

DSWD Showcases Digital Advancements in Strategic Meeting With PhilHealth

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) further cemented its position as one of the leading government agencies in digital transformation as it hosted officials from the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) for a benchmarking visit on December 10 (Wednesday) at the DSWD Central Office in Quezon City.

PhilHealth President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Edwin Mercado and Vice President Atty. Jay Villegas met with DSWD Assistant Secretary for ICT and Chief Information Officer (CIO) Johannes Paulus B. Acuña, together with Information

and Communications Technology Management Service (ICTMS) Officer-in-Charge Atty. Divine Kristine S. Leaña-Campaña, to learn about the Department's ICT modernization initiatives, infrastructure improvements, and digital systems supporting both public-facing and internal processes.

The activity began with a technical walk-through of the DSWD Data Center, led by Infrastructure Management Division representative Rod Lino. The tour showcased the Department's secure hosting environment, upgraded network systems, and resilient ICT

backbone that powers the Department's major digital platforms and services. The DSWD CIO Acuña detailed DSWD's digital transformation framework, highlighting efforts to streamline front-line processes, enhance internal systems for the workforce, and uphold robust cybersecurity measures aligned with ISO 9001:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2022 standards.

The visit concluded at the Disaster Response Command Center (DRCC), where PhilHealth officials witnessed how ICT-enabled tools strengthen real-time coordination, monitoring, and rapid disaster response across the country.

PhilHealth officials expressed appreciation for DSWD's hospitality and the valuable insights gained from the benchmarking visit. They noted that the Department's digital practices and ICT innovations serve as a model for government-wide modernization and committed to sending its technical teams to ICTMS for further immersion.

DSWD began its push for digital transformation and innovation back in April 2023, following the forming of a Digital Transformation (DX) Team as part of Secretary Rex Gatchalian's "Ease of Doing Social Welfare" vision.

Source: DSWD

City Government of Imus

Imus LGU, nagsagawa ng inspeksyon sa Imus Public Market kontra ilegal na Christmas decorations

Masusing ininspeksyon si Officer-in-Charge Peter Simon Lara ng Economic Enterprise Management Unit, Palatandaan ang mga ito sa kalidad at kaligtasan ng mga makinang pagbili ng mga palamuti ngayong Kapaskuhan. Nanguna sa in-

modity Clearance (ICC) sticker ang itinitindang Christmas lights. Sa kanilang pag-iikot, tiniyak nila na mayroong Philippine Standard (PS) mark o Import Com-



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DOTr, MRT-3 Inaugurate New Lighting System in All 13 Stations to Boost Commuter Safety

The surroundings of all 13 MRT-3 stations are now brighter and safer for commuters following the launch of the new lighting system installed beneath the transit hub stations by the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and Metro Rail Transit (MRT-3) on Wednesday, December 10. This initiative follows the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure the safety, security, and accessibility of commuters.

Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez, Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte, and Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. led the simultaneous lighting of all 13 MRT-3 stations, from North Avenue Station in Quezon City to Taft Avenue Station in Pasay City. Secretary Lopez said that the enhanced lighting system in MRT-3 stations will be complemented by the deployment of additional personnel from the Philippine National Police (PNP), especially during the holiday season, to ensure commuter safety.

MMDA Deploys Congestion-Easing Strategies Along Marcos Highway

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) today started implementing a series of traffic intervention measures along Marcos Highway to ease congestion and improve overall vehicular flow along the major thoroughfare. MMDA Chairman Atty. Don Artes said the agency immediate interventions are aimed to address the traffic problem along the highway following a joint inspection conducted yesterday with representatives from various government agencies and local government units (LGUs) which has jurisdiction on Marcos Highway. "We are now implementing the necessary interventions to ensure

smoother traffic flow along Marcos Highway. Part of these efforts are the installation of additional traffic signages, deployment of additional personnel, and close coordination with the concerned LGUs," said Chairman Artes in a press conference held at the MMDA Head Office today. Other traffic management

City Government of Bacoor

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Celebrating Love of Vows ngayong March Magpalista na sa City Civil Registry at ihanda ang inyong mga requirements. Sama-sama nating ipagdiwang ang diwa ng pag-ibig dito sa ating mahal na Lungsod ng Bacoor!

Investment Momentum Accelerates: ₱1.92T in Green Lane Projects, ₱816.8B BOI Approvals

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary and Board of Investments (BOI) Chair Ma. Cristina A. Roque announced that BOI investment approvals for January to November 2025 reached Php816.81 billion (B) across 261 projects; while 78 strategic projects were worth Php1.92 trillion (T) Green Lane initiative.

“DTI is truly making it happen for Filipinos. These figures reflect the strong inflow of high-value investments that strengthen our economy. But we will not slow down. The

Php816.81 billion in approved investments to date sends a clear signal to local and foreign investors: the Philippines is an ideal, competitive, and future-ready business destination,” said Secretary Roque.

Moreover, with two more weeks remaining in 2025, Secretary Roque adds that the “BOI is still assessing 10 more big-ticket, strategic projects worth over Php1T. These include 3 hydroelectric projects with combined 2.4GW capacity; 4 Off-Shore Wind projects with 3.7GW combined capacity; 2 air trans-

port service projects; and 1 transport infrastructure project.”

“As we are a prudent administrator of incentives, we carefully evaluate these projects according to the requirements of the Strategic Investment Priorities Plan and its Guidelines. While we are working double-time, we are unsure if all of these can be approved for registration this year. But what this signifies is the pipeline of strategic investments remain to be strong,” Secretary Roque said.

DTI-BOI infographic: Approved Green

Lane projects (Jan–Nov 2025) totaling Php1.92T, 161,325 jobs, 78 projects; breakdown—Renewable Energy Php1.42T, PPP Infrastructure and Water Php416.08B, Digital Infrastructure Php49.56B, Manufacturing Php30.13B, with DTI/BOI logos and social icons. The Php1.92 T Greenlane certified projects to-date are expected

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DOTr, MRT-3 Inaugurate New Lighting System in All 13 Stations to Boost Commuter Safety

(From page 1) these simple projects have the most meaningful impact on our people,” Secretary Lopez said during the lighting system launch at MRT-3 Kamuning Station.

Because of the new lighting system, the roads surrounding MRT-3 stations have also become brighter, according to the transport chief.

PNP Chief Nartatez Jr. expressed support for the DOTr’s initiative

and assured that more police officers will be deployed to maintain peace and order in the stations of all three rail lines — LRT-1, LRT-2, and MRT-3.

“The PNP is committed to supporting the MRT and LRT, especially since this effort concerns peace and order and public safety. We are always in coordination with the different station managers to improve peace and order, and especially this

Christmas season, good lighting is important,” said PNP Chief Nartatez Jr.

Secretary Lopez also emphasized that the enhanced lighting system ensures that the pathways leading up to and down from the stations are now brighter for commuters.

The lighting upgrade of MRT-3 is not just for the Christmas season but is intended to be a long-term improvement. Source: DOTr

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Mas Matalinong Pagresponde sa Kalamidad, Isinusulong nina Angara at DepEd

Pinalalakas ng muling makaranas ang Kagawaran ng Edukasyon (DepEd), sa pangunguna ni Secretary Sonny Angara, ang mga programa sa kahandaan at pagtugon sa sakuna sa proposed 2026 budget, bilang bahagi ng pagsusulong ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. para sa mas ligtas, mas inclusive, at climate-resilient na mga pamublikong paaralan.

Ayon kay Angara, napakahalaga ng nakatak-dang pagtaas ng pondo sa susunod na taon matapos

on. Kaya panahon na para hindi lang basta mag-ayos, kundi magpatayo ng mga paaralan nang mas matibay at mas matalino,” ani Angara, na binigyang-di-in na isusulong ng DepEd ang mas napapanahong pagtingin sa disaster rehabilitation sa sektor ng edukasyon.

Sa bersiyon ng Senado ng 2026 General Appropriations Bill, na katakda sa PhP3.77 bilyon ang Disaster Preparedness and Response Program (DPRP) ng DepEd, isang



466.9% na pagangat mula sa PhP665.32 milyon sa 2026 National Expenditure Program (NEP). Layunin ng pondo na patatagin ang

kahandaan sa emergency at pabilisin ang pagkumpuni ng mga paaralang tinamaan ng kalamidad. Hindi pa pinal ang halaga at sasailalim pa sa aprubal ng bicameral conference committee.

Sinabi ng DepEd na nakabatay ang panukalang pondo sa serye ng mga repormang nakatutok sa disaster mitigation. Kamakailan lamang, in-adopt ng ahensya ang PlanSmart for Safe Schools web application para palakasin ang evidence-based contingency planning; ipinakilala ang M7X School Ready Program, na nagse-certify ng earthquake-ready schools sa kahabaan ng West Valley Fault; at inilathala ang Safer Learning Facilities Guidebook para itaguyod ang matatag at child-safe na disenyo ng paaralan.

Para suportahan ang tatuloy-tuloy na pagkatuto sa mga komunidad na tinamaan ng sakuna, pinalawak ng DepEd ang Dynamic Learning Program (DLP) at EduKahon kits upang matulungan ang mga paaralan na mabawi ang instructional time. Naghahanda rin ang Kagawaran na mag-deploy ng Learning Continuity Spaces (LCS), mga pre-

fabricated modular structures na mabilis itayo, sa mga lalawigang tulad ng Masbate, upang matiyak na magpapatuloy ang klase habang inaayos ang mga nasirang silid-aralan.

Umaasa rin ang DepEd sa malaking investment para sa Infrastructure for Safer and Resilient Schools (ISRS) Project, na may pondong PhP9.39 bilyon. Target ng programa ang matatag na rehabilitasyon ng mga paaralang sinalanta ng kalamidad sa pamamagitan ng pagpapatayo ng mga istrukturang kayang humarap sa mas malalakas na bagyo, pagbaha, at lindol. Mahigit 4,700 school buildings at 13,000 classrooms — na papakinabangan ng mahigit sa 740,000 mag-aaral — ang nakaplanong i-upgrade.

Ayon sa DepEd, ang ISRS Project, sa patuloy-tuloy na pagkatuto sa mga komunidad na tinamaan ng sakuna, ang pinsala kundi upang matiyak na mas malalagpasan ng mga narehabilitate na paaralan ang susunod pang mga emergency, dahil nagbibigay ito ng structural resilience na kailangan upang mapatol ang taunang cycle ng pinsala. Source: DepEd

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