

ENCHANTED KINGDOM TREATS FILIPINOS WITH MAGIC AND FAMILY FUN AT ELДАР'S EASTER ADVENTURE



APRIL 20 | SUNDAY | 12PM
Starting point: Bandstand



P1,300
Regular Day Pass & Event Pass
KIDS 48 inches & taller

P900
Junior Day Pass & Event Pass
KIDS 32 to 47 inches tall

BOOK NOW!

@ek_philippines @enchantedkingdom.ph

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, introduces yet another magical twist to the classic tradition of egg hunting at Eldar's Easter Adventure on April 20, Sunday.

As part of The Enchanted Story of Eldar the Wizard campaign from April and June, guests will embark on a fun-filled quest with EK's beloved characters — Eldar the Wizard, Benny, T-Tops, and Ogg — as they search for special egg stickers through exciting activities around the park.

Aside from trying out rides, attractions and spectacular shows, kids and the young-at-heart can channel their wit and creativity through edu-FUN, EK's very own educational and fun activities.

Exciting prizes

ADVENTURE

and surprises await the lucky participants who will be able to complete Eldar's Easter Adventure.

Those who stood out in their best on-theme attire will also receive special treats from the theme park's jolly and wise wizard.

In order to unlock this whole magical experience, avail the Eldar's Easter Adventure bundle, inclusive of Park access and event pass.

Enjoy early bird rates when you book this limited-time offering at the EK Online Store on or before April 19, Saturday.

Early bird rates include:

Regular Day Pass for kids 48 inches and taller at Php 1,300;

Junior Day Pass for kids 32 to 47 inches at Php 900; and EKsperience the Magic Card (EKMC) for Php 3,800.

Existing EKMC members will also get access to this enchanting event with a special rate of Php 300.

Walk-in guests can avail the event bundle for its regular rate, subject to slot availability.

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

SMC EXPRESSWAYS ALL SET FOR HOLY WEEK RUSH

SMC Infrastructure said it has rolled out preparations for the anticipated surge in vehicular traffic along its expressways beginning Monday, April 14, as thousands of Filipinos leave Metro Manila and head to the provinces for the observance of Holy Week.

The company said it has put in place traffic management plans for its tollways, namely the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), the Skyway System, NAIA Expressway, and the Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), and coordinated this with various local government units.

The company said it anticipates heavy traffic particularly at interchanges linking its tollways to national highways and other expressways, and has advised motorists

to plan their trips well for the upcoming holidays.

"Our instruction to our operations personnel is to make sure that our traffic management plans are in sync with the different towns and cities so that traffic flows smoothly along public roads. When public roads are congested, motorists along our carriageways are also affected as traffic can extend to the exits and onto the main line," explained SMC chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

"We hope that through close and constant collaboration with traffic management teams of LGUs, we can help reduce traffic buildups especially at critical points of convergence within our towns and cities," he added.

The company's contingency measures include increasing the deployment of tollway per-

sonnel such as patrollers and emergency responders, to assist those in need.

It also reminded motorists of measures they can take to contribute to the overall improvement of the traffic situation along expressways. This includes ensuring their Autosweep RFID accounts are topped, to avoid unnecessary queueing at toll plazas. Reloading Autosweep RFID accounts is widely available through online banking apps, e-wallets, over-the-counter desks, and payment kiosks.

For motorists who have yet to register for an Autosweep RFID account, the company reiterated that stickers remain free of charge, and users can load the exact amount of toll they will use. Replacement of stickers which have deteriorated over time also remain free

of charge.

The company also advised cash-paying motorists to switch to Autosweep RFID electronic toll collection, as this is a much faster, more convenient method of payment that also contributes to shorter queueing times at toll plazas.

Meanwhile, SMC Infrastructure stopped all roadworks and construction activities at expressways to help ensure traffic flow will not be disrupted. This started 12:00 PM of Friday, April 11, and will end at 10:00 PM of Monday, April 21.

Further enhancing Holy Week preparations on major expressways is Petron Corporation's Lakbay Alalay program, the country's longest-running motorist assistance initiative.

Petron will provide free motorist assistance, clean restrooms,



SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

and limited freebies from brand partners at Petron Marilao (NLEX), Petron San Pedro (SLEX), and Petron TPLEX northbound on April 16 and 17.

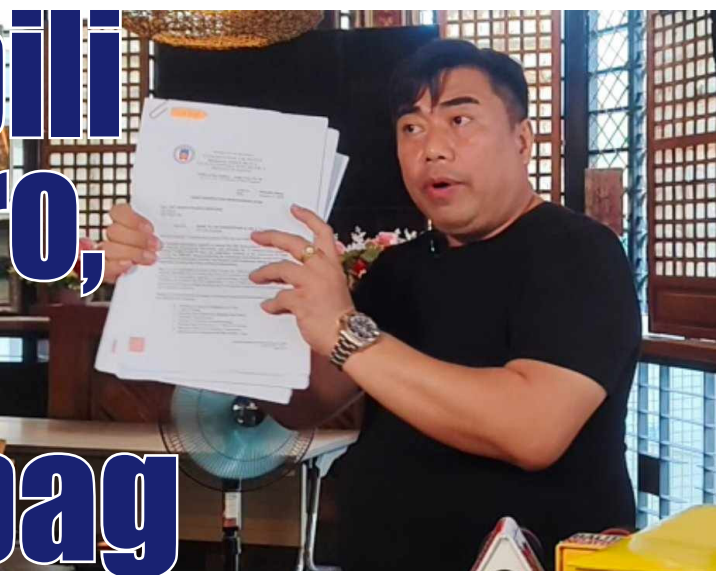
On April 20, Lakbay Alalay will be at Petron Bocaue (NLEX), Petron KM 44 northbound, and TPLEX southbound

To help mitigate any other possible delays to their trips, SMC Infrastructure also called on motorists to ensure their vehicles are roadworthy, with tires properly inflated and engines thoroughly checked before traveling.

Motorists are

Overpriced na pagbili ng lupa sa San Pedro, ibinunyag ni Atty. Melvin Matibag

Page 02





DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

Vol. I - Series 40 - April 20-26, 2025

PNP, WALANG TIGIL SA PAGHAHATID NG KATARUNGAN: 37 PUGANTE, NAARESTO SA LOOB NG 24 ORAS

PGC's medical and dental mission benefits Poblacion 12, Amadeo residents



ATIN 'TO! AT YOUR SERVICE

PGC'S MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION
15 APRIL 2025 | POBLACION 12, AMADEO
WWW.CAVITEGOV.PH - WWW.ATINTELETVINC.COM

The Provincial Government of Cavite, once again, showcased its commitment to provide community care to the constituents as its team rolled to Brgy. Poblacion 12, Amadeo for another medical and dental mission, on April 15, 2025.

Despite the intense heat, a total of 118 patients lined up to access the health services extended by the Office of the Provincial Governor and Office of the Provincial Health Officer which include medical check-ups, dental services including tooth extraction, and medicines.

The program wrapped up with warmth and gratitude for the PGC's medical and dental mission team that fosters healthcare for a healthier Cavite.--- J. Reyes

SWIFT WATER RESCUE TRAINING, ISINAGAWA NG BFP LILIW LAGUNA: ILANG TIPS UPANG MAIWASAN ANG PAGKALUNOD NGAYONG BAKASYON TINALAKAY.

SENATORIAL CANDIDATE, BENHUR ABALOS SUPTADONG LAGUNA MAYORS

DTI-LAGUNA HIGHLIGHTS MSMES PRODUCT THROUGH THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF KADIWA NG PANGULO



Alaminos, Laguna — On February 7, 2025, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) demonstrated its support for the Kadiwa ng Pangulo (KNP), which was held in front of the Alaminos Municipal Hall.

The KNP initiative eliminates market levels and allows farmers to

sell directly to customers. Additionally, the initiative intends to connect micro, small, and medium enterprises in agriculture, manufacturing, retail, and services directly with consumers. By strengthening distribution channels, they may optimize their earnings, so boosting economic growth.

The local government unit of Alaminos has decided to conduct KNP twice a year, and the current one is the first KNP being conducted for this year. It was successfully launched through the combined efforts of the Department of Agriculture and its partners—the

cont. on page 2

Editorial

ANG PAGDIRIWANG NG PASKO O PASKUWA NG PAGKABUHAY

Paskuwa ng Pagkabuhay o Eastern Sunday , na kung saan ito ay itinuturing ang mga Kristiyano katumbas sa; Miyerkules ng Abo, Kuwaresma, Linggo ng Palaspas, Mahal na Araw, Huwebes Santo, Biyernes Santo, at Sabado de Gloria na humahantong hanggang sa Pasko ng Pagkabuhay; at Oktaba ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay, Pag-akyat ng Panginoong Hesukristo sa Langit, Pentekostes, Kapistahan ng Banal na Santatlo, at Corpus Christi kung saan sinusundan ito.

Sa pagdiriwang ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay, nagsasaya tayo na buhay si Jesucristo ngayon at para sa ating lahat.

Sa panahong ito ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay, ipinagdiriwang natin ang buhay na Jesucristo. Nang may perpektong pagmamahal, tinitiyak sa atin ng Tagapagligtas: “Sa akin ay mag[ka]karoon kayo ng kapayapaan. Sa sanlibutan ay nahaharap kayo sa pag uusig. Ngunit lakasan ninyo ang inyong loob, dinaig ko na ang sanlibutan” (Juan 16:33).

Sa pagdiriwang ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay, nagsasaya tayo na buhay si Jesucristo—hindi lamang noon, kundi ngayon; hindi lamang para sa iilan,

Ang mga sagradong pangyayari sa pagitan ng Linggo ng Palaspas at ng Linggo ng Pagkabuhay ay ang mga kuwento tungkol sa hosana at aleluia. Ang hosana ay pagsamo natin sa Diyos na magligtas. Ang aleluia ay nagpapahayag ng papuri sa Panginoon para sa pag-asa ng kaligtasan at kadakilaan. Sa hosana at aleluia, kinikilala natin ang buhay na Jesucristo bilang sentro ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay.

Mahalagang pansinin na inilarawan sa Aklat ni Mormon ang “kapangyarihan at pagkabuhay na mag-uli ni Cristo” (Alma 41:2)—ang diwa ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay—sa dalawang pagpapanumbalik.

Una, kasama sa pagkabuhay na mag-uli ang pisikal na pagpapanumbalik ng ating “wasto at ganap na anyo”; “bawat biyas at kasu-kasuan,” “maging isang buhok sa ulo ay hindi mawawala” (Alma 40:23). Ang pangakong ito ay nagbibigay ng pag-asa sa mga nawalan ng biyas; o sa mga nawalan ng paningin, pandinig, o hindi makalakad; o yaong mga nawalan ng katinuan dahil sa malubhang sakit, karamdamam sa pag-iisip, o iba pang kapansanan. Nakikita Niya tayo. Pinagagaling Niya tayo.

Ang pangalawang pangako ng Pasko ng Pagkabuhay at ng Pagbabayad-sala ng ating Panginoon ay “lahat ng bagay ay manu[nu]mbalik sa kanilang wastong kaayusan” sa espirituwal na paraan (Alma 41:4).

Ang espirituwal na pagpapanumbalik na ito ay nagpapakita ng ating mga gawa at hangarin. Ipinanunumbalik nito ang para “doon sa mabait,” “mabuti,” “makatarungan,” at “maawain” (Alma 41:13).

Hindi nakapagtata kang ginamit ni prop-etang Alma ang salitang panunumbalik nang 22 beses Hindi nakapagtata kang ginamit ni prop-etang Alma ang salitang panunumbalik nang 22 beses2 sa paghimok niya sa ating “makitungo nang makatarungan, humatol nang makatviran, at patuloy na gumawa ng mabuti” (Alma 41:14).

Overpriced...

San Pedro, Laguna — Isiniwalat ni Atty. Melvin Matibag ang umano’y irregularidad sa pagbili ng lupa ng pamahalaang lokal sa Barangay Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna.

Sa panayam, sinabi ni Matibag na bahagi ito ng 25 isyu na may kaugnayan sa transaksyon sa lupa na naitala sa Audit Observation Memorandum (AOM) ng Commission on Audit (COA). Giit niya, kailangang ipaliwanag sa publiko ng alkalde na si Mayor Art Mercado at ng Sangguniang Bayan ang dahilan sa likod ng umano’y mataas na halaga ng lupa at ang kakulangan sa mga dokumentong kinakailangan para sa transaksyon.

Ibinunyag din ni Matibag na sa isang sesyon ng Sangguniang Bayan, tumutol si Konsehal Lonlon Ambayec at hindi lumagda sa resolusyon kaugnay ng nasabing pagbili ng lupa. Mula umano sa pagtutol na ito, nalaman ni Matibag ang ilang detalye ng transaksyon.

Ayon kay Matibag, “Dapat pag-aralan ang pagbili ng lupa sa Barangay Langgam dahil ang presyo ng bibilhin na lupa ay P45,000,000,170 na may sukat na 1,214 sq. meter na magkakalahang P37,500 per sq. meter. Natalo pa ng presyo sa Barangay La Merea na may exclusive subdivision. Dahil sa pagtutol ni Konsehal Lonlon ay nalaman na kulang ang mga dokumento sa pagbili gaya ng

FROM PAGE 1

Certificate of availability of Fund at independent assessor’s report accredited by financial institution gaya ng central bank o ng Government Service Insurance System (GSIS).” Dagdag pa niya, nagkaroon na rin ng AOM sa Barangay Landayan na pinuna ng COA dahil hindi otorisado ang gumawa ng appraisal report na ginamit na batayan sa pagtatasa ng presyo nito.

Samantala, sa pahayag ni LaguNanay Congresswoman Ann Matibag, nanawagan siya na hayaang makamit ng bawat pamilyang San Pedronense ang maayos, asensado, at progresibong pamumuhay. “Huwag nang guluhin, lokohin, at linlangin ang mga tao sa mga gustong ipahiwatig, dahil sa dokumento lang makakapagsalita ang katotohanan.

Ito lamang ang ipinaglalaman ng aking asawa—ang katotohanan, ang para at nararapat sa mga taga-San Pedro,” ani Cong. Matibag.

Umaasa ang mag-asawang Matibag na sa pagbubunyag ng mga isyung ito ay magkaroon ng masusing pagbusisi ang mga kinauukulan upang maipabatid sa mga mamamayan ng San Pedro ang tunay na kalagayan upang mapanatili ang tiwala sa pamahalaan at maisulong ang kapayapaan at kaunlaran sa lungsod at sa huli ay mayayani ang katotohanan.

(Shekinah Esteban)

DTI-LAGUNA...

FROM PAGE 1

Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of the Interior and Local Government, as well as relevant departments within the Alaminos Local Government Unit.

As part of DTI Laguna’s commitment in supporting the initiative, a Diskwento Caravan was organized in partnership with Puregold-Alaminos, Laguna, and Generika. Additionally, three micro-entrepreneurs took part

in the trade fair: 3A Footwear, EFF Footwear and Mywill Food Products. Some of the customers included employees of the Alaminos Municipal Hall, members of the Bureau of Fire Protection), students and teachers from nearby schools, as well as local residents of Alaminos.

Moreover, shoppers who visited after hearing about KNP’s presence in the area were also spotted onsite (MO- Calongcalong, DTI-Laguna).

RESCUE TRAINING...

LAGUNA- Ngayon papalapit na ang semana Santa o Mahal na Araw ay kanya kanyang gimik upang mapawi ang init na nararamdaman.

At karamihan naman sa ating mga kababayan ay nagtungo sa batis at maligo nga sa ilog na nauuwi naman sa pagkalunod.

Kaugnay nito, nagsagawa ng Swift Water Rescue Training ang BFP Liliw sa pangunguna ito ni F/Ins.May S.Quinceña sa Balidbirin river Brgy. Calumpang Liliw Laguna.

Sumalang naman sa pagsasanay ang bawat isa kung paano ang tamang pagsagip sa nalulunod, at kung paano isalba ang buhay sa gitna ng sakuna sa tubig.

Sumalilalim din ang grupo ng TODA Rescue sa river crossing, first aid, wading technique, defensive and aggressive

FROM PAGE 1

rescue swimming, at cardio pulmonary resocitation o CPR.

Itinuro rin dito ng mga eksperto ang ilang Tips upang maiwasan ang tiyak na pagkalunod :

1. Designate a water watcher. Kailangan may nagbabantay sa mga naliligo

2. Avoid Alcohol-iwasan ang mag-inom ng anumang nakakalasing na inumin.

3. Use Body System- dapat may kasama ka habang naliligo

4. Swim in Designated Area maligo lamang sa tamang lugar.

5. Supervise closely -bantayan at huwag hayaan maligo ng mag-isa ang mga batang maliit

Higit sa lahat, laging manghingi sa Panginoon ng Kanyang gabay at seguridad sa ating mga paglalakbay.

(Kevin Pamatmat)



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PDEA AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES NETS PHP 147.25 MILLION WORTH OF ILLEGAL DRUGS, 79 ARRESTED NATIONWIDE WEEKLONG BLITZ

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) highlighting the agency’s sustained and resolute campaign against illegal drugs across the country. A Weekly Anti-illegal Drug Operations Accomplishment Report covering the period from April 11 to April 18, 2025.

With a remarkable 69 anti-drug operations conducted in just one week, 79 drug personalities were arrested, leading to the seizure of PHP 147.25 million worth of illegal drugs.

This week’s haul includes:

- 1,000 grams of shabu in Brgy. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan during a buy-bust operation by PDEA Region III and PNP DEG.
- A staggering 16,000 grams of shabu seized by Highway Patrol Group Samar; Samar Police Provincial Office – Police Drug Enforcement Unit; and PDEA Samar Provincial Office in Brgy. New Mahayag, City of Catbalogan, Western Samar --- marking the largest single-week seizure in the region.
- 300 grams of shabu in Guizo, Mandaue City by PDEA Regional Office VII during a series of well-coordinated drug stings.
- 984 grams of ketamine intercepted at Port Area, Manila by PDEA-National Capital Region – Seaport Interdiction Unit, PDEA K9 Unit, Bureau of Customs, and PDEA RO NCR Manila District Office.

A successful eradication of 13,200 marijuana plants in Benguet, followed by multiple eradication operations throughout Kalinga and Ifugao, collectively uprooting over 49,000 marijuana plants.

“These results are the product of relentless intelligence work, surveillance, and inter-agency coordination,” said PDEA Director General

Among the most significant sei-

BENHUR ABALOS...

Dalawang oras ang inabot ng pakikipagpulong ng Laguna Mayors League sa pangunguna ng kanilang Pangulo na si Mayor Edgar Egay Ramos ng Pila Laguna.

Dumalo sa pagtitipon ang mga Mayor ng Third at Fourth District ng Laguna. Upang makipagtalakayan kay Former DILG Sec.Benhur Abalos. Ayon kay Abalos

zures were:

grams of shabu in Brgy. Minuyan, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan during a buy-bust operation by PDEA Region III and PNP DEG.

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grams of ketamine intercepted at Port Area, Manila by PDEA-National Capital Region – Seaport Interdiction Task Group (IADITG)—continue to yield high-value targets, preventing the inflow of synthetic drugs and precursors like ephedrine.

The volume of seizures reflects anti-drug operational success, PDEA reiterates that the campaign against illegal drugs is not just about numbers or statistics. It is about communities saved from the grip of drug addiction, families reunited, and lives rebuilt towards the realization every Filipino vision “Bagong Pilipino, Bagong Pilipinas”.

“Together, we are saving lives, giving hope, and extending a helping hand to those who need it most—a true reflection of public service with a heart. For this, we hold the Phil-

malaking tulong para sa kanya ang makatalakayan ang mga alkalde dahil nagkakaroon siya ng kaalaman upang matugunan ang pangangailangan ng ating mga mamamayan lalo na ang sektor ng magsasaka.

Aniya kailangan palakasin ang sektor ng sakahan at panahon na upang amiyendahan ang rice tariffication law .Upang

Pangandaman becomes first female Cabinet Secretary promoted to PCGA Auxiliary Vice Admiral

In recognition of her invaluable service and dedication to upholding the values of the Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary (PCGA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman becomes the first female member of the Cabinet of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to be promoted to Auxiliary Vice Admiral (AUX VADM).

The Budget Chief, who is also the only female member of the country’s Economic Team, was promoted as a 3-star officer during the promotion, awarding, donning, and oath-taking ceremony of PCGA Officials from DBM on April 4, 2025. This is the highest rank that can be given to a member of the PCGA.

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), through the PCGA as its volunteer force, has been a steadfast ally of the DBM in its conduct of the Dug-tong Buhay Movement, an initiative founded by Secretary Pangandaman to promote voluntary blood donation.

As one of the core members of the initiative, the PCGA provides donors and medical teams that can assist in screening donors. Because of this, the Movement has already collected over 3,300 units of blood.

“Together, we are saving lives, giving hope, and extending a helping hand to those who need it most—a true reflection of public service with a heart. For this, we hold the Phil-

ippine Coast Guard (PCG) in deep admiration and proudly stand with you, united as equals in governance and committed members of the Auxiliary,” AUX VADM Pangandaman said.

The 3-star officer also thanked the PCGA for allowing more women to excel in fields once dominated by men. Currently, 15,000 women stand alongside men in the PCG. Notably, 4,200 are Muslims.

“I am optimistic that this feat will inspire more women to step forward, lead, and make a lasting impact,” she added.

In his closing remarks, PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil L. Gavan congratulated Secretary Pangandaman: “I can move forward being a Mindanaoan seeing my fellow Mindanaoan wearing the highest rank that we can give to the PCGA—roaming around the country, spreading inspiration that not only men can perform jobs usually dominated by men.”

The ceremony also recognized the contributions of other DBM officials who were promoted and awarded by the PCGA for continuously serving the Filipino people even beyond their duties and responsibilities in the Department.

Undersecretary for Local Government and Regional Operations Wilford Will L. Wong and Undersecretary for Media Affairs and Community Relations Goddess Hope

O. Libiran were promoted to Auxiliary Rear Admirals (AUX RADM) of the PCGA.

In his opening remarks, AUX RADM Wong encouraged other community members to join the Auxiliary and emphasized that being a member of the PCGA is just as important as being a member of the PCG itself.

Meanwhile, DBM Assistant Secretary for Advocacy, Capacity Development, Economic Affairs, and Stakeholder Relations Group Diana C. Camacho-Mercado and Assistant Secretary for Internal Management Ramon Vicente B. Asuncion were both appointed as new members of the PCGA Executive Squadron with the honorary rank of Auxiliary Commodore.

“Your hard work and exemplary service are a testament to the values we hold dear at the Department of Budget and Management,” the Budget Chief told the promoted officers.

Secretary Pangandaman and 12 other DBM officials were also awarded the PCGA Merit Medal and Ribbon for their outstanding contributions to the PCGA mission through their leadership in DBM’s dental and medical missions and other community programs.

The ceremony was led by PCG Commandant Gavan and Coast Guard Adjutant Commander (CDR) Jay-siebell B. Ferrer with Ensign (ENS) Frances Doren Balboa-Baterbonia who served as the Master of Ceremonies.





EXPANDED SOLO PARENTS ACT ISINULONG NI CONGRESSWOMAN HERRERA

Hinikayat ng Bagong Henerasyon (BH) Party-list ang mga local government units (LGUs) na ipatupad na ang Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act sa pamamagitan ng agarang pamimigay ng Solo Parent Booklets upang maka avail ang mga Solo Parents ng diskwento sa oras na bumili ng gatas, gamot at diapers para sa mga anak.

Ayon kay House Deputy Minority Leader at

BH Party-list Rep. Bernadette Herrera pinagkaitan ng karapatan ang mga Solo Parent sa kanilang benepisyo dahil dalawang taon nang naantala ang implementasyon ng Expanded Solo Parents Welfare Act.

Dagdag pa ng BH Partylist, kahit may guidelines na mula sa kinauukulang ahensya ng gobyerno hindi pa rin namimigay ang LGUs ng Solo Parent IDs at booklets na syang kailangan ng mga Solo Parents para

maka avial ng discounts sa oras na bumili ng essential children products.

Iginiit ni Herrera na dapat ipatupad ng LGUs ang batas at titiyaking tinutupad ng mga negosyante ang karapatan ng mga Solo parents.

Sinabi pa ni Herrera na bagamat hindi government assistance ang batas ngunit mahalaga ito para sa mga Solo Parest dahil makakatulong sa kanilang pagtitipid sa gastusin.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

SENATOR LITO LAPID TAPOS PUSO ANG PASASALAMAT

Muling nagpaabot ng pasasalamat si Sen. Lito Lapid sa pananatili ng kanyang matatag na ratings sa mga panibagong senatorial survey.

Nabatid na sa huling survey ng Octa Research nasa pang anim na pwesto si Lapid habang

pasok din sa top 12 ang senador sa Pulse Asia survey.

Dahil dito tiniyak ni Lapid na maka-kaasa ang taong bayan na gagampanan nito ang kanyang trabaho bilang mambabatas sa oras na mahalal muli bilang senador.

Adbokasya parin ni Lapid ang pagpapalago ng turismo sa bansa partikular sa Agri tourism, eco-tourism at medical tourism. Adbokasya din nito ang medical assistance para sa mga senior citizen, at edukasyon para sa lahat.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

LTO, PDEA REACTIVATE DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM AHEAD OF LENT

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Law-enforcement agencies continue the roll-out of Oplan Harabas Ligtas Biyahe operations to ensure the safety of all road users amid the expected surge of travelers in the Calabarzon region for the Holy Week.

The program is led by the Land Transportation Office (LTO), in cooperation with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Philippine National Police (PNP), Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTRFB).

On April 11, Oplan Harabas operations are conducted in Calamba City and San Pedro City, Laguna, where 229 bus drivers and conductors

have undergone a random drug test, three of them tested positive for the presence of dangerous drugs.

The three drivers who tested positive is currently in the custody of PDEA for confirmatory testing using chemical analysis, while their licenses were turned over to LTO for proper filing of appropriate penalties.

During the PIA Presscon with PDEA on April 11, PDEA Plans and Operations Service director Wardley Getalla said that the operation is to ensure the safety of travelers and employees in the transportation sector with the heavy passenger volume and expected road congestions.

"We conduct sur-

prise and mandatory drug test to drivers, conductors, and other personnel in bus terminals to ensure the safety of our passengers this Holy Week," Getalla said.

The PDEA director adds that Oplan Harabas is also one of the ways of the agency to combat the spread of illegal drugs going to provinces.

"We inspect the terminals, baggage, buses, and our passengers using our narcotics detection dogs. Our goal here is to ensure that our land transportation vehicles are not being used to deliver and traffic drugs to our provinces."

Previous Oplan Harabas operations in the region were done during All Saints' Day, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

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.

With the latest adjustment, workers in the non-agriculture sector in component cities and first-class municipalities will receive an additional ₱20, raising their daily minimum wage from ₱520 to ₱540.

Meanwhile, non-agriculture workers in fourth, fifth, and sixth-class municipalities will receive a ₱30 increase, elevating their daily minimum wage from ₱420 to ₱450.

The Wage Board added that workers in the agriculture sector in first-class municipalities will receive an increase of ₱35, adjusting their daily minimum wage from ₱465 to ₱500.

"These adjustments follow the initial tranche implemented on

September 30, 2024, and are part of the government's ongoing efforts to ensure fair compensation for workers in the region," the Regional Tripartite 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.

"JOKE BA 'TO?" — SEN. PIA CAYETANO SLAMS PHILHEALTH'S 18% COVERAGE TARGET

Senator Pia Cayetano strongly criticized the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) for its plan to cover only 18% of hospital costs by 2025, labeling the target as a "joke" that undermines the principles of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law, which aims to provide health coverage to all Filipinos through PhilHealth.

During recent Supreme Court oral arguments on the transfer of PhilHealth's excess funds to the national treasury, Associate Justice Josep Lopez pressed PhilHealth Senior Vice President Renato Limsiaco, Jr. on their coverage goals.

In response, Limsiaco stated the agency's goal to cover 18% of hospitalization costs by 2025, with an aim to increase this to 28% by 2028.

Responding to this news, Senator Cayetano expressed her disbelief and concern over these dismal figures, questioning how such limited coverage could aid Filipino families, particularly those in lower-income brackets.

Notably, from 2014 to 2024, PhilHealth received over PHP 534 billion in sin tax revenues—raising further questions about how

the agency can justify covering only 18% of patients' hospital costs.

"How do you expect the poor, even the middle class, to afford healthcare when PhilHealth only plans to cover 18%?" she questioned. "People are already struggling to make ends meet. What more when they face unexpected illness?"

The Senator cited specific examples to illustrate the impact of PhilHealth's proposed coverage.

"Mismong si Justice Lopez, ginawa niyang halimbawa ang sarili niya. Sa sakit niya, inabot siya ng P7 million. Ang sinalo lang ni PhilHealth ay nasa 2 percent," she shared in an interview with Cebu media.

"Another example. May nanay na pumunta sa opisina namin at humingi ng tulong dahil ang baby niyang three months old ay nagkasakit ng pneumonia, nasa ospital. Ang bill nila ay P1 million. Alam niyo kung

"We can have a thousand hearings, but if PhilHealth doesn't have the common sense to understand that we must aim for the least out-of-pocket expense for patients, then all these discussions are useless," said the Senator, who chaired the Senate Committee on Health for nine (9) years and has been handling the health budget for the past five (5) years.

Senator Cayetano called on PhilHealth to reassess its coverage targets and align them more closely with the objectives of the UHC Law, ensuring that all Filipinos, regardless of economic status, can access the healthcare services they need without undue financial burden.



Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

KHALSA AID PHILIPPINES GIVES INDIGENOUS STUDENTS IN TANAY, RIZAL, HOPE AND THE LIGHT OF EDUCATION

During the Outreach Program in the Covered Court in Barangay Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal, Khalsa Aid Philippines, under the direction of President Mr. Sandeep Singh Joshi, gave two solar lights to every home.

One hundred homes in non-electrical sitios such Sitio Mangahan, Sitio Irid, and Sitio Alas-asin in Barangay Daraitan, Tanay, Rizal, were the primary beneficiaries.

Additionally, this is meant to provide insight into the children's education and pave the way for a more promising future.

Since it will illuminate their homes and their children's education, Sandeep merely asked that those who received it take care of it and not sell it.

They were quick to provide solar lights after realizing how difficult

it was to study in the dark.

Along with a feeding program, they received tarpaulins to protect their homes from the rain and sun, gardenia loaf bread, and school supplies specifically for their children's education.

Major Wilfredo E. Daliay Jr. of the 2nd Civil-Military Operations (Taga-aktas) Battalion, 2nd Lieutenant Cerlen B. Mier of the 4th RCDG, ARESKOM, 2nd Lieutenant Kimberly Shine L. Enate of Bravo Company, 80th Infantry Battalion, Police Lieutenant Anacleto Q. Valiente of the Rizal Provincial Mobile Force Company, and three reservists from Bravo Company, 405th RCDG participated as coordinators, providing a feeding program, distributing gardenia loaf bread, and facilitating a parlor game.

PNP...

Alinsunod sa direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na palakasin ang pagpigil sa krimen at pagbutihin ang kabuuang kakayahan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa paglutas ng mga ito, pinuri ni Chief PNP, Police General Rommel Francisco D. Marbil, ang Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) sa kanilang pinaigting na operasyon upang tugisin at arestuhin ang mga pinakahirahanap na kriminal at pugante sa bansa.

Ayon sa ulat ng CIDG, sa loob lamang ng isang araw noong Abril 14, 2025, matagumpay nilang naaresto ang 37 kataong may warrant of arrest sa iba't ibang panig ng bansa.

Sa Luzon at Kalakhang Maynila, 16 na mataas na antas ng mga pugante ang naaresto, kabilang si Belmin, isang Regional-Level Most Wanted Person (MWP), na inaresto ng CIDG Baguio City Field Unit dahil sa kasong robbery. Naaresto rin si Angelica ng

CIDG Pangasinan Provincial Field Unit dahil sa apat na bilang ng cyber libel, at si Raymond ng CIDG NCR-Northern District Field Unit dahil sa kasong homicide.

Sa Visayas, lima ang naaresto ng mga CIDG Field Units, kabilang si Wennie (rape), na hinuli ng CIDG Antique Provincial Field Unit; si Marvic (paglabag sa RA 9165) ng CIDG Cebu City Field Unit; at si Jonathan (theft) ng CIDG Northern Leyte Provincial Field Unit.

Samantala, sa Mindanao, 14 na tao ang naaresto ng CIDG Field Units. Kabilang dito si Jassmer, na may kasong murder, na naaresto ng CIDG Sultan Kudarat Provincial Field Unit; at si Khalid, na nahaharap sa kasong murder at paglabag sa New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016, na inaresto ng CIDG North Cotabato Provincial Field Unit. Pareho silang itinuturing na Regional-Level Most Wanted Persons.

Dalawa rin ang

FROM PAGE 1

naaresto ng CIDG Anti-Organized Crime Unit (AOCU) dahil sa kasong rape at paglabag sa RA 9165.

"Saludo ako sa ating mga CIDG teams sa buong bansa sa kanilang walang pagod na pagtupad sa tungkulin at mabilis na pagkilos upang mahuli ang 37 pugante sa loob lamang ng isang araw. Ang inyong tapang at dedikasyon sa pagtupad sa mahirap na gampanin na ito ay hindi lamang nagpapalakas ng seguridad ng publiko kundi nagbibigay din ng pag-asa sa mga biktimgang naghihintay pa rin ng hustisya. Ang tagumpay na ito ay tagumpay ng mamamayang Pilipino," pahayag ni Pulis Heneral Marbil.

Tiniyak din niya na publiko na patuloy ang PNP sa masigasig nitong operasyon upang tugisin at dakpin ang lahat ng wanted persons at kriminal sa buong bansa bilang bahagi ng pagpapatupad ng batas at pagtataguyod ng kaayusan.

Dalawa rin ang

PUBLISHER CORNER I WHEN THE SENATE SHELTERS A LIE, IT BURIES THE TRUTH



In the echoing halls of the Philippine Senate, a battle for the soul of the Republic is unfolding—and no, it's not a procedural debate. It's a moral confrontation between truth and timidity, decisiveness and delay, patriotism and platitude. At the center of this storm is Senator Imee Marcos, who dared to confront deception head-on, and Senate President Chiz Escudero, who cloaked institutional cowardice in the velvet robes of due process.

Let us not mince words: when a resource person lies to the Senate under oath, that is not just contempt—it is sabotage. Ambassador Markus Lacanilao, testifying in matters involving the arrest of former President Rodrigo Duterte, blatantly and repeatedly gave misleading statements. Senator Marcos moved swiftly to cite him in contempt and ordered his detention—a move that electrified the public, roused the spirit of justice, and sent a message that the Senate is not a playground for liars.

And what did the Senate President do? He stonewalled. He dissembled. He delayed. He protected the liar.

Senator Escudero wrapped himself in the Senate Rules like a shield, claiming the detention lacked his signature and that proper procedures were not followed. But behind this legal façade was a chilling message: the Senate President will not act until politics allows him to do so. In effect, Escudero reduced the chamber to a paper tiger—roaring in theory, spineless in practice.

Let's be clear. Let us also not forget the underlying stakes: This is about Rodrigo Duterte. The man still commands massive public trust. Escudero's refusal to back the investigation, or even allow a

Due process is vital. But when due process is weaponized to prevent accountability, it becomes the refuge of the complicit. Escudero's moral posturing—his claim that he acted out of "humanitarian" concern for Lacanilao's family—reeks of political calculus. His so-called show cause order, issued after public backlash, reads not like justice served but a last-minute script rewrite to salvage his diminishing credibility.

This isn't just a procedural disagreement. This is a national disgrace.

Senator Imee Marcos did what the Senate President would not: uphold the dignity of the Senate. She did not cower behind technicalities. She acted in defense of the truth. She stood up not just for Duterte, but for every citizen who believes that our democracy deserves clarity, not deception.

Now, Escudero dares to suggest that it is Senator Marcos who has politicized the Senate? Let's deconstruct that lie. If defending the Senate's power to punish contempt is political, then what do we call the Senate President's refusal to even issue subpoenas? What do we call his silencing of action until it's politically safe? That's not leadership. That's institutional treason.

And then comes his greatest insult: "I will not allow the Senate to be used for petty partisan interests." But what greater betrayal of public interest exists than a Senate that lets lies pass unpunished? What greater political interest is there than protecting truth in a time of deceit?

Let us also not forget the underlying stakes: This is about Rodrigo Duterte. The man still commands massive public trust. Escudero's refusal to back the investigation, or even allow a

basic enforcement of contempt, will be interpreted—not unfairly—as an attempt to protect those working to rewrite Duterte's legacy into something criminal. It is no coincidence that this occurs while Duterte's enemies maneuver in the background and midterm elections loom in the foreground.

Marcos understands what Escudero cannot: justice must move faster than the lie. She has chosen to act, even if it means clashing with Senate tradition. But tradition without courage is just formality. And a Senate ruled by formality alone is a Senate unfit for crisis, unfit for truth, and unfit for the people it claims to serve.

The Filipino people cheered for Marcos not because they hate rules, but because they hate hypocrisy. They are tired of leaders who preach integrity but hide behind procedure when truth becomes inconvenient. And they are right to be angry at Escudero. His refusal to lead, to act, to stand up for the very chamber he presides over, is an abdication of the Senate's most sacred role: to defend the truth in public life.

In this defining moment, Imee Marcos chose avoidance. Escudero chose cowardice. History will remember who rose and who shrank.

Because when the Senate shelters a lie, it buries the truth—and no institution, no matter how ancient, survives when it stands on a foundation of silence.



SHOW OF READINESS AND COMMITMENT: SM SOUTH LUZON 2 TEAMS GEAR UP FOR SAFETY



SM City Dasmariñas proudly hosted the Joint Tactical Inspection for SM South Luzon 2, showcasing the discipline, preparedness, and teamwork of security personnel and maintenance teams from SM City Dasmariñas, SM City Trece Martires, and SM Market-mall. The event highlights SM's strong commitment to safety, operational excellence, and ensuring a secure environment for all shoppers and tenants across the region.

Gracing the event were key leaders and partners in safety and operations: Mr. Rafael T. Tejada – AVP for CRS, Ms. Minabel Llanes – Regional Operations Manager SM South 2, Mr. Charleston

M. Tan – SAVP for SM Re-tails, Mr. John Jason T. Tere-nal – SAVP for SM South Region, PLTCOL Rejeno Onate – OIC CCPS Dasmariñas City, Mr. Almus J. Alabe – Head of Security Affairs, SM Prime Holding Inc., Ms. Marjorie P. Ore-liano – AVP for Customer Relations Services HO, and Ms. Katleen Briones – President of Combined Blue Dragon Security Agency. Their presence underscored the shared commitment to safety, operational excellence, and continued service to the community.

The event also highlighted the commendable work and dedication of these frontliners in ensuring safety and order within the malls.



DOST-CALABARZON participates in LBSCFI's 16th SyenSaya Science Festival



Organized by the Los Baños Science Community Foundation, Inc. (LBSCFI), the 16th Los Baños SyenSaya Science Festival showcased events, competitions, and exhibits that featured member-agencies' science, technology, and innovation (STI) programs, projects, and activities (PPAs) and services last March 11-13, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-CALABARZON participated in the festival, at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), Laguna.

DOST-CALABARZON's programs, projects, and services

Anchored to the DOST's National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW), the fes-tival adopted the theme "Teknolohiya at Inobasyon: Kabaliklat sa Matatag, Maginhawa, at Pana-tag na Kinabukasan." One of its highlights was the Wonderama Exhibit, which showcased STI PPAs designed to engage and inspire high school students.

As part of the celebration, DOST-CALABARZON featured several innovative programs, projects, technologies, and services, under the following focus areas:

Food Security and Sovereignty
Revitalization of

the Makapuno Industry in CALABARZON Leveling-Up of Quezon's Bagsakan Agri-Processing Capability Through Adoption of the Smart Food Value Chain Framework Project

Fabrication of Prototype Deployable Mushroom Growing House as Complementary Technology to Enhance Livelihood and Food Security Project Resilience and Sustainability

Solar Isotropic Generator of Acoustic Wave (SIGAW) BoatBox: Cost-Effective Tracking and Distress Message Sending System for Local Small Fish-ing Vessels (SFV)

Future Communities and Institutions Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly-Operated Kiosks (STAR-BOOKS)

Scholarship Programs and Services One Health Invisible Threats: The Power of Clean Hands in Food Safety DOST-CALABARZON's Laboratory Testing and Calibration Services

STI Collaboration and Innovation

"SyenSaya is more than just an annual celebration of science, technology, and innovation (STI) in Los Baños—it

serves as a regional platform that strengthens collaboration among LBSCFI's 25 member-agencies. Through partnerships, we not only promote STI but also enhance its practical applications for the benefit of communities," said Engr. Francisco R. Barquilla III, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Operations of DOST-CALABARZON.

He emphasized the importance of partnerships in advancing research and technology, stating, "Collaboration is a cornerstone of progress, and through LBSCFI, a DOST-certified science foundation, we can work together not just to popularize STI but to ensure its meaningful impact to and for the people."

Awarding and Closing Ceremony

The celebration concluded during the Awarding and Closing Ceremony on March 13 at the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) Umali Auditorium where Dr. Jose V. Camacho, Jr., Chancellor of UPLB and President of LBSCFI, expressed his appreciation to all member-agencies for their contributions to the event's success.

Furthermore, the winning research of the Youth Science Awards

(YSA) and the M.S. Swamina-than Outstanding Research Award were

recognized, after which was followed by an acknowledgment of member-agencies that participated in this year's Wonderama Exhibits.

The event also recognized outstanding research contributions, including winners of the Youth Science Awards (YSA) are following: first place is the Vehicle Accident Alert and Prevention System of students from the Bucal National Integrated School (BNIS); second place is the Citrus Peel Essential Oils (CPEO) Spray System of students from The Mabini Academy (TMA); and third

place is the Safety Electrical Outlet, also from students from BNIS.

Additionally, Rhowell N. Tiozon, Jr., Alisdair R. Fernie, and Nese Sreenivasulu from the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) were awarded the M.S. Swaminathan Outstanding Re-search Award.

Dr. Camacho then officially closed the celebration by recognizing participating LBSCFI member-agencies which contributed to the Wonderama Exhibit and to the general program of the Sy-enSaya Science Festival. PR

PH MULLED AS SITE FOR ASEAN CENTRE FOR MSME DEVELOPMENT

With its dynamic MSME sector, the Philippines is being positioned as the site of the ASEAN region's first hub for MSME Development.

ASEAN Business Advisory Council–Philippines (ASEAN BAC PH) chair Joey Concepcion recently met with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Usec. Allan Gepty to seek the DTI's support and guidance for the establishment of an ASEAN Centre for MSME Development, which will be a regional government and private sector initiative.

The ASEAN Centre for MSME Development is envisioned to serve as a physical center for entrepreneurship mentors, a hub for capacity-building, and a way to help expand the network of MSMEs while increasing their knowledge of best practices.

It is also hoped that the centre will increase the awareness of the ASEAN among ordinary Filipinos, especially as the country is set to

host the ASEAN Summit in 2026.

With Concepcion was Ambassador Delia Albert and ASEAN BAC PH Executive Director Gil Gonzales.

Concepcion, who is also the founder of the non-profit Go Negosyo which has advocated for entrepreneurship among Filipinos for 20 years now, said that the cooperation between government and private sector in MSME development puts the country in an ideal position to host the center.

If realized, the center will be the Philippines's second such regional center for excel-

lence, the other being the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

The Philippines chairmanship in 2026 is seen as an opportune time for the Philippines to launch the center as it aligns with the DTI's priority agendas.

The centre will be one of the legacy projects of the Philippines chairmanship in 2026, along with initiatives in food security and women entrepreneurs.

Proponents of the initiative will next present the concept, and once approved, will secure a declaration from ASEAN leaders.

