

DTI-Laguna Conducts Livelihood Training Seminar for NSB Beneficiaries



BAY



NAGCARLAN



CAVINTI



MAJAYJAY



LUISIANA



PAKIL



MABITAC



Victoria, Laguna — The Department of Trade and Industry – Laguna Provincial Office (DTI-Laguna) thru its Negosyo Centers, in partnership with their respective local government units, conducted a livelihood training seminar for the beneficiaries for the Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (NSB) program on the following dates:

- 1. November 25, 2024** – Luisiana and Cavinti, Laguna
- 2. November 26, 2024** – Majayjay and Nagcarlan, Laguna
- 3. November 27, 2024** – Pakil and Mabitac, Laguna
- 4. November 28,**

2024 – Bay, Laguna The NSB program, formerly known as Livelihood Seeding Program - Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay (LSP-NSB), seeks to promote entrepreneurship and economic development at the grassroots level. By providing direct assistance in starting a business to the marginalized sectors in barangays or local communities, it empowers individuals to start and grow their businesses. By bringing the business support to the barangay level, it provides entrepreneurial opportunities to marginalized sectors with better access to resources, information and support, ultimately

contributing to poverty reduction. The topic discussed during the activity was "How to Start a Business" followed by filling-out the simplified action plan. A total of 180 beneficiaries participated in the said discussion. These beneficiaries were profiled and screened for the qualifications of those under marginalized sectors such as senior citizen, person with disability, indigenous people, repatriated overseas Filipino worker, and with poor living conditions. The objectives of the NSB program are to provide direct assistance in starting or sustaining a business

for the marginalized sectors in barangays or local communities and to promote entrepreneurship among marginalized sectors in target barangays to contribute to poverty reduction. DTI-Laguna remains committed to their goal of educating, encouraging creativity, resiliency, and competitiveness. DTI continues to spearhead efforts to establish a dynamic, resilient, and forward-thinking business climate in the province by participating in occasions such as these. For more inquiries, kindly contact DTI-Laguna at r04a.laguna@dti.gov.ph (QJCastillo, DTI-Laguna).



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

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Calamba Shines Again: Mayor Ross Rizal Leads City to Multiple Awards

Page 02



2,600 NA RESIDENTE NG NAGCARLAN NABIYAYAAN NG LIBRENG-MEDICAL AT DENTAL MISSION-NI CONGRAMANTE SA LAGUNA.



NAGCARLAN - Ito ang matagumpay na ika-6 na Medical at Dental Mission ni Congressman Loreto "Amben" S. Amante sa bahagi ng ikatlong distrito ng Laguna. Ginanap ito sa Plaridel Elementary School Brgy. Banago, Nagcarlan Laguna.

Sa pamamagitan ito ng tulong ni Congressman Amben" S. Amante, House Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez, Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Mayor Elmor V. Vita at Nagcarlan LGU. Mahigit kumulang naman na 2,600 na residente ng bayan ng ito ang nakatanggap ng libreng serbisyo ng medikal at dental tulad ng bunot ng ngipin, fluoride treatment, x-ray, non-fasting laboratories at mga gamot.

Ayon kay Cong. Amante nagsasagawa sila ng programa kasama si Mayor Elmor Vita. Kaugnay sa malakihang Medical at Dental Mission pinasalamatan din nito si Pangulong Bongbong Marcos, at House Speaker Martin Romualdez at sa masipag na Principal ng Plaridel Elementary School Mrs. Mylen D. Callos.

Dumalo din sa pagtitipon si Mayor Gem Retuerto - Amante sa kanyang medical mission. Upang suportahan ang napakagandang programa para sa kalusugan ng bawat mamamayan ng Nagcarlan. (Kevin Pamamat)

Leonardo "Capt. Ding" Villanueva: Ang Iyong Tagapagtaguyod para sa Pag-unlad



sa paglikha ng mga programang nakikinabang sa mga senior citizens, pagpapahusay ng mga umiiral na benepisyo na kanilang natatamasa.

Layunin ni Capt. Ding na maipatupad ang mga inisyatibo na makabuluhang magpapabuti sa kalidad ng buhay ng mga matatanda sa lungsod. Bukod dito, nakatuon si Capt. Ding sa pag-gabay sa mga kabataan pabalik sa paggalang sa mga matatanda at paggising sa kanila sa angkop na moral Layunin ngayon ni Barangay Chairman, Leonardo "Capt Ding" Villanueva na maipaabot ang kanyang adbokasiya sa buong lungsod.

Slogan: "Isang tatak Villanueva na handang tumulong sa bawat isa." Suportahan si Leonardo "Capt Ding" Villanueva para sa City Counselor sa 2025 election at maging bahagi ng mas magandang kinabukasan para sa San Pablo City.

Si Capt. Ding Villanueva ay nakatuon sa residente ng Barangay 2 B, San Pablo City, na may kahanga hangang 31 taong panunungkulan bilang Barangay Chairman. Kilala bilang "ama" ng kanyang barangay, at naging pangulo din ng TODA, palagi nagpapakitang malalim na malakas na kaalaman upang mapaunlad ang progreso sa San Pablo City.

Ang kanyang aktibong paglahok sa iba't

ibang mga organisasyon, kabilang ang GBI, Eagles' Club, Chamber of Commerce, at Kiwanis, ay nagpapakitang kanyang pangako sa serbisyo sa komunidad at pamumuno. Kung ihahalal bilang City Counselor, plano ni Capt. Ding na pakinabangan ang kanyang malawak na kaalaman upang mapaunlad ang progreso sa San Pablo City. Ang kanyang plataporma ay nakatuon



Editorial

BILYONG KITA PARA SA NATIONAL GOVERNMENT ANG MODERNISASYON NG NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Ipinahayag ng Department of Transportation na inasahan magdadala ng P900 bilyong kita para sa national government ang modernisasyon ng Ninoy Aquino International Airport bilang concession agreement sa Public-Private Partnership nito. Dahil dadami ang mga papasok na concessionaires dito.

Ayon sa DOTr, ang NAIA Public-Private Partnership ay magkakaroon kasunduan sa mga nanalong concessionaire sa loob ng 25 taon. Ito ay magbibigay-daan sa gobyerno na kumita ng P36 bilyon taun-taon at i-redirect ang mga kita nito sa iba pang mga proyektong panlipunan at imprastraktura.

Nauna nang iniulat ang nanalong concessionaire para sa NAIA modernization, ang gobyerno ay makakakuha mula sa SMC-SAP Co. Consortium ng garantiyang P30 bilyon bilang paunang bayad at P2 bilyong annual payments, ayon sa Department of Transportation (DOTr).

Kung ikukumpara, ang Manila International Airport Authority ay nakapag-remit ng P23.3 bilyon mula 2010 hanggang 2023 o P1.78 bilyon taun-taon.

Ang huling major capacity expansion ng NAIA ay noong 2008, nang ang Terminal 3 nito ay nagkaroon ng kapasidad na 35 milyong pasahero taun-taon.

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL DISTRIBUTES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN CALAMBA CITY

Mariing pinabubulaanan ng Famy PNP ang mga maling impormasyon mula sa Karapatan Southern Tagalog. Ang mga kapatid ng nasawing Dumagat ay ligtas na inihatid sa secure na lokasyon, hindi itinakas, upang matiyag ang kanilang kaligtasan.

Isinagawa ang dayalogo kasama ang pamilya nang maayos at makatao, at hindi pinayagan ang Karapatan na

Pagsanjan's...

CAVINTI, LAGUNA – In a significant milestone, Pagsanjan, Laguna has been officially declared Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) status on December 17, 2024. The Historic ceremony officially marks Pagsanjan as insurgency-free

This accomplishment places the entire province of Laguna on track for its SIPS revalidation, reaffirming the sustained peace and order across all cities and municipalities. It can be recalled that Laguna Province was first declared insurgency-free on September 26, 2019. Today, Laguna stands as a model of peace and stability, achieved through the unwavering cooperation of local government units, law enforcement agencies, and the active participation of the community.

In his message, Colonel Ernest John C. Jadloc, Deputy Brigade Commander of the 202nd Infantry (Unifier) Brigade and at the same time the Commander of the Task Force Ugnay, lauded the collective efforts that led to this milestone: "The declaration of Pagsanjan as insurgency-free is a testament to the tireless dedication of our local government, security forces, and the community. Achieving Stable Internal Peace and Security status requires unity, commitment, and

vigilance—qualities that Laguna has consistently demonstrated. This milestone signifies not just the end of insurgency but the beginning of greater opportunities for peace, development, and progress."

COL Jadloc also addressed the recent armed encounter in the hinterlands of Famy, Laguna. The incident validates Laguna's SIPS status. The perpetrators were from outside Laguna, and the armed encounter was initiated by the government based on a timely report by the local populace.

The declaration of Pagsanjan as insurgency-free solidifies Laguna's position as a peaceful and secure province, serving as an inspiration for other areas striving to achieve similar stability. The Provincial Task Force ELCAC, together with the 202nd Infantry Brigade and its partners, remains steadfast in sustaining peace and stability for the benefit of all Lagunense. With the declaration of the six (6) cities and 24 municipalities of Laguna as SIPS areas, a Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into between the 202nd Brigade, PA and the Provincial Government of Laguna that will lead to the conferment of the SIPS Seal by the Regional Peace and Order Council-CALABARZON.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

MATAGUMPAY NA OPERASYON NG 59TH INFANTRY BATTALION SA LOBO, BATANGS: NPA NASAWI

Sa isang matagumpay na operasyon sa Brgy Balibago, Lobo, Batangas, nakasagupa ng 59th Infantry (Protector) Battalion ang mga miyembro ng Komunistang Teroristang Grupo. Ang engkwentro ay nagresulta sa pagkasawi ng isang miyembro ng NPA at pagkakarokober ng dalawang mataas na kalibre ng armas. Ang operasyon ay bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng hukbong sandatahan na mapanatili

CALAMBA ...

Santa Cruz, Laguna — December 16, 2024 – Under the visionary leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, the City Government of Calamba once again proved its excellence by bagging numerous accolades at the Provincial Awarding Ceremony held at the Laguna Provincial Capitol in Santa Cruz, Laguna.

In a triumphant address, Mayor Ross Rizal proudly declared, "PANALO MULI TAYO MGA CALAMBEÑO!" as he highlighted the city's achievements for the year 2024.

The City of Calamba received top awards, recognizing its dedication to effective governance, public safety, and community welfare:

- Stable Internal Peace and Security (SIPS) High Functional Anti-Drug Abuse Council
- High Functional Local Committees on Anti-Trafficking and Violence Against Women and their Children (LCAT-VAWC)
- Ideal Functional Local Council for the Protection of Children

"These awards are a testament to our relentless efforts to build a safer, more organized, and progressive Calam-

FROM PAGE 1

ba," Mayor Rizal shared. "Muli nating ipinamalas ang husay at dedikasyon ng City Government of Calamba!"

The mayor credited these accomplishments to the collective hard work of city officials, employees, and the support of the people of Calamba.

Mayor Ross Rizal emphasized that these achievements reflect the continued success of "Ramdam na Reporma"—a governance platform focused on inclusive growth, security, and development.

The awards not only honor the city's achievements in 2024 but also highlight Mayor Rizal's unwavering commitment to creating a "Calambagong Pamahalaan"—a government that works tirelessly for its people.

"Alay ko po sa inyo ang mga karangalang ito, mga minamahal kong mga Calambeño! Sama-sama, tuluy-tuloy ang Ramdam na Reporma!" Calamba City continues to shine under Mayor Ross Rizal's leadership, proving once again that progress, safety, and governance excellence are at the heart of every initiative for its residents. (EDJUN MARIPOSQUE)



Editorial Office
Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1 Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite
Mobile No. ----- 09365035056
Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

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SENATOR LITO LAPID BRINGS CHRISTMAS CHEER TO LAGUNA. REMINISCES-FILMING-MEMORIES



Laguna became the latest stop for Senator Lito Lapid's ongoing nationwide gift-giving initiative. On December 18, the senator began his visit in Brgy. Canlalay, Biñan City, and Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna where he distributed Christmas gifts to local residents, spreading holiday cheer and hope.

During the event, Senator Lapid shared a personal connection to Laguna, particularly San Pedro. He fondly recalled filming a scene for the true-to-life movie about Jess Lapid in San Pedro, where he performed a daring leap. "Hindi ko makakali-



mutan ang San Pedro, Laguna, dahil dito ako tumalon sa tren noon sa isang pelikula," the senator said, drawing smiles from attendees.

The residents of Brgy. Canlalay and San Antonio warmly welcomed the senator, expressing gratitude for his generosity and continued support. Senator Lapid emphasized his commitment to bringing joy and assistance to Filipinos, especially during the Christmas season, as part of his broader advocacy for community engagement and support. (Edjun Mariposque)

Laguna Distributes P 1,785,000 Seed Capital Fund to SLP Beneficiaries



SANTA CRUZ, LAGUNA – A total of P1,785,000 was distributed as Seed Capital Fund to seven (7) Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) Associations in the province of Laguna on December 18, 2024. This initiative was spearheaded by Vice Governor Atty. Karen Agapay, in partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The funding aims to empower communities by supporting livelihood projects that promote sustainable economic growth and self-reliance among marginalized sectors.

Here is the breakdown of beneficiaries and their proposed livelihood projects:



Santa Rosa City: Kaagapay ng Villa Sta. Rosa SLPA – Talipapa Business (P225,000)

Santa Rosa City: Kalinga ng Southvills SLPA – Community Store (P150,000)

Siniloan: Kaagapay ng Solo Parent SLPA – Community Store (P180,000)

Los Baños: Kalinga at Kabuhayan SLPA – Mini Talipapa (P225,000)

Los Baños: Agapay expressed her gratitude to the DSWD and reiterated her commitment to uplift the lives of Laguna's residents through meaningful and sustainable programs.

Biñan City: Gabay Nagkakaisa SLPA – Rice Retailing (P375,000)

Bay: Calo Entrepreneurs SLPA – Vegetable Farming (P330,000)

Vice Governor Agapay expressed her gratitude to the DSWD and reiterated her commitment to uplift the lives of Laguna's residents through meaningful and sustainable programs.

"Congratulations to our beneficiaries! May your chosen livelihoods flourish and bring prosperity to your families and communities," she added.

The event reflects the Provincial Government of Laguna's dedication to fostering resilience and economic development among its constituents. (Edjun Mariposque)

SENATOR BONG GO SUPPORTS GROUNDBREAKING OF NEW LUMBAN MUNICIPAL HALL AND SUPER HEALTH CENTER



LUMBAN, LAGUNA — Senator Christopher “Bong” Go personally attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the new Lumban Municipal Hall on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. As the Vice Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, Senator Go expressed his full support for the project, which aims to enhance the delivery of government services to the residents of Lumban.

Joining Senator Go in the ceremony were Mayor Rolando Ubatay, Vice Mayor Belen Raga, and other local officials of Lumban. In his speech, Go emphasized the importance of having a modern municipal building to ensure efficient and high-quality public service.

“This new municipal hall is a testament to our collective efforts to bring quality services to every resident of Lumban,” Go stated. “As your partner in the Senate, I will continue to support projects like this to ensure they come to fruition.”

Prior to the groundbreaking, Senator Go also led the ribbon-cutting ceremony of one of the Super Health Centers in Lumban.

The newly inaugurated SHC in Lumban is part of a broader initiative that includes 14 SHCs

in Laguna. The locations of these centers include Calamba, Alaminos, Biñan, Cabuyao, Mabitan, 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.

The Super Health Center is part of the government’s initiative to establish over 600 such facilities across the country, providing comprehensive healthcare services to communities, especially in remote areas.

The health of every Filipino must be prioritized,” Go added. “Through these Super Health Centers, medical services will become more accessible, particularly for those in underserved areas.”

As the newly adopted son of Lumban, Senator Go committed to continue supporting projects and programs that will benefit the residents of the town. He also encouraged local officials to remain dedicated to serving their constituents for the betterment of the community.

“The success of Lumban is the success of the entire nation,” Go concluded. “Let us work together to build a brighter future for everyone.”

(Edjun Mariposque)

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL LEADS RIZALIKSIK CULMINATION AND AID DISTRIBUTION: ISANG MAKABULUHANG PAGTATAPOS NG TAON PARA SA CALAMBA



RIZALIKSIK CULMINATING ACTIVITY: Pagsasara ng Isang Makabuluhang Taon

Held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, Mayor Ross Rizal, together with the DepEd Calamba family, celebrated the successful culmination of the annual Rizaliksik program. This event not only highlighted the achievements of Calamba’s educational sector but also served as a heartfelt recognition of the dedication and hard work of teachers, staff, and officials.

A simple yet meaningful Christmas and Year-End Party was held to honor their invaluable contributions to shaping the youth of Calamba. Mayor Rizal expressed his gratitude to the DepEd Calamba family for their unwavering commitment to improving education and their active role in driving progress for the city.

“Sama-sama tayong magpatuloy sa pag-abog ng mas maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa mga kabataang Calambeño!” said Mayor Rizal as he emphasized the importance of unity in fostering a brighter future.

Emergency Shelter Assistance for Typhoon Victims: Ramdam ang Malasakit ng Pamahalaan

In another testament to his administration’s commitment to public

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Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

INILUNSDANG ANG PEACE COVENANT SA BAYAN NG STA MARIA, LAGUNA PARA SA ELECTION 2025

Sta Maria, Laguna- Inilunsad ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Santa Maria, Laguna ang Peace Covenant na naglalayon maging matiwasay at malaya ang eleksyon sa kanilang bayan.

Ayon kay Sta Maria Mayor Cindy Carolino na layunin nito na magkaroon ng pantay-pantay na karapatan para mamili ng mga mamumuno ang mga residente para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.

Ang programa ito ay inisyatibo ng Kapulisan na pinagtitnaan naman ng Kura Paroko Fr JD Manalo. Nagkaharap harap para sa paglagda ang mga tatakpong Mayor at Vice Mayor sa naturang bayan sa dataring na Mayo 2025.

Kasama at naging tagadalo ang Laguna Provincial Director PCol Mel Unos na ipinaliwanag ang Santa Maria ay nasa Yellow Category at madalas na Election Hotspot dahil sa mga nakaraang kaganapan sa kanilang bayan.

Pinakiusapan ni PD PCol Unos ang mga kandidato na iwasan ang mga dinangayunan naman ng lahat.

MAYOR ROSS... FROM PAGE 6

are at the forefront of public service.

“Ang malasakit at serbisyo ay hindi lamang salita—ito ay aksyon para sa bawat Calambeño!” declared Mayor Rizal, ensuring the swift recovery of families and communities in Calamba.

These year-end efforts reflect the city’s unwavering commitment to uplifting lives and empowering the community, paving the way for a stronger and more resilient Calamba in 2024.

This initiative underscores the administration’s “Ramdam na Reperma” program, where compassion and action

PUBLISHER CORNER

MARCOS SET TO VETO PARTS OF BUDGET BILL

PRESIDENT Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is set to veto certain items and provisions of the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) “in the interest of public welfare, to conform with the fiscal program, and in compliance with laws,” Malacañang said Wednesday.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin issued the statement following budget cuts in the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Philippine Health Insurance Corp.



“The scheduled signing of the General Appropriations Act on Dec. 20 will not push through to allow more time for a rigorous and exhaustive review of a measure that will determine the course of the nation for the next year,” Bersamin said.

He said Marcos was personally leading the ongoing assessment of the proposed 2025 budget, in consultation with the heads of major departments.

“While we cannot yet announce the date of the signing, we can now confirm that certain items and provisions of the national budget bill will be vetoed in the interest of public welfare, to conform with the fiscal program, and in compliance with laws,” he added.

On Dec. 11, the bicameral conference committee approved the final version of House Bill 10800, or the proposed P6.352-trillion national budget for next year.

Some lawmakers, including the president’s older sister, Sen. Imee Marcos, have appealed for a thorough review of the proposed 2025 budget.

Senator Marcos expressed willingness to work through the holidays to address any issues surrounding specific items in the national spending plan.

Early this week, the president defended the significant increase in the proposed budget of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), saying the government must spend for the safety of the people.

The proposed DPWH budget bloated to P1.113 trillion from the initial P900 billion after the bicameral conference committee meeting.

“But public works is still going to be one of the top recipients of budget because we are doing many things,” Marcos said in a media interview in Malacañang on Monday.

“We have big projects that we have to put in place. Infrastructure is important. And don’t forget flood control became such a big, big part of the work of the DPWH,” he added.

On the other hand, the president said they were working to restore the P10-billion cut in the proposed budget for the DepEd.

He said the budget cut contradicted his administration’s policy direction regarding science, technology, engineering and mathematics. “I think we’ll still be able to do it, to be able to do something. Maybe this is the first thing, my answer is not complete yet, but I will say now that we are working on it,” Marcos said.

“[T]he original request of the P12 billion to be reduced down to two... P12 billion is only sufficient to maintain what we’re already doing when, in fact, we have to do more,” he added.

Marcos said he would strive to sign the 2025 GAA before Christmas.

The president has the power to veto or set conditions for the implementation of certain items in the enacted national budget but cannot add new items or bring back items already removed by Congress.

Last year, Marcos vetoed sections of the 2024 GAA pertaining to the Department of Justice (DOJ) revolving fund and to the implementation of the national government’s career executive service development program.

In his veto message last year, Marcos rejected the “DOJ Revolving Fund,” saying, “there is no law which authorizes the DOJ to establish a revolving fund for the purpose indicated.” Senate President Francis Escudero and Senate Committee on Finance chairman Sen. Grace Poe said the president’s decision to delay the signing of the 2025 budget bill was a part of the checks and balances involved in the budgetary process established by the Constitution.

Escudero emphasized that the chief executive’s prerogative and right are to review, study and line-item veto the national budget before it is finally approved and signed.

He noted that this process occurs annually with the general appropriations bill, mainly because the national budget is lengthy, complex and contains numerous details.

Poe said the president’s delay in signing the budget demonstrated a healthy democracy, as the president holds the power to review, approve or veto the proposed General Appropriations Act.

She said his economic managers could provide President Marcos with the best advice regarding the state of the national funds.

“The GAA is the most important piece of legislation that can determine our economic stability and our GDP (gross domestic product) growth in 2025,” she added. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III said the president has the authority to assess the budget and approve or veto the proposed budget.



SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES' GRAND MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PARADE: A CELEBRATION OF BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS



SM Trece Martires' Grand Magical Christmas Parade brings the magic of the season to life, delighting everyone who experiences it. The festive performances, sparkling lights, and joyful atmosphere create a heartwarming celebration. But it is the genuine reactions of children and shoppers—filled with wonder, excitement, and pure holiday cheer—that make the event truly unforgettable. Each smile, each laugh, and each shared moment serves as a beautiful reminder of the holiday spirit, leaving everyone with memories that will last a lifetime.

Negosyo ng mga FCAs palalakasin sa tulong ng AECEA ng DA-4A



Sa pagtutulungan ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) at DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Services (AMAS), sampung Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) kasama ang kanilang mga business proposals ang ipiniresenta sa isang Joint Technical Review noong ika-5 hanggang ika-7 ng Nobyembre sa Los Baños, Laguna.

Isinaayos sa naturang pagpupulong ang mga business proposals na kung saan ito ang aasistehan at maaring mapondohan ng programang Agri-Entrepreneurship Capability Enhancement Assistance (AECEA). Ang AECEA isa sa mga pinagtutuan pansin sa pagpapatupad Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program (FFEDP) sa ilalim ng Republic Act No. 11321 o ang Sagip Saka Act na may direktibong palakasin ang kakayahang pagnegosyo ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda.

Layon ng AECEA na palakasin ang mga negosyanteng magsasaka at mangingisda sa pamamagitan ng iba't-ibang interbensyon tulad ng mga pagsasanay at tulong pinansiyal. Nakatuon ang programa sa pagpapataas ng kasanayan sa pagnegosyo ng mga magsasaka at mangingisda kasabay ang pagiging isang mabisang tagatustos ng iba't-ibang produktong pang-agrikultura.

Ang mga FCAs na dumalo ay ang San Nicolas Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, San Andres Farmers Development Cooperative, Alfonso Cavite Coffee Growers Agriculture Cooperative, Adarna Agriculture Cooperative, Farmers' Federation of San Antonio, Quezon, Lucban Coconut Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, Lucban Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, Pangil Agriculture Cooperative, Majayjay Organic Farmers Association, at ang Ecolife (OFW) Multipurpose Cooperative.



Mayor Ross Rizal Opens "CalamBagong Fiesta: Taste, Style, and Creativity Fair" to Celebrate Calambeño Talent



Calamba City, Laguna — Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal officially launched the CalamBagong Fiesta: Taste, Style, and Creativity Fair at the Calamba City Hall on December 16, 2024. The event showcased the vibrant talents and entrepreneurial spirit of the Calambeños through a variety of exciting activities.

The fair featured a fashion designers competition, trade fair, art exhibit, coffee barista seminar and workshop, and an entrepreneurship seminar, highlighting the creativity and innovation of local artists, designers, and entrepreneurs.

"This is an opportunity for us to celebrate the Taste, Style, and Creativity of every Calambeño," Mayor Ross Rizal shared, emphasizing the importance of empowering local talent and promoting Calamba's rich culture and resources.

The CalamBagong Fiesta aims to bring the community together and shine a light on Calamba's exceptional talent, creativity, and entrepreneurial potential on a global stage.

"Let us celebrate this event together and show the world the beauty, richness, and skills of Calambeños!" Mayor Ross concluded with a heartfelt message.

The launch marks another successful initiative under Mayor Rizal's leadership, fostering opportunities for local creatives and small businesses while strengthening Calamba's cultural identity and economic growth.

Edjun Mariposque

Senator Bong Go Condemns Zero Budget for PhilHealth, Calling It Anti-Poor



PhilHealth is unacceptable and detrimental to Filipinos, particularly the poor. He criticized the move as another anti-poor policy that worsens the plight of marginalized communities.

PhilHealth officials, however, have assured the public of their financial robustness. As of October 2024, the corporation holds a surplus of PHP 150 billion and total reserves of PHP 280 billion, complemented by an investment fund nearing PHP 490 billion as of November 2024. These figures suggest that PhilHealth is well-positioned to sustain operations and address the healthcare needs of its 115 million members.

In light of the zero-budget allocation, PhilHealth has approved a corporate operating budget of PHP 284 billion for 2025, with PHP 271 billion allocated for benefit expenses. This represents an 11% increase compared to fiscal year 2024, aiming to enhance benefit packages and reduce out-of-pocket expenses for members.

Despite these assurances, labor groups and some lawmakers have raised concerns about the potential impact on healthcare services, urging the government to reconsider its priorities and ensure that the healthcare needs of all Filipinos, especially the underprivileged, are adequately met.

Senator Go's condemnation reflects a broader debate on the balance between utilizing existing reserves and ensuring sustainable funding for essential health services in the Philippines.

Edjun Mariposque

Mayor Ross Rizal Distributes Financial Assistance to Uniformed Personnel in Calamba City



Calamba City, Laguna — Held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum on December 19, 2024, Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal led the distribution of financial assistance to the city's uniformed personnel, including members of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Mayor Ross Rizal expressed his gratitude to the uniformed personnel for their unwavering dedication to maintaining peace, order, and public safety in Calamba, the "Bayan ng Bayani."

"Ngayong araw po na ito ay atin pong ibinahagi ang ating Financial Assistance para sa ating mga uniformed personnel mula sa PNP, BFP, at BJMP! Ito po ay isang paraan upang maipakita ang taos-pusong pasasalamat ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Calamba sa kanilang walang kaptantay na serbisyo at dedikasyon sa pagpapanatili ng kaayus, seguridad, at kaligtasan ng ating Bayan ng Bayani," the mayor said.

He also recognized the sacrifices and commitment of the city's law enforcement and public safety officers, saying, "Maraming salamat po sa inyong sakripisyo at mala-sakit! Saludo po kami sa inyong serbisyo!"

The initiative, part of the city's #Pamaskong-Handog program, reflects the ongoing reforms under Mayor Rizal's administration, aptly captured in the hashtag #RamdamNaReorma.

The event underscores Calamba City's commitment to supporting its frontline heroes and ensuring that their efforts are recognized and appreciated by the local government.

Edjun Mariposque