

REMULLA ANNOUNCES MOVE TO INTEGRATE BJMP AND BUCOR

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Jonvic Remulla on Wednesday announced plans to integrate the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) and the Bureau of Corrections (BuCor), following President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to streamline resources and address jail congestion.

"It is a proposal, a work in progress, and one that will be done in consultation with you. You must know what we are doing, how we are doing it, and be part of the integration," Remulla said at BJMP's 34th Anniversary Celebration in Quezon City. Remulla commended BJMP's role in transforming the lives of Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs), noting that while

the work is rarely in the spotlight, it is essential to public safety and rehabilitation.

"Ang trabaho ng BJMP is to keep the country safer, to rehabilitate, and to ensure PDLs can return as contributing members of society. What you do matters," he said.

He cited the drop in national jail congestion from 314 percent in 2024 to 296 percent this year,



DILG Secretary Juanito Victor C. Remulla

along with paralegal aid to 85,183 PDLs. BJMP has also declared 230 facilities drug-free and 77 drug-cleared through surprise inspections. Education and livelihood remain central to BJMP's

programs. Over 10,700 PDLs finished basic education, 107 earned college degrees through the College Education Behind Bars (CEBB), and more than 66,000 benefited from livelihood programs that earned P116.7 million in gross income.

Former PDL Marissa Basa, now working at city hall, shared her journey: "Ito na ako ngayon, hindi na katulad noon. Masaya ako kasi first time ko magtrabaho."

Remulla affirmed that DILG will continue to support the BJMP's mandate to protect, reform, and empower.



Mayor Chua issues another EO to combat flooding in Noveleta

In a decisive move to fight the ongoing flooding problem in Noveleta, Mayor Davey Reyes-Chua issued Executive Order No. 2, which requires increased municipal efforts to clean canals and streets in all barangays.

The executive order is part of the local gov-

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DOST's RxBox helpful in far-flung areas in Calabarzon

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA) – In a significant boost to public health in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) in Calabarzon region deploys RxBox telehealth device that is transforming rural healthcare delivery.

DOST Calabarzon Regional Director Emelita Bagsit said that the RxBox project is a vital step in bringing equitable healthcare services to far-flung communities that often struggle with a lack of access to diagnostic tools and medical professionals.

"Many of Calabarzon's remote baran-

gays do not have resident doctors or access to health equipment. With RxBox, we are empowering our barangay health stations to provide basic yet critical diagnostic services and even connect patients with specialists through telemedicine," Bagsit explained.

The RxBox is a

portable diagnostic tool that allows remote monitoring of vital signs and other health parameters. It is designed to help healthcare professionals provide quality care even in rural areas where doctors and health equipment are limited.

Each RxBox unit includes sensors that

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DOH, private hospitals collaborate to boost medical aid program

MANILA – The Department of Health–Metro Manila Center for Health Development (DOH-MMCHD) launched a consultative meeting with 68 private hospitals to reinforce the implementation of the Medical Assistance for Indigent and Financially Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) program.

In a news release on Thursday, the agency said the event was initiated by its Malasakit Program and Compensation Unit (MPCU) and runs from July 2 to 4.

DOH-MMCHD Regional Director Lester Tan described the three-day meeting as a crucial platform to enhance collaboration between the government and private healthcare providers in ensuring efficient, equitable, and compassionate access to medical assistance for vulnerable

patients.

The program has a transformative impact on the lives of the most vulnerable Filipinos by making healthcare more accessible and meaningful, he said.

In-depth discussions on MAIFIP program guidelines, fund disbursement and utilization, documentation and reporting processes, and opportunities for improving service delivery were participated in by hospital representatives.

The goal of the discussions was to streamline support systems and to ensure that those in greatest need are better served.

Tan urged all stakeholders to go beyond institutional mandates and work together in building a health system that is compassionate, inclusive, and truly responsive to the needs

of every Filipino.

In December 2024, DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa reported that the MAIFIP has served 3.8 million patients. In the previous

year, it served 4.5 million.

He said the Philippines received grants and contributions for Health System Resilience Project Phase I,

Health4Life Fund, and World Health Organization (WHO) Round to ensure accessible quality health services.

Citing the importance of open dialogue

and partnership, Tan said the consultative meeting highlights the shared commitment of the DOH and private hospitals towards Universal Health Care. (PNA)

Philippine bishops elect Archbishop Garcera of Lipa as next president

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines on Saturday elected Archbishop Gilbert Garcera of Lipa as its next president.

The election took place on the first day of the bishops' 130th plenary assembly in Anda, Bohol.

Garcera, 66, currently serves on the

CBCP Permanent Council as regional representative for Southeast Luzon. He will succeed Cardinal Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan, who was elected to the post in July 2021.

David is completing his second and final term as president in November.

Garcera will lead

the bishops' collegial body for the next two years. CBCP officials serve two-year terms and may be reelected once, for a maximum of four years.

He has been archbishop of Lipa, home to more than 3.3 million Catholics, since 2017.

Garcera previ-



New Elected CBCP President Archbishop Gilbert Garcera

ously chaired the CBCP Commission on Mission and Commission on Family and Life.

Before becoming a bishop, he also served as assistant secretary general of the CBCP, executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission on Mission, and national director of

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ATI Calabarzon

Agricultural Training Institute/DA

Strengthening the commitment to quality service and good governance



With its continuous commitment to delivering quality service and good governance, the DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted its 1st Semester Management Review for 2025 and the 3rd General Staff Meeting, held at the Center's Training Hall on July 8, 2025.

These activities aimed to assess the performance of various sections and units focusing on the status of Quality Objectives and Risk Assessment Plans; and to align priorities, address opera-

tional challenges, and recognize the valuable contributions of each staff member, respectively. The review was spearheaded by the Center's Internal Quality Audit Team, with the guidance of Center Director Dr. Rolando Maningas and Asst. Center Dir. Sherylou Alfaro. Meanwhile, Dr. Maningas also presided over the general staff meeting.

Kickoff Ceremony ng Nutrition Month 2025 sa LGU Mendez-Nuñez



Sa lingguhang pagtataas ng Watawat ng Pilipinas nitong ika-7 ng Hulyo 2025, pormal na inilunsad ang Kickoff Ceremony ng Nutrition Month 2025 na may temang: "Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat! Food at Nutrition Security, Maging Priority! Sapat na Pagkain, Karapatan Natin!"



Layunin ng selebrasyong ito na palakasin ang partisipasyon ng bawat sektor sa pagpapatupad ng Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN)—isang pambansang hakbang upang matiyak ang sapat at sustenableng nutrisyon para sa bawat Pilipino, lalo na sa mga higit na nangangailangan sa ating komunidad.

Kasunod nito ay binigyang-pagkilala ang bumubuo sa Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office sa pagkamit ng ating bayan ng Seal of Child-Friendly Local Governance, batay sa 2023 audit ng Child-Friendly Local Governance Audit (CFLGA). Isa itong patunay ng patuloy na pagtutok ng ating lokal na pamahalaan sa kapakanan at karapatan ng mga bata.

Sa kanyang mensahe, nagbigay-inspirasyon si Mayor Cocoy Mendoza at kanyang giniit na, ang tapat at may malasakit na serbisyo ang susi sa pag-abot ng maunlad at masaganang Pamilyang Mendezeño.

Cayetano seeks to ease full cost of schooling from kinder to grad school

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano is pushing a landmark bill to tear down all financial barriers that keep millions of Filipinos from exercising a constitutional right: the opportunity to finish their education.

Filed on July 3, 2025, the "Makakapag-tapos Ako Act of 2025" is among Cayetano's top priority measures for the 20th Congress.

The bill is designed to "complement and supplement" the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act by covering not just tuition but also other education-related expenses.

The support be-

gins in public kindergarten and extends all the way to graduate school. It also includes learners in technical-vocational programs and the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

"Our growth through education and lifelong learning is a fundamental right, not a mere privilege," Cayetano said in his explanatory note.

"Yet for many Filipinos, access to quality education remains elusive, often determined more by socio-economic status than by ability and determination," he continued.

While enrollment has improved with the in-



Senator Alan Peter Cayetano

stitutionalization of free tuition in public elementary, secondary, and tertiary schools, Cayetano said the "hidden costs" of studying continue to drive students out of school, especially those from low-income families.

According to the

Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II), which he co-chairs, the national dropout rate in tertiary education stands at 39 percent as of 2025. Meanwhile, education subsidies for the poorest students have dropped from 74.24 percent in 2018 to just 30.74 percent in 2022.

From school supplies to board exam fees

Under the proposed measure, all students in public basic education will receive free school supplies, uniforms, and learning materials at the start of each school year.

For college students, the bill mandates

every city and municipality to set up a Local Government Educational Assistance Program that will provide financial aid to residents enrolled in public or private colleges and universities.

Priority shall be given to college students who belong to marginalized and disadvantaged sectors, are enrolled in priority courses, and excel academically.

The bill also proposes financial support for students taking licensure exams, those pursuing master's or doctorate degrees, and enrollees in technical-vocational programs.

Targeted support will also be extend-

ed to learners with disabilities, members of indigenous communities, solo-parent households, and other disadvantaged sectors.

"This bill is anchored on the Christian principle that every single life is valuable. An inclusive society leaves no one behind," he said.

Funding for better school facilities

But Cayetano said financial aid alone is insufficient if the learning environment is not conducive to learning.

He proposes to allocate P25 billion yearly for infrastructure development, facilities upgrading, and construction of student dormitories in all state universities and colleges (SUCs) over the course of ten years.

"By investing in the physical capacity of our public institutions, we complete the support system," he said.

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PAGKAKALOOB NG FOOD CART PARA SA MGA RESIDENTE NG CIUDAD KAUNLARAN, PINANGUNAHAN NI MAYOR STRIKE B. REVILLA



City Mayor Strike B. Revilla

Pinangunahan ni Bacoor City Mayor Strike B. Revilla ang awarding ceremony ng mga food cart sa Strike Gymnasium bilang bahagi ng Programang Pangkabuhayan ng City Government of Bacoor noong Hulyo 7, 2025.

Sa tulong ng Housing Urban Development & Resettlement Department (HUDRD) na pinamumunuan ni Atty. Aimee Torrefrangca-Neri, namahagi ang lungsod ng 10 food cart, tig-isa para sa bawat building mula sa 10 gusali ng Ciudad Kaunlaran sa Barangay Molino 2. Ang mga food cart ay pangkalahatang gagamitin ng mga relocated families na naninirahan sa lugar.

BBM rice brings relief to minimum wage earners in Calabarzon

The government has taken another collaborative step toward fulfilling the administration's goal of providing quality, affordable rice not only to vulnerable sectors but also to minimum wage earners across the country.

In the Calabarzon region, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) recently led the turnover of 300 sacks of rice, equivalent to 15,000 kilos, which were availed by minimum wage earners from Universal Robina Corporation (URC) in

San Pedro City, Laguna.

According to DOLE Calabarzon Regional Director Erwin N. Aquino, the provision of P20 per kilo of rice for minimum wage earners is part of the government's commitment to ease their financial burden.

"We recognized the burden of daily expenses on a worker's overall income. That's why through the 'Benteng Bigas Meron Na' program, we aim to ease their immediate need and, more importantly, show that the government cares and



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

responds promptly to the real situation of our workers," lawyer Aquino stated.

He also reiterated that the program is not merely a call to action

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Dumalo rin sa programa ang mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panglungsod na pinamumunuan ni Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola, kasama

ang mga benepisyaryo na miyembro ng Ciudad Kaunlaran Homeowners Association sa pangunguna ni HOA President Kiel Nieves Mercado. Layunin ng programa

na makatulong sa mga pamilya na magkaroon ng sariling pagkakataon at mapabuti ang kanilang kabuhayan sa pamamagitan ng mga

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DTI 4-A to Host 12th Kalakal CALABARZON Trade Fair Showcasing Local Excellence

Mandaluyong City, Philippines – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 4-A is gearing up for the highly anticipated 12th Kalakal CALABARZON trade fair, set to take place from July 23 to 27, 2025, at the Shangri-La Plaza Atrium in Ortigas Center. This year's theme, "Produktong CALABARZON: Likha ng Sipag, Bunga ng Husay," underscores the dedication and skill of the region's micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Since its inception in 2014, Kalakal CALABARZON has served as a pivot
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