

BIYAHENG SOUTH SUMMER TOUR 2025: A THREE-DAY ROAD TRIP INTO THE HEART OF THE SOUTH



Breakfast and coffee at Kura Café



FOTON Traveller and FOTON Traveller XL cruising at CALAX



Apollo Aeropods, a unique and futuristic cabin at CaSoBe
Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CAL-AX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) marks another milestone with its flagship tourism advocacy campaign – Biyaheng South with its Summer Tour campaign.

Biyaheng South Summer tour boasts of an immersive adventure showcasing Southern Luzon's finest summer destinations. This year's event is co-presented by Landco Pacific Corporation, in partnership with Department of Tourism Region IV-A (DOT IVA), Department of Interior and Local Government Region IV-A (DILG-IVA), Cavite Tourism Office and Calatagan Tourism Office. A select group of influencers, media partners, and lucky winners from the Summer



Island Hopping and Snorkeling at CaSoBe

Tour promotion—known as Ka-Biyaheros—were invited to experience these destinations firsthand, and who will then continue to promote these sites by sharing their journey across their social media channels. Foton Philippines served as the official mobility partner, providing Ka-Biyaheros with comfortable rides, and the event is also sponsored by Kura Cafe, “more than just coffee.”

Ka-Biyaheros journeyed for three days and two nights, experi-



CaSoBe as the vibrant base camp for the Biyaheng South Summer Tour 2025



Water-filled fun at Aquaria Water Park

experienced firsthand the comfort of a smoother, faster, and more efficient travel to the South. Traveling aboard the FOTON Traveller and FOTON Traveller XL, the Ka-Biyaheros were able to relax and enjoy the journey in spacious, air-conditioned shuttles designed for group comfort. The high-light of the ride is the



Ka-Biyaheros racing at Carmona Racetrack

Breakfast and Scenic Drives in General Trias The adventure kicked off with a scenic drive along the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), where participants

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National Police Commission Honors Mayor Ross Rizal for Outstanding support to Law Enforcement





DERETSAHAN

WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

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**A STRENGTHEN
COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP THRU
UNVEILING OF NEWLY
CONSTRUCTED
CENDELARIA MUNICIPAL
POLICE STATION**

Courtesy Call: Consul General Senen Mangalile Mangalile



June 4, 2025- The City of Bacoor made a courtesy call to Consul General Senen Mangalile at the Philippine Consulate General in New York, where Banda El Gobernador serenaded the Consul General and his staff, and in his message, Consul General Senen expressed deep gratitude for the visit of the Bacoor delegation and their musical performance, highlighting the massive turnout during the June 1 Sunday parade along Madison Avenue—one of Manhattan's major thoroughfares—which brought joy, nostalgia, and pride to the Filipino community as the band's music evoked memories of home.

Mayor Strike also delivered his heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to share the city's love for music, while the city councilors, department heads, and staff expressed appreciation for being part of such a meaningful and unforgettable experience that will forever resonate with the people of Bacoor and strengthen their Filipino identity.

SENATE MUST CARRY OUT CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY IN VP DUTERTE IMPEACHMENT - CAYETANO



Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Tuesday said the Senate is duty-bound to fulfill its constitutional mandate following the transmittal of the articles of impeachment against Vice President Sara Duterte. “Kapag constitutional mandate, gagawin mo lang,” Cayetano told reporters in a brief interview. The senator was responding to a question on whether or not the Senate still needs to vote to convene as an impeachment court.

Cayetano acknowledged that a vote may be held among the 24 senators but cautioned against using it to block the process. “Yung implementing it and applying it to the 24 senators, may botohan ‘yan. But just because may botohan doesn’t make it right,” he said.

He also said a simple majority vote in the plenary should not be able to overturn the constitutional mandate. The House of Representatives transmitted the articles of impeachment to the Senate on February 5, 2025 — the last session day before the congressional break. The Senate, however, was not able to take action on the articles before adjourning. When the chamber resumed its final session, the presentation of the articles was initially set for June 2 but was later moved to June 11 by Senate President Francis “Chiz” Escudero to prioritize pending legislative measures before the 19th Congress ends.

Editorial

CHINA'S PROPAGANDA TRAP AT SHANGRI-LA: WEAPONIZING THE CAMERA TO DISTRACT FROM ILLEGALITY

China's latest disinformation stunt targeting Philippine defense leadership has collapsed under its own deception.

At the 2025 Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore—a forum meant to promote transparency, peace, and regional stability—Chinese state-run outlet China Daily staged a media ambush targeting Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Romeo Brawner Jr. The resulting video, provocatively titled “Philippine military chief dodges questions,” attempted to depict Brawner as evasive in the face of queries about Philippine activities at Sandy Cay (Tiexian Reef).

The truth? It was not an interview. It was a setup.

The footage was captured outside official engagements, in direct violation of diplomatic protocol, by individuals posing as journalists. It was selectively edited to distort reality, strip context, and manufacture the illusion of transparency being “dodged.” The goal: to portray the Philippines as evasive, and by extension, illegitimate in its lawful maritime operations.

Walking Away from Disinformation is Not Evasion—It's Discipline

General Brawner did not dodge questions—he refused to legitimize a propaganda trap. The ambush was never about dialogue. It was bait. A carefully framed provocation designed to feed China's disinformation ecosystem at home and abroad.

The AFP and the Department of National Defense (DND) correctly identified this for what it was: a foreign disinformation operation masquerading as journalism. Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. affirmed that no official Chinese delegation was present at Shangri-La, and that the individuals behind the footage violated press norms to manipulate perception.

Meanwhile, China continues to dodge accountability for its illegal activities in the West Philippine Sea: militarization of reefs, harassment of civilian vessels, and brazen disregard for international rulings. The 2016 Arbitral Award under UNCLOS has already invalidated its sweeping nine-dash line claims. Yet China responds not with dialogue, but with deception.

State-Controlled Media is Not Free Press—It's a Weapon

China Daily is not an independent outlet—it is a strategic arm of the Chinese Communist Party's external influence operations. This is not journalism. It is information warfare, dressed in the language of press freedom.

This recent ambush is part of a broader gray-zone strategy: violate protocol, create confusion, manipulate footage, and exploit online platforms to shape global narratives. It's a method China has repeatedly used to compensate for diplomatic setbacks and diminished international trust.

The Real Battle Is Over the Narrative

The West Philippine Sea is not only a front-line for territorial defense—it is now also a battleground of narratives. Every clip, quote, and caption matters. As China's disinformation campaigns grow more aggressive, truth and discipline remain the Philippines' strongest defenses.

STRENGTHEN...

Earlier today, a collective display of strengthened community partnership among the Philippine National Police, the Local Government Unit of Candelaria, NAPOLCOM, and various community sectors was showcased during the unveiling of the newly constructed Candelaria Municipal Police Station in Brgy. Malaban Sur, Candelaria, Quezon.

The ceremony mark it highlights from short program and delivery of message distinguished guests;

Honorable George D. Suayan, Mayor of Candelaria, Vice Mayor, Hon. Macario D. Boongaling, Atty. Rafael Vicente R. Calinisan, Commissioner Vice Chairperson and Executive Officer, NAPOLCOM, and PCOL MELVIN G. NAPILOY, PRO 4A Deputy Regional Director for Administration, whom graced their invaluable commitment for active promotion to public safety and intensified security in the community of Candelaria.

While, in attendance, PLTCOL JEZREEL

NextAsia..

“The company made the right choice in helping our school. Even though we are a small community, our students have gained recognition worldwide.”

Ms. Myreen Tan, GPTA President of Majada Out Elementary School, added: “This assistance from the company is a big help to us. We will make sure to take care of everything so we can use them for a long time.”

This initiative is part of the community outreach efforts tied to Estonia Calamba by NextAsia



FROM PAGE 1

CALDERON, DPDA, PLTCOL ARNULFO SEL-ENCIO, Chief of Police Candelaria MPS, PRO4A Staffs, PMAJ MARCELITO P PLATINO, Chief PARMU, Mr. Leodigario Dias Boongaling, and other representatives from the Regional Headquarters, QPPO personnel, and other societal sectors joined the program.

It was followed by the ceremonial ribbon-cutting, unveiling of building marker, and blessing of New Candelaria Municipal Police Station.

On the latter part, PCOL RUBEN B LACUESTA, Provincial Director of QPPO extends his warming gratitude to the persons behind this successful establishment of collective efforts that symbolizes steadfast and quality police service to the constituents of Candelaria, Quezon.

He also assures that Quezon Police will resolutely serve its purpose to people and the community, bearing honor and integrity in the law enforcement.

FROM PAGE 7

Homes, one of NextAsia Land's flagship developments. The company is known for providing affordable, modern, and digitally connected homes for Filipino families—building not just houses, but forward-thinking and sustainable communities.

With programs like Brigada Eskwela and its upcoming donation of solar lights, NextAsia Land Inc. continues to make a lasting impact—lighting the way for future generations.

(Edjun Mariposque)

MAYOR ROSS ...

The National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) awarded Calamba City Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal for his unwavering support to the Philippine National Police (PNP) and his steadfast commitment to public safety.

Mayor Rizal expressed his deep gratitude for the honor, emphasizing that public service includes ensuring a peaceful and orderly community—a mission that requires close collaboration with law enforcement.

(“Lubos ang aking pasasalamat sa pagkilalang ibinigay para sa ating walang sawang suporta sa Philippine National Police at National Police Commission. Para sa akin, tungkulin nating mga lingkod-bayan ang tiyaking ligtas, tahimik, at maayos ang pamayanan—at makakamit lamang ito sa tulong ng matibay na ugnayan sa ating kapulisan.”)

“This recognition is not just for me, but for every Calambefio who stands with us in promoting peace and order in our city,” Mayor Rizal stated.

FROM PAGE 1

“As public servants, it is our duty to guarantee the safety and well-being of our constituents—and we can only achieve this through a strong partnership with our police force.”

Under Mayor Rizal's leadership, Calamba City has intensified its support for local law enforcement through infrastructure, resources, and collaborative programs that enhance public security and community policing.

(“Ang pagkilalang

ito ay hindi lamang para sa akin, kundi para sa bawat Calambefiong katuwang natin sa pagtataguyod ng kapayapaan at kaayusan sa ating lungsod.”)

He reaffirmed his commitment to continue serving the people of Calamba, with a vision of building a city that is “safer, more disciplined, and more progressive.”

The NAPOLCOM recognition stands as a testament to Mayor Rizal's exemplary governance and his enduring dedication to the welfare of his constituents.

(Edjun Mariposque)



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CALAX...

cantly reduce travel time to key destinations like Carmona, General Trias, and Silang.

The participants then headed to Kura Café in General Trias, Cavite, which is just a short drive from CALAX Silang-Aguinaldo exit. The group was welcomed with specialty brews and morning pastries while basking in the charm of this local favorite.

One of the café's best sellers is their pizza, specifically the Nutella with pistachios—a delightful fusion of sweet and savory.

Other must-try dishes in their menu are beef quesadilla, oyster sisig, baked scallops, and banana bread.

**How to get to Kura Café: From Manila, you can either take Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVI-TEX) southbound or go via SLEX and CALAX. From here, continue driving along Governor's Drive to The Zhang Place in Barangay Manggahan.

Ride the Waves and Explore the Coast in Batangas

Their next activity was a relaxing cruise on the legendary Taal Lake in Talisay, Batangas.

Surround-ed by the famous volcano's silhouette and the still waters of the lake, the experience was both tranquil and visually stunning. A lakeside lunch followed—featuring Batangueño favorites like crispy tawilis and lomi.

By mid-afternoon, participants arrived at Calatagan South Beach (CaSoBe), a premier beachside destination by Landco in Calatagan, Batangas, easily accessible via CALAX by taking the Silang-Aguinaldo exit and driving through Tagaytay-Nasugbu Road. This thoughtfully planned community, recognized with a Silver Award for Outstanding Development in Luzon – Masterplan at the 2023 Property and Real Estate Excellence Awards, served as the base camp for the Biyaheng South Summer Tour.

For three days, Ka-Biyaheros called this beach haven their home—waking up to ocean breezes, enjoying slow mornings by the shore, and winding down with dinner and drinks at the lively Cap-tain Barbozza. The participants were treated to a unique stay in

CaSoBe's wide array of accom-modations—ranging from the unique and futuristic Apollo Aeropods to the charming Cupola, Cocoon Pods, and Premier Garden Cabins.

With its scenic views, well-curated accommodations, and vibrant community atmosphere, CaSo-Be offered the ideal mix of adventure and relaxation for the summer road trip.

Compared to the first day, the second day was filled with more adventure—an island-hopping tour to Calatagan's pristine beaches and hidden sandbars, followed by water-filled fun at Aquar-ia Water Park.

Nestled along the shores of Calatagan's long stretch of beach, the park features a giant three-story slide that plunges into a crystal-clear pool—an instant favorite among the Ka-Biyaheros. The participants also had time to unwind in cabanas, experience multiple swimming areas, and enjoy the refreshing sea breeze right next to the coast.

The evening wrapped up with a peaceful visit to the historic Cape

Santiago Lighthouse, a 19th-century landmark overlooking the West Philippine Sea. This is where the group watched the sun dip below the horizon while enjoying local merienda—a golden close to their Batangas experience.

Fast-Paced Fun and Local Flavors in Carmona

On the final day, the Ka-Biyaheros cruised back to Cavite, where their first stop was Chantilly Café in Carmona—a homely café known for its rustic charm and warm pastries. After that, the group then geared up for some friendly competition at the Carmona Racetrack, zipping through the curves in go-karts—a fun, high-energy stop that added a unique twist to the road trip.

**How to get there: From Manila, take the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) southbound or go via SLEX and CALAX. From here, continue driving along Governor's Drive in Barangay Lantic to reach Chantilly Café. For the Carmona Racetrack, continue driving along Governor's Drive then proceed to Palma Street in Carmona.

The tour wrapped up at DEAFinitely Happy Store, a social enterprise supporting the deaf community. Here, travelers interacted with staff, picked up handmade pasalubong, and left not only with souvenirs but with a deeper appreciation for inclusivity and local advocacy.

“As we expand the horizons of Biyaheng South, our goal remains the same: to bring people closer to the beauty and stories of Southern Luzon,” said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management at MPT South. “We're proud to provide the express-ways that lead to these adventures—and even prouder to promote the local tourism that gives our roads meaning.”

DOT-IVA Regional Director Marites Castro commended MPT South for the initiative, saying “We proudly recognize the Biyaheng South Project of MPT South as a vital initiative that enhances regional connectivity, promotes sustainable tourism, and support local economic development. This project is testament to what pub-

lic-private partnership can achieve in uplifting communities across Southern Luzon.”

About Biyaheng South

Biyaheng South is MPT South's tourism advocacy program that has made a significant impact by promoting its toll road networks, particularly CAVITEX, its C5 Link segment, and CALAX, as gate-ways to the tourist destinations of Southern Luzon.

The program demonstrates how infrastructure not only can improve connectivity but also can serve as a catalyst for regional economic growth through tourism promotion.

About MPT South

MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC). Aside from CALAX and CAVITEX networks of toll roads, MPTC's domestic portfolio includes concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the NLEX Connector Road, the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

NextAsia Land Leads Brigada Eskwela in Calamba, to Donate Solar Lights to Majada Out Elementary School



Calamba, Laguna — On June 7, 2025, leading real estate developer NextAsia Land Inc. took the lead in the Brigada Eskwela initiative at Majada Out Elementary School in Barangay Majada Out, Calamba City—strengthening its commitment to public schools and youth development.

“This annual ac-

tivity is our company's way of giving back and responding to the needs of students and schools,” said Mr. Tristan Carreon, Deputy to the COO of NextAsia Land Inc. He also shared that the company will be donating solar lights to the school during the celebration of its anniversary later this year, aiming to help reduce

electricity costs and promote environmental sustainability.

The Brigada Eskwela event saw active participation from parents, teachers, and employees of NextAsia Land Inc. Together, they conducted a clean-up drive across the school grounds. The company also donated various school maintenance sup-



plies, including brooms, mops, trash bins, umbrellas, and trash bags—items that will serve the school in its day-to-day upkeep.

Master Teacher Lailanie Pecho expressed her heartfelt gratitude:

cont. on page 2



SWEAT TREATS FOR SWEET TOOTHS



From Lipa City, Batangas, Maricel Neria Gonzales started a sweet journey with her candy business, which enabled her to acquire assets and created job opportunities for many people.

Driven by persistent effort, Maricel Neria Gonzales, 47, from Lipa City, Batangas, explores the vast business world. In 2019, she established herself as a manufacturer of homemade candies, with her products gracing some of the country's big groceries and pasalubong stores.

The Sweetest Origin

She used to work as a housekeeping attendant at a golf club. Despite the stable job, she needed an additional income to cover their expenses. Once, a workmate shared a yema with her during a work break. She instantly loved the taste that sparked her interest in the homemade candy business.

With no prior background in candy making, Maricel knew from the start that it would be a challenging journey. Her first attempt at making yema ended with burnt milk, while her next try hardened too much. Resolute, she carefully monitored the heat and stirred the mixture well on her next try, giving her the perfect consistency she had been aiming for.

Her initial customers were neighbors and co-workers. Earning positive feedback, she gradually expanded and started offering her products to local stores and neighboring communities.

She eventually left her job to focus entirely on her candy business. What began as a side hustle soon became her primary source of income. As the business flourished, she introduced new flavors, such as graham balls and pastillas, to offer her customers more options.

As digitalization advances, she embraces social media to promote her business. Additionally, she offers online banking options for customers who prefer cashless transactions. She prioritizes her products' excellent quality and cleanliness to keep her customers coming back. Her business holds a sanitary permit from the local municipality, ensuring standards are always met.

Like any business owner, Maricel faced challenges, but the toughest was when a regular customer's check was declined. Devastated, she struggled to find a solution as the funds were crucial for her business. Soon, she applied for a loan from CARD SME Bank, which helped her business recover. Grateful to the Lord, she sees the bank as an instrument that allows her business to stand firm again.

"Challenges are everywhere; we should just never give up; instead, use it as a fuel to strengthen the burning fire within us," she stated.

As her business grows, she now provides stable jobs for 20 people. She understands that each of them has their own story, struggles, and strengths, so she treats them fairly and builds genuine connections. For her, it's more than just running a business; it is about giving others a chance to grow and thrive. In her own way, she is living out CARD MRI's mission by also creating opportunities, supporting decent work, and helping families build a better future.

CARD MRI also recognized her dedication to her business by awarding her the Gawad Masigasig Award during the Pagkilala sa mga Likha Ni Inay program. In addition to the recognition, she received PHP 25,000.00, which she can use to expand her business further.

Over time, Maricel was able to purchase land for their production facility and invest in larger equipment. She also built a house, acquired properties, and sent her children to school.

Moreover, she plans to invest in additional machinery to speed up their production and improve product quality. Maricel also plans to attend workshops and seminars to expand her business knowledge. In the end, behind every great story was the trail of failed attempts that led the way.

TRAFFIC ADVISORY!!!!!! "CALABAGONG BUHAYANI FESTIVAL 2025" ON JUNE 19, 2025

TRAFFIC ADVISORY!

THE FOLLOWING ROADS WILL BE CLOSED ON JUNE 19, 2025 @ 1:00PM

Pan-Philippine Hi-way, Manila South Road (Checkpoint Paciano to Crossing)
JP Rizal Street (Crossing to Old City Plaza)

ALL MOTORISTS ARE ADVISED TO TAKE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

Patungkol sa mga isasarang kakallsadahan sa Calamba City Proper sa June 19, 2025, 1:00 PM para sa idaraos na Calabagong Buhayani Festival 2025. Mangyari lamang bisitahin ang nasa babang larawan ng Traffic Re-routing Plan para sa inyong kaalaman.

Sarado:

- Pan-Philippine Highway at Manila South Road (mula Checkpoint Paciano hanggang Crossing)

- Lawa patungong KMPC
- JP Rizal Street (mula Crossing hanggang Old City Plaza)

ALTERNATIBONG DAANAN 4WHEELS

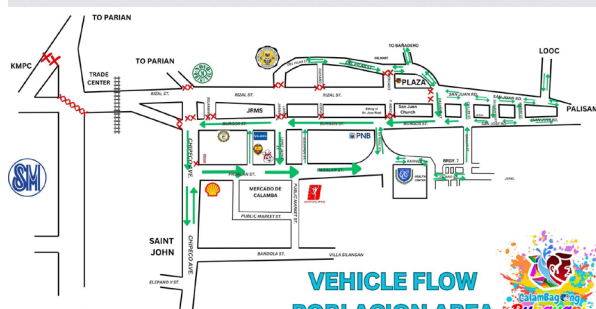
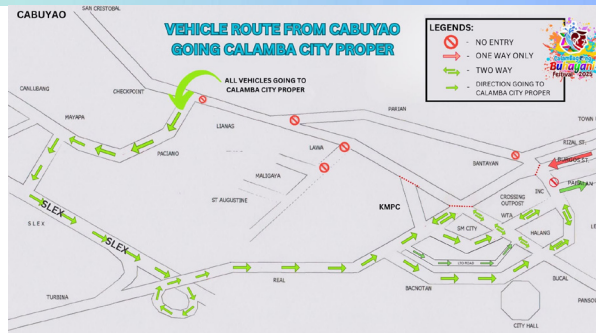
Ang alternatibong daaran ng mga sakyanan na 4wheels ay paciano exit to slex papunta sa turbina at kung kayo po ay patungo sa pansol at poblacion maari po kayong dumaan sa bacnotan na ang labas na po ay halang

MOTOR

Ang alternatibong daan naman po para sa mga morista po ay sa may jollibee mamatid na ang labas nyo po ay sa looc mula looc tahakin lamang po ang san juan road hanggang burgos st at chipeco AVE upang makalabas ng poblacoin

Vehicle Flow sa Poblacion Area:

- Rizal St. at Burgos St.: Sarado (may "No Entry" signs), pero may mga alternatibong di-



reksyon:

- Mula sa Parian, diretso sa Rizal St. patungong Del Pilar St. at San Juan Rd.

- Mula sa San Juan Rd., maaaring dumi-retso o kumanan patungong Burgos St.

- Chipeco Ave. at P. Alcasid St.: May one-way at two-way directions:
- One-way mula Chipeco Ave. patungong P. Alcasid St.

- Two-way sa P. Alcasid St. patungong Public Market at Mercado de Calamba.

- San Jose Rd. at Bayabasan St.: Two-way traffic, pero may mga "No Entry" sa ilang bahagi patungong San Juan Rd.

- Halang Intersection at Elepano II St.: Sarado ang ilang bahagi, kaya kailangang dumaan sa alternatibong ruta mula

Lecheria/Halang.

Payo sa mga Motorista:

Sundin ang mga traffic signs (*No Entry, One-Way, Two-Way*) at mga direksyon ng mga traffic enforcer.

Iwasan ang mga saradong kalsada tulad ng Rizal St. at mga bahagi ng Manila South Road.

Ang amin pong mga traffic enforcers na nakatalaga sa mga apektadong lugar ay handang umalalay po sa inyo.

POSO HOTLINE
091711489813

#POSOAtYour-Service #POSOCalamba #DugongBayan



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

ANG BISYO NG SUGAL

Marami nang mga tao ang nawasak ang buhay at naghirap dahil sa sugal. Pinayagan ng pamahalaan ang POGO na pinag-ugatan nang napakaraming krimen.

Kahit gawin pang ilegal ang pagsusugal, hindi na kayang maawat ang mga sugarol sa bisyong ito. Ngunit kung ang ating pamahalaan ay may layuning nagkamal ng revenue o buwis ay itataguyod pa ito abal bad iyan, very, very bad.

Ilsa na riyang ay ang mga e-gambling na laganap na laganap ngayon at pati mga kabataan ay nahuhumaling dito.

Gayunpaman ay may magandang balita, sa Mababang Kapulungan ay opisyal nang pinagtibay ang bill na nagbabawal sa e-sabong.

Pero hindi lang sabong ang nasa online kundi marami pa gaya ng bingo at slot machine na dapat ding ipagbawal. Dumarami ang mga tumatangkilik dito

Sari-saring sugal ang matatagpuan online na kinalolokohan ng mga manlalaro. Sa halagang P300 ay puwede kang manalo ng sampung libong piso o higit pa. Sabi nga hindi na kayang pigilan dahil may permiso na ang mga iyan na mag-operate..

Ano nga ba ang dulot nito sa mga tao? Anong pakinabang naman ba ang makukuha ng pamahalaan?

Malaki ba ang kinikita ng ating pamahalaan sa mga sugalan at online gambling? Hindi katwiran na porke hindi mapigil ang mga tao sa pagsusugal ay kukunsintihin na at susuportahan ito ng pamahalaan. Kung iyan ang katwiran, edi gawin na ring legal ang droga para lalong kumita ang pamahalaan?

Ang masama ay masama at bahagi ng responsibilidad ng pamahalaan na protektahan ang taumbayan laban sa masama

Victorias LGU to subsidize the SSS contributions of over 500 health workers, nutrition scholars



Negros Occidental – The Social Security System (SSS) said that more than 500 barangay health workers and nutrition scholars will get social security protection under the SSS Contribution Subsidy Provider Program (CSPP) after the local government of Victorias City signed an agreement with the SSS to become part of the program on 2 May 2025 at the Victorias City Command Center and Evacuation Center here.

SSS Acting Senior Vice President for Visayas Operations Group Atty. Alberto L. Montalbo said that the city government of Victorias is the first local government unit (LGU) in the country to become a contribution subsidy provider for barangay

health workers and nutrition scholars. The LGU will shoulder the SSS contributions of 495 barangay health workers and 26 nutrition scholars for one year worth P4.75 million.

"SSS commends the city government's commitment in protecting its frontline workers through social security membership. We hope that this partnership will serve as a model for other local government units to follow and we look forward to replicating this success in other areas," Montalbo said.

Victorias City Mayor Javier Miguel Benitez said this is more than just a program but a commitment to social security protection. "It's a promise of providing the long-term

security you deserve for the selfless work you do for the Victoriasanon families," Benitez said.

Under the CSPP, a Contribution Subsidy Provider (CSP) shall pay the contributions of self-employed workers, land-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), or voluntary members.

"A CSP could be a private or government individual or group willing to subsidize the SSS contributions of identified members. By participating in the CSPP, companies can demonstrate their commitment to social responsibility and employee welfare while contributing to the social security protection of Filipinos," Montalbo explained. He added that the SSS partners with CSPs who are generous enough to shoulder the total contributions of their chosen SSS members for a minimum of six (6) consecutive months. PR

PUBLISHER CORNER

WHY IS CHINA COVETING THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA?



China's ambition to become the lone regional superpower in Indo-Pacific could be among the driving forces in its ongoing campaign to conquer the entire South China Sea, including West Philippine Sea.

The area is a major shipping and trading route where, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, \$3 trillion, or more than a fifth, of the world's trade

passes through. The entire South China Sea, including West Philippine Sea, is believed to be rich in natural resources, especially oil and gas.

According to the Philippine Department of Energy, West Philippine Sea alone has an estimated 12,158 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves and 6,203 million barrels of oil reserves within the Philippines' EEZ.

West Philippine Sea is also a rich source of fisheries production, with over 300,000 metric tons of fish harvested annually, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority.

PhilHealth...

Scheme.

Ang mga Local Government Agencies, National Government Agencies at pribadong institusyon na nagpakita ng intensyon na sumali sa implementasyon ng Group Enrollment Program ay kinakailangan na magsumite ng mga sumusunod na dokumento:

1. Pirmadong Memorandum of Agreement or Letter of Commitment at

2. Non-Disclosure Agreement

Matapos, magpapagpa-rehistro, magi-isyu ng PhilHealth Organized Group Number (POGN)

na magsisilbing pagkakailanlan ng kanilang grupo. Ang POGN din ang gagamitin sa pagpaparehistro o renewal ng mga taong nakalista sa programa at pagbabayad ng kanilang premium contributions.

Lahat ng Pilipinong indibidwal na hindi kasapi ng National Health Insurance Program ay maaaring mai-enroll sa Group Enrollment Program na hindi limitado sa mga sumusunod:

1. Contract of Service (COS), Job order and Project-based personnel

2. Miyembro ng mga microfinance institutions at iba pang organisadong grupo

3. Self-earning individuals

4. Professional

practitioners

5. LGU constituents na nabibilang sa may mababang sahod, barangay health workers, nutrition scholars at iba pang mga nagtatrabaho ng bolutaryo sa barangay

6. Estudyante na edad na 21 at pataas Sa pagpaparehistro, ang mga group partners ay kinakailangang magsumite sa PhilHealth ng listahan ng kanilang nais isali sa programa kalakip ang napunan na PhilHealth Member Registration Form (PMRF) at mga kaukulang dokumento.

Sa mga kaso na may mga indibidwal na may intensyon na mag withdraw ng kanilang pagiging miyembro, ang mga group partners ay dapat agarang ipahayag ang kanilang pag withdraw at magpasa ng Group Enrollment Withdrawal Form.

Ang premium contribution sa ilalim ng Group Enrollment Program ay naaayon sa PhilHealth Circular 2020-0005 na base sa idineklarang kita ng mi-

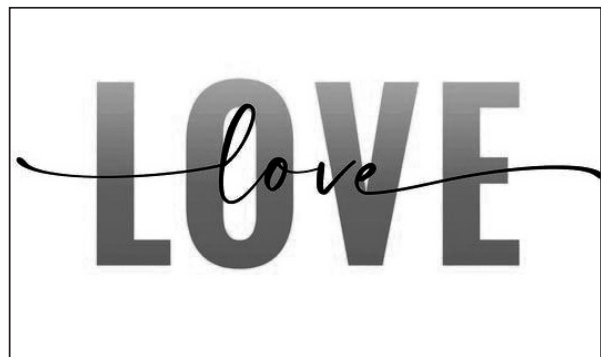
yembro sa pamamagitan ng group partner.

Ang mga group partners ay regular na ebi-bill sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng Statement of Premium Account (SPA) na maaaring monthly, quarterly, semi-annually at annually. Ito ay maaaring bayaran sa mga Local Health Insurance Offices o Accredited Collecting Agents na awtomatikong papasok sa indibidwal account ng mga miyembro.

Ang mga indibidwal na gagamit ng benepisyo ng PhilHealth ay bibigyan ng Certificate of Premium Payment na maaaring maging batayan kung updated ang kanyang kontribusyon sa PhilHealth.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroon nang 42 group partners at 1,210 miyembro sa ilalim ng Group Enrollment Program.

Sa mga grupo or organisasyon na nais mapabilang sa GEP, maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa alingmang tanggapan ng PhilHealth sa inyong lugar.





DTI LAUNCHES 2025 FOOD FESTIVAL AT SM MEGAMALL



The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) launches the 2025 Food Festival at the SM Megamall Mega-trade Halls 1-3 from May 30 to June 1, from 10 AM to 9 PM, showcasing Filipino food products.

From May 30 to June 1, 2025, the Mega-trade Hall at SM Megamall transforms into a dynamic showcase of Filipino heritage, innovation, and flavor with the launch of the highly anticipated 2025 Food Festival, a collaborative celebration between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and SM Supermalls in support of the country's thriving Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

DTI—through the Bureau of Market Development, Promotions (BMDP), and One Town, One Product (OTOP), the DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group (CIG), and the DTI Regional Operations Group, with support from the Tatak Pinoy Strategy Program—will bring together over 200 MSMEs from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao in a three-day fiesta that blends tradition, creativity, and entrepreneurship.

Admission is FREE, and everyone—from food lovers and tourists to business buyers and aspiring entrepreneurs—is invited to experience

a culinary journey that is proudly Filipino in every bite. SM Supermalls is proud to partner with DTI for this important initiative that celebrates the best of what Filipino MSMEs have to offer. As a committed supporter of local enterprise, SM continues to provide platforms where MSMEs can thrive, scale up, and connect with new markets.

Guests can explore a curated lineup of heritage-inspired dishes, next-gen food products, and local delicacies—including culinary gems from Iloilo City's United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)-recognized gastronomy and special items featured in the Kayumang-gi Philippine heritage recipe book. Attendees will also get a glimpse into the digital transformation of food businesses with tech-forward solutions designed to boost MSME competitiveness.

Whether you're looking for your next foodie find, potential suppliers, or a spark of inspiration, the 2025 Food Festival is



Filipino entrepreneurs get the chance to showcase their culinary products at the 2025 Food Festival.



Visitors can explore fresh produce at the 2025 Food Festival, a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and SM Supermalls collaboration.

your ultimate destination for all things delicious and distinctly Filipino.

Mark your calendars! May 30 to June 1, 2025 at Megatrade Hall 1-3, 5th Level, Mega B, SM Megamall.

Admission is free! Let's savor the future of Filipino food—rooted in heritage, powered by innovation.

About SM Supermalls

SM Supermalls, owned by SM Prime Holdings, is the leading mall developer and operator in the Philippines. As a staunch advocate for MSMEs, SM Supermalls is dedicated to helping Filipino entrepreneurs succeed. Join our thriving marketplace across 80+ malls nationwide. Visit <https://msme.smsupermalls.com/> to download your MSME application or email us at customer-care@smsupermalls.com

with your most innovative product and preferred



Filipino Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) can present their food merchandise at the three-day-long food fest.



Guests to the 2025 Food Festival can discover a varied range of Filipino goods from local Filipino Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

location. Don't miss this opportunity to grow your

business with SM Supermalls today!

Group Enrollment Program, Isinusulong ng PhilHealth PRO IV-A



Isinagawa ng PhilHealth Regional Office IVA ang serye ng oryentasyon ukol sa group enrollment na dinaluhan ng mga HR practitioners at kinatawan ng mga LGUs, National Government Agencies at iba pang pribadong institusyon.

Ang Group Enrollment Program o GEP ng PhilHealth ay isang alternatibong paraan para sa mga organisadong gru-

po, National Government Agencies na mapadali ang pagbibigay ng PhilHealth coverage sa mga Job Order Contract Workers, seasonal employees o ang mga walang tinatawag na employer-employee relationship sa ilalim ng batas.

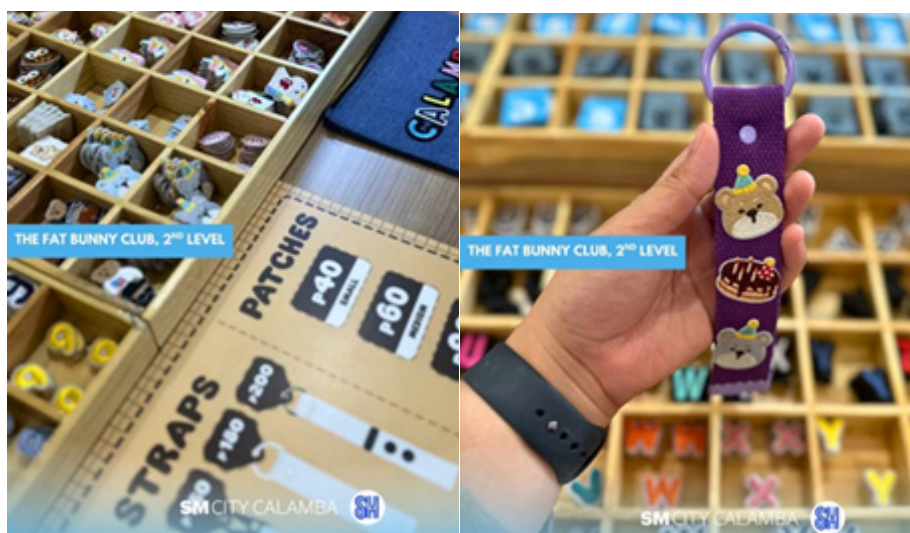
Batay sa PhilHealth Circular 2017-0008, mandatory ang coverage ng mga indibidwal na directly hired Job Orders (JOs) at Project

Based Contractors (PBCs) sa gobyerno bilang miyembro ng PhilHealth sa ilalim ng Informal Economy. Sa ilalim din nito, binibigyan ng kapangyarihan ang mga employers na magbawas at mag-remit ng premium contributions nga mga naturang empleyado bilang Individually Paying Members o Self Earning Individuals sa ilalim ng Group Enrollment **cont. on page 3**

NEWLY OPENED TENANTS AT SM CITY CALAMBA

SM City Calamba is delighted to announce the opening of new tenants, adding a fresh wave of flavor, fashion, and fun to the mall experience. Whether you're a sweet tooth, fashion enthusiast, or looking for a unique gift, these new stores have something special for everyone.

WHERE FASHION MEETS FUNCTION



Located at the 2nd level, The Fat Bunny Club introduces a playful twist to your everyday accessories that combine style with practicality. Whether you're looking for a new "anik-anik" or a unique gift, The Fat Bunny Club has something to brighten your day.

A SWEET TREAT LIKE NO OTHER



Step into a world of sugary delight at Blooming Cotton Candy, now open at the 2nd level, near Crocs. Grab your favorite oversized cotton candy creations in whimsical shapes and pastel hues, perfect for kids and the young at heart.



Known for its soft, steamed buns filled with sweet fillings, Gugu Manju will definitely bring you a burst of delightful flavors in every bite. Visit Gugu Manju at the 2nd level to experience these traditional treats with a modern twist.

SM City Calamba continues to enhance its offerings, providing a diverse shopping and dining experience for all. With these new tenants, the mall becomes an even more exciting destination for families, friends, and food enthusiasts.

Stay updated on all things SM by visiting www.smsupermalls.com or following @SMSupermalls on social media.

GINOO AT BINIBINING CALAMBA 2025, TAMPOK SA PAGSISIMULA NG CALAMBAGONG BUHAYANI FESTIVAL



Calamba City — Sa temang "Angat ang Lahing Calamberño, Dangal ng Bayan, Alay sa Mundo," higit pang ipinagdiriwang ngayong Hunyo ang talento, tradisyon, at talino ng mga mamamayan ng Calamba sa pagdaraos ng Ginoo at Binibining Calamba 2025, isa sa mga pinakabagong tampok sa taunang CalamBagong Buhayani Festival na tata-gal mula Hunyo 3 hang-gang 30.

Pormal na binuk-san ng Talinong Rizal Quiz Contest ang buwan ng sel-ebrasyon—isang patimpalak na layuning itampok at ipalaganap ang mga aral at adhikain ng pamban-sang bayani, si Dr. Jose Rizal.

Bahagi rin ng tradisyunal na aktibidad

ang Grand Float Parade sa umaga ng Hunyo 19, kasabay ng paggunita sa kaarawan ni Dr. Rizal. Lalahukan ito ng mga ahensya ng gobyerno, NGO, katuwang na indus-triya, at iba pang organi-sasyon ng mamamayan.

Ayon kay Ms. Maolen Karla Boholano, City Tourism Officer, ba-hagi rin mas pinalawak na aktibidad ng pageant ang mga patimpalak tu-lad ng Hawig Rizal, Bu-hayani Job Fair, at ang makulay na Sayaw-Indak Street Dance Competi-tion, upang maghatid ng karagdangang kasiyahan at pagkamangha sa taunang pagdiriwang.

May labinsiyam (19) na lalaking kandi-dato at dalawampu (20) na babaeng kalahok ang

magtatagisan ng galing at ganda para sa prestihi-yosong mga titulo at gan-timpala sa inaabangang patimpalak.

Hinimok naman ni Mayor Roseller H. Rizal ang lahat ng Calamberño at mga turista—lokal man o dayuhan—na bisitahin ang lungsod at makilahok sa makasaysayan at ki-nikilalang festival, na na-glalayong ipagmalaki ang mayamang kultura at kas-aysayan ng Calamba.

Para sa kum-pletong iskedyul ng mga aktibidad, mekaniks ng mga patimpalak, at mga gantimpala, maaaring bisi-tahin ang opisyal na Face-book Page ng City Tour-ism Office: <http://www.facebook.com/Tourism-CityofCalamba>.

(Edjun Mariposque)

MOST WANTED SA RIZAL, ARESTADO SA KASONG QUALIFIED OBJECT RAPE

Cainta, Rizal — Nahuli na ang isa sa mga most wanted sa lalawigan ng Rizal na si Alyas Allan, 52-anyos, isang foreman at residente ng Brgy. San Juan, Cainta, Rizal.

Ayon sa ulat na natanggap ni Police Col-onel Felipe B Maraggun, Provincial Director, da-kong alas-2:10 ng hapon kahapon, Hunyo 5, 2025, nang matunton at ar-estuhin ng mga tauhan ng Cainta Municipal Police Station ang akusado sa

Brgy. Sto. Domingo, Cain-ta.

Si Alyas Allan ay may kasong Quali-fied Object Rape at may nakalaang piyansa na Php200,000.00.

Base sa imbesti-gasyon, noong Disyembre 31, 2008, ay pinaniniwa-laang isinagawa ng akusa-do ang karumal-dumal na krimen matapos pasakan ng bote ang maselang parte ng kanyang buntis na asawa, na naging san-hi ng matinding pagdurugo

at impeksyon sa fetus.

Sa ngayon, na-kakulong na si Alyas Allan sa Cainta Custodial Fa-cility para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at dispo-sisyon, habang iimporma-han naman ang korte na naglabas ng warrant of arrest sa matagumpay na operasyon.

Patuloy namang pinaaalalahanan ng mga kapulisan sa Rizal ang publiko na makipagtulun-gan sa mga awtoridad upang masugpo ang mga kriminal sa komunidad.