

MPTC to Fortify Efforts in Promoting Safer Roads for Children

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) continues its commitment to promoting sustainable and inclusive growth through its tollway operations by integrating child rights and road safety into its core initiatives.

Over the years, its business units — NLEX, MPT South, CCLEC, and MPT Mobility — have launched impactful programs, educational campaigns, and partnerships aimed at fostering a brighter future for young generations.

"As a company and as individuals dedicated to fostering economic and social development



Group's road safety efforts, NLEX Corporation launched a picture book titled "Ang Bida ng Kalasada" at the National Library of the Philippines to educate young minds on the values of responsible road usage. Featuring engaging stories and illustrations, the book aims to teach children about road safety. NLEX Corp. has distributed 2,000 copies to Grades 3-6 students in 20 public schools within its host communities and to other organizations.

MPT South also launched an updated version of its "Bayani ng Kalasada" (Bayani Ka) book that teaches kids about road signs and familiarizes them with road safety, both

in and out of expressways. The book has reached over 1,000 students, with over 420 copies of the updated book donated to participating schools, various libraries, and institutions.

On November 20, MPTC lit several of its key structures in blue to demonstrate its commitment to creating safer roads for children in celebration of World Children's Day. These structures included NLEX Corporation's headquarters in Balintawak, Caloocan; the NLEX Drive and Dine motorists' rest stop in Valenzuela; MPT South's LEED Gold-Certified South Hub in Imus City, Cavite; and the iconic Ce-

bu-Cordova Link Expressway in Cebu.

As part of this initiative, MPTC also echoed the message of this year's World Children's Day by utilizing its expressway network assets through billboards that promote road safety for children and highlighting its shared commitment to provide a safer and empowered future for them. This message was also replicated on its online channels with the help of its business units.

MPTC took a significant stride this year to further integrate Child Rights and Business Principles (CRBP) across its organization and reinforce its commitment to child

rights and safety. The company held a four-day workshop in partnership with the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC), with key representatives from its sister companies PLDT Inc. and Smart Communications, Inc. To fortify its efforts, the organization is also preparing for its initiative to conduct a Child Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) in 2025.

MPTC Group's campaigns on child road safety have been recognized by numerous organizations, including the Department of Health's Healthy Pilipinas Gold Award, the Asia CEO Awards, and the prestigious ESG Business Awards 2024.

In line with MPTC



Nakiisa ang lokal na pamahalaan ng Las Piñas sa simultaneous gift-giving ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na 'Balik Sigla, Bigay Saya' na isinagawa ngayong araw sa lungsod.

Pinangunahan nina Mayor Mel Aguilar at Vice Mayor April Aguilar ang pamamahagi ng maagang pamasko sa kabataang Las Piñero.

Tinatayang nasa 1,500 kabataan at kanilang mga magulang ang nakisaya sa Verdant Covered Court sa Pamplona Tres, Las Piñas City. (Nelson Dimapilis)



Vol. I - Series 22 - Dec. 15-21, 2024

LAPID, NANANATILI SA MAGIC 12 SA SENATORIAL SURVEY

Mayor Ross Rizal Expresses Gratitude and Holiday Greetings During P.2 Calamba City Hall General Assembly



Cayetano eyes better FOI process



Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday called for a review of the implementation of Executive Order (EO) No. 2 on Freedom of Information (FOI) to address persistent challenges in accessing government data and communicating critical issues effectively to the public.

Speaking at a meet-and-greet with Radio Mindanao Network (RMN) station managers on November 27, 2024, Cayetano proposed filing a resolution to assess and enhance the EO on FOI.

This after the station managers noted to the senator that despite the enactment of FOI, it was still difficult to compel transparency from government offices. In response, Cayetano emphasized the need to revisit the FOI EO.

"I'll file a resolution. Since Ate Pia (Senator Pia Cayetano) is the chairperson of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, let's look into the implementation of the law."

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is responsible for investigating accountability in government and ensuring that laws and executive orders are properly implemented.

Cayetano added that reviewing the FOI EO under this committee would strengthen efforts to promote transparency, good governance, and public trust.

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Brigadier General Domingo R. Tucay AFP, served as the first Commanding General of the 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division from 01 February 1970 to 01 April 1970, laying its foundation at Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City, before relocating to its permanent home at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal

THROWBACK THURSDAY | Today, we honor a historic milestone in the proud legacy of the 2nd Infantry "Jungle Fighter" Division. Brigadier General Domingo R. Tucay AFP, the first Commanding General, served from 01 February 1970 to 01 April 1970, spearheading its foundation at Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City.

With the invaluable support of guerilla hero Col. Marcos Villa Agustin (Marking), the brigade's headquarters was relocated to its enduring home at Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal. This moment began a legacy of patriotism, resilience, and unwavering commitment to service.

As we look back, we celebrate Brig. Gen. Tucay's leadership and dedication inspire generations of Jungle Fighters in their mission to serve God and the country. (Nelson Dimapilis)

Editorial

MENSAHE 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

LAPID...

PATULOY sa pamamayagpag si Supremo Senador Lito Lapid sa pre-election Senatorial Preferential survey ng Tangere app sa buong bansa.

Sa nasabing survey, umabot sa 2,400 na kwalipikadong respondents ang tinanong noong November 6 hanggang November 9, 2024 kung sino ang kanilang iboboto kung ngayon gagawin ang eleksyon.

Ikinasa ang Tangere survey sa pamamagitan ng mobile application at stratified random sampling.

Nananatili si Sen. Lapid sa number 10 spot kung saan nakakuha sya ng 32 percent.

Sinabi ni Lapid na taus-puso syang nag-

MAYOR ROSS...

Calamba City, Laguna – December 2024 -- Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal addressed city hall officials and employees during the General Assembly held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, celebrating the remarkable achievements of Calamba City in 2024.

In his speech, Mayor Rizal extended heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the city's continued success. "Our shared efforts have resulted in numerous awards that solidify

Tip-off...

This recovery adds to the series of successful military operations across the province.

Last November 26, soldiers were able to recover war materiel at Barangay Malatap, while on November 30, an encounter between the government forces and the terrorist NPAs led to the seizure of another high-powered firearm at Barangay Dumagmag.

The 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) Commander, Maj. Gen. Cerilo Balaoro Jr. attributed this accomplishment to the growing trust and cooperation of the local community.

He emphasized

FROM PAGE 1

papasalamat sa mga kababayan nating patuloy ang pagtitiwala at pagmamahal sa kanya. Si Sen. Lapid ay isang beteranong lingkod bayan na nagsilbi ng mahigit 30 na taon bilang Bise Gobernador at Gobernador ng Pampanga at Senador.

"Maraming salamat po sa inyong pagtitiwala at pagmamahal. Hangad ko po na maipagpatuloy ang mga nasimulan na nyang mga programa para sa agrikultura, edukasyon, kalusugan, paglikha ng mga trabaho at pagtulong sa mga mahihirap. Ramdam ko po ang inyong kalagayan," diin ni Lapid na gumaganap na Supremo sa FPJ's Batang Quiapo.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

FROM PAGE 1

Calamba's reputation as a progressive, innovative, and people-centered city," he proudly stated.

Among the accolades received this year were commendations for outstanding governance, exemplary public service, and initiatives in economic development. These recognitions, according to Mayor Rizal, are a testament to the teamwork and dedication of city hall employees and the unwavering support of Calamba's residents.

To conclude the

FROM PAGE 6

the significance of the people's active role in rejecting the NPA's influence and supporting government forces in promoting peace and development.

"This success reflects the community's unwavering commitment to peace and rejection of the NPA's oppressive tactics," says Maj. Gen. Balaoro.



Cayetano...

In his message to the media, the senator acknowledged that while the FOI EO signed during the Duterte administration was a step forward, it still has significant gaps in implementation.

He also noted how changes in journalism have impacted efforts to ensure government transparency.

"Dati pag may scoop ka, you are rewarded. Ngayon, kahit may scoop ka, kung hindi napsansin ng tao [bale wala rin]. You have to lay the basis one brick at a time," he said.

The senator also emphasized how the rise of platforms like TikTok and the shorter attention spans of today's audience make it more challenging to convey complex issues.

"Nowadays, ang attention span kagaya sa TikTok, fifteen seconds, thirty seconds. Right now it's all elevator pitch," he said.

As an advocate

assembly on a festive note, Mayor Rizal greeted everyone with a warm Christmas message. "Let us celebrate this holiday season with love, joy, and gratitude for all the blessings we've received this year. May the spirit of Christmas inspire us to continue working together for the betterment of our

city."

The event, attended by hundreds of city employees, was filled with camaraderie and celebration, reflecting the strong sense of community that Calamba City nurtures under Mayor Ross Rizal's leadership.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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ADVERTISING RATES
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PRESS RELEASE



MAY SRI NA!

DBM SEC MINA PANGANDAMAN COMMENDS PBBM FOR APPROVING THE GRANT OF SRI FOR ALL GOVERNMENT WORKERS; SAYS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL TO GET 20K SRI

Calamba City, Laguna--December 13, 2024 --- Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amena "Mina" Pangandaman expressed her gratitude to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for signing Administrative Order (AO) No. 27, which authorizes the release of the Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) to all government employees for Fiscal Year 2024.

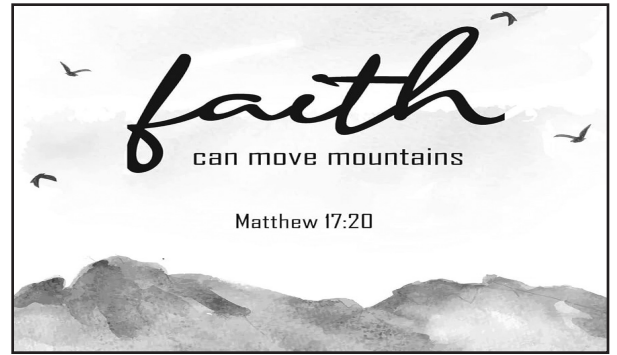
"We sincerely thank President Bongbong Marcos for approving this directive that provides SRI to all our public servants. This will surely serve as an early Christmas gift for them and their families, especially during the holiday season," Secretary Pangandaman said.

She further highlighted the historic increase in the SRI for public school teachers, who will now receive ₱20,000. "In 2022, it was ₱15,000, then ₱18,000 in 2023, and now ₱20,000. This demonstrates our collective recognition of the hard work and sacrifices of our teachers who serve

as second parents to our youth," she added.

The increase also benefits Military and Uniformed Personnel (MUP). According to Secretary Pangandaman, members of the PNP, AFP, BJMP, Bureau of Fire Protection, BuCor, Philippine Coast Guard, and NAMRIA will likewise receive the full ₱20,000. "This is a significant morale booster for our uniformed personnel," she noted.

The SRI covers all civilian personnel in national government agencies, including those in state universities and colleges (SUCs), Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), and employees in the legislative and judicial branches. Eligible employees must have rendered at least four months of satisfactory service as of November 30, 2024, to qualify.



PBBM Orders PNP to Bolster Child Protection, Cybercrime Defense, and Election Security



Calamba City, Laguna — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. directed the Philippine National Police (PNP) to intensify its efforts in child protection, cybercrime prevention, and election security during a high-level command conference held on December 12, 2024, at the PNP Multi-Purpose Center.

Highlighting key national security priorities, President Marcos emphasized the urgency of equipping the PNP with advanced training to combat cybercrime effectively, citing the escalating threats in the digital landscape. He also underscored the administration's zero-tolerance stance on crimes involving the exploitation of children, instructing the police to strengthen initiatives that protect the youth from all forms of abuse.

"As we advance towards a digital era, ensuring our police force is capable of addressing cybercrimes is non-negotiable. At the same time, we must stand firm in defending our children—the most vulnerable members of our society—from exploitation," said President Marcos.

The President also stressed the importance of peace and order during the holiday season, urging the PNP to focus on traveler safety, easing traffic congestion, and maintaining public order. Looking ahead to the 2025 National and Local Elections, President Marcos called for a robust campaign against illegal firearms and private armed groups to guarantee a secure and peaceful electoral process. He also reiterated his commitment to the anti-illegal drugs campaign through stronger inter-agency coordination.

PNP Chief Benjamin Marbil assured the President of the force's readiness to implement his directives. "The PNP remains steadfast in its mission to uphold peace and security. We are fully committed to addressing these priorities and ensuring the safety of all Filipinos," Marbil said.

The conference also coincided with the 2nd Joint National Peace and Order Council (NPOC) and Regional Peace and Order Councils (RPOCs) meeting, led by Interior Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla. The discussions focused on strengthening collaborative efforts to enhance peace and security nationwide.

President Marcos' comprehensive directives align with the administration's vision for a Bagong Pilipinas, reflecting a proactive approach to modern challenges in law enforcement and public safety. (Edjun Mariposque)

Vice Governor Karen Agapay Leads Relief Operations for 800 Families in Flooded Brgy. Dela Paz, Biñan City



Biñan City, Laguna – Despite the ongoing flooding in Brgy. Dela Paz, Biñan City, 800 families received immediate assistance through a relief operation spearheaded by Vice Governor Atty. Karen Agapay on December 12, 2024.

"Thank you, DSWD, for this early Christmas gift to them," said Vice Governor Agapay, known for her compassion and advocacy as the Kaagapay ng Masa.

The Barangay Council of Dela Paz and its residents expressed gratitude for the swift response from the local government and the coordinated efforts of various agencies to deliver much-needed aid.

This activity highlights the unity among Laguna's leaders in providing care and support to those in need, especially during times of calamity. (Edjun Mariposque)

DOST-CALABARZON HIGHLIGHTS ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE 18-DAY CAMPAIGN TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON marked the culmination of its involvement in the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (cVAW) with a Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) conducted during the Technology Adopters and Cooperators Summit 2024 hosted by DOST Batangas on December 11, at the Solana Events Center, Alangilan, Batangas City.

In line with the campaign's objectives, the DOST-CALABARZON Gender and Development (GAD) unit, with the help of GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) members, Mr. Mhark Ellgine A. Li-bao, Supervising Science Research Specialist, and Ms. Renalee M. Leyesa, Science Research Specialist II of DOST Batangas, facilitated the GST for the representatives from people's organization, association and cooper-

ative beneficiaries of the Community-Based Enterprise Local Grants-In Aid (LGA-CBP) and Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SET-UP) proponents in the province of Batangas. The training aimed to foster a deeper understanding of gender-related issues and promote a culture of inclusivity and respect within communities and workplaces.

Mr. Ristian Aldrin C. Calderon, DOST-CALABARZON GAD Secretariat served as the resource person. This was also attended by Ms. Felina C. Malabanan, DOST-Batangas Provincial Director and other DOST-CALABARZON staff.

A significant highlight of the GST was its emphasis on the 18-day Campaign to End VAW and the Safe Spaces Act, alongside other GAD mandates. Participants were engaged in discus-

sions on the roles they play in creating safe and equitable environments for all, as well as the practical steps they can take to address and prevent violence against women in their respective sectors.

This initiative underscores DOST-CALABARZON's commitment to integrating gender equality and women empowerment into its programs and services. By providing targeted support and capacity-building opportunities to cooperatives and MSMEs, the organization continues to contribute to the nationwide effort to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women. The successful conduct of this seminar not only capped off the region's activities for the campaign but also reinforced the agency's dedication to promoting gender-sensitive practices within its communities and partner organizations.

Tip-off leads to recovery of NPA arms cache in CamNor



CAMP CAPIN, Rizal - Only a few days after a series of encounters, a tip-off from concerned citizens led

government troops to an arms cache hidden by the terrorist NPA in Labo, Camarines Norte, Friday, December 6.

According to reports from the 201st Infantry Brigade, soldiers belonging to the 16th Infantry Battalion together with their police counterparts swiftly acted on reports from concerned villagers regarding the location of a terrorist arms cache at Barangay Dumagmang.

The troops were able to unearth two M16A1 rifles, 10 magazines, 131 rounds of live ammunition, and two bandoliers.

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PRESYO NG BIGAS PINAGKAKAISAHAN NG MGA IMPORTERS AT MGA TRADERS

Inimbestigahan ng mga mambabatas ang sabwatan umano ng rice importers at traders upang mapanatili mataas ang presyo ng bigas kahit na bumaba ang taripa na ipinapataw rito at mayroong oversupply.

Sa pagsisilip ng Murang Pagkain Super Committee, sinabi nina Marikina City Rep. Stella Qui-mbo at AGAP party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones na mayroong pattern ng hoarding, pagkakapareho ng may-ari ng mga kompanyang nag-aangkat ng bigas at pagnanais ng malaking kita.

Kung kaya naman inimbitahan ng komite ang 10 sa top importers sa bansa na kontrolado ang nasa 36 percent ng kabuuang inaangkat na bigas ng Pilipinas.

Kasama sa sampung (10) top importers ay ang Bly Agri Venture Trading, Atara Marketing Inc., Orison Free Enterprise Inc., Macman Rice and Corn Trading, King B Company, Sodatrade Corp., Lucky Buy and Sell, Vitram Marketing Inc., Nan Stu Agri Traders, at RBS Universal Grains Traders Corp.

Napuna naman ni AGAP Party-list Rep. Nicanor Briones na mukhang iisa lang ang may-ari ng RBS Universal Grains Trader Corp. at Sodatrade Corp.

Tinukoy ni Briones na nakakalungkot na sa kabila ng pinababang taripa sa imported na bigas, mas mababang presyo sa world market at mas mababang landed cost ay hindi pa rin bumaba ang presyo ng bigas sa pamilihan.

At mangyayari lang ito kung mayroon aniyang kartel at nag-sasabwatan.

Ayon kay Briones, "So naniniwala ako Mr. Chair na mayroong sabwatan. Kung makikita dito sa top 10 importers, Mr. Chair. Ang number five importer ay ang RBS Universal Grains Traders Corporation. Ang number nine is Soda Trade Corporation. 'Pag tingnan natin kung sino ang mga may-ari ng dalawang importer ay iisa ang may-ari. Ibig sabihin, dito pa lang malinaw na mayroong pwedeng mangyaring sabwatan."

Sinabi ni Quinta Committee co-chair Ferjanel Biron, na importers ang kumikita sa pinababang taripa at mas mababang landed cost. Ang P6 hanggang P7 na kabawasan sa presyo ng imported na bigas, dapat ay consumer ang nakikinabang at na sapat na itong dahilan para pumasok at umaksyon ang Philippine Competition Commission at mag-imbestiga.

"The cost per kilo has gone down by 6 to 7 pesos. That is the revenue that is lost by government. Dapat itong 6 to 7 pesos napapunta ito sa consumer... So ang nangyayari is nawalan na ng revenue ang gobyerno through BOC, binulsa pa ng mga importer ang 6 to 7 pesos. So hindi na kailangang director of PCC maghanap pa ng ebidensya. This is a clear proof that the importers are actually pocketing the 6 to 7 pesos that should have been transferred to the consumer," ni Biron.

Batay sa datos ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), sinabi ni Quimbo na mayroong diskonek ang kondisyon sa merkado at ang presyo ng bigas. Bagamat bumaba umano ang demand-supply ratio ng bigas mula 82.5% noong 2023 sa 69% noong 2024 ay isang pahiwatig na mayroong oversupply.

Strategic...

Development Academy of the Philippines Convention Center, Tagaytay City, Cavite. Layon ng aktibidad na matukoy ang mga estratehiya, polisiya, programa, at interbensyon sa tulong ng mga komunidad at lokal na pamahalaan upang mapalago at mapanatili ang urban agri.

Ang mga mungkahi ay nakatuon sa edukasyon, teknolohiya, regulasyon, at pakikilahok ng komunidad. Isinagawa rin ang pagsusuri sa mga ito upang tiyakin na ang mga benepisyaryo at pondo ay

naaayon. Dumalo sa aktibidad sina Regional Executive Director Fidel Libao; OIC Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension Engr. Redelliza Gruezo; NUPAP Focal Person at OIC Field Operations Division Chief G. Felix Joselito Noceda. Kabilang din ang ilang mga kinatawan ng DA-4A Research and Experiment

Stations, NUPAP Central Office, Provincial Agriculturists, at Agricultural Program Coordinating Offices.

Hinimok naman ni Laguna Provincial Agriculturist Marlon Tobias ang bawat LGU na magsagawa ng parehong inisyatibo upang mas mapalalim ang diskusyon sa urban agriculture sa kani-kanilang nasasakupan. PR



PUBLISHER CORNER



NAGULAT PA SILA!

It's Disastrous When Economists Plan In Air-Conditioned Offices!

On June 2, 2024, I posted a meme which warned government that reducing tariff on imported rice from 35% to only 15% will not benefit Filipino rice consumers.

Instead, it will only fatten the pockets of importers who belong to a cabal called the Rice Cartel and result in revenue losses estimated to be over P20-B every year.

I said that the projected lower price of rice in the market because of the tariff reduction will not happen because government does not have the mechanism to enforce lower rice prices.

In fact, I claimed that the measure would mean that the government will lose over P20-B in tariff collected from imported rice, a gargantuan amount which will go to the pockets of the rice importers and their allies and supporters in government.

In spite of this warning, an Executive Order was signed lowering the Rice Import Tariff, estimated at P42-B every year, from 35% to only 15%.

Now, the Economists who justified the tariff reduction are surprised that it did not reflect in lower rice prices.

Nagulat pa kayo?

Sinabi na nga na ibubulsa lang ng mga importer ang savings nila dahil sa tariff reduction (at siempre, may balato din ang mga Economists who justified the measure), ayaw pa din ninyo maniwala.

This is a perfect example of street economics being proven more reliable than economic plans crafted in the air-conditioned offices.

The challenge now is: What will our Economists do now?

Kung hindi ninyo ibalik sa 35% ang tariff, sa paningin ng taumbayan, may parte kayo sa mahigit P20-B na kinita ng Rice Cartel.

Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Calamba City in Earning Recognition

CONGRATULATIONS for Quality Youth Services



Calamba City – Under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, the City of Calamba has once again shone brightly in the field of social services as the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council honored the city for its outstanding contributions to the care and development of young children.

This historic recognition highlights the excellence of the city government, particularly the City Social Services Department (CSSD), in implementing programs aimed at nurturing and empowering young Calambenos.

Mayor Rizal emphasized that this achievement is a testament to the city's advocacy of Ramdam na Reporma (Reforms Felt by All), ensuring that every Calambeno, especially the youth, re-

ceives the support and care they deserve.

"We deeply thank the ECCD Council for this invaluable recognition, which serves as an inspiration to further strengthen our commitment to delivering humane, organized, and quality services for the children of Calamba," Mayor Rizal said.

The local government also expressed its heartfelt gratitude to all partners and stakeholders, including agencies, organizations, and every Calambeno, for their unwavering support.

"This is for the youth. This is for the future. Together, we will push for a more progressive, inclusive, and thriving Calamba City," Mayor Rizal concluded.

(Edjun Mariposque)

CONGRATULATIONS, MAYOR ROSS RIZAL!



We celebrate your remarkable achievement in completing your Master in Management, Major in Government Management at Colegio de San Juan de Letran! Your dedication, perseverance, and commitment to public service are truly inspiring. #ToGodBeAllTheGlory Wishing you continued success as you lead with excellence and wisdom! (Edjun Mariposque) (Nelson Dimapilis)

BARANGAY DRUG CLEARING CARAVAN



Dumalo si ABC President Hon. City Councilor Papa P, Pio Dimapilis kasama ang mga ka-Liga sa Barangay Batino sa 2nd Barangay Drug Clearing Caravan na ginanap sa Tagaytay City. Layon ng Caravan na ito na mas palakasin pa ang Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils at ang Rehabilitation and Reintegration Program sa bawat Barangay na nasasakupan ng Lungsod ng Calamba. Sa ganitong mga seminar ay magkakaroon pa lalo ng kaalaman ang bawat Kasapi ng Sangguniang Barangay upang magkaron pa ng mas pinalawak na paglaban sa paggamit at pag-aabuso ng ipinagbabawal na gamot. (Nelson Dimapilis)

DTI RIZAL CELEBRATES SUCCESS OF 25 GRADUATES AT CHAMPS RIZAL PROGRAM RECOGNITION DAY



Antipolo City, 4 December 2024 – The DTI Rizal proudly celebrated the successful completion of the CHAMPS Rizal Program, the initiative program of the agency by offering hands-on training, mentorship, and practical resources to support and guide novice entrepreneurs, during a recognition event held at the Ynares Multi-Purpose Hall. The ceremony recognized 25 beneficiaries who have completed all modules of the program, showcasing their dedication and commitment to business growth and development. The event was hosted by John Francis L. Sta. Rita, Negosyo Center Business Counselor and coordinator of the CHAMPS Rizal Program. Ms. Sharon F. Dioco, DTI Rizal's BDD Chief, highlighted the program's success, revealing that a total of 810 participants had been catered to through online sessions. She praised the 25 graduates for their hard work and dedication, noting their successful completion of all modules. She also expressed gratitude to the mentors and guest speakers who contributed to the program's success. In her inspirational message, Ms. Cleotilde M. Duran, Provincial Director of DTI Rizal, inspired the graduates by urging them to start small and trust the guidance of DTI Rizal and other government agencies as they continue their entrepreneurial journeys. Drawing from her own experiences as a young entrepreneur, she encouraged the graduates to prioritize self-investment and health while enjoying the entrepreneurial process. Ms. Marlene De Luna and Ms. Jonalyn Adaya led the awarding of certificates of recognition to the graduates. The certificates symbolized their successful participation in the program, marking a milestone in their business journey. Ms. Marilou Sio-

Strategic planning, investment programming workshop bilang pagpapalawig ng Urban Agri sa 2026, isinagawa ng DA-4A



Naglunsad ng kauna-unahang strategic planning at investment programming workshop ang Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (DA-NU-PAP) para sa paghahanda sa pagbuo ng plano at budget proposal ng Urban Agriculture Industry ng rehiyon para sa taong 2026. Ginanap ito noong ika-14 hanggang ika-15 ng Nobyembre sa cont. on page 3

OFWS AND FAMILIES RECEIVE MORE THAN PHP3 MILLION IN CASH AND KIND AT GO NEGOSYO EVENT



Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and their families who trooped to the SM Mall of Asia to attend Go Negosyo's Balik-Bayan Summit 2024 last December 7, 2024 went home with cash and prizes totaling Php3 million given the Go Negosyo, its sponsors, and President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and the Office of the First Lady. The prizes were announced by Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion, together with First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, who conveyed President Marcos Jr.'s awarding of Php2 million on top of the cash and prizes given out that day. Among the recipients were three attendees who lined up at the venue as early as 6 p.m. the day before the summit, as well as all the attendees who registered or walked in for the event. Organized by Go Negosyo, Balik-Bayan 2024 featured 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. Concepcion invited the attendees to learn from the sessions and seek guidance from mentors. "We don't want you to spend your savings without proper mentorship," he said. "We are here to help you," as he thanked the OFW families for their sacrifice and support for family members who work overseas. "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. Joining Concepcion and the First Lady were Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Sec. Cris Roque, Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) Sec. Hans Leo Cacdac, Commission on Filipinos Overseas Chairman Dante "Klink" Ang, and Pasay City Mayor Emi Calixto-Rubiano. DMW Sec. Cacdac thanked Go Negosyo for organizing the event. "Today is about creating opportunities for collaborations, and to uplift not only OFWs and their families but also the entire Filipino people," he said. He shared that the DMW supports the reintegration of OFWs back into the country through programs for continuous learning and help them re-tool and upskill. He shared that there are now more than 2,000 beneficiaries of its economic reintegration program and will launch the national reintegration network together with the DTI. The event also saw the awarding of the 2024 Inspiring Balik-Bayan Awards. The awardees successfully founded their own businesses here in the Philippines. The Inspiring Balik-Bayan Awards is an annual award organized by Go Negosyo to recognize the success stories of OFWs-turned-entrepreneurs, celebrate their achievements, and foster entrepreneurial aspirations among current OFWs. The event also saw several forums and discussions, including mentoring children in business, preparing for retirement, creating purpose-driven work, financial literacy, platforms for possible OFW businesses including franchising, agri-preneurship, and storytelling and content creation as a tool in entrepreneurship.

Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps (CVLPC) Celebrates Christmas Party and Elects New Officers



LILIW, LAGUNA – The Camp Vicente Lim Press Corps (CVLPC) held its Christmas Party and General Assembly on December 11, 2024, at the picturesque River Front Resort in Liliw, Laguna. The event was a festive gathering of CVLPC members, marked by camaraderie, celebration, and the election of a new set of officers to lead the organization into the coming year. **Newly Elected Officers:**
President: Mr. Rommel Madrigal
Vice President: Arman Banaag Cambe
Chairman: Turing Crisostomo
Secretary: Joel Cabactulan
Treasurer: Willson Palima
Board of Directors: Roy Tomandao (Former President), Daniel Castro (Former Chairman)
 The event highlighted the unity and dedication of CVLPC members in upholding journalistic excellence and fostering partnerships. The attendees enjoyed a program filled with holiday cheer, recognition of past leaders, and a renewed commitment to the organization's goals. Congratulations to the new officers and Merry Christmas to all members of the CVLPC. (Edjun Mariposque)