

MPT SOUTH KICKS OFF ITS 2025 "BAYANI NG KALSADA" CARAVAN



"Bayani ng Kalsada" was developed to educate young students on road safety practices and ensure the safety of children as they travel to and from school. Through the activity's interactive workshops, engaging presentations, and practical demonstrations, students can learn essential skills, including the importance

said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, MPT South. "We are committed to making our community safer by empowering our youth with the knowledge they need to form a culture of safety starting with themselves, their family and neighbors."

"Our learners had a blast during this very worthwhile and interactive reading session, as they enjoyed the stories shared through the 'Bayani Ka' material. The fun didn't stop there, they received free school supplies and were also treated to free snacks to complete the experience! Buenavista Elementary School is beyond grateful to be chosen as a recipient of this rare

and valuable initiative. We thank MPCALA for the opportunity to educate our young learners about the importance of road safety in such an engaging way," said Ms. Helen Catanaoan, Principal of Buenavista Elementary School.

Buenavista Elementary School also received a total of 100 "Bayani Ka" books to reinforce what the students learned during the program and to encourage ongoing conversations about road safety at home. Aside from "Bayani Ka" books, MPT South also gave school supplies and meals for the participating students. MPT South will continue to cultivate students across Cavite and Laguna, giving emphasis



to the importance of community partnerships in promoting safe habits among children.

About MPT South
MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). Aside from CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.
For inquiries about this press release please email us at: corpcomm@mptsouth.com

PROFRIENDS AND MERALCO: CELEBRATING A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Property Company of Friends, Inc. (Profriends) recently handed over the title for the 5,400 sq.m. lot donated to Meralco where the latter's substation now stands in Lancaster New City. The infrastructure services the electricity requirements of the over 24,000 families presently in Lancaster, over 60 commercial locators, and even surrounding communities.

In 2014, Profriends collaborated with Meralco in anticipating the progressive needs of its residents and locators. Five year later, the state-of-the-art sub-station came into fruition, providing switching flexibility in case of outages, translating to fewer and shorter power interruptions. "It was a timely partnership between Meralco and Profriends... having the substation in Lancaster New City, since we were able to have reliable electric service in the community at the height of the pandemic from 2020 to 2022," avers Roberto 'Jojo' Isip, SAVP and Head of Meralco's Network Planning & Design, who was part of the team that worked with Profriends from the beginning. "A lot of people were working from home during that time, and we were happy that we could provide uninterrupted electricity to the residents."

In her remarks, Profriends President Kathleen Choa underscored the importance of the partnership, "The close collaboration with Meralco will continue and we are already working on our future plans. I'm happy that they are very supportive in our community-building efforts, even with our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects."



Meralco substation in Lancaster New City

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Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Calamba City in Winning Prestigious GAPAS Award from DSWD





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WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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Vol. I - Series 35 - March 16-22, 2025

Cayetano push stricter vape and tobacco regulations as youth use surges

Calabarzon Dev't Council welcomes PIA a regular member



The Provincial Government of Cavite proudly joins the nation in celebrating National Women's Month! This month, we honor the strength, resilience, and achievements of women in all fields. Together, we commit to empowering every woman for a more inclusive and equitable future.

Empowering Caviteñas: Financial Aid Boosts Women in Ternate

NEW BENEFIT IN FOCUS PHILHEALTH OUTPATIENT MENTAL HEALTH PACKAGE TO SUPPORT INVISIBLE PAINS OF FILIPINOS



PhilHealth @ 30 Panatag kami dito!

Ngayong Pebrero 2025 ay

BUWAN NG SEGURONG PANGKALUSUGAN

(National Health Insurance Month per Proclamation 1400 s-2007)

at ika-30 Anibersaryo ng PhilHealth

PhilHealth is committed to holistically addressing the healthcare needs of every Filipino.

"Nais naming ipaabot na kahit hindi nakikita ang inyong daing, may PhilHealth na magbibigay ng suporta at alaga sa inyo. Ito po ay alinsunod sa mga prayoridad ng ating Pangulong Marcos," said Dr. Edwin M. Mercado, PhilHealth Acting President and

cont. on page 7



Editorial PBBM, pag-iibayuhin ng pamahalaan ang suporta nito sa sektor ng agrikultura

Sinabi ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., pag-iibayuhin ng pamahalaan ang suporta nito sa sektor ng agrikultura upang mapataas ang produksyon at mapabuti ang kita.

Binago ni Pangulong Marcos ang kanyang pangako nang pinasinayaan niya ang Sorosoro Ibabang Development Cooperative (SIDC) Grains Terminal and Trading Project, isang Php278.3-million grains facility sa Barangay Simlong, Batangas City, noong Huwebes.

"Lagi po ninyong tandaan na kami sa pamahalaan ay walang tigil sa pagbibigay ng suporta sa inyong mga pangangailangan upang mapabuti ang sektor – mapabuti, mapatibay, mapalakas, at mapalaki ang sektor ng agrikultura," pahayag ni PBBM.

Inutusan ng Pangulo ang Department of Agriculture (DA) na makipag-ugnayan sa Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) para palakasin ang mga kooperatiba ng mga magsasaka.

"Kaya inatasan ko ang DA na makipag-ugnayan sa CDA, Cooperative Development Authority, para patibayin, palakasin ang mga kooperatiba ng ating mga magsasaka," dagdag pa ni Pangulong Marcos.

Aniya, tulad ng SIDC, ang ibang kooperatiba ay tatanggap din ng tulong ng gobyerno para makakuha ng mga bagong makinarya at post-harvest facility para madagdagan ang kanilang ani at kita.

"Tinitiyak po natin sa inyo na gagawin namin ang lahat upang matupad ang mga ito," winika pa niya.

Ayon kay Pangulong Marcos na ang layunin ng pagtulong at pagbibigay ng mas maraming pagkakataon sa mga magsasaka ay makakamit sa pagsasanib ng puwersa ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor.

Plano rin ng gobyerno na makalikom ng pondo para sa pagbili ng mga dryer, silo, bodega, rice at corn mill, gayundin ang iba pang kagamitan para sa sektor ng agrikultura. Ang pagbili ng mga pasilidad na ito at pagpapabuti ng mga sistema ay mababawasan ang pag-aaksaya ng palay at mais, pagbaba ng presyo ng pagkain, at gagawing mas produktibo ang mga magsasaka.

Pabililisin din ng gobyerno ang mga proyekto ng irigasyon at water pumping station at palalawakin ang mga programang magpapaunlad at magpapalaki ng produksyon sa pamamagitan ng mas epektibo at advanced na teknolohiya.

Sinabi ng Pangulo na sa tulong ng DA at World Bank, naitatag ng SIDC ang Php278.3-million na pasilidad. Ang pasilidad ng feed mill ay may dalawang silo na may kabuuang kapasidad ng paggiling ng 12,000 metrikong tonelada ng mais, katumbas ng paggawa ng 480,000 sako ng pagkain para sa 107,000 hogs o 597,758 na manok.

PAG-IBIG...

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar, who chairs the 11-member Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, underscored the agency's outstanding performance and robust financial standing.

"Pag-IBIG Fund has once again marked 2024 as one of its best-performing years, achieving record highs in both total assets and net income. This accomplishment directly benefits our members, as we declared ₱55.65 billion in dividends—equivalent to 82.71% of our net income, exceeding the 70% dividend requirement by

CALABARZON ...

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — The Calabarzon Regional Development Council (RDC) welcomed the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) and six other agencies as new voting members during its First Quarter Full Council meeting on Thursday, March 6.

Among the new regular member-agencies of Calabarzon's RDC are the Department of Energy, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of Migrant Workers, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Philippine Information Agency, and the Office of Civil Defense.

The inclusion

aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order No. 82, which reorganized the RDCs to strengthen their role in advancing regional socio-economic development.

As a newly appointed voting member, PIA Region IV-A Regional Head Ma. Cristina Arzadon assured the agency's continued support for accelerating the region's economic and social growth, as well as its sustainable development.

"We are grateful for the inclusion of other national agencies as regular members of the RDC, pursuant to President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order 82, which seeks to accelerate

socio-economic development in all regions," Arzadon said.

Since its inclusion in the RDC, PIA IV-A has actively leveraged its platforms to raise awareness of government programs aimed at enhancing the region's socioeconomic landscape.

"The PIA, even as a non-voting member, had been in full support of the RDC's pursuit of regional socio-economic transformation under the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. Now, as a regular member, we will further strengthen our role as government communicators to ensure that the message of socio-economic development reaches the grassroots."

EO 82, signed on Jan. 28, 2025 repealed EO 325 issued in 1996 and designated 13 government agencies and offices as additional members of the RDCs.

The Regional Development Council serves as the highest planning and policy-making body for socio-economic development in all regions of the country.

The RDCs are composed of local government units, regional line agencies, the academe, and the private sector, which oversee the allocation of public and private investments to support regional development objectives, policies, and strategies.

BATCH 6 OF SAFETY TRAINING READY TO INSPIRE KNOWLEDGE AND EMPOWERMENT (STRIKE): "FREE STUDENT DRIVERS PERMIT FOR BACOOREÑOS"

Bacoor City, March 11, 2025 - The City Government of Bacoor, under the leadership of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, in partnership with the SK Federation and Liga ng Barangay (LnB), successfully concluded the sixth batch of its "Free Student Drivers Permit for Bacooreños" program today. The program, held at the Revilla Hall, provided training and seminars to over 180 Bacooreños who aspire to obtain their student driver's permits.

The training, conducted by experienced instructors Mr. Garry Villanueva (LTO Imus), Mr. Morry Daep (LTO Dasma), and Mr. Jonathan Medina (LTO Silang), focused on imparting essential knowledge and skills to aspiring drivers. The program's goal is to empower Bacooreños with the necessary knowledge and skills to become safe and responsible drivers.

SK President Palm Angel Buncio, in her address to the participants, emphasized the importance of

law," Acuzar said. "With our strong performance, sound investments and robust finances, we are well-equipped to continue providing our members with responsive benefits, and advance our efforts under the Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino Program, ensuring that more Filipino workers can access affordable homes."

Meanwhile, Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene C. Acosta highlighted the agency's record-setting performance in 2024. She noted that Pag-IBIG released ₱129.73 billion in home loans, helping 90,640 members acquire new or better homes. The agency also collected a total of ₱132.81 billion in membership savings—₱73.74 billion of which were voluntarily saved under Upgraded and MP2 Savings—and disbursed ₱70.33 billion in cash loans to assist more than 3.2 million members.

"Truly, when Pag-IBIG Fund performs well, our members benefit the most," Acosta said. "We take great pride in our record-high achievements in 2024, which reflect our commitment to helping members achieve their dream of homeownership, find relief in trying times, and save for a brighter future. We remain steadfast in safeguarding our members' contributions and ensuring they yield the best possible returns—because our members deserve nothing less than the highest level of public service and the most prudent stewardship of their hard-earned savings."



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Calabarzon Dev't Council welcomes PIA as regular member

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PHILHEALTH...

CEO.

Through the PhilHealth's Outpatient Benefits Package for Mental Health [PhilHealth Circular 2023-0018], members and dependents aged 10 and above, can now access services encompassing initial assessments, follow-up consultations, diagnostic tests, and psychosocial support. It covers conditions such as depression, psychosis, epilepsy, child and adolescent mental and behavioral disorders, dementia, and self-harm or suicide risks, among others.

As such, those requiring specialized care are provided with access to interventions from psychiatrists, neurologists, and psychologists. PhilHealth provides annual coverage of Php 9,000 for general mental health services and Php 16,000 for specialized care.

Members can access these benefits at any accredited facility that provides general mental health services. These facilities include

rural health units (RHUs), city or municipal health offices, level 1 and 2 hospitals, Department of Health (DOH) Medicine Access Program-mental health access sites, and stand alone mental health clinics.

On the other hand, specialized mental health services can be accessed at accredited Level 2 and 3 hospitals with specialized staff, custodial care facilities, and national specialty centers identified by DOH.

"We recognize the importance of accessible mental health services for every Filipino. Kaya naman, katuwang din natin ang Kagawaran ng Kalusugan sa patuloy pang pagpapalawig ng ating mga serbisyo para sa kalusugang pangkaisipan. We are calling for more providers to participate and make these services within reach of Filipinos with mental health struggles," added Dr. Mercado.

Beyond the Mental Health package,

2025.

Dumalo sa seremonya sina Barangay Chairman Francisco "Isko" Agonia, kasama ang buong Sangguniang Barangay ng Masapang, Konsehal Sonny Lazaro, Barangay Chairman Leoncio Fajardo ng Brgy. San Francisco, at Gng. Corazon Almeida. Pinangunahan naman ni Fr. Larry Ramos ang pagbabasbas sa bagong gusali.

Ang naturang proyekto ay magsisilbing bagong Barangay Hall ng Masapang, na inasahang magpapabuti sa pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa

mga residente. Sa pamamagitan nito, mas epektibong maipapatupad ang mga programa, polisiya, at iba pang aktibidad ng barangay.

Ayon kay Congressman Amante, patuloy siyang magsusulong ng mga proyekto para sa ikaunlad ng mga barangay sa Victoria at iba pang bahagi ng ikatlong distrito ng Laguna. Kanyang binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng direktang pakikisalamuha sa mga mamamayan, tulad ng pagsasagawa ng People's Day tuwing Huwebes sa Fule-Malvar Mansion sa

San Pablo City at tuwing Biyernes sa kanyang satellite offices sa Nagcarlan at Calauan.

Bukod dito, binigyang-diin din ng kongresista ang mga batas na kanyang isinulong, kabilang ang Centenarian Law, na nagbibigay ng benepisyo sa mga nakatatandang mamamayan na umaabot sa edad 100. Kasalukuyan rin niyang isinusulong ang panukalang batas para sa kapakanan ng mga batang may special needs.

Lubos naman ang pasasalamat ni Chairman Agonia at ng Sangguniang Barangay sa kongresista dahil natupad na ang kanilang pangarap na magkaroon ng bagong gusali. Aniya, lalo pa nilang pagsisikapang ang pagbibigay ng mahusay na serbisyo sa kanilang mga ka-barangay. Patuloy rin ang programa ng barangay sa pagbibigay ng libreng gamot at binhing gulay para sa mga residente. (Shekinah Esteban)



Victoria, Laguna – Pormal nang binuksan ang bagong dalawang palapag na multi-purpose building sa Barangay Masapang, Victoria, Laguna matapos pangunahan ni Congressman Loreto "Amben" S. Amante ang inagurasyon at pagbabasbas nito noong Marso 12,



1ST QUARTER NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS EARTHQUAKE DRILL, ISINAGAWA SA PAMAHALAANG PANGLUNGSOD NG SANTA ROSA, LAGUNA



Nasa larawan sina OCD CALABARZON Regional Director Carlos Alvarez III, Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas, OCD USEC. Ariel Nepomuceno, DSWD USEC. Diana Rose S. Cajipe at PHIVOLCS Director Teresito Bacolcol. (From left to right)

Santa Rosa, Laguna – Maayos at epektibong naisagawa ngayong araw ang 1st Quarter Nationwide Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) sa pamahalaang panglungsod ng Santa Rosa, sa pangunguna ng iba't ibang pambansa at lokal na ahensya.

Bahagi ito ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng nasyonal at lokal na pamahalaan upang mapalgitng ang kahandaan sa oras ng sakuna, lalo na sa malalakas na lindol. Sa pagsisimula ng drill, sabay-sabay na isinagawa ng mga empleyado ng city hall, mga paaralan, residente, at iba

pang kalahok ang "duck, cover, and hold" protocol bilang pangunahing hakbang sa pagprotekta sa sarili sa oras ng pagyanig. Pinangunahan ang earthquake drill ng National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Undersecretary Ariel

Nepomuceno, Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas at Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) CALABARZON Regional Director Carlos Alvarez III. Kabilang din sa mga dumalo at sumuporta sina Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Undersecretary

Diana Rose S. Cajipe, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) Director Teresito Bacolcol, pati na rin ang mga kinatawan mula sa Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), at iba pang ahensya.

Layon ng 1st Quarter NSED na masuri ang kahandaan ng mga opisyal, kawani, at mamamayan sa panahon ng lindol, pati na rin ang koordinasyon sa pagitan ng iba't ibang sangay ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor sa emergency response.

Ang pakikisa ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Santa Rosa, sa pamumuno ni Mayor Arlene Arcillas, ay patunay ng kanilang dedikasyon sa kaligtasan at kahandaan ng mamamayan.

Ang pagsasagawa ng National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED) ay hindi lang isang routine na aktibidad kundi isang mahalagang hakbang upang matiyak na alam ng bawat isa ang tamang gawin sa oras ng sakuna. Sa pamamagitan nito, naipapakita ang halaga ng kaalaman at mabilis na aksyon—dahil sa panahon ng sakuna, bawat segundo ay may timbang sa kaligtasan ng buhay.

Tiniyak ni Mayor Arlene na sapat ang mga kagamitan ng lokal na pamahalaan upang epektibong makapagresponde sa mga sakuna, tulad ng lindol.

"Patuloy nating pinapalakas ang kakayahang ng ating lungsod sa disaster response. Mayroon tayong regular na training para sa ating mga skilled workers upang higit nilang

matutunan ang tamang hakbang sa pagresponde. Bukod dito, ang ating City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) ay patuloy na nagsasagawa ng trainings at seminars sa mga paaralan, barangay, pribadong establisimento, at mga kumpanya upang mapalawak ang kaalaman ng lahat tungkol sa disaster preparedness," ani Mayor Arcillas.

Ipinunto rin niya, kung kinakailangan pang dagdagan ang mga kagamitan sa emergency response, hindi magdadala-lawang-isip ang lokal na pamahalaan na maglaan ng pondo upang mapabuti ang kanilang kakayahan sa pagharap sa mga sakuna.

Sa mensahe naman ni USEC. Nepomuceno binigyang-diin niya ang kahalagahan ng maayos na engineering solutions sa pagtiyak ng kaligtasan ng publiko.

"Engineering solutions lamang ang kailangan. Huwag mag-short-cut pagdating sa mga building permit dahil ang ating mga mahal sa buhay ang maaaring mapinsala. Mahalagang tiyakin ang tamang earthquake retrofitting upang patibayin ang bawat istruktura o mga bahay. May oras pa tayong upang suriin kung matitiyag ang mga ito," aniya.

Naging sistematiko at maayos ang isinagawang earthquake drill sa Santa Rosa, Laguna—isang patunay ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng gobyerno sa pagpapalakas ng kahandaan ng bansa sa anumang sakunang maaaring dumating.

(Shekinah Esteban)

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Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

Ceremonial Singing of Joint Security Plan in Tanay Wind Farm Project

Ngayong araw ng March 13, 2025 bandang 9:00 ng umaga, dumalo si PCOL FELIPE B MARAGGUN, Provincial Director sa isinagawang Ceremonial Signing of Joint Security Plan ng Tanay Wind Farm Project ng mga miyembro ng ALTERNERGY HOLDINGS CORPORATION sa pangunguna ng isa mga direktor nito na si Mr. Knud Hedeager katuwang si BGEN Vicente C Bahia (ret), Security Adviser.

Layon ng nasabing aktibidad ay upang palawigin ang seguridad ng mga itatayong wind turbines sa bayan ng Tanay at daan narin para makatulong sa mamamayan ng Rizal.

Kasama sa paglalagda ay ang ibat-ibang ahensya tulad ng 202nd Infantry Brigade na nirepresenta ng 80th Infantry Battalion sa pangunguna ni LTCOL Mark Anthony U Ruby, Battalion Commander, Provincial Security Division, Philippine Coast Guard, at Local Government Unit.

Kasama ni PD Maraggun sina PLTCOL Jaime S Pederio, DPDO, PLTCOL Vicente Gil R Palma, PMFC Force Commander, PLTCOL Gaylor F Pagala, Chief of Police Tanay MPS, PMAJ Jeare B Agra, Legal Officer at PMAJ Joel L Alvarez, Chief POMU.

Cayelanos...

Senators Alan Peter and Pia Cayetano have reaffirmed their strong opposition to tobacco and e-cigarette use, following medical experts' declaration of an epidemic in smoking and vaping among the youth in the country.

This came after the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) held a press conference on Wednesday where doctors stressed that smoking remains the leading cause of preventable diseases and deaths worldwide.

They also warned that e-cigarettes and vapes — often marketed as a safer alternative to cigarettes — are becoming increasingly popular among young Filipinos.

Senator Pia, a long-time health advocate, called for a unified approach to address the growing concerns over the tobacco and vape industries.

"It is our job when we legislate that we don't allow these products to be marketed indiscriminately. And now, we can see evidence that they are really targeting the youth," she said.

"We must act swiftly to protect our children and our communities from these emerging threats before it's too late. The alarming crisis of youth vaping and potential addiction to illicit drugs demand our urgent attention," she added.

Data from the Department of Science and Technology-Food and Nutrition Research Institute (DOST-FNRI) have shown a rise in vape use among young individuals.

In 2021, around 37,000 youth were using vapes. By 2023, this number had surged to 423,000—an increase of over 1,000%.

Senator Alan echoed these concerns, pointing out the dangers of excessive nicotine consumption.

"We all know that nicotine is an addictive substance.

And yet we are allowing vaping devices to deliver much higher concentrations of nicotine than even cigarettes and other tobacco products can provide," he said.

"This will undoubtedly make it harder for the country's estimated

FROM PAGE 1

17 million smokers to quit and may in fact encourage a deeper dependence on nicotine among our kabayans," he added.

The senator also urged public officials to take decisive action against the rising cases of tobacco and vape use.

"I have always maintained that the government must work to do good and prevent harm.

We must stop the floodgates of nicotine addiction from opening, especially if it means putting people's health and lives at risk just to earn billions of pesos from vape and e-cigarette sales," he said. PR

Mayor Ross...

CALAMBA CITY, Philippines — On March 11, 2025, Mayor Roseller "Ross" Rizal personally accepted the Gawad sa Paglilingkod sa Sambahayan (GAPAS) Award, recognizing Calamba City as the Model LGU for Implementing Day Care Service (City Level) during the CY 2024 Panata Ko sa Bayan Awards at the 74th Anniversary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development

PUBLISHER CORNER LABAN LANG KAYA NATIN TO

My badge and my gun are crying right now. I'm so sorry Tatay, gustong-gusto kitang ipagtaggol at ipaglaban pero di ko magawa sa ngayon kasi nasa organisasyon pa ako pero kaya kong talikuran yan kung kinakailangan at pag nalaman kong inaapi at sinasaktan ka jan. Harapin mo sila nang buong tapang, patunayan mo na wala kang kasalanan, kayang-kaya mo yan Tay, sisiw lang yan. Sorry po kasi nasa malayo ako that time nung ikaw ay pinagtutulungan, ang bigat sa loob ko kasi di man lang kita naipaglaban. Pasensya na Tatay dahil andito tayo sa bansa na kayang isuko sa mga banyaga o dayuhan ang ating kasarinlan. Sorry talaga Tay kasi di rin ako makagalaw agad kasi sa ngayon, di pa sure kung sino talaga ang tunay nating kalaban, di ko pa alam kung sino talaga ang nagsasabi ng katotohanan. Basta eto tandaan mo Tay, pag tayo pinagloloko ng gobyerno at magkagulo ang Pilipinas, solid kakampi mo ako, kahit sino pa ang makalaban, walang tropa tropa, pasensyahan na lang. Wag ka lang nilang sasaktan jan, kundi susugod ang buong Pilipinas jan sa Netherlands. Mga Pinoy tayong lahat, magkakakampi tayong lahat. Giyera kung giyera. Ubusan ng lahi, bahala sila, mas marami tayong mga Pinoy, ubos na silang lahat, wala pa sa 1/4 ang bawas sa atin. Basta Tatay, ingat ka lagi jan, antayin namin ang pagbalik mo. Kung noon di mo kami pinabayaan, ngayon kami naman, di ka namin pababayaan, pangako po yan.

sakit sa buong bansa noong panahon ng pandemya. Ayokong makitang nahihirapan yung taong nagmalasakit sa sahod at benepisyo para sa pambansang hukbo at pambansang pulisya. Ayokong makitang nahihirapan yung taong nagpatigil sa malubhang kriminalidad sa bansa. At marami pang ayaw ko sa bansang ito na winala mo nung kapanahunan mo. Never kong makakalimutan lahat yun Tatay. Ikukwento ko ang buhay mo sa mga anak at apo ko, ganun ako kaproud sa'yo.

Kung may pamamalabis man sa pamamaraan mo ng paggobyerno, di mo yun kasalanan, kasalanan yun ng mga kriminal na matigas ang ulo. Siempre, sa bawat progressive nationwide change, di maiiwasan ang collateral damage. Pasensya na po sa mga nadamay sa drug war, di po sinasadya na madamay yung mga inosente, collateral damage po talaga ang mga yun. Yung mga abusadong pulis, kung hindi sila dismissed, andun po sila nakakulong. Wala na po akong ibang sasabihin Tatay, kahit hindi ka perfect na Presidente, the best President ka pa rin para sa'kin, sana ikaw na lang ulit, sana ikaw na lang ulit ang Tatay namin, mas maayos ang Pilipinas kapag ikaw ang lider namin, gusto ko lang malaman mo na mahal na mahal kita at proud na proud ako sa'yo. Mag-iingat ka po



sa Netherlands. Face all of them with pride. If they can't prosecute you there, murahin mo silang lahat ng malutong mong "p*tang" na niyong lahat!"

Basta andito lang kaming lahat Tay, nagtitiwala't sumusuporta sa'yo at babantayan namin ang paglilitis sa mga bintang sa'yo. Sa ngayon, di pa sure kung sino talaga ang tunay na kalaban, pero ulitin ko, pag tayo pinagloloko ng gobyerno at magkagulo ang Pilipinas, solid kakampi mo ako, kahit sino pa ang makalaban, walang tropa tropa, pasensyahan na lang. Wag ka lang nilang sasaktan jan, kundi susugod ang buong Pilipinas jan sa Netherlands. Mga Pinoy tayong lahat, magkakakampi tayong lahat. Giyera kung giyera. Ubusan ng lahi, bahala sila, mas marami tayong mga Pinoy, ubos na silang lahat, wala pa sa 1/4 ang bawas sa atin. Basta Tatay, ingat ka lagi jan, antayin namin ang pagbalik mo. Kung noon di mo kami pinabayaan, ngayon kami naman, di ka namin pababayaan, pangako po yan.

FROM PAGE 1

(DSWD). The prestigious ceremony was held at Sequoia Hotel in Parañaque City.

The award highlights Calamba City's effective implementation of its Day Care Service Program through the City Social Services Department (CSSD), ensuring high-quality early childhood care and development for young Calambefios.

"This recogni-

tion is a testament to our commitment to providing quality services for our children. It is a tribute to all dedicated public servants working tirelessly for the welfare of our youth," Mayor Rizal stated.

He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Calamba, saying:

"Panalo muli tayo, mga Calambefio! This award reflects our dedication to excellent

governance and the well-being of our young citizens. Congratulations to all of us! This honor is for every Calambefio who supports our vision for a brighter future."

With this GAPAS Award, Calamba City reaffirms its status as a model city for child welfare and early childhood education, further strengthening its commitment to community development.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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LaguNanay Year 7: Patuloy na Paglalaguyod ng Kabuhayan para sa Kababaihan



San Pedro, Laguna — Sa pagdiriwang ng ikapitong taon ng kanyang flagship program na “LaguNanay,” muling pinangunahan ni Laguna 1st District Representative Congresswoman Ann Matibag ang isang makabuluhang selebrasyon ng empowerment at pag-unlad para sa kababaihan ng San Pedro.

Sa ilalim ng programang “Kabuhayan para sa Kababaihan,” ipinamahagi ang unang batch ng Asenso Mobile Business Negocart sa mga piling benepisyaryo mula sa Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) As-

sociation. Layunin nitong bigyan ng pagkakataon ang kababaihan na mag-simula ng sariling negosyo at maging mas madiskarte para sa kanilang pamilya.

Bukod sa Negocart, isinagawa rin ang TESDA training upang mabigyan ang mga kababaihan ng karagdagang kasanayan na magagamit sa iba't ibang larangan ng trabaho at kabuhayan. Dagdag pa rito, P300,000-P450,000 na pondo ang ipinamahagi sa 11 SLP Associations bilang suporta sa kanilang mga programa at proyekt.

Ayon kay Con-

gresswoman Ann Matibag, ang patuloy na pag-sasagawa ng LaguNanay ay patunay ng kanyang pangakong itaguyod ang kababaihan sa Laguna, partikular sa San Pedro.

"Ito po ang aking patuloy na pinagsusumikap sa Kongreso—na maibahagi ang bawat programa ng gobyerno na laan upang bigyan ng mas magandang bukas ang bawat pamilyang Pilipino, lalo't higit ang pamilyang San Pedronian. Puspusan nating tinatrabaho na makuha ang karampatang pondo, malaman ang bawat programa, at masiguro na maibaba ang

tulong para sa inyo," ani Matibag.

Kilala ang kongresista sa kanyang "ABAKADA" program (Ayuda, Bakuna, Kabuhayan, at Direksiyon), na naglalayong tugunan ang iba't ibang pangangailangan ng kanyang mga nasasakupan.

Lubos ang pasasalamat ni Congresswoman Matibag sa kanyang mentor at asawang si Atty. Melvin Matibag, na patuloy na sumusuporta sa kanyang hangarin na paunlarin ang 1st District ng Laguna. Katuwang din sa matagumpay na programa ang Department of



Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) at ang Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Sa pagpasok ng ikapitong taon ng LaguNanay, mas marami pang proyekto at inisyatibo ang nakatakdang ipatupad upang lalo pang mapalakas ang kababaihan at kanilang mga pamilya. Patuloy ang pangarap ni Matibag na gawing mas maunlad at progresibo ang San Pedro, sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng sapat na suporta sa kababaihang nagsisikap para sa mas magandang kinabukasan. *(Shekinah Esteban)*

Desserts are deeply ingrained in Filipino culture, and no matter where you travel in the Philippines, you will always find something sweet to try. In San Pablo City, Laguna, one local delicacy stands out: Ube Halaya - a Filipino dessert made from boiled and mashed purple yam.

ROOTED IN SWEETNESS

Among the skilled artisans making this popular treat is Teodora Calingacion, a 57-year-old entrepreneur with a story of resilience and determination. She is the fourth of six siblings.

Teodora may have only completed high school, but that does not limit her dream of having a good life.

At 18, she began selling kakanin in Calamba City as a vendor. A year later, she returned home, married in 1987, and with her husband - a security



Teodora Calingacion found a sweet venture in her Ube Halaya business. guard - worked hard to support their children's education.

In 2016, with her husband's retirement, the couple decided to invest their full energy into making and selling ube halaya. Her husband, who had prior experience in Ube Halaya production, uses his learnings as a foundation for their growing busi-

CARD Bank

A Microfinance-Oriented Rural Bank

ness. Confident that Filipinos' love for sweets would drive demand, Teodora rented a small roadside space to sell their product. Over the past eight years, they have built a loyal following.

To ensure freshness, all their Ube Halaya is made to order. During festive seasons like Christmas and New Year, their products became especially popular, helping to balance out the quieter months.

Teodora has also received support from CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank, which has helped her grow her business. A client since 2003, she now uses a PHP 80,000 loan exclusively for her ube halaya production.

"Through the years, I have seen how CARD has continuously improved their products and services, and I am satisfied," she said.

In addition to her classic ube halaya, she also sells leche flan and ube lecheflan that reach neighboring towns and even overseas.

Looking ahead, Teodora intends to expand her market while maintaining the quality of her products. PR