

Calamba City Bags Top Honor in TESDA's 2025 National Kabalik Awards, Strengthens Training and Job Creation Drive Under Mayor Ross Rizal



CALAMBA CITY — Calamba further cemented its leadership in workforce development as it secured Rank 1 in Region IV-A CALABARZON at the 2025 National Kabalik Awards of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The recognition highlights the city's wide-reaching initiatives that expand skills training, livelihood programs, and employment opportunities under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal.

Mayor Rizal extended his gratitude to TESDA Director General Francisco "Kiko" Benitez and Regional Director Joven Ferrer for the prestigious recognition, emphasizing that this achievement reflects the city's commitment to uplifting every Calambeño through quality technical-vocational education.

"We were awarded the 2025 National Kabalik Awards as Rank 1 in Region IV-A—a recognition born from our vigorous, expansive, and meaningful programs through the Calamba Manpower Development Center, headed by Ma'am Celine Manabat and Dr. Leo Dela Cruz," Mayor Rizal said.

He underscored the city's ongoing efforts, from constructing satellite training facilities to implementing high-standard programs designed to equip residents with competitive skills. A key long-term goal, he added, is to establish training facilities in all 54 barangays of Calamba.

"These initiatives strengthen the foundation for more skilled workers and a more prosperous future," he said. "This honor is a product of collective effort, compassion, and shared progress."

The award solidifies Calamba City's position as a regional leader in job creation and workforce empowerment—paving the way for broader economic opportunities for its growing community.

(Edjun Mariposque)



competitive skills. A key long-term goal, he added, is to establish training facilities in all 54 barangays of Calamba.

"These initiatives strengthen the foundation for more skilled workers and a more prosperous future," he said. "This honor is a product of collective effort, compassion, and shared progress."

The award solidifies Calamba City's position as a regional leader in job creation and workforce empowerment—paving the way for broader economic opportunities for its growing community.

(Edjun Mariposque)

DUMALO SI PAPA P SA 3RD ANNIVERSARY NG PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION FOR WO-MEN EMPOWERMENT AND RESPONSIVE DEVELOPMENT (POWERED)!



Sa kanyang mensahe, binati niya ang grupo sa kanilang makabuluhang anibersaryo at pinasalamatan ang kanilang patuloy na pakikilahok sa mga gawain ng Lungsod ng Calamba.

Ang POWERED ay patunay ng mas matibay na pagkakaisa ng mga Calambeño—isang lakas na nagtutulak sa atin tungo sa tuloy-tuloy na pag-unlad.

Mabuhay ang empowered Calambeños! Mabuhay ang POWERED!

ISSN NO. 3116-2509

DERETSAHAN

WEEKLY PUBLISHING

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

Vol. II - Series 20 - Nov 30-Dec 06, 2025

Christmas Raffle para sa mga residente ng 3rd District ng Laguna, handog ni Gob. Sol Aragoness ngayong kapaskuhan.

Mayor Ross Rizal Distributes 3rd and 4th Quarter Social Pension to Calamba Senior Citizens



PBBM sinabing malaking tulong sa water security ang AWTIP Tunnel No. 5 sa Bulacan



Binibigyang-diin ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ang kahalagahan ng tubig , isang yaman na araw-araw ginagamit ngunit madalas nakakaligtaan.

Pahayag ito ng Pangulo sa kaniyang talumpati sa inagurasyon ng Tunnel No. 5 ng Angat Water Transmission Improvement Project sa Bulacan.

Ayon sa Pangulo, magdudulot ito ng mas maaasahang suplay ng tubig sa mga tahanan, magbibigay ng backup para maisaayos at ma-rehabilitate ang mga lumang tunnel, at magpapatag sa sistema laban sa tagtuyot at epekto ng climate change.

Ang bagong tunnel ay nagpapatibay sa dekadang gulang na Umiray-Angat-Ipo-La Mesa system, na nagdadala ng halos 90% ng suplay ng tubig para sa humigit-kumulang 20 milyong residente ng Metro Manila, Bulacan, at bahagi ng Cavite at Rizal. Sinabi ng Pangulo Kayang maglipat ng higit 1.6 bilyong litro ng tubig araw-araw ang Tunnel No. 5, na nagtataas ng kabuuang kapasidad ng sistema mula 6 bilyon tungo sa halos P8 bilyong litro kada araw.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

UNANG SSS MEDIA APPRECIATION DINNER, MATAGUMPAY NA IDINAOS SA SAN PABLO CITY



SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA — Matagumpay na isinagawa ng Social Security System (SSS) Luzon South 1 Division ang kauna-unahang Media Appreciation Dinner ngayong Nobyembre 28, 2025 sa Auravel Grande Hotel and Resort. Layunin ng pagtitipon na kilalanin at pasalamatang ang mga media sa CALABARZON sa kanilang patuloy na suporta sa pagpapalaganap ng tamang impormasyon hinggil sa mga programa at serbisyo ng SSS.

Binuksan ang programa sa pamamagitan ng welcome remarks ni Ms. Lilian E. Brucal, Branch Head ng SSS San Pablo. Sinundan ito ng mensahe mula kay Engr. Edwin S. Igharas, Vice

cont. on page 2

EDITORIAL:

MANILA, Philippines — Former Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio warned Thursday that China may turn Panatag (Scarborough) Shoal into a “monitoring station,” following a pattern Beijing has used to establish manned facilities on other features in the South China Sea.

“China is saying [they] are putting up a nature reserve. Now, to operate a nature reserve, you must monitor it, and it can be manned,” Carpio told reporters on the sidelines of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Leadership Summit in Quezon City.

Carpio noted that in 1987, China built a weather station on Fiery Cross Reef, which it initially said was for oceanic research with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization or Unesco. Fiery Cross has since become one of Beijing’s largest military outposts in the Spratly Islands.

He pointed out that a similar approach was used at Mischief Reef, where Beijing initially claimed it was constructing only a shelter for fishermen.

READ: Carpio fears PH pact on Ayungin Shoal may expand China’s reach

Pattern
“They have a playbook. We’ve seen this before, and we must be wiser this time. Let’s prepare for it. How? Let’s expose them ... You can see all the maps, historical maps, documents, and everything. So, we have to counter disinformation,” he added.

Panatag lies about 220 kilometers west of Zambales, within the Philippines’ 370-kilometer exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

The shoal has been under Chinese control

CARPIO: LET’S BE WISE TO CHINA’S ‘PLAYBOOK’

since 2012, a situation that continues to heighten tensions in the West Philippine Sea.

Rep. Vargas mum; Co-Pilar eludes media after ICI’s closed-door hearing [...]

Carpio was part of the Philippine delegation involved in the case before The Hague, whose landmark 2016 ruling invalidated China’s “nine-dash line” claim over the South China Sea, including areas within the Philippine EEZ.

READ: Año, Carpio warn of China’s next move after ‘nature reserve’ ploy

BrahMos missiles

Carpio also said the Philippines should respond not only through legal channels but also by boosting military deterrence, particularly with additional BrahMos cruise missiles.

“I leave it to the military. But my suggestion is to acquire more BrahMos missiles because they are mobile. When you can strike your enemy at any time, and your enemy cannot strike you, you control your enemy,” he said.

Carpio added that the BrahMos missiles could be concealed behind natural terrain, while Panatag’s fixed location meant that missiles could be programmed to strike it, giving the Philippines a strategic advantage.

The BrahMos system can travel at speeds up to Mach 2.8 and has a range of 290 to 400 kilometers. It can be launched from ships, aircraft, submarines, or land platforms.

The Philippines received its first batch of BrahMos missiles in April 2024, followed by a second delivery in April 2025.

Under a 2022 agreement with India, the country will acquire three missile batteries worth P18.9 billion.

Second arbitration case

Carpio urged the government to anticipate Beijing’s strategy, citing China’s “three warfares”: shaping public opinion through disinformation, advancing a legal narrative, and maneuvering diplomatically.

He also renewed calls for a second arbitration case against China, expressing hope that the Marcos administration will act before the end of its term.

Meanwhile, Philippine Navy spokesperson for the West Philippine Sea Rear Adm. Roy Vincent Trinidad said the military has prepared contingency measures should China take any escalatory steps.

“The government has been very clear that all our actions will ensure the integrity of the national territory,” Trinidad told reporters in a chance interview on the sidelines of the same summit.

“In the event that actions from the other side are deemed escalatory, we have appropriate contingency plans to ensure that not one square inch of our territory will be lost,” he said.

Trinidad added that acquiring additional missile systems has long been part of the military’s modernization program

“Part of the modernization plans of the Armed Forces includes looking at other missile systems, or rather, more missile systems,” he said, noting that specific details fall under the Department of National Defense.

MAYOR...

CALAMBA CITY — Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal continued the city government’s rollout of the 3rd and 4th quarter Social Pension for senior citizens, ensuring that elderly residents receive much-needed financial assistance ahead of the Christmas season.

Mayor Rizal led the distribution activities in Barangays Kay Anlog, Laguerta, and Bunggo, personally handing over the pensions to beneficiaries.

“This is being given in advance to help with daily expenses, especially now that the Christmas season is approaching,”

FROM PAGE 1

Mayor Rizal said. “Whether small or big, our goal is to make their celebration lighter and more joyful this coming holiday.”

The initiative is part of the city’s ongoing efforts to support senior citizens, particularly those relying on limited incomes. The advance release aims to ease the financial burden of daily needs and holiday preparations.

The city government announced that the distribution will continue in various barangays in the coming days to ensure all qualified senior citizens receive their pensions on schedule.

(Edjun Mariposque)

SSS...

President ng Luzon South 1 Division at Acting Head ng Luzon South 2 Division, na nagbigay-diin sa papel ng media bilang mahalagang katuwang ng SSS sa pag-abot sa mga manggagawa.

Hinimok din niya ang mga hindi pa miyembro na magpabilang sa SSS upang makinabang sa kanilang mga benepisyo. “Patuloy nating pi-

nalakas ang partnership ng media at SSS,” anyia.

Pinuri ng SSS ang mga lumahok na media organizations mula sa radyo, pahayagan, at online platforms, bilang pagkilala sa kanilang walang sawang serbisyo sa publiko. Naging masaya rin ang gabi sa pamamagitan ng raffle draw at ilang palaro na nagbigay saya sa mga dumalo.

CHRISTMAS...

Nakatakdang idaos ang isang masayang Christmas Raffle para sa mga residente ng 3rd District ng Laguna bilang handog ni Gob. Sol Aragoness ngayong darating na kapaskuhan. Gaganapin ang naturang aktibidad sa San Pablo City Plaza sa December 6, 2025, ganap na 5:00 PM, na layong magbigay kasiyahan at gift giveaways sa mga mamamayan.

Ayon sa paalala, magsisimula na ang pamamahagi ng raffle tickets ngayong Nobyembre 30, 2025 (Linggo) sa booth ng AKAY ni Gob na matatagpuan sa tapat

FROM PAGE 1

mismo ng San Pablo Cathedral. Bukas ang booth mula 9:00 AM hanggang 3:00 PM, at hinihikayat ang mga residente na agaran nang kumuha ng kanilang ticket habang may pagkakataon.

Tiniyak din ng pamunuan na susunod nang ianunsyo ang iskedyul ng pamamahagi ng raffle tickets para sa iba pang distrito sa Laguna.

Samantala, pina-paalalahanan ang publiko na i-follow ang opisyal na pahina para sa karagandang detalye at mga susunod pang update hinggil sa aktibidad.

By: Sol Luzano

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1

Espiritu, Bacoar City Cavite

Mobile No. ----- 09365035056

Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

Publisher : Nelson A. Dimapilis
Editor-In-chief : Kevin Pamatmat
Editor : Sol Luzano
Managing Editor : Edjun C. Mariposque
Marketing Manager : Pau Dela Cruz
Circulation Manager : Christina Mercado
Lay Out Artist : Danica Mae G. Cardifio

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL ----- P200/col.cm
LEGAL/NOTICES ----- P160/col.cm
Font Size:
Heading : 10
Body Text : 08
Space : Single space

The Grand Magical Parade returns at SM City Santa Rosa — bigger, brighter, and filled with Ribbons and Rhythm plus all the Christmas cheer we love!



A swirl of shimmer, music, and holiday magic lit up the mall as Ribbons & Rhythms: The Musical took center stage at SM Center San Pedro! Every beat, every ribbon dance, and every heartfelt performance brought joy and color to the season, creating a moment that sparkled with pure Christmas wonder. And the magic continues! Catch the festive journey as the sparkle move to the next malls in Laguna:

Dec 13 - SM City San Pablo

Dec 14 – SM City Calamba

#SMRibbonsAndRhythm

#ChristmasFestivitiesAtSM

#EverythingHereAtSM

CARD MBA RECEIVES THE THREE GOLDEN ARROWS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



CARD MBA Chief Executive Officer Ms. Jocelyn D. Dequito beams with pride as she receives the Three Golden Arrow Award at Okada Manila.

CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA), Inc. received the Three Golden Arrows Award from the Institute of Corporate Directors (ICD) on October 23, 2025, held at Okada Manila.

CARD MBA, one of the leading mutual benefit associations in the Philippines, received the awards in recognition of its firm adherence to the principles of good governance and continued efforts to deliver excellent service to its members.

“This recognition is not just for us as an organization, but also for every Ka-Seguro who has entrusted us with their future. It is a reflection of our shared commitment to transparency, excellence, and service that truly makes a difference in the lives of our members,” said CARD MBA Chief Executive Officer Ms. Jocelyn D. Dequito.

Reaching this milestone represents CARD MBA’s commitment to good governance and transparency. Its independent Board meetings, integrated sustainability reporting, and open dis-

closure of performance assessments show that CARD MBA is upholding the values of integrity, accountability, and sustainable development.

The Three Golden Arrows Award highlights CARD MBA’s longstanding commitment to delivering reliable and efficient mutual benefit services, ensuring the security and well-being of its members.

This prestigious recognition affirms the association’s leadership in promoting good governance and strengthening the trust of its members, which include microentrepreneurs and low-income families nationwide.

For CARD MBA, this award represents the heart of its mission to serve with integrity, excellence, and compassion. It is a

significant step forward in their journey toward being a leading example of corporate responsibility in the financial sector.

“We are committed to serving with honesty, dedication, and compassion,” added Dequito. She also shared that they look forward to continuing their mission to uplift and empower the lives of their members.

The Golden Arrows Award, a symbol of excellence in corporate governance, is conferred on organizations that have demonstrated exceptional adherence to the principles of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in their operations. These standards are based on the ASEAN Corporate Governance Scorecard (ACGS), a benchmark that evaluates companies on their commitment to good corporate governance practices.

With this recognition, CARD MBA continues to inspire the country’s cooperative sector and remains steadfast in its mission to provide financial security, uplift lives, and build a sustainable future for its members.

As of August 31, 2025, CARD MBA operates 95 offices nationwide, serving over 8.1 million members and 24.7 million insured individuals. It has paid PHP 1.2 billion in Basic Life Insurance claims, PHP 254 million in Loan Redemption benefits, PHP 293 million in retirement funds, and extended PHP 37 million in donated benefits.



Matthew 17:20

POLICE FOIL HOSTAGE-TAKING INCIDENT IN TIAONG, RESCUE THREE VICTIMS



A tense hostage situation unfolded in Sitio Bagong Pook, Barangay Quipot, Tiaong, Quezon at around 12:20 p.m. on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, when a man took three females hostage following an earlier domestic dispute.

According to Quezon Police Provincial Director PCOL Romulo A. Albacea, the incident stemmed from a heated argument between the suspect, identified as Felix Musico (also referred to as Felix Araganas Pansoy), a resident of Barangay Lusacan, and his former live-in partner. The confrontation escalated into physical assault before the

suspect fled and hid inside an apartment.

Inside the unit, Musico held three victims at knife-point using a fan knife (balisong). The hostages were identified as 45-year-old Veronica Monte Beltran, 10-year-old Crystal Beltran Saldua, and 16-year-old Khrisbel Aguila, all residents of the area.

Police immediately initiated negotiations, which lasted for several hours, in an attempt to secure the victims' safety. The suspect demanded a tricycle in exchange for releasing the hostages and leaving the area.

When authorities provided the requested

tricycle, personnel from the SWAT, 1st COY PMFC led by PLTCOL Reynaldo P. Reyes, and Tiaong Police under the supervision of PLCOL Jinkie B. Tuguic seized the opportunity to subdue and arrest Musico around 2:00 p.m.

PLTCOL Reyes swiftly rescued all three victims and brought them to safety. They were turned over to the Tiaong MDRR-MO, which had been on standby, for immediate medical evaluation.

Meanwhile, the Tiaong Municipal Police Station is preparing the appropriate charges against the suspect as the investigation continues.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Sec. Roque: Php 500 Noche Buena Possible for Small Families, Critics Unconvinced



Trade and Industry Secretary Ma. Cristina Aldeguer-Roque on Thursday clarified that her statement about a ₱500 Noche Buena budget refers only to a basic meal for a small family, following strong public criticism over the remark.

The issue began after Sec. Roque cited the DTI's 2025 Noche Buena Price Guide, saying that with careful selection of items—such as spaghetti ingredients, gelatin, or simple holiday staples—

families could prepare a modest Christmas meal within a ₱500 budget. The statement quickly drew backlash online, with netizens and consumer groups calling the claim unrealistic amid rising living costs.

Lawmakers also questioned the remark, labeling it “insensitive” and urging the DTI to show real-world proof that such a budget is feasible for an average household.

Some legislators pressed the agency

to demonstrate an actual ₱500 shopping run using the guide's suggested retail prices.

In response, Sec. Roque stressed that the figure was not meant to represent a full traditional Noche Buena feast, but a limited, economical set of items that families may opt for. She also reiterated that the DTI's monitoring shows many holiday goods retained their 2024 prices, helping consumers manage expenses.

The DTI encouraged the public to use the official price guide—effective until December 31—to compare prices and find the most affordable options as the Christmas season approaches.

(Edjun Mariposque)

2025 QUEZON INTER-COLLEGIATE FINANCE QUIZ, MATAGUMPAY

Bilang bahagi ng selebrasyon ng Quezon Business Month, ginanap ngayong Nobyembre 27 ang “2025 Quezon Inter-Collegiate Finance Quiz” sa Kalilayan Hall, Quezon Provincial Capitol Compound, Lucena City.

Pinangunahan ang aktibidad ng Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas – Lucena Branch, katuwang ang Pamahalaang Pan-

lalawigan ng Quezon. Dumalo si Provincial Economic Development and Investment Promotions Officer Emmanuel Querubin bilang kinatawan ni Governor Doktora Helen Tan.

Mga Lumahok 15 paaralan mula sa iba't ibang bayan at lungsod ng Quezon ang nagtagisan ng talino sa larangan ng finance.

Mga Nagwagi - Champion (245 points): Tayabas Western Academy – Candelaria, Quezon

- 2nd Place (215 points): College of Sciences, Technology and Communications – Sariaya, Quezon

- 3rd Place (200 points): Sacred Heart College – Lucena City

By: Sol Luzano

10TH PROVINCIAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING GINANAP SA LALAWIGAN NG QUEZON

Idinaos nitong Huwebes, Nobyembre 27, ang 10th Provincial Health Board (PHB) Meeting na pinangunahan ni Governor Helen Tan, ang PHB Chairperson, kasama si Provincial Health Officer II Dr. Kristin Mae-Jean Villaseñor at iba pang miyembro ng board, kabilang ang mga kinatawagang doktor mula sa Quezon Provincial Hospital Network (QPHN).

Mahahalagang Tinalakay sa Pulong - Estado ng Special Health Fund (SHF) Liquidation

- Ipinresenta ang summary of funds transferred sa mga component LGUs para sa 1st at 2nd tranche.

- Tinalakay ang renewal ng Memorandum of Agreement para sa patuloy na paglipat ng SHF alinsunod sa PHB Resolution No. 2025-014.

By: Sol Luzano

PUBLISHER CORNER

DUTERTE SUPPORTERS, DISMAYADO SA PASYA NG ICC; PERO PAMILYA NG MGA BIKTIMA NG WAR ON DRUGS, NAGDIRIWANG

Dismayado ang mga tagasuporta ni dating Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte sa desisyon ng International Criminal Court (ICC) Appeals Chamber na ibasura ang kahilingan para sa kanyang interim release.

Ayon kay Atty. Manuelito Luna sa panayam na umaasa sila na pagbibigyan ang apela dahil sa kalagayan ng dating lider, partikular na sa usapin ng kanyang kalusugan.

Nanawagan

si Luna sa mga tagasuporta na manatiling mahinahon at iwasan ang padalos-dalos na aksyon, bagaman aminado siyang hindi mapipigilan ang ilang indibidwal na maglabas ng saloobin at himutok.

Sa huli, sinisi ni Luna ang Marcos administration sa pagpapadala kay Duterte sa The Hague upang doon mabilanggo, imbes na dito sa Pilipinas kasuhan kung mayroon mang batayan.

Samantala, sa

panig ng mga kaanak ng



mga biktima ng war on drugs, ipinahayag ni Atty. Gilbert Andres, isang ICC-accredited lawyer, ang kanilang kasiyahan sa desisyon. Aniya, inaasahan na nila ang resulta ngunit mas masayang marinig mismo ang pagbasa ng pasya dahil nakikita nila ito bilang simula ng tagumpay para sa karapatang pantao na ipinagkait sa mga biktima ng kampanya kontra droga.

CHIZ SAYS MARCOS ADMIN'S EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACH GOOD FOR FLOOD CONTROL PROBE



Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero commented on Tuesday President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for pursuing evidence-based investigations into the flood control budget irregularities that have led to the filing of corruption and malversation cases, stressing the importance of accountability and cautioning against diversions that only protect the guilty and harm the innocent.

During the Senate plenary deliberations

on the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) budget, Escudero said the administration, as stated by Secretary Vince Dizon, has indeed chosen to follow the evidence wherever it leads, even when politically sensitive.

“Binabati ko po ang administrasyon dahil hindi sila sumunod at nagpadala sa anumang script o sarswela para ilihis ang mga tunay na salarin tulad ng sinabi ko nung ako ay huling tumayo at nagsalita

dito sa Senado,” he said. “Ayon mismo kay Secretary Dizon, ang sinusundan lamang nila, base sa kautusan ng Pangulong Marcos, ay kung saan sila dinala ng ebidensya.”

The Ombudsman has already filed corruption and malversation charges before the Sandiganbayan against former Ako Bicol Rep. Zaldy Co, former DPWH Undersecretary Wilfredo Bernardo, former DPWH Bulacan 1st District Engineer Henry Alcantara, former DPWH



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

‘A Magical Day of Hope’:

50 Little Brave Warriors of Laguna experience Enchanted Kingdom for the first time

In a heartwarming celebration of compassion and generosity, 50 Little Brave Warriors of Laguna—children battling cancer, leukemia, chronic heart disease, hydrocephalus, autism spectrum disorder, and other physical and developmental challenges—were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime early Christmas experience at Enchanted Kingdom (EK).

The special event, held in time for EK's 30th anniversary, brought together families, sponsors, and advocates who share one mission: to bring joy and relief to young warriors who face unimaginable battles every day. Including their parents and guardians, came together for a day filled with laughter, wonder, and healing.

The celebration was made possible through the generosity of EK's President and Chairman Mario O. Mamon and Chief Operating Officer Dr. Cynthia R. Mamon whose commitment to creating magical experiences extended beyond entertainment and into the hearts of families who need it most.

The organizing team from Expo Cy Communication Services ensured that every detail—from transportation to program flow—was handled with care and love.

The young warriors received

special gifts from the MEXC Foundation, Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CA-LAX) and the Office of Laguna Governor Sol Aragonés, adding warmth and meaning to the early Christmas celebration.

For many of the children, it was their first time inside Enchanted Kingdom—a place they had only dreamed of. Their faces lit up as they marveled at the rides, colorful surroundings, and the enchanting sights that made them forget, even for a moment, the burden of their daily battles.

Some came from distant towns across Laguna, yet the long travel and medical challenges did not stop them from embracing joy, hope, and magic.

Parents expressed gratitude as they watched their children smile freely—something the weight of illness often makes difficult.

Organizers said the event aimed not only to bring happiness but to remind the children and their families that they are not alone—that the community stands with them in their fight.

As Enchanted Kingdom marks three decades of creating magical experiences that last a lifetime, this celebration became one of its most meaningful moments—a reminder that true magic lives in kindness, compassion, and the courage of little warriors who continue to inspire everyone around them..

Bulacan 1st District Assistant Engineer Brice Hernandez, and directors of Sunwest Corporation in connection with flood control project anomalies.

The Independent Commission for Infrastructure, which has been tasked by the President to lead the investigations, has turned over documents to the Office of the Ombudsman in relation to the role of former House Speaker and Leyte Rep. Martin Romualdez in the anomalies to determine possible administrative or criminal accountability under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards, and other applicable laws.

The Bicolano senator praised the administration for its determination to uphold justice, even when investigations touch close to home. He noted that the President's directive to “follow the evidence” has ensured that accountability is pursued consistently and without diversion.

“Alam kong hindi naging madali ang desisyong ito para kay Pangulong Marcos nang malaman niya na posibleng sangkot ang kaniyang pinsan. Kaya, binabati ko ang kaniyang sigasig na panagutin ang mga tunay at dapat managot, at ang pagtutol niya sa anumang dibersyon dahil marami nang mga

inosenteng tao ang nadamay sa tangkang paglilihis na ito,” he stressed.

Escudero reminded the public that while anger against corruption is justified, judgment must be based on facts and evidence, and not on speculation or intrigue.

“Dapat lang tayong magalit sa korupsiyon at anumang uri ng pag-abuso sa kapangyarihan. Subalit, huwag tayo maging padalos-dalos sa paghusga. Maging mapanuri din tayo sa mga mema na nais lamang magpunla ng pagkakaatawat-watak natin di lamang dito sa Senado kundi sa buong bansa,” he concluded.

INNOVATIONS IN COCONUT VALUE ADDITION COCO FIESTA, 9TH TECHNO GABAY PROGRAM



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite - The Department of Agriculture bureau, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in CALABARZON, championed the innovative and empowering coconut industry on November 18-22, 2025, through the 2nd Coco Fiesta and the 9th Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit.

Coco Fiesta 2025

The Coco Fiesta 2025 took place on November 18-22, 2025, at SM City Trece Martires, Cavite. Anchored on the theme "Transforming Communities, Advancing Sustainability: Toward a Modernized Coconut Agriculture and Agribusiness Sector," this five-day event

aims to provide a platform for local exhibitors and innovators to market coconut-based products, technologies, and services—thereby expanding market access and income opportunities. It also seeks to empower farmers, cooperatives, and the public on emerging innovations and value-adding endeavors related to the

coconut industry development.

This celebration featured 12 booths of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), mostly smallholder coconut farmers and associations across CALABARZON, showcasing coconut-based products, technologies, and services:

- SAMAWIN Coconut Farmers Agricultural Cooperative (Tayabas Qty)

- Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (Pagbilao, Quezon)

- Mang Ed Handicraft (San Pablo Qty)

- Yakap at Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative - Quezon II (Padre Burgos, Quezon)

- CocoPlus Aquarian Corporation (San Pablo Qty)

- Coco Deli (Candelaria, Quezon)

- Ilayang Talim Agriculture Cooperative (Lucena Qty)

- Alabat Island Farmers and Producers Cooperative (Alabat, Quezon)

- ProSource International, Inc. (San Pablo Qty)

- Mang Larry's Original Suka at Lamanog (Liliw, Laguna)

- Rhudarda Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Polillo, Quezon)

- Magallanes Kaong Products (Magallanes, Cavite)

Alongside this is a technology forum participated in by over 150 farm-

ers from different towns in Cavite. It was also open to mallgoers. Through resource persons from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region IV-A, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) –

Design Center of the Philippines (DCP), and private extension partners of the ATI CALABARZON, farmers were able to learn about the homemade coconut value addition for health and hygiene, innovative uses of coconut waste for handicrafts, processing of functional coco-based food products, packaging and branding for coconut products, sustainable coconut agribusiness models, Coco Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) as farm tourism hub, and integrat-

HIGHLIGHTED AT ATI CALABARZON'S 2ND SUMMIT



ing coconut-based urban gardening.

Simultaneously, the ATI CALABARZON, as the lead agency for the TGP, in partnership with the Cavite State University (CvSU), the Provincial Government of Cavite, and the Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources Research Development and Extension Consortium (STARDEC), spearheaded the 9th TGP Summit on November 19-21, 2025, at CvSU, Indang, Cavite.

The TGP Summit gathered implementers

from across the region to strengthen collaboration, exchange best practices, and recognize outstanding contributions to the program. It also emphasized inclusive and sustainable agricultural transformation through innovation and multi-sectoral partnerships.

During the activity, the accomplishments and invaluable contributions of Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers and Magsasaka Siyentista in delivering agricultural technologies, digital innovations, and farmer-led

extension systems in their localities were recognized.

By bringing together key stakeholders and promoting collaboration, the summit strengthened the capacity of local actors to respond to current challenges and contribute to the long-term goal of a resilient, inclusive, and modern coconut industry.

In his message, Dr. Rolando Maningas, ATI CALABARZON Center Director, expressed gratitude to partners, exhibitors, and coconut farmers for uniting as one to celebrate the vibrant coconut industry in

the region.

"Patuloy naming ihahatid ang mga pag-sasanay, teknolohiya, at oportunidad na magpapatibay sa kabuhayan at pangarap ng mga mag-niniyog. Ang Coco Fiesta, na sinimulan natin noong nakaraang taon sa lalawigan ng Quezon, ay isa lamang sa maraming paraan para maipamalas namin ang aming suporta, at sisiguraduhin naming mas marami pa tayong magagawa-hindi lang para sa industriya, kundi para sa bawat pamilyang umasa sa biyaya ng niyog," told Dr. Maningas.

He added that through these back-to-back events, the ATI CALABARZON reaffirmed its commitment to building resilient, sustainable, and

forward-looking agricultural communities that thrive through innovation, collaborations, and shared purpose.

(PRESS RELEASE)