

Experience Adrenaline-Fueled Activities in Cavite with MPT South

November 15, 2024 – Cavite came alive with excitement as Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) kicked off its inaugural Biyaheng South Adventure Tour. In collaboration with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG Region IV-A), Provincial Government of Cavite, Municipality of Mendez-Nuñez, and Municipality of Maragondon, this one-of-a-kind event showcased the province's most exhilarating activities and picturesque destinations made accessible through MPT South's expressways CAVITEX and CALAX.

A select group of lucky Ka-Biyaheros—energetic Gen Zs and millennials—were chosen through an online raffle hosted on the Biyaheng South Facebook page. Together with other travel influencers, the adventurers embarked on an unforgettable day packed with thrilling experiences and scenic wonders.



Adventure at Yoki's Farm

First Adventure: Animal Encounter and Eco-Tourism at Yoki's Farm

Less than two hours away from Metro Manila via CAVITEX, the adventurers went on their first adventure: an animal encounter at Yoki's farm.

Yoki's Farm is a unique ecotourism destination located in Mendez-Nuñez, Cavite. Adventurers were treated to a guided zoo tour where they interacted with a variety of animals, such as delightful rabbits, unique



Animal encounter at Yoki's farm

birds, exotic zebras, and more. Definitely an enjoyable experience, especially for animal lovers. Overall, Yoki's Farm served as both an educational and recreational spot for the participants.



Adventure at Alegria del Rio, Maragondon River Cruise
Second Adventure: Lunch at Maragondon Balsa River Cruise

Off to another fun-filled destination, the group made their way to the serene

Maragondon Balsa River Cruise for lunch—just an hour away from Yoki's Farm—where they were treated to a unique and memorable dining experience. As the balsa gently floated along the calm river, the participants immersed themselves in the natural beauty of their surroundings, allowing everyone to unwind and connect with one another.



Adventure at Paraiso de June Quixote



ATV in action at Paraiso de June Quixote

Third Adventure: Enjoying the Engaging Activities at Paraiso de June Quixote

In the afternoon, the day was packed with exhilarating activities at Paraiso de June Quixote. Paraiso de June Quixote, also in Maragondon, Cavite, is a must-visit destination just less than two hours away from Metro Manila via CAVITEX. With its charming landscapes and adrenaline-pumping experiences, Paraiso de June Quixote provides an unforgettable escape for adventure seekers and nature lovers alike.

Here, our ka-biyaheros got to experience the thrill of riding a zip bike, soaring through the air on a zipline, and taking a more rugged adventure on ATVs along scenic trails. For those who sought unique experiences, the place offered what they called a Cavite Swing, where the guest got to sit on a swing at the edge of a cliff and enjoy the breathtaking views of the surroundings.

Why We Do This

Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management of MPT South, stated, "Highlighting the Cavite's adventure destinations is beyond tourism; it's about creating lasting impressions and connections. These tours enable us to show how accessible and rewarding these experiences can be. It's an opportunity to not only promote local attractions but also to support sustainable tourism. By introducing these exciting outdoor experiences, we're helping to redefine what the South can offer to tourists while also fostering a more connected community."

The "Tara, Adventure Tayo sa Cavite!" is part of MPT South's continued commitment to promoting tourism in Southern Luzon. Following the success of Biyaheng South Food Crawl and Biyaheng South Photo Walk Tour showcasing the unique flavors and rich history of Cavite, the adventure tour caters to a younger, thrill-seeking audience, allowing them to explore exhilarating attractions; this demonstrates that Cavite is an ideal destination for those looking for excitement alongside culture and history.

About Biyaheng South

Biyaheng South is MPT South's tourism advocacy program that has made a significant impact by promoting its toll road networks, particularly CAVITEX, its C5 Link segment, and CALAX, as gateways to the tourist destinations of Southern Luzon. The program demonstrates how infrastructure not only can improve connectivity but also can serve as a catalyst for regional economic growth through tourism promotion.

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the infrastructure arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).



The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money

Vol. I - Series 21 - Dec. 08-14, 2024

City of Calamba Receives Silver Award at the 2024 Manila Bay P. 02 Day Ceremony



Mayor Roseller "Ross" Rizal Distributes Scholarship Grants to Over 2,000 Students in Calamba



Calamba City, Laguna — Mayor Roseller "Ross" Rizal led the distribution of financial assistance under the "Iskolar Ni Rizal" program on December 6, 2024, held at Jose Rizal Coliseum, Calamba City, Laguna. The initiative provides Php5,000 in educational assistance per semester to qualified college students, ensuring continuous support for their studies over a four-year period.

With more than 2,000 scholars now benefiting from the program, Mayor Rizal emphasized the administration's commitment to accessible education as a cornerstone of progress. The mayor expressed his belief that investing in education creates opportunities for a brighter future, not just for individual students but for the entire community.

"This is a testament to our belief in the youth as the hope of the nation. Through the CalamBAGONG Pamahalaan, we are building a better future for the next generations," Mayor Rizal said.

The program is a part of the city's "Ramdam Na Reporma," a platform centered on inclusive and transformative governance. Beneficiaries of the scholarship expressed gratitude for the continued assistance, highlighting how the program eases their financial burdens and allows them to focus on academic excellence.

As Calamba City continues to invest in its youth, Mayor Rizal called for unity and perseverance, reaffirming his administration's dedication to serving the needs of its constituents.

For updates on the "Iskolar Ni Rizal" program and other city initiatives, visit the official Calamba City government page.

Cayetano reiterates call for a Philippine Anti-Scam Center

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Monday reiterated his call for the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to establish the country's own Anti-Scam Center to address the growing problem of scams.



continuation on page 2

Senator Pia Cayetano Urges Vice Mayors to Champion Innovation and Sustainability in Local Governance



December 5, 2024 – Senator Pia Cayetano underscored the importance of forward-thinking leadership during her address to the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines at their 4th Quarter 2024 National Executive Board Meeting. Speaking to the country's local leaders, Cayetano emphasized the need for continuous learning, sustainable development, and proactive approaches to meet the challenges of modern governance.

continuation on page 2

DTI destroys PHP 740K substandard re-rolled bars in Cavite

Editorial MENSASHE NI SECRETARY CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY, PARA SA 18-ARAW NA KAMPANYA SA VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (VAW) AT SA LAHAT NG URI NG GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

25 November - 12 December 2024 Isang mapayapa at makatarungang pagtalima sa ating pinaigting na kampanya upang wakasan ang karahasan at diskriminasyon laban sa mga kababaihan! With the theme of this year's campaign, "VAW: Bigyang-Wakas, Ngayon na ang Oras!", the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) enjoins all Filipinos to fully support and actively take part in the nation's 18-Day Campaign to End Violence Against Women and all forms of Gender-Based Violence. This campaign goes beyond a mere slogan; it is a collective movement that symbolizes the country's relentless pursuit to create a safe haven for every Filipino woman - in all their diverse and intersecting identities - especially those who are victims, survivors, and vulnerable to gender-based discrimination and violence. For over three decades, OPAPRU has been at the forefront of fostering peace and inclusivity. This commitment extends to ensuring that women, particularly those in conflict-affected and conflict-vulnerable areas, are not just protected but are also empowered to thrive. By embedding gender and development (GAD) in every policy, program, and initiatives we undertake, we aim to break down systemic barriers and provide platforms for women to claim their rightful place as agents of change and nation-building. As we embark on this year's campaign, let us honor the courage of survivors, amplify the voices of advocates, and inspire action in every household, community, and institution. This is the time that we unite and act decisively to bring an end to the injustices that have long plagued our women. At para sa mga nakakaranas ng pang-aabuso, hindi kayo nag-iisa, at hindi ninyo kasalanan ang inyong kasalukuyang kinalalagyan, kasama ninyo ang OPAPRU. Kinikilala ng OPAPRU ang makahulugang kontribusyon at partisipasyon ng bawat mamamayang Pilipino upang mas mapaigting pa ang mga inisyatibong ipinaglalaban ang karapatang pantao, at ang kapakanan ng ating mga mahal na kababaihang Pilipino. Magkaisa at magtulungan po tayong lahat upang isulong at makamit ang ating iisang adhikain - ang bumuo ng isang mapayapa, makatao, at inklusibong Bagong Pilipinas. Maraming salamat at mabuhay po tayong lahat! SECRETARY CARLITO G. GALVEZ, JR. Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity

SENATOR PIA... FROM PAGE 1

Drawing from her tenure as the first Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, the Senator urged vice mayors to integrate futures thinking into their strategies. She highlighted the transformative potential of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, which she described as essential tools for equipping communities to navigate the complexities of a rapidly evolving world. Currently the Chairperson of the Senate Energy Committee, Senator Cayetano also spotlighted the recent passage of the Natural Gas Bill on its third reading in the Senate. She hailed the bill as a pivotal step in advancing indigenous gas exploration and ensuring reliable energy infrastructure. These, she said, are critical components of

Cayetano... FROM PAGE 1

This proposal came during the Senate plenary deliberations on the DICT's proposed 2025 budget on November 20, 2024 where Cayetano emphasized the urgency of creating such a center. "Go to Singapore and Hong Kong because they have anti-scam centers na in one office, nandoon na y'ung pulis, y'ung mga IT personnel, at y'ung mga bangko," he said in a manifestation. Singapore's Anti-Scam Command (AS-Com), which became operational in March 2022, centralizes efforts in scam investigation, incident response, enforcement, and analysis, with all functions coordinated under one entity. Hoping to replicate these systematic efforts in the Philippines, Cayetano urged DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy to take steps toward establishing a similar center. "May I bring that up to you na sana next budget, next year, mayron na tayong sariling anti-scam center na baka pwede ninyong pangunahan," he said. PR

Silver Award... FROM PAGE 1

PANALO MULI TAYO MGA CALAM-BENO!" ("ANOTHER WIN FOR US, CALAM-BENOS!") This was the enthusiastic statement of Mayor Ross Rizal as the Local Government of Calamba was honored with the Silver Award during the 2024 Manila Bay Day Awarding Ceremony of the Manila Bay Clean Up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MBCRPP). This prestigious recognition highlights Calamba's dedication to environmental protection and sustainability, earning the city the distinction of being the 3rd in Laguna with the highest compliance rate in caring for the environment. Mayor Rizal emphasized that this achievement is not just for the local government but for every Calambeño. "This honor is dedicated to all of you. It is a testament that together, we can protect and preserve our natural environment for future generations, (Alay ko po sa inyo ang karangalang ito, mga Calambeños!) the Mayor stated. The Manila Bay Clean Up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program is part of a nationwide initiative to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of Manila Bay and its surrounding areas. Calamba's recognition serves as an inspiration to further strengthen environmental programs within the city. The local government remains committed to promoting projects that enhance the environment and improve the quality of life for all Calambeños. (Edjun Mariposque)



DERETSAHAN WEEKLY PUBLISHING The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money Editorial Office Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1 Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite Mobile No. ----- 09365035056 Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com EDITORIAL BOARD Publisher : Nelson A. Dimapilis Editor-in-chief : Kevin Pamatmat Editor : Sol Luzano Marketing Manager : Pau Dela Cruz Circulation Manager : Christina Mercado Lay Out Artist : Danica vMae G. Cardino ADVERTISING RATES COMMERCIAL ----- P200/col.cm LEGAL/NOTICES ----- P160/col.cm Font Size: Heading : 10 Body Text : 8 Space : Single space

THE BITTERSWEET TASTE OF LIFE

Life is full of tests and challenges that can make or break you. It is either you leave that path or you live it. Residing in Tuguegarao City, Catherine Alejo found her life to be challenging to live yet she perseveres. At the age of six, she became an orphan. Throughout her childhood, she longed for her parents' love and care. She was the third of four siblings. Their eldest was just ten when they became orphans, which made their struggles worse. They grew up without a permanent guardian, relying on whoever relative was willing to take them in. Born in Amulung East, she chose to work as a housekeeper in Tuguegarao City after finishing elementary school, as pursuing her basic education became less of a priority. She married at a young age, hoping her burden would be lighter with someone to lean on. Fortunately, they inherited a boarding house from her mother-in-law, which became their source of income. To add to their income, she also sold snacks in front of the boarding house from 1993 to 2004, such as banana cue, lumpiang gulay, and turon. In 2005, she stopped selling snacks and became a caregiver instead. Given her strong interest in business, she decided to try making polvoron in 2010. However, she could not get the recipe right, so she switched to making pastillas. There were numerous trials and errors, but unlike in polvoron, she did not give up until she made the pastillas recipe that would satisfy her. She started giving free taste to customers as part of her marketing strategy. Although her business was gradually rising, her relationship with her previous partner started to crumble, and they separated. Then she met her new partner, who helped her open a small sari-sari



Catherine Alejo found a sweet way to earn an income by selling delicious pastillas in Tuguegarao City.

store. The business was doing well until she was forced to take a slight break when the pandemic hit in 2020. Post-pandemic, when she started over again. By 2021, due to her hard work and the quality of her pastillas, she had acquired more customers, and she even established a brand name for her pastillas, "Cathy's special pastillas". One challenge she encountered in managing her business was the lack of capital, particularly when she had a high volume of orders. This is why she was thankful to learn about CARD, Inc. from her child, who was also a client of the institution for nearly three years. In 2023, Catherine became a client of CARD, Inc. She uses her initial loan of PHP 10,000.00 as additional capital for her pastillas business and sari-sari store. Currently, she has a PHP 20,000.00 loan from the institution, which she also uses for the capital of her businesses. "It has only been a year since I became a client of CARD, Inc., but I am positive that I will continue to become a client in the years to come, especially now that I have experienced the products that they offer, such as business loans, to someone like me who lacks sufficient capital for business," she stated. She also acquired a second-hand motorcycle from her loan, which she utilizes to deliver her pastillas to customers. "Right now, I just want my business to grow more because, aside from being my source of income, it has also become a hobby," she concluded.



SEN. BONG GO HIGHLIGHTS LAGUNA'S GROWING NETWORK OF SUPER HEALTH CENTERS AMID EMERGENCY LANDING



Laguna, Philippines — Senator Bong Go remained steadfast in his commitment to public service despite an emergency helicopter landing in Piliilla, Rizal, en route to Mabitac for the inauguration of a new Super Health Center (SHC). Unable to attend physically, the senator addressed attendees through a voice call, projected live during the ceremony. During his speech, Go reiterated the importance of SHCs in ensuring accessible healthcare for all Filipinos, especially in underserved areas. He emphasized that these facilities are instrumental in providing services such as diagnostics, minor surgeries, outpatient care, dental services, and telemedicine, significantly reducing the burden on larger hospitals. The newly inaugurated SHC in Mabitac is part of a broader initiative that includes 13 SHCs in Laguna. The locations of these centers include Calamba, Alaminos, Biñan, Cabuyao, Mabitac, San Pedro, Los Baños, Calauan, San Pablo, Santa Maria, Nagcarlan, Pila, and Santa Rosa. Each facility serves as a medium-sized polyclinic, bridging the gap in healthcare access for rural and urban communities alike. Senator Go expressed his gratitude for their safety during the emergency landing, sharing his belief in divine protection for those with noble intentions. "Kapag maganda ang layunin, hindi ka pababayaang ng Diyos," he said. He reaffirmed his commitment to initiatives like SHCs and Malasakit Centers, which provide integrated medical and financial assistance through a one-stop-shop setup. Local officials and residents lauded the senator's dedication, noting how these SHCs align with the government's universal healthcare goals. The Mabitac SHC is expected to significantly improve the quality of life for residents, offering essential healthcare services closer to home. (Edjun Mariposque)

491 INB at ABC grantees, tumanggap P10K financial assistance mula sa Biñan LGU



LAGUNA- Pawang tumanggap ng P10,000 financial assistance mula sa City Government of Biñan ang 485 Iskolar ng Biñan at Artista at Atletang Biñanense College (ABC) grantees mula sa PUP-Biñan Campus ngayong araw, ika-6 ng Disyembre 2024
Ipinamahagi ang financial assistance sa tulong ni Vice Mayor GEL Alonte, katuwang ang City Education ng Binan. Bininyang diin nito na ang pagpapatuloy ng naturang programa ay para sa mga kabataang Biñanense na nagsusumikap sa kanilang pag-aaral.
Ayonnaman kay City Education Officer Edmil Recibe, ang pondo ng programang ito ay mula sa buwis o sa mga taxpayers ng Biñan. Kung kaya naman mahigpit nilang ipinatutupad ang mga pamantayan ng programa at ng paaralan. (Kevin Pamamat)

DOST-CALABARZON LAUNCHES 3-DAY ISTART CAPACITY BUILDING TO EMPOWER REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL STAFF



December 3-5, 2024
DOST-CALABARZON LAUNCHES 3-DAY ISTART CAPACITY BUILDING TO EMPOWER REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL STAFF
Monte Vista Hostsprings & Conference Resort, Calamba City, Laguna

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON brought together heads and staff for a 3-day workshop that aims to capacitate its Provincial Science Technology Offices (PSTOs) and various units in the regional office in implementing the Innovation, Science, and Technology Accelerating Regional Technology-Based Development (iSTART).
This workshop is set to happen from December 3-5, 2024 at the Monte Vista Hostsprings & Conference Resort, Calamba City, Laguna.
The event marks the start of Phase 2 of the iSTART project, which focuses on equipping the participants with STI-based tools and strategies needed to guide LGUs in crafting development plans, particularly the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP).

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DOSTph DOST.ph DOSTphl
DOSTPhilippines www.dost.gov.ph

Pointer Pau Dela Cruz SUPPORT FOR RESETTling THE BARMM ELECTIONS IS PLEDGED BY BARMM STAKEHOLDERS.

"The Bangsamoro peace process will always include Sulu, whether or not they are a part of the BARMM." Following the Supreme Court's final ruling to remove the island province of Sulu from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Presidential Peace Adviser Carlito G. Galvez, Jr. gave this assurance on Wednesday, November 28.
Galvez made the remarks during the second day of the House of Representatives Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reform's hearing on the proposal to reset the BARMM's first parliamentary elections from May 2025 to May 2026.
"The role of the Tausug people in sparking the Bangsamoro people's quest for self-determination is an undeniable part of the Bangsamoro's history," he said.

Secretary of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) Peace Coordinating Committee, emphasized the need for more time "to educate the voters."
"How can we say they will be able to choose the leaders that they truly want, that would truly represent their interests, when they don't even know what they will be voting for," Lim told the members of the House Committee.
She stated: "We strongly support the election simply because we need to give back to the people."
Deputy BTA Parliament Speaker Omar Yasser Sema echoed Ebrahim's views, saying, "We fully support the Chief Minister's position where the GPH (Government of the Philippines) and the Bangsamoro government can meet," to discuss the deferment of the BARMM elections.

"The dividends of peace being enjoyed by Bangsamoro provinces will likewise be felt by neighboring areas, including the province of Sulu," Galvez added.
In a position paper read online by BARMM Chief Minister Ahod Balawag Ebrahim during the hearing, he shared that the BTA adopted Resolution Number 505, requesting both houses of Congress "to extend the transition period from 2025 to 2028."
He explained that postponing the first regular Parliamentary election in the BARMM will give the Bangsamoro government sufficient time to resolve legal issues resulting from the Supreme Court's decision to exclude the province of Sulu from the Bangsamoro region.
"The BTA remains committed to fulfill its functions during the transition period, including enacting legislations that serve as the foundation for establishing a meaningful system of self-governance - one that aligns with the Constitution and respects national sovereignty," Ebrahim said.

Nur-Ainee Tan Lim, Deputy Minister of the BARMM's Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) and Head of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) should continue to lead the Bangsamoro government "because we honor the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)."
Atty. Randolph Parcasio, spokesperson of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) founder and a member of the BTA, highlighted the significance of the upcoming BARMM elections in sustaining the gains of peace and development in the Bangsamoro.
"We recognize the significance of the upcoming first Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) parliamentary elections, and the critical role this election plays in our pursuit of lasting peace and governance," Parcasio said.
"We recognize the BARMM as a critical and partial implementation of the 1996 peace agreement. The MNLF reaffirms its solidarity with the MILF, united in our shared mission to uplift and serve our people," Parcasio said.
"At this juncture, a postponement is not merely a preference; it is a necessity," Parcasio said.

He pointed out that should there be a postponement of the elections, the MNLF believes that the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) should continue to lead the Bangsamoro government "because we honor the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro (CAB)."

PUBLISHER CORNER NAG NAKAW NG TUYO KULONG, NAG NAKAW NG MILLIONES ELECTED

Isang masakit na katotohanan at aminin natin na ang batas ay para lang sa mahihirap, bakit ka nyo? Ang isang Juan Dela Cruz na sadlak sa kahirapan ay nahuli na nag nakaw ng tuyo na isda para ma ipaulam sa kanyang mga anak ay na huli agad pina kulong, pero ang mga ibang mga Congressman at Congresswoman at ang iba ay sa Senado million ang mga ninanakaw na halal pa at di nakukulong ang mga ito, nasan ang ating hustisya na parang bulag pag dating sa ang mag nanakaw ay nasa Gobyerno.
Hindi ba pwede na gumawa ang mga mang babatas na hindi makakabili ng mga relo na MILLIONES, mga bag na mamahalin, hindi ba makakagawa ng batas ang isang mambabatas kung hindi 19 Million ang halaga ng kanilang sasakyan kailangan ba talaga 50k ang halaga ng damit na gagamitin sa session ng mga Mang Babatas, ang kakapal ng mukha nyo na ang luho nyo sa pang sarili nyo ay kukunin nyo sa buwis ng taong bayan sana kunin na Lord ang mga ganitong uri ng Lingkod Bayan.

Hindi naman lahat ay ganyan pero halos ganito na ang kalakaran. Sabi nga ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan, paano magiging pag-asa ng bayan ang kabataan kung MISMO nasa congress ang nag tuturo sa kabataan para magalit sa gobyerno, paano magiging pag-asa ng bayan kung Sila ay magagamit para humawag ng armas at mamundok dahil sa mga maling paghikayat ng ibang nasa gobyerno na membro na Ng NPA bayan kayo na humusga. Malapit na Naman Ang halalan walang bukung bigbay ang ibang mga pulitiko kundi na laban Sila para sa mahihirap, ilang taon na Ang lumipas pero mahirap parin Ang sinasabi nyo na tutulongan maitaas ang antas ng kanilang pa mumuhay masakit isipin ito ang katotohanan ang mga politiko wala talaga programa sila sa mahihirap.

DTI DESTROYS... FROM PAGE 1

Cavite, Philippines—The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ordered the destruction of PHP 737,000.00 worth of substandard steel products in Trece Martires City to prevent its sale in the local market.
The destroyed bars were 5,000 pieces of Grade 170 – 6 mm and 8,000 pieces of Grade 170 – 7 mm substandard re-rolled bars. These were reduced to random lengths of less than 6 meters using hydraulic and oxy-fuel cutters and will be re-processed as scrap.
With this destruction, Secretary Roque declared, "We will not tolerate those who compromise the safety and well-being of our citizens for profit."
"This firm action against substandard steel products underscores our resolve to protect lives and foster a business environment that prioritizes consumer welfare and responsible manufacturing across the country," the DTI chief expressed.

The DTI-Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS) witnessed the destruction 13,000 pieces of substandard re-rolled steel bars. These bars failed to meet the minimum technical requirements set out in Philippine National Standards (PNS) 211:2002, which governs re-rolled steel bars used in concrete reinforcement.
"To strengthen our efforts in ensuring the safety and durability of Filipino homes, we urge consumers to always look for the ICC sticker or PS mark when purchasing products for those products regulated by DTI-BPS," said Assistant Secretary Uvero.
The activity was spearheaded by DTI-BPS, which serves as the National Standards Body of the Philippines, established on 20 June 1964 through Republic Act 4109, also known as the Standards Law. With a mandate to develop, promulgate, and implement standards, the DTI-BPS promotes standardization activities and ensures the manufacture, production, and distribution of quality products.
For more updates and information on standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures, please visit the BPS website at www.bps.dti.gov.ph or email inquiries to bps@dti.gov.ph.

Further, Fair Trade Group (FTG) Supervising Head and Assistant Secretary Agaton Teodoro O. Uvero encouraged consumers to be vigilant and

AGRICULTOUR UPANG IPAKITA ANG MGA MAKABAGONG TEKNOLOHIYA NG EXPERIMENT STATION SA RIZAL NG DA-4A, ISINAGAWA



Pinangunahan ng kinatawan ni Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. na si Undersecretary for DA Inspectorate and Enforcement Atty. Alvin John Balagbag at DA IV- CALABARZON (DA-4A) Regional Executive Director Fidel Libao ang pagsasagawa ng "Agri-CoolTour" ng Rizal Agricultural Research and Experiment Station (RARES) noong ika-22 ng Nobyembre sa Tanay, Rizal.

Layon ng Agri-CoolTour na ipakita ang mga natatanging inobasyon ng isa sa mga tanggapan ng Kagawaran tampok ang mga makabagong teknolohiya gaya ng produksyon ng organikong pataba, rice paddy art, pagtatanim ng strawberry, pagpapatubo ng mais at kamote, paglinang ng digital farming sa pamamagitan ng Smart Greenhouse Project, at marami pang iba.

GINTONG PARANGAL



Tumanggap ng Gintong Parangal ang bayan ng Majayjay sa pangunguna ni Mayor Romeo P. Amorado ngayon ika-2 ng Disyembre .Bahagi ito ng 2023 LGU Compliance Assessment under the Manila Bay Clean-Up , Rehabilitation and Preservation Program (MBCRPP)na nagtala ang bayan ng Majayjay Laguna ng 93.04 na porsyento bilang habagi ng pagtulong sa paglilinis ng kapaligiran para sa maliwalas na Manila Bay .(Kevin Pamatmat)

Go Negosyo Begins Search for outstanding OFW-Entreps



Go Negosyo Balik-Bayan 2023 Awardees

OFWs who have successfully founded their own businesses here in the Philippines are being encouraged to share their entrepreneurship journey via the 2024 Inspiring Balik-Bayan Awards. The annual award is organized by Go Negosyo to recognize the contributions of OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers), share their success stories, celebrate the achievements of OFWs-turned-entrepreneurs, and foster entrepreneurial aspirations among current OFWs.

The awards will be given out during the Balik-Bayan 2024 on December 7, 2024 at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. Organized by Go Negosyo, Balik-Bayan 2024 will feature informative discussions with industry leaders, inspirational and learning sessions featuring successful entrepreneurs, and free onsite mentorship sessions where OFWs and their families can consult with Go Negosyo mentors about their current or planned businesses.

"Balik-Bayan 2024 is a platform to provide business opportunities and foster investment matches for OFWs, encouraging them toward entrepreneurship and ensuring that their hard work and resources are put to productive and profitable use," said Joey Concepcion, founder of Go Negosyo.

Last year, 13 OFW-turned-entrepreneurs and their families were given the Inspiring Balik-Bayan Award in special categories, including Inspiring Balik-Bayan-Turned-Entrepreneur, Inspiring Balik-Bayan-Turned-Influencer, Inspiring Balik-Bayan Creative Artist, and a special award for Inspiring Balik-Bayan Family. They included agripreneurs, restaurant owners, health and beauty entrepreneurs, as well as creatives.



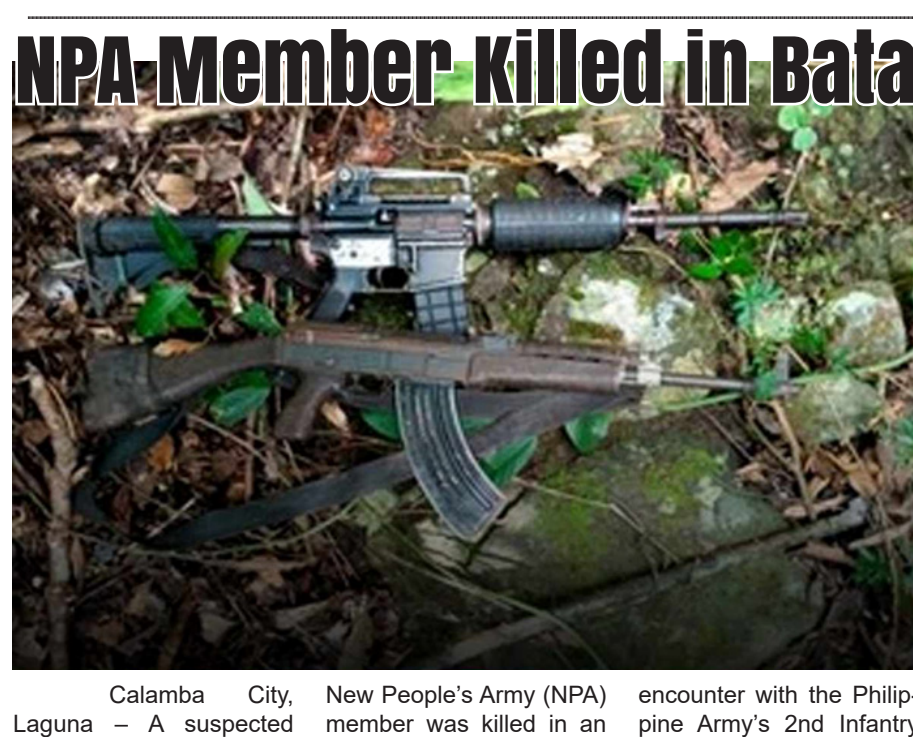
"I would like to think that 'Balik-Bayan' extends beyond the usual Tagalog term that refers to overseas Filipinos returning to their homeland," said Concepcion. "It is also

Pamaskong Handog 2024: Mayor Ross Rizal Bringing Joy and Love to Every Calambeño Family



Calamba City — The holiday spirit is officially here! On December 1, 2024, we kicked off Pamaskong Handog 2024, a special Christmas initiative led by Mayor Ross Rizal, Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro, Congresswoman Cha Hernandez, and the entire City Council.

"Hindi lang ramdam ang Pasako-PASKONG PASKO TALAGA" Truly Christmas in Calamba, this program aims to bring compassion, love, and joy to every Calambeño family this festive season. According to Mayor Ross, the true essence of Christmas is reflected in generosity, unity, and care for one another.



Calamba City, Laguna – A suspected New People's Army (NPA) member was killed in an encounter with the Philippine Army's 2nd Infantry



Christmas Blessings for Every Barangay Team CalambAGO has started distributing Pamaskong Handog across various barangays. The gifts include food packs, presents, and other forms of support to spread cheer and ensure every family feels the warmth of Christmas. Mayor Ross and his team are committed to making this season extra special for all Calambefios.

Watch Out for Team CalambAGO The distribution of blessings will continue in all barangays. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned for the schedule in their area and join this joyous and meaningful celebration.

Once again, under the leadership of Mayor Ross Rizal and Team CalambAGO, Calamba proves that Christmas here is vibrant, heartfelt, and truly a season to cherish. Merry Christmas, Everyone! (Edjun Mariposque)

NPA-Member Killed in Batangas Clash with Army's 2ID

(Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) in Barangay Balibago, Lobo, Batangas, on Wednesday, December 4. Troops from the 59th Infantry Battalion, under the 202nd Infantry Brigade, were conducting routine security patrols when they were ambushed by armed rebels, prompting a 20-minute firefight. The rebels fled the scene, leaving behind the body of an NPA member identified as Rey Delos Santos, also known by his aliases "Japeth," "Roy," and "Ren." One soldier sustained minor injuries during the clash.

The Army recovered two high-powered firearms, two anti-personnel mines, and a magazine from the encounter site. Maj. Gen. Cerilo Balaoro Jr., Commander of the 2ID, expressed regret over the loss of life but reaffirmed the Army's commitment to peace and security. "While the soldiers do not rejoice in the deaths of our fellow Filipinos, we have a solemn duty to uphold peace, protect our people, and enforce the rule of law," he said.

NPA members to surrender and avail themselves of the government's Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration Program (E-CLIP), which offers financial and livelihood assistance to former rebels. "This is another step toward weakening the dwindling presence of terrorists in Batangas," said a former rebel now assisting the government in its peace campaign. The Army assured the public of its continued efforts to ensure the safety and development of communities across Southern Tagalog and nearby regions. (Edjun Mariposque)