

# Vice Governor Agapay Backs UPLB's Seminar for Future Agricultural Cooperatives



Los Baños, Laguna – The Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (ICOPED) at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) recently conducted a Pre-Membership Seminar aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge needed to establish and manage agricultural cooperatives. This initiative seeks to strengthen the agricultural sector in the region and enhance the livelihoods of local farmers.

Vice Governor Karen Agapay of Laguna, a proud alumna of the University of the Philippines Diliman, expressed her unwavering support for such programs spear-

headed by UPLB. According to her, these efforts contribute significantly to the development of the community and the growth of the agricultural sector. ICOPED is renowned for its excellence in education, research, and community service, particularly in advancing cooperatives and bio-enterprises. Through seminars like this, the institute aims to empower individuals and groups with the skills and knowledge necessary to establish cooperatives that can address the challenges faced by the agricultural sector.

Agricultural cooperatives play a vital role in improving the livelihoods of farmers by fostering col-

lective action, increasing production efficiency, and enhancing market access. With better organization and shared resources, cooperative members gain the ability to boost productivity and income while fostering economic growth in their communities.

This initiative highlights the critical role of academic institutions like UPLB ICOPED and the unwavering support of leaders like Vice Governor Agapay in driving meaningful change for farmers and communities. With continued collaboration, the future of agriculture in Laguna and beyond looks promising. (Edjun Mariposque)



## Relentless Achiever

"I will keep working as long as I can," is the daily mantra of 61-year-old Anastacio Castillo. True to his word, he continues to work tirelessly to earn a living.

Born in Quezon Province, Anastacio's life took a new turn when he met his wife, a native of Pangasinan, at a mutual friend's wedding. After getting married, they moved frequently, living in Bulacan, Cavite, and Batangas before settling in Tiaong, Quezon, upon discovering his wife was pregnant.

In those early days, selling mami (noodle soup) was their main source of income. To grow their livelihood, Anastacio established a small carinderia (eatery). One of his most successful strategies was using social media to promote his business, where he went live to showcase the food he was offering.

Aside from cooking, Anastacio is also skilled in making aluminum glass — a craft he learned from his uncle when he was just 17 years old. This skill eventually became another source of income for his family. Five years



Aluminum glass making was one of Anastacio Castillo's businesses that helped him put his children through school and provide them with a comfortable life.

ago, he decided to start his aluminum glass business, starting with small contracts. Over time, his work gained recognition in the community. Recently, Anastacio tried his hand at hog raising, but it suffered a significant setback due to the African swine fever (AFS) outbreak. Many of his pigs died, leading to heavy financial losses.

Despite this, Anastacio remains optimistic. "We had previously faced sleepless nights to make ends meet and send our children to school, so a business failure is just another challenge we can surely overcome," he said. "In business, losses are inevitable, and dwelling on your failures won't help you recover."

Although three of his children now work

abroad, helping him with their finances, he still keeps on working. "I don't want to rely entirely on my children, so as much as possible, I'll keep working. What matters most is that they are in a good state," he explained.

To support his business, Anastacio became a CARD Bank client in 2021. Currently, he has obtained a PHP 100,000 loan from the institution.

"CARD Banks' services are outstanding. What I like about them is that they support small businesses like mine that lack sufficient capital," he said.

Anastacio Castillo's story proves how dreams combined with hard work can lead to a better state in life.



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Vol. I - Series 28 - Jan. 26 - Feb. 01, 2025

**Cavite students learn disaster preparedness via video game**

# "Mayor Ross Rizal Inaugurates State-of-the-Art School Building at Burol Elementary School" Page 02



## Mayor Rizal Named Rank 1 Top Performing Mayor in Laguna!

Calamba City, Laguna – A historic achievement for the City of Calamba! Mayor Rizal proudly announced that he has been ranked as the Rank 1 Top Performing Mayor in Laguna, according to the latest survey conducted by Social Pulse Philippines in December 2024.

The esteemed mayor earned an impressive 93.6% satisfaction rate, slightly higher than his previous score, reflecting the unwavering trust and support of Calambeños in his leadership.

Social Pulse Philippines attributed this outstanding ranking to Mayor Rizal's strong reforms and programs that genuinely benefit the people of Calamba.

"Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, let's



keep driving progress for our beloved City of Calamba!" Mayor Rizal shared in his official statement.

The city government remains committed to enhancing social services, launching innovative projects, and priori-

tizing the welfare of every Calambeño.

Congratulations to all Calambeños on this remarkable milestone! (Edjun Mariposque)

For more details, visit "Social Pulse Post" FB page.

## "Cayetano-Led E-Governance Bill Nears Senate Approval, Promises Seamless Public Service"



The proposed "E-Governance Act," championed by Senator Alan Peter Cayetano, is now on the

brink of Senate approval after passing the Second Reading on Tuesday, January 21. This landmark legislation aims to revolutionize government services by digitalizing processes and ensuring transparency and efficiency.

During the plenary session, Cayetano, who chairs the Committee on Science and Technology, introduced amendments **cont. on page 2**

## Senator Pia Cayetano Advocates for Vape Law Revisions, Questions DTI's Health Mandate



Senator Pia Cayetano has doubled down on her push to amend Republic Act 11900, also known as the Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act, citing its detrimental effects on public health and the flawed transfer of regulatory authority from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under the Department of Health (DOH) to the Department

of Trade and Industry (DTI). **cont. on page 3**

# Editorial

## DSWD handa ng i-turn over sa mga Field Offices ng ahensya ang 15 mobile kitchen trucks

Nakahanda ng i-turn over sa iba't ibang Field Offices ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) ang may 15 mobile kitchen trucks na maaaring gamitin sa panahon ng kalamidad.

Sa ginanap na Media Forum sa DSWD New Press Center nitong Huwebes, (January 23), sinabi ni Special Assistant to the Secretary (SAS) for Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) and concurrent officer-in-charge (OIC) of the National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau (NRLMB) Leo Quintilla, ang "new normal" ay nakapagdulot ng iba't-ibang challenges sa ahensya lalo na sa pagharap sa mga kalamidad.

Sabi ni SAS Quintilla ang mga mobile kitchen trucks ay kasalukuyan ng dumadaan sa inspeksyon bago ito opisyal na i-turn over sa mga field offices ng DSWD.

"The mobile kitchens are equipped in serving hot meals to at least 500 individuals per meal. It will primarily address hunger issues of internally displaced families during disasters, including those staying outside and inside evacuation centers, from the pre-emptive evacuation to the post-disaster phase," ani SAS Quintilla.

Dagdag pa niya, "For example sa Mt. Kanlaon, hindi pwedeng sa next one month, food packs lang tayo, there will be food pack fatigue, so we also need to serve hot meals. Alternate yan na hot meals then food packs. Kailangan din ng vegetables, kailangan din balanse tayo kahit sa evacuation center. Ito ngayon ang role na gagampanan ng mobile kitchens."

Maging ang mga nasa geographically isolated and disadvantaged (GIDA) areas, gayundin ang nasa 4th and 5th class municipalities ay pagsisilbihan din ng mobile kitchen sa panahon ng kalamidad o emergency.

Maaari ding makinabang sa mobile kitchen ang mga pasaherong na-stranded sa mga major ports at airports.

"To operationalize, a regional Mobile Kitchen Deployment Team will be needed under the mobile command center. Under the respective regional Mobile Command Centers, the team will be composed of a safety officer, cook, kitchen worker, supply custodian and a driver," sabi pa ng opisyal ng DSWD-NRLMB.

"Disaster response, second is based from directives of the Secretary kung kailangan ng mga programa ng DSWD, and of course sa request din ng ating partners, like the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), para sa (disaster) response," dagdag pa ni SAS Quintilla.

Ang mobile kitchen ay parte ng tuloy-tuloy na innovations na isinasagawa ng ahensya upang matiyak na lahat ng mga pangangailangan ng mga apektadong pamilya at indibidwal ay maibigay lalo na sa panahon ng kalamidad.

### Mayor...



CALAMBA CITY – To his commitment to education and community development, Mayor Roseller "Ross" Rizal led the inauguration of the newly constructed Mayor Ross Rizal Type Building at Buro Elementary School today. The 4-story, 12-classroom facility is designed to meet the growing needs of students while paying homage to the rich history of Calamba.

### Cayetano...

to Senate Bill No. 2781, incorporating suggestions from Minority Leader Senator Aquilino Pimentel III and Senator Sherwin Gatchalian.

The bill, spearheaded by the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), seeks to establish a unified digital government system anchored on a secure "Integrated Government Network" (IGN). This network will enable seamless data sharing among agencies, eliminating redundancies and inefficiencies.

Cayetano underscored the transformative potential of the bill, stating, "It is not per se the solution to all of our problems, but it is a tool that, if used effectively and assigned properly to various agencies, can address many of our challenges today."

**"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens."**

MANDY HALE

FROM PAGE 1



impactful public projects. "These structures symbolize our dedication to providing quality education and creating a conducive learning environment for our students. They are investments in the future of Calamba," Mayor Rizal stated during the ceremony.

The Mayor Ross Rizal Type Building, apart from its functional design, serves as a tribute to the city's cultural heritage and the enduring legacy of Dr. José Rizal. The initiative aligns with the administration's vision of fostering a God-centered, progressive, and education-driven Calamba.

This achievement is another milestone in Mayor Rizal's governance, reflecting his unwavering focus on sustainable development and community upliftment. (Edjun Mariposque)

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Ordinary Filipinos stand to benefit greatly from these reforms, with streamlined processes reducing long queues and eliminating the need to navigate multiple platforms to access government services.

The bill has garnered support across the Senate, with Senator Pimentel lauding Cayetano's efforts and emphasizing the critical role of the DICT in the nation's future.

Following its smooth passage through the interpellation stage last week, the E-Governance Act is now set for approval on Third and Final Reading in upcoming sessions, bringing the vision of a digitally empowered government closer to reality. (Edjun Mariposque)



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## "Mayor Roseller 'Ross' Rizal Leads the Way: Calamba's Double A Slaughterhouse Nears Completion"



Calamba City, Laguna — The much-awaited Double A-classified slaughterhouse in Calamba is nearing completion and will soon be operational, marking another milestone in the city's journey towards progress under Mayor Rizal's administration.

During his inspection today, Mayor Rizal closely examined the facility, including the newly constructed road designed to streamline its operations. From a previously neglected state, the slaughterhouse has been revitalized through the "Ramdam na Reporma" program, symbolizing a commitment to sustain-



able development. Mayor Rizal proudly shared, "We continue to rise above the negligence of the past. With the opening of this slaughterhouse, our city will finally have a safer, more efficient, and high-quality facility for livestock management." This progressive step ensures a brighter future for Calamba as it strengthens food safety and supports local livelihoods through responsible and transparent governance. (Edjun Mariposque)

## BAGONG POLICE STATION SA BAYAN NG MAJAYJAY PINASINAYAAN

Pinasinayaan kamakalawa ng umaga January 20, 2025 ang bagong tahanan ng kapulisan sa bayan ng Majayjay Laguna.

Pinangunahan ang pagpapasinaya ng Regional Director PB-GEN. PAUL KENNETH T. LUCAS, Laguna Acting Provincial Director PCOL. RICARDO I. DALMACIA, Acting Chief of Police PMAJ. JORDAN AGUILAR at Mayor Romeo P. Amorado kasama ang kanyang bise Alkalde Ariel Argañosa at buong miyembro ng Sangunian Bayan. (Kevin Pamatmat)



# fAaITH

# "Fallen, Not Forgotten: NPC Honors SAF 44 in Heartfelt Commemoration"

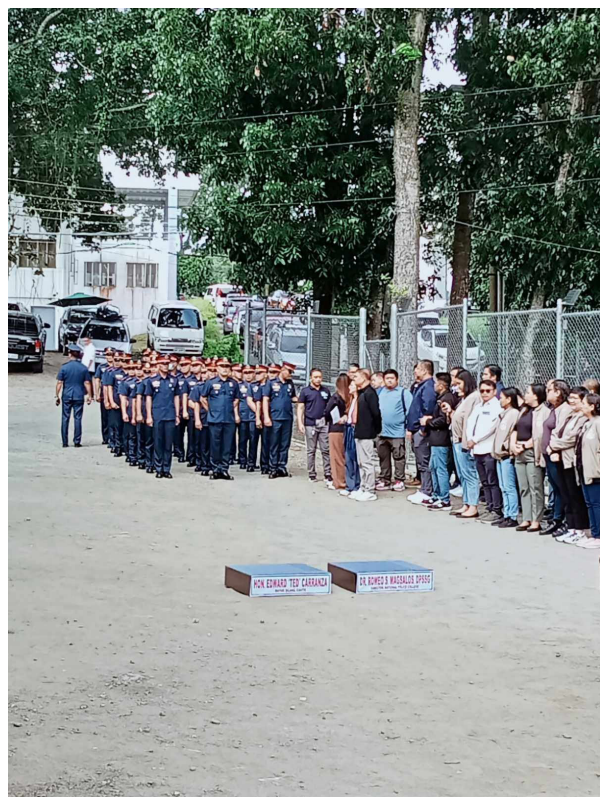


moved to tears as they reflected on the troopers' bravery and selflessness.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Magsalos emphasized the significance of the SAF 44 Forest Park, declared a "No Build-Zone" by an academic board resolution, as a perpetual memorial to the fallen heroes. He also recounted the historical importance of the site, once the barracks and training ground of the Philippine Constabulary-SAF.



Magsalos and Mayor Edward Carranza of Silang, Cavite. The emotional tribute included the Roll Call of Gallant SAF 44 Troopers, a Volley Fire, and the symbolic Releasing of Doves, leaving attendees



SILANG, CAVITE — January 24, 2025 The National Police College (NPC), a key institution of the Philippine Public Safety College, solemnly observed the annual Day of National Remembrance for the SAF 44 on January 24, 2025, in line with Presidential Proclamation No. 164. This

Mayor Carranza, the Guest of Honor and Speaker and a former police general, underscored the importance of coordination and camaraderie, stating, "Hindi na mauit ang nangyari ito. Matuto

tayo sa bagay ng koordinasyon. Huwag mag-isap ng panglalamang o pang-iisa sa kapwa. Mag-ing bayani araw-araw sa pamamagitan ng paggawa ng mabuti, maliit man o malaking bagay."

The event was also graced by PMGEN Mark D. Pespes, Director of the Special Action Force, and Honorable Willy Maala, Barangay Chairman of Silang, Cavite.

A total of 1,148 participants, including NPC personnel, attendees of the Public Safety Officers Senior Executive Course, and the Public Safety Officers Advance Course, joined the memorial, with others participating virtually from NPC

campuses in Pampanga, Cebu, Davao, and Zamboanga. The program concluded with a Memorial Mass.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Magsalos reiterated, "This annual memorial reminds us of the sacrifices made by our uniformed personnel and their unwavering contributions to national security. The legacy of the SAF 44 will live on in the hearts of all Filipinos."

This solemn commemoration serves as a lasting tribute to the bravery of the SAF 44, inspiring generations to uphold the values of heroism and patriotism. (EDJUN MARIPOSQUE)

CAVITE, PHILIPPINES — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) successfully concluded the second leg of its Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP) Caravan in Cavite. Held from December 10 to 11, the caravan took place in Silang and Dasmariñas, further advancing DTI's nationwide initiative aimed at boosting industry compliance and ensuring consumer protection.

DTI Secretary Cristina A. Roque emphasized the Department's commitment to equipping stakeholders with vital knowledge to navigate evolving product policies. "These initiatives enable stakeholders to navigate the fast-changing landscape of global standards and market demands," Roque stated. The caravan focused on fostering a culture of compliance and informed decision-making, crucial for the safety, quality, and competitiveness of Philippine industries.

The first day of the event gathered stakeholders from the CALABARZON region at the Silang New Municipal Hall. Participants,



including manufacturers and retailers, engaged in in-depth discussions on standardization and conformity assessment, led by various divisions of the DTI-Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS). On the second day, 132 architecture and engineering students from the National College of Science and Technology in Dasmariñas attended lectures and workshops covering topics such as BPS programs, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures. Through these sessions, the DTI-BPS aimed to highlight the importance of compliance and industry standards to local stakeholders.



## Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

### DSWD kinumpirma na ang nagviral na sampaguita girl ay dating 4Ps member ang pamilya

Kinumpirma ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) na dating benepisyaryo ng 4Ps ang pamilya ng viral sampaguita vendor sa loob ng sampung taon bago ito mag-exit sa programa.

Sa ginanap na Media Forum sa DSWD New Press Center nitong Huwebes (January 23) sinabi ni Director Gemma Gabuya, 4Ps National Program Manager (NPM), na former monitored children ang viral 'sampaguita girl' na si Jeny at dalawa pa nitong kapatid. Sila ay nakapag-exit na sa programa dahil lagpas na sa edad na 18 taong gulang.

"Pumasok sila as elementary at nakapagtapos na naman sila ng high school before they exited the program," sabi ni Director Gabuya told reporters.

"Marami kaming naibigay na programa sa pamilya kasi unang-una sila ay naging homeless kasi nandun sila sa kariton kasi nasunugan sila so nagbigay ang 4Ps ng isang taon ng pang-rent ng ba-

hay," sabi pa ni Director Gabuya. Dagdag pa niya, mula 2014 hanggang 2024, ang pamilya ni Jeny ay nakakatanggap ng cash grants mula sa 4Ps at iba pang interventions, kabilang ang Php15,000 grant mula sa Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), Enhanced Support Service Interventions (ESSI) na Php15,000, at 6,500 Alternative Family Home (AFH) assistance para sa pagbayad ng renta ng bahay.

"Bago naman sila nag-exit ay inihabilin naman natin sila sa local government ng Quezon City... hindi ibig sabihin na wala na sa 4Ps ay wala nang services, tuloy-tuloy pa rin pero this time, ating mga partner agencies," sabi ni Director Gabuya.

Ang 4Ps, ay inilunsad noong 2008 at naisabatas ng taong 2019 batay sa Republic Act No. 11310 o 4Ps Act, na nagbibigay ng cash grants sa mahigit sa 4 million households at nagbibigay ng subsidy sa mga anak upang makapagtapos ng elementary at senior high school. Nagbibigay din ang programa ng health at nutrition grants

### Senator...

In a radio interview on Saturday, January 18, Cayetano criticized the DTI's capacity to oversee vaping products, emphasizing that the agency lacks the expertise required for health-related regulations.

"Kahit i-Google niyo ang DTI, may mandate ba sila sa health? I always ask DTI, what is your competence?" said Cayetano, who chairs the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee. She added that while the DTI can test devices for safety issues like overheating or explosions, it does not have the capacity to evaluate the

health risks posed by vaping products.

"To be able to test properly, you need pharmacists, nurses, toxicologists, experts on classification of chemicals, addiction specialists, and even pediatrics," Cayetano stressed, pointing out the need for FDA oversight.

RA 11900, which took effect in July 2025, governs the sale, use, and distribution of vaping products. However, Cayetano argued that its provisions undermine public health by placing regulatory responsibilities in the hands of an agency focused on

trade rather than health.

The senator confirmed that she has already filed bills to address the gaps in the current law, highlighting the need for stricter regulations on vaping and tobacco products.

"I will fight it till the end, when I find the right allies and we can pass a new law. If not, I will just continue talking about it and fighting about it," she vowed.

Cayetano's push for reforms underscores her long-standing commitment to safeguarding public health, particularly against the risks posed by vaping and tobacco use. (Edjun Mariposque)

FROM PAGE 1



## PUBLISHER CORNER

### PHILIPPINES, WAKE UP! DO NOT LET THE NATIONAL BUDGET BE VIOLATED!



A shocking anomaly in the 2025 national budget has been exposed—a glaring contradiction that puts our democracy on the brink of distrust. The General Appropriations Act (GAA), which serves as the foundation for government spending, has already been signed by the President. However, Congressman

Isidro Ungab revealed a disturbing truth: the bicameral conference report contains blank and incomplete details! Public funds are at stake, and this isn't just negligence—it could very well be a crime!

#### BLANK SECTIONS IN THE BUDGET? A CLEAR VIOLATION!

The bicameral conference committee, tasked with reconciling the Senate and House versions of the budget, is supposed to ensure clarity, completeness, and order in every detail of the national budget. So how was it possible for blanks to exist? Why does it seem like public funds have turned into a game of hocus pocus?

According to former President Rodrigo Duterte, this isn't just a technical issue. It's a blatant crime. Signing a document with missing information amounts to falsification of public documents and a violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act. Who is behind this anomaly? Why was it approved? Most importantly, how was this allowed to reach the President's desk for his signature?

#### A "BLANK CHECK" FOR CORRUPTION?

Duterte criticized the actions of the bicameral conference committee and those who signed the GAA. These blanks in

the budget are equivalent to handing out a "blank check," presenting a huge opportunity for corruption. The question remains: why were Congress and the Senate blind to this? Where is the accountability of these legislators?

#### SIGNS OF IMMORALITY AND ILLEGALITY

For Duterte, this is more than just a budgetary issue—it's a reflection of a system consumed by lawlessness. He stated: "Do not fuck the people of the Philippines. We will have chaos. The military and police won't allow this. Those in the bureaucracy better stand up straight and be counted as true Filipinos. Otherwise, you're asking for your early demise."

His warning is bold but justified. According to him, the military and police will not let public funds be abused in this way. Legislators who signed off on an incomplete and anomalous budget must face the law and be held accountable.

#### WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Who signed the bicameral report? Who dares to act as if they are the "third chamber" of government? Many of them may not even be lawyers, yet they present themselves as flawless in their work. "They pretend to review the budget," Duterte said, "but it turns out the figures are blank!"

#### THE PEOPLE'S RAGE: DEMAND JUSTICE

In light of this is-

sue, silence is not an option for the Filipino people. If the national budget itself is riddled with anomalies, what kind of government is President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. running? What will foreign leaders think upon learning that the President signed a document that is both flawed and illegal? Is this the Philippines we want to show the world?

#### THE RIGHT ACTIONS: INVESTIGATE AND PUNISH!

The steps are clear:

- 1) Immediate Investigation: The Ombudsman must investigate this anomaly without delay.
- 2) Accountability: Identify those who signed and manipulated the budget. If necessary, charge them with falsification of public documents and graft.
- 3) Restore Public Trust: Amend and correct the budget to ensure it adheres to the Constitution.

#### PHILIPPINES, FIGHT BACK!

Now is the time for the nation to wake up. We must not allow ourselves to be deceived by those in power. The budget is for the people, not for the pockets of a few.

A call to Congress, the Senate, and the Palace: explain yourselves to the people. And to the Filipino citizens: raise your voices, fight for justice!

### PNP Chief Honors 5 PRO 4A Personnel for P13.6M Shabu Bust Cavite...

Camp BGen Vicente P. Lim, Laguna – A remarkable display of recognition for exemplary service, Philippine National Police (PNP) Chief PGen Rommel Francisco D. Marbil, alongside PRO CALABARZON Regional Director PBGen Paul Kenneth T. Lucas, awarded the prestigious “Medalya ng Kagalingan” to five PRO 4A personnel on January 24, 2025.

The honor follows the successful dismantling of a high-value illegal drug operation in Brgy. Turbina, Calamba City, Laguna, on January 21, 2025. The early morning operation, conducted at 1:55 AM, resulted in the seizure of P13.6 million worth of shabu, the arrest of three High-Value Individuals (HVIs), and the neutralization of two other suspects in an armed confrontation. The suspects were listed on the Calamba City Police Station drug watchlist as high-priority targets.

The “Medalya ng Kagalingan” is conferred under the provisions of NAPOLCOM Memorandum Circulars 93-018 and 2006-03, in line with RA 6975, which recognizes exceptional bravery and performance in service.

PGen Marbil commended the officers for their courage and professionalism. “This operation highlights the Philippine National Police’s



unwavering dedication to the fight against illegal drugs and its steadfast commitment to public safety. Sa kabila ng pangani na kanilang hinarap, ang ating mga kapulisan ay buong tapang na ginampanan ang kanilang tungkulin upang masiguro ang kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan mula sa droga,” he remarked.

PBGen Lucas also lauded the operatives, emphasizing PRO CALABARZON’s dedication to safeguarding the region from the scourge of illegal drugs. “The bravery and skill demonstrated by these personnel affirm our commitment to creating a safer and drug-free community,” he said.

This milestone reinforces the PNP’s commitment to eradicating illegal drugs and upholding public safety, serving as an inspiration to all law enforcement officers nationwide. (Edjun Mariposque)



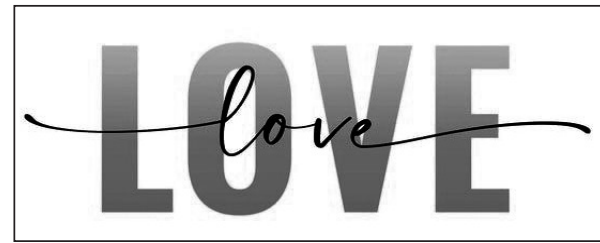
### SERBISYONG MAY MALASAKIT AT NGITI



Nagbigay ng mensahe si City Administrator Larry S. Amante sa lahat ng dumalo sa pagtataas ng watawat ng Pilipinas noon Lunes January 20, 2024. Sa bulwagan ng Mega City Hall ng lungsod ng San Pablo. Mariin niyang ipinaalala sa lahat ng kawani ang bilin ni Mayor Vic Amante na panatilihin ang pagliingkod ng



may malasakit na may hatid na ngiti sa bawat mamamayan ng lungsod ng San Pablo lalawigan ito. (Kevin Pamatmat/Richard Constantino)



KAWIT, Cavite (PIA) — Over 800 students from Emiliano Tirona Memorial National Integrated High School in Kawit, Cavite get immersed in an innovative disaster management lecture, learning about flood preparedness through the interactive online video game Minecraft.

This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to strengthen disaster and flood preparedness among the youth under the Cavite Industrial Area-Flood Risk Management Project (CIA-FRIMP).

Mr. Keisuke Ono, a lecturer at the Tohoku Institute of Technology in Japan, led the session on flood education using a 3D city model within Minecraft.

Ono emphasized the benefits of Minecraft’s three-dimensional features in helping students and the younger generation better understand disaster management and identify flood-prone areas, compared to traditional two-dimensional maps.

“Minecraft is good for kids to study which areas are endangered during floods and which places are safe under flood conditions,” Ono said.

“This is very important for providing collective information about natural disasters because the young generation of the Philippines is vital not just for this country but also for the world in building a better future,” he added.

According to CIA-FRIMP, the interactive lecture aimed to instill disaster resilience among the youth by immersing them in a hands-on, vi-

sual learning experience. Through the 3D city model, students were able to simulate real-life flood scenarios, identify flood-prone areas, and explore evacuation routes and risk reduction strategies.

Using the gamified approach, Ono guided students through discussions on the causes of flooding, structural and non-structural mitigation measures, and community-based strategies for disaster risk reduction.

For the teachers of Emiliano Tirona Memorial National Integrated High School, the Minecraft online video game enabled students to better appreciate disaster management lessons.

“The interactive application captured the students’ attention, making the learning experience both enjoyable and informative. By incorporating engaging elements, the app facilitated a deeper comprehension, allowing the students to connect with the material in an exciting way,” the school stated.

The Provincial Government of Cavite supported the initiative, recognizing it as a step toward building a disaster-resilient community.

### Kalinga Authorities Eradicate P32 Million Worth of Marijuana in Joint Operation



Authorities successfully eradicated P32 million worth of marijuana during a joint operation conducted on January 24, 2025, in Sitio Balay, Barangay Tulgao West, Tinglayan, Kalinga. The operation was spearheaded by the Kalinga Philippine Drug Enforcement Unit, with tactical support from the 111SAC, 11th Special Action Battalion of the PNP SAF, and other law enforcement units.

The joint team uprooted 22,000 fully grown marijuana plants with an estimated Standard Drug Price (SDP) of P4.4 million. In addition, the dried marijuana leaves and stalks valued at P27.6

million were also confiscated. The total value of the eradicated items was estimated at P32 million, reflecting a significant blow to illegal drug activities in the area.

The confiscated marijuana plants and materials were immediately destroyed on site by burning, ensuring that these substances would not reach illegal markets. This decisive action demonstrates the authorities’ dedication to dismantling drug cultivation operations and preventing the spread of illegal substances.

The success of the operation is a result of strategic planning, inter-agency collaboration,

and the unwavering resolve of law enforcement personnel to combat illegal drug activities. By targeting marijuana cultivation sites in remote areas, authorities aim to disrupt the supply chain and hold accountable those involved in the drug trade.

Law enforcement agencies reiterated their commitment to promoting a drug-free environment and ensuring the safety and well-being of communities in Kalinga and beyond. They urged the public to support these initiatives by reporting suspicious activities and remaining vigilant in the fight against illegal drugs. (Edjun Mariposque)



### TUPAD PAYOUT HATID NG DOLE SA BAYAN NG PAKIL

Umabot ng 650 na mga mamamayan ng bayan ng Pakil ang tumanggap ng halagang ang Php 5,600.00 kahapon para sa kanilang ipinagtrabaho sa loob ng 10 araw sa bawat barangay sa ilalim ito ng programang Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers o (TUPAD).



Nagpa-abot ng pasasalamat si Mayor Vince Soriano sa Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) sa palagiang pagkakaloob sa bayan ng ganitong mga

klaseng programa na lubos na nakakatulong sa buong mga pamayanan ng bayan ito. Katuwang sa programa ang PESO Manager Rusella Bacani

at kanyang mga kawani para sa maayos at sistematikong pay-out na isanagawa sa bulwagan ng bagong Munisipyo ng Pakil Laguna. (Kevin Pamatmat)

