

# ENCHANTED KINGDOM HYPES UP 30TH ANNIVERSARY



EK President and Chairman Cesar Mario O. Mamon

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, officially welcomed its newest family thrill ride, EKclipse, with an enchanting and immersive launch event this March 30.

As one of EK's inaugural gifts for their 30th anniversary this 2025, EKclipse offers an exciting new adventure for Filipinos, marking the first of its kind in Southeast Asia. Guests will enjoy the heart-pounding thrill aboard this ride with its unpredictable rotating movement and the visual illusion it creates every time its arms pass each other.

Catering even to pre-teens and teenagers, this newest attraction is sure to foster even more shared experiences and create enchanting memories for EK's multi-generational guests with their loved ones.

**EKclipse Grand Launch**  
The EKclipse Grand Launch featured spectacular performances from rising P-pop group GAT, The Clash Season 6 grand champion Naya Ambi, and up-and-coming Filipino boy group AJAA.

EK's very own P-pop group, SMS, also captivated the audience with their newly released single, Meant 2 Shine, along with their latest music, the theme song of EKclipse. This song supplements the overall experience of the new ride, as it plays throughout its entire cycle.

The enchanting celebration was graced by Santa Rosa City Vice Mayor Arnold Arcillas who joined in the symbolic unveiling of the ride marquee, together with EK

President and Chairman Cesar Mario Mamon; Chief Operating Officer Cynthia Mamon; Head of Integrated Marketing, and Organization Development and Corporate Planning Nico Mamon; Eldar the Wizard; and twin princesses Victoria and Madeline.

When the marquee was revealed, EKclipse suddenly came to life, setting off a dazzling display of dancing lights which highlighted the ride's visual appeal, especially at night.

Adding a magical twist to EK's classic tradition, the night was topped off by the Sky Wizardry Fireworks Display featuring the vibrant colors of EKclipse.

As a special treat, Eldar the Wizard also extended the park's operating hours on Sunday to give the guests more chance to try the family thrill ride as well as EK's other attractions.

The introduction of EKclipse exemplifies the theme park's continuous pursuit in bringing new world-class and enchanting experiences for all Filipinos.

## The Inspirational Man Behind EK's Magic

EK also announced that its president and chairman, Cesar Mario Mamon, won the highly-coveted Inspiration Award in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) Region, as revealed by the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) last March 25. He is notably the first Filipino to ever receive this recognition from the premier global attractions trade association.

Through this prestigious award, IAAPA honors the visionary individuals who championed innovation in the amusement parks and attractions industry in their respective areas.

Currently in his third decade in the integrated attractions industry,

Mr. Mamon has made a long-lasting mark not only in the country but also in Asia.

Aside from being the founder of the leading theme park in the Philippines, he served as the chairman of IAAPA in 2013, making him the first Asian to be elected for this esteemed role. Later, he became the founding head of the Philippine Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (PhilAAPA).

Mr. Mamon is set to receive the Inspiration Award at the IAAPA Honors 2025 which will be held in Germany from April 28 to 30.



EK Elipse Marquee revealing



EK EKclipse SMS

For more information and updates regarding these and EK's

other upcoming events and offers, visit [https://www.enchantedking-](https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph)



EK EKclipse Wide Shot

[dom.ph](https://dom.ph) and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph

for Facebook and Tiktok, and @ek\_philippines for Instagram.

## MAYOR JOMAPHER ALVAREZ WITH ATTY. KAREN AGAPAY JOINED THE 26TH PANDANAN FESTIVAL IN LUISIANA, LAGUNA

Luisiana, Laguna — Vice Governor Atty. Karen C. Agapay joined the historic opening of the 26th Pandanan Festival in the town of Luisiana, where residents proudly showcased their rich culture, cherished traditions, and creative products made from pandan leaves.

The vibrant celebration featured a lively parade, student performances from various schools, and a host of activities aimed at preserving the town's unique identity and cultural legacy.

In her speech, Vice Governor Agapay expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all attendees



for their support. She also noted the significance of the event, proudly sharing that, for the first time in the history, will graduate as a Vice Governor in the province of Laguna.

Meanwhile, Mayor Jomapher Uy Alvarez extended his sincere

thanks to Vice Governor Agapay, all the guests of honor, local officials, and the organizations who contributed to the success of the celebration. He emphasized that the continued unity among the people is key to building a more prosperous and vi-

brant Luisiana.

Mayor Alvarez is seeking re-election under the Partido Federal ng Pilipinas, while Vice Governor Karen Agapay, the current Regional Chairman of the party, is running for Governor of Laguna.

# Mayor Ross Rizal Receives Overwhelming Support from Calambeños, Reaffirms Unwavering Commitment to Public Service





## DERETSAHAN

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## Farmers in Cavite Empowered Through Leadership and Livelihood Seminar



ATIN 'TO! AT YOUR SERVICE

In a joint effort to enhance leadership and entrepreneurial skills among farmers, the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) successfully conducted a Community Capability Development Seminar themed "Empowering Leaders: Strengthening Leadership Skills for Key Officers of Farmers' Association in Cavite", held at the OCPDO training area on March 26, 2025.

As part of the provincial government's commitment to fostering livelihood and entrepreneurial growth, the seminar brought together 30 presidents and officers of Farmers' Association Federations from various cities and municipalities in Cavite. OPCDO Officer-In-Charge Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero and OPA Officer-In-Charge Engr. Anna Pamela Nova warmly welcomed the participants, reaffirming the provincial government's unwavering support for the agricultural sector.

Ms. Sheryl H. Loyola, Livelihood Division Head of OPCDO, underscored the crucial role of strong and visionary leadership in driving the success of farmer organizations. She emphasized that by enhancing their leadership abilities, farmer leaders can inspire their communities, promote innovation, and create sustainable opportunities for agricultural growth.

Through lectures, workshops, and experience-sharing sessions, the participants gained valuable insights on leadership, personality development, and business strategies to enhance their organizational leadership skills. - R. Tanael

**COMELEC ALLOWS BARANGAY, SK OFFICIALS, COS, AND JO WORKERS TO JOIN 2025 CAMPAIGN BUT WITH LIMITS**

## PIA CALABARZON, DOST-CALABARZON HOLD KAPIHAN SA BAGONG PILIPINAS TO HIGHLIGHT STI SERVICES IN THE REGION



PIA CALABARZON, in partnership with DOST-CALABARZON, led the Kapihan sa Bagong Pilipinas on March 25, 2025, at the RD Guerrero Hall, DPITC Building, DOST-PCAARRD. This regional discussion is part of the nationwide "Kapihan" series, and aims to bring governance closer to the people by providing a platform to highlight government programs, services, and accomplishments.

Presenters included Ms. Emelita P. Bagsit, Regional Director of DOST-CALABARZON; Ms. Lyn Fernandez, Assistant Regional Director for Finance and Administrative Services; and Provincial Directors namely, Ms. Gilda de Jesus (DOST CAVITE), Ms. Agnes Morales (DOST Laguna), Ms. Felina Malabanan (DOST Batangas), Mr. Fernando Ablaza (DOST Rizal), and Ms. Maria Esperanza Jawili (DOST Quezon).

They engaged with 10 media partners across the region to discuss DOST's efforts in driving innovation, delivering impactful programs, and fulfilling its mandate for regional development

## Editorial

### Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) para sa kabuhayan at trabaho pinaaayos ni PBBM

Pinangunahan ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) ang isang inter-agency meeting sa Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) para sa kabuhayan at trabaho noong ika-27 ng Marso 2025 upang i-streamline ang mga programang pangkabuhayan at trabaho, pag-iwas sa mga overlap at pagtiyak ng mahusay na paggamit ng mga mapagkukunan, na naaayon sa direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.

Ang pagpupulong ay dinaluhan ng mga kinatawan mula sa Labor Department, Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Agriculture, Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, at Department of Migrant Workers

Binigyang-diin ng pulong ang kahalagahan ng matalinong paggamit ng mga mapagkukunan upang suportahan ang mga layunin ng pambansang kaunlaran. Sinasaklaw din ng pulong ang mga kinakailangan sa dokumentaryo at ang mga target na petsa ng pagsusumite upang sumunod sa mga pamamaraan ng pamahalaan.

"Narito kami para sa aming iisang layunin na lumikha ng disentang de-kalidad na trabaho, suportahan ang kabuhayan ng mga Pilipino, at tiyakin na ang lahat ng mga mapagkukunan ay epektibong ginagamit," sabi ni DOLE Undersecretary Carmela I. Torres.

Ang mga kinatawan ng iba't ibang pangunahing ahensya ng gobyerno sa kabuhayan at trabaho ay nagpupulong para sa isang sesyon ng Program Convergence Budgeting (PCB) sa 27 Marso 2025 sa Occupational Safety and Health Center.

Nangunguna sa pagpupulong ang Department of Labor and Employment na kinatawan nina Undersecretaries Carmela I. Torres, Benjo Santos M. Benavidez, Bureau of Local Employment Director Patrick P. Patriwirawan Jr., Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns OIC-Director Leilani M. Reynoso, Financial and Management Service OIC-Director na Direktor ng Serbisyo Edithlane A. Caline P. T.

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

MANDY HALE

## CITY GOVERNMENT OF BACOR AND GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PARTNER TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Bacoor City, March 31, 2025 - The City Government of Bacoor, through the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) led by Dr. Abraham "BOB" de Castro, took a significant step towards inclusivity today by signing a Memorandum of Agreement ( MOA ) with Golden Arches Development Corporation (McDonald's) at the Strike Gymnasium. This partnership aims to provide employment opportunities for senior citizens in the city.

The MOA was signed by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Dr. Abraham

"BOB" de Castro, Atty. Venus de Castro (OSCA Head), and representatives from Golden Arches Development Corporation, including Mr. Timothy Bernardino (HR Business Partner), Ms. Josephine Mendoza (HR Business Partner), Ms. Marie Shie-la Abril (HR Manager for the South Region), Ms. Jen Narvadez (Operations Manager), Mr. Edwin Abril (Operations Manager), Mr. Austin Torres (Public Affairs Senior Manager), and Ms. Meryl Adiel T. Hernandez (Assistant Vice President - Corporate Relations & Impact). The signing

ceremony was also attended by Sangguniang Panglungsod members led by Vice Mayor Rowena Bautista Mendiola and Team Revilla.

This partnership is a testament to the shared commitment of the City Government of Bacoor and Golden Arches De-

velopment Corporation to promoting inclusivity and providing opportunities for all members of the community. Through this initiative, senior citizens will have access to meaningful employment opportunities, contributing to their economic well-being and overall quality of life.

### Mayor Ross...

Calamba City – Mayor Ross Rizal expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Calamba for their overwhelming warmth and support as he continues his rounds across the city's barangays. In every visit, the mayor is met with enthusiastic receptions that reflect the community's deep appreciation for his leadership.

In one of the city's farthest barangays, Balagbag Araw, residents shared their joy in once again welcoming Mayor Rizal. They noted how, despite their remote location, the mayor has never forgotten them, consistently making the effort to visit and listen to their needs.

Mayor Rizal took to social media to reaffirm his commitment to public service, posting:

"We are SERIOUS in our DUTY, and FAITHFUL to our PROMISE!"

"For almost three years, we have embraced the trust and love of the Calambefios with all our hearts. In return, we have not only fulfilled our promises—we have strengthened our resolve to serve with honesty, diligence, and meaningful action for every citizen," he wrote.

As he continues to lead the city with dedication and integrity, Mayor Rizal emphasized that for him, public service is a promise that must never be broken.



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## THOUSANDS OF COLLEGE STUDENTS IN CAVITE RECEIVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE



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The Provincial Government of Cavite continues its commitment to supporting students in their pursuit of higher education through the distribution of educational assistance to deserving beneficiaries across several municipalities.

On March 25, 2025, a total of 698 college students from the Municipality of Magallanes received financial aid to help cover their academic expenses. The following day, March 26, 573 college students from Ternate were granted the same support, ensuring that they have the necessary resources

to continue their education without financial burden.

Meanwhile, on March 27, educational assistance was extended to 269 students from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and 834 qualified students from Maragondon, further demonstrating the provincial government's dedication to fostering educational growth and development.

This initiative underscores the provincial government's unwavering commitment to empowering Cavite's youth by alleviating financial constraints and promoting academic excellence. Local

officials expressed their gratitude to Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino and the entire provincial administration for prioritizing education and providing much-needed support to students in the province.

Beneficiaries and their families also expressed appreciation for the assistance, noting that it will significantly aid them in covering tuition fees, school supplies, and other academic-related expenses. The program continues to be a beacon of hope for many students striving to achieve their educational dreams despite financial challenges. – OPIO

## COMELEC BEGINS DEPLOYMENT OF AUTOMATED COUNTING MACHINES TO KEY HUBS



Biñan City, Laguna – The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has officially started the deployment of Automated Counting Machines (ACMs) from FTA Holdings Inc. in Biñan City. At

midnight, sealed trucks carrying the machines will begin their journey to three major hubs across the country.

COMELEC Commissioner George Garcia led the deployment oper-

ations, emphasizing the importance of this process in ensuring a smooth and efficient electoral system.

"Today marks the start of our ACM deployment. We are sending these machines to three



key hubs: Iligan City, Zamboanga City, and Kidapawan City. From these locations, local COMELEC offices will collect their designated machines. If necessary, our provider will directly deliver them to various COMELEC offices nationwide," Garcia stat-

ed.

He also reassured overseas voters that online voting remains a secure and tamper-proof option, provided they register through the official COMELEC website.

To maintain security and integrity, all

trucks carrying the ACMs have been sealed before departure, ensuring their safe transport to their respective destinations.

This deployment marks a crucial step in COMELEC's commitment to a transparent and efficient election process.

(Edjun Mariposque)



# Congresswoman Ann Matibag, Inilahad ang mga Programa sa ika-3 State of the District Address



San Pedro, Laguna — Matagumpay na isinagawa ang ika-3 State of the District Address (SODA) ni Laguna 1st District Representative Congresswoman Ann Matibag noong Marso 27, kung saan kanyang ibinahagi ang mga legislative accomplishments at local projects para sa kanyang tatlong taong termino.

Bilang kinatawan sa Kongreso, iniharap ni Cong. Ann Matibag ang kabuuang ulat na naging katuparan sa kaniyang Ayuda, Bakuna, Kabuhayan at Direksyon (ABAKADA) Program ng Alagang LaguNanay na nagawa ng kanyang administrasyon noong nakaraang dalawang taon, na naglalayong tugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng mamamayang San Pedronian.

Sa talupati ni Matibag, inihayag niya ang pasasalamat kay Pangulong Bongbong Marcos at House speaker Representative Martin Romualdez sa pagtataguyod ng progresibong gobyerno.

“Libu-libong buhay ang nabago, libu-libong pamilya ang

natulungan, libu-libong magandang bukas ang ating naibigay sa ating mga kababayan. Kaya naman for the first time in the history sa San Pedro, nadama natin ang dami at laki ng tulong ng ating gobyerno hatid ng ating pagsusumikap sa Kongreso.”

Sa pamamagitan ng ABAKADA Program ng Alagang LaguNanay, ang Ayuda ay umabot sa kabuuang halagang P171 milyon na tulong pinansyal ang naipamahagi sa mamamayang San Pedro. Upang magbigyan ng proteksyon at mapangalagaan ang kalusugan, nakipagtulungan si Matibag sa mga pribadong ospital upang mabigyan ng libreng Bakuna tulad ng P21 milyon para sa cervical cancer vaccine, P40 milyon para sa flu vaccine, at higit P10 milyon para sa pneumonia vaccine, mag-ing libreng konsulta at gamot, kabilang ang maintenance medicine program. Binigyan pansin rin ng kongresista na maibalik ang sigla ng Kabuhayan, kababaihan, at kabataan; para sa Sampaguita Livelihood and Restoration

na pagtatanim sa 9 na paaralan na humigit sa apat na libong seedlings na maaaring pagkakitaan, P250,000 tulong para sa Cuyab duck farmers, vendors association, internship program, adopt-a-school program, at entrepreneurship program sa kabuuang halaga ay P150 milyon ang naipamahagi.

Direksyon, patungo sa Bagong Pilipinas ay patuloy na nangangalap si Matibag para sa pagsasaayos ng imprastaktura gaya ng kalsada, tulay, drainage system, riverbanks dike protection, at flood mitigation project. Solar street lights, super health centers, at SLEX Northbound Interchange para sa mas



maayos na daloy ng trapiko. Ito ang Direksyon upang maipadama Ang Magandang Bukas (AMB) sa bayan ng San Pedro.

“A million dreams turn into million realities, ‘yan ang Alagang LaguNanay na patuloy pa natin

pagtitibayin, patatagatin, at palalakasin basta ang pondo ay diretso sa tao para sa mga taga - San Pedro, lahat ay kaya natin makamit!” aniya ni Congresswoman Ann Matibag sa kanyang pagtatapos sa ulat sa distrito.

(*Shekinah Esteban*)

## DTI and RCBC Strengthen Consumer Protection with Timbangan ng Bayan Launch in Pakil, Laguna



Pakil, Laguna — To uphold consumer rights and promote fair trade practices, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in partnership with Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), officially launched the “Timbangan ng Bayan” in Pakil, Laguna, on February 18, 2025. The event held at the New Government Center, Tavera, Pakil, Laguna, featured a ceremonial acknowledgment

and undertaking signing, launching and ribbon-cutting to mark the initiative’s official implementation.

The Timbangan ng Bayan project aims to equip public markets with accessible and accurate

weighing scales, allowing consumers to verify product weights and protect themselves from unfair trade practices. This initiative primarily benefits 4th, 5th, and 6th class municipalities across the Philippines, reinforcing DTI’s commitment to consumer protection and fair business transactions.

Present at the said ceremony were DTI Laguna Provincial Director Christian Ted O. Tunoghan, Consumer Protection Division Chief Maria Clara B. Conopio, Trade and Industry Development Specialist Marites V. Pantua, and Senior Business

cont. on page 3



## Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

### Trabaho at Serbisyong Pangkalusugan sa Bagong Pilipinas” is provided by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his visit to Antipolo City.

On April 4, 2025, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visits Antipolo City in Rizal Province, continuing to provide the “Trabaho at Serbisyong Pangkalusugan sa Bagong Pilipinas” to the underprivileged.

The President first visits the Department of Health’s (DOH) medical mission, where he observes the transfer of various anti-dengue commodities and the medical services being rendered, including screening labs, X-rays, electrocardiograms (ECGs), pneumonia vaccinations, medical consultations, and medication distribution.

He then tours the job fair organized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) wherein

job vacancies are available to job seekers who are beneficiaries of the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

During the event, the DOLE distributes various Integrated Livelihood Program (ILP) packages to several beneficiaries and conducts an orientation to another set of recipients under its Tulong Panghanapuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers or TUPAD program.

Likewise, the DSWD distributes financial aid to AICS beneficiaries who are also graduating from the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps.

## A JOURNEY TO HEALTH AND HOPE



Based in Laguna, Buena Bariring and Rowena Jordas decided to restart their lives and focus on their weaving business, which specializes in crafting slippers and bags.

Good health is often considered one of life’s greatest gifts, which made Buena Bariring’s diagnosis at 18 all the more devastating. The 42-year-old from Cabuyao, Laguna, learned she had Hepatitis B while undergoing a medical exam for a job. The news shattered her hopes—not only did it pre-

vent her from securing the job, but it also exposed her to stigma and discrimination.

Hepatitis B, a liver infection often transmitted from mother to child at birth, infected blood, and sexual activities, is a condition that many live with in silence. While some show no symptoms, others ex-

perience fatigue, yellowing of the skin, and abdominal pain. Buena suspects she inherited the illness from her mother, as several of her siblings were also later diagnosed.

Despite the emotional toll, Buena found comfort in an online support group. There, she met people who shared her ex-

## PUBLISHER CORNER LABAN O BAWI?



Magkaiba ang inihayag ng dalawang tagapagsalita ng administrasyong BBM kaugnay sa pagdalo ng mga imbitadong miyembro ng gabinete sa ikalawang pagdingin ng Senate Committee on Foreign Relations patungkol sa diumanoy maling pamaraan ng pag-aresto ng mga awtoridad kay dating Pangulong Rody Duterte.

Sa press briefing sa Malacanang nitong Linggo, ibinahagi ni Presidential Communications Office (PCO) Undersecretary Claire Castro na hindi makikialam ang Pangulong Marcos kung kinakailangang dumalo ang kanyang department secretaries sa pagdingin ng Senado.

“No, as we

said the other day, the President will not stop Cabinet members or secretaries if they are summoned. And they should answer any questions that are asked of them, provided that it does not violate executive privilege, that’s all.”

Salungat ito sa ipinadalang sulat ni Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin sa Senado.

Sa sulat, binigyang diin ni Bersamin na hindi na kinakailangan pang dumalo ng mga imbitadong indibidwal sa nasabing pagdingin at kanilang gagamitin ang ‘executive privilege’ bilang katwiran.

“Given the extensive disclosures made, we believe that further participation may no longer be

periences and challenges, one of whom was Rowena Jordan, who would later become her close friend and business partner. This connection helped her regain her strength and courage to start over.

In 2013, drawing on a skill she learned from her mother, Buena decided to start a weaving business. She initially obtained a PHP 3,000 loan from CARD SME Bank to start crafting products using dried water lilies.

Inspired by her newfound purpose, she poured herself into her work, and by 2014, Rowena joined her as a business partner. Rowena handled the designs, while Buena brought them to life. Together, they decided to create unique slippers made from water lilies, setting themselves apart from other businesses that used the same material.

Their initial venture into trade fairs was a success. They sold out their products and were motivated to continue investing in their business. However, the pandemic in 2020 dealt a severe blow to their momentum.

The trade fair in March 2020 coincided with the lockdown, leading

to significant losses and making it difficult for them to recover their funds. To make matters worse, both of them tested positive for COVID-19, further slowing their recovery.

Despite these setbacks, they pushed forward. At present, they employ five workers assisting them in the process of braiding water lilies. They considered CARD SME Bank to be their lifesaver, especially when they needed extra capital for bulk orders. Rowena has also become a CARD SME Bank client in 2017, solidifying their partnership with the bank.

Their products have become popular among Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), who buy them as unique souvenirs to bring abroad.

“Back then, I had

necessary at this time, especially considering that the Honorable Chairperson has publically relayed her comprehensive findings thereon.

We must respectfully decline the invitation to attend the hearing. Nevertheless, we remain available to extend our full cooperation through other appropriate channels, should there be any further clarifications required within the bounds of the law.

no job; now, I am the one employing others. We used to search for opportunities, but now we are the ones creating opportunities for others,” she said. Her life has completely turned around. What began as a story of rejection and illness has turned into one of triumph and success. Buena turned the challenges of living with Hepatitis B into steppingstones toward a brighter future.

Her advice to others who live with and have overcome Hepatitis B just like them is to keep fighting and dreaming. “If you want to pursue something, just go for it. What truly matters is the resilience in facing challenges and your commitment to dream big, knowing that better days will come,” she concluded.

## DTI and RCBC...

Counsellaor Andrea Mae I. Macuha. They were joined by Pakil Municipal Mayor Vincent L. Soriano, Municipal Treasurer Cecilia R. Garcia, and Supply Officer II/Designated License Inspector II Don Kelly A. Fernandez, all of whom expressed their strong support for consumer em-

powerment and ethical business practices in local communities.

Through this partnership, DTI and RCBC continue to champion transparency and fairness in trade, ensuring that every consumer gets what they rightfully pay for (AIMacuha, DTI-Laguna).

FROM PAGE 6



# SM SUPERMALLS HEATS UP SUMMER WITH SPORTS FUN!



From sunrise to sunset, MOA Sky is the ultimate playground for everyone. Sun's out, fun's in! SM Supermalls is turning up the heat with back-to-back festivities that will make this summer season the most unforgettable one yet. From April 1 to May 31, SM Supermalls is

bringing the thrill of sports to you with a lineup of adrenaline-pumping activities for all ages. So, lace up your sneakers and get into summer sports as SM Supermalls transforms into a vibrant hub of energy, non-stop fun, and surprises this summer.

**Active Hub**  
Gather your fam-



Runners sprint forward the starting line at the SM Active Hub running activation at SM City Butuan



Cyclists enjoying a smooth ride at SM City Clark

Join the largest sports revolution in the Philippines—download the SM Malls Online app to register for the SM Active Hub, explore exciting events, and unlock exclusive perks from tenants nationwide.

**Summer Games**  
Get ready to un-



Runners fuel their passion for the sport as they hit their stride at SM City Clark's running event



Players enjoy an exciting game of pickleball at SM City Cabanatuan, showcasing skill, fun, and friendly competition.

rookie and pro gamers score exclusive gaming head-to-head in various merchandise, and show tournaments. Experience off your skills in front of a heart-racing matches, cheering crowd!



Gamers come together for an exciting and action-packed Valorant tournament at SM Megamall's Cyberzone.

## Summer Pet Olympics

For pet lovers, Summer Pet Olympics takes the spotlight with adorable and exciting competitions. A collaborative effort with SM Super Pets Club, this event features races, obstacle courses, and pet-friendly contests designed to showcase agility, obedience, and fun!



[Collage] Let your furry friends dive into summer fun – join the exciting Pet Olympics at SM Supermalls!

Whether you're diving into the world of sports, leveling up in e-gaming or simply soaking up the ultimate summer vibes, SM Supermalls has everything you need for an action-packed, fun-filled summer season.

So, what are you waiting for? Make this summer one for the books! Mark your calendars, gather your squad, and head to SM Supermalls for an unforgettable adventure.

Stay updated on all the fun by following @SMSupermalls on social media or visiting [www.supermalls.com](http://www.supermalls.com).



# SMC completes Biñan River cleanup; nearly 88,000 tons of silt and waste removed

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) has successfully delivered on its promise to clean up Laguna's Biñan River in less than a year, freeing up the clogged waterway of nearly 88,000 tons of silt and solid waste that had long worsened flooding in the city of Biñan.

Completing the massive task in less than seven months, SMC's Better Rivers PH initiative covered a 3.2-kilometer stretch of the river from the mouth of Laguna Lake near Barangay Dela Paz to downtown Barangay Poblacion — where hundreds of families had long been tormented by lingering floodwaters during the typhoon season.

"Dati po matagal bago humupa ang baha. Nitong Pasko (December 2024), may malakas na ulan pero hindi na umakyat ang tubig dito. Yung ilang lugar na binaha, mabilis nang bumababa ang tubig," recalled Herminigildo Aguilar, 64, a councilman or kagawad in Barangay Poblacion. "Maluwag na ang ilog, mas mabilis nang umaagos ang tubig."

[Floodwater used to linger for days. But after a heavy downpour last Christmas, water from the river did not swell into the coastal village and floodwater from the rain drained faster to the river.]

Since 2020, SMC's Better Rivers PH program has been moving from one river system to another, restoring the natural depth and breadth of river channels in Metro Manila and Luzon at zero-cost to government. By clearing silt and garbage, the initiative has helped mitigate flooding, ease water flow, and improve water quality.

This voluntary effort by SMC reached Biñan River in August last year through close coordination with Mayor Walfredo "Arman" Dimaguila, Jr., who also identified an area in Barangay Malaban as the LGU's collection point for the extracted wastes and silt from the river.

George Total, 49, SMC's team leader for the Biñan river cleanup, said four teams equipped with backhoes and barges were deployed to do the job. "Grabe ang basura nung dumating kami dito. Nagpulo-pulo na. Hindi kami makakain sa tabi kasi talagang mabaho. Ngayon wala ka nang maamoy," Total said.

[When we arrived, the garbage was unimaginable — mounds of them above water. We could not eat our meals because of the stink. Now, you won't smell anything.]

A challenge for the cleanup crews were narrow sections of the river in the city proper where barges carrying the backhoes could not maneuver, so cranes had to make a tight entry through the city to reach the riverbanks, Total said.

Upon completion last February 28, the SMC initiative removed a total of 87,899 tons of silt and garbage from the Biñan River through a winding stretch of 3.2 km. The largest volume removed was at the mouth of the river in Laguna Lake, where the natural river channel was practically blocked going out to the lake.

"I am very happy that our river cleanup initiative marked another achievement in Laguna, through the help and cooperation of the local government and our other partners," said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

"I ask all our kababayans to please help take care of our rivers because they are critical to our health and the health of our environment, economy, and communities. The job of making our rivers better is not just the government's or the private sector's responsibility. What happens to our rivers affects us all, so we all have a role to play," he said.

Before reaching



A total of 87,899 tons of silt and solid waste have been removed from 3.2 kilometers of Biñan River, restoring the depth, width and natural flow of this waterway draining out to Laguna Lake.

Biñan, the Luzon-wide program's first stop in Laguna was at San Isidro River in San Pedro. The cleanup began August 2023 and was concluded a year later, after the extraction of 417,044 tons of silt and waste from a 5.3-kilometer stretch of the river.

As a result, communities near San Isidro River were spared from severe flooding episodes brought about by consecutive typhoons late last year, including Typhoon Kristine. SMC's river cleanup is now back

in San Pedro, Laguna to clean up its Tunasan and Landayan Rivers.

As with its previous river cleanup operations, SMC conducted aerial, topographic and bathymetric surveys of the rivers, before plotting their course of action. This ensured prioritization of critical areas and an environmentally sound extraction of waste and silt — something SMC applies in every river rehabilitation effort.

Overall, Better Rivers PH has covered a total of 157.29 km of waterways, removing a total of 8,248,254 metric tons of silt and solid waste as of March 12, 2025.

This includes 1.12 tons from 10.9 km of Tullahan River; 1.18 tons from 26 km of Pasig River; 322,739 tons from 7.61 km of San Juan River; 694,372 tons from 26.3 km of Pampanga River; and 4.13 tons from 74.75 km of the Bulacan River System.

Meanwhile, its ongoing efforts to rehabilitate rivers in Paranaque City and clear flood drains around the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) have so far

covered 2.58 km and removed 129,862 tons of silt and solid waste.

Ang stressed that all these efforts would be for naught if coastal communities and other stakeholders do not refrain from throwing their trash into the rivers and on roads where they are washed away to the storm drains leading to the creeks and rivers. "Hopefully, we Filipinos adhere to strict rules in the disposal of our garbage. Let us help one another so that our trash no longer ends up in our rivers." PR

# Trusted Auto Care Comes to Calamba: RAPIDE Opens New Branch in Brgy. Bañadero

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — A new chapter in automotive service excellence has begun as RAPIDE officially opened its latest branch in Brgy. Bañadero, Calamba City. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal and Brgy. Captain Aris Hizon, along with proud owners Atty. Jenny Vi C. Muya-Paderayon and Mrs. Arminada Muya.

RAPIDE, known nationwide for delivering CASA-quality vehicle services at affordable prices,



now brings its trusted expertise closer to Calambefios. Services offered include tune-ups, oil changes, tire and brake services, and dent repairs—ensuring safe and smooth journeys for every motorist.

In his message of support, Mayor Ross Rizal expressed his enthusiasm for the new business, wishing RAPIDE continued success and assuring the city's support in its endeavors. "We welcome RAPIDE to Calamba and hope it will thrive while helping our citizens main-

tain their vehicles with expert care," the Mayor said.

The owners extended an open invitation to the community, emphasizing their commitment to quality, affordability, and

customer satisfaction. With RAPIDE now in town, car owners in Calamba can enjoy top-tier service without the long drive or high costs.

(Edjun Mariposque)