

# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME IV • NO. 52 • JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2026 • P10.00

## DPWH orders fast-tracking of stalled Noveleta road projects

**NOVELETA, Cavite (PIA)** — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered the timely construction of the long-delayed road rehabilitation and drainage improvement projects in Noveleta, Cavite.

This follows the inspection of Secretary Vince Dizon of various projects here last July 21. The inspection focused on key infrastructure projects, including the Manila-Cavite Road Rehabilitation Project and the Manila-Cavite Bypass Road Project (NOVELEX). **► DPWH ORDERS • 6**

## CALABARZON strengthens multisectoral nutrition efforts to reverse rising child stunting

**CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)** — Strengthening local nutrition governance has become more urgent as the 2025 Updating Survey of the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) showed worsening child stunting and other nutrition concerns in CALABARZON, prompting the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON to intensify its multisectoral response with local government units (LGUs) and development partners.

The survey showed that stunting among children under five years old in the region increased from 18.5 percent in 2023 to 21.2 percent in 2025, while underweight prevalence rose from 11.3 percent to 13.9 percent. Cases of overweight and obesity also increased among school-age children, adolescents, adults, and women of reproductive age.

Meanwhile, moderate to severe food insecurity climbed from 19.1 percent to 22.6 percent, highlighting the need for sustained nutrition and food security **► CALABARZON • 6**



## EVO CITY CHURCH NAMED FINALIST AT WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL 2026



### OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CHURCH IN EVO CITY, KAWIT, CAVITE NAMED FINALIST AT WORLD ARCHITECTURE FESTIVAL 2026

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Evo City, Kawit, Cavite, designed by Dominic Galicia Architects, has been named a finalist at the World Architecture Festival (WAF) 2026 under the Completed Buildings: Civic and Community category.

The church, commissioned by Ayala Land, will represent the Philippines before an international jury in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this November, where finalists from around the world will present their projects. **► EVO CITY CHURCH • 7**

## DOST UNEARTHS TIKOG'S LUXURIOUS FASHION IDENTITY



**BASEY, SAMAR** — The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) visits town's modern craftsmanship through their Science Tourism Experience: Exploring Natural Wonders and Culinary Heritage, last July 16, 2026, at Lara Showroom, Basey, Samar. **► DOST • 6**

# Cavite LGUs to include nutrition in disaster preparedness plans

**TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA)** — Cavite Province will soon integrate nutrition strategies in local disaster preparedness plans, highlighting that proper health and nutrition remain crucial in crisis recovery.

To ensure proper public nutrition, especially during disasters and emergencies, local Nutrition Action Officers in Cavite Province completed a three-day capacity-building activity focused on delivering essential interventions.

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) in CALABARZON led the Training on Nutrition in Emergencies and Information Management from July 15 to 17. Held in partnership with the Cavite Provincial Nutrition Office, the session gathered personnel from City and Municipal Action Officers and Coordinators, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Nutrition Office staff, and local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices across the province.

In a statement, the NNC CALABARZON emphasized the

importance of ensuring proper nutrition as part of the four core pillars of DRRM: Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.

“By strengthening the capacities of local nutrition and disaster response personnel, the training reinforced the province’s readiness to integrate nutrition into the four core thematic areas of DRRM.”

The NNC also highlighted the vital role of local government units in allocating resources to guarantee that nutrition interventions will continue even during emergencies.

“Cavite LGUs are expected to develop their respective DRRM-H-NiE Plans and integrate them into their Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs) and LDRRM Plans to facilitate the allocation of appropriate resources

and ensure the implementation of nutrition interventions during emergencies.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition, illness, and even death spike during emergencies. Without access to diverse and healthy diets, crises can severely disrupt breastfeeding and infant feeding practices that are crucial for child nutrition. **(PB-PIA CALABARZON with reports from National Nutrition Council-Calabarzon)**



## DSWD begins distribution of UPLIFT aid in CALABARZON

**CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)** — Around 6,000 low-income households across the Calabarzon region are among those who have initially received assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) under the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) Assistance Program on Monday, July 20.

The government aid is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s continuing effort to help individuals and families affected by the energy emergency crisis caused by the tensions in the Middle East.

“Inanunsyo ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ‘yung UPLIFT assistance. Ito na ‘yung pivot o ‘yung stage ng ating tulong pinansyal para sa ating mga kababayan in light of the energy emergency,” DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian said in a press conference on July 17.

The region’s qualified households, designated in eight different payout sites including Sta. Cruz and Calamba City in Laguna; Nasugbu and Rosario in Batangas; Binangonan and Tanay in Rizal province; and San Francisco and San Narciso in Quezon, received P2,000 financial aid each to help cushion the impact of rising fuel prices and the increasing cost of basic commodities.

These beneficiaries are identified as poor and near-poor households based on the data gathered from the Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

As one of the



beneficiary local government units in Calabarzon region, Calamba City Mayor Roseller Rizal expressed his gratitude to the Marcos Jr. administration and the Social Welfare Department for providing direct and added assistance to 500 identified low-income households in the city.

“Maraming salamat sa Pamahalaang Nasyonal sa pangunguna ng ating mahal na Pangulo, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., at sa Department of Social Welfare and Development, sa pagdadala ng UPLIFT

Program sa ating lungsod,” Rizal said.

He added, “Patuloy tayong makikipagtulungan sa Pamahalaang Nasyonal upang mas maraming programa at serbisyong direktang makikinabang ang bawat pamilyang Calambeño.”

Meanwhile, as the program rolls out, DSWD clarified that beneficiaries are categorized into three groups which consist of 3.5 million poor households that are members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and the Walang Gutom Program (WGP), 2.5 million poor

and near-poor households identified through the CBMS of PSA, and 1.5 million low-income Social Security System (SSS) members.

Under the UPLIFT Assistance program, 4Ps grantees will receive a one-time financial assistance through their Land Bank or GCash accounts. Meanwhile, beneficiaries of the WGP will receive their assistance through manual payout, while poor and near-poor households identified through the CBMS are set to receive P2,000 monthly from July to December 2026. **(COP/PIA CALABARZON)**

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**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 Kavut, Cavite 4104.  
CP No. 0917-109-9191 Telephone No.: (046) 484-7556  
E-mail Add: [sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com](mailto:sundaytribunenewspublishing@gmail.com)  
Website: <https://sundaytribune.net>

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATE

6 Months ..... P260.00 One Year ..... P520.00

### ADVERTISING RATE

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

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# Trump assures PBBM of raising PH's concerns on SCS with Xi

United States President Donald Trump on Thursday assured President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. that he would raise the Philippines' concerns over the latest developments in the South China Sea (SCS) in his next meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Trump made the commitment during a phone call with Marcos, Presidential Communications Office Acting Secretary Dave Gomez announced. "President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. just had a phone conversation with US President Donald Trump and they discussed the current global, economic and security situation," Gomez said.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and US President Donald Trump (File photo)

"President Trump assured President Marcos that he will take up the concerns of the Philippines in his next meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping," he added.

The phone call followed Marcos' meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Wednesday.

Apart from the Philippines' deepening ties with the US, Marcos

also discussed with Rubio the escalating tensions between Manila and Beijing in the SCS.

Marcos summoned Chinese Ambassador Jing Quan on Tuesday to address the violent confrontation between the Philippines and China at Ayungin Shoal.

The confrontation on July 20 escalated when a China Coast Guard member used a wooden

baton to strike a Philippine Navy sailor, resulting in a serious head injury.

In a press conference earlier Thursday, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said Marcos relayed to Jing his intent to "reset" the Philippines' relations with China.

Marcos, Castro said, is also seeking an end to violent confrontations in the disputed waters. (PNA)

## PBBM visits AI-ready data center in Angeles City

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday visited the largest data center of fiber broadband provider Converge ICT Solutions in Angeles City, Pampanga, an artificial intelligence or AI-ready facility designed to support the growing demand for content and cloud services.



**DIGITAL FUTURE.** President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (3rd from left) visits Converge ICT Solutions' AI-ready data center in Angeles City, Pampanga on Friday (July 24, 2026), highlighting the administration's push to strengthen the country's digital infrastructure and data sovereignty. The facility is designed to support artificial intelligence and cloud services, and secure government data hosting as the Philippines advances its digital transformation efforts. (Photo courtesy of MPC Pool)

Marcos, accompanied by Information and Communications Technology Secretary Henry Aguda, inspected the facility, which supports the government's data sovereignty agenda.

The visit followed Marcos' issuance of Executive Order 119, which updates the Government Data Classification Framework and establishes unified rules on data classification, data residency, and cross-border data transfers.

The order seeks to strengthen cybersecurity by providing a framework for protecting classified government information, safeguarding national security, upholding data sovereignty, and supporting secure digital transformation.

Converge Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Dennis Anthony Uy said the Angeles City data center would allow government agencies to migrate systems from costly foreign-hosted servers to a

secure facility operated within Philippine territory.

Uy said keeping government data locally hosted would help reduce cybersecurity risks, ensure service continuity during global Internet disruptions, and keep critical citizen records under the jurisdiction of Philippine courts.

"Securing our government data locally is a crucial milestone, but the next frontier is ensuring our national infrastructure is AI-capable," Uy said.

"Converge will continue to upgrade and scale our facilities to support high-density, AI-driven workloads, strengthening the country's readiness for AI adoption and regional digital growth."

Aguda emphasized the importance of protecting critical government information while keeping the Philippines open to innovation, cloud technologies, and global digital partnerships.

Built on a 5,000-square-meter site, the Angeles

data center has a capacity of 12 megawatts and is equipped with built-in redundancy to support resilient operations.

The facility was designed to meet the country's data residency requirements and handle high-performance computing workloads, particularly for AI and machine learning applications, strengthening the Philippines' role in the global digital ecosystem.

First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos led the launch of the data center in March with Uy and other government officials.

The Angeles Data Center is the latest addition to Converge's facilities, complementing existing sites in Clark, Pampanga and Pasig and Caloocan cities.

The facility is part of Converge's broader digital infrastructure strategy, which includes its fiber backbone, satellite network, subsea cable systems, and cable landing stations. (PNA)

## Myanmar returning to ASEAN official meetings 'still far off'—Lazaro

**The re-engagement of Myanmar leaders into Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings is "still far off" and is unlikely to happen within 2026 or Singapore's chairship next year.**

At a press conference following the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Pasay City on Thursday, Lazaro noted that there were still "questions" on the Myanmar government's compliance to the Five-Point Consensus (5PC), which stays as the bloc's "primary reference" in addressing the crisis there.

"I guess, right now I can say it's still far off. At this point of time, it's still the Five-Point Consensus that is still being the foundational document that we are looking at," she said.

"During the discussions with the foreign minister of Myanmar, there have been a lot of questions on their compliance with the Five-Point Consensus. It may not happen yet, but let's see the compliance that they can give," she added.

But she noted that ASEAN is "patient" and will wait and look "for whatever they can give" in terms of 5PC implementation.

"If there is compliance, then that means it will change. There's no view whether there's a number of countries who doesn't like Myanmar to sit on their seat.

So, it's really the compliance to the 5PC," she said.

On humanitarian assistance, Lazaro confirmed that she will lead a delegation to Myanmar on the fourth quarter of 2026, and visit certain areas occupied by ethnic organizations.

"The impact here is really trying to reach out to the vulnerable communities in Myanmar," she said.

"Of course, permits will be asked from the junta government, and that now talks about their ability to really reach out to us," she



added.

The mission, she said, will be in coordination with the ASEAN Humanitarian Center based in Jakarta and several other international humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Médecins Sans Frontières, and the World Food Programme. (PNA)

# DTI Laguna Joins Multistakeholder Consultation Workshop on Strengthening the Agritourism Sector

**SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna**—The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – Laguna Provincial Office participated alongside key stakeholders in the Multistakeholder Consultation Workshop on “Agritourism Value Chain and Food Security: Integrating Small-to-Medium Scale Producers in Laguna and Bohol, Philippines,” held recently at Ilaya at Sta. Elena Farm in San Pablo City.

Organized by the Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (ICOPED) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños in partnership with the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP-CIDS), the consultation brought together representatives from national government agencies, local government units, academe, farmers' organizations, cooperatives, agritourism enterprises, and the private sector to examine Laguna's agritourism value chain and develop policy recommendations to strengthen the sector.

Representing DTI Laguna, Ms. Arianne Rose C. Alinios highlighted the agency's role in strengthening agritourism enterprises through Negosyo Center business advisory services, entrepreneurship mentoring, product development, market linkage, and digitalization initiatives that help local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) become more competitive and market-ready.

In a statement, Provincial Director Christian Ted O. Tungohan emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration among

government agencies, the private sector, and local communities to maximize the economic potential of agritourism.

“Agritourism creates opportunities that extend beyond the farm. By linking agriculture with entrepreneurship and tourism, we enable farmers and MSMEs to diversify their income, create quality visitor experiences, and contribute to more resilient local economies. DTI Laguna remains committed to working with our partners in building a competitive and sustainable agritourism sector,” Tungohan said.

The consultation forms



part of a broader research initiative that seeks to generate evidence-based policy recommendations to

strengthen agritourism value chains, promote food security, and expand economic opportunities for

small- and medium-scale agricultural producers in Laguna and Bohol. (ARCAlinios, DTI Laguna)

## PNP calls on protesters to respect cops 'carrying out their duties'

**The Philippine National Police (PNP) on Thursday urged protesters and the public to respect the uniformed personnel who are deployed on the ground to perform their mandate of maintaining peace and order and ensuring the safety of everybody.**



PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. explained that while the PNP exercises maximum tolerance in every protest action or activity, no police personnel deserves to be physically attacked or subjected to verbal abuse.

“Just like everybody, your police have a job to do, an order to comply with, and a mandate to perform. Any form of disrespect to our personnel on the ground is an attack to our uniform, to our badge, and to the PNP as an organization,” Nartatez said in a statement.

“We are not asking for too much; we are merely asking for respect in recognition of the sacrifices of our men on

the ground,” he stressed.

On Wednesday, six policemen were injured during a dispersal of protesters in Pasay City, in connection with an activity related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings.

The protest was dispersed after demonstrators gathered in an area where rallies were not allowed because of the presence of foreign delegates.

Nartatez said the national government is obliged to ensure the safety of every delegate, being the host country, and the police were given special instructions to protect the venue as part of the security measures.

He explained that police personnel had difficulty of immediately distinguishing protesters from other individuals in the crowd while enforcing security measures, especially with the existing instruction to clear the area of any protest activity.

Nevertheless, the PNP said it is open to any investigation to establish all the facts of the incident.

In a press conference held at Camp Crame on Thursday, PNP information chief and spokesperson Col. Allen Rae Co said around 30 individuals conducted a lightning rally near the venue of the ASEAN meetings, which is a no-rally zone.

The dispersal efforts led to a commotion between the police and the protesters as well as several media personnel, particularly photographers, which resulted in the injury of six PNP members.

Co said an investigation into the incident is underway.

### INC event

Meanwhile, Co said the PNP will be coordinating with the Iglesia ni Cristo on the latter's 112th founding anniversary event, which will coincide with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s fifth State of the Nation Address on July 27.

“As of this time, we are still coordinating, continuing our coordination with the church leadership as to where they were actually holding their anniversary. As I understand, it's their anniversary, but we do not have the exact details on

their anniversary celebration, so we would like to find out, of course, for the proper preparation. But as to the preparation, we all have contingency plans wherever they will decide to hold their anniversary celebration,” he said. (PNA)

## 9 NEW AMBULANCE FOR CAVITE CITY!

**In emergencies, every second counts. A quick response can save lives.**



The 9 new ambulances provided by the Provincial Government of Cavite under the leadership of Governor Abeng Remulla are a great help to the people of Cavite.

These will be distributed to different barangays to bring ambulance services

closer to our community and to speed up the delivery of patients to the hospital.

Currently, the city's ambulance service is free, but due to the large number of patients, these new ambulances will be of great help.

Thank you very much, Gov. Abeng, Vice Gov.

Ram, and the entire Provincial Government of Cavite for your continued support to the City of Cavite.

Let's work together to strengthen health services for every Caviteño. #CaviteCity #TheHistoricCityByTheBay #unlaDCavitecity #MulaSaBayanParaSaBayan

# Gov't calls for water conservation as Angat Dam hits lowest since 2010

The public is encouraged to conserve water as Angat Dam — which supplies 98 percent of potable water in Metro Manila through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System — is at critical level, and has breached its lowest water level recorded since 2010.

## DA strengthens science-based fisheries management in Laguna de Bay

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — In an effort to protect and restore Laguna de Bay as a viable food source for Filipinos, the national government continues to strengthen its science-based approach to fisheries management by deploying a new generation of technical enumerators, who will gather reliable data across the lake.



The initiative, led by the Department of Agriculture's National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (DA-NFRDI) and funded by the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), ensures that fisheries projects and development are always aligned with scientific evidence.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. emphasized the importance of Laguna de Bay, the country's largest lake, as a source of food for Metro Manila and its neighbouring provinces.

"Laguna de Bay remains one of the country's most important inland fisheries, supplying fresh fish to Metro Manila and nearby provinces. Keeping the lake productive through science-based management is essential to ensuring a stable food supply while preserving the livelihoods of thousands of fisherfolk," Tiu Laurel said.

The Agriculture Department hired new technical data enumerators to be stationed in Laguna and

Rizal, and in Muntinlupa City, which will play a key role in collecting information on fish catches, fish species identification, biological sampling, fishing gear identification, and standardized survey protocols, which will be used for appropriate management interventions.

"Our enumerators are the eyes and ears of fisheries science. They are the boots on the ground whose work transforms every fish landing and every field survey into the evidence we need to make better decisions for Laguna de Bay," DA-NFRDI Executive Director Dr. Ma. Theresa Mutia believes.

According to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Undersecretary for Fisheries Drusila Esther Bayate, a strong foundation and training for enumerators will help the government ensure that the fisheries policies are based on scientific inquiries.

"Reliable fisheries data is the backbone of

sustainable resource management. Every accurate record gathered in the field helps us make better decisions to protect our fisheries, improve productivity, and secure the livelihoods of our fishing communities," Bayate stated.

Enforcement of environmental laws to ensure the conservation of Laguna de Bay is a top priority, according to the LLDA, assuring the public that they continue to closely monitor ecological and man-made actions to ensure full compliance with environmental laws and the total protection of the lake basin.

The inter-agency effort on stock assessment is expected to generate the scientific evidence needed to guide conservation measures, rebuild fish stocks, balance environmental protection, and ensure the sustainability of Laguna de Bay to provide food for the communities and contribute to the food security of the country for generations to come. (CH, ML/PIA-Laguna)



**RECORD-LOW.** Angat Dam in this undated photo. The dam's water level is currently the lowest recorded since 2010, at around 151.45 meters, National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David, Jr. said in a radio interview on Thursday (July 23, 2026). (PNA file photo)

The dam's normal water level is 210 meters. As of 8 a.m. Thursday, its water level stood at 151.45 meters, down 0.67 meter in the past 24 hours.

In a radio interview on Thursday, National Water Resources Board Executive Director Seville David Jr. said the current level is already 5 meters below the lowest water level of 157.57 meters recorded in 2010.

"The effect of El Niño is huge. The dam's water

level has been decreasing due to reduced rainfall," he said.

In a press conference on Thursday, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration hydrologist Jofren Habaluyas said the rainfall from tropical cyclone Kiyapo is not expected to significantly contribute to the dam's reservoir.

David said that although the dam's water level primarily relies on rainfall, responsible use of water

would still help.

"Every drop counts," David said.

Thus, he called for public support and urged everyone to conserve water.

Aside from utilizing rainwater, David suggested the reduction of "non-essential" use of water.

"If your car is not too dirty, you could postpone the carwash. You could also use rainwater for toilet flushing," he added.

(PNA)

## ANO ANG LATEST?

### PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR NO. 2026-0009

Quality Standards on the Diagnosis and Management of Dengue (Adult and Children) as a Reference of the Corporation

Published in Manila Standard on July 10, 2026



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In Good Health: The PhilHealth Podcast



**DILG pushes... (FROM PAGE 8)**

With the theme "United in Vision: Securing People and Strengthening Collaboration," the 44th ASEANAPOL Conference, taking place from July 22 to 26, brings together police leaders from the 10 ASEAN member states to reinforce partnerships and collective action against regional security threats.

Also participating are ASEANAPOL dialogue partners and observers, whose continued engagement for more than four decades reflects a shared commitment to promoting peace, security, and stability across Southeast Asia.

Addressing delegates during the opening ceremony, Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla said transnational crimes

have become increasingly sophisticated, technology-driven, and borderless, making closer regional collaboration more urgent than ever.

"We will continue to support initiatives that enhance intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and capacity building among our police institutions," Remulla said.

He noted that cross-border threats have become more networked, adaptive, and technology-driven, posing major security challenges across the ASEAN region. These include drug trafficking, terrorism, arms smuggling, trafficking in persons, wildlife crime, cybercrime, financial crime, maritime-related offenses, and cyber-enabled scams.

Remulla stressed that no single country can confront these evolving threats alone, underscoring ASEANAPOL's vital role in strengthening intelligence sharing, operational coordination, and mutual trust among police organizations in Southeast Asia.

He reaffirmed the Philippines' commitment to advancing regional law enforcement cooperation through stronger intelligence exchange, joint operations, and capacity-building initiatives.

"Guided by the leadership of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., we continue to work closely with our neighbors and international partners to strengthen law enforcement collaboration, enhance collective capabilities, and build safer, more secure, and more

resilient communities across the region," he said.

For his part, Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said the PNP remains fully committed to

working alongside its ASEAN counterparts in strengthening intelligence sharing, enhancing operational cooperation, building institutional capabilities, and embracing

innovation to address emerging security threats.

"Together we can better protect our people and preserve peace and security of our region," Nartatez said. **(PNA)**

**DOST... (FROM PAGE 1)**

The initiative—a collaboration between Spark Samar, design consultants, and Basey's artisan weavers—aims to modernize the town's traditional weaving industry.

By merging

contemporary design with time-honored techniques, the project adapts Samar's indigenous materials for both local and international markets, proving that the products made be seen not just as a simple pasalubong or

memorabilia, but, as a visionary lifestyle and a luxury brand.

Through initiatives like the Science Tourism Experience, DOST continues to empower the integration of science and technology with local culture, driving sustainable economic growth for traditional industries.

**CALABARZON... (FROM PAGE 1)**

interventions.

Despite these challenges, CALABARZON posted gains in several nutrition indicators. Wasting among children under five remained low at 4.7 percent, while wasting among school-age children and adolescents declined. Chronic energy deficiency among women of reproductive age and adults also decreased, indicating that existing nutrition interventions continue to produce positive results.

In response, NNC CALABARZON is strengthening the implementation of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) by providing technical assistance to LGUs in preparing evidence-based Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAP) and integrating nutrition interventions into their Local Development Plans (LDP) and Annual Investment Programs (AIP).

"The survey findings remind us that malnutrition remains a complex challenge that cannot be addressed by the health sector alone. It requires the collective action of government agencies, local government units, development partners, communities, and families. Through the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition, we will continue empowering our LGUs with the technical guidance and capacity-building support needed to implement effective, sustainable, and evidence-based nutrition

interventions," said NNC CALABARZON Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Lourdes Bulante-Orongan.

The official added that the Regional Nutrition Shepherding Team will continue mentoring priority LGUs to strengthen local nutrition governance and improve the delivery of nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive interventions, particularly those supporting mothers and children during the first 1,000 days of life—the critical period for preventing stunting.

She said the regional office will sustain support for Tagaytay City, CALABARZON's Learning Hub for Enhanced and Revitalized Nutrition Program (LHEARN), which serves as a venue for peer learning and the sharing of best practices among LGUs.

Nutrition promotion campaigns under the

Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Plan will also be intensified in partnership with the Communicators' Network for Nutrition in Region IV-A (CNN4A) to encourage healthier behaviors and greater community participation.

The regional initiatives support the national government's call to expand the Philippine Multisectoral Nutrition Project (PMNP), which has demonstrated significant gains in reducing childhood stunting through coordinated interventions in health, nutrition, water and sanitation, agriculture, education, and social protection.

NNC CALABARZON emphasized that stronger multisectoral collaboration and sustained investments in local nutrition programs remain vital to reversing the rise in child stunting and achieving the country's nutrition targets by 2030. **(Cecille Maloles – PIA CALABARZON)**

**McDonald's... (FROM PAGE 8)**

A total of 41 jobseekers participated in the recruitment activity, where they underwent screening and interviews for various positions offered by McDonald's. The one-stop recruitment process enabled qualified applicants to complete the initial hiring requirements in a convenient and

accessible venue.

Demonstrating the success of the initiative, all 41 applicants were hired on the spot (HOTS), allowing them to immediately proceed with the next steps toward employment.

The recruitment activity is part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's

continuing efforts to strengthen employment facilitation services by partnering with private companies to connect jobseekers with available career opportunities. Through initiatives such as this, the OPPEM continues to make employment services more accessible while contributing to workforce development and local economic growth. —**OPIO**

**DPWH orders... (FROM PAGE 1)**

Addressing motorists and commuters affected by the stalled road rehabilitation and drainage upgrade project, Dizon assured them that the DPWH will fast-track completion of the construction project.

"Aayusin natin ito. Bibilisan natin ito. Magtutulong-tulong kami dito."

Likewise, Mayor Davey Chua expressed his optimism that the DPWH inspection will finally resolve their town's traffic and flooding issues.

"Nandito na si Sec. Vince ng DPWH para maiayos na po natin ito."

Connecting Noveleta and Cavite City to Manila, the NOVELEX stretches about two kilometers with

six (6) lanes, and is expected to reduce travel time.

Residents and local officials have long been pushing for the completion of the road rehabilitation and drainage improvement project, which is seen as critical in solving transport burdens in the area. **(PB-PIA CALABARZON/with reports from ANC, Cavite Press Corps, photo courtesy of DPWH Region IV-A)**

local cooperatives such as the Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC) also directly benefits local farmers.

"Nais ko pong magpasalama sa ating Pangulo. Maraming maraming salamat po sa mahal na Pangulong [Ferdinand] Marcos [Jr.] sa inyong suporta at tulong." **(PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from City Government of Imus)**

**Imus LGU... (FROM PAGE 8)**

rin ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga timbangan upang matiyak na tama ang timbang ng bigas na matatanggap ng mga benepisyaryo."

Earlier this month, the city government received 14,000 packs of rice allocated for Imus City.

"Ito po ay first batch pa lamang at marami pang

darating. Mahigit 30,000 po ang inaasahan nating darating para ipamigay sa ating mga kababayan. Ito pong bigas ay binili na natin sa kooperatiba. 'Yan po ay pondo galing sa pamahalaang nasyunal at binili ng ating lungsod sa kooperatiba."

Advincula noted that purchasing the rice from

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## PTFOMS, CICC... (FROM PAGE 8)

for journalism, the risk to media practitioners from online harassment, threats, data privacy breaches, disinformation, and cybercrimes has heightened. The MOA seeks to extend protection to journalists in the digital

sphere, ensuring the exercise of their rights to free expression and information is preserved. The CICC, established under the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 (RA No. 10175), is

mandated to enhance cybersecurity.

Through the collaboration, PTFOMS and CICC will pool their resources, expertise, and legal frameworks to provide enhanced protection against cyberattacks targeting journalists.

Under the agreement, PTFOMS and CICC will work together to address and resolve cybercrime issues concerning media personnel.

The CICC will render assistance on complaints reported by PTFOMS, ensuring expedient referrals to law enforcement and prosecutorial bodies. It will also supply digital forensic support, cyber intelligence, and technical resources to streamline investigations and ensure accountability and

effective prosecution of offenders.

The collaboration will also see CICC sharing its cybersecurity expertise with PTFOMS to bolster its operational capacity in monitoring investigations.

The partnership includes coordinating with local government units, media organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to strengthen digital security measures for media workers.

Undersecretary Torres said these efforts underscore the government's commitment to defending press freedom by fostering a secure environment where journalists can work uninhibited by cyber threats.

He said individuals

perpetrating online attacks on media workers will face due consequences.

The enhanced protection across physical and digital domains exemplifies the Ferdinand Marcos Jr. administration's dedication to democratic values that reject violence against journalists, encourage the unrestricted movement of information, and uphold the importance of the press.

"This partnership marks a progressive step toward nurturing a society where ethical journalism and responsible reporting flourish," said Undersecretary Torres.

Contact Information: PTFOMS Hotline: 09650310377; CICC Hotline: 1326

## DOST, PGIS... (FROM PAGE 8)

In her message, DOST Ilocos Region Director Teresita A. Tabaog, emphasized that equipping disaster preparedness and assessment of LGUs thru trainings such as this strengthens capability which ensuring lesser disaster impact while utilizing modern technologies such as drones. She added that these initiatives brought by DOST stands with its battlecry of "Agham na Ramdam" in the communities.

Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Officers (LDRMO) of the Province of Ilocos Sur, together with personnel from the DOST participated in the training.

Central to the training is the Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment System (REDAS), a specialized software platform developed by Dr. Bartolome C. Bautista, former Deputy Director of DOST PHIVOLCS. It is a platform designed to

enable local planners to model potential impacts from multiple hazards—including earthquakes, tsunamis, floods, severe winds, and agricultural crop damages. This is to better inform contingency plans and disaster risk reduction strategies.

This initiative aims to merge modern hardware (drones/RPAs) with scientific analytical software (REDAS) to enhance local disaster risk reduction, management, and emergency response capabilities. It features the hands-on quadcopter drone skills under Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) safety guidelines to map high-risk areas. By feeding aerial imagery into the REDAS, participants learn to simulate multi-hazard impacts—enabling the province to build science-backed contingency plans in RPA Operations and REDAS applications.

Completers will earn formal credentials in both

Quadcopter RPA Operations and the REDAS Module. This formal certification recognizing their competency in drone operations and scientific exposure database development will lay a stronger foundation for disaster-resilient communities in Ilocos Sur.

DOST remains driven in its vision of bringing innovation straight to the people wherein stakeholders will not just be preparing for disasters but staying one step ahead of them. (Jean Claire Almosa & Edrussell Castillo)

## Evo City Church... (FROM PAGE 1)

Completed in February 2026, the church occupies a 19,000-square-meter site at the entrance of Evo City and serves as the township's primary place of worship. Its 25-meter-high vaulted interior can accommodate around 1,000 faithful.

At the heart of the design is the Vesica Piscis, an ancient Christian

symbol formed by two overlapping circles that represents the union of Christ's divine and human natures. The sacred geometry shapes the church's floor plan, elevations, and surrounding parish buildings.

Light also plays a central role in the design. Oriented along an east-

west axis, the church captures the changing path of the sun throughout the day. Morning light enters through a stained-glass window on the eastern façade, while the western wall features 59 circular openings and a cross arranged as a rosary. As the sun sets, prismatic light forms colorful patterns across the nave before illuminating the crucifix above the retablo with a

rainbow-shaped cross.

The World Architecture Festival is one of the world's premier architectural competitions, recognizing excellence in design through live presentations before an international panel of judges. The inclusion of the church highlights Philippine architecture's growing presence on the global stage.

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#SaintsOfToday

## EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATES OF THE LATE SANTIAGO JR SACLOLO VILLAJIN WITH SPECIAL POWER OF ATTORNEY

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the late **SANTIAGO JR SACLOLO VILLAJIN**, who died intestate on March 19, 2026 at **Naic, Cavite**, has left as his estate, which consists of the proceeds, death benefits, refunds and other claims due from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund), including any other benefits that may be found due and payable; that the decedent died without any obligation to any person or persons and died without any will; that pursuant to Rule 74 of the Rules of Court and the Civil Code of the Philippines, the surviving legal heirs agreed to settle the estate extrajudicially; that for the purpose of facilitating the processing and release of the GSIS and Pag-IBIG benefits, the heirs hereby authorize **SHIRLEY VILLAJIN DIAZ** to receive, process and claim all proceeds and execute all documents necessary for the release thereof. Entered as Doc. No. 489, Page No. 99, Book No. XXXIV, Series of 2026 in the Notarial Registration of Notary Public **Atty. Jose A. Mendoza** on July 9, 2026 at Naic, Cavite.

Sunday Tribune News Publishing  
July 26, August 2 & 9, 2026

## SP holds... (FROM PAGE 8)

Authored by 4th District Board Member Nickanor N. Austria, Jr. and co-authored by 1st District Board Member Juan Ysmal R. Gandia and 2nd District Board Member Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, the proposed ordinance aims to establish stronger preventive measures, monitoring mechanisms, and local coordination among educational institutions, local government units, and covered organizations to curb hazing incidents in the province.

The public hearing was presided over by BM Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, who underscored the significance of the initiative in strengthening youth protection and public safety.

"This is the first step in

the right direction," BM Pagulayan said, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, and organizations in preventing hazing and protecting the welfare of students.

One of the highlights of the hearing was the presentation by the Cavite Provincial Investigation and Effective Management Unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Cavite, which provided participants with data and updates on fraternity-related incidents in the province. The discussion of the proposed ordinance was facilitated by Provincial Board Secretary Michelle F. Alcid, allowing stakeholders to share their

insights and recommendations to further enhance the measure.

The public hearing was attended by representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite, Department of Education (DepEd)-Cavite, Association of Private Schools in Cavite, State Universities and Colleges, Office of the Provincial Information Officer, Office of the Provincial Legal Officer, Sangguniang Panlungsod/

Bayan Committees on Peace and Public Safety, youth representatives, and officers of covered organizations across the province.

The activity reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing efforts to strengthen local policies that promote safer communities, uphold the rule of law, and protect the rights and welfare of the youth through proactive governance and multi-sectoral collaboration. — **OPIO**

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

# SP holds public hearing on proposed ordinance strengthening anti-hazing measures in Cavite



In a move to reinforce the Province of Cavite's commitment to protecting students and promoting safe educational environments, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan conducted a public hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 092-2026, which seeks to strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, on July 21, 2026, at the Conference Room of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan. ► **SP HOLDS • 7**

## McDonald's Recruitment Activity Opens Employment Opportunities to Caviteño



The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) successfully facilitated the McDonald's Recruitment Activity on July 16, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City, providing employment opportunities to Caviteños. ► **MCDONALD'S • 6**

## DILG pushes stronger ASEAN police vs. cybercrime, transnational crime

The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Thursday batted for more cooperation among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) police forces amid the growing transnational crime threats, particularly cyber-enabled scams and online fraud, as it opened the 44th ASEANAPOL Conference in the Philippines at the Marriott Hotel in Newport, Pasay City. ► **DILG PUSHES • 6**



## PTFOMS, CICC strengthen collaboration to protect journalists from cyber threats

The Presidential Task Force on Media Security (PTFOMS) and the Cybercrime Investigation and Coordinating Center (CICC) today signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure the safety and security of journalists online.

Undersecretary Jose Torres Jr., PTFOMS Executive Director, said the "strategic alliance aims to address and mitigate the growing cybercrime threats and harassment faced by media workers."

He noted that as digital platforms become essential tools ► **PTFOMS, CICC • 7**

# SUNDAY TRIBUNE

NEWS PUBLISHING

News Worth Knowing

VOLUME IV • NO. 52 • JULY 26 - AUGUST 1, 2026 • P10.00

## Imus LGU fast tracks distribution of BBM rice benefits

IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The City Government of Imus assured the speedy distribution of rice subsidies for the beneficiaries of the Bigay Bigas sa Masa program.

Last July 22, the city government led the distribution of rice benefits for Informal Settler Families (ISF) and Solo Parents in the city. This is part of the 30,000 sacks of rice that the National Government bought directly from local farmers under the Sagip Saka Act.

To guarantee fair rice distribution, Mayor Alex Advincula said the city government skipped ceremonial distributions and instead installed weighing scales to accurately measure the rice packs for residents.

"Upang mapabilis ang pamamahagi, come and go na lamang at wala nang kahit anong programa o seremonya. Naglagay ► **IMUS LGU • 6**



## DOST, PGIS, PHILVOLCS Enhances Disaster Preparedness, Assessment through Drone Operation with REDAS Training in Ilocos Sur



VIGAN CITY, Ilocos Sur — The Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur (PGIS), in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology Ilocos Region (DOST Ilocos Region), and DOST PHIVOLCS (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology) kicked off the four-day capacity building initiative titled "REDAS Training on Exposure Data Collection and Processing Using Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) for Earthquake and Tsunami Impact Assessment" here today. ► **DOST, PGIS • 7**