

# Mayor Ross Rizal Joins National Hospital Week, Reinforces Commitment to Public Health

Calamba City, Laguna — Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal reaffirmed his strong support for public health by joining the celebration of National Hospital Week at the Dr. J.P. Rizal Memorial District Hospital, the official public hospital of the Provincial Government of Laguna.

With this year’s theme, “Hospital: A Healthy Workplace For All sa Bagong Pilipinas,” Mayor Rizal recognized the crucial role that hospitals play in delivering quality, safe, and compassionate healthcare to the people.

During the visit, Mayor Rizal personally reached out to patients currently admitted at the hospital, checking on their

condition and offering words of encouragement. His presence served as a reminder that the City Government of Calamba stands in solidarity with every patient and healthcare worker in their journey toward recovery and wellness.

“We will continue to work together to ensure a healthier, safer, and more progressive community for every Calambeno and Lagunense,” Mayor Rizal emphasized.

The celebration highlights the city’s dedication to strengthening public health systems and supporting frontline healthcare institutions across the province.

(Edjun Mariposque)



# REDISCOVER CAVITE ONE STAMP AT A TIME—AND GET REWARDED!

Looking for a road trip, a weekend food crawl, or just a new place to unwind? Cavite is the perfect place to explore—as this time, the journey comes with rewards. Whether you’re craving countryside views, cozy staycations, rich history, or local eats that hit the spot, Cavite has it all. And thanks to the return of the Cavite Tourism Passport, you won’t just experience the best the province has to offer—you’ll earn points, prizes, and bragging rights while doing it.

Spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Tourism Officer and MPT South—the concessionaire behind the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX), which serve as the province’s gateway from NCR and Laguna—the Cavite Tourism Passport is back for another year, now with

more exciting mechanics to level up your local adventures.

In partnership with the Department of Tourism (DOT) CALABARZON and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), this year’s edition features over 100 DOT-accredited establishments across Cavite, categorized into Staycation, Adventure, Food, and Heritage destinations.

So, what’s new? A point-based system that gamifies the journey. Instead of simply collecting stamps, travelers will now earn points as they visit each accredited spot. To qualify for exclusive rewards, you must complete all four categories and reach at least 700 points between August 1, 2025, and August 31, 2026.

As a bonus, attending local festivals also earns you extra points, making it the perfect excuse to experience



New Cavite Tourism Passport

Cavite’s rich culture firsthand. So, whether you’re craving a bowl of authentic pancit pusit in Cavite, planning a nature escape in Maragondon, or looking to time your trip with a town fiesta, there’s something for every kind of traveler.

“We want to make travel around Cavite not only fun, but also meaningful,” shares Rozelle Sangalang, Cavite Provincial Tourism Officer.



Compilation of Mechanics for the new Cavite Tourism Passport

“Through this passport, we’re encouraging both locals and visitors to dive deeper into what our province has to offer—from heritage and food to natural wonders and community celebrations.”

“This initiative reflects our commitment to building more than roads—we’re helping

connect people to stories, culture, and communities,” says Arette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management at MPT South.

Passports are now available at the CALAX Customer Service Center, partner establishments, and local tourism

offices across Cavite. For full mechanics and partner establishments, visit <https://tourism.cavite.gov.ph/cavite-tourism-passport/>. So, gas up, grab your passport, and start your Cavite adventure—because the best stories aren’t just found, they’re earned.

# DERETSAHAN WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

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# Cavinti, Laguna, Masiglang Ipinagdiriwang ang Ika-11 Sambalilo Festival

MAYOR STRIKE LEADS RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW MCDONALD’S IN SAN NICOLAS



Bacoor City — The much-anticipated opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of McDonald’s San Nicolas Branch took place today in Barangay San Nicolas 3 along Marcos Alvarez. The event was organized by McDonald’s Corporation and attended by Mayor Strike B. Revilla, McDonald’s management, crew, and customers.

Mayor Strike personally toured the kitchen, expressing delight as he witnessed and sampled the preparation process of some of the favorite McDonald’s meals enjoyed by many Filipinos. He also underscored the importance of providing employment opportunities for Bacoor residents. The mayor highlighted the positive impact of new businesses like McDonald’s on Bacoor’s economy, affirming the city government’s full support and warm welcome to investors and entrepreneurs contributing to the city’s growth.

# CAVITE GOV'T BLOOD DONATION DRIVE GARNERS SUPPORT

Cayetano revives bill to bring primary healthcare to every barangay



# CONG. LORETO AMANTE, ITINALAGANG VICE CHAIR NG HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE



AMBEN AMANTE

Ipinahayag niya ang kanyang pasasalamat at pagpapakumbaba sa tiwalang ipinagkaloob sa kanya para gampanan ang tungkuling ito. Ayon kay Cong. Amante, hindi lamang titulo ang nasabing posisyon kundi isang mabigat na tungkulin. Aniya, mahalaga ang papel ng Appropriations Committee sa paghubog ng pambansang badyet upang maisalamin ang pangangailangan, pangarap, mga proyekto at prayoridad ng sambayanang Pilipino. “Ang national expenditure program ni Pangu-

lo Bongbong Marcos na tinatawag na residents budget, ang Committee on Appropriations ang nangagasiwa ng hearings kung mayroon may dapat ilipat na pondo sa ibang ahensya ng gobyerno na mas nangagailangan at isa tayo rin po ang mangagasiwa sa implementasyon ng proyekto sa naturang pondo. Sa ngayon ay may nasa 41 kaming vice chairperson ng Appropriation dahil sa isang ahensya ay dapat mayroong dedepensa sa plenary ng ating kongreso,” pahayag ni Amante.

Layunin umano ng komite na mapanatili ang kaayusan at malinaw na direksyon sa paggamit ng pondo, upang manatiling nakatuon ang pamahalaan sa paglilingkod—lalo na sa panahong nangangailangan ng tulong ang bawat sektor at nararapat marinig ang boses ng bawat komunidad. (Shekinah Esteban)

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# Editorial

## MARCOS TO ENACT LAW POSTPONING BARANGAY, YOUTH POLLS TO NOVEMBER 2026

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on Friday said he will sign the bill postponing this year's barangay and youth elections so that the government can focus on the first Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao polls.

In a press briefing with Filipino journalists in Bengaluru, India, Marcos was asked about the Commission on Election's statement that there will be no formal signing of the bill and that Malacanang will let it lapse into law.

"No, I'll sign it. I'll sign it," the President said of the bill.

Marcos cited the BARMM elections in October as the main consideration in deciding to push back the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections from December 1, 2025 to the first Monday of November 2026.

The bill also proposed to extend the terms of barangay and youth officials from the current three years to four years.

"You have to remember, the BARMM election that is upcoming in October is the first time we have ever had this kind of election at all. At all. Sa buong kasaysayan ng Pilipinas, hindi pa nagkaroon ng BARMM Parliament na hinalal ng tao. So, that is why it is so important," he said.

He pointed out that if the BARMM elections fails, this will be considered a "big failure" in the Mindanao peace process.

"Kaya't kailangan na kailangan maging matagumpay ang pagganap ng halalan ng BARMM. And that's why we really, really are focusing on that," the President said.

He pointed out that the Comelec has just finished a local election in May.

"So, we, with a view on the Supreme Court decision that we cannot shorten the term of the barangay officials, we are actually lengthening the term of the barangay officials," Marcos said.

He added: "So that's not in conflict. So I think the most sensible and the most common sense solution is to postpone."

## DTI 4-A FORGES FUTURE-READY ENTREPRENEURS WITH KMME-MME ONLINE

CALABARZON, Philippines – June 17, 2025 – A total of 50 micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME) mentees from the CALABARZON region have successfully completed the Kapatid Mentor ME-Money and Market Encounter (KMME-MME) Online Multi-Sectoral Batch 2 on June 17, 2025, via Zoom.

The virtual graduation was organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Region 4-A, in partnership with

### CAVINTI, LAGUNA...

CAVINTI, LAGUNA — Muling naging makulay at masigla ang bayan ng Cavinti sa pagdiriwang ng ika-11 Sambalilo Festival "Habi ng Kultura, Sigla ng Turismo", isang taunang selebrasyon na nagbibigay-pugay sa natatanging likhang-kamay ng mga taga-Cavinti—ang sambalilo, o tradisyunal na sombrero ng yari sa pandan o buri.

Ginaganap mula Agosto 1 hanggang 6, ang festival ay tampok ang mga makukulay na parada, pagyabong ng agrikultura, mga lokal na pagkain, street performances, at iba't ibang aktibidad na

### CAYETANO...

To bring primary healthcare closer to the people, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday, July 10, 2025, filed the "Health Centers in All Barangays Act" (Senate Bill No. 421), which seeks to establish fully equipped health centers in every barangay across the country.

Cayetano, a longtime advocate for better public health access, said the measure aims to decongest hospitals, address long-term community health needs, and make healthcare more accessible to Filipinos.

"It is a must for the government to be able to provide efficient access to health services starting at the base level of the community, the barangay," Cayetano said in the bill's explanatory note.

Under the proposed measure, all barangays will be mandated to establish a Barangay Health Center that provides essential primary care.

These centers must have at least one doctor, one nurse, one

This public-private partnership between DTI and PCE-Go Negosyo continues to be a vital platform in strengthening the resiliency and sustainability of MSMEs nationwide.

Interested entrepreneurs may apply through the nearest DTI Regional or Provincial Office or Negosyo Center in their area.

nagpapakita ng sining, kasaysayan, turismo, at kultura ng bayan. Tampok sa selebrasyon ang paggawa ng pinakamalaking sambalilo, kung saan nakamit ng pagkilala sa Guinness World Records noong Agosto 1, 2016 at hanggang sa kasalukuyan ay ang bayan ng Cavinti pa rin ang title holder.

Sa pahayag ni Cavinti Mayor Arantlee Arroyo, "Ang selebrasyon ng sambalilo ay sumimbolo sa sakripisyo ng bawat Cavintiin lalo higit ang sektor ng agrikultura. Taon-taon sa selebrasyon ng Sambalilo Festival ay hindi mawawala ang Agri

Day, dahil ito ay pagpapakita ng suporta, pagpapakilala ng pagmahahal at higit sa lahat pagkalinga at pagbibigay importansya sa pagsasaka."

Sa naturang programa nakasama rin sinabMunicipal Administrator at Agriculturist Vina Orolfo, Provincial Agriculturist Marlon Tobias, Provincial Veterinarian Michael Cortez, Barangay Agricultural and Fishery Council (BAFC), BFAR OIC Emiliana Casbadillo, Philippine Coconut Authority, ahensya ng PCIC, NKS Solar, CBK Power Company Limited, lupon ng mga kapitan, at koop-

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dentist, and enough medical assistants, with priority given to remote and underserved areas.

The bill directs provinces, cities, and municipalities to allocate funds for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of these centers, with barangay officials allowed to tap public and private sector medical professionals to supplement health services.

The proposed measure also requires the Department of Health (DOH) to spearhead a Primary Healthcare Program to be implemented in every barangay.

This includes setting criteria for selecting and training barangay health workers, and coordinating activities with LGUs, national government agencies, and non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) to maximize service delivery.

Barangay Health Center personnel may also be tasked to conduct home visits to monitor patients and assess local health concerns, according to the bill.

To prepare for implementation, the DOH will be required to submit regular updates to the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and LGUs on the demand for healthcare workers. This aims to encourage more students to take up health-related

courses and ensure a steady pipeline of professionals.

The bill provides a three-year period for all barangays to establish their health centers and acquire the necessary medical equipment and workforce.

Cayetano first filed a similar measure during the 19th Congress but said its urgency has become even more apparent, especially with the continued lack of ba-

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sic health infrastructure in many rural communities.

He also cited the City of Taguig as a model, noting that all of its 38 barangays have access to PhilHealth-accredited health centers.

"If we don't start now, kailan pa tayo magkakaroon ng health center sa bawat lugar sa Pilipinas? Let's invest in our people's health where it matters most, right in their own barangays," the senator said.

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## PhilHealth and DOLE Seal Partnership for Workers Welfare



In a major step towards improving workers welfare, the Philippine Health Insurance

Corporation (PhilHealth) and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) signed a

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to promote the PhilHealth YAKAP among the Philippine workforce. Led by PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Edwin M. Mercado and Labor Secretary Bienvenido E. Laguesma — with Special Assistant to the President for Investment and Economic Affairs Secretary Frederick Go and DOLE Undersecretary Benjo Santos M. Benavidez as witnesses, this initiative aims to enhance workers'

access to primary care. As of June 4, 2025, over 386,000 employees all over the country are expected to benefit from the program.

The PhilHealth YAKAP is an enhanced primary care benefit package providing coverage for consultations, indicated laboratory and cancer screening tests, and prescribed essential medicines designed to promote prevention and early disease detection to help curb financial hardship for the members.

The MOA cement the commitment of both agencies to work together in expanding primary care services through information campaigns, capacity-building

activities, and strategic engagement with employers, industry groups, and labor organizations.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. expressed strong support for the initiative, emphasizing that the partnership between DOLE and PhilHealth reflects the administration's vision for a Bagong Pilipinas where every Filipino worker is empowered, protected, and provided with essential healthcare service.

For more details on benefits and services, members may call PhilHealth's 24/7 touch points at (02) 866-225-88 or at mobile numbers (Smart) 0998-857-2957, (Globe) 0917-1275987 or 0917-1109812. PR

## PROGRAM FOR LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IN PROGRESS AT NAIC UN



The Naic local government has contacted LGBTQIA+ One Naic to establish programmes for the LGBTQ+ community in the town. According to Mayor Rommel Magbitang, these include plans and programs focused on the LGBTQIA+ community, such as SOGIE and HIV awareness, free medical and mental health assistance, skills training and livelihood programs and, pride and outreach communities. The said activities aim to promote human rights and protect their countrymen against discrimination. | via Municipality of Naic

## BIR, LANDBANK TEAM-UP FOR TAX PORTAL FOR DIGITAL SERVICES



QUEZON CITY — The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has tapped LANDBANK to develop the Value-Added Tax on Digital Services (VDS) Portal, a dedicated platform for Digital Service Providers (DSPs) located outside the Philippines to conveniently file and pay Value-Added Tax (VAT) obligations online for their in-country services.

BIR Commissioner Romeo D. Lumagui Jr. and LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz formalized the partnership through a Mem-

orandum of Agreement (MOA) signed on 8 July 2025 at the BIR National Office Building in Quezon City.

The collaboration is in line with Republic Act No. 12023, which mandates the imposition of VAT on foreign digital service providers for services consumed within the country.

LANDBANK will serve as the solution provider for the portal's development and maintenance, while BIR will oversee implementation and policy compliance, to support the

government's push for digital tax administration and greater revenue mobilization in the digital economy.

ABOUT LANDBANK  
LANDBANK is the largest development financial institution in the country promoting financial inclusion, digital transformation, and sustainable national development. Present in all 82 provinces in the county, the Bank is committed to provide accessible and responsive financial solutions to empower Filipinos from countryside to countryside

## SM KALINGA PAVKS HANDOG NG SM FOUNDATION PARA SA CITY OF CARMONA



Nasa 600 na SM Kalinga Packs ang ipinamahagi ng SM Foundation para sa mga residente ng Barangay 1-8, Cabilang Baybay, at Lantic bunsod ng nagdaang malakas na pagbuhos ng ulan dala ng Habagat at ng mga Bagyong Crising, Dante, at Emong.



# Rep. Charisse Anne Hernandez-Alcantara Appointed Vice Chair of House Appropriations Committee: Vows Clean, Pro-People Budget



Congresswoman Charisse Anne Hernandez-Alcantara of Calamba City has been entrusted with a key leadership role as the newly appointed Vice Chairperson of the House Committee on Appropriations — one of the most influential panels in the Philippine Congress responsible for crafting the national budget.

Sharing the news, she wrote: "Mga Calambefio, isa pong karangalan na mapili bilang Vice Chairperson of the Com-

## CAVITE GOV'T...

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — In a strong demonstration of unity and compassion, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through its Workplace Organization Committee (PGC-WOC), successfully organized a blood donation drive at the New Provincial Government Center on July 31.

The initiative, held as part of the PGC's monthly theme celebration for July, was organized in collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross – Cavite Chapter and led by PGC-

mittee on Appropriations sa House of Representatives."

"This is one of the most important committees in Congress because it is where the government's funding for the coming years will originate," she explained.

She further emphasized that her district's legacy of clean, organized, and efficient fund management will serve as her guiding principle in her new role. "Asahan ninyo ang isang budget na walang bahid ng kora-

psyon at higit sa lahat, isang budget na tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng mga simple at ordinaryong Pilipino."

Rep. Hernandez-Alcantara's appointment highlights her dedication to transparent governance and her consistent advocacy for the welfare of everyday Filipinos. Her constituents and colleagues alike commend her leadership as she continues to push for honest, inclusive, and impactful public service.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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WOC Chairperson Ms. Luzviminda S. Amparo.

Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia and Provincial Board Secretary Ms. Michelle F. Alcud delivered messages of encouragement at the event's opening. Ms. Alcud emphasized the importance of making the bloodletting drive a regular annual activity of the provincial government, expressing hopes for its institutionalization.

Representing the Philippine Red Cross – Cavite Chapter, Board Member and Treasurer

Ms. Lucy Beltran acknowledged the productive partnership between the Red Cross and the PGC. She commended the local government for its continued support in advancing community health and promoting voluntary blood donation.

Under the medical supervision of the Red Cross Cavite Chapter team, the donation process, which yielded a total of 87 bags was conducted efficiently and safely.

The PGC-WOC extended sincere thanks to all donors, volunteers,

# REP. LEILA DE LIMA DEFENDS ROBREDO, CALLS FOR UNITY AMID TRILLANES' ALLEGATIONS



Quezon City — Representative Leila M. de Lima of Mamamayang Liberal (ML) Partylist called for unity and respect within the democratic opposition following recent controversial remarks by former Senator Antonio Trillanes IV against former Vice President and now Naga City Mayor Leni Robredo.

In a strongly worded statement issued on August 6, 2025, De Lima addressed Trillanes' claim that Robredo would have blocked any attempt by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to arrest former President Rodrigo Duterte had she won the presidency.

The former senator's assertion drew concern from De Lima, who urged for truth and respect to guide political discourse, especially among allies who once stood shoulder to shoulder in the fight against Duterte's administration.

and partner agencies who contributed to the event's success.

"The drive not only increased local blood supplies but also showcased Cavite's public servants' ongoing dedication

"I cannot speak on behalf of VP/Mayor Leni, but I find that claim difficult to believe. Her public record speaks to the contrary," said De Lima. She recalled standing beside Robredo in Bicol shortly after Duterte's arrest, where the mayor described the event as "a first step towards accountability and justice," emphasizing that there must be no double standards in the pursuit of justice.

De Lima acknowledged her personal respect for Trillanes and their shared history of resistance against Duterte's abuses but expressed dismay that such statements could only serve to divide, distract, and discredit the opposition.

"Instead of holding the perpetrators of abuse accountable, we find ourselves turning against each other," she lamented. "This is not the

to health, service, and the spirit of bayanihan. This initiative reflects the PGC's enduring commitment to health, civic engagement, and solidarity," the provincial government said in a statement.

time for suspicion. This is not the time for infighting."

The former senator-turned-congresswoman highlighted Robredo's unwavering stance for human rights and accountability, saying that anyone who stood with them during the darkest days of persecution could not fairly accuse her of being soft on Duterte or justice.

She concluded her statement with a call to refocus on the true enemies of democracy and to resist efforts that undermine the unity of the opposition.

"Let us not mistake our allies for our enemies. Let us never forget who truly brought harm to our institutions, our communities, and our fellow Filipinos.

The fight is not against one another—it is for the nation, for justice, and for the dignity of our people."

De Lima's statement comes as the democratic opposition faces renewed scrutiny and internal challenges amid the country's ongoing post-Duterte political transition.

(Edjun Mariposque)



## Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

### Guarantee Letter mula sa DSWD pwede na ulit ipambili sa piling Mercury Drug Store

Ang Guarantee Letter ay isang opisyal na dokumentong ibinibigay ng DSWD bilang garantiya sa pagbabayad sa mga partner service providers para sa mga produkto o serbisyong kailangan ng benepisaryo, kabilang na ang mga gamot.

Kaya mula noong Hunyo 2 (Lunes), maaari nang gamitin ito ng mga nakatanggap nito mula sa Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) at Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP).

Ang Guarantee Letter (GL) na mula sa DSWD ay pwede ng makabili

ng gamot sa mga piling Mercury Drug branches nationwide.

Hanapin lamang ang signage na "DSWD Guarantee Letter is accepted here" sa mga counter ng mga piling Mercury Drug Stores.

At para makakuha ng GL, magtungo lamang sa pinakamalapit na DSWD Field Office o Social Welfare and Development Office (SWDO) sa inyong lugar.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon at sa kumpletong listahan ng mga participating branches, tingnan ang mga detalye sa kanilang Facebook Page.

## Ripe for the picking: Turning a simple idea to a fruitful enterprise



With business in mind, Felicitas Baldonado created various fruit products, which she markets to the public and showcases at trade fairs.

Felicitas Baldonado, a 65-year-old entrepreneur from San Jose, Occidental Mindoro, turns delicious fruits—including dragon fruit, soursop, guava, grapes, cucumber, mango, and more—into all-natural vinegar and wine. Her commitment to using 100% natural ingredients, with no added preservatives, sets her

productions apart. Her innovative idea started after noticing ripe mangoes falling and rotting on the ground in her yard, sometimes even trampled by children playing nearby. Inspired by the lesson on vinegar-making by a pastor from their church, she collected fallen ripe mangoes and placed them in a

tumbler. After letting them ferment for six months, she produced her homemade vinegar, hitting the right balance of taste and sourness.

Driven by this early success, Felicitas began experimenting with fruit-based wine with the help of a food processor friend.

In 2019, she of-

## PUBLISHER CORNER

### INCREASED PRESENCE OF CHINESE RESEARCH VESSELS IN WEST PHILIPPINE SEA ALARMING – PCG



MANILA, Philippines — More Chinese research ships have been intruding in the West Philippine Sea so far this year compared to previous years, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has reported.

"This year we were able to document an alarming number of Chinese research vessels," said the PCG's spokesman on West Philippine Sea issues Commodore Jay Tarriela.

In his estimate, around 20 to 22 Chinese research ships could have entered Philippine territory, including the West Philippine Sea, with three to four of them every month.

Recently, the PCG reported that its personnel onboard patrol ships and aircraft challenged the presence

of four Chinese research vessels: Xiang Yang Hong 05, Bei Dao 996, Xiang Yang Hong 10 and Zhuhai Yun in the West Philippine Sea.

Xiang Yang Hong 05 has exited Philippine territory after it was driven away by a PCG aircraft at 7 p.m. last Sunday, reported Tarriela.

It was last spotted near the shores of Sta. Ana in Cagayan province, after 22 days of staying in the Pacific Ocean near Guam to reportedly carry out marine scientific research.

"Xiang Yang Hong 5 has the capability to drop underwater drones and unmanned underwater vehicle," Tarriela noted.

It could have launched drones while passing through the waters in the north of the Philippines, he added.

Unlike China

Coast Guard and Chinese maritime militia ships that were aggressive toward PCG vessels, the Chinese research vessels did not resist when being taken out of Philippine territory, he also said.

Tarriela said, "They would retrieve evidence possibly to be used against them, especially the unmanned vehicles because they're too costly to lose them."

Since February this year, both the PCG and former US defense attaché Rey Powell recorded the presence of other Chinese research vessels Lan Hao 101, Song Lan, Zhong San Da Xue, Tan Suo 3 and Shenhai Yongshi

officially launched her products and began marketing them to the public. She also produced concentrated juice and alamang (fermented shrimp paste), which her customers loved.

To expand her reach, Felicitas began participating in trade fairs in 2021. A year later, her creativity and persistence were recognized when she was awarded Innovative Enterprise of the Year at one of the trade fairs she participated in. That same year, she expanded her product line by adding pickled papaya, bitter gourd, onions, and chili while continuing to explore other fruit-based ideas.

With four regular and five seasonal employees, her enterprise—JJS Food Product, named after her grandchildren—now produces around 50 bottles of wine and vinegar daily. Felicitas ensures her workers are compensated and given additional

incentives when the business does well.

She also acknowledges CARD Bank as her long-time partner in growth. She became a client in 2009, taking a PHP 5,000 loan for a small ukay-ukay (second-hand clothing) business. She has a PHP 200,000.00 loan that she used to purchase additional materials and ingredients for her

business.

"Every day brings new opportunities; what's important is to grab them and transform them into something extraordinary that would capture the attention of your target customers," she said.

In the future, she aims to enter large grocery stores and expand the reach of her products beyond Mindoro and other



# SENATE PRESIDENT ESCUDERO DEFENDS SUPREME COURT: "THERE IS ONLY ONE FINAL INTERPRETER OF THE CONSTITUTION"



**Miyembro po ba sila ng "Super Supreme Court?"**

Sa pagkakaalam ko po, iisa lamang ang Korte Suprema. At ayon sa ating konstitusyon, ang Korte Suprema lang ang bukod-tanging pwedeng makapagsabi kung ano ang kahulugan ng ating Saligang Batas. Wala nang iba."

**Senate President Chiz Escudero** defending the Supreme Court against critics who he says are undermining its authority by promoting judicial disobedience

Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero has come to the defense of the Supreme Court amid growing criticisms that he said threaten to undermine the integrity and authority of the nation's highest judicial body.

In a pointed remark addressing those who appear to challenge the High Court's decisions, Escudero asked, "Are they members of a so-called 'Super Supreme Court?' — a rhetorical question meant to highlight that, under the 1987 Constitution, there is only one legitimate Supreme Court empowered to interpret the law.

"Miyembro po ba sila ng 'Super Supreme Court?'"

Sapagkakaalam ko po, iisa lamang ang Korte Suprema.

At ayon sa ating konstitusyon, ang Korte

Suprema lang ang bukod-tanging pwedeng makapagsabi kung ano ang kahulugan ng ating Saligang Batas. Wala nang iba." Senate President Chiz Escudero defending the Supreme Court.

"To my knowledge, there is only one Supreme Court. And according to our Constitution, it alone holds the exclusive authority to interpret the meaning of our Constitution.

No one else," Escudero said, as he called out what he described as dangerous acts of promoting judicial disobedience.

While Escudero did not name specific individuals or groups, his statement is widely seen as a rebuke to recent public figures and legal personalities who have openly questioned or dis-

regarded rulings of the Supreme Court.

The Senate President emphasized that respect for the rule of law and adherence to the decisions of the judiciary are essential pillars of a functioning democracy.

Undermining the Supreme Court, he warned, sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to legal chaos and institutional breakdown.

The moment we allow parallel interpretations of the Constitution by those outside the judiciary, we risk plunging our legal system into disorder.

His strong defense of the Court comes at a time of heightened political and legal tensions, as landmark decisions and constitutional questions take center stage in national debates.

(Edjun Mariposque)

# PGC-WOC Holds Successful Blood Donation Drive at New Provincial Government Center

As part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's (PGC) monthly theme celebration for July 2025, the Workplace Organization Committee (PGC-WOC), headed by Ms. Luzviminda S. Amparo, in partnership with the Philippine Red Cross - Cavite Chapter, successfully spearheaded a blood

donation drive on July 31, 2025, at the New Provincial Government Center.

The event commenced with messages of support from Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia and Provincial Board Secretary Ms. Michelle F. Alcidi. In her message, Ms. Alcidi underscored the importance

of institutionalizing this life-saving initiative and expressed her intent to make the blood donation drive an annual activity of the Provincial Government of Cavite.

Ms. Lucy Beltran, Board Member and Treasurer, Philippine Red Cross - Cavite Chapter, conveyed the organiza-

# CABUYAO CITY, NAGDIWANG NG IKA-13 ANIBERSARYO NG PAGIGING LUNGSOD



CABUYAO, LAGUNA — Masigla at makabuluhan ang naging pagdiriwang ng ika-13 taong pagkakatatag ng Cabuyao bilang isang ganap na lungsod noong Agosto 4. Sa pangunguna ni Mayor Dennis Felipe "Denha" Hain, ipinagdiwang ng pamahalaang lungsod, katuwang ang mga mamamayan, ang mga tagumpay at pagbabago na naabot ng Cabuyao sa nakalipas na higit isang dekada.

Matatandaang naging ganap na lungsod ang Cabuyao noong Agosto 4, 2012 sa bisa ng Republic Act No. 10163, matapos ang isang matagumpay na plebisito na pinagtibay ng mga Cabuyefio. Mula noon, nagsimula ang mas mabilis na pag-unlad sa imprastraktura, serbisyong panlipunan, at kabuhayan sa lungsod.

Sa mensahe ni Mayor Hain, kanyang ibinida ang mga pangunahing proyekto at inisyatiba ng kanyang administrasyon. Tulad ng flood control project, "Isa sa mapagmamalaki ko sa simula pa lang ng pagkakaupo ko, nag-invest na tayo para sa flood control study, kung

tion's appreciation for the strong collaboration with the provincial government in promoting voluntary blood donation and strengthening community health services.

With the assistance and supervision of the Philippine Red Cross - Cavite Chapter's medi-

ano 'yung recommendation iyon ang ginawa natin. Kaya itong nagdaan na 4 hanggang 5 araw na pagbagyo magbaha man sa Cabuyao, ilang oras lang wala na."

Binigyang diin rin ng alkalde na sa pag-unlad ng lungsod ang kaligtasan ng mamamayan ang dapat isaalang-alang.

"Sobrang liwanag sa Cabuyao, kung ligtas ang mamamayan, ay kampaante ang bawat sektor ng lipunan. Noong nakaraan nasa 70% ang vehicular accident, simula nang nagliwanag, nabawasan na ang porsyento at higit sa lahat bumaba na rin ang crime rate."

Programang rin ang modernisasyon ng mga pasilidad sa kalusugan at pagpapalakas na bilang ng mga doktor, pagpapalakas ng edukasyon, na kung dati ay nasa 1700 na estudyante, dahil sa pagkakaisa ng Sangguniang Panglungsod ay magiging 5000 estudyante na ang mabibigyan pag-asa at tulong pinansyal upang makapagtapos ng pag-aaral. Iginiiit rin ni Hain na libreng ang gamit pang-eskwela ng mga estudyanteng Cabuyefio at programa para sa mga

cal team, the activity was carried out smoothly and safely. A total of 87 blood bags were successfully collected during the drive, thanks to the overwhelming support and participation of employees from various Capitol offices who exemplified unity, compassion, and a deep commitment to public service.

The PGC-WOC extends its heartfelt gratitude to all blood donors, volunteers, and partner organizations whose efforts made the event a resounding success. This initiative reflects the PGC's enduring dedication to health, civic engagement, and the spirit of bayanihan. - R. Dones

(Shekinah Esteban)

# ENCHANTED KINGDOM BRINGS MAGIC, EDUCATION, GAMES AND ARTS AT ELДАР'S MEGA BIRTHDAY BASH



Eldar the Wizard



The Enchanted Story of Eldar the Wizard



EK Turnover

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, marks 30 years of magic through the fun-filled birthday celebration of its most iconic character, Eldar the Wizard last August 2.

Eldar's Mega Birthday Bash was held at the Spaceport Grounds on Saturday, serving as the grand culmination of the month-long festivities that celebrated EK's beloved homegrown character — who has brought enchantment, values, and fun to Filipinos since the Park opened its gates in 1995.

Every weekend last July, guests enjoyed exciting activities around the Park, like the search for the missing birthday

invitations and hats, all in preparation for Eldar's big day. EK also invited everyone to spread the magic by donating heartfelt gifts such as toys, clothes, and other non-perishable goods through The Birthday Giver.

Faerie King and Queen officially kicked off Eldar's Mega Birthday Bash as they made a royal appearance to welcome everyone to the celebration.

The crowd witnessed spectacular performances from EK's homegrown talents, SMS and Kingsmen, along with the original theater production of The Enchanted Story of Eldar the Wizard: Volume Two, which explored the different cultures of the Park's theme

zones through music and dance.

Kids and companions from Casa dei Bambini Home for Children and Southville Foundation were also invited to be part of this special day, where they were delighted with an enchanting surprise — the official turnover of The Birthday Giver proceeds as the selected beneficiaries of this meaningful initiative.

Adding to the fun, all parkgoers enjoyed hands-on activities like coloring, slime making, and face painting at Eldar's Theater.

Afterwards, the whole magical kingdom, including the other EK characters and sponsor mascots, joined Eldar for



EK Eldar's Birthday Parade

the enchanting birthday greeting and candle blowing. As special thanks, the jolly wizard treated everyone to an unforgettable nighttime spectacle featuring his vibrant Birthday Parade and Fireworks.

Eldar's Mega Birthday Bash was made even more magical with the following sponsors: Klook, Coca-Cola, Cherifer, Scott's, McCormick, Krispy Kreme, Rich Garden, RCBC, Fit Style, Evensia Events Management, Iced Gems Biscuits, Snackeroo, Ceres, Australia's Own Milk, Barilla, Tulip, Avea Handsoap, Dayzinc, Nutri10Plus,

Chan, Potato Corner, and ViewTrue Imaging. For more information and updates regarding EK's forever enchanting 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.

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