

MPTC GEARS UP FOR HOLY WEEK WITH THE "BIYAHENG ARANGKADA" MOTORIST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BIYAHENG ARANGKADA SEMANA SANTA

- ENHANCED TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
- ON-CALL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
- FREE TOWING SERVICE
- FREE MECHANIC SERVICE
- ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING
- FREE HEALTH & WELLNESS CONSULTATION
- FREE WI-FI SERVICE

CALL 1-35000 FOR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE



Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), concessionaire of NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), and Cebu-Cordova Expressway (CCLEX) is rolling out its robust "Biyaheng Arangkada Semana Santa" motorist assistance program from April 16-21, 2025. For CAVITEX, MPTC is implementing the program in partnership with its joint venture partner Philippine Reclamation Authority through PEA Tollway Corporation. This road safety initiative aims to provide a comfortable and stress-free journey for all motorists during peak seasons such as Holy Week in MPTC's extensive network of expressways.

With an expected 10% increase in traffic volume during this period, MPTC has developed a multifaceted strategy centered on providing a range of enhanced assistance services, increasing toll plaza efficiency through RFID awareness campaigns and promoting responsible road safety practices.

MPTC President and CEO Jose K. Ma. Lim affirms: "MPTC's role during Holy Week goes

beyond traffic management by taking measures towards ensuring a travel experience that's safe, seamless, and reassuring. 'Biyaheng Arangkada Semana Santa' reflects our commitment to service that anticipates the needs of our motorists and helps families reconnect and travel with peace of mind."

Enhanced Roadside Assistance and Support Services: MPTC is significantly bolstering its on-ground presence with an array of readily available assistance for motorists who may encounter emergencies on the road:

- On-call assistance services for roadside emergencies; a dedicated hotline (1-35000) and the MPT DriveHub app is available 24/7.
- Roadside assistance stations are strategically positioned along the tollways.
- Enhanced Traffic Operations: More than 2,000 personnel along all MPTC expressways will be deployed as early as April 8 to manage traffic flow effectively and respond swiftly to incidents.
- Free on-call Emergency Medical Services: Well-equipped medical teams will be on standby to provide immediate assistance in case of medical emergencies along the expressways.
- Free Basic Mechanical Service at select Rest and Refuel Stations: Motorists may avail complimentary basic mechanical checks and minor repairs at designated rest and refuel stations along the MPTC network.
- Free Towing Service at the nearest exit for Class 1 vehicles and Class 1M (for CCLEX) to provide immediate relief in case of vehicle breakdowns:

- NLEX, SCTEX, CALAX, CCLEX, and NLEX Connector: April 9, 6am to April 14, 6am
- April 16, 6am to April 21, 6am
- CAVITEX April 16, 6am to April 20, 6pm

Services On-Ground: Easytrip teams will be at strategic locations to assist motorists with RFID installation, reloading, and account inquiries.

- CCLEX RFID

services for installation, reloading and inquiries are available at the Toll Plaza Tent (Cordova-bound).

- Free Wi-Fi Stations (Powered by SMART) and complimentary Drinking Water (Provided by Maynilad) at participating Rest and Refuel stations and motorist camps.
- Free health and wellness consultation (Provided by MWell) in select NLEX Rest and Refuel stations.
- Availability of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging stations (Provided by AC Mobility) in select areas of NLEX.
- Faster, Cashless Toll Transactions: Embrace RFID Readiness To minimize congestion at toll plazas and facilitate seamless passage, MPTC strongly encourages RFID adoption and responsible usage:
- Have an RFID sticker installed for fast and cashless toll transactions
- Reload your RFID on time and maintain sufficient balance to avoid delays at toll plazas.

Numerous reloading channels are available online and at authorized locations.

- Utilize the MPT DriveHub app for quick and convenient balance checks and toll fee calculations.
- If your RFID is unreadable, have it checked and replaced at designated service centers.
- Always carry your RFID card as a backup to ensure uninterrupted travel.
- Drive Safely, Arrive Safely: Essential Road Safety Guidelines Travelers can observe critical road safety reminders to promote responsible driving practices:
- Conduct a thorough pre-trip vehicle inspection before embarking on your travel. Pay close attention to tires, fluids, lights, and brakes to prevent unexpected breakdowns.
- Stay alert and

well-rested. Take regular breaks at designated rest and refuel areas to combat fatigue during long drives. Prioritize getting sufficient sleep before your trip.

- Adhere to designated speed limits and maintain strict lane discipline.

MPTC's Biyaheng Arangkada commits to ensuring a seamless and safe Holy Week journey for all motorists. These, coupled with ongoing efforts to promote road safety and RFID readiness, demonstrate dedication to providing comprehensive support and positive travel experience. Motorists are strongly encouraged to stay updated on traffic conditions and the locations of all available services through MPTC expressways' official social media channels and the MPT DriveHub app.

Travel safely and conveniently this Holy Week with the enhanced MPTC "Biyaheng Arangkada Semana Santa" program.

Calamba PESO Wins International Award, PAGE 02 Showcasing World-Class Public



DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

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Senator Pia Cayetano shares personal story and top advocacies on health, education, and energy in Tanza

BRGY. SUNNYBROOKE II RESIDENTS RECEIVE FREE HEALTH SERVICE FROM PGC



Over 230 residents of Brgy. SunnyBrooke II, City of General Trias, received free medical and dental services during the Provincial Government of Cavite's (PGC) health mission.

Led by the Office of the Provincial Governor and Office of the Provincial Health Officer through the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) medical and dental team and supported by hardworking Barangay Health Workers (BHWs), the outreach program included consultations, dental extractions, free medicines and mosquito repellent lotion.

Likewise, free message was also provided.

The mission was warmly welcomed by the community, providing much-needed care closer to home.

PGC remains committed to making quality healthcare more accessible for every Caviteño.

--- R. Dones

DA, SAN MIGUEL FOODS PARTNER IN THEIR FIRST NATIONWIDE AGRI PPP TO BOOST FARMER INCOMES



Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Roger V. Navarro (third from left) and San Miguel Foods Group General Manager Emmanuel B. Macalalag shake hands after signing their first nationwide public-private partnership (PPP) in agriculture. Others in photo are (from left) San Miguel Foods Inc. (SMFI) Protein and Animal Nutrition Business Group Head Jose Marcelo Blanco, Dr. Leo Obviar, SMFI VP and Protein and Animal Nutrition Business GM; SMFI Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Corporate Affairs Head Rita Imelda B. Palabayab, and DA Assistant Secretary U-Nichols A. Manalo.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and San Miguel Foods, Inc. (SMFI) have launched their first nationwide public-private partnership (PPP) in agriculture designed to improve Filipino farmers' incomes, boost food security, and bring quality food to more Filipinos.

Through a memorandum of understanding (MOU), SMFI will establish and manage buying stations for key crops such as corn, cassava, sorghum, and soybeans. With this, farmers will have direct access to an institutional buyer, ensuring a stable and fair market for their produce and delivering better financial returns.

The partnership also incorporates strategies to modernize and streamline agricultural supply chains nationwide. These improvements are expected to promote long-

cont. on page 2

Editorial

Nag-enroll na ang 36K overseas voters sa ginawang pre-voting system sa 2025

Halos hindi bababa sa 36,000 overseas Filipino voters ang nakapag-enroll na para sa pre-voting enrollment system para sa Eleksyon 2025, ayon sa Commission on Elections (Comelec). Ginawa ni Garcia ang pahayag dalawang araw bago magsimula ang overseas voting sa Abril 13, 2025

Maaaring gawin ng mga botante ang pagpapatala bago ang pagboto sa pamamagitan ng kanilang sariling device na may internet, mga voting kiosk sa Philippine Posts, o ang field/mobile pre-voting enrollment na itinakda ng Philippine Post.

Maaaring bumoto online ang mga overseas voters hanggang May 12, o sa araw ng halalan sa Pilipinas.

Samantala, ang mga botante sa ibang bansa na nahihirapang mag-enroll sa pre-voting system ay maaaring direktang makipag-ugnayan sa kani-kanilang mga embahada para sa manual registration.

CALAMBA... FROM PAGE 1

A remarkable achievement that puts Calamba City on the global map, the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) of Calamba has been recognized as the "Most Exemplary Public Employment Service Office for Multi-Employment Services" by the International Organization of Educators and Researchers, Inc.

The prestigious award was presented at the Hilton Tokyo Hotel in Japan, highlighting the city's commitment to excellent public service and employment programs.

Mayor Ross Rizal proudly announced the win on social media, calling it "Another win for Ramdam na Reporma—International Edition!" He emphasized that this recognition proves that "Serbisyong Calambeño is not only nationally recognized, but truly world-class."

This milestone reflects the continued success of transparent and dedicated leadership, as Mayor Rizal noted: "Tuloy-tuloy ang tagumpay kapag tapat ang pamumuno, taas-noo ang Calamba!" Calamba's PESO continues to serve as a shining example of how local governance can make a global impact.

(Edjun Mariposque)

SENATOR PIA... FROM PAGE 1

Senator Pia S. Cayetano visited Tanza, Cavite on March 31, 2025 for a multistakeholder meeting with over 200 community stakeholders—including barangay captains, Sangguniang Kabataan leaders, barangay health workers, religious leaders, and women.

She opened up about her personal journey as a mother, lawyer, and public servant, sharing how her experiences—including the loss of her father, the late Senator Rene Cayetano, to hepatitis B-related liver cancer, and her third child to a rare illness—shaped her drive to push for accessible healthcare, especially for women and children.

"Kaya ako tumakbo, kasi dama ko na dapat ipaglaban ang kababaihan, ang mga nanay at ang mga bata," she said, as she emphasized the importance of rolling out the Konsulta Package, a national health benefit that provides outpatient services and essential medicines—especially for communities that can't afford hospital care.

In addition, the senator also talked about her other key advocacies on education, and energy.

DA, SAN MIGUEL...

term growth and sustainability in the sector benefiting farmers, consumers, and the entire country.

To further support the agricultural community, SMFI will share laboratory procedures for crop acceptance and conduct capacity-building seminars for DA-recognized farmer cooperatives and associations (FCAs). Additionally, it will offer its food products to cooperatives, creating opportunities for additional income.

The DA, on the other hand, will introduce advanced technologies to improve crop monitoring and harvest volume projections. It will also provide technical assistance to SMFI's farmer partners, particularly those in DA-recognized FCAs.

Moreover, the DA will deliver quality assurance training, support SMFI's information campaigns for direct buying and community reseller programs, and grant access to select research stations for varietal preservation and planting material development.

"This partnership will not only benefit the farmers, but also the broader society as a whole. By sourcing quality local ingredients for feed production, we can significantly reduce import costs which will in turn lower prices of meat in the market, eggs, and several other meat (products) for consumers — creating a win-win scenario for both producers and households by ensuring that only high quality raw materials are used," said Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in a statement.

"We are also safeguarding the health of our consumers. Let us continue to harness this partnership to create a more sustainable and resilient local agriculture industry that will empower our farmers and ensure food security, and drive economic growth in the country," he added.

San Miguel Food and Beverage Inc. (SMFB)

Chairman Ramon S. Ang added, "This partnership allows us to invest directly in our farmers and the future of Philippine agriculture. By offering fair prices and consistent support, we help farmers improve their livelihoods and make agriculture a more sustainable and rewarding industry."

The signing of the MOU was led by DA Undersecretary Roger Navarro and San Miguel Foods Group General Manager Emmanuel Macalagal. The ceremony was attended by key representatives from DA-recognized farmer cooperatives and associations, together with senior officials from both organizations.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) and San Miguel Foods, Inc. (SMFI) have launched their first nationwide public-private partnership (PPP) in agriculture designed to improve Filipino farmers' incomes, boost food security, and bring quality food to more Filipinos.

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The partnership also incorporates strategies to modernize and streamline agricultural supply chains nationwide. These improvements are expected to promote long-term growth and sustainability in the sector benefiting farmers, consumers, and the entire country.

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EDITORIAL OFFICE

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

EDITORIAL BOARD

Publisher : Nelson A. Dimapilis
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SAFE TRAVELS AHEAD: CALAMBA LAUNCHES OPLAN SUMVAC 2025 FOR HOLY WEEK AND SUMMER SEASON



Calamba City Mayor Ross Rizal officially launched Oplan SUMVAC 2025, a comprehensive safety and assistance campaign aimed at ensuring a safe, orderly, and peaceful travel experience for all Calambeños during the Holy Week and upcoming summer vacation.

With the full force of the city's frontline agencies mobilized, the local

government is prepared to respond, assist, and serve residents and visitors alike. Mayor Rizal emphasized that in Calamba, the safety and well-being of every individual remains a top priority.

Oplan SUMVAC 2025 reflects the city's proactive commitment to public service during one of the busiest travel seasons of the year.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Red Horse Beer's Pambansang Muziklaban Returns with a Bang, Crowns New Rock Champions



Sta. Rosa, Laguna—After a four-year hiatus, Red Horse Beer's Pambansang Muziklaban roared back to life last Saturday, electrifying the stage with thunderous riffs and intense performances in search of the next great Filipino rock band.

year-long nationwide battle of the bands that began in 2024. The competition was divided into two categories: LAKAS, highlighting hardcore rock bands, and AKLAS, showcasing alternative rock acts.

quered the AKLAS division. Both bands took home a P500,000 cash prize, courtesy of Red Horse Beer.

Mark Brian Nebril, bassist of Interstate. The band, which includes Ly Unabia (vocals), Christian Patultol (guitar), and Adrienne Batiqin (drums), dedicated intense mental and physical preparation for the finals. "Kinailangan talaga ng disiplina at determinasyon," Nebril added.

Red Horse Beer's evangelist bands played a key role in their triumph. "Lahat ng advice na binigay nila, sinunod lang namin para maibigay ang 100% sa entablado," said vocalist Mat Piamonte, alongside Rudolf Aboloc (guitar), Ben Arvelino (bass), and Ian Carreon (drums).

Beyond the competition, thousands of rock fans—rakistas—were treated to explosive performances from top local bands including Wilabaliw, Chicosci, Greyhoundz, Razorback, and Dilaw. Past Pambansang Muziklaban champions also graced the stage, with Happy Three Friends (2018 AKLAS Grand Champion) and Mayonaise (2004 Grand Champion) delivering unforgettable sets.

With Red Horse Beer—the world's No. 1 strong beer—fueling the night, Pambansang Muziklaban proved once again why it's the ultimate stage for Filipino rock talent.

Want to be part of the next Muziklaban? Stay updated on promos and announcements at the Red Horse Beer Muziklaban Facebook page (www.facebook.com/redhorsebeermuziklaban).

(Edjun Mariposque) (Nelson Dimapilis)

SENATOR LITO LAPID BATS FOR TOURISM BOOST IN LAGUNA, EYES MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCALS



Senator Lito Lapid is pushing for the continued development of Laguna's tourism industry, highlighting the province's natural attractions such as its famous hot springs, the iconic Pagsanjan Falls, and the majestic Mount Makiling.

intricate wood carvings and traditional Filipino attire like the barong tagalog, which are popular among both local and foreign tourists.

that tourism remains a powerful tool for inclusive economic growth, especially in communities rich in culture and nature.

He believes these can significantly contribute to both regional and national development.

motorcade across several Laguna towns, starting from Mabitac and passing through Famy, Pangil, Pakil, Paete, Pagsanjan, Kailayaan, Victoria, Bay, Los Baños, Pansol, Cabuyao,

and Sta. Rosa. His tour aimed to hear firsthand the needs of communities and to promote tourism-centered initiatives across the province.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Simulation at Communication Exercises para sa Ligtas National and Local Elections 2025, isinagawa ng Rizal PPO

Sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Rizal Police Provincial Office Provincial Director Police Colonel Felipe B Maraggun, isang Simulation (SIMEX) at Communication Exercises (COM-MEX) ang isinagawa bilang paghahanda sa nalalapit na Midterm National and Local Elections 2025 na gagapin sa Mayo.

me S Pederio Jr, Deputy Provincial Director for Administrations, Police Major Joel L Alvarez, Chief, Provincial Operations and Management Unit, iba pang miyembro ng Provincial Staff at mga Chiefs of Police.

Nagpakita naman ng kahusayan virtually ang mga istasyon mula sa mga bayan ng Jalajala, Morong at Taytay para sa kanilang kahaandaan sa eleksyon.

Layunin nito na masukat ang kakayahan ng kapulisan sa pagtugon sa anumang mga sitwasyon bunsod ng gaganaping MNLE 2025.

Bawat bahagi ng paghahanda ay upang masiguro ang mapayapa, ligtas at patas na halalan higit sa lahat ay ang upang masiguro ang kaligtasan ng bawat mamamayang makikiisa sa eleksyon mula sa anumang banta ng kaguluhan sibil, kriminalidad o maging sa sakuna.

SAMAR RECEIVES ENTREPRENEURSHIP MENTORING FROM GO NEGOSYO



"We thank the First Lady for making it possible for Go Negosyo to help the aspiring entrepreneurs of Samar realize their dreams of prosperity," he said.

try (DTI) Region 8, DTI Samar, the Municipal Government of Basey, and the Provincial LGU of Samar. Booths of Negosyo Center, SB Corporation, and One Town, One Product (OTOP) Philippines were on hand to extend further assistance to the beneficiaries.

across the country. Go Negosyo has sent its entrepreneurship mentors to several LAB for All caravans nationwide, including La Union, Cagayan, Isabela, Zamboanga City, Misamis Oriental, Zambales, Davao del Norte, Mandaluyong City, Bacolod, Leyte, Sorsogon, Bayambang, and several cities in the National Capital Region.

adjustment, workers in the non-agriculture sector in component cities and first-class municipalities will receive an additional P20, raising their daily minimum wage from P520 to P540.

CALABARZON WORKERS GET A BOOST AS 2ND TRANCHE OF WAGE HIKE TAKES EFFECT

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Private workers across Calabarzon are now set to fully benefit from the wage hike approved by the regional wage board last year, as the second tranche of the increase takes effect.

partite Wages and Productivity Board Calabarzon (RTWPB IV-A) said in a statement.

The RTWPB IV-A advised employers to comply with the new wage rates to avoid penalties, while workers are encouraged to stay informed about their updated compensation entitlements.

With the latest adjustment, workers in the non-agriculture sector in component cities and first-class municipalities will receive an additional P20, raising their daily minimum wage from P520 to P540.

Meanwhile, non-agriculture workers in fourth, fifth, and sixth-class municipalities will receive a P30 increase, elevating their daily minimum wage from P420 to P450.

The Wage Board added that workers in the agriculture sector in first-class municipalities will receive an increase of P35,

PUBLISHER CORNER

UNITING FOR SOVEREIGNTY: STUDENTS AND FACULTY OF UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM DALTA DISCUSS THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA



The Armed Forces Of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFP RESCOM) organized a meaningful and timely forum at the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA, bringing together students, faculty, and reserve officers for an important discussion on the West Philippine Sea issue.

concern; it is a national issue that demands vigilance, unity, and active citizenship.

What will be the role of students in this fight? More specifically, how can they use social media to spread awareness and inspire action?

In today's digital landscape, students have the power to become truth-tellers, storytellers, and advocates. By sharing verified information, promoting constructive dialogue, and standing against online disinformation, they can play a pivotal role in shaping public opinion and fostering national unity.

Even simple actions—such as reposting credible news sources,

amplifying official government updates, creating short educational content, or starting meaningful conversations in their online communities—can collectively have a profound impact.

The AFP Reserve Command's initiative to organize this forum reflects their steadfast dedication not only to national defense but also to civic engagement and public awareness. May this dialogue continue to inspire more Filipinos—especially the youth—to serve with honor, integrity, and a deep love for our country.

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

MANDY HALE

PICKLEBALL GAINS MOMENTUM AT SM CITY ROSARIO'S ACTIVE HUB

As part of SM Supermalls Active Hub, Pickleball is bringing fun and fitness to SM City Rosario! Enthusiasts from various Cavite groups joined the action, enjoying this fast-growing sport that blends tennis, badminton, and table tennis.

With Pickleball gaining popularity in the Philippines, having it at the mall makes it more accessible for players of all levels. Whether you're a pro or a beginner, SM Active Hub offers the perfect space to enjoy the game in a safe and welcoming environment.

Get in the game and experience the Pickleball excitement at SM City Rosario!



Pickleball groups in Cavite came together to experience the excitement of Pickleball at SM Active Hub in SM City Rosario, enjoying the sport in a fun and dynamic mall setting.



Experience a whole new level of excitement as you play Pickleball at SM Active Hub, SM City Rosario!



Pickleball can be played as singles (one-on-one) or doubles (with a partner), making it a versatile and engaging sport for all players.



Pickleball is a sport for everyone—welcoming players of all ages and skill levels to join the game and have fun.

SUMMER JUST GOT SWEETER AT AFTER TREE SM CITY TRECE MARTIRES!



Whether you're craving a refreshing soda, a tangy dessert, or a juicy snack, After Tree got the perfect mango treat to cool you down. Order today and enjoy the best of the season! Don't miss out—taste the tropical goodness all summer long.

SUMMER READY AT SM MARKETMALL!



SM Marketmall has all your summer essentials covered—from the freshest, juiciest fruits perfect for the season to everything you need for a fun and refreshing summer break!

Whether you're heading out for a family outing, planning a barkada tambay at the beach or poolside, or just chilling at home with a cool fruit shake, SM Marketmall got you. Stock up on sweet mangoes, watermelons, bananas, and more—all freshly picked for your summer cravings.

Drop by SM Marketmall Bagsakan and make this summer season extra fruity and fun!

SUMMER IS HERE. AND SO ARE AMA P99 DEALS!



Celebrate summertime and cool down with your favorite refreshing drinks for just P99! Don't wait—this promo ends on April 28, 2025! Visit AMA COFFEE at 2nd level of SM City Tanza.

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE BENHUR ABALOS, MAINIT NA TINANGGAP SA LAGUNA; ISINUSULONG ANG REPORMA SA AGRIKULTURA AT PAG-AALIS NG BUWIS SA KURYENTE



Lungsod ng mga Bayani, Senator Benhur Abalos! Sama-sama nating isinusulong ang pagbabago at tunay na malasakit sa pamahalaan," ani Mayor Rizal.

Sa bayan naman ng Pagsanjan, sinalubong si Abalos ng masiglang suporta mula sa mga residente. Nakadaupang-palad niya si Mayor Cesar Areza at ang buong Team Areza-Arabella na kasalukuyang tumatako sa lokal na halalan. Nagkaroon din ng maikling programa si Abalos upang ilahad ang kanyang plataporma at hikayatin ang partisipasyon ng mga lokal na

PILA, LAGUNA — Mainit ang naging pagtanggap ng mga lokal na opisyal kay dating Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Secretary Benjamin "Benhur" Abalos Jr. sa kanyang pagbisita sa apat na bayan ng Laguna—Pagsanjan, Sta. Cruz, Pila, at Calamba—noong Miyerkules, Abril 9.

Sa isang salu-salung idinaos sa bayan ng Pila, nakipagdayalogo si Abalos sa mga kasapi ng Pila, Famy, Kalayaan, Matitac, Pangil, at Lumban.

Nagpasalamat si Abalos sa patuloy na suporta ng mga lokal na lider at binigyang-diin na ang matibay na pakikipagtulungan sa mga pamahalaang lokal ay mahalaga sa pagtamo ng tunay at pangmatagalang reporma sa gobyerno.

Isa sa pangunahing adbokasiya ni Abalos ay ang reporma sa sektor ng agrikultura. Bilang kandidato sa Senado, layun-



League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) – Laguna Chapter. Dumalo rito ang mga alkalde at kinatawan mula sa mga bayan ng Paete, Liliw, Cavinti, Siniloan, Majajay, Nagcarlan, Calauan,

in niyang amyendahan ang Rice Tariffication Law upang higit na mapangalagaan ang kapakanan ng mga magsasaka. Isinusulong din niya ang pagbawas ng buwis sa lupa ng mga magsasaka, pagpapalawak ng saklaw ng crop insurance, pagbibigay ng pantang na may mababa o zero na interes, at subsidiya para sa binhi at abono. Tinalakay din niya ang isyu ng land con-

version, isang sensitibong usapin sa lalawigan ng Laguna dahil sa patuloy na urbanisasyon. Ayon kay Abalos, kailangang balansehin ang kaunlaran at ang proteksyon ng mga lupang pansakahan. Kabilang sa kanyang mungkahi ang paghihigpit ng polisiya sa conversion, mas malinaw na agricultural zoning laws para sa mga LGU, pagpapalakas ng transparency sa pag-apruba ng mga aplikasyon, at pagsusulong ng "balanced development" upang maprotektahan ang food security ng bansa.

Bukod sa mga repormang agrikultural, inilahad din ni Abalos ang kanyang layunin na alisin ang buwis sa kuryente. Naniniwala siyang posible itong maisakatuparan at makatutulong ito upang makahikayat ng mas maraming mamuhunan mula sa loob at labas ng bansa. Dagdag pa niya, ang mas murang singil sa kuryente ay magpapagaan sa pasanin ng karaniwang Pilipino at magpapalakas sa kakayahan ng bansa na makipagsabayan sa pandaigdigang merkado. Sa Lungsod ng Calamba, nakipagpulong si Abalos sa mga Kapitan ng Barangay sa pangun- guna ni Mayor Ross Rizal. Isinagawa ang isang makabuluhang talakayan para sa mas matatag na ugnayan at mas mahusay na pamamahala. "Maligayang pagdating sa

opisyal sa mga isyung pambansa.

Samantala, sa Sta. Cruz, nakasama ni Abalos si 4th District Representative Jam Agarao at ang kanyang mga kaalyado, na nagpahayag ng kanilang buong suporta sa kanyang kandidatura sa Senado.

Ang pagbisita ni Abalos sa Laguna ay nagpapakita ng kanyang hangaring maisulong ang inklusibong pag-unlad, matibay na ugnayan sa lokal na pamahalaan, at mga polisiya na inuuna ang kapakanan ng mamamayang Pilipino—lalo na ang mga magsasaka, lider sa barangay, at pamilyang manggagawa. (SHEKINAH ESTEBAN)