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FRONT PAGE NEWS PUBLISHING

Vol. 4 No. 27 January 12-18, 2026 P10.00

Declaration of the Prime Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (PAPER.PH), Inc. Against Corruption

Preamble: The Light in the Darkness

We, the Publishers, Editors, and Reporters of the Philippines under PAPER.PH, unite under a solemn declaration. We bear witness to a truth etched in the soul of our nation: a free and fearless press is the bedrock of democracy and the sworn enemy of corruption. Where shadows of graft, abuse of power, and deceit seek to thrive, we commit to being the unwavering light.

Corruption does not merely steal wealth; it steals justice, opportunity, dignity, and hope. It poisons institutions, betrays public trust, and impoverishes the spirit of the people. We stand not as a fourth estate, but as the first line of defense.

Our Core Principles:

1. Truth as Duty: We serve no political master, no corporate interest, and no personal agenda. Our sole allegiance is to the verifiable truth. We will pursue it with rigor, present it with context, and defend it with courage.
2. The People as Sovereign: Power resides in the people. Our primary mission is to arm the public with the knowledge necessary to exercise that power—to hold leaders accountable, to make informed choices, and to demand ethical governance.
3. Fearlessness in the Face of Intimidation: We will not be silenced by threats, legal harassment, online trolling, or violence. The memory of colleagues who paid the ultimate price for this duty fuels our resolve, not our fear. We stand in solidarity, protecting one another as we protect the public's right to know.
4. Integrity in Practice: We combat corruption by rooting it out of our own house. We pledge transparency in methodology, vigilance against misinformation, correction of errors, and clear separation between fact and opinion. We reject any form of "envelope journalism" or covert influence.
5. Solidarity as Armor: As an Alliance, we are interconnected. An attack on one publisher, one editor, one reporter—whether through libel, cyber-libel, red-tagging, or physical threat—is an attack on all. We will respond with one voice, one legal defense, and one unbreakable front.

A Call to Conscience and Action:

To those in power: Your dealings are our duty. Your declarations will be fact-checked. Your secrets are our subject. We will scrutinize not with malice, but with the profound responsibility our roles demand.

To the public: Trust must be earned. Hold us accountable. Engage with our work. Support independent journalism. Share credible information. Be critical consumers of news. In this fight, you are not spectators; you are essential allies.

To our fellow journalists: Join this alliance of conscience. Uphold this standard. Let our collective byline be a mark of credibility and courage.

This declaration is not merely a statement of intent. It is a declaration of war—a war against the corruption that cripples our nation and the silence that enables it.

We are PAPER.PH. We remember. We resist. We report. For Truth. For Accountability. For the Philippines.

Signed,
The Prime Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (PAPER.PH), Inc.

FRONT PAGE NEWS PUBLISHING

Vol. 4 No. 27 January 12-18, 2026 P10.00 ISSN-3028-1091

Nazareno devotee from Cavite expresses faith through paintings P.6

GENERAL TRIAS, Cavite — Isang deboto ng Poong Nazareno ang nakahanap ng unique way para ipakita ang kanyang faith — sa pamamagitan ng pagpipinta ng mga eksena ng Traslacion.

Ayon sa ulat ng GMA News sa "24 Oras" ni Kuya Kim, si Nathaniel San Pedro ay bata pa lang ay dinadala na ng kanyang parents sa Quiapo Church para masaksihan ang taunang Traslacion. Habang lumalaki po ako at ngayon po ay

isa na akong ganap na santero o kamare-ro na nangangalaga ng mga poon, mas lalo pong napalapit ang aking debosyon sa Poong Nazareno," ani San Pedro. Instead of joining



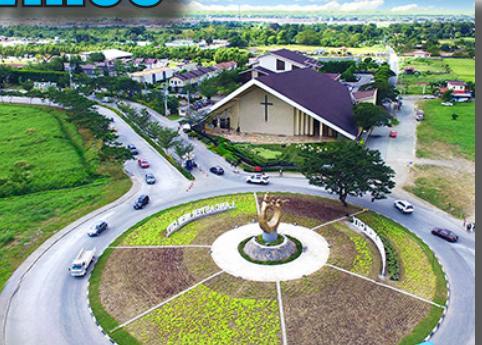
PGC continues health initiatives with medical and dental mission in Trece Martires City P.3



Asian track tourney set March 25-30 at Tagaytay velodrome P.5

PBBM orders PhilHealth to grant one-year amnesty for unpaid contributions P.3

Cavite Transformation into a Modern, Family-Friendly Province P.5



CAVITE sees drop in new year-related incidents P.4



DBM, DOH urged to fast-track release of health emergency allowances P.7

FRONTLINERS. Frontline health workers from the Philippine General Hospital administer Covid-19 vaccine to their fellow frontliners during the pandemic in this undated photo. Albay 3rd District Rep. Raymond Adrian Salceda on Monday (Jan. 5, 2026) urged the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Health to immediately release the long-delayed Health Emergency Allowance to healthcare workers who served during the pandemic. (PNA file photo)

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Nazareno..

the procession, si Nathaniel ay mas piniling i-channel ang kanyang devotion sa art.

"Naisipan ko pong ipinta ang scene ng Traslacion noong panahon ng pandemic, nang makansela ang taunang Traslacion. In my own little way, maraming natuwa at maraming nabuhayan ng loob na kahit sa pintang larawan lang nila ay nakita nila ang scene ng Traslacion," dagdag niya.

Last year, gumawa si Nathaniel ng mas malaking artwork na pinamagatang "Agos ng Pananampalataya." "Kaya ko po siya pinanganlang 'Agos ng Pananampalataya' dahil gusto kong ipakita ang dagat ng tao at libu-libo, actually milyon-milyong taong dumaraagsa tuwing Traslacion.

Nakasuot po sila ng maroon at di-law, na sumisimbolo sa kulay ng Nazareno. Isang way po ito ng pagpapakita ng aking devotion, and at the same time naniniwala ako na through time, ang art ay lagi natung masasakihan, so it will always remind us of events na tulad nito," paliwanag niya. Samantala, sinabi ni Fr. Francis B. Lucas, president ng Catholic Media Network, na ang faith ay maaaring ipahayag sa iba't ibang medium, kabilang ang art.

"There is such thing as vibration. Hindi tayo puro material. May vibration ang katawan na nakukuha mo ang communication mo lalo na kapag meron kang medium. Iba ang dating lalo na kung ikaw ay nananampalataya.

Kung tatanungin natin kung ano ang simulain, ito ay pananampalataya — pananampalataya at pagbibigay ng pag-asa sa lahat ng pagdura sa buhay. 'Yan ang simulain niya at hanggang ngayon ay nagpapatuloy," ani Fr. Lucas.

Sa pamamagitan ng kanyang mga paintings, patuloy na ipinapakita ni Nathaniel San Pedro ang kanyang matibay na pananampalataya sa Poong Nazareno — isang debosyon na patuloy na umaagos, tulad ng mismong Traslacion. - GMA News – 24 Oras (Report by Kuya Kim Atienza)



CARD MRI launches its four-decade celebration, marking 40 years in 2026



Bente Productions President Marilyn M. Manila (front, left photo) hosts the launching of CARD MRI's Four-Decade Celebration for 2026, while CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip (right) highlights the institution's ongoing mission and journey, holding a copy of the Five-Year Corporate Strategy 2026-2030.

CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), a group of 34 institutions that provide social development services to over 9.7 million Filipinos and insure more than 31 million individuals, will celebrate its 40th founding anniversary in 2026. On December 12, 2025, the organization launched its year-long celebration during the 2025 CARD MRI's Year-End Business Planning.

Its 40th year is themed "CARD MRI Four Decades of Legacy: Integrating Traditional and Modern Approaches to Poverty Eradication." This milestone highlights the organization's combination of hands-on and people-centered approaches with innovative technologies in its continued commitment to the mission of social development and poverty eradication.

"For almost four decades, the recognitions given to me for empowering Filipinos and marginalized communities have always been because of CARD. They are a proof of our collective efforts and shared commitment," said Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI. He also recalled the organization's humble beginning 39 years ago, and how it has grown into 34 different social development institutions today united by a single mission to eradicate poverty. He highlighted how these initiatives have transformed the lives of CARD clients one by one, and emphasized the need to continue this work.

Looking ahead, Dr. Alip confirmed the five-year strategic plan of the institution that was previously discussed during the year-end planning by Mr. Noli Martinez, Vice President for CARD MRI Corporate Planning, Product Development, and Corporate Advocacy. The plan highlights bringing together initiatives from different institutions to create synergy within CARD MRI. It focuses on strengthening microinsurance and disaster resilience, as well as expanding health services through CARD Care Network Inc. (CCNI), a newly launched network of healthcare-focused institutions under CARD MRI. It also includes scaling enterprise development through value chain partnerships. Additionally, the plan aims to upgrade digital operations by using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide better support, improve staff efficiency, and enhance the client experience.

The four-decade celebration launch begins with a short film depicting the story of Dr. Alip meeting his younger self 39 years ago, when he was just starting CARD MRI by drafting a business proposal using his father's old typewriter and a twenty-peso bill. "Hanggang sa muli, batang ako... (Until next time, younger me...)" was the final line of the short film, delivered by the present-day Dr. Alip after he encouraged his wary, hopeful younger self to continue pursuing their dream of building a bank owned by underserved Filipinos.

The film was followed by the entrance of Dr. Alip himself, dressed as a pilot, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Aniceta D. Alip, senior adviser for the research unit of the institution, dressed as a flight attendant. Their attire symbolizes CARD MRI's 40-year journey and the path ahead. "Our responsibility is to sustain the legacy we have built for the next 40 years and beyond, for the generations to come," said Dr. Alip. /PR



CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip (right), with his wife and Senior Adviser for Research Ms. Aniceta R. Alip (left), make their entrance to mark the start of the Four-Decade Celebration launch following a short film.

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PGC...

On January 8, the Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted a Medical and Dental Mission in Barangay Cabezas, Trece Martires City, marking the continuation of the PGC's health initiatives for the new year.

The activity served a total of 582 patients, with 379 receiving medical consultations and 49 availing of dental services. Diagnostic services were also provided, including 100 fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, 32 electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, and 22 X-ray examinations. Free prescribed medicines were likewise distributed to patients.

Medical and dental services were delivered by health professionals from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH), with the assistance of the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) medical mission team.

The mission was attended by local officials, including 7th District Board Member Aldrin Anacan, Councilor Joyce Anne Mojica, Councilor Anne Jomille Humarang, and barangay officials.

The activity underscored the provincial government's sustained commitment to bringing accessible and responsive healthcare services closer to communities, as it continues to roll out health programs aimed at addressing the medical needs of Caviteños throughout the year. (CPIO)



PBBM...

QUEZON CITY (PIA) — In a major move to ease the financial burden on Filipino businesses and workers, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered PhilHealth to implement a general amnesty program for unpaid health insurance contributions.

"Alam naman namin na 'yung three percent na binabayad para sa PhilHealth buwan-buwan ay ramdam na ramdam ng ating mga kababayan," Marcos stressed.

"We know that the 3% monthly PhilHealth contribution is something our fellow citizens truly feel in their pockets."

"Kaya po ito po ay patuloy naming ginawa upang pagaanin ang dala ng ating mga kababayan tungkol nga sa mga healthcare costs at sa lahat ng iba't ibang hamon na hinaharap ng ating mga kababayan araw-araw," he added, emphasizing that the amnesty is part of a broader effort to make healthcare more accessible.

(This is why we are doing this to ease the burden on our fellow citizens when it comes to healthcare costs and the various challenges they face every day.)

The program, set to take effect this year, grants a one-time waiver of all interests on missed payments for the year 2026. This initiative is expected to provide relief to approximately 300,000 beneficiaries, including private employers, small business owners, and self-employed individuals who have struggled to keep up with monthly premiums.

Under the amnesty program, employers and members are given a one-year window to settle all missed contributions spanning from 2013 to 2024, allowing them to pay their arrears without the burden of accumulated interest.

Meanwhile, President Marcos has called on employers to update their records and enroll their employees in the Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) to ensure their access to comprehensive primary healthcare services.

YAKAP provides easier access to essential health needs, including free medicines under the Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Out-patient Treatment (GAMOT) valued up to P20,000 annually, alongside critical cancer screening tests.

The program also serves as a vital referral gateway to specialty and higher-level care, guaranteeing uninterrupted continuity of health services for all beneficiaries.

It can be recalled that the newly signed Fiscal Year 2026 National Budget has allocated nearly P129.8 billion to PhilHealth to strengthen preventive healthcare and enhance essential benefit packages.

Among the priority programs of PhilHealth for 2026 is the implementation of an AI-enabled pre-validation system to enhance claim accuracy. This technology will automatically analyze electronically submitted claims to determine whether patients' lab tests match their medical diagnoses, helping to prevent fraudulent health insurance claims and speed up medical reimbursements. (JMP/PIA-NCR)



Cavite...

CITY OF IMUS, Cavite (PIA) — The province of Cavite recorded a decline in holiday-related incidents during the New Year celebrations, according to data from the Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO).

Acting Provincial Director Col. Ariel Red reported a sharp drop in firecracker- and pyrotechnics-related injuries. Data from the Ligtas Paskuhan campaign showed a 75-percent decrease in incidents, from 36 cases in 2024 to just eight in 2025.

All recorded cases involved firecracker- and pyrotechnics-related injuries. The Cavite PPO reported no incidents of indiscriminate firing, stray bullets, road crashes, or fires linked to fireworks and pyrotechnic devices.

Col. Red attributed the peaceful celebration to the combined efforts of law enforcers, local government units, and the public.

"The remarkable decrease in incidents during the New Year's celebration is proof of the effective implementation of the laws and the cooperation of the people," he said, adding that public discipline played a crucial role in ensuring safety across the province.

The Cavite PPO also cited intensified operations against illegal firecrackers and loose firearms, heightened police visibility, and close coordination with local government units and the Caviteño community as key factors behind the positive outcome.

The provincial police force extended its gratitude to partner agencies, LGUs, and residents for their continued support in maintaining peace and order. (RBF, PIA Cavite)

ATI CALABARZON Trains Over 7,000 Farmers, Agri Stakeholders in 2025

In 2025, the Department of Agriculture (DA) capacity builder, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in CALABARZON, equipped a total of 7,084 individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary to help steer a competitive and prosperous agriculture and fisheries sectors towards a vibrant economy.

As the catalyst and knowledge bank of the Philippine agriculture and fishery extension (AFE) system, the DA-ATI CALABARZON trained 4,783 farmers; 1,209 agricultural extension workers (AEWs) from various local government units; 555 DA staff; and 537 students, agri-enthusiasts, and individuals from the general public.

Training and other extension initia-

tives by the DA-ATI CALABARZON primarily focused on good agricultural practices, farm mechanization, climate-resilient agriculture, smart farming, and integrated nutrient and pest management.

These programs were not limited to the production aspect, as the agency also equipped the aforementioned individuals with technologies along the agricultural value chain, including post-harvest technologies, processing, and marketing—across different banner programs like rice, corn, livestock, Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), organic agriculture, and National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), and additional extension services.

"Sobra po ang pasasalamat ko sa ATI CALABARZON dahil ine-ensure po nila na may bago silang kaalamang naihahatid at naka-karating po ito sa aming mga farmers. Sa training na ito, privilege po para sa akin na matuto at ma-experience 'yung mga hands-on kung paano ba bumuo ng cacao-coconut fusion products, na totoo pong helpful para mas ma-maximize pa 'yung gamit ng raw materials and ma-improve 'yung pwedeng pagkakitaan ng mga farmers," said Carla Pante, one of the farmer participants who shared her impression of the Training on Coconut and Cacao Fusion: Value Chain-based Product Development and Market Integration last July.

John Mark Sto. Domingo, an agricultural and biosystems engineer from Teresa, Rizal, also shared how the DA-ATI CALABARZON helps extension workers like him in performing their duties at the grassroots level.

In his impression of the Training on Testing and Evaluation of Agricultural and



Fisheries Machinery held last June, he said: "This training is a great help for me to understand how procurement and acceptance testing work in acquiring farm machinery. That's why every one of us ay sobrang eager ding pumasa – 'cause it will give us a chance to evaluate the machinery that we're acquiring more thoroughly. Because in the end, we want our farmers to receive those interventions na up-to-standards and fit talaga sa kung ano ang need nila."

Moreover, social technologies, including training facilitation and management, and extension communication, were also imparted to participants, especially AEWs, farmer-leaders, and farm cooperators.

These accomplishments reflect the unwavering dedication of the DA-ATI CALABARZON in empowering its stakeholders through a resilient and responsive agriculture and fisheries extension system in the region.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rolando Maningas, Center Director of the DA-ATI CALABARZON, shared a glimpse of the agency's plans as it gears towards 2026.

"For 2026, we will solidify our efforts to modernize and mechanize the agri-fishery sector by reinforcing technologies, innovations, quality extension services, inclusivity, and skills-based trainings that respond to the evolving needs of our farmers and fishers," said Dr. Maningas.

He added, "At the same time, we will strengthen our role as a nexus in empowering and catalyzing our extension workers as key change agents in the region, ensuring that our services and their impacts are met on the ground and will truly lead to 'masaganang agrikultura at maunlad na ekonomiya.'"

Cavites...

Cavite, long known as a neighboring province of Metro Manila, has become a steadily progressing modern and connected community. With improved infrastructure, expanding commercial hubs, and thoughtfully planned residential developments, the province offers families a convenient and comfortable alternative to city living.

Among the developments that helped drive Cavite's growth are the communities built by Property Company of Friends, Inc. (Profriends), one of the country's fastest-growing property developers.

Projects such as Lancaster New City, Westwind, and Micara Estates offer well-planned neighborhoods that uplift everyday living for Filipino families. Through these communities, Profriends promotes the move from simple kapitbahay relationships to true kapitbahay connections, where families grow together in a supportive environment.

As Cavite continues to advance, the province offers more reasons to consider it a good place for families seeking comfort, accessibility, and long-term stability. This growth becomes even more evident through the improvements in its roads, transport systems, and rising townships.

Better roads for closer city connections

Cavite's transformation is supported by enhanced road networks and transport systems that link communities and key commercial areas. These improvements make the province an accessible gateway for Filipino families and individuals who want to stay connected to Metro Manila without sacrificing quality home life.

Major infrastructures such as the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (CAVITEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and NAIA Expressway allow faster and smoother travel to the city. New transport systems, including the LRT-1 Cavite Extension and the Cavite Bus Rapid Transport Project, aim to provide more reliable and efficient rides to

work, school, and other destinations. These enhancements encourage steady growth in residential demand within the province.

Life and opportunities beyond the Metro

The rise of townships and expanding commercial districts in Cavite introduces more opportunities for families seeking convenience and stability. Essential needs are close by, with access to employment, schools, healthcare, leisure spaces, and retail centers within the same area.

Families in Profriends communities enjoy this advantage, gaining easier access to nearby establishments and services that support their daily routines.

Communities designed for modern Filipino families

Profriends' developments in Cavite offer thoughtfully planned environments suited for Filipino families. Lancaster New City is a master-planned township; Westwind introduces modern low-rise condominium living; and Micara Estates provides accessible and affordable townhouses. These communities deliver upgraded recreational amenities, spacious neighborhoods, and features that support comfort and connection while aligning with Cavite's continued progress.

"Cavite gives Filipino families a chance to live in a good home environment without losing access to Metro Manila," said Shannon King, Business Unit Head. "Our communities offer more than shelter. They serve as spaces that support growth, connection, and everyday living."

Experience modern living in Cavite

Profriends continues to serve as trusted property development partner in Cavite, helping accelerate the province's residential growth. The company supports a future where progress, convenience, and opportunities co-exist, making Cavite a more accessible place for Filipinos.

Visit Profriends' vibrant communities—Lancaster New City, Westwind, and Micara Estates—and discover how these developments contribute to Cavite's rise and provide environments that meet daily needs while uplifting the way residents live.

For the latest updates on Profriends communities, visit its official website at www.profriends.com. You can also follow its official social media accounts for news, events, and community highlights on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and LinkedIn. (UN PR)

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PAMASKONG HANDOG: ATTY. MARIO DIONISIO JR. NAGDULOT NG SAYA AT JOLLIBEE SA MANILA CITY JAIL

Mga katoto iba ang pakiramdam ng mga taong nakapaglingkod ng boluntaryo at taus sa pusong tumotulong, sadyang napakaagaang ng iyong kalooban lalot walang inaanay ng anumang kapalit. Ang binibigyan ko ng halimbawa ay si katotong Atty. Mario Dionisio Jr. na alalaumbagay taglay ang dakilang layunin upang madulutan ng kaligayahan at pasiglahin ang mga taong kapus palad sa tuwing sasapit kapaskuhan.

Kung matatandaan mga katoto halos dalawang dekada na patuloy na ginagampanan ang tungkuling ito ang mamahagi ng ayuda, mga gamit o mga pagkain sa ibat-ibang barangay subalit ang hindi nila makaligtaang suportahan ng tulong ay ang mga Persons Deprived of Liberty(PDL) sa Manila City Jail lalo na ang mga Senior Citizens na sadyang walang dalaw, may kapansanan at mga may karamdam.

Palibhasay dating naging Pangulo ng Integrated Bar of the Philippines(IBM), Past President ng RID3810, Manila District Head Public Attorney Office (PAO), kaya't nanalay-tay pa rin ang dugong makamahirap na nag-silbing alaala kay katotong Atty. Mario Dionisio Jr. hanggang sa magbukas ito ng sariling tanggapan ang MDJ law office sa kahabaan ng Mother Ignacia St. sa tapat ng gusali ng ABS/CBN BLDG Quezon City.

Ipinamalas lang ni katotong Atty. Mario Dionisio Jr. ang kanyang buong pusong pagmamahal at malasakait sa mga taong kapus palad na nakapiit ang mga PDL sa kulungan ng Manila City Jail.

MAYNILA — Sa gitna ng malamig na simoy ng Paskuhan, isang mainit na pagmamahal ang sumalubong sa mga Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) sa Manila City Jail noong umaga ng Disyembre 20, 2025. Pinangunahan ni Atty. Mario Dionisio Jr. ang isang espesyal na feeding program na nakatuo sa mga itinuturing na "most vulnerable" sa loob ng piitan—ang mga PDL na wala nang bumibisita (visitor-less), mga indigent, may-sakit, at ang mga nakatatanda o aged PDLS. Hindi matago ang galak sa mga mata ng mga

bilanggo nang ihain sa kanila ang paborito ng bayang Jollibee Chickenjoy. Para sa marami sa kanila, ang simpleng piraso ng manok ay hindi lamang pagkain kundi simbolo ng pag-alala at pag-asa na hindi sila nakakalimutan ng lipun sa kabila ng kanilang sitwasyon.

Ang nasabing feeding program ay hindin na bago sa Manila City Jail. Ayon sa mga tauhan ng pasilidad, naging tradisyon na ni Atty. Dionisio Jr. ang gawaing ito taon-taon. Layunin ng abogado na magbahagi ng biyaya at maghatid ng espiritu ng Pasko sa loob ng selda, lalo na para sa mga walang pamilyang dumamarang upang mag-abot ng tulong o suporta.

"Ang tunay na kahulugan ng Pasko ay ang pagbibigay sa mga higit na nangan-gailangan. Gusto nating ipadama sa ating mga kapatiit na PDL na may nagmamalasakit sa kanila at may pag-asa pa para sa kanilang hinaharap," pahayag sa isang mensahe.

Maliban sa pagkain, ang taunang aktibidad na ito ay nagsisilbi ring paalala sa kahalagahan ng pagbibigay ng dignidad at malasakit sa mga bilanggo, na tumutulong sa kanilang rehabilitasyon at moral na aspeto habang naghihintay ng kani-kanilang mga kaso.

Umapaw ang pasasalamat mula sa hanay ng mga PDL at sa pamunuan ng Manila City Jail, habang umaasa silang magpapatuloy ang mga ganitong inisyatiba na nagbibigay-liwanag sa kanilang madilim na silid ngayong panahon ng Kapaskuhan. Mabuhay ang mga PDL! Mabuhay tayong lahat!!!



Masayang nagpakuha ng larawan sina Atty. Mario Dionisio Jr. (ikalawa sa kanan) katabi ang asawang si Belinda at anak na si Jorge Marion sa mga ipapamahaging Christmas Feeding Program para sa mga Persons De-

prived of Liberty (PDL). Katulong ang mga warden na namahagi ng pagkain sa mga nakapiit na presong PDL na mga walang dalaw, may karamdam, at mga may kapansanan sa loob ng celda sa Manila City Jail. Pasky Natividad

GREETINGS:

Hi to NCRPO RD PMGEN ANTHONY A ABERIN, PCOL Ed Cuti-Deputy Chief of Staff NCRPO, PCOL Erosito Miranda-Regional Chief of Staff NCRPO. & D5 PCOL Joseph Garcia God bless you more mga katoto!!! Hi MPD DISTRICT DIRECTOR PBGEN ARNOLD ABAD, MPD PIO HEAD Maj Philipp Ines & MPD SMART Head Kuya Eagle Maj Eduard Samonte same with Kuya Eagle SPO3 Kevin Capili Sanchez! God bless u more!!!

Hi to MANILA HEALTH DEPARTMENT Head & concurrent OMMC Hospital Director DRA. GRACE PADILLA! God bless you more katoto!!! Hi to MHD Dr. Creselda Coroza-Head District 1 Officer, District 1 Manila, God bless u more katoto!!!

Hi to OMMC ICU Dr. Luigi Francisco & Internal Medicine Dr. Jarmiah Margalo, Ross Adornado, Mikaela Gabriella Martin, at Hilario Laqui. HEART STATION DEPT. KLINIK; Shiela Rodriguez, Carina Domagoso, Neil Salvador, Dove Ann Dela Torre, God bless you more! Kumusta kay Workoholic new ENT Head Dr. DON MACARIO kabilang na si Dra. DIAN SY, at Dr. Jacob, God Bless you more mga katoto!!!

Hi to MEDICAL LABORATORY; Head Evelyn Salcedo, Asst. Head Celeste at Jorie. God bless you more mga katoto!!! Hi to our young friend Dra Vivien Jupirez, welcome to OMMC, God bless u more katoto!!!

Hi to Philippine Orthopedic Center, Hospital Director(POC) Dr. Brix Puhalte Jr. na nagmama sa ama nitong si Dr. Puhalte Sr. na nagiwan ng isang di matatwarang alaala sa POC at byuting secretary nito Ms. Jing Adriano!!! God bless you more mga katoto!!! Hi to POC OPD Dr. Baron, Dr. Robin Medalle at Dra. Gina Espinosa!

Hi to POC XRAY RECORDS Head Gina Geronimo, Marivel, Ronnie, & Marvin God bless you more mga katoto!

Hi to Hospital Director Ma. Isabelita M. Estrella at Director's Office Secretary Staff Ms. Rowie S. Bulaong ng Tondo Medical Center (TMC), God Bless u more mga katoto

Hi to Medical Social Service Head Leonida Lagumbay and to Cecilia, Nova, Jeremy, Archie, John Rex, Shalom, Joy at Gaida of Gat Andres Bonifacio Medical Center. Lets eat, enjoy, and relax.

Asian..

MANILA — Twelve nations have confirmed their participation in the 45th Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track Championships scheduled from March 25 to 31 at the Tagaytay CT Velodrome in Cavite.

"It's been three decades since the country hosted the Asian track championships —1995 to be exact— at the then-Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City," Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham "Bambo" Tolentino said in a statement Thursday.

"With at least 12 nations confirming their attendance and more than 200 athletes competing as of today at the brand-new and International Cycling Union (UCI)-standard velodrome, the POC, PhilCycling and Tagaytay City will be rolling out the red carpet as we aim for an excellent hosting of the event," he added.

Tolentino also serves as PhilCycling head.

Tagaytay City Mayor Aizack Brent Tolentino has assured the city's full support to the tournament, which features men and women sprint, keirin, one-kilometer time trial, team sprint, individual and team pursuit, points race, scratch, omnium, Madison and elimination race.

To be held simultaneously with the 45th Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) Track Championships is the 14th Asian Para Track Cycling Championships, which has competitions in the one-kilometer time trial, individual pursuit, sprint, elimination and scratch races in six events both for men and women.

Besides host Philippines, also competing are powerhouse Japan, South Korea, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Iran.

Japan won 16 of the 22 gold medals at stake last year. Host Malaysia got two golds while South Korea, China, Hong Kong and Uzbekistan had one each.

Tolentino is expecting more countries to send their teams to the championships, which already surpassed the 10 nations that took part in last year's edition in Nilai, Malaysia. The registration deadline is set on Jan. 15.

Tolentino and Asian Cycling Confederation head Dato' Amarjit Singh Gill led the inauguration of the velodrome in June last year.

Only 12 countries in Asia have velodromes, with Tagaytay City being recognized as the newest indoor and wood facility that vies as a track cycling epicenter for the Southeast Asian region.

The Amoranto track along Tomas Morato Avenue in Quezon City was demolished last year to give way to a football pitch. (PNA)


DBM, DOH...

LEGAZPI CITY — Albay 3rd District Rep. Raymond Adrian Salceda on Monday urged the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Department of Health (DOH) to immediately issue simplified guidelines for the release of the long-delayed Health Emergency Allowance (HEA) to healthcare workers who served during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Salceda issued the call following the signing of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. of the 2026 General Appropriations Act (GAA) in Malacañang.

The GAA allocates PHP6.77 billion for Public Health Emergency Benefits and Allowances (PHEBA) for both health and non-health workers.

"Now that the budget is in place, we need the DBM and DOH to act quickly. Our health workers have waited long enough. Perhaps we can simplify the process by allowing affidavits from health workers attesting to their eligibility and service," Salceda said in a press release.

Salceda proposed that unpaid healthcare workers should submit sworn affidavits detailing their eligibility, period of service, and nature of work during the pandemic.

These would be validated by the DOH using available records, after which the DBM would immediately release payments, subject to post-audit verification by the Commission on Audit (COA).

"The current system is weighed down by documentary requirements that many health facilities can no longer provide. As a result, numerous claims remain unresolved. The affidavit approach is meant to finally break this cycle of delay," Salceda said.

Earlier, Salceda filed House Resolution No. 127, calling on the DBM and DOH to ensure the full payment of HEA to all eligible health workers, determine the total unpaid amount, and ensure its inclusion in the national budget.

Salceda thanked Speaker Martin "Bojie" Dy and House Appropriations Committee Chair Mikaela Angela Suansing for ensuring that HEA funding was included in the final budget, as well as the DBM and DOH for their continued coordination in settling the government's obligations to

health frontliners.

"This is a debt we owe them. Our health workers risked their lives during the pandemic, endured longer working hours, and faced serious physical and mental strain. The least we can do is make sure they receive what the law guarantees—and receive it without further delay," he said.

The Health Emergency Allowance is mandated under Republic Act No. 11712, or the Public Health Emergency Benefits and Allowances for Health Care Workers Act, signed into law on April 27, 2022.

It grants monthly allowances ranging from PHP3,000 to PHP9,000, depending on a worker's level of risk exposure during a declared public health emergency.

From 2020 to early 2025, the DBM released more than PHP121 billion for PHEBA, including PHP27.45 billion in July 2024 covering over five million HEA claims and thousands of sickness and death compensation cases. Despite this, many claims remain unpaid due to record-keeping gaps.

Separately, Salceda has filed House Bill No. 7033, or the "PhilHealth Benefits Tax Exemption Act," which seeks to exempt PhilHealth benefits received by healthcare workers from income tax.

"PhilHealth, like GSIS and SSS, is a government social insurance institution. Yet its benefits remain taxable, unlike GSIS and SSS benefits. This bill corrects that inequity," Salceda said. (PNA)

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