cooperators received support and are set to "sprout," embarking on a journey toward greater competitiveness, resilience, and sustainability.

Three firms from Ilocos Sur (Torres Ricemill, Melody's Food Products, and Niks Printing Shop) collectively received ₱4,610,000.00 in financial assistance. Heisabelle Wood Works of La Union was granted ₱257,600.00, while HN Chicken Dealer and Obet Mushroom Farm in Pangasinan received a combined ₱1,549,800.00, further expanding support for MSMEs across the region.

Ms. Racquel M. Espiritu, Supervising Assistant Regional Director for SETUP, emphasized that the initiative supports long-term enterprise growth beyond financial aid. "This program is about giving our MSMEs the chance to sprout, grow, and flourish - bringing jobs, products, and services that uplift families and communities across the nation," she stated.

Furthermore, Ms. Mary Ann B. Ofiana, Project Technical Assistant I, led the Gender Sensitivity Training, where she emphasized integrating gender perspectives and promoting equal opportunities in the workplace. This was followed by Ms. Katrina F. Ronquillo, SETUP RPMO Head, who outlined the

beneficiaries' duties as stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement, discussed required reports, and answered participants' questions.

Regional Director Teresita A. Tabaog congratulated the beneficiaries and emphasized the role of MSMEs in economic growth and inclusive development. "I hope that you will not be content with just receiving that fund and improving your current processes but do better in coming up with more creative things and more innovative things. And while you do those, you will be mirroring some of the best practices that other MSMEs can learn from," she said.

The event concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Katrina F. Ronquillo, who thanked the Batch

SIBOL beneficiaries for their trust and collaboration. "Your trust inspires us to do more, to serve better, and to continue bringing programs that truly make

a difference," she remarked. The ceremony highlighted the DOST Ilocos Region's commitment to empowering MSMEs to grow, innovate, and

achieve sustainable success, bringing 'Agham na Ramdam' closer to communities across the region. (Eldrick John Viluan and Katherine Grace Balanag)

Strengthening... (FROM PAGE 1)

R. Panganiban, ECCD Focal Person, who discussed the importance of maintaining an updated database of ECCD enrollees and Child Development Workers. He emphasized that accurate and timely data collection plays a crucial role in policy-making, program planning, and resource allocation, ultimately ensuring that services reach the intended beneficiaries.

Mr. Panganiban also elaborated on the standardized process for the recognition of both public and private Child Development Centers (CDCs) and learning centers.

He underscored the need for compliance with

established guidelines and quality standards to guarantee safe, inclusive, and developmentally appropriate learning environments for young children.

Meanwhile, Ms. Jolivette Yao, ECCD Council, provided an in-depth discussion on the ECCD System Act, highlighting its significance as the cornerstone of early childhood development programs in the country. She explained that the law institutionalizes a comprehensive and integrated system that addresses the holistic needs of children from birth to four years old, covering health, nutrition, early education, and social services.

Ms. Yao further emphasized the shared responsibility among local government units, families, and communities in ensuring the proper implementation of ECCD programs, reinforcing the importance of collaboration in nurturing the next generation.

The ECCD Forum reaffirmed the Provincial Government's commitment to strengthening early childhood care and development initiatives by equipping implementers with the necessary knowledge and tools. Through continuous capacity-building efforts such as this, Cavite aims to foster a supportive and responsive environment where every child is given the best possible start in life. — OPIO

DoTr urged... (FROM PAGE 8)

"Ang krisis sa mataas na presyo ng langis ay walang pinipili—lahat ay apektado. Damang-dama lalo na ang ating kababayang nabibilang sa middle class ang bigay ng mga gastusin bunsod nito."

(The high oil price crisis chooses no one—

everyone is affected. Our countrymen in the middle class especially feel the weight of the expenses caused by this.)

Acting Secretary Giovanni Lopez assured that he will discuss with toll operators the possible inclusion of private vehicles

in the toll discount program.

Last March, the DOTR announced that toll operators volunteered to grant a two-month discount for essential transport services, including Public Utility Vehicles (PUV), Public Utility Buses (PUB), and freight vehicles. (PB-PIA CALABARZON/Jolo Revilla/Facebook)

BOC shortens... (FROM PAGE 1)

be minimized, and all units are expected to exercise diligence and urgency in the submission and evaluation of

complete requirements to ensure that trade flows without unnecessary interruption," Nepomuceno said.

The timely submission of complete and accurate documents and the prompt action on valuation concerns ensure the smooth movement of goods, Nepomuceno said. (PNA)

PH joins... (FROM PAGE 1)

Trade Undersecretary Ceferino Rodolfo, also the Managing Head and Vice Chairperson of the Board of Investments, signed the declaration signifying the Philippines' joining of Pax Silica on April 17.

Through this, the US Embassy in Manila on Friday said the Philippines and the US will establish a 4,000-acre industrial zone in the Luzon Economic Corridor (LEC) to serve as the "first AI-native industrial acceleration hub under Pax Silica."

The site will serve as a

staging point for a purpose-built platform for allied manufacturing-- an investment acceleration hub, where specific industrial activities can be shaped by market demand.

"Situating within the Luzon Economic Corridor, the Zone can leverage the Philippines' geographic centrality in the Indo-Pacific, its young and technically skilled workforce, and its deepening alliance with the United States," said the US Department of State.

This economic security

zone, the embassy said, will provide host-country comparative advantages and support the evolving needs of the Pax Silica network.

The US positions Pax Silica as a "positive-sum partnership of nations" who want to enhance AI and supply chain security.

The Philippines is the thirteenth Pax Silica signatory, joining Australia, Finland, India, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, Sweden, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the US. Additional signatories are expected to follow. (PNA)

GenTri e-Bus... (FROM PAGE 1)

krudo, kaya't malaking ginhawa sa ating mga tsuper at mananakay ang pangako nilang walang dagdag na pasahe."

Ferrer said the electric bus line promised to

provide inclusive transportation services, with bus conductors assisting passengers, including Persons With Disabilities and pregnant women.

The city's transition to electric vehicles started in November 2025, when PERJODA launched its Modernization program that promised modernized and eco-friendly electric public utility vehicles. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, Jon Ferrer/Facebook)

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PBBM vows... (FROM PAGE 8)

"Nagulat kami, 'yung mga report na dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng diesel ay hindi na binababa ang mga gulay na galing dito sa Mountain Province, dito sa mga mountainous areas (We were surprised because reports showed that due to the increase in diesel prices, vegetables from the Mountain Province and other mountainous areas are no longer being brought down)," he said.

Marcos noted the removal of toll fees for trucks transporting agricultural commodities, along with the temporary waiver of local government fees, as among the measures undertaken to ease transport costs.

He added that diesel

prices were reduced by PHP10 through the government's fuel subsidy program to help cushion the impact of rising fuel costs on farmers, traders, and transport operators.

He said these interventions aim to ensure a steady flow of supply while preventing sharp increases in food prices amid global challenges, including the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

"Patuloy lang namin ang ginagawa, (We continue to take action)," Marcos said, noting that drivers affected by the situation are being included in the Department of Labor and Employment's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD)

Program to provide temporary employment assistance.

Marcos said the government continues to monitor the situation and engage with market stakeholders to identify further necessary interventions.

"Kaya patuloy ang aming pag-aaral at patuloy ang aming pag-monitor para tiyakin na lahat ay makakaramdam ng tulong ng pamahalaan ngayon sa dinadaan natin na problema at sa krisis na naging bunga ng giyera sa Middle East (That is why our study and monitoring continue, to ensure that everyone feels the government's support as we go through this problem and the crisis brought about by the war in the Middle East)," he said.

During his visit to

BAPTC, Marcos inspected farm inputs and equipment for distribution to the farmer cooperatives and associations under the Department of

Agriculture's High Value Crops Program.

He also visited the Spot Trading Building 2 (Wholesale Area), where post-harvest activities are

underway.

He likewise engaged with farmers and key stakeholders in the Cordillera highland vegetable industry. (PNA)

DepEd, DPWH... (FROM PAGE 8)

construction while ensuring its quality.

"I think this will be a record-breaking year for the classroom constructions," he said.

"Ang ginagawa natin ngayon is marami tayong mga ie-engage na malalaking construction companies para gumawa nang mas mabilis, mas dekalidad, at mas matibay (What we are doing now is we are engaging with more bigger construction companies to build faster, better quality and stronger)."

More than 9,000 classrooms are projected to be completed this year under the DPWH.

These include at least 5,000 classrooms for FY 2026 and the completion of 4,000 backlogs from 2025, Dizon said.

For public-private partnerships and local

government unit classroom construction projects, the DepEd chief said the delivery timeline for classrooms will depend on the locality.

"We're talking about over a thousand different local government units. 'Yung ibang governor at mayor, sabi nila kaya nila ng (other governors and mayors are claiming that they can deliver) within 90 days. So, let's see," Angara said.

As of January, the country's classroom shortage is more than 144,000, according to the DepEd data.

Under the MOA, construction, replacement, repair and rehabilitation of school buildings from kindergarten to senior high school (K-12) levels will be covered.

It will also include technical vocational

laboratories, Last Mile Schools facilities and Learning Continuity Spaces.

For its part, the DepEd will provide a master list of school infrastructure by the end of May 2026.

This will help determine priority schools, ensure site readiness and secure environmental clearances.

The agency will likewise transfer funds to DPWH in three tranches: 50 percent upon approval of the MOA and program of works; 30 percent upon 75 percent disbursement of the first release; and the remaining balance upon progress and contract submission.

The DPWH, meanwhile, will manage bidding and construction, as well as ensure the functionality, safety and quality assurance of classrooms.

It will also conduct joint site validations alongside corrections for failures to meet standards. (PNA)

DOST Soccksargen... (FROM PAGE 8)

Under the Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Program, DOST formalized partnerships with key institutions to strengthen science education and community development. A major project, "Transforming STEM Education in Public Schools of Kidapawan through AI-Driven Robotics and Digital Fabrication," was signed with DepEd Region XII Schools Division Office of Kidapawan City. Another initiative, "Transforming Science Beyond the Classroom Through PSC Exhibit-Based Lessons and Lab in a Box," was implemented in collaboration with the Philippine Foundation for Science and Technology and the University of Southern Mindanao. These initiatives aim to enhance teacher capabilities and provide learners with interactive, technology-enabled learning experiences.

DOST also partnered with the Rotary Club of Mt. Apo as implementing partner and disbursing entity for seven community-based projects benefiting underserved sectors. These include initiatives supporting coffee enterprise

development for smallholder farmers, livelihood and reintegration programs for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), cultural preservation and women's livelihood for the Obo Manuvu community, restoration of a madrasa with ICT resources, and the establishment of digital hubs for youth in selected barangays. Collectively, these projects aim to promote inclusive growth, sustainability, and social reintegration.

Under the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), MOAs were signed to support local enterprises in improving productivity and competitiveness. One project focuses on deploying robust ICT systems to enhance online tutorial delivery, while another introduces energy-efficient technologies in natural rubber manufacturing, including the integration of solar photovoltaic systems. These interventions are designed to boost operational efficiency and promote sustainable industrial practices.

Meanwhile, under the Innovations for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines (IFWDPH)

Program, two beneficiaries formalized their participation through projects on fabric care innovation and safe water provision. These initiatives highlight DOST's commitment to supporting returning and transitioning overseas Filipino workers through sustainable, innovation-driven livelihood opportunities.

The event was further enriched by messages of support from former DOST Secretary Fortunato T. de la Peña and University of Southern Mindanao President Dr. Jonald L. Pimentel. Also present were key stakeholders, including Rotary Club of Mt. Apo President Atty. Jonah Mineses and Schools Division Superintendent Miguel Fillalan Jr., along with representatives from partner institutions who joined virtually.

Through these partnerships, DOST S O C C S K S A R G E N reaffirms its commitment to making STI accessible and impactful across communities, schools, industries, and marginalized sectors. The MOA signing symbolizes a shared dedication to implementing meaningful initiatives that will foster resilience, empowerment, and long-term development in Cotabato Province.

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DTI Laguna Empowers MSMEs Through "Plan, Promote, Profit Business Growth Seminar" in Mabitac

Mabitac, Laguna — April 9, 2026 — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Laguna Provincial Office, through Negosyo Center Mabitac in collaboration with JLR Consultancy and REV. — Premium Shoe Cleaner, conducted the "Plan, Promote, Profit: Business Growth Seminar" at the Mabitac Town Plaza, strengthening the capabilities of local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).



The seminar gathered 33 participants, including existing and aspiring business owners, who received practical training aimed at improving digital skills, branding strategies, and business operations in today's competitive market.

Resource speakers from DTI and the private sector delivered targeted sessions on key areas of entrepreneurship:

- * Social Media Management – Mr. Kent Cainto, DTI Business Counselor (Negosyo Center Paete), on content strategy and platform

optimization for business visibility

- * Fundamentals of Graphic Design – Mr. Kim Carlo Palacio, DTI Business Counselor (Negosyo Center Siniloan), on creating effective marketing visuals
- * Online Selling Strategies – Mr. Baron Chino C. Capuno, DTI Business Counselor (Negosyo Center Mabitac), on setting up and scaling online businesses
- * DTI Programs and Services – Capuno also introduced government support available for

MSMEs

- * Attraction Over Promotion: The Power of People-First Branding – Mr. Jonhillery R. Reyes, CEO and Managing Director of JLR Consultancy, on building authentic customer connections
- * Build, Brand and Bank: Turning Ideas into Income – Mr. Brian Coroza, Co-Owner and Operations Manager of REV. – Premium Shoe Cleaner, on turning ideas into sustainable business ventures

Participants actively engaged in discussions and exercises, gaining actionable insights they can immediately apply to improve business

operations, strengthen branding, and expand market reach.

The activity also served as a collaboration platform between government and private sector partners, reinforcing shared efforts to promote inclusive and sustainable local enterprise development.

DTI Laguna emphasized that the initiative reflects its continuing commitment to fostering entrepreneurial development at the grassroots level through strong partnerships with the private sector and local stakeholders (**BCCapuno, DTI Laguna**).

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT

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Branch 15

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SP PROC. NO. NC-3-1-26

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR CORRECTION OF CITIZENSHIP OF AARON BIANZON AND HIS PARENTS IN THE CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE OF AARON L. BIANZON AND CARINA R. DEL MUNDO FROM FILIPINO TO AMERICAN IN THE REGISTER OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRY OF MENDEZ, CAVITE

CARINA R. DEL MUNDO married to AARON L. BIANZON,

Petitioner,

-versus-

ST. AUGUSTINE PARISH CHURCH, MENDEZ, CAVITE, THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF MENDEZ, CAVITE, THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, MANILA AND ALL PERSONS WHO MAY BE AFFECTED THEREBY,

Respondents.

X-----X

ORDER

Before this Court is a petition filed by petitioner Carina R. Del Mundo through her counsel, **Atty. Rochell Marie J. Cortez**, praying for the granting of petition correcting the citizenship of **Aaron L. Bianzon** and his parents from Filipino to American in the Petitioner's PSA Certificate of Marriage.

Being sufficient in form and substance, the petition is hereby set for hearing on **May 12, 2026 at 8:30 in the morning**, on which date, hour and place.

At her expense, the petitioner is directed to publish a copy of this Order once for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the province of Cavite.

Mendez Municipal Civil Registrar and any person having or claiming any interest under the entry whose correction is sought may, within fifteen (15) days from notice of the petition, or from the date of publication of such notice, file his opposition thereto.

Provide copy of this Order parties and counsels for their compliance as well as to the respondents and Office of the Solicitor General for their information.

SO ORDERED.

Naic, Cavite, February 18, 2026.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN E. SEVILLANO JR.**
Acting Presiding Judge

DEED OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

NOTICE is hereby given that the late **BENEDICTO MALIA**, who died on February 18, 2001 in **Rosario, Cavite** has left, as co-owner of two (2) parcels of land, more particularly described as follows: 1. A parcel of land covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-205431**, situated in the Municipality of Noveleta, containing an area of 19,145 sq.m. more or less, is registered in the name of **Benedicto Malia**, husband of **Clarita Abungin**; (1/8 - 2,393.1 sq.m.); 2. A parcel of land covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. T-205432**, situated in the Municipality of Noveleta; containing an area of 8,161 sq.m. more or less, is registered in the name of **Benedicto Malia**, husband of **Clarita Abungin**; (1/8 - 1,020.1 sq.m.); the decedent left no debts, nor any Last Will or Testament; that all the **LEGAL HEIRS** being with civil capacity to contract and invoking the provisions pursuant to Rule 74, Section 1 and 4 of the Revised Rules of Court of the Philippines do hereby adjudicate unto themselves the two parcels of land described above in equal shares of 1/6 of 2,393.1 = 398.85 sq.m. each of LOT 35 under TCT NO. T-205431 and 1/6 of 1,020.1 = 170.016 sq.m. each of LOT 45 under TCT No. T-205432; executed by the HEIRS before Notary Public **Atty. Soledad R. Campbell-Sugatan** on October 02, 2023 in Gen. Trias, Cavite; entered as Doc. No. 211; Page No. 106; Book No. XVII; Series of 2023.

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DSWD scraps ceremonies for CRA payouts

Prioritizing speed in distributing aid for Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is doing away with ceremonies in its Cash Relief Assistance (CRA) program.

In an interview with the Sulong Southern Tagalog program last April 13, Joseph Arceo, Regional Information Officer for DSWD CALABARZON, said that while local government units (LGUs) provide payout venues, the CRA is focusing on the expedited distribution of cash aid to PUV drivers.

"Alam naman natin na ipinagbabawal na 'yung programa, direktong agad sa payout. And even 'yung photos and tarpaulins wala na po iyan."

Arceo noted that regional CRA payouts are faster and more organized by cutting waiting times and removing political interventions.

"Lahat ng payout namin ay wala nang program para mapabilis ang proseso. Ang mahalaga dito ay maibigay namin ang tulong nang walang pamumulitika."

Moreover, Tricycle Operators and Drivers Associations (TODA)



supported the CRA distribution by guiding their members in the scheduled payout process.

"Naging factor rin 'yung officers ng TODA to guide their members. Sumusunod rin ang members sa schedule nila, maayos silang pumupunta sa schedule nila."

The DSWD is eyeing to

provide CRA benefits to around 72,000 tricycle drivers across 13 cities. However, Arceo noted that these figures are expected to rise as the rollout increases across the region.

Around 32,000 tricycle drivers in CALABARZON received their CRA benefits during the first two days

of the rollout.

To recall, the DSWD underscored the strict implementation of the 'anti-epal' rules provision of the 2026 budget to keep its social protection programs free from interference of politicians and other public officials.

(P B - P I A CALABARZON)

Institutional partnerships benefit farmers, reduce wastage – lawmaker

A member of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food is urging the Department of Agriculture (DA) to continue seeking institutional partners to connect small farmers to markets, enhance the agricultural value chain, and help reduce crop wastage in the country.

This comes after DA recently announced that at least eight institutional buyers have expressed interest in sourcing red onions directly from Mindoro following a virtual market matching conducted on March 31.

The DA added that the potential monthly demand from these buyers ranges from five to 16 metric tons.

"Institutional partnerships are a good avenue that we can explore to ensure the livelihood of agricultural workers and minimize crop wastage. I hope that the DA continues to engage partners in the private sector in this regard," Abra Lone District Rep. JB Bernos said in a statement Friday.

In 2024, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said that about 30 percent of the country's



INSTITUTIONAL BUYERS. Onion farmers in Occidental Mindoro in an undated photo. The Department of Agriculture on April 6, 2026 said some eight institutional buyers have expressed interest in sourcing red onions directly from Mindoro, with a potential monthly demand ranging from five to 16 metric tons. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

agricultural produce, especially vegetables, was wasted due to a poor logistics system.

Tiu Laurel, however, admitted that there is no accurate data to quantify farm losses, and that the 30 percent estimate was

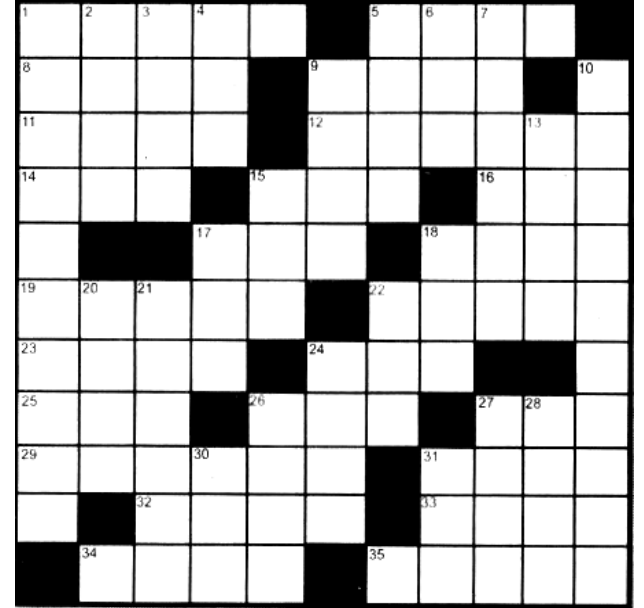
based on his experience as an owner of a cold chain logistics company.

Bernos said institutional buyers also complement heavy investments in post-harvest facilities.

"Having ready buyers addresses the uncertainty

that farmers usually face in selling their produce," he noted. The lawmaker also touted the DA's role in mediating between producers and buyers and ensuring that farmers benefit from these purchase agreements. (PNA)

PALAIPIAN



PAHALANG

- 1 Takip sa bibig
- 5 Kopya
- 8 Kidkiran
- 9 Tuta
- 11 Ingkong
- 12 Tsandilyer
- 14 Usok
- 15 Uri ng tula
- 16 Pomada
- 17 Pasikat
- 18 Sanib
- 19 Unit ng timbang
- 22 Kusinilya
- 23 Balsa
- 24 Silver: daglat
- 25 Aliwalas
- 26 Primera
- 27 Ms. Villania
- 29 Napagmasdan
- 31 Cadena de __
- 32 Yapos
- 33 Poste
- 34 Supling
- 35 Siba

PABABA

- 1 Luto sa gulay
- 2 Unday
- 3 Sambot
- 4 Pag-angkin sa pananagutan
- 5 Pinid
- 6 Sugat
- 7 Pangos
- 9 Bawat
- 10 Pagdating ng panahon: 2 salita
- 13 Kendi na gawa sa gatas
- 15 Ginto
- 17 Boss
- 18 Pan de _
- 20 Guhit
- 21 Uri ng kuhol
- 22 Tatak ng kotse
- 24 __ election
- 26 Isip
- 27 Kibo
- 28 Uri ng meditasyon
- 30 Ikod
- 31 Dukha

SAGOT SA NAKARAAN



PBBM vows continued gov't measures to stabilize food supply, prices

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday assured the public of continued government intervention to stabilize food supply and prices, following disruptions caused by rising fuel costs that have affected the transport of agricultural products.



EFFORTS ONGOING. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visits the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center in La Trinidad, Benguet on Friday (April 17, 2026), where he inspects farm inputs and engages with farmers and stakeholders in the highland vegetable industry. Marcos assured continued government interventions to stabilize food supply and prices amid disruptions caused by rising fuel costs. (Photo from MPC Pool)

During his visit to the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) in La Trinidad, Benguet, Marcos highlighted several government measures aimed at easing the burden on farmers when selling their produce. **► PBBM VOWS • 5**

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DoTr urged to include private vehicles in toll discount

Following the implementation of toll discounts for public vehicles and freight services, a lawmaker is urging authorities to expand these privileges to private vehicles as the country reels from rising fuel costs.



Jolo Revilla of Cavite's First District, in a Legislative Energy and Development (LEAD) Joint Committee hearing, suggested to the Department of Transportation (DoTr) to include private vehicles in the discounted toll fees.

In a statement released on April 13, Revilla underscored that the oil crisis affects everyone and is greatly felt among the middle class. **► DOTR URGED • 4**

DepEd, DPWH see 'record-breaking' year in classroom constructions

The Department of Education (DepEd) and Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) on Thursday expressed optimism in achieving a "record-breaking" year for the government's classroom construction.

This comes as DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara signed a memorandum of agreement with DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon to implement the Basic Education Facilities Program for fiscal year 2026.

The partnership seeks

to expedite inter-agency efforts to address the country's classroom backlogs in public schools and ensure transparency and accountability.

In a press conference, Angara said they are eyeing to start construction of 20,000 classrooms this

year.

"We're saying record-breaking in terms of funding and in terms of starting it," he said.

For his part, Dizon said they will engage larger construction companies to expedite

► DEPED, DPWH • 5



RECORD-BREAKING. Education Secretary Sonny Angara (left) and Department of Public Works and Highways Secretary Vince Dizon sign a memorandum of agreement to further boost the inter-agency coordination in the implementation of the Basic Education Facilities Program for Fiscal Year 2026 in Makati City on Thursday (April 16, 2026). Angara expressed optimism that 2026 will be a "record-breaking" year for classroom construction, as they plan to begin construction of 20,000 classrooms. (PNA photo by Stephanie Sevillano)

DOST SOCCSKSARGEN Expands STI Reach Through MOA Signing of Multi-Sector Projects in Cotabato Province

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) SOCCSKSARGEN, through its Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) in Cotabato, successfully conducted a ceremonial signing of Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) for various Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) initiatives, at Titanium Pharma Function Hall in Barangay Sudapin, Kidapawan City held recently.



The event marked a significant milestone in advancing inclusive, community-centered, and innovation-driven development across Cotabato Province. It was graced by Vice Governor Rochella Marie Taliño-Taray, who expressed strong support for DOST's continuing efforts to enhance education, livelihood, community development, and enterprise productivity. **► DOST SOCCSKSARGEN • 5**