MAYOR ROSS RIZAL LEADS SALARY DISTRIBUTION FOR 600 SPES BENEFICIARIES IN CALAMBA CITY

Calamba City, Laguna — Six hundred youth beneficiaries of the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) Batch 3 received their hard-earned salaries in a ceremony held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, led by Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal.

Mayor Ross Rizal emphasized the city government's continuous support for the youth of Calamba, underscoring that SPES is not only a source of income but also a valuable opportunity for students to gain experience and build a brighter future.

"Patuloy po ang ating suporta para sa kabataang Calambeño, kaya naman isinagawa natin ang SPES Salary Distribution para sa Batch 3 kung saan 600 SPES beneficiaries ang nakatanggap ng kanilang pinaghirapang sahod.

Isang hakbang ito tungo sa mas maliwanag na kinabukasan para sa ating mga kabataan—sabay ang karanasan at oportunidad na hatid ng Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES)," said Mayor Ross Rizal.

The program reflects the city's commitment to empowering students through employment opportunities, equipping them with skills and work experience that will serve as stepping stones to their future careers.

(Edjun Mariposque)

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL LEADS RESUMPTION OF SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM FOR CALAMBA SENIOR CITIZENS

Calamba City, Laguna — The City Government of Calamba has officially resumed the distribution of the Calamba City Social Pension for Senior Citizens, a program spearheaded by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal to provide additional support for the elderly sector.

"The long wait is over. We have started once again the distribution of the Calamba City Social Pension for our beloved Senior Citizens," Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal announced.

The first batch of beneficiaries included residents from Barangay 7, Banlic, Bañadero, and Hornalan. Other barangays are set to receive their schedule in the coming days as the program continues to roll out across the city.

Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal also expressed gratitude to the taxpayers of Calamba, emphasizing that their contributions make such programs possible.

"Thank you to our taxpayers—you are the true reason why we can continue programs like this for our senior citizens," he said.

The social pension program reaffirms the city's commitment to recognizing the invaluable role of senior citizens and ensuring their well-being through sustained government support.

(Edjun Mariposque)

DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY PUBLISHING
The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money
Vol. 2 - Series 09 - September 14-20, 2025

NAGSUMITE NA RIN SILA NG MGA EXTENSIVE MEDICAL INFORMATION NG DATING PANGULO SA ICC.

EO para sa binuong Independent Commission para magimbestiga, inilabas na ng Malakanyang

REP. BENJAMIN AGARAO JR. SLAMS BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS, VOWS LEGAL ACTION

Benjamin C. Agarao Jr.
Representative, 4th District Laguna

PRESS STATEMENT

I categorically deny the allegations of The Spouses Discaya that I asked money from them in exchange for projects in my district in Laguna. **HINDI PO YAN TOTOO. WALA PO SILANG PROYEKTO SA AKING DISTRITO.**

I am consulting my lawyers. I will sue them for libel and perjury. Hindi ko hahayaan na sirain nila ng ganun lang ang pangalan at reputasyon ko na iningatan ko ng mahabang panahon.

Bumaba ang Krimen sa Laguna dahil sa 5-Minute Response at CCTV sa mga Patrol Vehicles

Over 1,000 Calamba Youth Receive Financial Aid Through AICS Payout Led by Mayor Ross Rizal, Supported by Sen. Risa Hontiveros

FORMER-PRES. DUTERTE, LUMALALA ANG PAGKA-ULYANIN HABANG NASA ICC – KAUFMAN

Editoryal:

24 BARKO NG CHINA, NAMATAAN SA AYUNGIN SHOAL BAGO PA MAN ANG POSIBLENG RESUPPLY MISSION – PN OFFICIAL

Namataan ang presensiya ng 24 na barko ng China sa Ayungin Shoal bago pa man ang posibleng resupply mission sa BRP Sierra Madre.

Kinumpirma ni Philippine Navy spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea Rear Admiral Roy Vincent Trinidad na naispatan ang apat na barko ng China Coast Guard at 20 Chinese maritime militia vessels sa lugar kahapon, Setyembre 4.

Aniya, dati nasa apat na maritime militia lamang at dalawang Coast Guard vessels ang nasa lugar marahil dahil sa hindi magandang lagay ng panahon subalit sa nakalipas na apat o limang araw ay mahigit 20 Chinese vessels ang namataan.

Tumanggi namang magbigay ng detalye ang Navy official sa magiging susunod na resupply mission sa BRP Sierra Madre subalit iginiit ng opisyal na hindi maaaring pabayaan ang pangangailangan ng mga kasundaluhang nakaistasyon sa outpost ng ating bansa sa WPS.

Aniya, nakadepende sa commander ng Western Command ang mga detalye ng susunod na rotation and resupply (RORE) mission.

Subalit ayon kay Rear Adm. Trinidad, huling isinagawa ang resupply mission sa BRP Sierra Madre noong Hulyo.

Former-Pres...

FROM PAGE 1

Binigyang linaw ngayon ng legal team ni dating Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte ang dahilan nila ng paghiling ng adjourn proceedings sa kinakaharap nitong war on drugs sa International Criminal Court.

Ayon kay Nicholas Kaufman, ang lead counsel ni Duterte, na dumaranas ang 80-anyos na dating pangulo ng 'cognitive impairment' kaya hindi ito maaring dumalo sa pagdinig.

Maging ang kaniyang mga anak aniya ay hindi nakikilala ng dating pangulo at hindi rin nito maalala ang mga kaso na kinakaharap niya.

Dahil dito ay naniniwala sila na hindi mag-iimprove ang kalusugan ng dating pangulo kaya hiniling nila sa Pre-Trial Chamber na dapat ay i-adjourn na ang lahat ng mga legal proceedings sa kaso nito ng indefinitely.

Over 1,000...

FROM PAGE 1

Calamba City, Laguna — More than 1,000 young beneficiaries from Calamba received financial assistance during the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) Payout held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum.

The initiative was spearheaded by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal in partnership with Senator Risa Hontiveros, who extended her support to provide much-needed aid to Calamba's youth and their families.

Mayor Rizal emphasized the importance of the program, noting that the financial assistance will help address the immediate needs of the recipients and ease the burden of their families.

"This is a big step toward supporting our youth and strengthening the foundation of their families. We are deeply grateful to Senator Risa Hontiveros for her continued care for the young people of Calamba," Rizal said.

The event highlights the collaborative efforts of the local government and national leaders to extend meaningful support to communities, particularly the youth sector.

(Edjun Mariposque)

EO...

FROM PAGE 1

Inilabas na ng Palasyo ng Malacañang ang Executive Order 94 hinggil sa pagbuo ng Independent Commission for Infrastructure o ICI.

Ang Executive Order number 94 ay nilagdaan ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr

Binuo ang Independent Commission para imbestigahan ang mga iregularidad at korapsyon sa mga flood control at iba pang infrastructure projects ng pamahalaan sa loob ng nakalipas na sampung taon.

Ang fact-finding commission ay binubuo ng tatlong miyembro, isang chairperson at dalawang myembro na may matibay na reputasyon pagdating sa integridad at pagiging patas.

May kapangyarihan ang ICI na magsagawa ng imbestigasyon, maglabas ng subpoena, mangalap ng ebidensya, at irekomenda ang pagsasampa ng kaso laban sa mga sangkot sa anomalya, opisyal man ng gobyerno o pribadong indibidwal.

P r a y o r i d a d ng komisyon ang mga proyekto ng flood control, lalo at maraming ulat ng misuse of funds at irregularities sa implementasyon nito.

Target ng komisyon na matukoy at kung sinu-sino ang dapat panagutin, at kung paano maiiwasan ang pag-abuso sa pondo ng bayan.

May kapangyarihan ang ICI na irekumenda na i-freeze ang mga ari-arian, i-hold ang byahe ng mga iniimbestigahan, o agad silang suspendihin para hindi makapanghimasok sa ebidensya.

Maaaring iakyat ng komisyon ang mga natuklasan sa Office of the President, Department of Justice, Office of the Ombudsman, at iba pang ahensya para sa karampatang aksyon.

Sa nasabing Executive Order, inatasan din ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan na makipagtulungan dito, habang ang mga hindi makikiisa ay maaaring masampahan ng disciplinary action.

Nagsumite...

FROM PAGE 1

Una na ring hiniling ng kampo ng dating pangulo na sana ay payagan na ng gobyerno ng Pilipinas ang pagpapauwi sa kaniya kapag naaprubahan na ang hirit nilang interim release.

Larawan ni Arjo Atayde kasama ang dating DPWH official na sangkot sa maanumalyang flood control projects, muling umani ng kontrobersiya

Muling nabalot sa kontrobersiya si Quezon City 1st District Representative Arjo Atayde matapos lumabas ang mga larawan niya sa courtside ng isang PBA game noong Hulyo 9, 2025, kasama ang dating DPWH Bulacan district engineer na si Henry Alcantara, na kamakailan ay pinatalsik sa serbisyo dahil sa pagkakasangkot sa mga substandard at 'ghost' flood control projects.

Kasama rin sa litrato sina Daniel Padilla at Zanjoe Marudo.

Si Alcantara ay iniimbestigahan dahil umano sa kickbacks para sa ilang mambabatas, pagtanggap ng "finder's fee" mula sa mga kontratista, at pagsusugal ng milyon-milyon sa casino.

M a a a l a l a n g si Atayde ay isa sa 17 opisyal ng gobyerno na pinangalanan nina Pacifico "Curlee" at Cezarah "Sarah" Discaya bilang mga umano'y humingi ng kickback mula sa kanilang mga proyekto mula pa noong 2022.

Samantala una nang itinanggi ni Atayde ang mga alegasyon at iginiit na wala siyang personal na kakilala mula sa mga kontraktor.

Gayunman, kumalat sa social media ang mga larawan niya kasama ang mga Discaya sa kanyang opisina at sa harapan ng flood control project ng Wawao Builders, isang kumpanyang nakaabang nang i-blacklist ng Malacañang.

HIGH-VALUE TARGETS ARESTADO NG PDEA AT PNP

D a l a w a n g suspek na tinaguriang high-value drug personalities ang arestado ng pinagsamang operatiba ng PDEA Rizal Provincial Office at PNP RIU4A-PIT sa isinagawang buy-bust operation sa Barangay Bilibiran, Binangonan, Rizal.

Nitong Setyembre 11, 2025 sa ganap na 7:10 ng gabi, nadakip ng mga operatiba ang mga suspek na nakilalang sina alias Bona, 49, lalaki, may asawa, businessman at alias Jennia, 30, babae, may asawa, business owner, parehong residente ng Barangay Bilibiran, Binangonan, Rizal

Nasamsam sa dalawa ang humigit kumulang na 50 gramo ng pinaghihinalaang shabu na may halagang Php340,000.00, isang unit ng ,22 caliber pistol, 2 magazine ng .22mm, at buy-bust money.

S a s a m p a h a n ng kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9165 o ng Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 ang dalawang suspek na ngayon ay pansamantalagang nakakulong sa PDEA Regional Office 4A Custodial Facility sa Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

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

MANDY HALE

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Bumaba ang Krimen...

FROM PAGE 1

Nagiging huwaran ang Laguna sa usapin ng pampublikong kaligtasan matapos na patuloy na bumaba ang bilang ng krimen sa probinsya.

Ipinahayag ni P/Col. Jonar Yupio, Provincial Director ng Laguna PNP, na malaking dahilan ng pagbaba ng krimen ang mas mabilis na pagtugon at paggamit ng makabagong teknolohiya sa pagpapatrolya.

Nakagamit na ngayon ng 88 patrol vehicles ang kapulisan na may kasamang CCTV cameras na Bumaba ang Krimen sa Laguna dahil sa 5-Minute Response at CCTV sa mga Patrol Vehicles

Nagiging huwaran ang Laguna sa usapin ng pampublikong kaligtasan matapos na patuloy na bumaba ang bilang ng krimen sa probinsya.

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Nakagamit na ngayon ng 88 patrol vehicles ang kapulisan na may kasamang CCTV cameras na direktang nagpapadala ng live feed sa headquarters. Dahil dito, ang Laguna ang naging kauna-unahan sa CALABARZON at isa sa mga nangunguna sa buong bansa sa pagpapatupad ng ganitong inobasyon.

Sa sistemang ito, nagagawa ng mga pulis na makarating sa mga insidente ng krimen o aksidente sa loob lamang ng tatlo hanggang limang minuto.

Bawat patrol vehicle ay may GPS location tracking na nakatutulong upang mas mabilis na matukoy at maipadala ang mga tauhan sa tamang lugar.

Mas napalakas din ang pagbabantay at mas malinaw ang pananagutan ng mga pulis dahil sa CCTV integration.

Bahagi ito ng mas pinaigting na programa sa seguridad ni Governor Sol Aragones. Kabilang dito ang mas malawak na paggamit ng 911 emergency hotline, pagpapalawak ng drone-assisted surveillance sa ilalim ng Laguna Eye, at dagdag na CCTV coverage sa iba't ibang lugar ng probinsya. Simula nang maupo ang Gobernadora, patuloy na bumababa ang naitatalang insidente ng krimen.

Upang ipakita ang bisa ng sistema, nagsagawa ng biglaang drills ang kapulisan ng Laguna. Sa Calamba, nakarating ang mga pulis sa loob ng apat na minuto, habang sa Los Baños ay dalawang minuto lamang patunay na posible ang target na five-minute response sa aktuwal na sitwasyon.

Sa pamamagitan ng mas maayos na koordinasyon, paggamit ng makabagong teknolohiya, at suporta ng pamahalaang panlalawigan, patuloy na naitatampok ang Laguna bilang nangunguna sa makabagong pagpapatupad ng kaayusan at kaligtasan.

Samantala, ilulunsad ng Provincial Information Office (PIO) ng Laguna ang bagong dokumentaryong segment na pinamagatang "SOLusyon Kontra Krimen." Tampok dito ang mga kwento ng gawaing pulisya, mga hakbang laban sa krimen, at mga inobasyong nagpapatibay sa kaligtasan ng mamamayan.

Layunin nitong mailapit sa publiko ang araw-araw na pagsisikap ng kapulisan mula sa mga drills na sumusukat sa bilis ng tugon, hanggang sa paggamit ng mga modernong kagamitan tulad ng drone cameras, GPS tracking, at CCTV-equipped patrol vehicles. Sa pamamagitan nito, inaasahang mas tataas ang kamalayan ng mamamayan, lalakas ang pakikilahok ng komunidad, at higit na maipapakita na ang kapayapaan at kaayusan ay pananagutan ng lahat.

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CARAVAN LAUNCHED BY IMUS LGU, BRINGS SERVICES DIRECTLY TO BARANGAYS

More than one thousand residents in Barangay Buhay na Tubig benefited from the newest community outreach initiative by the city government.

The formal launch of the "AAksyon Caravan", which took place yesterday, September 8, 2025, aimed to bring essential government services closer to the community by offering a wide array of social, medical, and legal assistance directly within local barangays.

The program underscores the city's strong commitment to making government services more accessible to every Imuseño.

Residents of the said barangay were among the first to benefit from the caravan's comprehensive lineup of services, which includes medical consultations, social welfare assistance, and legal aid—all provided on-site and free of charge.

Mayor Alex "AA" Advincula, who spearheaded the said program, emphasized that the AAksyon Caravan reflects the city's ongoing commitment to make government programs more accessible and responsive to the needs of every Imuseño.

Among the key services provided during the inaugural rollout were free legal consultations and notary services facilitated by the City Legal Office, and complimentary late birth registration services handled by the City Civil Registrar. Medical teams from the City Health Office and Ospital ng Imus also conducted free consultations and distributed medicines.

In collaboration with the Office of Cavite 3rd District Representative Adrian Jay "AJ" C. Advincula, additional services such as free dentures, eye consultations, prescription eyeglasses, and cataract surgeries were made available. Support services from the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs, Persons with Disability Affairs, and the City Social Welfare and Development Office were also extended to attendees.

The AAksyon Caravan is set to roll out across various barangays in the coming months, continuing its mission to empower communities through direct, on-the-ground public service delivery.

Mayor Advincula also held a People's Day session as part of the event, personally engaging with residents to listen to their concerns and address community needs on the spot.

The said caravan underscores the city government's effort to foster inclusive public service by ensuring that no Imuseño is left behind. The initiative reinforces the administration's commitment to participatory governance, where citizens are not only beneficiaries but also key partners in shaping local development. PIA

LGU CARMONA WINS 1ST RUNNER-UP & PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AT THE 2025 CBMS GAWAD GALING LOKAL-REGIONAL LEVEL

Kinilala ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Carmona, sa pangunguna ng Office of the City Planning and Development Coordinator bilang 1st Runner-Up sa 2025 Community-Based Monitoring System (CBMS) Gawad Galing Lokal - Regional Level ng Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) – CALABARZON kamakailan. Kinilala rin ang Lokal na Pamahalaan bilang People's Choice Awardee ng nasabing parangal.

Ito ang patunay ng matagumpay na hakbang at programa para sa makabuluhang paggamit ng mga datos mula sa sa CBMS alinsunod sa ating hangarin na "Building Agile, Resilient, and Future-Ready Filipino Communities through Data-Driven Systems". Taos-pusong pasasalamat sa lahat ng kawani at mamamayan na nagkaisa para mapagtagumpayan ang pagkilalang ito.

BIR to conduct parallel audit, probe on anomalous flood control contractors

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Following President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr.'s orders to hold accountable contractors allegedly involved in anomalous flood control projects, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has announced the conduct of parallel audit and investigation on unscrupulous contractors to determine irregularities in their tax liabilities.

In a recent online statement , BIR Commissioner Romeo Lumagui Jr. announced that the Bureau will conduct a parallel investigation into contractors involved in irregular flood control projects and emphasized that any contractors found to have underpaid or evaded taxes will not be issued an updated tax clearance by the BIR.

"I have ordered an immediate tax fraud audit against contractors involved in anomalous flood control projects. While the President's investigation is ongoing, the Bureau will conduct a parallel audit of their tax returns and payments," Commissioner said.

He added: "If tax underpayment or evasion is proven, they will be denied for an updated tax clearance, and have their contract settlement suspended, and they will be disqualified from future government projects."

For projects identified as "ghost," the Bureau will disallow all related costs and expenses once the appropriate agency confirms the non-existence of such projects.

Lumagui then emphasized that if there is no project, there should be no deductible expenses, and a tax deficiency assessment will follow.

The order is in accordance with the provisions of Revenue Regulation No. 17-2024 (RR No. 17-2024), which mandates government contractors without Income Tax Return (ITR) and updated tax clearances be excluded from government projects.

In Revenue Region 9B-LaQueMar (Laguna-Quezon-Marinduque), Regional Director lawyer Michael Remir Macatangay affirmed their commitment to the Bureau's call by working to identify potential tax deficiencies and holding those accountable, stressing the importance of transparency and accountability in the use of public funds.

"We will focus on ensuring the correct taxes are paid, and if contractors defrauded the government, we will hold them accountable, and file cases.

Commissioner Lumagui urged us to report, whether it's an anonymous complaint or information, and we will follow through. Believe me, we will follow through," Macatangay said during the Ugnayan at Talakayan sa Laguna program on August 27.

The BIR director also mentioned that the issues surrounding the flood control projects are discouraging taxpayers from paying the correct taxes, as they believe government funds are ending up in the pockets of contractors. He stated that if this continues, it would be a disservice to the Filipino people.

"If we believe in that kind of point of view, no one will pay taxes, no one will operate, there will be no roads, no teachers, everything will be lost, and I think that would be a disservice to the people, as they won't receive the services they need because of such news."

BIR urged the public to cooperate and report any information related to anomalous flood control projects via commissioner@bir.gov.ph to hold contractors accountable for their possible tax obligations.

LIBRENG DERMA SERVICES, ILULUNSAD NG BACOOR LGU

Magsisimula na sa buwan ng Nobyembre ang paghahatid ng libreng dermatological services mula sa pamahalaang lungsod ng Bacoor. Sa pagtutulungan ng Cavite East Asia Medical Center at tanggapan ng City Health Services, layon ng derma clinic na makapagbigay ng abot-kayang dermatological services para sa mga Bacooreño.

Siniguro naman ni Mayor Strike Revilla na patuloy na maghahatid ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga serbisyo para sa kalusugan at kapakanan ng kanilang mga kababayan. | via Strike B. Revilla

CONSTRUCTING DREAMS INTO REALITY

Inside RF Dacumos Corporation: Florabelle F. Decamus (leftmost, wearing yellow), a proud client of CARD SME Bank from Zambales, alongside her dedicated team, has proven that with collective effort and effective leadership, achieving business goals is not only possible but also feasible and attainable.

For Florablle F. Dacumos, a 54-year-old entrepreneur from San Narcisso in Zambales, success is not just about building a business but creating opportunities, staying true to your values, and helping others rise with you.

Back then, she and her husband were just trying to make ends meet. They sold mangoes, a business that is typical of their hometown, hoping to bring in enough to provide for their family.

But dreaming of something bigger, life led them to venture in another line of business.

From fruit to foundation

Seeking better opportunities, they ventured into ironworks and aluminum glass. As competitors emerged, they shifted to selling construction materials.

Gradually, they gained the trust of their community as a primary supplier of roofing sheets and other building essentials.

Their business gained an edge by establishing its roofing sheet manufacturing facility. Being the only supplier in their area with a roll-forming machine, they offer high-quality products at lower prices.

They supply materials such as steel, wood, paint, cement, hollow blocks, and roofing sheets to resorts, road-widening projects, and other construction sites.

As the business grew, Florabelle became a client of CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI, opening new doors for their business.

She started with an initial loan of PHP 300,000, which later grew to PHP 2,000,000, allowing them to invest in modern machinery and expand operations.

"Aside from our dedication and unified efforts, CARD SME Bank has played a crucial role in our growth.

Through its financial assistance, they enabled us to invest in advanced machinery and improve our services," Florabelle said.

To further improve business efficiency, they plan to acquire a double roll-forming machine and implement a more systematic transaction recording system.

Additionally, they will also integrate responsible business practices, such as using eco-friendly machinery and ensuring proper waste management.

With her thriving construction business, Florabelle now employs 44 workers to meet growing demand.

They treat their employees like family, and provide them with basic benefits such as SSS, Pag-IBIG, and PhilHealth, with annual bonuses and gifts.

Beyond financial support, they promote a strong spiritual bond by organizing church gatherings and bible studies.

Overcoming challenges and embracing opportunities

Like any business, they also faced challenges.

Some attempted to tarnish their reputation, but by maintaining quality products and fair pricing, they earned the loyalty of their customers.

With the success of the business, Florabelle won the Gawad Maunlad (SME National Winner) at the Pagkilala sa Mga Likha ni Inay Awards 2024, held in San Pablo City, Laguna, on December 11, 2024 .

It is an event recognizing the success and positive impact of CARD entrepreneurs on their communities.

Looking back, Florabelle sees how their lives have changed.

Their business has expanded, they have acquired essential equipment, and built their dream home.

For her, success is rooted in faith, trust, and treating employees as family.

"Through dedication and resilience, I hope our story proves that dreams are not just imagined; that they are built through hard work and unwavering faith in God," she concluded. PR

Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Escudero, isinusulong ang 'negative list' para mapigilan ang mga walang kwentang proyekto ng DPWH

Hinimok ni Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero ang Malacañang na bumuo ng tinatawag na "negative list" o talaan ng mga proyektong pang-imprastruktura na hindi dapat pondohan sa ilalim ng pambansang badyet para sa 2026.

Ito aniya ay dapat agad na i-veto ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. dahil nagiging dahilan lamang ito ng pag-aaksaya ng pondo na mas kailangan sa mahahalagang programa.

Ayon sa senador, mas mainam na maging maagap at tukuyin na agad kung anu-anong proyekto ang hindi dapat isama sa budget kaysa hintayin pang makalusot ang mga kuwestiyonableng proyekto.

Aniya, babaha ng mga walang silbing proyekto kung hindi lilinawin kung alin ang dapat ipagbawal, at nararapat na walang ilaan na pondo para sa mga proyektong hindi naman nagbibigay ng benepisyo.

Kabilang sa mga iminungkahi niyang isama sa negative list ang mga mababang halaga ngunit labis na overpriced na kagamitan sa kalsada gaya ng reflective studs o "cat's eyes," slope protection nets at mga pintura.

Gayundin, dapat ding alisin ang mga tinawag niyang "vanity projects" gaya ng waiting sheds, swimming pools, signages at iba pang hindi pangunahing pangangailangan na madalas maging dahilan ng pang-aabuso at pag-aaksaya sa pondo.

Tinitingnan din ng Senate President ang posibilidad ng pagpapataw ng moratorium sa mga bagong flood control projects ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) para sa 2026, lalo't nananatiling hindi pa naipatutupad ang bilyon-bilyong pisong alokasyon sa ilalim ng badyet para sa 2025.

Binigyang-diin niya na dapat munang tapusin ang mga nakabinbing proyekto at ayusin ang sistema bago ipagpatuloy ang mga ito, upang mabigyan ng pagkakataon si DPWH Secretary Dizon na ayusin muna ang pamamalakad.

Iminungkahi rin ni Escudero na ilaan ang pondo sa mas makabuluhang proyekto gaya ng waste-to-energy plants, refuse-derived fuel facilities at iba pang hakbang laban sa basura, baradong daluyan ng tubig at bumababang kapasidad ng mga ilog at daluyan na pangunahing dahilan ng pagbaha sa Metro Manila at iba pang lungsod.

Rep. Benjamin...

FROM PAGE 1

Congressman Benjamin Agarao Jr., representative of Laguna's 4th District, has strongly denied bribery allegations hurled against him by contractor spouses Pacifico and Cezarah Discaya during a Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing on alleged corruption in flood-control projects.

In a statement released Monday September 8, 2025, Agarao firmly refuted the accusations:

"I categorically deny the allegations of The Spouses Discaya that I asked money from them in exchange for projects in my district in Laguna. **HINDI PO YAN TOTOO. WALA PO SILANG PROYEKTO SA AKING DISTRITO."**

The Discayas, in their sworn affidavit, had implicated several lawmakers and officials from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), alleging that they were pressured to give "advance commissions" of up to 25% of project costs to secure infrastructure contracts.

Agarao's name appeared among those listed.

Visibly angered, Agarao declared his intent to take legal steps to defend his reputation:

"I am consulting my lawyers. I will sue them for libel and perjury. Hindi ko hahayaan na sirain nila ng ganun lang ang pangalan at reputasyon ko na iningatan ko ng mahabang panahon."

He underscored that the Discayas have no active projects in his district, questioning the credibility of their claims.

As the Senate probe continues, Agarao joins other officials who have pushed back against the Discayas' testimony. Legal experts predict a series of libel and perjury cases as those implicated move to protect their names.

(Edjun Mariposque)

PUBLISHER CORNER

WHY IS THE ONLY CHRISTIAN NATION IN ASIA SO CORRUPT?

A post has been making the rounds on Facebook asking why corruption is so rampant in the Philippines — the only Christian nation in Asia. It's a painful question, but one we can't dodge. We love to boast of churches packed every Sunday, of fiestas and novenas painting the streets with color, of processions and pilgrimages that display our devotion. And yet, year after year, we also rank among the most corrupt nations in the region. Faith is loud, but justice is silent.

The truth is, we Filipinos often wear religion like a festival mask — dazzling, colorful, spectacular — but beneath it lurks a darker face. Leaders kneel in church in the morning, then plunder in the afternoon. Chapels rise from stolen funds, bishops bless ribbon-cuttings, and beggars still wait outside, hand outstretched, while candles flicker and choirs sing inside.

Corruption is not an isolated vice here; it has sunk deep into our bloodstream. From the barangay captain handing out envelopes of cash to secure votes, to legislators gorging on pork barrels, to presidents toppling under scandal, corruption runs from the grassroots to Malacañang itself. It is not the exception; it is the habit of the nation.

But, in fairness, corruption is not uniquely ours. It is as old as humanity itself. Human nature is broken. Augustine called it "original sin" — meaning that we are born with a bent toward selfishness. Martin Luther went further, saying we are simul iustus et peccator — a Latin phrase that simply means: "at the same time righteous and a sinner." Even when God forgives us and calls us His own, we still wrestle with greed, lust, and pride. We can pray sincerely and still lie. We can kneel honestly and still steal. That tension is the human condition — and corruption is its most visible fruit. Other religions say the same in their own way. Islam warns of the nafs — the restless ego inside us that always wants more. Hindu epics are full of kings and warriors undone by greed for power. Buddhist and Confucian histories tell of dynasties collapsing because rulers lost their sense of virtue. The Philippines is not special in this weakness; it's part of being human.

Other Christian nations have also been riddled with corruption. Italy, Spain, Russia, Latin America — lands steeped in faith yet scarred by graft.

I look to Western Europe not as holier, but as a kind of reluctant beacon. Its integrity was not born of piety but of pain. Reformations shattered religious power, revolutions toppled monarchies, wars exposed the cost of arrogance, and national humiliations stripped away illusions. Out of that long, brutal schooling came systems — flawed, but real — that punish greed and reward fairness.

The bitter irony is: it was Christian values — honesty, justice, human dignity — that reshaped those societies, even as their churches grew emptier. Walk into a quiet chapel in Switzerland today and you may find only a handful praying. But step outside, and you will see hospitals that serve the sick, schools that shape citizens, and laws that hold leaders accountable.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, the flood control projects scandal is just the newest proof that corruption isn't an exception — it's the rule. Money meant to protect poor families from floods was siphoned off into kickbacks and private accounts. Concrete meant for dikes hardened instead into the walls of private mansions. When even disasters become business opportunities for thieves, what does that say about us?

This is the shameful contrast: empty pews in a just society are better than overflowing pews in a corrupt one. Better a quiet church in Europe, where pews may be bare but the poor are fed, than a jam-packed basilica in Manila where hymns roar to the rafters while politicians in the front pew smile like saints and beggars outside go hungry.

Because really — what good is incense if the air outside stinks of injustice? What good are hymns if they drown out the cries of the poor? What good is the Body of Christ on the altar if the body of the nation is already decomposing from corruption?

And this is where the blade must cut deeper: no amount of preaching will fix this unless the Church itself repents. Too often we have blessed dynasties, accepted donations from dirty hands, and cozied up to the powerful instead of standing with the powerless. When chapels are built with stolen money and priests shake hands with plunderers at fiestas, the Church is not confronting corruption — it is baptizing it. We cannot call the nation to repent unless we ourselves repent first.

So where do we begin? By letting the Gospel seep deeper — not just into our rituals, but into our conscience, our institutions, our politics. By forming schools that build integrity. By creating systems that force accountability. By preaching that convicts instead of entertains. By raising leaders — both political and religious — who lead by example.

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

ANG PAGGUNITA SA IKA-129th NG KABAYANIHAN NG XIII MARTIR NG CAVITE

Ang 13 Martír ng Cavíte (Trece Martires) ay binitay ng mga Español noong 12 Setyembre 1896 sa harap ng Plaza de Armas, malapit sa San Felipe, Lungsod Cavite.

Napaghinalaan ang labintatlo na kabilang sa nagbalak ibagsak ang mga Español nang mag-alsa ang mga taga-Cavite sa pamumunò ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo noong31 Agosto 1896. Dinakip silá, ikinulong, madaliang nilitis, at hinatulan ng kamatayan.

Ipinalalagay na namatay dahil sa makabayang layunin, ang labintatlo ay sina Maximo Inocencio, Jose Lallana, Eugenio Cabezas, Maximo Gregorio, Hugo Perez, Severino Lapidario, Alfonso de Ocampo, Francisco Osorio, Antonio San Agustin, Luis Aguado, Agapito Conchu, Victoriano Luciano, at Feliciano Cabuco. Matapos barilin, sáma-sámang ibinaón ang mga bangkay sa sementeryo ng mga Katoliko sa Caridad, Cavite.

1 NPA dead, firearm recovered in Ormin encounter

CAMP CAPINPIN, Rizal – A terrorist NPA was killed and war materiel were recovered by soldiers if the Army's 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) following an armed encounter in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro, Tuesday, September 9.

Reports from the 203rd Infantry Brigade (203Bde) said that troops were conducting security operations after receiving information from local residents about the presence of armed men in Barangay San Vicente.

They encountered terrorist NPAs, leading to a 10-minute firefight.

The clash resulted in the death of one NPA terrorist, whose identity has yet to be determined.

Recovered at the encounter site were an M16 rifle, two magazines, and a medical kit.

No casualties were reported on the government side.

This development comes as 2ID further intensifies its focused military operations against the dwindling NPA forces in Mindoro, aiming to sustain pressure on the communist movement and ensure the lasting safety and security of local communities in the province.

DON'T BE
Afraid
For I AM WITH
You
ISAIAH 43:5

DERETSAHAN WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

DIRECTORS CLUB FINALLY OPENS AT SM CITY DASMARIÑAS, CAVITE

SM City Dasmariñas has officially opened its Directors Club cinema, marking the launch with a special screening of the horror film The Conjuring: Last Rites.

The event began with an opening prayer and blessing attended by media practitioners and influencers, including Lakwatsero Caviteño, RUNCAV Management Talents and many more. The launch also featured cosplay characters from Demon Slayer and the well known Valak.

The newly opened Directors Club offers a more intimate movie experience, featuring leather recliner seats, complimentary snacks and drinks, and personalized service.

Directors Club aims to provide a premium and private movie experience for audiences, whether watching solo, with family, or with friends.

For bookings, you may email customer***care@smcinema.com*** or visit ***www.smcinema.com*** to reserve your exclusive screening experience. (Alexa C./Samantha A. – CAVSU)

IN PHOTOS: The Social Security System (SSS) launched the MySSS Card and Alagang SSS Program — two new initiatives aimed at bringing greater ease and care to members and pensioners, in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s commitment to strengthening social protection for all Filipinos. The MySSS Card serves as both a functional ID and a bank account, providing easy access to SSS benefits and loans, while the Alagang SSS Program offers discounts on select medicines for members aged 60 and above, promoting senior wellness. The launch, held earlier today, highlighted the directive of Finance Secretary and Social Security Commission (SSC) Chair Ralph G. Recto, represented by DOF Undersecretary Rolando G. Tungpalan. SSS attendees were led by President and CEO Robert Joseph M. De Claro, and members of the Social Security Commission, as the SSS continues to enhance service delivery.

be still
and know
PSALM 46:10

MPTC Announces New Leadership Appointments

Santa Maria named President and CEO; Conde appointed Interim Group CFO; Reñon to lead NLEX; and Pangilinan to head MPT South

2025 MPTC New Execs (From left: Christopher Andrew B. Pangilinan as President and General Manager of MPT South Corp, Marisa V. Conde as the Interim MPTC Group Chief Finance Officer, Gilbert F. Santa Maria as President & Chief Executive Officer, and Luis S. Reñon as President and General Manager of NLEX Corporation.

Manila, Philippines — September 3, 2025. Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC)—the holding company of the country's premier tollways under Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC)—today announced a slate of leadership changes effective immediately, led by the appointment of Gilbert F. Santa Maria as President & Chief Executive Officer, succeeding tollways veteran Jose Ma. K. Lim. The company also named Marisa V. Conde as Interim MPTC Group Chief Finance Officer, Luis S. Reñon as President and General Manager of NLEX Corporation, and Christopher Andrew B. Pangilinan as President and General Manager of MPT South Corp. in a concurrent capacity with his role as President & CEO of Metro Pacific Water.

Santa Maria brings nearly three decades of senior leadership across aviation, technology-enabled services, and infrastructure, leading large organizations through transformation in local and international markets.

"Tollways are nation-building in motion. Our mandate is to keep people and goods moving—finish the projects in the pipeline, raise the customer experience, and deploy technology toward interoperable toll collection in close partnership with regulators and communities," said Santa Maria.

Conde is a seasoned finance executive within the MPIC Group with extensive experience in controllership, treasury, and corporate finance across Philippine and international markets, and will oversee group-wide financial strategy during the interim period.

Reñon will head NLEX Corporation, concessionaire of the key North Luzon corridors NLEX, SCTEX, and NLEX Connector, supporting mobility and commerce across Metro Manila, Central, and North Luzon.

Pangilinan will lead MPT South, which covers CAVITEX (including the C5 Link) and CALAX, serving the growth corridors of Cavite and Laguna, while continuing to head Metro Pacific Water.

Mr. Lim will support a smooth leadership transition and continue his broader advisory and board responsibilities within the MPIC Group.

About Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation

MPTC is the leading toll road developer and operator in the Philippines and the holding company of premier tollways including NLEX, SCTEX, CAVITEX, CALAX, NLEX Connector, and CCLEX in Cebu, with investments in Indonesia and Vietnam.