

CALAMBA SOARS HIGH: BEYOND COMPLIANT FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS!



Calamba City under the leadership of Mayor Ross Rizal has once again proven its excellence in disaster risk reduction and management, earning the prestigious Beyond Compliant rating at the 24th GAWAD KALASAG Seal of Excellence and Special Awards for Excellence in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

For the second consecutive year, Calamba City stands out in Region IV-A, reflecting the city's unwavering commitment to proactive, efficient, and effective disaster preparedness and response.

"Hindi lang basta compliant, kundi lampas sa inaasahan," Mayor Rizal proudly shared, emphasizing how the city has gone above and beyond to ensure the safety and welfare of every Calambeño.

This achievement



ment highlights the tangible impact of the Ramdam na Reporma initiatives, which focus on strengthening disaster response capabilities and fostering a culture of preparedness.

The recognition is a testament to the city's ongoing efforts to prioritize the well-being of its people, ensuring that Calamba remains resilient in the face of any calamity.

Mayor Rizal dedicates this honor to all Calambeños, vowing to continue building a safer and stronger community. "Patuloy tayong kikilos, magpapalaganap ng kahandaan, dahil sa Ramdam na Reporma, buhay ang mahalaga!"

(EdjunMariposque)



Governor Athena Bryana D. Tolentino reaffirmed her commitment to empowering women during her visit to Tagaytay City, where she distributed Php 2,000 each to 2,000 women as part of the latest phase of the Women's Welfare Program.

Accompanied by Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino, the Governor highlighted the pivotal role of women as the backbone of thriving communities, emphasizing her mission to uplift and support them. With every initiative, Governor Tolentino demonstrates that when women rise, the entire province flourishes.



The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money
Vol. I - Series 29 - February 02-08, 2025

Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Turnover of 78 Housing Units in Calamba's Rizalville

DTI Cavite opens 1st OTOP Store in SM Malls in CALABARZON



Left to right: DECC Head Arman Mojica, Adec. Dominic Tolentino, RD Marissa Argente, Hon. Mayor Janny Barzaga and LEDIPO Head Carlos Legaspi.

A new chapter in empowering local entrepreneurs was unveiled on January 27, 2025, as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the City of Dasmariñas LGU celebrated the grand launch of the OTOP (One Town, One Product) Store located at UG Floor, SM City Dasmariñas, Brgy. Sampaloc 1, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

The event marked the opening of the third OTOP Store in Cavite, following the success of other stores in Tagaytay and Bacoor. The OTOP Store will be operated by the Dasmariñas Entrepreneurial and Consumers Cooperative (DECC), led by Mr. Arman Mojica, and will showcase a wide array of high-quality products made by local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Gracing the event were DTI officials including Asst. Secretary Dominic Tolentino, Regional Director Marissa Argente, and DTI officials including Asst. Secretary Dominic Tolentino, Regional Director Marissa Argente, and DTI officials including Asst. Secretary Dominic Tolentino, Regional Director Marissa Argente.

cont. on page 3

Cayetano calls for ways to maximize expertise of retired DFA personnel



ATI CALABARZON opens application for youth internship program in Taiwan

FILIPINO YOUNG FARMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM IN TAIWAN (FYFIPT) BATCH 2025

Deadline for the submission of applications
FEBRUARY 7, 2025

Scan for the list of requirements and forms:
<https://tinyurl.com/bddmfc5h>

respective City/Municipal Agriculturist Office for assistance. To view qualifications, documentary requirements, and forms, applicants may visit the attached link below: <https://tinyurl.com/bddmfc5h>. The deadline for the submission of applications will be on February 7, 2025. The FYFIPT is a partnership between the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines (TECO) to enhance existing relations through the implementation of an internship program for qualified young Filipino farmers. Should you have additional inquiries on this matter, you may contact one of our staff from the Information Services Section, Mr. Archie Linsasagin at **0994 692 4533** or via email at **iss_rtc4a@ati.da.gov.ph**.

The DA- Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON is currently looking for interested and qualified young farmers to join the Filipino Young Farmer Internship Program (FYFIPT) 2025 in Taiwan. The said program consists of knowledge and skills acquisition through the exchange of modern agricultural and fisheries techniques, marketing strategies and mechanisms, cooperative management, and enhancement of competencies, discipline, and values. Interested applicants may contact the DA-ATI CALABARZON through rtc_calabarzon@ati.da.gov.ph or visit their

Editorial

ANONG NGA BA ANG TAMANG EDAD DAPAT ITURO ANG SEX EDUCATION Sa PAARALAN

Ano nga ba ang tamang edad ng kabataan para matutunan ang sex education. Mahalaga ba talaga na maaga nila itong malaman.

Base sa datos ng United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), mayroong 9.7 milyong kababaihan na may edad 10 hanggang 19 kung saan pagtungtong ng 19 taong gulang, isa sa lima sa kanila ay nagiging ina.

Dahil diyan naging laganap sa iba't ibang lipunan ang adolescent pregnancy. Ang maagang pagbubuntis ay dahil daw sa kawalan ng edukasyon, impormasyon sa kung ano ang magiging bunga ng kapusukan ng damdamin, kuryosidad at pangangalaga ng kalusugan.

Sinasabi ng iba dapat daw na ihanda ng mga magulang ang sarili upang matiyak na tama ang kanilang kaalamang ibahagi sa kanilang mga anak ang tungkol sa pakikipagtalik at kung ano ang magiging bunga o resulta nito.

Sila ang unang nakaalam kung kaya na ng mga bata na maintindihan o kung sila ay may kakayahan nang makipag-usap tungkol dito.

Suhestiyon para sa mga magulang ay dagdagan ang kaalaman at abilidad na magturo nang maayos sa pamamagitan ng pagbabasa.

Maaari ring magtanong sa ibang mga magulang at propesyunal kung hindi sigurado sa gagawin.

Ang sex education ay pag-aaral tungkol sa sekswalidad ng tao kabilang ang kalusugan, relasyon, pakiramdam, responsibilidad, bahagi ng katawan, sexual reproduction, sexual activity, age of consent, reproductive rights, birth control at pagpipigil sa pagtatalik.

Hangad natin na ang mga estudyante na nasa hustong gulang ay maging maalam sa tama at mali, kumilos nang naayon at kung paano tumugon sa posibleng pang-aabuso ng mga mapagsamantala.

Gayunman, sa eskuwelahan ituturo sa mga estudyante ang pagkakaiba

Cayetano...

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday urged lawmakers to explore how retired Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) personnel could continue serving the country, emphasizing that their vast experience in diplomacy and foreign relations could greatly enhance the nation's global standing.

Speaking during the final reading of Senate Bill No. 2863 on January 14, which seeks to provide pension differentials to DFA personnel aged 65 and older with at least 15 years of service, Cayetano called attention to the untapped potential of these retired diplomats.

"Ambassadors are assigned all around the world, meeting scientists, biggest businessmen, diplomats, presidents, kings, poorest of the poor, richest of the rich," he said in his manifestation.

"Pag-retire nila, many of them still want to help our country. Pero ano ang venue?" he continued.

While the bill addresses the financial needs of the retirees, Cayetano stressed that it is just one part of a larger solution.

"While this bill

is much deserved, and is needed, I think it's just one piece of the puzzle," he said.

Cayetano proposed that lawmakers create legislative avenues, such as think tanks, to harness the wealth of knowledge and experience that retired DFA personnel possess.

"I hope, after this pension law, this august Chamber, with the other half (House of Representatives), can come up with something to fully utilize the expertise of DFA retirees and enhance the image of the country with their help," he said.

"Nandiyan na sila, waiting lang kung ano ang susunod na yugto para sa ating mahal na bansa," he added.

Cayetano, who served as Foreign Affairs Secretary from 2017 to 2018, nonetheless thanked his fellow senators for their support in passing the pension bill.### "Cayetano: Gamitin ang galing ng DFA retirees sa pagpapatulad ng imahe ng Pilipinas"

Hinimok ni

Senador Alan Peter Cayetano nitong Martes ang mga kapwa mambabatas

na humanap ng paraan para magamit ang galing at kadalubsahaan ng mga retiradong tauhan ng Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) sa patuloy na pagpapaganda ng imahe ng bansa.

Sa plenary session nitong January 14 kung saan pumasa sa Final Reading ang Senate Bill No. (SBN) 2863, binigyang diin ni Cayetano ang lawak ng karanasan ng mga retiradong diplomat.

Giit niya, kailangang mabigyan sila ng "avenue" para makapaglingkod pa at maipahiram sa bansa ang kanilang taglay na expertise kahit wala na sila sa DFA.

"Ambassadors are assigned all around the world, meeting scientists, biggest businessmen, diplomats, presidents, kings, poorest of the poor, richest of the rich," pahayag ni Cayetano sa kanyang maikling manifestation.

"Pag-retire nila, many of them still want to help our country. Pero ano ang venue?" pagpapatuloy niya.

Pumasa sa Final Reading ang SBN 2863, na naglalayong pagkalooan ng differential pension

Cont. on page 3

Mayor Ross...

Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal officially turned over 78 housing units today at Building 6 of Rizalville in Brgy. Banlic, Calamba City, Laguna. This milestone is part of the city's comprehensive housing program aimed at providing shelter for displaced families, particularly those residing along railway tracks.

To date, six buildings have been completed, with construction ongoing for 22 more. The project will ultimately consist of 28 buildings, accommodating over 2,130 families who meet the qualifications, including stable employment and sufficient income.

This housing initiative is a result of the collaborative efforts between the City Government of Calamba, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC).

Mayor Ross Rizal envisions this housing project as a symbol of

new beginnings—a step toward a better life, stable homes, and a progressive Calamba.

"Ramdam na Reporma" in Housing

Under Mayor Ross Rizal's leadership, Calamba continues to im-

plement programs that uplift residents' lives, ensuring sustainable housing solutions that align with the city's commitment to social welfare and urban development.

(Edjun Mari-posque)



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FOOD SECURITY EMERGENCY WON'T BE NEEDED IF CHEAPER RICE, FOOD SECURITY BILLS ENACTED – AGRI

'Makakatulong pero agrisibong suporta sa magsasaka, mas kailangan!'

As the Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to declare a food security emergency in the country, AGRI Party-list urged Congress to fast-track the passage of pending legislative measures that it principally authored to achieve cheaper rice and food security.

"In declaring a food security emergency, NFA can buy locally produced rice from farmers or farmers' cooperatives, and sell it at a lower price. This is precisely the intent of our House Bill (HB) No. 9020 or the "Cheaper Rice Act" which we filed in August 2023," AGRI Party-list Representative and Senatorial Aspirant Manoy Wilbert Lee said.

"Sa panukalang batas na ito, bibili tayo ng palay sa mga lokal na magsasaka na mas mataas ang presyo, magdadagdag tayo ng hanggang sampung piso para matiyak ang kanilang kita, at ibebenta naman sa merkado sa mas murang halaga," he added.

Through the said measure of AGRI Party-list, local farmers will have higher income and will be enticed to produce more, which will result in more supply and lower prices in the market.

"Matagal na

nating isinusulong ang mekanismong ito para matulungan ang ating mga magsasaka na itinuturing natin na 'food security soldiers'. Hindi rin papopormahin ng panukalang batas na ito ang mga mapagsamantalang middleman o traders dahil gobyerno na ang direktang bibili sa mga lokal na magsasaka," AGRI Party-list said in a statement.

"Sa pagpapatulad ng food security emergency, dapat gawing prayoridad ang pagbili mula sa lokal na mga magsasaka, at hindi sa

importasyon, para makapagbenta ng mas murang bigas" it added.

Complementing the proposed Cheaper Rice Act, AGRI also pushes for more support in post-harvest facilities and equipment for farmers and establishment of more Kadiwa centers nationwide through HB 3958 and HB 3957, respectively.

"Kung kumpleto ang suporta sa mga lokal na magsasaka, hindi na sana kailangan pang magdeklara ng food security emergency. Sa pagsasabatas ng mga panukalang batas na ito, naniniwala tayo na mapapababa ang presyo ng bigas hanggang makamit na yung layunin ng gobyerno na bente pesos per kilo," AGRI Party-list said.

"Bukod sa stop-gap measures na ginagawa ng gobyerno para agarang maibsan ang pasanin ng mga consumers dahil sa mahal na bilihin tulad ng pagtatanggal ng mga label at pagtatakda ng maximum suggested retail price (MSRP) sa

importado na bigas, kailangan din nating simulan na ang pagpapatulad ng pangmatagalang solusyon kung saan parehong makinabang at matutulungan ang mga magsasaka at mamimili," it added

AGRI Party-list has been consistently pushing for legislative measures that will reduce the prices of food by providing additional support for the agricultural sector and protecting the livelihood of local food producers.

Among AGRI's principally authored legislations that passed into law are Republic Act (RA) No. 12022 or the "Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act", RA No. 11953 or the "New Agrarian Emancipation Act and RA No. 11985 or the "Philippine

PhilHealth coverage for peritoneal dialysis up P1.2M; extends aid to children

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) — In line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s commitment to expanding healthcare benefits, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has significantly enhanced its Z Benefit Package for Peritoneal Dialysis (PD), effective January 1, 2025. The new package includes separate coverage for adult and pediatric patients.

Peritoneal dialysis is a renal replacement therapy that uses the patient's peritoneal membrane as an artificial kidney, according to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

The updated PD package offers different modalities based on age. For adults, PhilHealth covers Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis (CAPD), while pediatric patients can access both CAPD and Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD).

"We want to encourage the use of peritoneal dialysis as a first-line treatment for Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5," said PhilHealth President Emmanuel R. Ledesma Jr.

"This option promotes flexibility and improves the quality of life for our members," he added. Coverage for

adult patients ranges from P389,640 to P510,140, an increase from the previous annual cap of P270,000.

Pediatric patients can receive P510,000 to P765,210 for CAPD and P763,000 to P1.2 million for APD.

The package also includes coverage for related services like infection prevention and treatment for both adult and pediatric patients.

Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease Stage 5 must register in the PhilHealth Dialysis Database and adhere to membership guidelines and treatment plans.

Sharing or selling PD solutions is strictly prohibited. Contracted providers cannot charge co-payments for essential services but may do so for non-covered amenities. Providers must clearly communicate any co-payment requirements to patients.

The enhanced PD benefits are available at 51 contracted PD providers nationwide. For more information, visit PhilHealth's website or call the 24/7 hotline at (02) 866-225-88 or mobile numbers 0998-857-2957, 0968-865-4670, 0917-127-5987, or 0917-110-9812. (JCO/PIA-NCR)



SENATORS ALAN AND PIA CAYETANO LEAD SENATE PUSH FOR VIROLOGY INSTITUTE

Philippines – Senators Alan Peter and Pia Cayetano are spearheading efforts to strengthen the country's virology research and vaccine development as the Senate began deliberations on the proposed Virology Institute of the Philippines (VIP) Act.

On Tuesday, Senator Pia, the bill's sponsor, led the interpellation for Senate Bill No. 2893 under Committee Report No. 423, highlighting the importance of establishing a specialized agency to study viruses affecting humans, animals, and plants.

"The VIP will serve as the lead convenor for research and development in virology, covering the discovery phase up to the pre-clinical stages," Senator Pia explained, assuring that the VIP would complement, not overlap, with the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM).

The discussion saw participation from Senators Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, Francis Tolentino, and Risa Hontiveros.

Senator Pia also emphasized the bill's adherence to the One Health System, a collaborative framework recognizing

the interconnectedness of people, animals, and the environment in tackling infectious diseases. The proposed governing board of the VIP would be chaired by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary, with the Secretaries of the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) serving as co-chairs.

Senator Alan, who chairs the Senate Committee on Science and Technology, has been actively pushing for stronger virology research capabilities. "The entire government must act quickly to address public health and economic crises. The VIP will be essential in saving lives and protecting livelihoods," he stressed.

Originally proposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the VIP Act aims to establish a state-of-the-art research institute dedicated to virus studies, vaccine development, and pandemic preparedness.

The Senate is expected to continue deliberations in the coming sessions, bringing the country a step closer to enhancing its readiness against future health emergencies.

(Edjun Mariposque)

“You don't always

need a plan.

Sometimes you just

need to breathe,

trust, let go, and see

what happens.”

MANDY HALE

A FRUITFUL ENGAGEMENT WITH BATANGAS SECURITY PRACTITIONERS



Cavinti, Laguna - On 31 January 2025, the Commander of the 202nd Infantry (Unifier) Brigade served as the Guest of Honor and Speaker during the 204th General Membership and Security Coordination Meeting of the Batangas Industrial Security Alliance Inc. (BISA) held at Matabungkay Beach Resort & Hotel in Lian, Batangas. The BISA is the dynamic organization of private security officers of industrial companies, leisure estates and other business establishments in the Province of Batangas. For their first meeting in CY 2025, private secu-

rity agencies, and members of law enforcement agencies converged to discuss updates relative to the safety and security of the province's industrial and business sector. The occasion was an opportunity for information sharing, joint efforts in addressing security threats, and enhancing crisis management through unified protocols. BISA members also shared the training and workshops conducted by their companies to improve the capabilities of security personnel while advocating for adherence to safety standards.

By fostering collaboration and community

engagements, BISA aims to create a secure environment that supports industrial growth and economic development in Batangas.

In his keynote message, BGen Ronald Jess S Alcudia, 202nd Brigade Commander, reported on the internal security Threat Situation and the Brigade's Critical Infrastructure Investment Protection Security Operations (CIIPSO). BGen Alcudia assured BISA of the Brigade's support as he emphasized the Brigade's role in contributing to the safety of industrial assets and fostering a secure environment for economic activities in the province.



Along this line, he also sought the collective vigilance and support of the body in confronting the emerging security concerns related to the tensions in the West Philippine Sea and threats to our territory and sovereignty.

The meeting served as a platform for open discussions on countering infiltration and espionage, malign operations, disinformation and foreign interference and influence operations.

Other key attendees included Major Geronimo D. Guevarra of the 59th Infantry Battalion, Dir. Nino Anthony E. Balagtas, MNSA, Regional Director, NICA 4A; Engr. Carlito B. Peña, BISA Chairman, Philippine Oil Company; and Col Florante A. Falsis,

PAF (Retired), BISA President. The event reinforced the strong partnership between the 202nd Infantry Brigade and the Batangas Industrial Security Alliance Inc., underscoring the shared commitment to safeguarding vital infrastructure, supporting regional growth and upholding national security and interests.

RODRIGUEZ, RIZAL DELEGATES VISIT CAVITE PROVINCIAL LIBRARY



In pursuit of efficient and effective library operation, delegates from the Municipality of Rodriguez in the Province of Rizal embarked on a benchmarking visit at the Cavite Provincial Library, on January 24, 2025. The endeavor engaged in analyzing the library's system, exploring its services and training programs, and

catching a glimpse of the clients' overall usage and satisfaction with the facility.

Provincial Board Secretary Michelle Alcud, Assistant Board Secretary Giovanni Cuadra, and Provincial Librarian Concepcion Villanueva welcomed the delegation led by Vice Mayor Edgardo Sison at the old session hall of the Legislative Building in Trece Martires City.

Afterward, the team had the opportunity to visit the New Provincial Government Building, before proceeding to the Cavite Provincial Library to gain insights that could be adopted for the growth and advancement of their municipal library.-J. Reyes



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

SSS MAGTATAAS NG KONTRIBUSYON NGAYON ENERO

Nag anunsyo ang Social Security System (SSS) na magdadagdag sila ng kontribusyon para sa mga miyembro nito na magsisimula na ngayong buwan ng Enero 2025.

Ayon kay SSS Acting Head Carlo Villacorta, Ang kontribusyon ay tataas ng 15% mula sa dating 14% ito'y bilang bahagi ng mga hakbang ng ahensya na palakasin ang pondo ng pensiyon na pinapatakbo ng gobyerno.

Ang pagbabago ay makaapekto hindi lamang sa mga employer at empleyado, kundi pati na rin sa mga kasambahay, mga self-employed, mga boluntaryong miyembro at mga land-based na Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs).

Sa ilalim ng bagong sistema, magkakaroon ng pagbabago sa Monthly Salary Credits (MSC) ng mga manggagawa at employer sa pribadong sektor, na nagtatakda kung magkano ang kanilang kontribusyon sa SSS.

Halimbawa rito ang mga employer at empleyado, self-employed, mga boluntaryo, at iyong spouse members na hindi nagtatrabaho kung

saan ang MSC ay tataas sa P5,000 na may maximum na P20,000.

Habang ang mga kasambahay ay may MSC na P1,000 na may maximum na P20,000. Sa land base OFW member naman ay may MSC na P8,000 na may maximum rin na P20,000.

Paliwanag ni Villacorta ang pagtaas ng singil sa contribution ay upang tugunan ang maaaring pagbaba ng pondo ng ahensya at para mapataas ang financial fund nito na maaaring magtagal pa umano hanggang sa taong 2053 dahil sa kasalukuyan nagbibigay ang SSS ng mga benepisyo sa higit sa 13 milyong mga manggagawa sa bansa.

Nilinaw ng SSS na ang karamihang empleyado na kumikita ng hindi hihigit sa P25,000 bawat buwan, hindi maapektuhan ang kanilang take-home pay, dahil ang mga employer ang sasagot ng pagtaas ng kontribusyon.

Gayunpaman, ang mga negosyo ay makakaranas ng karagdang gastos sa operasyon, na magiging hamon para sa mga maliliit na negosyo.

DTI CAVITE...

Argente, Asst. Regional Director Revelyn Cortez, and Provincial Directors Lilibeth Chavez (Cavite), Julieta Tadiosa (Quezon), and Christian Ted Tungohan (Laguna). Also present were Dasmariñas City Mayor Hon. Jenny Barzaga, LEDIPO Head Carlos Legaspi, SM Malls representatives Edith Tayko and Minabel Llanes, and other staff from the DTI and LGU.

During her remarks, RD Argente emphasized the significance of partnerships in the realization of initiatives like this: "DTI initiates the program, but without the LGU support, it wouldn't be possible." She also highlighted that the OTOP Store serves as a "training ground" to help entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses and establish

their own independent stores in the future.

DTI Asec. Tolentino encouraged further efforts to identify and develop more MSMEs across barangays, saying, "Suyurin ang mga barangay upang mas madaming matulungang MSMEs na may potential."

Mayor Jenny Barzaga expressed her gratitude to the DTI, SM City Dasmariñas, and Team Dasma for turning the dream of having an OTOP Store into reality. She praised the collaboration between the LGU, private sector, and the DECC for the successful launch.

The store highlights the products of Dasmariñas-based MSMEs, including Maestra Panaderia, Project Beans, Absmush Mushroom, Din-gras Food House, Nutria

FROM PAGE 1

Farm, EMCK Foods Philippines OPC, Olivia Perfumes, and Kuya Jay's Takoyaki, among others.

On behalf of the 27 founding members of the cooperative, DECC Head Arman Mojica expressed his appreciation to the LGU and DTI, noting that the store's concept evolved from a simple "Likhang Dasmariñas" initiative to the broader OTOP Store, thanks to the intervention of DTI Cavite.

The OTOP Store aims to bring locally-made products closer to the public, promoting Filipino craftsmanship while empowering entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. With this launch, Dasmariñas City continues to set a benchmark for supporting local MSMEs in the region. PR

PUBLISHER CORNER

"BAKIT MALACANANG AT DBM ANG DEFENSIVE SA KULANG-KULANG NA BICAM REPORT? DI BA DAPAT CONGRESS (HOR AT SENADO) ANG NAGPAPALIWANAG? SINO BA TALAGA ANG 'NAG FILL IN THE BLANKS'?"



Ito ang pahayag ni dating Department of Finance Undersecretary Cielo Magno na nagbigay ng opinyon sa lumalaking kontrobersya ukol sa 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sa kanyang Facebook page, iginiit ni Magno:

"Sino ang nag puno ng blanks mula sa Bicam report hanggang ito ay naging GAB? Dapat complete ang lumabas sa Bicam report, dahil ito ang nagiging GAB."

Sa halip na ang Kongreso ang magpaliwanag, tila ang Malacañang at DBM ang nangungunang dumidepen-sa.

Dagdag pa ni Magno, bakit tila tahimik ang Kongreso at Senado sa isyung ito?

Ang Tanong: Bakit ang Malakanyang ang Unang Sumasagot?

Samantalang ang usapin ay nakasentro sa Bicam Report, ang unang nagtanggig ng alegasyon ni FPR-RD ay ang Executive Secretary ng Malakanyang, si Lucas Bersamin, at si Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

Sinabi ng Pangulo: "He is lying. Sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, hindi pinapayagan na magkaroon ng item ang GAA na walang nakasaad kung ano ang proyekto at pondo."

Sinabi naman ng kanyang Executive Secretary na si Bersamin: "Fake News!"

Ngunit ayon kay dating Presidential Spokesperson Harry Roque,

malinaw na iba ang Bicam Report sa General Appropriations Act (GAA):

"Excuse po, iba po yung Bicam Report sa GAA. Yung una ang pinagbasihan nung huli. Dapat myembro ng Bicam ang nag-deny dahil wala naman dun si ES nung nag-fill-in-the-blanks sila!"

Sa gitna ng isyu, binigyang-diin ng dating Executive Secretary Atty. Vic Rodriguez ang kahalagahan ng transparency: "Sino po ang pumuno ng mga blangkong ito?"

Ayon sa kanya, kung totoo ang alegasyon, ito ay malinaw na paglabag sa batas at konstitusyon. Dagdag pa niya, ang sinumang responsible ay dapat managot.

ISANG PAGTATANGKANG LINLANGIN ANG PUBLIKO?

Sa halip na ipaliwanag ng mga miyembro ng Bicam ang kanilang papel, tila ang Malakanyang ang nangungunang gumagawa ng paraan upang agad na isara ang isyu. Ngunit ang nakaraang pahayag ni Imee Marcos, na mismong kapatid ng nakaupong Pangulo, ay nagbubukas ng mas maraming tanong tungkol sa isyu:

- Kung walang anomalya, bakit may mga pumirma sa "blanko't kulang-kulang na papel"?

- Sino ang naglagay ng mga halaga sa blangkong item?

- At bakit tila inuuna ng administrasyon na pasinungalingan ang usapin kahit hindi sila direktang sangkot sa proseso ng Bicam?

Cayetano...

ang mga opisyal at personnel ng DFA na edad 65 pataas at nakapaglingkod sa ahensya nang hindi bababa sa 15 taon.

Bagama't suportado niya ang panukalang batas, igiliit ni Cayetano na hindi dapat doon natatapos ang ugnayan ng gobyerno at ng DFA retirees.

"While this bill is much deserved, and is needed, I think it's just one piece of the puzzle," pahayag niya.

Mungkahi ng senador, magpasa ng batas ang Kongreso na magbibigay ng lugar sa mga retiradong DFA personnel na magamit ang kanilang kaalaman at karanasan sa foreign relations, gaya ng isang think tank.

"I hope, after this pension law, this august Chamber, with the other half (House of Representatives), can come up with something to fully utilize the expertise of DFA retirees and enhance the

image of the country with their help," wika niya.

"Nandiyan na sila, waiting lang kung ano ang susunod na yugto para sa ating mahal na bansa," dagdag niya.

Gayunpaman, pinasalamatan ni Cayetano, na nagsilbi bilang Foreign Affairs Secretary mula 2017 hanggang 2018, ang kanyang mga kapwa senador sa kanilang suporta sa pagpasa ng pension bill. PR

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DOST – CALABARZON CONDUCTS RISK MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO EN-HANCE ITS QMS AND UPHOLD QUALITY POLICY



Last January 8-9, 2025, the DOST-CALABARZON conducted a Risk Management Training for 42 staff of its regional and provincial offices at the Monte Vista Hotsprings & Conference Resort, Calamba, Laguna. The activity was facilitated by Ms. Marilag D. Mojica, Trainer/Consultant from the PDCA Business Consulting & Training Services, and aims to maintain the effectiveness of the organization's Quality Management System (QMS) through identifying, assessing, and mitigating potential risks that could negatively impact the operations, reputation, and overall objectives of the organization.

Agnes Morales, Provincial Director of the PSTO-Laguna, and the lead coordinator of the said training, regular risk management training empowers employees to handle uncertainties and to contribute to a safe and productive work environment.

"Risk management training is essential in maintaining the effectiveness of the Quality Management System (QMS)," she said, "It prevents quality failures, enhances compliance, improves process control, supports continuous improvement, minimizes operational failures, increases customer satisfaction, and integrates risk-based thinking into QMS." PR



FAST AND EFFICIENT TRAVELS AHEAD: A milestone for our province as Lady Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino together with some officials signed the Joint Venture Agreement for the **Cavite Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System** project! This Public-Private Partnership (PPP), is in collaboration with Megawide Construction Corp. and Maplecrest Group Inc., will transform travel across Cavite, providing faster, more efficient transportation to our communities. This is also the first PPP project with an LGU in the transport sector.

EK WELCOMES PROSPERITY AND HAPPINESS WITH THE YEAR OF SNAPTOOTH THE SNAKE, A CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, welcomes magic and luck with a vibrant and immersive Chinese New Year celebration as it kicks off its 30th anniversary this 2025!

The Year of Snaptooth the Snake is set to leave guests forever enchanted with breathtaking cultural showcases, special food and dining offers inspired by the tradition, and festive decorations among others from January 29 to February 9.

The celebration commenced at EK with the first 300 guests receiving red envelopes upon the opening of EK's magical gates. Everyone was also given the opportunity to meet and greet EK's beloved character Snaptooth, as well as dig into the limited time offer Snaptooth's Prosperity Set Meal from Amazon Grill and LaunchTime restaurants. Plus, there is a 10% special food offering discount for those who would like to refuel their energy at the Snaptooth Snack Station.

Thousands of guests were dazzled by the Enchanted Lunar New Year Parade as it made its way across the streets of Portabello, Brooklyn Place, and Spaceport zones during the day. The symbolic Lion and Dragon also ushered in the magic of prosperity and good luck for everyone as they pranced around the park.

At nighttime, the park guests once again witnessed the Enchanted Lunar New Year Parade followed by the colorful performance of the LED lion dance to the beat of traditional Chinese drums. Snaptooth even joined the two mighty lions as they made their stop in front of the Eldar's Theater to shower even more good luck to the crowd.

EK topped off the festivities with the enchanting spectacle of lights at the Sky Wizardry Fireworks Display.

Schedule Your Lucky Day Head on to Enchanted Kingdom and welcome prosperity, happiness, and good fortune this year with your family and loved ones until February 9, Sunday!

*Schedules may be subject to change without prior notice

For more information and updates regarding these and EK's other upcoming events and offers, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and Tiktok, and @ek_philippines for Twitter and Instagram.

Vice Governor Karen Agapay Graces TESDA Graduation in Siniloan, Laguna



Siniloan, Laguna – The Sylvre Agri-Farm Training and Assessment Center celebrated the 6th Graduation Ceremony for Organic Agriculture Production NC II and Rice Machinery Operation NC II, with Vice Governor Karen Agapay as the esteemed guest speaker.

With the theme "Kaalamang Mekanisasyon at Organikong Agrikultura: Handa sa Hamon ng Bagong Henerasyon", the event un-

derscored the vital role of modern agricultural skills in empowering future farmers and agripreneurs.

Vice Governor Agapay congratulated the graduates, emphasizing the values of Ambition, Perseverance, and Thanksgiving (APT) as key to success. She also reaffirmed her commitment to supporting TESDA programs that equip Laguna's workforce with practical and sustainable skills.

The ceremony

was attended by local officials, TESDA representatives, and proud families of the graduates, marking another milestone in the province's drive for agricultural excellence.

Congratulations, NC II Passers!

This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the graduates, who are now ready to contribute to Laguna's growing agricultural sector.

(Edjun Mariposque)

CASH ASSISTANCE PAYOUT IN LILIW, LAGUNA TURNS CHAOTIC AS MAYOR MONLEON AND VICE MAYOR SULIBIT NEARLY CLASH



LILIW, LAGUNA – A Cash Assitance payout event turned into a scene of tension and near confrontation yesterday as Mayor Ide Monleon and Vice Mayor Ericson Sulibit almost came to blows. The political rivals had to be separated before the situation escalated further, alarming attendees and local officials.

According to Councilor Dominic Coroza, Mayor Monleon used nearly an hour of stage time to attack Vice Mayor Sulibit with accusations. This prompted Sulibit to personally visit the venue in an attempt to hear the claims firsthand and

respond. However, his arrival only heightened the tension, nearly leading to a physical altercation.

Witnesses said the heated exchange quickly drew attention, and supporters from both camps became visibly agitated. Fortunately, event organizers and local officials intervened in time to prevent the situation from turning violent. The near-clash has since sparked debates over the growing political friction in Liliw.

Councilor Coroza strongly condemned Mayor Monleon's remarks, calling them baseless and politically motivated. He also accused the mayor

of using the public event as a platform for personal attacks rather than focusing on the intended beneficiaries of the Cash Assistance payout. Coroza emphasized that such incidents only create division within the community.

In response to the incident, Coroza urged the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to impose stricter regulations on early campaigning in Liliw. He stressed the need for fair and issue-based political discourse, warning that if left unchecked, such tensions could escalate further as the election season approaches.

(EdjunMariposque)