

MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING PINASINAYAAN SA LUNSOD NG SAN PABLO

LAGUNA- Isang makasaysayang proyekto ang naihatid sa mga mamamayan ng Brgy. Sta. Maria makaraang isagawa ang blessing at pagpapasinaya ng bagong Multi-Purpose Covered Court, handog nina Congressman Loreto S. Amante at dating San Pablo City Mayor Vicente B. Amante, Ngayon ika-16 ng Oktubre 2025.

Magsisilbing itong sentro ng mga pam-

pamayanang aktibidad gaya ng sports events, barangay assemblies, disaster response operations, at iba pang programang pangkaunlaran ng lokal na pamahalaan.

Taos pusong nagpasalamat si Chairman Renato Brion Jr. sa mag-amang Amante na kung hindi dahil sa kanilang mag-ama ay hindi sila magkakaroon ng ligtas na lugar na pagdadausan ng kanilang mga aktibidad. (KEVIN PAMATMAT)



Mayor Ross Rizal Joins “Mayors for Literacy” Movement to Champion Education and Reading in Calamba

Calamba City Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal proudly joins the national initiative “Bayang Bumabasa: Mayors for Literacy”, a program that underscores the vital role of local leaders in promoting education, reading, and lifelong learning across the country.

In his message, Mayor Rizal expressed his strong support for the campaign, saying, “Nakikiisa po ang inyong Mayor Ross Rizal sa ‘Bayang Bumabasa: Mayors for Literacy’.

Kaisa po tayo para sa pagbida ng ating mga education and literacy initiatives at best practices sa ating Lungsod.”

Under Mayor Rizal’s leadership, Calamba City continues to implement various programs that strengthen education and literacy among youth and communities—ranging from reading development projects to scholarship grants and partnerships with local schools.

The “Bayang Bumabasa” campaign aims to inspire every Filipino community to nurture a culture of reading and learning.

Mayor Rizal’s participation reflects his continuing commitment to empowering Calambenos through knowledge, education, and inclusive opportunities for growth.

With the support of the local government and its education partners, Calamba City stands as a beacon for literacy excellence—proving that a city that reads is a city that succeeds.

(Edjun Mariposque)

be still and know



Bayang Bumabasa
Mayors for Literacy

Ang challenge ay isang movement na!

Hindi natatapos sa unang 14 Mayors na lumahok sa Bayang Bumabasa: Mayors for Literacy challenge ang misyon nating itaguyod at isulong ang literacy sa bawat komunidad. Ito ay isang open-source movement na para sa lahat ng Mayors sa Pilipinas!



Calling all Mayors! Kabilang ba kayo at ang inyong LGUs sa #BayangBumabasa?

#ItaasAngAntas #BangonEdukasyon
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PANUNUMPA AT PAGPAPAHAYAG NG SUPORTA SA CALAMBA VOLUNTEERS GROUP

PAGE 02



KONSEHAL PIO DIMAPILIS

Hotline inilunsad ng Mayors for Good Governance



Inilunsad ng Mayors for Good Governance (M4GG) ang hotline para agad na maiparating ng publiko ang maanom-alyang proyekto ng gobyerno sa kanilang lugar.

Tinawag ito na REPORT INFRA para magkaroon ng ligtas at accesible channel ang mga mamamayan, empleyado ng gobyerno, contractors at mga negosyante na mamamahagi ng beripikadong impormasyon o ebidensiya ng mga ibat'-ibang uri ng anomalya.

Maaring tumawag ang publiko at magsumite ng tip sa telepono (02) 8459-0143 mula Lunes hanggang Biyerne ng alas-9 ng umaga hanggang alas-4 ng hapon o sa pamamagitan ng online sa reportinfra

Sinabi ni Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong isa sa mga bahagi ng coalition na itinaguyod ang hotline para mabilis na maiparating ng mga tao ang kanilang hinaing at mga nakikitang anomalya sa mga iba't-ibang proyekto ng gobyerno.

Bawat isinusumitang impormasyon ay maingat na in-aaral ng kanilang legal at technical team at ang mga verified reports ay kanilang isusumite sa Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI).

(ND)

DepEd Calabarzon strengthens child protection measures amid shortage of mental health professionals

DOH: No outbreak of influenza-like illnesses

PIA Calabarzon warns public vs misinformation amid disaster

SSS launches EMV-equipped, dual-function MySSS Card

Raising the Bar for Cacao: DTI 4-A Holds Regional Judging for Calabarzon's Finest Beans



The Department of Trade and Industry Region 4-A successfully conducted the Regional Judging and Evaluation for the Calabarzon Cacao Quality Award 2025 on October 7-8, 2025 at Flor and Daisy Agricultural Farm, Sariaya, Quezon. The activity was conducted in partnership with the Department of Agriculture 4-A, the University of the Philippine Los Baños- Institute of Food Science and Technology, and the Calabarzon Cacao Industry Federation, Inc., with support from the Offices of the Provincial Agriculturists in Batangas, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon and Rizal.

The CCQA aims to recognize outstanding fermented cacao beans in the region and promote quality standards and best postharvest practices among cacao producers. Results will be formally announced during the Calabarzon Cacao Congress 2025, to be held on October 22-24 at the Quezon Convention Center, Lucena City.



Editoryal:

MAY APELYIDO, WALA ANG SERBISYO

Isang batang ipinanganak na may lahat. May yaman, koneksyon, pangalan, at kapangyarihan. Galing sa dinastiyang pamilya sa Cavite. Hindi nagtapos ng kolehiyo. Walang academic honors o anumang natatanging ambag sa larangan ng edukasyon o trabaho. Walang naranasang gutom, hirap, o pangungutang. Laki sa layaw, pero pulitiko agad. Hindi dahil sa kakayahan kundi dahil sa apelyido.

Nasa kanya ang lahat ng resources para maging mabuting lider: pera, koneksyon, at oportunidad. Pero hindi niya ginamit para maglingkod. Ginamit niya ito para umakyat nang madali, para ipamana sa sarili ang kapangyarihang hindi pa niya napapatunayan na kaya niyang dalhin.

Ngayon ay nag-aastang tagapagsalba laban sa korapsyon, gayong siya mismo ay produkto ng sistemang kumikita rito. Ang ipinagmamalaki niyang “malasakit” ay salita lang, dahil ang tunay na malasakit ay nasusukat sa gawa. Nagsalita ba siya sa bilang congressman tungkol sa 2026 budget hearing, kung saan puno ng ayuda at unprogrammed funds na walang malinaw na plano? Hindi. Sa halip, bumoto siyang “YES” sa budget na punong-puno ng pork barrel at discretionary funds na lalong nagpapayaman sa iilan.

May sinusulong ba siyang mga batas na tunay na nakakatulong sa mahihirap—mga bill na feasible, may laman, at hindi lang press release? O puro drama lang sa harap ng kamera? Dahil ang laban sa kahirapan at korapsyon ay hindi para sa clout, likes, o trending hashtag.

Ngayon ay nag-aastang tagapagsalba ng mahihirap, dala ang pekeng “no VAT” bill na mas tunog pang press release kaysa solusyon. Para bang hindi niya alam na ang VAT ay national tax na hindi puwedeng basta tanggalin sa wishful thinking. Ang tunay na reporma ay dumadaan sa mabusising pagsusuri ng buwis, hindi sa drama ng social media.

Ikaw, nagpapakakuba sa trabaho araw-araw para lang makabayad ng upa at makapagpakin ng pamilya. Siya, late sa Kongreso dahil napuyat sa video games.

Ikaw, nagpapagod mag-aral, umaasang gaganda ang buhay. Siya, college dropout na ginawang stepping stone ang apelyido para makapasok sa pulitika.

Ikaw, gumigising nang maaga para hindi mahuli sa biyahe. Siya, gumigising nang tanghali at tinatawag pa ring “public servant.”

May pagkakataon siyang mag-aral, mag-trabaho, at patunayan ang sarili, pero pinili ang pinakamadaling ruta. Pinili ang pulitika bilang karampan, hindi bilang serbisyo. Pinili ang kapangyarihan, hindi ang pagsisikap.

Hindi lahat ng mayaman ay masama. Pero masama ang may lahat ng pagkakataon para gumawa ng tama, tapos pipiliin pa ring magpanggap na tagapagligtas ng mahihirap.

Ang tunay na lider ay hindi nasusukat sa apelyido o sa pera ng pamilya. Nasusukat ito sa kung gaano kalalim ang pag-unawa niya sa paghihirap ng bayan, kung paano siya tumindig sa mga isyung hindi niya kailangang pakinabangan, at kung paano niya ginamit ang pribilehiyo niya para sa iba.

Paano mo ipagkakatiwala ang kapangyarihan sa taong ni minsan ay hindi nagtanong kung saan napupunta ang pondo ng bayan, hindi nagsulong ng anumang makabuluhang reporma, at walang pagkaunawa sa gutom—gayong siya mismo ang nakikinabang sa sistemang nagpapagutom sa taumbayan?

Ito ang katotohanan: isang nepo baby na may lahat ng biyaya, pero walang napatunayan. Produkto ng bulok na sistema na ngayon ay nag-aastang lunas dito.

PIA...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Calabarzon is urging the public to remain vigilant against disaster-related misinformation, and rely only on official and legitimate sources of information.

Regional Director Ma. Cristina C. Arzadon advised the public to depend on verified information from government media networks, trusted news outlets, and official pages of local government units (LGUs) and government agencies when seeking updates on class suspensions, disaster advisories, and other related announcements.

“Be critical of information circulating on

social media that may cause unnecessary fear among the public.

Always rely on official advisories and trusted, legitimate sources of information,” Arzadon said.

As Chairperson of the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) Calabarzon Crisis Communication Cluster, Arzadon also encouraged the public to report social media pages that spread misinformation and cause public alarm.

Among the topics most commonly exploited by illegitimate sources are updates on Taal Volcano’s seismic activities, earthquakes, and announcements of class suspen-

sions, which often lead to confusion and panic among the public.

“When information is accurate, reliable, and clear, it can save not just one life but an entire community.

When our fellow citizens are properly guided by correct information, they can prepare for disasters, know where evacuation sites are located, and experience less fear and anxiety.

Accurate information empowers people,” she pointed out.

Another misinformation recently corrected by Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. involved claims that the ‘Big One’ earthquake is set to hit the country soon.

He also dismissed social media claims that recent earthquakes in the Philippines were “man-made.”

Arzadon said the RDRRMC Calabarzon, through its Crisis Communication Cluster, continues to strengthen efforts to combat disaster-related misinformation and disinformation.

Among the measures being implemented

by the Council is the referral of fake news peddlers to the Philippine National Police’s Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit for investigation and appropriate action.

Meanwhile, during a recent capability development session organized by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and PIA Calabarzon, Arzadon emphasized the vital role of government information officers in saving lives through accurate communication.

“To our Government Information Officers in Calabarzon, you are the frontliners of communication.

You share a

crucial responsibility in raising public awareness about accurate information, proper planning, and effective coordination for timely and efficient disaster response,” she said.

Arzadon added: “You reach communities beyond the access of the internet and mainstream media.

You bring clarity to safety plans and ensure that our people know where to evacuate, what to do, and how to stay safe.”



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DOH...

MANILA — Department of Health (DOH) Secretary Teodoro Herbosa on Tuesday clarified that there is no outbreak of influenza-like illnesses (ILI) in the country, stressing that the current increase in cases is part of the usual seasonal flu trend during the colder months.

“During this time, the ‘-ber’ months, this is our flu season. It’s our ILIs, talagang dumarami ‘yan (they really increase),” Herbosa said in a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview. “Wala pong any type of outbreak na ILI (There is no any type of ILI outbreak); it’s the seasonal flu, and we still have to be careful,” he said.

He added there is a normal seasonal rise in ILIs every year and they refer to a group of diseases with symptoms such as cough, colds, fever, sore throat, and body aches caused by different viruses—including rhinovirus and influenza A and B—unlike the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), which is caused by a single virus.

Herbosa said the DOH has not reached the threshold to declare an outbreak or epidemic, urging the public not to panic over reports of increasing absences in schools due to flu-like symptoms.

On Monday, DOH spokesperson Albert Domingo reported the number of ILI cases logged from January to September this year reached 121,716—an 8-percent drop from last year’s 135,538 cases for the same period last year.

This clarification came after the Department of Education–National Capital Region (DepEd NCR) announced the suspension of face-to-face classes in all public schools in the area due to rising cases of ILI among students and school personnel as a primary reason.

Herbosa affirmed that the move can help minimize transmission but should be properly coordinated with health authorities.

ties.

“Itong pagsuspinde ng klase, if you will ask me, makakatulong iyan, but I wish nag-coordinate lang sila (This suspension of classes, if you ask me, will help, but I just wish they had coordinated with us),” he said. “Kapag nag-declare ka ng no classes because of flu-like symptoms, kami ang tatanungin (When you declare no classes because of flu-like symptoms, we’re the ones who get asked about it) and then we were caught unaware, and then it will cause alarm.”

Herbosa added the DepEd had cited other reasons for suspending classes, including building safety inspections after recent earthquakes and sanitization of school premises, which the DOH supports.

He confirmed that there was an increase in sales of common flu medications such as paracetamol, decongestants, and expectorants, during a seasonal rise in flu activity. He reminded the public that the same preventive measures learned during the Covid-19 pandemic remain effective against ILI:

Wash hands regularly, Stay home when sick, Wear masks when symptomatic, Avoid sharing food and utensils, and Ensure proper ventilation indoors.

For those who are not sick, Herbosa advised taking Vitamin C, staying hydrated, eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, exercising, and avoiding crowded places. “Pagdating ng tagulan talagang panahon ‘yan ng flu-like symptoms (Rainy season is really the time for flu-like symptoms),” he said. “Because we are in enclosed spaces, we avoid the rain, we close the windows because it’s rainy, and when people are together in poorly ventilated rooms, influenza spreads very fast.”

The DOH continues to monitor ILI trends nationwide and assures the public that the situation is under control. (PNA)

DepEd...

Every young student has experienced playfully teasing and being teased by their classmates, their school bags stashed away or their textbooks replaced with rocks inside their bags – all in good fun.

These mischiefs, once we have cried over them, are usually converted to memories we remember with fondness.

But where does teasing end and bullying begin?

The United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) defines bullying as ‘a pattern of behaviour, rather than an isolated incident where children who usually come from a perceived higher social status or position of power and who are bigger, stronger, or perceived to be popular are the perpetrators.’

In his 2025 State of the Nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. highlighted the growing number of students experiencing depression and bullying, with a promise to hire more school counselors and other mental health professionals to support the education sector.

“Maraming mag-aaral ang nakakaranas ng bullying o kaya ay nade-depress. Binabantayan din natin ang mental health ng ating kabataan. Magdagdag tayo ng mga school counselors na magsisilbing sanggunian at gabay nila,” the President said.

The President’s directive underscores the pressing issues faced by the Philippine education system.

Data from the 2018 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) revealed that the Philippines ranked close to the bottom for reading, mathematics, and science.

On the other hand, it is among the countries with prevalent issues on school bullying.

This concern was reinforced in a 2024 discussion paper of the Second Congressional

Commission on Education (EDCOM II), which described the Philippines as the ‘bullying capital of the world.’

The report revealed that 63 percent of Grade 5 pupils reported experiencing various forms of bullying – ranging from harassment, exclusion by their peers, physical harm, and, in some instances, the subject of malicious rumors.

Similarly, a 2019 UNICEF report found that almost half of Filipino children aged 13 to 17 had experienced cyberviolence or online bullying.

Like other forms of abuse, online bullying has devastating effects on the emotional and physical well-being of youngsters who are vulnerable and can access the internet very easily, and are becoming targets of online violence

The Department of Education (DepEd) CALABARZON is now facing a challenge that goes far beyond managing classes and improving lesson plans.

It must ensure that every child under its care is safe from abuse – both online and in real life.

Data from DepEd CALABARZON revealed that around 16 cases of bullying were reported during the first quarter of School Year 2025-2026. Of these, 11 cases have already been resolved at the school-level, while the rest remain under evaluation by their respective Schools Division Offices.

Rochelle May Nisola, Focal Person for Learner Rights and Protection, explained that DepEd CALABARZON has put in place a mechanism to help schools properly report and document bullying cases.

“We have initiated a reporting mechanism for schools where they fill out forms to report the status of these cases: if they have already been resolved or referred to other agencies.”

Compensating the shortage However, DepEd

acknowledges that the shortage of mental health professionals has worsened the situation with many students facing mental health concerns such as depression and bullying.

“Of course hindi enough [yung bilang ng guidance counsellors] kasi mahirap mag-cater ng ilang bata na involved sa bullying cases. We cannot deny the shortage of registered guidance counselors dahil nasa data natin, maraming items pero kaunti ‘yung naga-aaply dahil na rin sa demand,” Nisola added.

In CALABARZON, registered guidance counselors are often assigned to more than one school in an effort to make up for the shortage of mental health professionals.

As of 2022, Education Secretary Juan Edgardo Angara reported that there are only 4,069 licensed guidance counselors in the country, a far cry to the more than 50,000 counselors needed to meet the recommended global ratio of one counselor for every 250 students.

This problem is even more pronounced in CALABARZON, where only about 50 licensed guidance counselors are tasked to serve over three million students across 6,000 schools.

“Yung shortage hindi natin made-deny kasi sa data namin, maraming items pero kaunti ang naga-apply dahil sa requirements. Maraming unfilled positions [na] guidance counselors.”

Many positions for mental health professionals, such as guidance counselors, remain vacant despite its Salary Grade 11 classification, which offers a monthly pay of Php 30,024.

“Sa view ng regional office, ang mga guidance counselor ang may direct contact sa ating learners may it be registered or designate lang.

Kung paano nila pinag-aralan yung approach, it matters kasi sila

yung well trained sa pag facilitate ng conversations with the students kasi alam nila kung paano ihandle kasi hindi lang siya basta pag-uusap nang hindi mati-tigger yung bata.”

Under Republic Act 9258, or the Guidance and Counseling Act of 2004, guidance counselors are required to obtain a master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling, pass the licensure exam administered by the Professional Regulatory Board of Guidance and Counseling (PRBGC), and secure a license as a Registered Guidance Counselor (RGC).

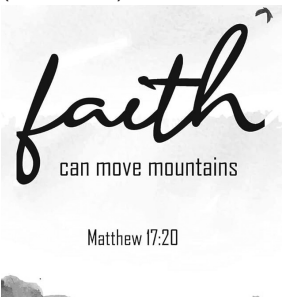
In the meantime, registered and designated guidance counselors in the region continue to undergo training to provide quality mental health support to students.

“We are providing continuous training for registered guidance counselors and for our designates, so they will have the knowledge on handling such child protection concerns.”

DepEd clarified that these designates are well-versed in child protection policies and mental health program, including conducting risk assessment for students.

“This will help us identify students who have a history of suicidal attempts or abuse. Guidance designates are also very important in our mental health programs.”

With the passage of Republic Act 12080, more commonly known as the Basic Education Mental Health and Well-Being Promotion Act, DepEd CALABARZON expects to hire more registered guidance counselors to better address cases of bullying and other child protection concerns in the region. (PB/PIA4A)





1.3M Halaga ng Iligal na Droga Kumpiskado, Suspek Arestado!



Camp BGen Paciano Rizal – Huli ang isang High Value Individual (HVI) sa ikinasang joint buy-bust operation ng Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit at San Pablo Component City Polcie Station kahapon ng Oktubre 16, 2025 sa Brgy Sto. Niño, San Pablo, Laguna.

Kinilala ni Laguna Police Provincial Director, PCOL JONAR R YUPIO, ang suspek na si alyas Edwin, 48 taong gulang at residente ng San Pablo City, Laguna.

Sa ulat ng Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit, sa pamumuno ni PMAJ SERAFIN T GAPONUAN, Chief, PDEU, nagkasa ang mga operatiba ng PDEU at San Pablo CCPS ng drug buy-bust operation bandang 4:05 ng hapon ng Oktubre 16,

2025 sa Brgy. Sta. Niño, San Pablo City, Laguna.

Ang nasabing operasyon ay nagsulta sapagkakaaresto ng suspek matapos magbenta ng hinihinalang shabu sa pulis na nagpanggap bilang poseur buyer kapalit ang buy-bust money.

Matapos maaresto, nakumpiska sa suspek ang tatlong (3) piraso ng heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets na naglalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may bigat na humigit kumulang 200 gramo at may Standard Drug Price na aabot sa Php1,360,000.00; isang (1) piraso ng Five-Hundred-peso bill; isang (1) piraso ng One-Hundred-peso bill; isang (1) piraso ng Fifty-peso bill; isang (1) piraso ng One-Thousand-peso bill na ginamit

bilang buy bust money; isang (1) pouch at isang (1) unit ng Android Cell phone.

Samantala, kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng San Pablo CCPS ang arestadong suspek habang inihahanda ang mga kaukulang dokumento para sa mga isasampang kaso laban dito para sa paglabag sa Section 5 at 11 ng Republic Act 9165 o ang Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

“Ang Laguna PNP ay patuloy sa pag-sasagawa ng mga operasyon laban sa iligal na droga.

Isa din ito sa mga efforts ng Laguna PNP upang masiguro ang kaayusan at kaligtasan sa buong lalawigan lalo ngayong “Ber” Months”. Pahayag ni PCOL YUPIO. (LPIO)

SM SUPERMALLS DOMINATES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AWARDS WITH ALL COMMUNITY-CENTRIC WINS



[From L-R]: SAVP for Mindanao Marketing Russel D. Alaba and SAVP for North Luzon Marketing Jefferson S. Suarez proudly represent SM Supermalls at the 2025 International Business Awards in Lisbon, Portugal, where the company earned recognition for its community-centric campaigns.

SM Supermalls once again proved its global excellence and heart for community as it clinched seven major awards at the 2025 International Business Awards (IBA) held in Lisbon, Portugal—an unbeatable victory that shines a spotlight on its community-driven programs and campaigns.

The awards reaffirm SM Supermalls' purpose-driven commitment to uplifting communities through meaningful initiatives that combine creativity, compassion, and innovation.

A clean sweep of community-centered honors

SM Supermalls bagged top honors across multiple categories, winning two Gold, four Silver, and one Bronze trophies— all dedicated to its social good and sustainability efforts.

SM Supermalls earned Gold Awards for

its 100 Days of Joy campaign, recognized as the Branded Content Campaign of the Year, and for SM Art Market, which won Art, Entertainment & Public – Art Event of the Year.

The company also took home Silver Awards for Building a Greener Philippines under Sustainability Leadership in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; SM Cares' Mall for All as CSR Program of the Year; SM Cares' Coastal Cleanup for Sustainability Initiative of the Year in Asia, Australia, and New Zealand; and Tribe Marketing Revolution and Its New Era of Consumer Connection for Best Use of Data to Drive Brand Strategy.

Rounding out the wins, SM Supermalls received a Bronze Award for SM Cares' Book Nook under Achievement in CSR. Celebrating community through purpose and impact

The all-community-centered win underscores SM Supermalls' belief that business success is best measured by the positive impact it makes on people's lives. From championing sustainability and inclusivity to empowering local creatives and promoting data-driven connections, SM continues to lead with purpose at every level.

“These awards are a reflection of our deep commitment to serving communities beyond retail,” said SM Supermalls Executive Vice President for Marketing Joaquin L. San Agustin. “Every program we create is rooted in our core mission—to bring joy, care, and positive change to every Filipino we reach.”

The International Business Awards is one of the world's most prestigious business recognition programs, celebrating organizations that demonstrate excellence, innovation, and social impact. Through its sweeping victory in Lisbon, SM Supermalls reinforces its standing as a global leader with a heart—proving once again that when business and purpose come together, communities thrive.

To learn more, visit www.smsupermalls.com and follow @SMSupermalls on social media for the latest updates.

By: Sol Luzano

Ateneo School of Government, Nagpahayag ng Programa sa Pamublikong Pamamahala sa Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Quezon

Lucena City – Bum visita ngayong Huwebes, Oktubre 16, 2025, sa Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Quezon si Javier Jimenez, Head of Academic Program for Public Management mula sa Ateneo School of Gov-

ernment, upang magkorte-siya kay Governor Angeline “Doktora Helen” Tan.

Layunin ng pagbisita ni Jimenez na ibahagi at ipaliwanag ang planong presentasyon sa mga alkalde ng iba't ibang bayan at lungsod

sa lalawigan kaugnay ng Masters in Public Management (MPM) program.

Ang naturang programa ay isang 18-buwang professional post-graduate course na naglalayong palawakin ang kaalaman at kasanayan ng mga ling-

kod-bayan sa larangan ng pamublikong pamamahala.

Nakatuon ang MPM program sa mga theories and practices na magagamit sa pagpapatibay ng mahusay, tapat, at epektibong pamahalaan.

Inaasahang makatutulong ito sa mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan upang higit pang mapanlad ang serbisyo publiko at mapalawak ang kanilang kakayahan sa pamumuno at pamamahala.



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

As Governor Sol Aragones swears to support Laguna's librarians, APLIP takes an oath.

The Association of Public Librarians and Information Professionals (APLIP) in Laguna, Inc. and the Laguna Provincial Library collaborated to host a one-day conference and oath-taking ceremony with the subject “Breaking New Ground: Celebrating Unity, Championing Progress.” Provincial Librarian Justina Garcia presided over the event, while Governor Sol Aragones gave the newly elected APLIP officers their oath of office.

Governor Aragones considered the changing function of libraries in the digital age during her keynote speech. She emphasized the new difficulty librarians confront now while nostalgically recalling the days when kids were excited to attend libraries. “What is innovative about this? Are we able to review the books that are available at the library? In order to encourage the younger generation to rediscover the passion of reading and learning, Governor Aragones urged librarians to come up with innovative ideas.

She also recognized the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI), pointing out that although technology is changing the way people learn and access information, it is still essential to use it properly. Aragones encouraged balance and the responsible integration of innovation by highlighting the differences between the conventional learning process and the contemporary instruments that

are currently available. Governor Aragones went on to say that her administration will continue to fund communal and educational projects

She reaffirmed her support for easily accessible and sustainable learning environments throughout the province by saying, “Ako po ay handang tumulong sa inyo, at kung may programa po kayo para sa inyong organisasyon at eskwelahan, open po kami ang Provincial Government ng Laguna.”

Prominent speakers from the Department of Education (DepEd) and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) spoke at the one-day conference. While Dr. Mark Anthony Idang, Education Program Supervisor from DepEd SDO Laguna, addressed contemporary approaches to library management and education in the digital era, Dr. Mary Ann Ingua of UPLB talked about tactics for fostering innovation and guaranteeing the sustainability of library services.

The occasion provided a forum for fostering cooperation, creativity, and a common goal of advancing public library growth among Laguna's librarians and information professionals. As she wrapped up the event, Governor Aragones reaffirmed her dedication to a government that pays attention, takes action, and offers practical answers to the concerns of the populace, particularly those who support education and literacy.

SSS...

QUEZON CITY – In response to the 8 September 2025 directive issued by Department of Finance Secretary and Social Security Commission ex-officio Chair Ralph G. Recto to roll out faster services to pensioners and members, the Social Security System (SSS) has officially launched the MySSS Card – designed to transform the way Filipino workers, pensioners, and their beneficiaries access their social security benefits and financial services.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Mon-

tes De Claro stated that the MySSS Card fulfills two purposes. It acts as an official ID, replacing the long-standing Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID) card. It also operates as a fully functional debit card linked to a savings account.

De Claro noted that the card is equipped with an EMV chip. It is integrated with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) eVerify and biometric authentication. This provides a safe and convenient way for members to access SSS benefits and loans, as well as manage their daily financial

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transactions.

It merges social security benefits with digital banking, offering members a comprehensive way to access benefits, loans, and pensions quickly and conveniently. The card can also be used for shopping, public transport fares, and online purchases, De Claro explained.

The card will be issued exclusively through SSS partner banks. Issuance will start with Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) and will later include other banks such as Asia United Bank (AUB), China Bank, and Union Bank of the Philip-

PUBLISHER CORNER

CURRICULUM HINGGIL SA KALAGAYAN NG BANSA SA WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, SUPTADO NG ILANG GRUPO



Pinuri ng Alyansa Bantay Demokrasiya at Kapayapaan (ABKD) ang Department of Education (DepEd) sa nakalatag nitong kurikulum sa mga mag-aaral na isama sa araling panlipunan ang isyu sa West Philippine Sea (WPS).

Ayon kay Dr. Jose Antonio Goitia, Chairman Emeritus ng grupo, ito ay isang makabayang hakbang upang palakasin ang

kamalayan pambansa at pagmamahal sa bayan.

Giit ni Goitia, maiging malaman ang tolong kalagayan sa WPS dahil mahirap maipag-tatangol ang isang bagay na hindi mo alam.

Aniya, ang edukasyon ay isa ring linya ng depensa laban sa maling impormasyon at propaganda ng China.

Binigyang-diin ni Goitia na dapat suportahan ng gobyerno ang mga guro sa pamamagitan ng

pines.

De Claro said the MySSS Card will automatically serve as the main disbursement account for SSS members. “Once members apply for the MySSS Card, we will link their partner bank savings accounts to SSS for benefits, loans, and other proceeds. They no longer need to enroll the MySSS Card in the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM).”

He stated that starting today, 1 October 2025, SSS will accept applications for the MySSS Card. RCBC, through its digital arm DiskarTech, will be the card's first implementer.

“The SSS and RCBC partnership marks a significant milestone in the digital transformation of government services,” he continued. “The MySSS Card's rollout will expand as more partner banks join the program. This will provide more options for card issuance and banking features.”

How to Apply for the MySSS Card

The MySSS Card is available to all SSS members, pensioners, individual claimants, beneficiaries, and representative payees who meet the following requirements:

Possess a permanent SS number;

Have an active account on the My.SSS

Portal with updated personal details, including local address, mobile number, and email; and

Be registered with the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) under the National ID system, previously known as the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys).

Members with old SSS, UMID, or previous ID cards may apply for the MySSS Card to replace lost or existing cards.

De Claro said the MySSS Card application is simple and can be completed via My.SSS. “Members choose their partner bank—initially RCBC—and consent to data sharing between SSS, the National ID system, and the bank.”

After online verification and identity con-

tamang kagamitan at pagsasanay upang mai-pasa sa kabataan ang tamang kaalaman sa kasaysayan at soberanya.

Dagdag pa niya, habang binabantayan ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) ang sarili natin karagatan, ang mga guro naman ang magbabantay, at magtuturo ng katotohanan.

firmation, members open a bank account either using their online app or by visiting a branch. For RCBC, members use the DiskarTech app to open the account.

The partner bank will produce and distribute the cards. Metro Manila residents will receive their cards within 15 working days, while those outside Metro Manila will receive theirs within 20 working days.

He concluded that launching the MySSS Card is part of a larger government push.

This initiative is led by Finance Secretary and Social Security Commission ex-officio Chair Recto, who has championed reforms within the SSS to enhance its service delivery.





Mayor Ross Rizal Extends Continuous Support to Calamba’s Persons with Disabilities Through Financial Assistance Program

Calamba City, Laguna — Upholding his vision of inclusive governance and compassion-driven leadership, Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal continues to deliver meaningful support to the city’s persons with disabilities (PWDs) through the Financial Assistance Distribution Program, conducted under the Mayor’s Office Public Action Center (MOPAC) at Calamba City Hall.

This initiative, spearheaded by Mayor Ross Rizal in collaboration with the Persons with Disability Affairs Office (PDAO) headed by Mr. Luisito Apacionado, aims to provide direct financial aid to PWDs as part of the city government’s commitment to social welfare and empowerment.

Mayor Rizal emphasized that the program reflects the administra-

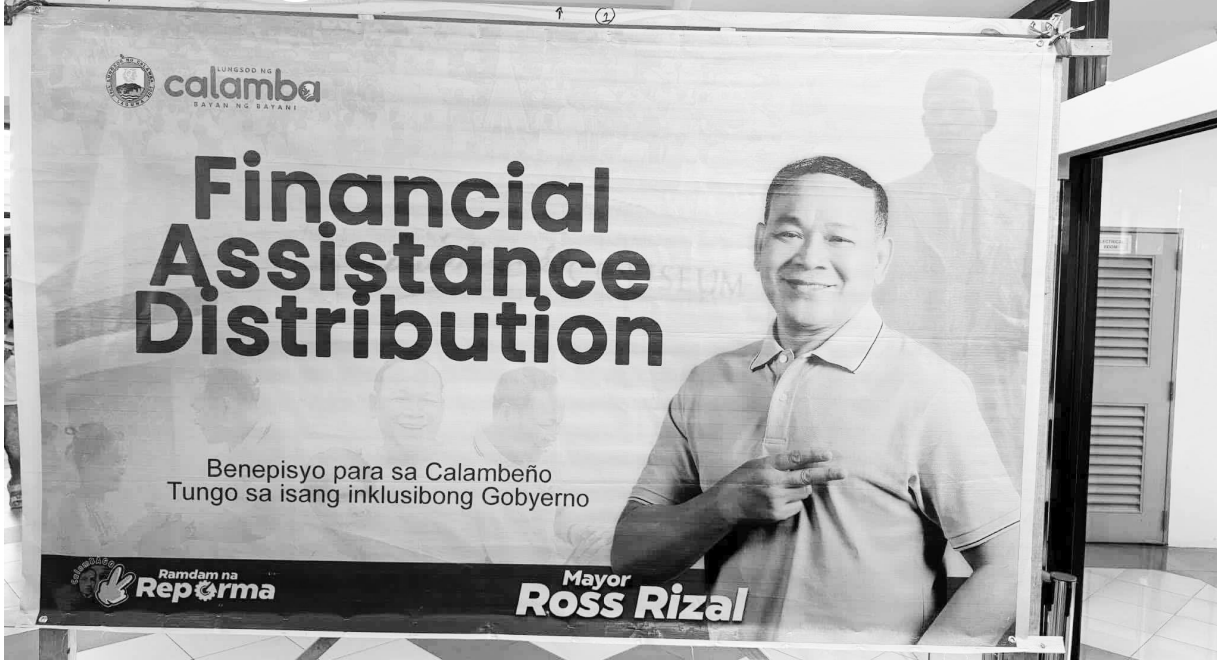
tion’s dedication to ensuring that every Calambeño—especially those with special needs—receives adequate support and opportunities to improve their quality of life.

“No one should be left behind. Our persons with disabilities are integral members of our community, and it is our duty to uplift and empower them,” Mayor Rizal stated.

Through the continuous rollout of this initiative, the City Government of Calamba reaffirms its mission to build a compassionate, inclusive, and people-centered city—where care and progress go hand in hand.

The MOPAC and PDAO vowed to sustain and expand the program, ensuring that more PWDs benefit from the local government’s ongoing social assistance efforts.

(Edjun Mariposque)



25 KILOS OF SHABU WORTH PHP163 MILLION SEIZED, THREE SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN JOINT BUY-BUST IN QUEZON



CANDELARIA, QUEZON — Anti-narcotics operatives confiscated approximately 25 kilograms of suspected shabu worth ₱163.2 million and arrested three male suspects during a joint buy-bust operation on the evening of October 10, 2025, in Barangay Masin Norte, Candelaria, Quezon.

The operation,

conducted at around 7:20 p.m. in Purok 2, was carried out by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Regional Office—National Capital Region together with PDEA Regional Office 4A, in coordination with the PNP Quezon Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit (PDEU) and Candelaria Police Station.

Arrested during the operation were alias “Jack,” 42, a farmer from Zamboanga City; alias “Nor,” 31, also a farmer from Zamboanga City; and alias “Anor,” 43, a tricycle driver from North Cotabato.

Confiscated from the suspects were one (1) violet-colored pack containing a vacuum-sealed



plastic pack of suspected shabu weighing approximately one (1) kilogram, which served as the subject of sale, and twenty-four (24) additional violet-colored packs containing suspected shabu weighing around 24 kilograms.

The total estimated weight of the seized illegal drugs was

25 kilograms, with a standard drug price of ₱163,200,000.00.

Also recovered were the buy-bust money, one (1) black Toyota Fortuner, two (2) analog phones, one (1) Android phone, and various identification cards.

The seized evidence will be submitted to the PDEA Laboratory Ser-

vice for forensic examination.

The arrested suspects will undergo inquest proceedings for violation of Sections 5 (Selling of Dangerous Drugs) and 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs), Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

CARD AND CADENCE PROPERTIES INK JOINT VENTURE AGREEMENT TO ADDRESS PH HOUSING BACKLOG



(From left) CARD MBA President Deneglen Penaflorida, CARD MBA CEO Jocelyn Dequito, Cadence Properties President and CEO Leonardo B. Dayao, CARD MRI Property Management President Maida Decano, CARD, Inc. Executive Director Vicente Briones, and CARD EMPC Chairman Alvin Villamena.

Makati City, Philippines — In a strategic collaboration that brings together inclusive finance and responsible real estate development, the CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) (composed of CARD MBA, CARD, Inc., CARD MRI PROPERTY MANAGEMENT and CARD EMPC) and Cadence Properties, the ICCP Group’s newest company, signed a joint venture agreement on August 6, 2025, at the Makati Sports Club.

The partnership marks the formal establishment of a new company: Cadence-CARD

Property Ventures, Inc. (CCPV).

In line with its goal to help reduce the national housing backlog, CCPV aims to develop thoughtfully planned, affordable, and high-quality residential communities for more Filipino families, beginning with its inaugural project in Bay, Laguna.

Guillermo D. Luchangco, Chairman and CEO of The ICCP Group, shares, “We are honored and very happy to now be able to collaborate with CARD MRI, which is known for its success for building grassroots economic empowerment.

There are only

very few organizations that are able to accomplish this.

For me, today’s partnership between CARD MRI and Cadence Properties embodies a shared resolve to raise the standard of living and nurture sustainable communities for more Filipinos.”

Leonardo B. Dayao Jr., President and CEO of Cadence Properties and current Chairman of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) also underscored the significance of the agreement.

“This project will expand homeownership opportunities for the un-

derstood income deciles, including CARD MRI members and beyond. We’re very eager to be able to help more families realize their dream of owning their own home.”

Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, CARD MRI Founder and Chairman Emeritus, also attests to the partnership’s importance. “This is our first time working on a housing project—a dream come true not only for CARD MRI, but for many of our clients. A safe and secure home is more than just four walls and a roof—it is one of the foundations to break free from poverty.

With it, families

can dream bigger, work harder, and build a future filled with hope.”

With over 36 years of experience, The ICCP Group is a respected Philippine diversified conglomerate engaged in investment banking, venture capital, exhibition halls operations and management, and residential and industrial estate property development. Cadence Properties, its newest real estate arm, brings to the partnership deep expertise in building livable, sustainable communities.

CARD MRI, a mission-driven organization with a long track

record of empowering Filipino families through microfinance, microinsurance, and livelihood programs, expands its reach through this collaboration—bridging social development with accessible housing.

The organization currently has nearly 10 million clients across its various institutions.

Rooted in shared principles of nation-building, long-term value creation, and inclusive progress, CCPV reflects a forward-thinking approach to community development—one that carefully balances commercial viability with social impact.

MGA TAUHAN NI DPWH SEC. DIZON, MAY KAUGNAYAN SA MGA KONTRAKTOR – REP. LEVISTE

Ibinunyang ni House appropriations panel vice chair at Batangas Rep. Leandro Leviste na ilang miyembro ng team ni Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Vince Dizon ay mga kontraktor o may kaugnayan sa mga kontraktor na sangkot sa flood control anomaly.

Sinabi ni Rep. Leviste na nakuha niya ang impormasyon mula sa ilang kasamahan sa Kamara.

Hindi raw si Secretary Dizon mismo ang kontraktor, kundi mga tauhan niya. Marami na raw

sa Kongreso ang naka-kaalam nito.

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Hindi raw si Secretary Dizon mismo ang

kontraktor, kundi mga tauhan niya. Marami na raw sa Kongreso ang naka-kaalam nito. Hinimok niya si Dizon na isapubliko ang koneksyon ng kanyang team sa mga kontratista, lalo na’t may isinasagawang imbestigasyon sa mga iregular na proyekto ng gobyerno.

Dagdag pa ni Leviste maaaring makita sa simpleng online search ang mga paratang ng kationalian laban sa ilang bagong appointee ng DPWH.

Aniya may potensyal si Dizon na magdala ng reporma sa DPWH kung magiging bukas siya

sa isyung ito.

Sa gitna ng presscon, nakatanggap si Leviste ng tawag mula sa isang mataas na opisyal ng DPWH. Giit ng Kongresista ang nais iya ay transparency at patas na alokasyon ng pondo. Kung may koneksyon man sa mga kontratista, sana ay ilahad sa publiko

Sa kabilang dako, isa sa mga tumutol sa pagpasa sa 2026 national budget ay si Batangas 1st District Rep. Leandro Legarda Leviste, na nanawagang ibaba ang presyo ng mga proyekto ng DPWH upang matigil

ang kickbacks.

Bilang batayan, binanggit ni Leviste ang pahayag ng dating DPWH Undersecretary Roberto Bernardo na halos “100%” ng bidding sa DPWH ay lutong-makaw.

Sinabi ni leviste dapat bawasan ng 25% ang presyo sa proyekto ng DPWH para matanggal ang tinatayang ₱150 bilyong kickbacks.

Ayon pa kay Leviste, kahit walang kickback ang isang kongresista, may iba pa ring nakikinabang.

Hiniling niyang ibaba ng 30% ang pre-

syo ng mga proyekto ng DPWH sa kanyang distrito at i-realign ang ₱508 milyon na matitipid para sa mahigit 200 silid-aralan.

Dagdag pa ni Leviste, hindi rin patas ang alokasyon ng pondo bagamat 15% ng populasyon at GDP ay mula Region 4A, 10% lang ng DPWH budget ang napupunta rito.

By: Sol Luzano

