

Driving Creativity and Opportunity: Mayor Ross Rizal's MSME Summit 2025 Strengthens Calamba's Business Backbone

Calamba City, Laguna — Under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, represented by City Administrator Johnny Pampususan, together with Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro and Congresswoman Cha Hernandez-Alcantara with Congressman Javier Miguel "Javi" Benitez, the MSME Summit 2025: "Pagtitiyag sa Negosyong Lokal, Kaagapay sa Pag-unlad ng Calamba" successfully took place at the Jose Rizal Coliseum on October 20-22, 2025.

The three-day summit brought together entrepreneurs, local officials, business leaders, and representatives from various sectors and government agencies to discuss opportunities, challenges, and innovations that will strengthen the city's Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) — recognized as the backbone of Calamba's economy.

With this year's theme, "Innovating through Creativity," the

summit aimed to inspire and empower local entrepreneurs to embrace creativity as a driving force for sustainable business growth and competitiveness. The event also showcased business exhibits, workshops, and talks highlighting modern trends and success stories from Calambaño enterprises.

Mayor Ross Rizal continues to prior-



itize programs that uplift and support MSMEs, recognizing their vital role in generating jobs, promoting innovation, and driving inclusive economic progress in Calamba City.

"Here in Calamba, we deeply value every entrepreneur who works hard to provide livelihood and opportunities to our people.

Through the unit-

ed efforts of the government, private sector, and our MSME partners — we rise, progress, and thrive together toward a stronger local economy," Mayor Rizal emphasized in his

message.

The MSME Summit 2025 not only celebrated local entrepreneurship but also reaffirmed the city's commitment to fostering a business environ-

ment rooted in innovation, collaboration, and community-driven development — paving the way for a more dynamic and prosperous Calamba.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Calamba City to Combine 3rd and 4th Quarter Social Pension in One December Payout



Calamba City, Laguna — The City Government of Calamba, under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal and the full support of the Sangguniang Pan-

glunsod, continues to extend care and compassion to the city's senior citizens through its ongoing Social Pension Program.

Earlier today, social pension distributions

were held for the beneficiaries from Barangays Pansol, Lamesa, and San Cristobal.

In line with the city's efforts to streamline the process and ensure



timely assistance, the 3rd and 4th Quarter Social Pension payouts will be combined into a single distribution this coming December.

The City Gov-

ernment reminds all beneficiaries to stay tuned for the official schedule of the upcoming payout.

Mayor Ross Rizal reaffirmed his administration's commitment

to prioritizing the welfare of the elderly, emphasizing that every initiative aims to bring convenience and continued support to Calamba's senior citizens.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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Cayetano:
There's a systematic attack against the Senate

"WALA NANG GUTOM NA PILIPINO"

Sa "Kumustahan" ng Walang Gutom Refuel Project sa Maynila, iginiit ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na layon ng programa na tuluyang wakasan ang kagutuman sa bansa.

Bawat benepisaryo ay may halos ₱3,000 food credit sa EBT card para sa masustansiyang pagkain. Ipinagmalaki rin ng Pangulo na bumaba na ang hunger rate mula 48.7% noong Oktubre 2024 tungo sa 41.5% nitong Marso 2025 — patunay na unti-unting natutupad ang kanyang hangarin na "wala nang ginugutom na Pilipino."

DTI NAGSAMPA NG KASO LABAN SA 8 KONTRATISTA SA FLOOD CONTROL SCANDAL

ALMOST 11,000 GUESTS JOINED THE CELEBRATION OF ENCHANTED KINGDOM'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY LAST OCTOBER 19!



Buong sigasig na tumungo at nakipagtalakayan si Calamba City Counselor Papa P Pio Dimapilis sa mga serye ng Committee Hearings ng Sangguniang Panlungsod na tumalakay sa mga kumite ng Agrikultura, Laws and Ordinances, Appropriations, at Plantilla.

Bilang isang konsehal, ang proaktibong pakikilahok sa mga Committee Hearing ay isang simbolo ng kanyang pakikinig sa mga ordinansa, memorandum, suhestyon at mga panukalang mas makakapagpalapit pa ng pamahalaan sa mamamayang Calambaño.

Sa CalamBagong Panahon, kasama niyo si Papa P sa patuloy na pagbabalangkas, pagsusuri, at sa implementasyon ng mga ordinansa para sa Lungsod ng Calamba.

(ND)

Zaldy Co kasama sa unang batch na makakasuhan sa Sandiganbayan – Remulla

CHIZ REMINDS HEIs: NO COLLECTION OF STUDENT LOANS IN CALAMITY AREAS

PAGSUSULONG NG PH AT REGIONAL AGENDA, TINYAK NI PBBM SA PAGDALO SA ASEAN

FROM PAGE 1

Editorial:

PAGTANGGI NG ICI NA ISAPUBLIKO ANG MGA NAGDAANG HEARINGS, SENYALES NG COVER-UP

Binatikos ni Kamanggagawa Party-list Rep. Elijah "Eli" San Fernando ang pagtangi ng Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) na ilabas ang records ng mga nagdaang pagdinig nito habang binabalangkas pa ang patakaran para sa planong livestream ng proceedings simula sa susunod na linggo.

Para kay San Fernando, ang pagpili ng ICI na magsikreto sa publiko sa halip na isulong ang transparency at pananagutan ay senyales ng cover-up o may pinagtatakan ito.

Punto ni San Fernando, bakit aniya ang daming palusot at hirap na hirap ang ICI na ipakita sa publiko ang proceedings nila gayong ang pagtatago at hindi naman ang transparency ang sanhi para makompromiso ang imbestigasyon nito ukol sa maanomalyang flood control projects.

Hamon ni San Fernando sa ICI, kung wala itong pinoprotektahan at pinagtatakan ay buksan na nito sa publiko ang lahing ng mga record at hearing.

Ayon kay San Fernando, kung hindi ito magagawa ng ICI ay mabuti pang umalis na ito dahil dagdag-gastos lang sa mga manggagawa at ordinaryong Pilipino ang operasyon ng isang walang kuwenta umanong opisina gaya ng ICI.

CHIZ...

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero reminded all higher education institutions (HEIs) about the moratorium on the collection of student loans in all areas where a state of calamity has been declared.

With several parts of the country still dealing with the devastating effects of earthquakes and typhoons over the past month, Escudero said families had to deal with "getting their lives back in order, first and foremost."

"Pinapaalala natin sa ating mga unibersidad, kolehiyo, at pati na din ang mga tech-voc (technical-vocational) institutions na may batas tayo na nagbabawal sa pagkolekta ng mga utang ng kanilang mga estudyante. Sa panahon na may sakuna, ang pinakamahalaga ay ang muling makabangon ang mga nasalanta," Escudero said.

Under Republic Act 12077, or the Student Loan Payment Moratorium During Disasters and Emergencies Act, payment of all fees and charges by HEIs and technical-vocational institutions (TVIs) is suspended for the duration of the state of emergency or calamity and 30 days after this is

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lifted. As one of the authors and sponsors of the law, Escudero said the education of students should never be affected whenever disaster strikes because in many instances, recovering from this is even more challenging than rebuilding lost property.

"Hindi dapat maging dahilan ang kawalan ng pambayad ng matrikula para matigil ang pag-aral ng ating mga estudyante lalo na pag sila rin mismo ay biktima ng bagyo, lindol o anumang sakuna," he said.

The law states that the availment of the moratorium shall not in any way adversely affect the eligibility of the students concerned for re-enrolment in the succeeding semesters.

Escudero noted that the law encourages the HEIs and TVIs to offer payment relief or assistance programs for the affected students to make it easier for them to pay off their loans.

Any waiver on the benefit of the moratorium on student loan payments or the availment of assistance or subsidies from the government is

Cayetano...

"May systematic na attack sa Senate."

This was Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano's warning on Thursday, October 23, as various controversies continue to be thrown against a number of senators amid investigations into the flood control scandal.

"Makikita n'yo

Zaldy Co...

Ibinunyag ni Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla na nanguna si dating Ako Bico Representative Zaldy Co at ilang mga kongresista sa unang batch ng flood control cases na isasampa sa Sandiganbayan sa buwan ng Nobyembre.

Ayon kay Remulla na malaki ang paniniwala nito kasama ang pangalan ni Co sa unang

PAGSUSULONG...

Tiniyak ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. ang pagsusulong ng PH at regional agenda sa pagdalo sa 47th ASEAN Summit sa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia mula Oktubre 26 hanggang 28, 2025.

Sa kaniyang talumpati sa Villamor Air Base sa Pasay, bago ito bumyahe, siniguro ng chief executive ang malawak na pagtataguyod ng mga isyung kapaki-pakinabang para sa mga Filipino.

Inimbitahan siya ni Malaysian Prime Minister Datu Seri Anwar Ibrahim, ang kasalukuyang ASEAN Chair, upang makiisa sa mga lider ng ASEAN, mga Dialogue Partners, at kinatawan ng mga pandaigdigang organisasyon.

Ayon sa Depart-

prohibited.

Escudero was head of the Senate Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education in the 19th Congress and was a co-chairperson of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2).

He also sponsored and was one of the authors of Republic Act 11984 or the No Permit, No Exam Prohibition Act that paved the way for disadvantaged students to take their periodic and

ngayon in context ng flood control na talagang y'ung iba sa amin ay target talaga," he told reporters in an interview.

"Kasi nga big news. 'Philippine senator ganito, another senator ganito, congressman ganito ganyan.' Dinidistract tayo eh. Napapainan tayo nang husto," he added.

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batch ng kaso. Maraming mga pangalan ng kongresista ang nasa listahan na samsapahan ng kaso.

Si Co ang idinawit ng mga dating district at assistant engineers na tumestigo sa budget insertions na P35-bilyon mula 2022 at 2025 ganun din ang anomalya sa flood control projects sa Bulacan

ment of Foreign Affairs, inaasahang dadalo si Pangulong Marcos sa 14 na pagpupulong ng mga lider at tatlong seremonya ng paglalagda, kabilang ang pagtanggap sa Timor-Leste bilang ika-11 miyembro ng ASEAN.

Tatalakayin din niya ang mga isyung gaya ng sitwasyon sa Myanmar, mga hamong pang-ekonomiya, at iba pang usaping panrehiyon.

Magkakaroon din siya ng bilateral meetings upang palalimin ang ugayang diplomatiko at tuklasin ang bagong larangan ng kooperasyon.

Sa pagtatapos ng summit, pormal na lilipat ng Malaysia sa Pilipinas ang ASEAN chairship para sa susunod na taon. (Nelson Dimapiilis)

final examinations even if they are unable to pay their tuition or other fees.

"Students affected by calamities are classified as 'disadvantaged' upon the certification by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. So the inability to pay their tuition should not be an obstacle to the completion of their educational requirements. They can find a way to pay for their loans later," Escudero said.

(Sol Luzano)

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Asked who might be behind the attacks, Cayetano said it is "definitely the mastermind" but quickly added that he believes it is more than one person.

"I don't think there's one mastermind. I think it's a group of people who came together, maybe stumbling into it. We have some people in our minds, but we'd rather the evidence speak for it," he added.

Cayetano then recalled how a people's initiative campaign early last year attempted to, in his words, "buwagin ang Senado." He believes it was part of a larger scheme by the masterminds to clear the way for their corrupt plans.

"We all know na habang ginagawa itong People's Initiative, binubuo pala itong scam na ito, hindi lang sa flood control - paisa-isa lumalabas," he said.

Last year, a signature campaign was launched aiming to amend the 1987 Philippine Constitution. The campaign included a proposal to make the House of Representatives and the Senate vote together on constitutional amendments as one body.

This drew strong criticism from the Senate,

"Eyes on the ball tayo... Dapat administration at opposition, nagkakaisa na ang mastermind ay makasuhan, maging ang pera mabalik, at mabago ang sistema," he said.

The long-anticipated interoperability of expressways operated by SMC Infrastructure and Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. throughout Luzon is now complete, with both firms officially launching the One RFID program Tuesday in Calamba, in ceremonies attended by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.

"We are proud to announce the successful completion of interoperability between our electronic toll collection (ETC) systems, Autosweep and Easytrip. This latest feature will directly benefit motorists who will register for a new ETC account, as they will only need one radio frequency identification (RFID) and account to travel seamlessly across the Luzon expressway network," both companies said in a joint statement.

The One RFID program covers all toll roads in Luzon such as

warning that such joint voting would drown out the Senate's voice given the House's overwhelming numbers and weaken the system of checks and balances.

The Minority Leader appealed to Senate President Vicente Sotto III to protect the chamber from institutional attacks.

"Kung nangyari ito kay Risa Hontiveros o nangyari ito kay Ping Lacson, kahit nasa Minority ako, tatayuan ko ito. Bakit? May systematic na attack sa Senate," he said.

"The Senate President is not only the father of the Majority - siya din ang tatay ng buong Senado. So kapag ang Senado na ang inaatake, kahit member ng Minority o kahit independent, pero foul, mali ang mabubugbog y'ung institution," he continued.

He also urged the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee to stay focused on pinning down the masterminds behind the scandal.

"Eyes on the ball tayo... Dapat administration at opposition, nagkakaisa na ang mastermind ay makasuhan, maging ang pera mabalik, at mabago ang sistema," he said.

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SMC Infrastructure, Metro Pacific Tollways, complete interoperability of Luzon expressways



The long-anticipated interoperability of expressways operated by SMC Infrastructure and Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. throughout Luzon is now complete, with both firms officially launching the One RFID program Tuesday in Calamba, in ceremonies attended by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.

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The One RFID program covers all toll roads in Luzon such as

Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector, Skyway System, NAIA Expressway, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CaviteX), CaviteX-C5 Link, Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), and the STAR Tollway.

Registering for the One RFID program is optional. Motorists with existing, separate Autosweep and Easytrip RFIDs and accounts may choose to join the toll interoperability program, but those who choose to maintain two separate RFID accounts, may also do so, the companies said.

This project was initiated by government through the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Toll Regulatory Board

AGRI TRUCKS, PUVS TO ENJOY 90-DAY TOLL REPRIEVE AS CAVITEX IMPLEMENTS NEW RATES

AGRI TRUCKS, PUVS TO ENJOY 90-DAY TOLL REPRIEVE AS CAVITEX IMPLEMENTS NEW RATES

MANILA, October 24, 2025 — The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has approved the toll rate adjustments for the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) following petitions filed by joint venture partners CAVITEX Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) and Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) in 2020 and 2023. The new rates will take effect on October 28, 2025.

To help ease the impact of the toll increase, CAVITEX' "Abante Program" will be reactivated — a toll reprieve initiative allowing registered public utility vehicles (PUVs) and agricultural trucks to continue paying old toll rates for 90 days from implementation.

Transport groups not yet enrolled may contact 1-35000 or email customer@mpct.com to know more about the program and how to avail.

"We appreciate the government's affirmation to honor its contractual obligations with the Private Investors and Toll Operators," said CAVITEX management". While the rate adjustments are necessary to ensure continued maintenance, safety, and improvement of the expressway, we also recognize the need to support sectors most affected by rising transport costs.

The toll reprieve initiative seeks to strike a fair balance between infrastructure sustainability and public welfare.

"The road to One RFID was not easy, as it required extensive work on the part of all stakeholders. Both ETC providers made significant upgrades to their existing infrastructure to integrate their systems, while conducting rigorous testing to ensure smooth and seamless interoperability," the firms said.

With the completion of the interoperability project, the expressway operators said their focus will now be on roll-out—making registration to the One RFID program more convenient and accessible—as well as continuous improvements to the

system, to ensure overall better experience at the expressways for motorists.

"We express our gratitude to the leadership of the DOTR led by Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez and TRB Executive Director Jose Arturo M. Tugade for their steady hands in steering this project towards the finish line. Their valuable guidance helped us navigate the existing

CAVITEX NEW TOLL FEES EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 28, 2025

Table with 5 columns: ENTRY / EXIT POINT, ROXAS BLVD., ZAPOTE, KAWIT, SUCAT RD. / DR. J. SANTOS AVE. Rows include CLASS 1, CLASS 2, and CLASS 3 with sub-rows for ROXAS BLVD., ZAPOTE, KAWIT, and C5 ROAD EXT. C.P. GARCIA.

HOTLINE: 1-35000

Facebook icon, Twitter icon, Website icon www.cavitex.ph

The TRB resolution grants the 2020 and 2023 petitions, authorizing the implementation of provisionally approved toll rates to support ongoing upgrades and maintenance activities.

CAVITEX R1 Portion (Seaside to Zapote) - VAT-inclusive rates effective October 28, 2025:
Class 1: P35 -> P39
Class 2: P70 -> P78
Class 3: P104 -> P117

CAVITEX R1 Extension Segment 4 (Zapote to Kawit):
To moderate the impact on motorists, the rate adjustment will be implemented in two tranches (2025 and 2026). First tranche rates are as follows:
Class 1: P73 -> P88

CAVITEX R1 Extension Segment 4 (Zapote to Kawit): To moderate the impact on motorists, the rate adjustment will be implemented in two tranches (2025 and 2026). First tranche rates are as follows:

regulatory environment, which simplified settlement mechanisms, so that motorists can enjoy a smooth and secure experience," the companies said.

The tollway operators expressed their continued commitment to support government initiatives, invest in world-class systems, and contribute towards a better Philippines for all.
CIC and PRA reaffirm their commitment to deliver safe, reliable, and efficient expressways that support economic growth and regional connectivity.
Note: Due to adjustment at CAVITEX R1 portion, CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 2 (Sucat Interchange) toll rate will also be adjusted accordingly to the new VAT-inclusive rates: P38 (Class 1), P76 (Class 2), and P114 (Class 3).

Almost 11,000 guests joined the celebration of Enchanted Kingdom's 30th anniversary last October 19!



The magical night featured the Forever Enchanted Live: EK's 30th Anniversary Concert held at EK's very own Launch-Pad Concert Grounds. The concert headlined one of OPM's most iconic bands Parokya ni Edgar, together with this generation's top bands Cup of Joe and Over October. Park goers enjoyed the Wheel of Fate: the Magical Journey of Eldar the Wizard, EK's first ever projection mapping show. The festivities ended with Memories of Magic: Sky Wizardry EK-stravaganza, a breathtaking pyromusical show. The award-winning theme park is celebrating 30 years of creating and providing magical experiences and memories that last a lifetime. Thank you so much and God Bless!



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Laguna to Construct 5-Story Hospital Wing to Alleviate Emergency Room Congestion at Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Provincial District Hospital

To help relieve the overcrowding in its emergency room and enhance medical services, the Laguna provincial administration, under the direction of Governor Sol Aragones, plans to erect a five-story structure at the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Provincial District Hospital in Calamba City. On October 21, 2025, Governor Aragones shared the idea on Facebook Live with hospital staff. "Yung ikalimang palapag, gagawin natin dormitory ng mga nagbabantay, plus lalagyan natin ng dormitory para sa nurse at doktor," she explained, adding that the lower floors would house an expanded emergency room and additional wards, while the upper floor would be used as a dormitory for hospital staff and watchers. According to Hospital Chief Dr. Petersan Uy, in order to maintain environmental balance, they have already applied for permits to remove trees from the construction site from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and asked the Field Agricultural Extension Services (FAES) for 500 replacement seedlings. As part of her ongoing efforts to support healthcare initiatives and guarantee the availability of necessary medical supplies, Dr. Uy made the appeal during Governor Aragones' visit to the hospital on October 13, 2025, when she personally distributed anti-rabies vaccination vials. "Sir, kailangan namin ng kapalit na 500 seedlings para dun sa puputuling puno. Nag-a-advance thank you na ako sa ibibigay mong 500 seedlings, sir," said Dr. Uy in his message to FAES Head Marlon Tobias. The planned project, which aims to make the hospital a more effective and patient-friendly institution for Lagunenses, represents the provincial government's dedication to accessible healthcare, environmental responsibility, and the welfare of medical frontline

CARD RIZAL BANK CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF EMPOWERING FAMILIES

CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc. (CARD RBI), a microfinance-oriented rural bank under the CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), celebrated its 13 years of strengthening banking through innovative technology and a commitment to a sustainable future in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, on October 11, 2025. "Marking our 13th founding anniversary is a powerful reminder of how technology and sustainability serve as pillars in expanding financial inclusion," said CARD RBI President Lyneth Derequito. "By leveraging modern banking tools and sustainable practices, we continue to empower underserved communities and drive long-term, inclusive growth across the country." CARD MRI Rizal Bank has steadily increased access to essential financial services. These include microfinance loans specifically designed to support clients engaged in small businesses, enterprises, and livelihood projects. Beyond providing loans, the bank encourages a culture of savings through a diverse range of deposit products tailored to meet the varied financial needs of its clients. Reflecting CARD MRI's holistic philosophy, CARD RBI also champions community development initiatives in education, healthcare, livelihood, disaster preparedness, and environmental sus-



CARD RBI heads, staff, and clients, along with CARD MRI Senior Advisers, unite to commemorate the institution's 13th founding anniversary.

PUBLISHER CORNER

PAGPAPAWALANG-SALA NG SANDIGANBAYAN KINA ENRILE, REYES, AT NAPOLES, ISANG HAMON SA ADMINISTRASYON NA AGAD PAPANAGUTIN ANG MGA SANGKOT SA FLOOD CONTROL SCAM

Para kay Development Assistance Party-list Representative Perci Cendaña, isang malaking kalokohan ang pagpapawalang-sala ng Sandiganbayan kina Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Juan Ponce Enrile, kanyang chief of staff na si Atty. Gigi Reyes, Janet Lim Napoles, at iba pa sa mga kaso kaugnay sa Priority Fund (PDAF) scam. Giit ni Cendaña, ito ay isang hamon sa administrasyon ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na agad mapanagot ang mga sangkot sa maanomalyang flood control projects. Diin pa ni Cendaña, dapat ding mabalik ang ninakaw na pera ng taumbayan na inilaan sa mga maanomalyang



Ayon kay Cendaña, dapat matiyak na hindi na mauulit sa flood control scam ang kinahantungan ng PDAF scam. Muli ring isinulong ni Cendaña na pagtibayin ang Open Bicam and Open Infra Bill para mabantayan ang pondo ng taumbayan at matigil na ang pagnanakaw ng mga tiwali.

tainability to empower its clients not only financially but in every aspect of their lives. "As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to enhancing our workforce's capabilities and adopting cutting-edge technology to deliver quality banking services that adapt to the evolving needs of the communities we serve," said CARD RBI Executive Vice President Ms. Juliana B. De Leon.

nationwide as approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas—and serves more than 879,000 clients, maintaining an impressive 99% repayment rate. For more information, visit CARD RBI official website @<https://www.cardmri.com/rbi/>, or through official Facebook page @CMRBofficial/

DTI...

Nagsampa ang Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) ng mga pormal na reklamo laban sa walong kontratista na sangkot umano sa iskan-dalo sa flood control projects. Ayon sa DTI, ang mga reklamo ay isinampa sa ilalim ng Executive Order No. 913 (1983) at iba pang batas pangkalahalan, dahil sa posibleng paglabag sa construction industry regulations ng mga naturang kontratista. Kabilang sa mga pinangalanang kontratista ang ilan sa top 15 firms na umano'y kumormer ng 20% ng P545-bilyong flood control contracts, ayon kay Pangulong Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

As part of the event, CARD RBI organized a Zumba session to promote physical wellness, and organized a Savings Caravan to highlight the importance of saving and to provide financial literacy to its clients present during the celebration. As of September 2025, CARD RBI has disbursed over PHP 11.9 billion in loans, operates 332 offices—including 237 Branch Lite Units (BLUs)

Kasama sa mga nasampahan ng kaso: Legacy Construction Corporation Centerways Construction & Development Inc. Alpha & Omega General Contractor & Development Corp. MG Samidan Construction L.R. Tiqui Builders Inc. QM Builders EGB Construc-

mation, visit CARD RBI official website @<https://www.cardmri.com/rbi/>, or through official Facebook page @CMRBofficial/

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tion Corporation Hi-Tone Construction & Development Corp. Ayon kay Trade Secretary Cristina Roque, inihain ang mga reklamo sa Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board – Monitoring and Enforcement Division (PCAB-MED), na siyang nag-iimbestiga sa mga paglabag ng mga kontratista.

Dagdag ng DTI, maaari nitong suspindehin ang lisensya ng mga sangkot habang nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon. Bukod sa walong ito, walo pang kontratista ang nakatakdang mampahan din ng reklamo, kabilang ang Triple 8 Construction & Supply, Topnotch Catalyst Builders, Sunwest Inc., at Road Edge Trading & Development Services. Tiniyak ng DTI na nagpapatuloy ang fact-finding investigation sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI) upang mapanatili ang transparency at accountability sa mga proyekto ng pamahalaan.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

Mayor Ross Rizal Strengthens Calamba–Wilhelmsfeld Ties in Germany, Honoring Dr. José Rizal’s Enduring Legacy



Calamba City Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal paid tribute to the life and legacy of the country’s national hero, Dr. José Rizal, during his visit to the Wilhelmsfeld and Heidelberg, Germany — the very places where the hero once lived, studied, and completed his landmark novel *Noli Me Tangere*.

The visit, organized by the Philippine Consulate General in Frankfurt on October 17, 2025, took place alongside the Philippines’ participation as Guest of Honour at the 77th Frankfurt Book Fair. The event served as a cultural bridge between the Philippines and Germany, underscoring the deep historical and intellectual ties rooted in Rizal’s time in Europe.

In Wilhelmsfeld, Mayor Ross Rizal was warmly received by Mayor Dr. Tobias Dangel and members of the Municipal Council.

Both leaders reaffirmed the Calamba–Wilhelmsfeld Sister-City Agreement, originally signed in 2011, and expressed a shared commitment to preserving the friendship and history that connect the two towns.

“The imagination peoples the air,” the theme of the Philippines’ Guest of Honour program — drawn from *Noli Me Tangere* — aptly captured the spirit of the visit. Mayor Rizal’s presence symbolized the enduring power of imagination, learning, and intercultural dialogue that Dr. José Rizal’s works continue to inspire across generations and borders.

Prior to the visit, on October 13, Mayor Rizal met with Consul General Marie Yvette Banzon Abalos to discuss ongoing collaborations between Calamba, Wilhelmsfeld, and Heidelberg. Their talks focused on strengthening cultural exchanges and people-to-people ties through educational and heritage initiatives.

Accompanying Mayor Rizal were Ms. Maolen Karla M. Boholano, Head of Calamba’s Cultural Affairs, Tourism, and Sports Development Department, and Mr.



James Aligui. Together, the delegation also visited Heidelberg, where Dr. José Rizal once pursued his medical studies.

The visit not only celebrated the historical connections between Calamba and Germany but also highlighted the



continued role of cultural diplomacy in fostering mutual understanding — a legacy that remains true to the ideals of the national hero whose life began in Calamba and whose words continue to resonate around the world. (Edjun Mariposque)

CALAMBA POLICE ARREST HIGH-VALUE DRUG SUSPECT, SEIZE PHP 500K WORTH OF SHABU AND FIREARM



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Police operatives of the Calamba Component City Police Station, under the leadership of PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman, Officer-in-Charge, arrested a High-Value Individual (HVI) and confiscated nearly P500,000 worth of shabu and a 9mm pistol during a buy-bust operation conducted at around 10:20 p.m. on October 22, 2025, in Sitio Majada-in, Barangay Canlubang. The suspect, identified only as alias Emil, 24 years old, unemployed, and a resident of Barangay Canlubang, was caught selling a sachet of suspected shabu to an undercover police operative. Recovered from the suspect were: Five (5) heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing suspected shabu weighing approximately 70 grams with an estimated Standard Drug Price of P476,000, P500 marked money and P300 recovered cash,



One (1) brown sling bag, One (1) caliber 9mm pistol with one (1) magazine and seven (7) live rounds. The operation, coordinated with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), was properly documented using Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and Alternative Recording Devices (ARD) in compliance with PNP operational protocols. After the arrest, the suspect was read his Miranda Rights and informed of the Anti-Torture Warning Act. The suspect will face charges for violating Sections 5 (Sale) and 11 (Possession) of Article II of Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as well as Republic Act 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act. He is now detained at the Calamba City Police Station for documentation and inquest proceedings. In his statement, PLTCOL De Guzman reaffirmed the unit’s firm



stance against illegal drugs: “We will not stop pursuing those involved in illegal drug activities. This operation is proof of our unwavering dedication to keeping Calamba City safe and orderly,” he said. The Calamba Police continue to intensify their campaign against illegal drugs, staying true to their commitment — “United, we strive to make Calamba Police the Finest in Laguna.” (Edjun Mariposque)

Armed Suspect Killed, Cop Wounded in Calamba Shootout; One Nabbed in Follow-Up Ops

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — An armed suspect was killed while a police officer was wounded and another suspect arrested during a follow-up operation conducted by the Calamba City Police Station (CCPS) intelligence operatives and the Provincial Intelligence Unit (PIU) of the Laguna Police Provincial Office (LPPO) on the evening of October 21, 2025 in Barangay Parian. At approximately 7:00 p.m., police operatives apprehended one alias “Allan,” who was in possession of a caliber .38 revolver, live ammunition, and a hand grenade. His arrest led authorities to the residence of alias “Papalo,” who had an outstanding warrant of arrest for frustrated murder.

As operatives approached the suspect’s residence, “Papalo” allegedly opened fire, wounding Police Master Sergeant (PMSG) John Chupeco in the left arm and narrowly missing Police Captain (PCPT) Anastacio Motas Jr. The team returned fire, killing the suspect on the spot. PMSG Chupeco was

rushed to Calamba Medical Center and is now in stable condition. Investigators later confirmed that “Papalo” had been linked to two prior shooting incidents in Barangays Uno and Kay-Anlog, Calamba City, resulting in the deaths of two individuals earlier this month. PBGen Paul Kenneth T. Lucas, Regional Director of PRO CALABARZON, lauded the quick and decisive action of the responding units. “The swift response and bravery of our operatives prevented further bloodshed and protected the community. This operation underscores our firm commitment to pursuing wanted criminals and upholding peace and order in the region,” Lucas stated.

The arrested suspect is currently detained and facing multiple criminal charges. Recovered evidence, including the firearm and explosive, has been submitted for forensic examination. Police Regional Office CALABARZON urged the public to remain vigilant and cooperate with authorities by reporting any information that could help in tracking down lawless elements in the area. (Edjun Mariposque)

