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Handa ka na ba, CALABARZON?
 May paparating na selebrasyong puno ng inobasyon, inspirasyon, at oportunidad! □□
 Tara na sa Techno Gabay Program Summit and Coco Fiesta 2025!
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Makiisa sa mga Tech Talks, Exhibits, at Techno Forums, negosyong pang-agrikultura, at mga kwento ng pagbabago mula sa mga komunidad ng CALABARZON.
 Sama-sama nating itaguyod ang mas produktibo, matatag, at modernong kinabukasan para sa agrikultura at pagniniyugan! □

Security Bank, nagbukas ng sangay sa Bacoor City

BACOR CITY, Cavite- Ang Security Bank Corporation ay nagbukas ng bagong sangay o branch sa lungsod na ito pagsisikap na ma-ipaabot sa mas maraming Pinoy ang betterbanking o paglilingkod nito, sa labas ng Metro Manila.

Ang bagong branch na nagsasagawa ng inagurasyon kamakailan lang ay ika-362 sangay sa buong bansa at ika-11 naman sa Cavite na sinasabing isa sa Southern Luzon Region sa mga mabilis na umunlad.

Ayon sa Security Bank Corporation, ang kanilang expansion o pagpapalawak ng paglilingkod ay bilang suporta sa lumalaking komunidad at mga negosyante, propesyonal at mga pamilya na hatid ng transpormasyon at mga pagbabago ng Bacoor

Cont. on PAGE 5

Caritas Philippines inaugurates new convention center in Tagaytay City

After more than a year of construction, Caritas Philippines inaugurated its new convention center last Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Known as the Mother of Grace Convention Center, the facility is located inside the Caritas Philippines Development Center in Tagaytay City. Its blessing was led by papal nuncio Archbishop Charles Brown.



Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo, president of the national Caritas, said the new facility symbolizes “faith, love, and a shared mission to serve God’s people.”

“[It’s] more than a building. It is a dream fulfilled, a space consecrated to communion, and a home for renewal and collaboration,” Bagaforo said.

He said the center

Cont. on PAGE 4

RDRRMC 4A calls on LGUs to enhance earthquake preparedness

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) Calabarzon is urging local government units (LGUs) to strengthen their earthquake preparedness and contingency plans,

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OFFICE ADDRESS: Purok 8, San Agustin, Trece Martires City
Cellphone No. 0908-6395697
Email Address: caviteweeklychronicle@gmail.com

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ATI Calabarzon

Agricultural Training Institute/DA

Subok na Pamamaraan at Teknolohiya sa Paggugulay, Inihatid sa Iba’t Ibang Bayan sa CALABARZON

Upang higit na mapaunlad ang kaa-laman at kasanayan ng mga magsasaka sa pagtatanim at pag-nenegosyo ng gulay, matagumpay na isinaga-wa ng DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON, katu-wang ang mga lokal na pamahalaan ng Tanza,

Cavite; Pililla, Rizal; Tay-abas City, Guinayangan, at Pagbilao, Quezon, sa pamamagitan ng mga tanggapan pambayang agrikultor, ang Farmer Training on Vegetable Production, Postharvest Handling Technologies, and Marketing.

Layunin ng se-rye ng pagsasanay na

mapalawak ang kaala-man ng mga kalahok sa makabagong pama-maraan ng produksyon ng gulay at paggamit ng wastong postharvest handling technologies upang mapanatiling mataas ang kalidad ng ani at mabawasan ang pagkasira ng produkto pagkatapos ng anihan.

Bahagi rin ng pagsasanay ang market-ing at pagbuo ng nego-syo upang matulungan ang mga magsasaka na mapaunlad ang kanilang kita at makapasok sa mas malawak na pamili-han.

Sa loob ng pag-sasanay, ibinahagi ng **Cont. on PAGE5**

DOST eyes AI-powered PH by 2028

MANILA – The De-partment of Science and Technology (DOST) is aim-ing to establish an artificial intelligence (AI)-powered Philippines by 2028 as part of its National AI Strategy (NAIS PH) project.

During the Nation-al AI Stakeholders' Confer-ence in Manila on Oct. 13, DOST Secretary Renato Sol-idum Jr. said the NAIS PH project aims to build a “ro-bust infrastructure, develop a future-ready workforce, uphold ethical governance, and strengthen research and innovation” using AI as a tool for inclusion.

“Through this, AI will become a true pub-lic good, improving lives, expanding opportunities, and enabling a sustainable tech-empowered future for every Filipino,” Solidum said.

To date, he said AI is already being used to enhance the country’s transport systems, modern-ize financial services, boost creative industries, improve energy and environmental monitoring, and strengthen

national defense and public security.

“And most impor-tantly, we have invested more than PHP2.3 million in 113 AI-related projects be-cause we believe in the Fili-pino mind’s ability to create, not just consume technolo-gy,” he said.

The country’s AI framework was first laid in 2017 through a whole-of-nation endeavor between the DOST, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Education (DepEd), and several other government agencies and private partners.

“We have trained researchers for the DOST Summer School for AI, ac-quired high-performance computing infrastructure, and supported AI research and development projects through DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD),” he said.

Both the DOST and the DTI have developed AI roadmaps to guide the country’s national direction

on AI.

“We have also es-tablished the education cen-ter for AI research in DepEd, advancing AI education and awareness at the basic and higher levels,” he said.

To realize the country’s vision for an AI-powered Philippines, the DOST—through NAIS PH—identified five key strategies: infrastructure, workforce, innovation, data governance and policy, and deployment.

“Each strategy ensures coherence and ac-countability where every agency plays a defined and complementary role. This is what we mean by whole-of-nation collaboration. Each institution contributes its expertise, ensuring that AI becomes part of our na-tional fabric—ethical, sus-tainable, and inclusive,” he said.

The Philippine AI Implementation Framework, he said, is a collaborative AI ecosystem that links public and private sectors, aca-demia, startups, and inter-national partners.

“We want to nurture AI refineries and factories where ideas are transformed into real-world applications, from health and education, smart ag-riculture, and climate re-silience. And we will mea-sure success, not just in algorithms or apps, but in outcomes, security, sus-tainability, sovereignty, and skills,” he said.

In terms of work-

force, the DOST is looking to train 10,000 AI-capable workers to deploy AI-ready solutions.

“This workforce should be industry-ready to support AI integration in businesses. We also aim to increase higher education institution offerings on AI micro credentials and con-tinuing education programs, utilize Coursera licenses, and open course platforms

like Sparta for scalable, fast-track learning,” he said.


The National AI Stakeholders’ Conference was held at the Manila Hotel from Oct. 13 to 14.

The two-day con-ference assembled leaders from different sectors of the country to gather a col-laborative AI ecosystem as part of the continuing im-plementation of NAIS PH. / source:(PNA)


36TH NATIONAL STATISTICS MONTH

OCTOBER 2025

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Opening Economy by October 2025

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230
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EDITORIAL

Walang Outbreak

Nitong nakaraang linggo, 2 araw na sinuspinde sa Metro Manila ang klase sa mga eskwelahan para umano mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng mga mag-aaral sa lumalalang kaso ng influenza-like illness.

Ang suspensyon ay isinagawa noong Lunes at Martes, Oktubre 13 at 14, para umano magkaroon ng health break.

Dahil dito ang ibang lokal na pamahalaan ay nagsunuran at nagdeklara rin ng suspensyon. Maging ang mga karatig na probinsya ay nag-aalala rin, bukod sa umano’y banta ng lindol.

Subalit kasunod nito, nagpahayag ang Department of Health (DOH) na walang OUTBREAK O EPIDEMYA ng Influenza-like illness o mga sakit na tulad na influenza, ubo, lagnat at sipon.

Nilinaw ni DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa na inaasahan na nila kung tumaas man ang bilang ng kaso ng naturang sakit sapagkat ang "BER" months ay panahon ng tag- ulan.

Ayon pa sa kanya, ang kasalukuyang seasonal na pagtaas ng bilang ng kasong influenza-like illness ay hindi nangangailangan ng deklarasyon o epidemya. Ayun naman pala.

Ang nararapat gawin ng lahat, mag- ingat, maglinis sa kanilang paligid at sa loob ng bahay at maging sa kanilang mga sarili. Kumain ng mga masusustansyang pagkain tulad ng gulay at prutas.

Higit sa lahat, magdasal at sumampalataya sa Panginoong Diyos, Walang ibang makakatulong sa ating lahat kundi ang Diyos. Siya rin ang pinakamagaling na doktor, sapagkat ang kanyang kapangyarihan ay walang KATULAD, at ang kanyang KABUTIHAN AY WALA RING KAT-ULAD.

Sabi din ng PHIVOLCS ang lindol daw ay NORMAL, katulad ng ulan at bagyo. KAYA, walang dapat ikatakot basta NASA PANIG TAYO NG DIYOS.

Marcos urges families: Prepare Go-Bags contingency...from p6

aged the public to seek information from official sources and avoid “fake news,” which he said caused panic and injuries during recent quakes in Davao and Cebu.

“Listen only to news from the official websites of government agencies, local or national,” he said, advising the public to follow updates from authorities such as the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seis-mology (PHIVOLCS).

The President’s push coincides with ef-

orts by several local governments in Metro Manila to distribute emergency go-bags to residents.

Taguig City began distributing kits on Oct. 13, aiming to reach more than 200,000 households.

Quezon City, which distributed go-bags in July, said it would prioritize low-income households near the West Valley Fault.

Muntinlupa City officials said their go-bags are in the procure-

ment process.

Pasig and Makati cities, meanwhile, distributed similar emergency kits in February 2024 and June 2025, respectively.

Marcos said he has ordered all relevant government agencies to intensify their disaster preparedness and response efforts.

He also stressed the importance of strictly complying with building safety standards for all infrastructure. (JCO/PIA-NCR)

PhilHealth upholds data privacy on Cybersecurity Month

MANILA – The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) on Friday reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the privacy and personal data of all its members, emphasizing that it does not collect personal information through its official social media pages.

In support of National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, PhilHealth clarified that its feedback mechanism through the Corporate Action Center operates strictly within secure and authorized channels, not through social media platforms, such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, or Spotify.

“This commitment aligns with the broader national push for data security, a priority emphasized by President Ferdinand ‘Bong-



bong’ Marcos Jr.’s vision of a digitally secure Philippines,” the agency said in a statement.

PhilHealth explained that its social media accounts are used solely for disseminating official information, responding to general inquiries, and directing members to appropriate channels for specific concerns.

The agency reminded members not to share sensitive information – such as full name, address, birthdate, or PhilHealth Identification Number (PIN) – on so-

cial media.

For matters that require verification or involve personal details, such as PIN validation, claims status, or contribution history, members are advised to contact PhilHealth through its official hotlines and email.

These channels are designed to handle personal data securely and in full compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

Members may also review PhilHealth’s Privacy Notice posted on its official website at www.philhealth.gov.ph/privacy/. source:(PNA)

Public dialogue para sa problema sa tubig, tinalakay ng LGU Silang

Tuloy ang pakikipag-ugnayan ng pamahalaan Silang sa pamumuno ni Mayor Ted Carranza, kasama ang mga kapit-an at ilang mamamayan na apektado ng isyu sa tubig. Kahapon (October 16, 2025) ay nagkaroon ng public dialogue sa New Municipal Building upang mapag-usapan ng maayos at makabuo ng konkretong solusyon sa kasalukuyang problema sa tubig.

Sa pulong, ipina- **Cont. on P5**



CALABARZON NEWS

Laguna hits Php 1.08 trillion GDP in 2024



The province of Laguna records a five percent increase in its 2024 Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Laguna reports during the Provincial Products Accounts (PPA) Dissemination Forum on Tuesday, October 14.

According to PSA Laguna OIC Supervising Statistics Officer Elvin Arasula, the province's GDP grew from Php1,029.30 trillion in 2023 to Php1,080.89 trillion in 2024.

The Industry sector ranks first with 52.9 percent share in the economy, followed by services sector with 39.4 percent and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector with 1.4 percent.

Furthermore, Laguna continues to lead the region as it ranked

Caritas Philippines...page 1

ter was conceived in response to the Church's call to live out synodality — "to walk together, listen to one another, and act as one community of faith."

"Here, conversations will be rooted in faith. Here, decisions will be guided by the Gospel. Here, hearts will be formed for mission, mercy, and compassion," he added.

With a seating capacity of up to 700 persons, the facility is designed to host major synodal and pastoral gatherings, as well as serve as a resource hub for diocesan social action centers.

It also forms part of Caritas Philippines' Seven Legacy Programs and its expanded Alay Kapwa initiative, which aims to sustain the Church's social action and humanitarian work across

Environmental Clean-up Activity: Food for Work Program



Matagumpay na naisagawa kamakailan ang malawakang Clean-Up Drive Activity sa ating mga pampublikong sementeryo sa Trece Martires Memorial Park (TMMP) at Luciano, bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na Undas, ayon kay Trece matires city Mayor Gemma Lubigan.

Kasabay din nito ang pamamahagi ng Food for Work Program para sa kanila mula sa DSWD Provincial Office, na ibinaba sa atin pong

RDRRMC 4A...from page 1

after a series of strong quakes in the country.

In a memorandum issued on Monday, Oct. 20, RDRRMC Calabarzon Chairperson and Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Regional Director Carlos Eduardo Alvarez III directed LGUs to conduct a comprehensive review of their existing contingency measures and ensure readiness at all levels.

Local disaster risk reduction and management offices (LDRRMOs) were likewise instructed to conduct large-scale practical earthquake drills beyond the regular quarterly Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED).

Alvarez said, these drills should particularly focus on public facilities such as schools, gov-

6 business groups back amendments to bank secrecy laws

MANILA — Six major Philippine business groups on Friday gave their support to measures aimed at amending the country's bank secrecy laws, namely the Republic Act (RA) 1405, the Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits, and RA 6426, and the Foreign Currency Deposit Act.

The proposed amendments are included in the 44 priority bills proposed by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) for the 20th Congress, and these include giving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) authority to investigate deposit accounts of individuals suspected of being involved in illegal activities.

In a joint statement issued by the Makati Business Club, the Filipina CEO Circle, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Institute of Corporate Directors, the Justice Reform Initiative, and the Management Association of the Philippines, they said these laws "have acted and continue to act as straitjackets on regulators, preventing them from being efficient in undertaking measures, such as investigating and prosecuting people involved in corruption and money laundering."

"These legislative initiatives, once enacted, will align the Philippines with international standards on financial transparency and anti-money laundering. By empowering regulators and enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate corruption, tax evasion, and other illicit economic activities, the reforms will help ensure integrity across both public and private financial systems. In doing so, they will also boost the country's credibility and competitiveness within the global financial community," it said.

The groups also back the bid to make the Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs) of government officials accessible to the public, "as originally required under RA No. 6713, or

Subok na Pamamaraan at Teknolohiya...from p2

mga tagapagsalita ang pinakabagong kaalaman at teknolohiya sa pagtatanim ng gulay, kabilang ang pagpapakilala ng mga bagong varieties, integrated pest management (IPM), at wastong paggamit ng mga abono at organikong pamamaraan.

Isinagawa rin ang hands-on activities gaya ng paghahanda ng pagpupunla, pamamahala ng lupa, at mga demonstrasyon sa postharvest handling upang magkaroon ng praktikal na karanasan ang mga kalahok.

Ipinahayag ng mga kalahok na magsasaka ang kanilang pasasalamat sa oportunidad na matuto ng mga makabagong kaalaman na makatutulong upang mapataas ang kanilang ani at kita.

Ayon sa kanila, malaki ang naitulong ng pagsasanay hindi lamang sa paglinang ng kanilang kaalaman kundi pati na rin sa pagbibigay ng kumpiyansa upang pamahalaan ang kanilang sakahan bilang isang maayos na agri-negosyo.

Ang gawaing ito ay bahagi ng pagsasakatuparan ng mga re-entry plan ng mga agricultural extension worker (AEW) na sumailalim sa Season-long Training of Trainers on Vegetable Production noong 2024.

Sa pamamagitan nito, naipatutupad ng mga AEW ang kanilang mga natutuhan sa pamamagitan ng aktwal na pagpapalaganap ng teknolohiya at kaalaman sa kani-kanilang lokalidad.

Mandatory feeding...p6

ence as a former local executive, what your plans and directions are for ECCD and how the Senate can help you truly achieve universal coverage when it comes to ECCD?" Gatchalian said during the deliberation on the DILG's proposed 2026 budget.

In response, Secretary Remulla proposed a mandatory national nutrition program as part of early childhood interventions. "Life expectancy has increased to 70 years for men and 71 years for women—showing that health care has improved—but early childhood interventions remain below par," he said.

Remulla said nutrition is the most neglected aspect of child development, adding that stronger interventions, particularly through mandatory feeding programs, could significantly improve the average intelligence quotient (IQ) development of Filipino children. (Senate Public Relations and Information Bureau)

Public dialogue para sa problema...page 3

liwanag ng Silang Water District at Prime Water ang mga hakbang na ginagawa para mapabuti ang serbisyo, kabilang ang rehabilitasyon ng mga lumang pipeline, pag-develop ng bagong mapagkukunan ng tubig, at regular na pagsusuri sa kalidad ng supply.

Nangako rin silang ibabahagi sa LGU ang kanilang water development plan upang maging transparent sa mga proyekto at aksyon.

Sisiguraduhin ng Lokal na Pamahalaan ng Silang na matutupad ang mga solusyong inilatatag



Silang Mayor Ted Carranza

at maibabalik ang maayos na serbisyo ng tubig para sa lahat.

Magkakaroon muli ng pagpupulong sa ikatlong linggo ng November 2025 upang masubaybayan ang mga

Security Bank...from p1

tungo sa pag-unlad bilang isang masiglang pook o sentro ng komersyo.

Ang bagong sangay ng Security Bank ay nakatayo sa isang high-traffic commercial area sa lungsod ng Bacoar at nagbibigay ng isang convenient access sa mga tao o maayos na serbisyo.



Marcos urges families: Prepare go-bags, contingency plans

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TESDA

MANILA (PIA)
— President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Sunday urged Filipinos to strengthen their disaster preparedness, advising every family to create a contingency plan, designate evacuation areas, and prepare a go-bag or emergency kit.



President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.

Citing a recent series of earthquakes that had struck various parts of the country, he recommended go-bags should contain food, water, a first-aid kit, medicines, a flashlight, a

whistle, and emergency cash.

In his weekly vlog, Marcos emphasized that preparation is more critical than response, especially in a

country situated in the Pacific Ring of Fire.

"Higit sa pagbangon o pagresponde, mas mahalaga ang magiging handa" (Being prepared is more important than recovering or responding), the President said.

A series of powerful quakes had stricken Cebu, Baguio, Surigao, Davao, and Zambales. "The damage was immense because earthquakes destroy buildings and homes," Marcos said.

He also encouraged
Cont. on PAGE5

Most Wanted sa CALABARZON, Arestado sa Silang, Cavite

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite- Sa pagpapatuloy ng mas pinaigting na kampanya ng Cavite Police Provincial Office laban sa mga Most Wanted Person sa rehiyon, isang operasyon ang isinagawa ng mga tauhan ng Silang Municipal Police Station na nagresulta sa pagka-kaaresto ng isang kilalang wanted person sa CALABARZON.

Dakong alas-4:30 ng hapon ng Oktubre 17, 2025, sa Barangay Ipil 2, Silang, Cavite, ay naaresto ang akusado na residente ng Silang, Cavite. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga warrant personnel

ng Silang MPS sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng Acting Presiding Judge ng Regional Trial Court Branch 15, Naic, Cavite, para sa kasong Paglabag sa Section 11, Article II ng Republic Act 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002).

Ang inarestong akusado ay dinala sa Silang MPS para sa wastong dokumentasyon at disposisyon ng kaso, habang ang warrant ay isinaili sa korte ng pinagmulan. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni PLTCOL Louie DC Gonzaga, Chief of Police ng Silang MPS, na tumitiyak na maayos at ligtas na nais-

agawa ang operasyon al-insunod sa umiiral na mga patakaran.

Sa mensahe ni PCOL Ariel R Red, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, binigyang-diin niya ang dedikasyon ng kapulisan sa lalawigan sa pagpapatupad ng batas at sa patuloy na pagprotektang sa mamamayan. "Ang matagumpay na pagka-kaaresto ay bunga ng sama-samang pagsisikap ng ating mga kapulisan at suporta ng mamamayan. Ipinapakita nito na sa Bagong PNP, walang mataas o makapangyarihan sa batas. Patuloy tayong

Mandatory feeding program-Gatchalian

Sen. Win Gatchalian on Thursday, October 16, 2025, asks Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor "Jonvic" C. Remulla to elaborate on the department's plans and policy directions for the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) program, which has recently been transferred to the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

"We are hoping that under the DILG, local governments can be



Sen. Win Gatchalian

mobilized and that local chief executives will fully understand the importance of ECCD. Early childhood care is not only about education but



DILG Secretary Juanito Victor C. Remulla

also about children's nutrition, safety, and overall development. I'd like to know, from your experi-

Cont. on P5