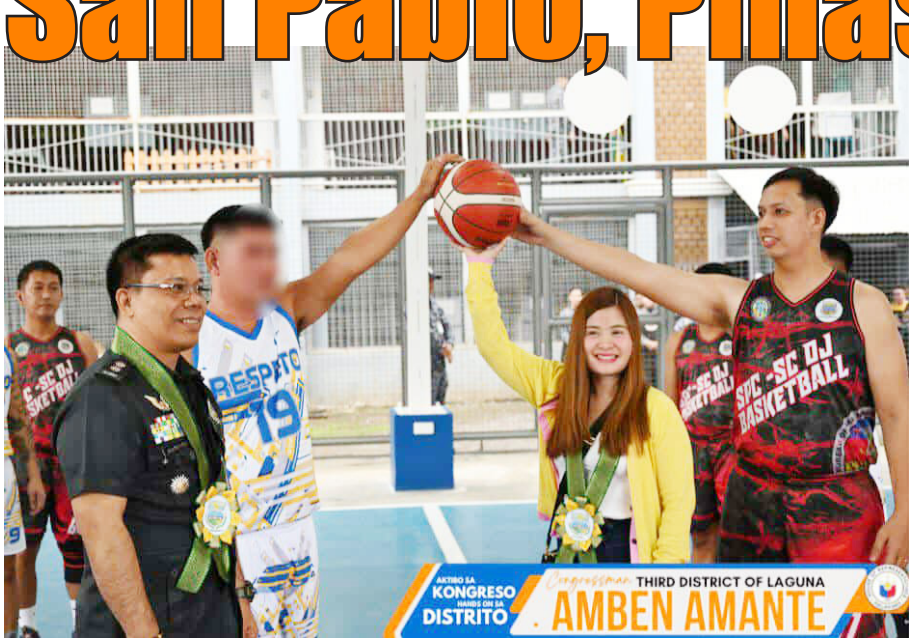


Bagong Covered Court ng BJMP San Pablo, Pinasinayaan



San Pablo City, Laguna — Pinasinayaan at opisyal na binasbasan noong Biyernes, Agosto 22, 2025, ang bagong covered court sa San Pablo City District Jail (BJMP) na matatagpuan sa Barangay San Gregorio.

Ang nasabing proyekto ay mula sa inisyal na 3rd District Congressman Loreto “Amben” S. Amante at isinagawa sa pamamagitan ng suporta ng iba’t ibang ahensya at pribadong sektor. Dumalo bilang pangunahing panauhin si Kapitana Madette Janolino-Amante, maybahay ng kongresista, na kumatawan sa mamabatas sa naturang seremonya.

Ayon kay Kapitana Madette, matagal nang nakikita ni Cong. Amben ang mga pangangailangan ng Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs). Noong siya pa’y alkalde ng San Pablo, nag-donate ang lokal na pamahalaan ng lupa upang maitayo ang mas maayos na gusali ng BJMP. Dagdag pa rito, kasalukuyang isinasagawa rin ang iba pang proyekto gaya ng perimeter fence at reblocking ng mga kalsada sa paligid ng pasilidad.

Nagpahayag ng pasasalamat si JSupt. Jack Lord B. Cariño, War-



den ng San Pablo District Jail, sa walang sawang suporta ni Cong. Amben Amante sa mga programa ng BJMP at sa pagbibigay-halaga sa kapakanan ng mga PDL.

Dumalo rin sa nasabing programa sina District Engineer Carlos C. Muere ng DPWH–3rd District Engineering Office,

Ms. Jovann Mae C. Funtanilla ng TESDA Laguna, PCCI San Pablo Director Joseph Alguin Sadsad, Rotary Club of San Pablo City South President Archie Cabrera, kinatawan mula sa Lions Club, at ang nagdaos ng pagbabasbas na si Rev. Fr. Lanz Domingo.

(Shekinah Esteban)

BAGONG SASAKYAN, COMMAND CENTER, AT CYBERCRIME OFFICE, PORMAL NA BINUKSAN SA LAGUNA PPO



Camp Paciano Rizal, Sta. Cruz, Laguna — Pormal na ipinagkaloob ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna, sa pangunguna ni Provincial Administrator Jerry Pelayo na kumakatawan kay Gobernadora Sol Aragon, ang anim (6) na bagong sasakyan sa Laguna PNP.

Kabilang dito ang dalawang (2) pickup truck, dalawang (2) rescue vehicle, isang (1) army truck, at isang (1) Travis SUV.

Kasabay nito, binuksan din ang makabagong Command Center na layong palakasin ang seguridad, pabilisin ang emergency response, at higit pang pagandahin ang serbisyong ibibigay sa mga mamamayan ng Laguna.

Bukod dito, pormal na binuksan ang bagong opisina ng Cybercrime Response Team na magpapatibay pa sa kakayahan ng lalawigan na labanan ang mga krimen sa online.

Pinangunahan



ang seremonya ni Provincial Administrator Pelayo, kasama ang ilang mga punong-bayan ng Laguna, katuwang ang kapulisan sa pangunguna ni PCOL Jonar Yupio, Provincial Director, na siyang tumanggap ng mga sasakyan para sa paggamit sa pagpapatrolya, operasyon sa panahon ng sakuna, at iba pang serbisyong panlipunan.

Ganap na moderno at kumpleto sa kagamitan ang bagong Command Center—may advanced surveillance, communication, at monitoring systems upang masiguro ang mas mataas na antas ng kaligtasan at kaayus sa buong lalawigan.

Ayon kay PCOL Yupio, “Ang mga proyektong ito ay sumasalamin sa aming patuloy na pangako na dalhin ang serbisyo ng pamahalaan nang mas malapit sa tumbayan—lalo na sa pagbibigay ng seguridad at agarang aksyon sa oras ng pangangailangan.”

(Shekinah Esteban)



DERETSAHAN

WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

Vol. 2 - Series 07 - Aug. 31 - Sept. 06, 2025

Mayor Ross Rizal Honors Calamba's Heritage in 283rd Founding Anniversary



ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COUNCIL SISILIPIN ANG MGA CONTRACTORS NA SANGKOT SA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Sinsiyasat na ng Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) ang mga pangalan ng ilang mga contractors na sangkot sa maanomalyang flood control projects.

Ayon kay Bangko Sentral Governor and AMLC Chairman Eli Remolona, na normal na ginagawa nila ang pag-aaral sa ilang mga pangalan.

Inaaral nila ang ilang mga kahina-hinalang transaction reports mula sa mga bangko at kung may lumabas na pangalan ay agad nila itong iimbestigahan.

May ilang mga pangalan na silang nakalista subalit hindi na ito nagbigay pa ng ibang mga detalye.

Magugunitang inilabas ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr ang pangalan ng 15 contractors na nakakuha ng 20 percents ng halos 10,000 flood control projects mula pa noong 2022.

(Nelson Dimapilis)



ONE YEAR OF UNITY: MAYOR ROSELLER "ROSS" H. RIZAL JOINS CELEBRATION OF BANLIC SENIOR CITIZENS' FIRST ANNIVERSARY



Calamba City, Laguna – Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal led the celebration of the first anniversary of the Unified Senior Citizens of Barangay Banlic, marking a year of unity, fellowship, and compassion for the city’s elderly community.

“Together, we share the joy and celebration of the first anniversary of the Unified Senior Citizens of Banlic. One year of togetherness and care for our beloved elders—proof that at every stage of life, there is meaning and happiness in being part of a community,” Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal said in his message.

Adding to the festive atmosphere, Mayor Rizal, together with Councilor Pio “Papa P” Dimapilis, serenaded the crowd with a heartfelt song performance, which delighted the senior citizens in attendance.

The event highlighted the city government’s continuing commitment to honor and support the welfare of senior citizens, recognizing their vital role in shaping Calamba’s history and community spirit.

(Edjun Mariposque)

CAYETANO: NEXT OMBUDSMAN MUST HAVE 'INTEGRITY, INTELLIGENCE, INSIGHT'

PAGE 02

Editoryal

Sa bawat eleksyon, may paulit-ulit tayong eksenang napa-panood—parang teleseryeng iniba lang ang title pero pareho pa rin ang plot. Ganito ang kampanyang dala ni Sarah Discaya: makintab, madrama, at punong-puno ng pa-effect. Pero sa ilalim ng lahat ng ito, isa siyang textbook case ng trapo politics na naka-makeup lang ng modernong ad agency.

Sa umpisa pa lang, todo ayuda. Hindi lang relief goods, kundi pati scholarship, libreng gamutan, at kung anu-anong pampalubag-loob na parang sinampal sa atin ang mensa-heng: “Kung gusto mong may makuha, iboto mo ako.” Hindi ito mala-sakit—ito ay suhol na binalot sa gift pack. Halatang sinanay ang buong kampanya sa estilo ng vote buying—ngayon lang may bagong branding.

At habang ang iba ay nag-titipid, si Sarah ay walang preno sa gastos. Kaliwa’t kanan ang billboard, may cinematic ads, at boosted posts—parang national candidate ang galawan. Sobrang yaman, sobrang gastos. May mga troll farm at may pa-drama sa social media. Kaya ang tanong: kung ganyan kalaki ang nilalabas mo para sa lokal na posisyon, paano mo ito babawiin? Anong kapalit ng investment na ‘yan? Saan mang-gagaling ang ROI?

At higit sa lahat, hindi pa man pormal na nagsisimula ang kampanya, parang tapos na ang election spending. Anong tawag mo sa full-blown ad blitz, events, and give-aways—na lahat ay umaandar kahit hindi pa campaign period? Simple lang: premature campaigning. Mahal, agresibo, at halatang desperado. Kung ganito ka magwaldas bago pa ang opisyal na simula, ano pa kapag nasa puwesto ka na?

Pagkatapos, darating ang mga patalastas. Mga ad na alam mong mahal, emosyonal ang tono, at halatang dinisenyo para umani ng awa at palakpak. Trapo ad, sa pinakabagong format. Pero ang hindi mo makikita ay ang mga kontratang pinirmahan sa likod ng camera, ang mga troll farm na binayaran para siraan ang kalaban, at ang fake accounts na ginagamit para i-bash si Vico Sotto.

Oo, Vico Sotto. Yung mayor na tumatangging gumamit ng mga government resources para sa sariling agenda. Yung sinubukang lapastanganin ng black propaganda ni Discaya. Pero sa halip na magreklamo o magpa-victim, sumagot si Vico ng malinaw, factual, at direktong punto. Walang drama, walang palusot, walang bayad na artista.

Si Sarah Discaya ay hindi lang basta kandidato—isa siyang buhay na sintomas ng institutionalized na kultura ng pulitikang paawa, hindi pananagutan ang puhunan. Kampanyang sanay sa drama at pang-uuto: laging may malulungkot na mukha,

NAGMAMASID AKO SA ELEKSYON SA PASIG.

may matatalinhagang linya, at may engrangend mga plano na alam mong pangisahog lang sa script. May video ads na cinematic, pero walang track record na konkretong maipagmamalaki. May platapormang maganda sa papel, pero platik pagdating sa realidad.

Habang gumugulong ang kampanya, unti-unting lumalabas ang mga inconsistencies: questionable endorsements, recycled slogans, scripted testimonials. May mga isyu pa ng construction firm na konektado sa pamilya, na umano’y nasangkot sa mga substandard government projects—ilang beses nang pinuna at napa-blacklist. Sa ilalim ng glossy campaign na ito, may amoy na hindi kayang tabunan ng kahit anong filter.

At kung titigil ka sandali para isipin ito, mapapansin mong mas mukhang rehearsal ito para sa pagbabalik ng isang dating dynasty. Kasi kapag natapos ang last term ni Vico, walang proteksyon ang Pasig kung ang susunod ay katulad ng mga dating naghari-harian. Kaya ngayon pa lang, nagpapainit na si Discaya. Hindi dahil may malinaw siyang panukala, kundi dahil alam niyang may vacuum na gusto niyang sakupin.

Buti na lang may mga lider tulad ni Vico na hindi natitinig sa harap ng ganitong klase ng bulok na estratehiya. Kasi hindi sapat ang nakakaantig na ad kung walang tunay na paninindigan. Hindi sapat ang ayuda kung kinukuha lang din mula sa kabang ng bayan. At lalong hindi sapat ang black propaganda kung ang kalaban mo ay may malinaw na konsensya at track record.

Si Sarah Discaya ay hindi lamang produkto ng isang bulok na sistema—isa siyang malinaw na representasyon ng entrenched trapo politics sa lokal at pambansang antas: isang kampanyang nakabalot sa cosmetic modernity pero nananatiling ugat ng dekadenteng pulitika—nakasusuklam, nakasusugat, at nakasusuka. Hindi siya simpleng kandidato, kundi personipikasyon ng trapo politics na ginamitan lang ng high-budget na concealer: maganda sa porma, pero bulok sa nilalaman—isang kadingir paalala na kahit magbihis ng bago, ang lumang kalakaran ng kasinungalingan, kasakiman, at kahambugan ay patuloy pa ring umaalipin sa ating demokrasya.

Sa susunod na halalan, sana hindi na tayo magpapadala sa ads na may background music. Sana mas kilatin natin ang plataporma, hindi ang props.

Ang tunay na serbisyo ay hindi naibabalot sa drama. Nakikita ito sa tahimik, consistent, at transparent na paggawa. At sa panahong binabaha tayo ng pekeng paawa, ang lider na may prinsipyo, hindi script, ang dapat nating piliin.

Bagong...

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monya.

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Nagpahayag ng pasasalamat si JSupt. Jack Lord B. Cariño, Warden ng San Pablo District

FROM PAGE 1

Jail, sa walang sawang suporta ni Cong. Amben Amante sa mga programa ng BJMP at sa pagbibigay-halaga sa kapakanan ng mga PDL. Dumalo rin sa nasabing programa sina District Engineer Carlos C. Muere ng DPWH–3rd District Engineering Office, Ms. Jovann Mae C. Funtanilla ng TESDA Laguna, PCCI San Pablo Director Joseph Alguin Sadsad, Rotary Club of San Pablo City South President Archie Cabrera, kinatawan mula sa Lions Club, at ang nagdaos ng pagbabasbas na si Rev. Fr. Lanz Dominogo.

(Shekinah Esteban)

Cayetano...

Senator Alan Peter Cayetano on Thursday said the next Ombudsman should be chosen based on the “three I’s” — integrity, intelligence, and insight — qualities he stressed are vital in detecting corruption at its earliest stages and acting before scandals erupt.

Speaking with reporters after the August 28 interview of the first batch of Ombudsman applicants, whose screening runs until September 2, Cayetano, the Senate’s representative in the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) and chair of the Senate Committee on Justice and Human Rights, emphasized the importance of these traits in the country’s top anti-graft watchdog.

“Yung integrity kasi, kahit anong talino mo, kung corrupt ka o hindi ka mapagkakatiwalaan, bale-wala. Ngayon, kung may integrity at honest ka, pero mas matalino sa ‘yo lahat ng corrupt, wala rin mangyayari,” he said.

“Yung insight, katulad nitong nangyari dito sa DPWH, medyo it’s the best-kept secret in the sense na ngayon lang pumutok. But it’s not a secret anymore,” he added.

Cayetano also noted that the Ombudsman must be able to keep up with the way information spreads instantly in today’s digital world.

“Iba na y’ung age

ngayon na instant ang news. Most of you now naka-cellphone na rather than those na naka-big cameras. Some of you, naka-post o naka-live na agad. So, kailangan up-to-date y’ung bagong Ombudsman sa mga bagong sistema na ganyan,” he said.

He further said the office is not a prize but a responsibility.

“Ang power ay ibinibigay for God’s purpose, not for you. It’s not a reward. It’s a tool for you to get something done. And, usually, that some-

thing is a problem that you can solve,” he said.

Cayetano called for vigilance in the selection process, saying the country’s history of inefficiency, nepotism, and corruption makes it vital to choose wisely.

“Napakahalaga na tama ang mapili nating Ombudsman. Given y’ung nangyayari ngayon sa DPWH, given y’ung perennial na nangyayari sa iba’t ibang departamento, having a very proactive but balanced Ombudsman will really change so much,” he said.###

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PALASYO...

sa linya ng gobyerno ng Irregularities sa Multibillionpeso Flood Control Projects, isang Maricañang Opisyal na Biyernes na sinabi Bukas si Marcos upang isiwalat ang kanyang mga ari-arian at net na halaga, ngunit "kung kinakailangan din."

Palace Press Officer na si Claire Castro ay nagsabi din sa isang press briefing na ang pokus ng mga pagsisikap ng gobyerno ay dapat manatili sa pagputok sa mga opisyal na kasangkot sa mga proyektong ito at hindi sa politika.

Mga Liability ng Assets at Net Worth (SALN) Bilang bahagi ng mga tseke sa pamumuhay na inutusan niya para sa lahat ng mga opisyal ng gobyerno.

Sinabi ni Hontiveros na ang direktiba ng pangulo ay magdadala ng mas maraming timbang kung siya mismo ang naglabas ng kanyang Saln upang ipakita ang "mabuting pamumuno."

~ sinabi ni Castro na ang pangulo at iba pang mga miyembro ng ehekutibong sangay ay handa na sumailalim sa isang tseke sa pamumuhay. Upang mag -probe ng mga proyekto

Nang siya ay unang tinanong tungkol sa tawag ng senador, hindi direktang tumugon si Castro, na sinasabi na ito ay humantong sa malayo sa "isyu" ng paghawak sa mga kasangkot sa mga kaduda -dudang mga proyekto sa kontrol ng baha. Mga Suriin sa Pamumuhay.

Relenting, sinabi niya: "Iyon ay bahagi ng tseke sa pamumuhay. Kung mayroong isang tseke sa pamumuhay, kung ang pangulo ba ang una o ang huli, kasama na."

Pinindot pa kung handang ipakita ni Marcos ang kanyang Saln, suma-

FROM PAGE 1

got siya: "Kung kinakailangan, tulad ng naitala natin. Huwebes, sinabi ni Hontiveros na suportado niya ang direktiba ng pangulo ngunit hinamon siya na isama ang kanyang sarili.

Sinabi niya na handa din siyang ibunyag ang kanyang sariling saln upang ipakita ang katayuan sa gitnang klase. Si Marcos ay matagal nang hindi pa rin ibubunyag ang kanyang Saln.

Sa isang paki-kipanayam noong Enero 2022 sa panahon ng kampanya para sa pagkapangulo, sinabi niyang isiwalat ang mga Salns ay depende sa layunin na ipahayag nila ito.

"Kung ang layunin ay magiging pag -atake sa politika, kung gayon bakit nais nating gawin iyon?" aniya.

"Ang lahat ng mga pulitiko ay may mga kaaway.

Makakahanap sila ng isang isyu at maaari silang gumawa ng isang isyu sa labas nito, kahit na walang isyu."

Sinabi ni Marcos na ang kanyang "punong halimbawa" ay ang impeached na si Chief Justice Renato Corona. Si G. Marcos, na isang senador, ay bumoto upang makuha siya.

"Sa palagay ko kailangan nating maging mas protektado.

Kung gagamitin ito upang mabiktima ang tao sa pamamagitan ng kanilang saln, hindi ko nakikita kung bakit mo gagawin iyon," aniya.

Bilyon) at Sen. Ralph Recto (Net Worth: P468.47 milyon).

Dapat mag-aplay sa lahat ng sen. Sinabi ni Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri noong Biyernes na ang lahat ng mga opisyal sa gobyerno, kasama na ang mga senador, ay dapat sumailalim sa isang tseke sa pamumuhay.

TEAM BARBIE, NAGHAIN NA NG COC PARA-SA PCL ELECTION



Laguna — Pormal nang naghain ng kanilang Certificate of Candidacy (COC) ang Team BARBIE para sa nalalapit na halalan ng Philippine Councilors League (PCL) – Laguna Chapter na ganapin sa Setyembre 4.

Pinangunahan ni San Pablo City Councilor Barbie Diaz, na tumatakbob bilang PCL President, at ni Liliw Councilor Lyka Luna,

Ayon kay Diaz,

layunin ng kanilang grupo na "mas mapalakas ang boses ng mga konsehal" at makapagsulong ng mas maraming programa at inisyatibo na makakatulong sa kani-kanilang bayan at lungsod.

Dagdag pa rito, tiniyak ng Team BARBIE na kanilang isusulong ang transparency, pagkakaisa, at mas aktibong partisipasyon ng lahat ng

Kasama rin sa Team BARBIE ang iba pang mga konsehal mula sa iba't ibang bayan at lungsod ng probinsya na nagpakita ng suporta at pagkakaisa para sa darating na eleksyon.

Velopment.

"This day is more than a remembrance of the past—it is a journey back to our roots as children of Calamba, the birthplace of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal," Mayor Rizal emphasized.

"Our history lives not only in books, but in every Calambeno whose resilience, hard work, and dignity continue to drive us forward."

The celebration underscored Calamba's role as a cradle of heroism and progress, reminding its people that the true strength of the city lies in solidarity and shared commitment to building a brighter future.

With its people at the heart of progress, the city continues to uphold the legacy of Jose Rizal while paving the way toward greater economic and cultural development.

Mabuhay ang Calamba! Mabuhay ang mga Calambeno!

(Edjun Mariposque)

TEAM BARBIE, NAGHAIN NA NG COC PARA-SA PCL ELECTION



miyembro ng PCL sa mga programang makakabuti para sa probinsya.

Samantala, inaa-sahan na magiging mainit ang labanan sa PCL Election ngayong taon dahil sa iba't ibang grupong nagnanais na makuha ang pamunuan ng liga, na nagsisilbing kinatawan ng lahat ng mga konsehal sa buong Laguna.

(Shekinah Esteban)

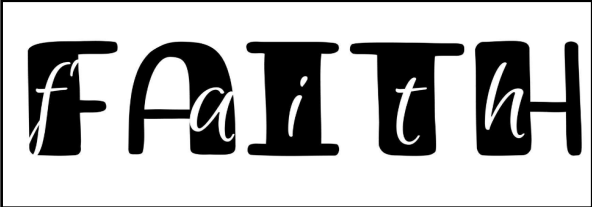
MAYOR STRIKE HIGHLIGHTS CITY'S SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION AT DEPED FOR MANCOM MEETING

Revilla Hall - August 28, 2025 – The Schools Division Office of the Department of Education (DepEd-Bacoor) organized the Division Management Committee (ManCom) Meeting to discuss key concerns related to curriculum implementation, school governance, and operation. The event was honored by the presence of Mayor Strike B. Revilla, who served as the Distinguished Guest and Speaker, along with Dr. Babylyn Pambid (CESO VI, Schools Division Superintendent), Mr. Teodoro A. Gloriani (School Principal IV, Bacoor National High School - Main), Christian R. Dulce (School Principal I, Poblacion Elementary School), Dr. Cesar Mojica (Chief, School Governance and Operation Division), Dr. Alexander Morron Jr. (Chief, Curriculum Implementation Division), Ms. Memviluz Baurile (CLGOO, DILG Bacoor), Ms. Alice Bay (Technical Staff), Ms. Janica Zandra Mendoza (Technical Staff, Cluster A Office), and Ms. Mary Ann L. Ilagan (Officer-in-Charge, BNHS Villa Maria).

The meeting gathered principals, division personnel, and members from various DepEd divisions. Key agenda items included presenting the previous ManCom meeting minutes, and addressing concerns from CID, SGOD, and OSDS. An excerpt from the Regional ManCom and a Superintendent's Hour were also part of the program.

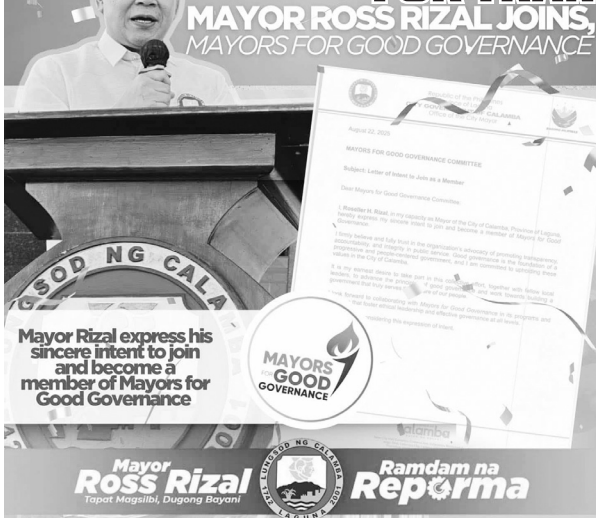
Dr. Babylyn Pambid led the discussions alongside school principals and division chiefs. Representatives from DILG Bacoor and technical staff also participated.

As the Distinguished Guest and Speaker, Mayor Strike emphasized the City Government of Bacoor's unwavering support for DepEd, pledging to continue building more schools to ensure every young Bacoreño has access to quality education. He stated, "Together, let us strengthen education in Bacoor," reaffirming the commitment to enhancing learning and operational excellence in Bacoor's schools.





MAYOR ROSS RIZAL JOINS MAYORS FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE. STRENGTHENS CALL FOR TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP



Calamba City, Laguna — Calamba City Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal has officially declared his participation and full support for the Mayors For Good Governance, a coalition of local chief executives united in advancing transparent, accountable, and people-centered governance. Mayor Rizal emphasized that from the very beginning of his lead-

ership, the guiding principle has been clear: to uphold Good Governance as the foundation of every policy, project, and public service in Calamba.

“Leadership goes beyond implementing projects—it is a responsibility rooted in transparency, accountability, and compassion for the people,” Rizal stated.

By joining Mayors For Good Governance,

Rizal reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening policies that prioritize citizens’ needs, implementing programs that directly benefit communities, and ensuring public service that is both open and trustworthy.

“This affiliation is not just a symbol of unity among leaders, but a concrete pledge to continue building humane policies, responsive projects, and honest service for all,” he added.

Mayor Rizal stressed that this step serves as fresh inspiration for Calamba’s journey toward progress, envisioning a community built on integrity, sustainable development, and a brighter future for every Calambeño.

(Edjun Mariposque)

ENCHANTED KINGDOM HONORED AS ONE OF KLOOK'S BEST OF THE PHILIPPINES – ATTRACTIONS



Sta. Rosa, Laguna — Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the country’s first and only world-class theme park, has once

again brought pride to the Philippines after being named as one of Klook’s Best of the Philippines – Attractions.

In a ceremony held last August 11 at Conrad Hotel Manila, Asia’s leading travel and experiences platform recognized EK for its unwavering commitment to “bringing joy, enchantment, nostalgia, and world-class entertainment to generations of Filipino families.”

The award was personally received by EK Chairman and President Mr. Cesar Mario O. Mamon and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Cynthia R. Mamon during the first-ever Klook Partner Awards.

The honor is made more special as Klook highlighted EK’s long-standing partnership, recalling that the theme

park was its very first official partner when the platform launched in the Philippines in 2017. As part of the milestone, Klook is also joining EK’s 30th anniversary celebration with an exclusive promo for its users.

For every purchase of three regular day passes via Klook, guests will receive ₱300 worth of Wizard Money, which can be used inside the park. The special offer is valid for visits scheduled on Fridays until September 15, 2025.

Now in its 30th year, Enchanted Kingdom continues to solidify its status as a premier family destination in the country, blending Filipino creativity with world-class amusement and entertainment experiences.

(Shekinah Esteban)

Ang said.

“We don’t profit from this work, and none of the dredged material is ever used for our projects. This is about doing our part for our communities.”

Mayor Joy Belmonte welcomed the partnership, saying it will strengthen Quezon City’s flood control efforts and

complement its broader waste management and environmental initiatives.

As part of its commitment to long-term solutions, SMC has also offered to help Quezon City explore more advanced waste management technologies to support better flood prevention and environmental protection. PR

San Miguel, Quezon City sign MOA to scale up flood solutions

San Miguel Corp. (SMC) has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Quezon City government to clean and rehabilitate major rivers in the city, expanding the company’s Better Rivers PH initiative aimed at reducing flooding in Metro Manila.

Under the agreement, SMC will deepen and widen key sections of the San Juan River and extend its cleanup of the Tullahan River up to La Mesa Dam, building on its 2020–2022 pilot effort that cleared 1.1 million metric tons of silt and solid waste from 10.9 kilometers of the waterway.

The company will also clean up other tributaries identified by the city government to remove silt and garbage, increase rainwater carrying capacity, and improve outflow to Manila Bay, helping re-



Quezon City Mayor Ma. Josefina ‘Joy’ G. Belmonte and San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang (third and fourth from left, respectively) flash their agreement to undertake river cleanups and other flood control solutions in the city. They are joined by (from left) City Engineer Mark Dale Diamond P. Perral, City Administrator Michael Victor N. Alimurung, Atty. Cynthia M. de Castro, SMC Assistant Vice President for Government Affairs, and Mr. Jimmy O. Lu, VP and Overall Project Manager of SMC’s Better Rivers PH initiative, who witnessed the signing of the memorandum of agreement on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, at the SMC head office in Mandaluyong City.

duce flooding in low-lying areas.

The partnership includes the deployment of dredging equipment, barges, and trucks, as well as the development of improved systems for collecting debris and other obstructions to restore the

natural flow of water.

These projects will form part of SMC’s Better Rivers PH program, launched in 2020, which has so far removed more than 8.5 million metric tons of silt and waste from 163 kilometers of rivers and tributaries in and around

Metro Manila — all at no cost to government or taxpayers.

“For five years now, we have been cleaning rivers because we want to help solve the flooding problem,” SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S.



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Daang bilyong piso ng buwis ang nasayang sa Flood Control Projects ng mga Contractor

Sa nakaraang State of the Nation Address (SONA) ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr ipinahayag niya na pananagutin niya at bubusiin ang patungkol sa Flood Control Project ay naging mainit na ito sa balita.

Ang mga contractor nito ay isa isa nang dinusuri dahil daang bilyong piso ng buwis ang nasayang dito.

Alinsunod sa direktiba ng Pangulo, magsasagawa ang BIR ng imbestigasyon at audit sa mga contractor na ito.

Titingnan ng ahensya kung tama ang buwis na nirereport ng mga contractors mula sa mga flood control

projects at sa iba pa nilang government projects.

Para sa ghost projects, susuriin din kung nagreport sila ng costs at expenses. Kapag nagreport ng gastos sa isang ghost project, papatawan ng kaukulang tax deficiency dahil wala naman silang ginawang flood control project.

Bukod sa paghahabol ng hindi nabayarang buwis, maaari ring mawalan ng tax clearance na magbabawal sa paglahok sa mga susunod na bidding.

Ito ay bahagi ng Fearless and Aggressive Enforcement Activities ng BIR.

BSP RECOGNIZES CARD SME BANK AS AN OUTSTANDING STAKEHOLDER



Present during the Outstanding BSP Stakeholders Appreciation Ceremony held on July 18, 2025, were (from left to right) CARD SME Bank President Julius Adrian Alip and CARD SME Bank Senior Adviser Mary Jane Perreras.

PUBLISHER CORNER

"NAWALAN NG LISENSIYA DAHIL SA PAGDIDIPLINA SA ESTUDYANTE"

Ako po ay isang guro, at ngayon ay puno ng bigat ang aking dibdib dahil sa isang pangyayaring nagbago sa aking buhay.

Ako po ay nagtuturo sa Grade 2, at gaya ng ibang guro, ang layunin ko ay maihanda ang mga bata hindi lang sa aralin kundi pati sa tamang disiplina. Ngunit isang araw, may isang mag-aaral akong hindi gumawa ng kanyang takdang-aralin. Sa kagustuhan kong maturuan siya ng leksyon, pinatayo ko siya sa labas ng silid-aralan. Oo, aaminin ko, inabot ng tatlong oras ang kanyang pagkakatayo. Sa isip ko noon, ito ay isang paraan upang maisip niya ang kahalagahan ng responsibilidad bilang estudyante.

Ngunit hindi ko akalain na ganoon kalalim ang magiging epekto nito sa bata. Pag-uwi raw niya, nagsumbong siya sa mga magulang na nanginginig at humahagulgol. Labis akong nasaktan nang malaman ko iyon. Alam kong may pagkukulang ako—dapat ay mas maikli, mas mahinahong paraan, o mas

positibong disiplina ang ginawa ko. Ngunit sa halip na bigyan ako ng pagkakataon na maituwid ang aking pagkakamali, diretsong kinasuhan at tuluyang kinansela ang aking lisensiya bilang guro.

Napakasakit para sa akin, Admin. Sa loob ng maraming taon ng pagtuturo, sinikap kong maging pangalawang magulang sa aking mga estudyante. Gumising ako ng maaga, gumawa ng lesson plan kahit pagod, at binuhos ang lahat ng oras at pasensya. Ngunit ba’t mas mainam na gabayan din kami, mga guro, upang matuto sa pagkakamali at mapahusay ang pagtuturo?

Hanggang ngayon, mahal ko pa rin ang pagtuturo at ang mga estudyante ko. Ngunit hindi ko alam kung paano magsisimula muli kung ang mismong lisensiya ko ay tinanggal na. Maraming salamat kung ito ay inyong maipapaskil. Sana ay marinig ang boses ng mga guro na tulad ko—mga gurong tao rin, nagkakamali, pero marunong umako ng pagkukulang at handang magbago para sa mga bata.



pan, at ilang taon kong paninilbihan bilang guro dahil lamang sa isang pagkakamali? Ko

Kayo po, Admin, at mga makakabasa nito... sa tingin ninyo ba ay tama na agad-agad ay pagkaitan ng lisensiya ang isang guro dahil lamang sa ganitong disiplina? Hindi ba’t mas mainam na gabayan din kami, mga guro, upang matuto sa pagkakamali at mapahusay ang pagtuturo?

Hanggang ngayon, mahal ko pa rin ang pagtuturo at ang mga estudyante ko. Ngunit hindi ko alam kung paano magsisimula muli kung ang mismong lisensiya ko ay tinanggal na. Maraming salamat kung ito ay inyong maipapaskil. Sana ay marinig ang boses ng mga guro na tulad ko—mga gurong tao rin, nagkakamali, pero marunong umako ng pagkukulang at handang magbago para sa mga bata.

CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), was recognized by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) as one of its 18 outstanding institutional partners during the 2025 Outstanding BSP Stakeholders Appreciation Ceremony (OBSAC) held on July 18, 2025. The award underscores the bank’s ongoing commitment to financial inclusion and empowering MSMEs through responsive banking services.

Started in 2004, OBSAC is BSP’s initiative to honor institutions that

significantly contribute to its advocacies that include financial inclusion, price stability, and a secure financial system. CARD SME Bank’s recognition shows its support for these advocacies through its effective and efficient banking programs for MSMEs.

“This award reflects our dedication to providing inclusive and responsible banking. Whether reaching MSMEs in far-flung areas or introducing digital financial tools, we remain steadfast in serving Filipinos with integrity,” said CARD SME Bank President Julius Adrian Alip.

Founded in 2011, CARD SME Bank provides savings, deposits, and loan services. In addition to offering financial products, the bank promotes financial literacy and discipline to empower individuals and businesses toward achieving long-term success.

To learn more about CARD SME Bank’s programs and how it supports communities through inclusive banking, visit www.cardmri.com/cardsmebank or follow them on Facebook at @CARDSMEBankOfficial-Page

CARD SME BANK
A Thrift Bank



Get Ready to Spell It Out: SM Super Spelling Bee is Back for Year 2!



The 2025 SM Super Spelling Bee officially kicked off with the pressing of the Golden Buzzer by (L-R) Isabele Valente, Academic Director of NU Nazareth School; Steven Tan, President of SM Supermalls; Hanna Carinna Sy, AVP for Marketing Special Events and Leasing, SM Supermalls; Bea Torres, AVP for External Relations, National Bookstore; and Joaquin San Agustin, Executive Vice President for Marketing, SM Supermalls.



Hanna Carinna T. Sy, AVP for Marketing Special Events and Leasing at SM Supermalls, announced that registration for the SM Super Spelling Bee 2025 is now officially open to aspiring Super Kids.

The buzz is back, and it is all about words! The SM Super Spelling Bee is making its much-awaited return this year, inviting young spelling champs from across the country to take the stage, test their skills, and have a whole lot of fun.

After a successful debut last year, this year's competition brings together 40 participating SM Supermalls nationwide.

From classroom word wizards to kids who simply love a good challenge, everyone is welcome to join and experience the thrill of a live spelling showdown.

This year's edition is extra special as SM Supermalls celebrates its 40th year, a milestone that reflects its continued growth and dedication to creating spaces where families can learn, con-

nect, and enjoy meaningful experiences. In this new era, SM Supermalls continues evolving with you, making every visit more than just a day at the mall.

"SM Supermalls has always been a happy place for kids to learn and explore," shared Hanna Carinna T. Sy, AVP for Marketing Special Events and Leasing at SM Supermalls. "The SM Super Spelling Bee is our way of celebrating learning while giving our #SuperKids a chance to shine and make memories they'll always cherish."

Registration is easy—just sign up through the SM Malls Online app or proceed to the Mall Admin Office of any participating mall to submit your accomplished registration form. Check out the full list of participating malls and schedules at [\[permalls.com/superspellingbee\]\(http://permalls.com/superspellingbee\).](http://www.smsu-</p>
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The event is made extra special thanks to the support of National Book Store, National University, Power Mac Center, and Jollibee—partners who believe in the power of learning, reading, and giving kids the confidence to reach for their dreams.

Exciting prizes, the thrill of competition, and the chance to be crowned one of the country's top spellers await.

So whether you are a parent cheering from the sidelines, a teacher rooting for your students, or a young wordsmith ready to spell your heart out, this is your moment.

Sharpen those pencils, crack open the dictionary, and get ready to spell your way to victory!

#SMSuperSpellingBee
#SuperKids #SM40Years



CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY: MPCALA HOLDINGS INC. CELEBRATES DOUBLE GREEN AWARD WIN



Turnover of Green Awards to MPCALA Holdings Inc. with Santa Rosa City Government Officials (From left: Santa Rosa CENRO HEAD Engr. Maria Amor Salandanan; MPCALA Holdings Inc. representatives; from right: Congressman Roy Gonzales, Lone District of Santa Rosa, & Mayor Arlene B. Arcillas, City of Santa Rosa, Laguna)

Santa Rosa City, Laguna—MPCALA Holdings Inc., concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, has been awarded two Green Awards this year, marking its third consecutive year of recognition in the esteemed program organized by the City Government of Santa Rosa last August 15, 2025.

The Santa Rosa City Green Awards is a platform that acknowledges outstanding efforts and initiatives in promoting sustainability and environmental protection. In this year's Green Awards, MPCALA received two notable recognitions, one of which was a Plaque of Appreciation as a Sustainable Development Partner; this award is presented to organizations and individuals who have actively contributed to Santa Rosa City's environmental conservation efforts and

have demonstrated meaningful participation in its green programs. MPCALA earned this recognition for its outstanding commitment to foster a culture of conservation and environmental awareness in the areas it serves through programs like clean-up drives, various tree planting activities, and its active participation in the annual International Coastal Cleanup.

The second award presented to MPCALA was the Earth Hour Advocate Award, recognizing its utmost support in the global Earth Hour movement, encouraging communities and industries along the expressway corridor to participate in the global movement to switch off non-essential lights, underscoring the importance of energy conservation in mitigating the effects of climate change.

In addition to these, MPCALA continues to advance sustainable

and eco-friendly practices in infrastructure development, living up to its vision of being a green expressway. Its design integrates renewable energy technologies and nature-inspired features that not only reduce its carbon footprint but also provide a more pleasant driving experience.

"These recognitions are more than just honors; they are responsibilities that we embrace wholeheartedly. These awards affirm the direction we've taken in ensuring that our expressways are built with the environment and the communities in mind. It fuels our motivation to further expand our sustainability efforts, to craft even more impactful programs that care for the environment while uplifting lives," said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, MPCALA Holdings Inc.

"We recognize



MPCALA Holdings Inc. with the Sustainable Development Partner and Earth Advocate awards

everyone's vital contributions through the Gearing towards Robust, Engaging, and Eco-friendly Nature or "GREEN" Awards, spearheaded by our CENRO. These awards are not just accolades; they are a celebration of your commitment to sustainable development. As we mark the 21st year of Santa Rosa as a city, and the 14th anniversary of the enactment of our environment code, we also embrace this year's green awards theme: Ending plastic pollution: #beatplasticpollution. Plastic pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. It threatens not only our ecosystem, but also our health and future generations. As a city that values innovation and responsibility, we must lead by example, in reducing plastic waste through policy, practice, and personal action. Environmental protection is not a responsibility of a few. It is a shared duty.

Every act of conservation, every step away from single-use plastics is



The Green Awards for MPCALA Holdings Inc.

a step towards a greener and healthier future," said Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas, City Mayor of the City of Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The awards received by MPCALA Holdings Inc. reflect its continued efforts to promote sustainability not only within its expressway but also in the communities it serves.

About MPCALA Holdings Inc.

MPCALA Holdings Inc. is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways

Corporation (MPTC), the largest toll road developer and operator in the country. Aside from the CAVITE-LAGUNA Expressway (CALAX), MPTC's domestic portfolio includes concessions for the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (CAVITEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) on the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX).



Timothy Flynn Tiamzon, Grand Winner of the SM Super Spelling Bee 2024 from SM City Marikina, joined this year's competition to celebrate and inspire a new batch of young spelling champions.