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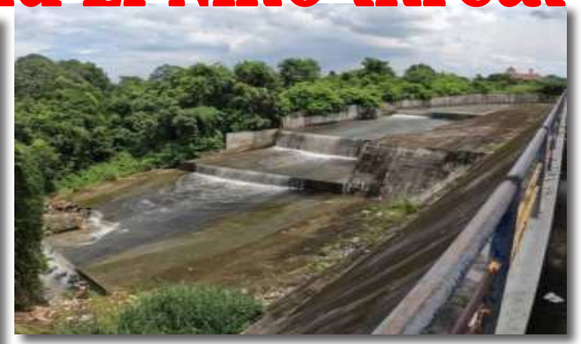
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DENR calls to protect Cavite watersheds amid El Niño threat

BOC, Pinasalamatan ang PH Navy sa Mahigit ₱ 4-Bilyong Nasamsam na Kontrabando sa Mindanao



Pinasalamatan ni Customs Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno ang Naval Command Western Mindanao (NCWM) ng Philippine Navy sa matagumpay nitong mga operasyon laban sa smuggling na nagresulta sa pagkakasamsam ng mahigit ₱4 bilyong halaga ng mga hinihinalang kontrabando at puslit na produkto sa Western Mindanao mula Setyembre 11 hanggang Oktubre 3, 2026.



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called for the protection of watersheds which act as natural shields during dry spells. Hernan Curod, Forester III at the DENR's Cavite Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO),

Mekeni Brings the Taste of Home to Taiwan as It Celebrates 40 Years of Filipino Flavor



NLEX-C5 Northlink Section Nears Completion, Enhancing Road Connectivity



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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
Mortgagee,

Foreclosure No. 2026-117
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage
-versus-

XYLDON NOEL E. JACOB A.K.A. XYLDON NOEL ESPINEDA JACOB married to LOUJIE V. JACOB A.K.A. LOUJIE VELAYO JACOB,
Mortgagors.
x----------x

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE

Upon Extra-judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135 as Amended by Act 4118 filed by the mortgagee, **BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS** of Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower 2, Paseo de Roxas corner Makati Avenue, Makati City 1226, and against the mortgagors **XYLDON NOEL E. JACOB A.K.A. XYLDON NOEL ESPINEDA JACOB married to LOUJIE V. JACOB A.K.A. LOUJIE VELAYO JACOB** at Lot 4 Block 6, Phase 1, Avida Residences, Sta. Catalina, Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite and Lot 8 Block 1, Chanel St., Silverhomes 1 Subdivision, Real II, Bo. Malumot, Bacoor, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 28, 2026, amounts to **THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE PESOS & 81/100 (P3,261,945.81),** Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, and penalty charges but exclusive of other fee incident to this foreclosure, the undersigned or her duly authorized representative will sell at the public auction on **December 9, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock** in the morning or soon thereafter, at the main entrance of the Hall of Justice of Bacoor City, Cavite, to the highest bidder for CASH and In Philippine Currency, the following described properties with all the improvements thereon, to wit;

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-20111007930

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 8, BLK. 1 OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-04-043058, BEING A PORTION OF THE SUBD. OF LOT 4728, IMUS ESTATE), SITUATED IN THE BO. OF MALUMOT, MUN. OF BACOOR, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON. X X X, CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN (115) SQ. METERS.

"All sealed bid must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date."

"In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **December 16, 2026.** without further notice."

Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title to the said property and encumbrances, if any there be.

City of Bacoor, October 12, 2026.

MELY C. HERMOSURA-VISTA
Clerk of Court VI

By:
ALLISON ROMAN D. LABIAGA
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:
BPI LEGAL DIVISION
27th Flr. BPI Buendia Center Bldg., 372 Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati 1209

XYLDON NOEL E. JACOB married to LOUJIE V. JACOB
Lot 4 Block 6, Phase 1, Avida Residences, Sta. Catalina, Salawag, Dasmarinas, Cavite
Lot 8 Block 1, Chanel St., Silverhomes 1 Subdivision, Real II, Bo. Malumot, Bacoor, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this notice of Extra-judicial Sale on or before the date of sale.

Publisher: Frontpage News Publishing: frontpagenews2018@gmail.com. contact #0915488-2962

FRONTPAGE NEWS PUBLISHING:
October 19, 26 & November 2, 2026

PhilHealth Warns Against Fake Accreditation Assistance Offers

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has warned healthcare providers and the public against online posts and advertisements offering unauthorized assistance in securing PhilHealth accreditation.

PhilHealth clarified that it has not authorized, accredited, endorsed, or engaged any firm, agency, organization, or individual to facilitate, process, or expedite accreditation applications on its behalf.

The agency identified three formally recognized Third Party Accreditors (TPAs) specifically designated to validate and recommend healthcare facilities for the Center of Excellence (COE) award. These are the Philippine Tripartite Accreditation for Health Facilities, Inc. (PTAHF), Philippine Council on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (PCAHO), and TÜV Rheinland.

PhilHealth emphasized that it shall not be held liable for any loss, damage, or adverse consequence resulting from transactions with unauthorized third parties or their representatives.

All accreditation applications, renewals, submission of documentary requirements, inquiries, and other related transactions must be coursed directly through PhilHealth Regional Offices and their respective Local Health Insurance Offices nationwide.

For more information, healthcare providers and the public may visit www.philhealth.gov.ph/partners/providers/ or contact PhilHealth through its hotlines: (02) 8662-2588, 0998-857-2957, 0968-865-4670, 0917-127-5987, and 0917-110-9812.

SSS assures members that their contributions are managed prudently to sustain pension fund

QUEZON CITY, 15 October 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) assures its members, pensioners, and the public that their contributions are managed with care to protect the pension fund and ensure the continued payment of benefits.

SSS invests only in companies with strong earnings track records and stable business performance and does not place members' money in risky or speculative investments. Its portfolio is diversified across different asset types, helping reduce risk as gains in some investments can offset declines in others.

While stock prices may fluctuate, SSS continues to receive dividend income from its equity holdings, adding an estimated ₱9 billion to its net income annually. Dividends are part of the earnings distributed to stockholders.

SSS clarified that a paper loss is an unrealized decline in the market value of an investment that has not yet been sold. No cash is actually lost unless the asset is sold below its purchase price. It does not mean members' contributions have been used or that pensions are at risk; market prices may recover over time.

SSS' strong financial performance has enabled higher benefit payouts. From January to June 2026, benefit payouts rose 19% to ₱173.45 billion from ₱145.73 billion in the same period in 2025.

SSS also implemented the second tranche of the Pension Reform Program, releasing ₱7.4 billion in additional pension benefits to 4.1 million pensioners to help them cope with inflation and higher energy costs.

SSS regularly reviews its investment strategy and strictly complies with the Social Security Act of 2018 and its internal policies to safeguard the pension fund. PR

NIA Expands Solar-Powered Irrigation Projects in CALABARZON

PILA, Laguna – The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in CALABARZON is strengthening its efforts to ensure sufficient irrigation water for farmers through solar-powered technology amid the looming threat of Super El Niño.

According to NIA Region IV-A Operations Unit Supervising Engineer A Glenn Anthony San Mateo, around 170 Solar-Powered Irrigation Projects (SPIP) have been utilized in previous years, with 36 additional projects funded for 2026.

Some of the newly funded irrigation projects are currently in various stages of implementation as the agency continues to improve access to water for agricultural production.

NIA is also maintaining existing irrigation facilities and conducting regular monitoring of canals to help ensure that water reaches farmlands, particularly during periods of limited rainfall.

San Mateo emphasized that the agency continues to undertake desilting operations and improvements to irrigation canals to facilitate better water distribution.

The use of solar-powered irrigation technology is part of the agency's efforts to strengthen agricultural water security and help farming communities prepare for the potential effects of prolonged dry conditions.

Through these initiatives, NIA aims to support farmers in sustaining crop production and improving their resilience against the anticipated impact of Super El Niño. Source: Philippine Information Agency (PIA)





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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
DASMARINAS CITY, CAVITE

NEE LAM LENDING CORP.
as represented by Ma. Theresa B. Aceron,
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

File No. FC-DC-2205-26
EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED BY ACT 4118
-versus-

IRENE G. SIOPONGCO,
Respondent-Mortgagor.
x----------x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, **NEE LAM LENDING CORP. as represented by Ma. Theresa B. Aceron,** with postal address at Unit 105, Makati Cinema Square Tower, Chino Roses Avenue, Pasong Tamo, Makati City, against the respondent/mortgagor **IRENE G. SIOPONGCO** with postal address at B01 L19 University Executive Villas, Brgy. Burol, Dasmariñas City, Cavite and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 23 September 2026 amounts to **FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS & 00/100 (Php500,000.00),** exclusive of all legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned sheriff will sell at public auction on **November 19, 2026** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter in the Ground Floor Lobby of Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Burol II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for **CASH** or **CERTIFIED CHECK,** in Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-20111007930

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BRGY. PASONG BAYOG, MUN. OF DASMARINAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:
A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 19, BLK. 1 OF THE SUBD. PLAN, PSD-04-135553, BEING A PORTION OF LOT 30, BLK. 2, PSD-04-048273, LRC REC. NO. 8843), SITUATED IN BRGY. PASONG BAYOG, MUN. OF DASMARINAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY RD. LOT 2; ON (Continued on next page)
is registered in accordance with the provision of the Property Registration Decree in the name of
Owner: IRENE G. SIOPONGCO, SINGLE, FILIPINO, OF LEGAL AGE.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (Continued from page 1)
THE NE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 18, BLK. 1, BOTH OF THE SUBD. PLAN; ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 3542-B-4, PSD- 04-039813; AND ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 20, BLK. 1 OF THE SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN BEING S. 58 DEG. 42'W., 221.46 M. FROM MON. 137, IMUS ESTATE; THENCE N. 58 DEG. 57'E., 5.50 M. TO PT. 2; S. 31 DEG. 03'E., 9.25 M. TO PT. 3; S. 58 DEG. 57'W., 5.50 M. TO PT. 4; N. 31 DEG. 03'W., 9.25 M. TO THE PT. OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING AN AREA OF FIFTY SQ. METERS AND NINETY SQ. DEC. (50.90). ALL PTS. REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND BY PS CYL. CONC. MONS. 15X60 CM.; EXCEPT POINT BEARINGS TRUE; DATE OF ORIG. SURVEY, JULY 27, 1905-JUNE 11, 1906, THAT OF THE SUBD. SURVEY ON OCT. 16-21, 2000, & WAS APPROVED ON FEB. 14, 2001.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **December 03, 2026,** at the same time and place without further notice.

05 October 2026, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite.

RODRIGO C. ESTOGERO, JR.
Sheriff IV

ATTY. MARCELA E. BAYBAY
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

Copy furnished:

NEE LAM LENDING CORP. as represented by Ma. Theresa B. Aceron,
Unit 105, Makati Cinema Square Tower, Chino Roses Avenue, Pasong Tamo, Makati City.

IRENE G. SIOPONGCO
B01 L19 University Executive Villas, Brgy. Burol, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Notice posted at:
1.The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court, Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4.The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

FRONTPAGE NEWS PUBLISHING:
October 12, 19 & 26, 2026

BOC...

FROM PAGE 01

Kabilang sa mga naging matagumpay na operasyon ng NCWM ang pagharang sa dalawang barkong may dalang 20,000 metric tons ng bigas mula Vietnam na tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng ₱700 milyon. Naharang ang mga ito dahil sa mga kuwestiyonableng dokumento at kinanselang permit.

Ayon kay Commissioner Nepomuceno, malaking tulong sa kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa smuggling ang mga operasyon ng Philippine Navy, lalo na sa pagbabantay sa mga karagatan na nagagamit sa pagpapasok ng mga ilegal na produkto sa bansa.

"Sa ngalan ng Bureau of Customs, taos-puso akong nagpapasalamat kay Rear Admiral Constancio Arturo Reyes Jr. at sa buong Naval Command Western Mindanao ng Philippine Navy para sa inyong matagumpay na operasyon laban sa smuggling. Ang pagkakasamsam ng mahigit ₱4 bilyong halaga ng kontrabando ay nagpapakita ng inyong dedikasyon at malasakit sa paglilingkod sa bayan. Malaki ang naitutulong ng inyong mga operasyon sa mas malawak na kampanya ng pamahalaan laban sa smuggling at sa pagpigil sa pagpasok ng mga ilegal na produkto sa ating bansa," ani Commissioner Nepomuceno.

Dagdag pa ng Commissioner, mahalaga ang papel ng Philippine Navy sa pagbabantay sa mga karagatan at sa pagpigil sa paggamit ng mga rutang pandagat para sa smuggling at iba pang ilegal na gawain.

Sinabi rin niya na bagama't ang mandato ng Bureau of Customs ay pangunahing nakatuon sa mga pantalan at iba pang lugar na sakop ng Customs, malaking ambag ang mga operasyon ng Philippine Navy sa pagbabantay sa mga karagatan at sa pagpigil sa smuggling sa mga rutang ginagamit ng mga smugglers upang makapasok sa bansa.

DENR...

FROM PAGE 01

emphasized the importance of healthy watersheds during periods of reduced rainfall.

“Alam natin na kapag kulang ang pagulan, ang puno po ay kailangan nating itanim para mapakapal o mapaganda ang ating watershed, pero may tamang management at pagpaplano ng pagtatanim.”

Prolonged dry spells caused by El Niño lead to a significant drop in water levels. During these times, watersheds act as temporary water reservoirs that filter pollutants as the water flows downstream.

“Ang mga watershed ay nagsisilbing pansamantalang imbakan ng tubig bago dumaloy sa mga sapa at iba pang daluyang tubig. Nagsisilbi itong filtration system at pinapanatili ang kalidad ng tubig kung saan nasasala na ‘yung mga basuri o dumi bago dumaloy sa ating kapaligiran.”

However, land use changes and increased human activities have negatively affected forest and agricultural areas over the years and threatened watershed health. Curod acknowledged that rapid urbanization in developing provinces such as Cavite has become a reality.

To safeguard the province’s remaining watersheds, Curod suggested regulating tourism, especially in protected areas, to minimize human activities that can sometimes lead to hazards like forest fires.

“Pagbabawas ng tourism activities: sa probinsya ng Cavite, mayroong isang protected area ang DENR. Kung mataas po ang hiking activities, mataas rin po ang potensyal na magkaroon ng human-induced fire.”

The DENR manages the Mt. Palay-Palay-Mataas na Gulod Protected Landscape, which covers Ternate and Maragondon. Curod highlighted that these areas are among the most vulnerable during prolonged dry seasons.

“Mas bumababa ang water level sa ating lugar. Tumataas ang incident ng forest fire and grass fire. Mahalaga po ang pangangalaga natin sa ating mga kagubatan at watershed o tubig-kanlungan upang ma-supply-an natin ng sapat na tubig ‘yung mababang area.”

Poor water consumption further worsens the severe dry conditions caused by the El Niño—a challenge severely felt in highly populated and industrialized areas.

“Ang sobrang paggamit ng tubig lalo sa panahon ng El Niño ay isang malaking suliranin hindi lang ng probinsya ng Cavite kundi sa buong bansa. Kung mababa o mali ang paggamit ng tubig, ibang malaking problema ito.”

Although El Niño is a naturally occurring phenomenon, the DENR continues to urge local government units and national government agencies to implement proactive measures to cushion its human impact.

“Sa panahon ng El Niño, importante po ang monitoring and patuloy po na prevention measures na ginagawa ng lahat ng stakeholders kabilang ang local and national government.” (PB-PIA Cavite, with reports from Cavite PDRRMO)

PBBM appoints finance veteran Limlingan as new SSS chief

QUEZON CITY, 16 October 2026 – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed today finance and investment veteran Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security System (SSS).

Limlingan succeeded Robert Joseph Montes de Claro, who was appointed Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

As the new SSS Chief, Limlingan will prioritize the enhancement and expansion of member loan programs, the improvement of the investment portfolio’s risk-adjusted returns, and the relaunch of the Pension Booster Program.

Limlingan previously served as a Member of the Social Security Commission (SSC), the SSS’ policy-making governing body, representing the employers’ group. He was appointed to the SSC on 19 November 2024 and took his oath on 25 November 2024.

As a Commissioner, Limlingan chaired the SSC’s Risk Management and Actuary Committee and sat on its Investment Committee, Contribution and Collection Committee, and Corporate Governance Committee. The SSC oversees SSS policy, provides policy direction, supervises management actions and exercises quasi-judicial functions in cases involving social security coverage, benefits, contributions and penalties under Republic Act No. 11199 or the Social Security Act of 2018.

Experience in finance and public service

Limlingan brings experience in finance, investments, risk management, entrepreneurship and public service. He is managing director of Regina Capital Development Corp. and previously served on the board of state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, where he chaired the Risk Oversight Committee.

He also served as senior vice president at Small Business Corp., where he worked on financial-recovery initiatives for small enterprises and treasury-investment optimization.

Earlier in his career, Limlingan provided consultancy services to the National Economic and Development Authority and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which is now known as the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Limlingan holds a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and earned a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies, majoring in history and humanities, from the Ateneo de Manila University. #

Mekeni Supports Clark Food and Music Festival, Celebrates Culinary Talent in Pampanga

CLARK, PAMPANGA — Mekeni Food Corporation joined leading hotels, restaurants, resorts, industry partners, culinary professionals, and students in celebrating food, music, and local talent at the recently concluded Clark Food and Music Festival and 11th Cook Off Challenge of Hotels, Restaurants, Resorts and Partners in Pampanga (HARRPP), held on October 3-4 at the Clark Parade Grounds.

As one of the event’s major sponsors, Mekeni brought its commitment to supporting the local food and hospitality industry to the festival through its Mekeni Specials 4Cheese Sausage and Hungarian Sausage with Cheese, giving festival-goers and participants an opportunity to experience two of its premium sausage offerings.

The two-day 11th Cook Off Challenge brought together culinary talents from across Luzon, with students competing on the first day and professional chefs representing hotels and restaurants taking center stage on the second day. The competition provided a platform for aspiring and seasoned culinary professionals to showcase their creativity, skills, and passion for food.

Mekeni also set up a sampling and selling booth at the Clark Parade Grounds, where visitors were able to taste and purchase the Mekeni Specials 4Cheese Sausage and Hungarian Sausage with Cheese. The activation allowed the brand to engage directly with consumers while highlighting the versatility and premium taste of its sausage products.

Adding excitement to the festivities was the Mekeni Sausage Eating Contest, which drew enthusiastic participants and spectators and brought an extra layer of fun to the festival. The activity highlighted Mekeni’s products in a lighthearted and engaging way while encouraging guests to join in the celebration.

Beyond the culinary competition, the festival also featured live bands that filled the Clark Parade Grounds with music, creating a lively atmosphere for families, food enthusiasts, industry professionals, students, and festival-goers.

For Mekeni, its participation in the Clark Food and Music Festival reflects its continuing support for initiatives that bring together the food industry, local communities, and the next generation of culinary talents.

As Mekeni celebrates its 40th year, the homegrown Pampanga brand continues to grow its presence while staying rooted in the communities and industries that have been part of its journey, from its beginnings in Pampanga to becoming a Filipino food brand now reaching markets in more than 20 countries.



NLEX...

FROM PAGE 01

Motorists from North and Central Luzon and western Metro Manila can look forward to faster, more convenient access to Quezon City as the NLEX-C5 Northlink Mindanao Avenue to Quirino Highway section nears completion, with construction now at 96% on the 2-kilometer section.

The new all-weather elevated expressway is designed to give motorists with a safer and more convenient travel experience. It will be equipped with CCTV and speed management systems; advanced RFID readers and Neology antennas for toll collection; roadway lighting, traffic signs, pavement markings, and protective barriers and reflective safety devices to enhance road safety, visibility, and traffic management. The segment will extend NLEX eastward to Quirino Highway, providing motorists with a direct alternative to Mindanao Avenue.

With construction now in its final stages, work is focused on finishing the installation of concrete barriers and expansion joints along the mainline, completing the westbound and eastbound Quirino Highway on- and off-ramps, and carrying out the remaining civil works needed to prepare the new segment for operations. Once operational, the new segment will operate 24/7, accommodate all vehicle classes, and serve approximately 11,000 vehicles daily. It will provide motorists from Quirino Highway access to NLEX via the NLEX-C5 Northlink, with onward connections to the NLEX Connector toward Manila, the University Belt, and Makati, or northbound on NLEX toward Central and North Luzon. The new segment will provide an additional route option for motorists traveling between Quezon City and these destinations.

NLEX President and General Manager Luis S. Reñon said the company is accelerating construction to deliver infrastructure that will help motorists save both time and travel costs amid unpredictable fuel prices. “We want to give motorists greater freedom not only in how they travel, but also in how they spend their time and money. While fuel prices and other travel-related costs are beyond our control, we can provide reliable road infrastructure that helps people reach their destinations more efficiently. That is the value we aim to deliver through this project,” Reñon said.

The 2-kilometer Segment 8.2 Section 1A is part of the 11.3-kilometer NLEX-C5 Northlink Project, which will connect Mindanao Avenue to C5/C.P. Garcia near Katipunan Avenue, strengthening links between Metro Manila and Central and North Luzon through the NLEX network.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

Kasanayan sa Agro-entrepreneurship ng mga Magsasaka sa Quezon, pinalakas ng DA-ATI CALABARZON

Sa layong palakasin ang kakayahang pang-negosyo at praktikal na kaalaman sa pamamahala ng mga negosyong nakabatay sa pagsasaka, tatlumpung (30) magsasaka mula sa Samahan ng Magpapalay ng Candelaria ang lumahok sa “Building Stronger Rice Communities: Advancing Farmers’ Knowledge in Agroentrepreneurship” noong Oktubre 5 hanggang 8, 2026, sa Girasoles Farm, Candelaria, Quezon.

Sa pangunguna ng Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON, isinagawa ang apat na araw na pagsasanay sa pakikipagtulungan ng DA-Regional Field Office IV-A at DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Los Baños. Kabilang sa mga tagapagtalakay sina Maria Sofia M. Canilao, East L. Cosme, at John Erron O. Melitante. Nagbahagi rin sina Ma. Magdalena R. Ripas, may-ari ng Encarnacion Farm, at Brian A. Belen, kapwa may-ari ng Marelson Farm and Educational Center OPC, ng kanilang karanasan sa pamamahala ng mga negosyong pang-agrikultura. Tinalakay sa pagsasanay ang agroentrepreneurship, pakikipagnegosasyon, financial management, contract growing, value addition, marketing strategies, at mga salik sa tagumpay at kabiguan ng negosyo. Kabilang din ang Rice Industry and Technology Updates, Palayamanan, Gender and Sensitivity for Rice-Based Farming Communities, at Emerging Pests. Nagsagawa rin ng pagbisita sa BeeGood Agriventures OPC upang masaksihan ang aktuwal na operasyon ng isang negosyong pang-agrikultura.

Para kay G. Eric B. Libuet, isa sa mga kalahok, binigyang-diin ng pagsasanay ang kahalagahan ng wastong pagtatala ng mga transaksiyong pinansiyal, tamang pakikipagnegosasyon, at pagtukoy sa angkop na merkado para sa kanilang mga produkto.

“Ang pag-unawa sa pangangailangan ng target market ay makatulong sa aming mga magsasaka upang mas maayos na mapamahalaan ang pagbebenta ng kanilang ani at mapataas ang posibilidad na kumita nang sapat,” ani Libuet.

Sa pagtatapos ng programa, hinikayat ni Center Director Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, RAgr, ang mga kalahok na isabuhay ang kanilang mga natutuhan sa pamamagitan ng pagtatatag ng sariling negosyo o pagpapahusay sa kasalukuyang farm enterprise.

Sa pamamagitan ng inisyatibang ito, patuloy na isinusulong ng DA-ATI CALABARZON, katuwang ang mga partner na ahensiya, ang pagpapalakas ng kaalaman at kasanayan ng mga magsasaka upang mapaunlad ang kanilang mga negosyo, mapataas ang kita, at matiyak ang mas matatag at napapanatiling kabuhayan.

Panulat ni: Eloisa A. Mariano/ISS

DOH, PhilHealth, DepEd and DILG Unite to Bring YAKAP Healthcare Directly to Students

Four government agencies—DOH, DepEd, DILG, and PhilHealth—have joined forces under a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) to launch the YAKAP School Health and Protection Program (YAKAP-SHP), reinforcing the government’s commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of Filipino children.

The agreement was officially signed today by Health Secretary Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, Education Secretary Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara, and Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla.

Aligned with Pillar I of the Unified National Agenda for Health (UNA Para sa Kalusugan) and in response to President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.’s call for stronger child health intervention, YAKAP-SHP delivers preventive care directly to schools and learning centers nationwide.

In line with the Department of Health's Healthy Learning Institutions Program that recognizes educational institutions as key settings for cultivating health and integrates health promotion into school policies, services, facilities, and systems, the program places particular emphasis on early detection and management of developmental delays and disabilities from birth through the school years.

This inter-agency partnership establishes a whole-of-government framework to achieve three core objectives: expand access to YAKAP, establish a continuum of care, and strengthen implementation mechanisms by enhancing financing, securing parental/guardian consent mechanisms for YAKAP participation, and coordinating service delivery to ensure seamless and accessible care navigation.

“This JMC brings to us the opportunity to scale things up – from reaching just a few million students or learners who can be benefit from YAKAP, we're targeting all 26 million learners including the teachers and non-teaching staff as well as their families. And because it's really a challenge to get people to appreciate what this is, we're hoping that the very visual impact that we can see in schools will make Filipino families believe in the YAKAP program and also want to take part in it.”, said APCEO Ho.

Under the JMC, YAKAP-SHP will be rolled out across public and private basic education schools, Community Learning Centers (CLCs), Child Development Centers (CDCs), other Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers/facilities, and Inclusive Learning Resource Centers (ILRCs).

The program will benefit basic education personnel as well as students across all learning levels including early childhood learners, Alternative Learning System (ALS) enrollees such as out-of-school children (OSC) and out-of-school youth (OSY), and children with special needs or developmental delays and disabilities identified through school or ILRC-based health screenings.

Through YAKAP-SHP, students, school personnel, and out-of-school youth will gain direct access to essential health services within their schools and learning centers. These include YAKAP on-site clinic assignment, routine health screenings, access to outpatient medicines and diagnostic tests, on-site specialist care for developmental delays, and dedicated care navigators to guide families through referrals and follow-up care.

Parents, guardians, and school communities are invited to join upcoming school-based orientation and empanelment sessions. Families can also assign or update their chosen YAKAP Clinic anytime through the PhilHealth Member Portal. For more information on YAKAP benefits and accredited partner clinics, visit www.philhealth.gov.ph or contact the PhilHealth Action Center at (02) 8662-2588.###

Philippine Information Agency

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER IV (CALABARZON)

BOC, DOJ At NBI, Nagsanib-Puwersa Vs. Agri-Smuggling!



MAY paglalagyan na ang 'notoryus na smugglers' ng mga produktong agrikultural na 'pumipilay' sa hanapbuhay ng mga magsasaka at mamimili. Wala rin kawala ang mga tiwaling negosyante na may ilegal na operasyon sa bansa.

Siguradong mas mabilis na silang mahahabol ng batas para papanagutin sa kanilang mga ilegal na aktibidad. 'Ika nga: "bilang na ang masasayang mga araw nila." Naganap na!

Noong September 28, 2026, nagsanib-puwersa ang Bureau of Customs (BOC), Department of Justice (DOJ), at National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) upang lalong paigtingin ang ikinasang kampanya laban sa agricultural smuggling, nang magkakasabay lumagda sa isang Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement o MOA.

Layunin sa naturang hakbang na palakasin ang koordinasyon ng tatlong ahensya ng gobyerno, partikular sa pagsasagawa ng imbestigasyon at pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mga sangkot sa smuggling, hoarding, profiteering, at cartelization na nakaaapekto sa kabuhayan ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda, suplay ng pagkain, at mga mamimili.

Sa ilalim ng MOA, magtutulungan ang BOC, DOJ, at NBI sa pagbahagi ng impormasyon, imbestigasyon, pagbuo ng mga kaso, at pagsusuri ng ebidensya para matiyak na mapapanagot ang mga lumalabag sa Republic Act No. 12022 o Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act.

Sa datos, 15 reklamo na ang inendorso ng BOC sa DOJ laban sa 20 respondent dahil sa paglabag sa RA 12022. Mayroon rin 30 kasong may kaugnayan sa agrikultura na isinampa sa ilalim ng Customs Modernization and Tariff Act, na kinasasangkutan ng 127 respondent mula 2025.

Lumagda sa kasunduan sina Justice Secretary Atty. Fredderick A. Vida, BOC Commissioner Ariel F. Nepomuceno at NBI Director Atty. Melvin A. Matibag.

Dumalo rin sa seremonya si Ombudsman Jesus Crispin "Boying" Remulla na nagpahayag ng suporta sa pagtutulungan ng tatlong ahensya.

Bubuo rin ng Technical Working Group (TWG) na mangangasiwa sa pagbuo at pagpapatupad ng mga alituntunin sa koordinasyon, mekanismo sa referral ng mga kaso at mga protocol sa pagbabahagi ng impormasyon upang matiyak ang tuloy-tuloy na implementasyon ng kasunduan.

Ayon kay Nepomuceno, mahalaga ang pagtutulungan ng tatlong ahensya upang mas mapalakas ang kampanya laban sa agricultural economic sabotage.

"The fight against agricultural economic sabotage cannot be carried out by one agency alone. Kailangan natin ang teamwork ng DOJ, BOC, at NBI," ani Nepomuceno.

Sinabi ng opisyal na patuloy na haharangin ng BOC ang mga ilegal na kargamento at bubuo ng mga kaso, habang katuwang ang NBI sa mas malalim na imbestigasyon at ang DOJ sa pagtiyak na mapanagot ang mga lumalabag sa batas.

Binigyang-diin din niya na tutugisin ang mga sumisira sa sektor ng agrikultura at nagbabanta sa seguridad sa pagkain ng bansa.

Sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Nepomuceno, patuloy na pinaiigting ng BOC ang pagbabantay sa mga hangganan ng bansa at ang pagpigil sa ilegal na pagpasok ng mga produktong agrikultural.

Ang pagpirma sa Tripartite MOA ay bahagi ng mas malawak na hakbang ng pamahalaan upang tiyaking ang mga operasyong laban sa agricultural smuggling ay susuportahan ng masusing imbestigasyon at epektibong prosekusyon.

PhilHealth Guarantees Coverage for Heat-Related Illnesses Amid Dry Spell

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) is strengthening health protection against extreme heat and heat-related illnesses in response to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for proactive government action on climate change.

Anchored on the Unified National Agenda for Health, PhilHealth is working with the Department of Health (DOH) as the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) warns of a strong El Niño persisting through mid-2027, increasing the risks of heat stroke, dehydration, asthma, hypertension, dengue, and waterborne infections.

PhilHealth is encouraging families to register with and visit their chosen Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) Clinic to access preventive and primary healthcare services. Through YAKAP, members can avail themselves of consultations, appropriate laboratory and diagnostic tests, and outpatient cancer screening. Eligible members may also receive up to P20,000 worth of essential outpatient medicines annually.

The agency emphasized that regular medical checkups can help detect and manage conditions that may worsen during extreme heat, including hypertension, diabetes, and respiratory diseases.

PhilHealth also reminded members that it provides both outpatient and inpatient coverage. Under the Outpatient Emergency Care Benefit (OECB), non-admitted emergency room services such as doctor consultations, diagnostic tests, imaging, emergency procedures, and essential medicines are covered.

For severe conditions requiring hospitalization, PhilHealth provides fixed case rates paid directly to accredited hospitals. These include P19,500 for typhoid fever, P18,135 for heat fatigue, P16,575 for sore eyes, P12,675 for heat stroke or cramps, P11,700 for acute gastroenteritis, and P7,800 for chickenpox or moderate-to-severe dehydration.

Members may register for YAKAP by selecting their preferred clinic through the PhilHealth Member Portal, eGovPH App, or by visiting any PhilHealth Regional Office or Local Health Insurance Office nationwide.

For inquiries about benefit packages and accredited healthcare facilities, members may contact the PhilHealth Corporate Action Center at (02) 8662-2588 or visit www.philhealth.gov.ph.

Source: PhilHealth



Phcancare, Magsasagawa ng Medical Tourism Assessment Event sa Manila

Magsasagawa ang Phcancare ng Medical Tourism Assessment Event sa Manila sa Oktubre 24–25, 2026, na naglalayong tulungan ang mga Pilipinong pasyenteng isinasaalang-alang ang Tsina bilang opsyon para sa kanilang gamutan.

Ayon sa Phcancare, nagsisilbi lamang itong tagapag-ugnay sa pagitan ng mga pasyente at mga ospital sa Tsina. Ang lahat ng desisyong medikal ay gagawin ng mga doktor, kasama ang mga pasyente at kanilang pamilya.

Kabilang sa mga serbisyong iniaalok nito ang pagsusuri ng medical records, pagtutugma ng pasyente sa naaangkop na ospital, pag-aasikaso ng visa at biyahe, interpretation services, at follow-up support matapos makauwi ang pasyente.

Ayon sa organisasyon, ang kanilang network ay binubuo ng mga lisensyadong Tier-3 Grade A hospitals sa Tsina na nagbibigay ng serbisyong medikal sa oncology, urology, endocrinology, gynecology, hepatobiliary at gastroenterology, at Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Pinamamahalaan ang Phcancare ng isang Expert China Coordinator Director kasama ang mga Pilipinong coordinator. Bawat pasyente ay may nakatalagang case manager na nagbibigay ng suporta sa buong proseso, mula sa paunang pagsusuri hanggang sa panahon ng paggaling.

Hinihikayat ang mga interesadong lumahok na magpareserba nang maaga dahil limitado ang mga upuan para sa naturang pagtitipon.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon at reservation, maaaring tumawag o mag-text sa +63 964 150 6932.

Binigyang-diin ng Phcancare na nagsisilbi lamang itong tulay sa pagitan ng mga pasyente at mga ospital sa Tsina.



Mekeni...

FROM PAGE 01

From the Filipino community in Taipei to local consumers at the Pingtung Fair, the homegrown brand marks a milestone in its four-decade journey of bringing families together through food.

TAIWAN — For Filipinos living and working thousands of miles away from home, the familiar taste of a favorite Filipino food can bring back memories of family gatherings, childhood breakfasts, and meals shared around the table.

For Mekeni Food Corporation, a homegrown Filipino food brand from Porac, Pampanga, bringing these familiar flavors to Taiwan is more than an opportunity to expand its reach. It is a chance to reconnect Filipinos abroad with a taste of home while introducing the flavors of the Philippines to a wider international audience.

As Mekeni approaches the culmination of its 40th anniversary celebration, the company marks another meaningful milestone through its presence in Taiwan, connecting with the Filipino community during its launch at the OWWA OFW Global Center in Taipei, Jesus is Lord Olympics and Food Festival in the South of Taiwan and engaging Taiwanese consumers at the 2026 World in Pingtung - International Market in Kaoshiung.

Together, these initiatives reflect Mekeni's continuing journey of bringing Filipino food, culture, and shared experiences beyond Philippine shores.

For President Mr. Pruds Garcia, the initiative reflects the deeper meaning behind Mekeni's growth as a Filipino brand. "As we celebrate 40 years of Mekeni, we are reminded that our success is rooted in the families and communities that have welcomed us into their lives. Bringing our products closer to Filipinos in Taiwan is our way of making them feel that, even when they are far from home, a familiar taste can still bring them closer to the people and memories they cherish."

A Taste of Home for Filipinos Abroad

For many overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), familiar food offers a comforting connection to home. The taste of hotdogs enjoyed during childhood, the aroma of tocino prepared for breakfast, and the flavors shared during family celebrations can evoke memories that remain vivid even across borders.

Mekeni's engagement with the Filipino community at the OWWA OFW Global Center in Taipei brought this connection to life, giving Filipinos in Taiwan an opportunity to rediscover familiar products and enjoy a taste of home away from home.

The launch also underscores the significance of making Filipino food more accessible to overseas communities, allowing them to maintain a connection to their roots through the meals and flavors they grew up with.

Through its products, Mekeni hopes to bring more than food to Filipino families abroad. It seeks to create meaningful moments that remind them of home, family, and the traditions they carry wherever life takes them.

Winning Hearts Beyond the Filipino Community

Beyond connecting with Filipinos, Mekeni's participation in the 2026 World in Pingtung - International Market opened another opportunity to introduce its products to Taiwanese consumers.

The brand showcased its Filipino flavors in a setting where people could discover and experience products from another culture, creating opportunities for cross-cultural appreciation through food.

The warm reception from fairgoers, including local Taiwanese consumers, highlighted the potential of Filipino food to reach audiences beyond the Filipino diaspora. What may be a familiar household favorite for Filipinos can also become an exciting discovery for consumers encountering these flavors for the first time.

From its well-loved Picnic Hotdogs to its Classic Tocino and other Filipino food favorites, Mekeni's presence at the fair demonstrated how food can serve as a bridge between cultures, encouraging people to discover the Philippines through its flavors.

For Ms. Marilou Uy, Mekeni's AVP for Human Resources and Exports, the Taiwan initiatives represent an important step in sharing the brand's story with a wider market.

"Our participation in Taiwan allows us to bring Filipino food closer to our kababayans while introducing our products to new consumers. We see this as an opportunity to build meaningful connections, understand the market, and share the quality and flavors that Filipino families have come to know and love. We hope that every product experience becomes an invitation for more people to discover what Mekeni and Filipino food have to offer."

The experience also reinforces the importance of bringing Filipino brands into international markets, not only to serve Filipinos living abroad but also to introduce the country's food heritage to a broader global audience.

Four Decades of Bringing Families Together

Founded in 1986 in Porac, Pampanga, Mekeni has grown from its local roots into a Filipino food brand serving families in the Philippines and international markets. Today, the company has established its presence in more than 25 countries, bringing Filipino flavors to communities across different parts of the world.

Over the past four decades, the company has built its identity around food that brings people together, carrying forward the legacy of its founders, Felix and Meding Garcia, while continuing to explore opportunities for growth and innovation.

Its Taiwan initiatives hold special significance as the company celebrates its 40th anniversary under the theme, "May Kwento sa Bawat Timpla." The theme reflects the stories, memories, and meaningful experiences that food creates across generations.

From Filipino dining tables to communities overseas, every product carries the potential to become part of someone's story, whether it is a familiar meal that eases homesickness or a new flavor that introduces another culture.

Mekeni's expanding international presence also supports its vision of becoming a globally trusted Filipino brand that nourishes families across generations.

Taking Filipino Flavor Further

As Mekeni approaches the culmination of its anniversary celebration, its activities in Taiwan serve as a reminder that the story of a Filipino brand does not end at home. It can travel with Filipinos, find new audiences, and create meaningful connections across borders.

The launch at the OWWA OFW Global Center in Taipei and the brand's participation in the Pingtung Fair represent complementary opportunities: one reconnecting overseas Filipinos with familiar flavors, and the other introducing Filipino food to a wider community.

Both reflect a shared ambition, to make Filipino food more accessible, more appreciated, and more present in the everyday lives of people around the world.

Forty years after its founding, Mekeni continues to carry the stories of Filipino families into new markets, bringing with it the flavors and traditions that have shaped its journey.

And as the brand looks toward the next chapter, its message remains rooted in the same simple yet enduring idea: wherever Filipinos may be, there will always be a place for the taste of home./ PR

PhilHealth, BJMP Seal Partnership to Expand Healthcare Access for Persons Deprived of Liberty

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure that Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) across the country are registered with PhilHealth and can access comprehensive healthcare benefits. This agreement is expected to strengthen healthcare delivery for more than 80,000 PDLs in 28 BJMP facilities nationwide through the accreditation of BJMP clinics and the provision of PhilHealth benefits including services under the YAKAP program.

The MOA was signed by PhilHealth Acting President and Chief Executive Officer Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, MD, MPH, and BJMP Jail Director Efren A. Nemeño, DPA, TLPE, underscoring the commitment of both institutions to advancing health equity and improving healthcare access for one of the country's most vulnerable sectors. "Universal Health Care means every Filipino, including those in detention. Through partnerships like this, PhilHealth is working alongside our fellow government agencies to make sure that no Filipino is left outside the reach of care," said PhilHealth APCEO Dr. Beverly Ho. Reinforcing the significance of the partnership, Jail Director Efren A. Nemeño said that "By ensuring the automatic enrollment of our PDLs under the National Health Insurance Program and facilitating seamless health care access across our facilities, PhilHealth has helped bridge long-standing gaps in public health service for one of our nation's most vulnerable populations".

The PhilHealth-BJMP partnership marks a significant step toward providing equitable access to healthcare and reinforcing the government's commitment to safeguarding the health and welfare of all Filipinos, including those in custodial facilities. Through this collaboration, both agencies aim to strengthen healthcare delivery in jail facilities and contribute to the realization of a more inclusive and responsive health system under Universal Health Care.###

