

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL LEADS 2025 BARANGAY CONGRESS, HONORS 'CALAMBAYANING' AWARDEES AND BOOSTS ALL 54 BARANGAYS



Calamba City — The 2025 Liga ng mga Barangay Congress, themed "Excellence in Barangay Governance: Key to Peace and Community Safety," brought together all 54 barangay officials of Calamba City for a meaningful and inspiring General Assembly led by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal. In his address, Mayor Ross Rizal highlighted the vital role of grassroots leadership in shaping a safer and more progressive city. "We celebrated the Calambayaning Barangay Awards to recognize outstanding barangays that have shown excellence and dedication — barangays honored not

only in our city but across the region and the country," he said. As a strong commitment to local development, the city government also turned over the Development Assistance Fund to all 54 barangays, ensuring that each community is equipped with resources to improve services, strengthen safety initiatives, and promote local growth. "Truly, barangay excellence is the key to a peaceful and progressive community," Mayor Rizal emphasized. The event was also attended by Laguna Governor Sol Aragon, who expressed her appreciation for Calamba's

united and proactive leadership. "It was a pleasure visiting the Liga ng mga Barangay in Calamba. Thank you Mayor Ross Rizal, Vice Mayor Toti Lazaro, and ABC President Eduardo Silva," she said. Governor Aragon also shared major updates for the benefit of Calambaeños, including the continued distribution of free maintenance medicines through the Akay ni Gob program at Hectan, and the start of construction of a new five-story hospital building along J.P. Rizal — a significant investment in Laguna's healthcare system. The 2025 Baran-



Barangay Congress showcased Calamba City's unified effort to empower communities, celebrate exemplary leadership, and deliver tangible improvements for every resident. (Edjun Mariposque)

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KAPITOLYO NG QUEZON, TAMPOK SA SUNOD-SUNOD NA GAWAIN AT SERBISYONG PAMPUBLIKO NGAYONG DISYEMBRE 2025

Calamba Shines with Dual Achievements as Mayor Ross Rizal Celebrates Environmental Excellence



BICAM MEETING PARA SA 2026 NATIONAL BUDGET INIURONG SADIYSEMBRE 13 NI SENATE PRES. SOTTO

QUEZON PROVINCE, NAGLUNSA NG SEMINAR PARA PALAKASIN ANG STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT NG MGA GUSALI AT IMPRASTRUKTURA

Cavite welcomes BARM delegation for benchmarking visit PAGE 02

CAVITE EMPOWERS 525 STUDENT INNOVATORS AT THE 2025 ENTREPRENEURSHIP STUDENTS CONFERENCE



A total of 525 student participants from 30 schools across Cavite gathered for the 2025 Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Conference themed "Empowering Future Entrepreneurs through Digitalization, Sustainability, and Innovation" held on November 27, 2025, at the City of Imus Sports Complex. The event aimed to empower the next generation of Caviteño entrepreneurs through discussions on

LALAWIGAN NG QUEZON AT BUONG BANSA

DOJ, muling nanindigan wala pang natatanggap na 'ICC Arrest Warrant' laban kay Sen. Bato Dela Rosa

QUEZONIANS PINAMALAS ANG HUSAY SA PASTRY MAKING COMPETITION SA PASKONG QUEZONIAN 2025

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EDITORIAL:

“PROTEKSYON, HINDI DISKRIMINASYON: ANG TAMANG PAGTRATO SA LEVS SA NATIONAL HIGHWAY”

Sa panahon ngayon na dumarami ang gumagamit ng Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs) at e-bikes bilang pang-araw-araw na sakay, lumalakas din ang usaping dapat ba silang payagang dumaan sa mga national highway. Marami ang natatakot, marami ang nalilito, at marami rin ang basta na lamang nagsasabing “bawal sila kasi delikado.

Ngunit kung susuriing mabuti, ang ganitong pag-iisip ay hindi akma sa prinsipyo ng ating Konstitusyon—ang equal protection of the law. Equal protection of the law it means wag total ban pwede limitahan sa kalsada sa mga Private Road at Barangay Roads tulad ng mga Tricycle.

Ang sinasabi ng Saligang Batas ay simple: dapat pantay ang pagpapatupad ng batas sa lahat ng tao at lahat ng uri ng sasakyang ginagamit sa pampublikong kalsada. Kung ang mga sasakyang gumagamit ng gasolina ay sakop ng LTO, gayundin dapat ang mga LEV na ginagamit bilang transportasyon sa parehong kalsada sakop din sila ng LTO. Pareho silang transportation vehicles; pareho silang may karapatang protektahan at i-regulate — hindi i-discriminate.

Totoo: mas delikado ang LEVs sa national highways. Hindi sila designed para sa bilis ng ibang motor vehicle. Mas magaan sila, mas mababa ang top speed, at mas mataas ang risk kapag nakipagsabayan sa malalaking sasakyan. Pero ang solusyon ba ay total ban? Hindi.

Ang tamang solusyon ay proteksiyon, hindi PAGTABOY.

Bigyan ng pagkakataon na kumuha ng Lisen-sya at Rehistro ang mga LEV’s at mabigyan ng PROPER TRAINING para maiwasan ang mga sinasabi ng iba na sila ay KAMOTE. Ang pagiging KAMOTE ay hindi lamang sa LEV’s kundi nasa TAONG nagmamaneho.

Kung tunay na layunin ng gobyerno ang kailigtasan, hindi dapat outright prohibition ang unang hakbang. Dapat pag-aralan ang tamang klasipikasyon, magtakda ng mga speed limits, maglagay ng designated lanes, magbigay ng safety requirements tulad ng ilaw, reflector, protective gear, at education programs. Hindi limitado ang solusyon; marami ang pwedeng gawin. Pero ang pagbawal agad? Iyan ang madaling sagot pero maling direksyon.

Hindi ginagawang bawal ang mga TRICYCLE dahil sila ay REHISTRADO at LISENSYADO ngunit sa usapin ng kailigtasan dapat limitahan sa mga National Highway. Hindi rin ginagawang bawal ang bisikleta sa mga lugar na walang alternative route.

Bakit? Dahil sila ay transportation vehicles at may tungkulin ang gobyerno na protektahan ang bawat mamamayan, hindi pili lang.

Ganyan din dapat ang trato sa LEVs.

Ang tunay na diwa ng batas ay hindi upang pigilan ang mahihirap o low-speed commuters, kundi upang tiyakin na lahat ng gumagamit ng kalsada ay ligtas at

may patas na oportunidad na gumamit ng pampublikong daan. Hindi dapat maging hadlang ang kung anong makina ang nagpapandar sa sasakyan—gasolina man o kuryente.

Sa huli, ang panawagan ay malinaw: Regulasyon, oo. Proteksiyon, oo. Diskriminasyon, hindi.

Kung kailangan baguhin ang EVIDA LAW baguhin, o gumawa ng batas. Kung kailangan ng standards, magtakda ng standards. Ang hindi katanggap-tanggap ay ang solusyong “bawal ka kasi delikado ka,” dahil ang tunay na layunin ng batas ay hindi pahirapan ang mamamayan, kundi pangalagaan sila.

Sa mga gumagamit ng e-bike at LEVs, tandaan: may obligasyon kayong sumunod sa regulasyon. Pero may karapatan din kayong hindi basta pagbawal nang walang makatuwirang batayan. Ang kalsada ay para sa lahat — at ang batas ay para protektahan, hindi para magtaboy.

Ang editorial na ito ay batay sa pangkalahatang interpretasyon ng umiiral na batas at prinsipyo ng equal protection. Hindi ito maituturing na legal advice o opisyal na pahayag ng anumang ahensya ng pamahalaan. Para sa partikular na kaso, mas mainam kumonsulta sa kwalipikadong legal expert o sa mismong ahensiyang may hurisdiksiyon tulad ng LTO.

QUEZONIANS...

Nagtagisan ng naglalayong itampok at bigyang-pagkilala ang talento ng mga Quezonian sa larangan ng culinary arts. Layunin din nitong makapagbigay ng mas malawak na oportunidad sa mga lokal na tagapagluto upang maipakita ang kanilang natatanging kasanayan sa paggawa ng de-kalidad na baked products.

Bahagi ang naturang paligsahan ng Paskong Quezonian 2025,

FROM PAGE 1

KAPITOLYO...

Naghatid muli ng mga mahahalagang kaganapan ang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Quezon ngayong linggong ito, tampok ang iba’t ibang programa at inisyatibang naglalayong isulong ang ekonomiya, kalusugan, kahandaan sa sakuna, kasanayan at kaunlaran, sports development, at pagpapatibay ng kultura at kasaysayan.

Matagumpay na idinaos ang 3-Days CALA-BARZON Coffee Expo sa Quezon Convention Center kung saan tampok ang mga lokal na coffee growers, processors, at entrepreneurs. Layunin nitong palakasin ang industriya ng kape sa rehiyon at mabigyan ng mas malawak na merkado ang mga produktong gawang Quezon.

Sa manta la, nagtungo si Governor Angelina “Doktora Helen” Tan sa Kongreso upang dumalo sa pagdinig kaugnay ng implementasyon ng Universal Health Care

(UHC) Act, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na adbokasiya ng lalawigan para sa mas abot-kaya at epektibong serbisiyong medikal para sa bawat Quezonian.

Isina gawa naman sa Kapitolyo ang malawakang earthquake at emergency response drill bilang paghahanda sakaling magkaroon ng anumang sakuna. Katuwang dito ang iba’t ibang emergency units upang masiguro ang mabilis na pagtugon sa oras ng pangangailangan.

Sa usapin naman ng gender and development, pinangunahan ng PGAD Office ang pagdiriwang ng Men’s Day at ang pagpulong ng Barangay VAW Desk, na naglalayong palakasin ang kampanya laban sa karahasan at isulong ang mas inklusibong komunidad.

Mahigit 13,000 atleta mula sa iba’t ibang bayan at lungsod ang lumahok sa makasaysayang pagbubukas ng

Palarang Quezon 2025, na layuning palakasin ang sportsmanship at talento ng kabataan sa iba’t ibang larangan ng palakasan.

Ipinagkaloob naman ng National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) ang isang panandang pangkasaysayan para sa bantayog ni Pangulong Manuel L. Quezon, bilang pagkilala sa kanyang malaking ambag sa bansa. Malugod din na tinanggap ni Gov. Tan ang donasyong obra-maestra mula sa artista at philanthropist na si Maria Puraza Escario, na inaasahang magiging mahalagang bahagi ng cultural collection ng lalawigan.

At bilang hudyat ng masayang pagdiriwang ng kapaskuhan, opisyal nang pinailawan ang makukitap na Christmas decorations sa buong Kapitolyo, na ngayon ay dinarayong ng mga mamamayan para sa kanilang Paskong Quezonian experience.

By: Sol Luzano

BICAM...

Inanunsiyo ni Senate President Vicente Sotto III ang pag-urong sa schedule ng pulong ng bicameral conference committee para sa 2026 national budget.

Sinabi ni Sotto na nagpasya ang chambers ng Kongreso na gawin na lamang sa Sabado, Disy-

embre 13 ang pulong at sa halip na sa Biyernes, Disyembre 12.

Hiniling umano ng mga technical staff ng House at Senate na i-urong ng isang araw para maayos ang ilang detalye ng matrix ganun din ang ilang probisyon.

Tiniyak din nito

na ang lahat ng mga detalye ay naisasapubliko para sa transparency kung saan susuriin ng House of Representatives ang bersyon ng Senado ng budget ganun din ang gagawin nila sa inapurbahang budget ng House

By: Sol Luzano

CAVITE EMPOWERS...

digitalization, sustainability, and innovation.

Spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Cooperative Development Officer (OPCDO), the conference opened with messages from provincial and local leaders, highlighting the important role of youth in shaping the future of business and community development.

One of the event’s key highlights was the keynote speech delivered by Hon. Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV, Senator and Chairperson of the Committee on Science and Technology. His address inspired the students to embrace creativity, social responsibility, and innovation in pursuing entrepreneurial ventures.

Throughout the day, participants engaged in learning sessions featuring industry professionals, including discussions on the Start-Up Mindset by Dr. Leo Manansala, Vice Dean, College of Professional and Graduate Studies of DLSU-D, Sustainable entrepreneurship led by Mr. Julius Tibayan, Owner of Cocardado con el Corazon, and Digital transformation in Entrepreneurship: Harnessing Technology for Growth by Prof. Ronilo M. Balbieran, Vice President of Research and Institutional Development (REID) Foundation.

The event culminated with the awarding ceremony for the Search for the Most Innovative and Sustainable Products,

showcasing student-led business concepts that reflected creativity, eco-consciousness, and market viability.

Swizzle Sparks of the City College of Tagaytay secured the first place; Peelicious of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas ranked second; and Tamies Brites of Cavite State University Imus Campus completed the roster as third place.

The 2025 Cavite Entrepreneurship Students Conference successfully strengthened the province’s commitment to nurturing young innovators and building a community of future-ready entrepreneurs dedicated to sustainable development.

— R. Tanael

CAVITE...

FROM PAGE 1

Provincial Government of Cavite warmly welcomed officials from the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) during a courtesy visit and benchmarking activity held on November 26, at the Office of the Governor.

Representing Governor Abeng Remulla, Chief of Staff Mr. Ferdinand A. Belamide and Provincial Tourism Officer Ms. Elinia Imelda Rozelle S. Sangalang personally received the BARMM delegation, which was headed by DOT Regional Director Marites Maguindra. The Cavite officials extended the province’s appreciation for receiving Cavite as one of their key learning and collaboration sites.

The visit formed part of BARMM’s continuing initiative to strengthen interregional cooperation and adopt best practices

in governance, development planning, and tourism enhancement.

Cavite officials shared insights on the province’s progressive governance framework, innovative development programs, and tourism strategies that continue to drive its economic growth.

As a gesture of goodwill, the Provincial Government of Cavite presented the guests with a simple token of appreciation handcrafted by Habing Maragondon, a proud local cultural enterprise that highlights Caviteño craftsmanship and tradition.

The benchmarking activity concluded with a shared interest in further exploring avenues for cooperation, reinforcing both regions’ commitment to advancing regional development through strengthened intergovernmental partnerships. - R. Donese

CALAMBA...

Calamba City — Calamba’s commitment to environmental stewardship and good governance reached a new milestone as the city, under the leadership of Mayor Ross Rizal, secured two major recognitions in the 2024 LGU Compliance Assessment.

Mayor Ross Rizal proudly announced the city’s latest accomplishments, highlighting both the achievement and the shared mission behind them.

“Ipinagamalaki natin ang pagkamit ng 86.99% rating sa 2024 LGU Compliance Assessment, patunay ng ating matatag na pangako sa mahusay na pamamahala at tuloy-tuloy na pagsunod sa Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and Preservation Program (MB-CRPP).”

(We proudly achieved an 86.99% rating in the 2024 LGU Compliance Assessment, proof of our strong commitment to good governance and consistent compliance with the Manila Bay Clean-up, Rehabilitation, and

Preservation Program.)

He added: “Hindi lamang ito—nakamit din ng ating lungsod ang Gold Award (Provincial Level – City Category) para sa 2024 LGU Compliance Assessment.

Isang pagkilala sa ating natatanging performance at walang humpay na pagsusumikap para sa pangangalaga ng kapaligiran.” (Not only that—our city also earned the Gold Award (Provincial Level – City Category) in the 2024 LGU Compliance Assessment. This recognition affirms our exceptional performance and relentless efforts in protecting the environment.)

Mayor Rizal also expressed gratitude to the Department of the Interior and Local Government:

“Maraming salamat sa DILG IV-A sa tiwala at mga pagkilalang ibinigay sa ating lungsod. Patuloy tayong magsisilbi, kikilos, at magtutulongan para sa isang mas malinis, mas ligtas, at mas maunlad na Calamba!”

(Thank you to

FROM PAGE 1

DILG IV-A for the trust and recognition given to our city.

We will continue to serve, take action, and work together for a cleaner, safer, and more progressive Calamba!

With these dual

accolades, Calamba once again positions itself as a leading city in the region—dedicated to compliance, environmental protection, and community-centered progress under the leadership of Mayor Ross Rizal.

(Edjun Mariposque)



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FUELED DREAMS FROM THE FILLED TANKS

Success doesn't happen instantly. It is built one step, one commitment, and one brave decision at a time. For Snooky Sardan, becoming successful in their business venture wasn't about luck, but about being hands-on, working hard every day, and never being afraid to take a significant risk. What began as a simple effort to support her family soon grew into a thriving business.

Snooky grew up in Antique in a family of seven siblings with farmer parents. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2006 from the University of Antique. After studying, she worked as a customer service representative, then as a cashier, and later as a supervisor in a membership shopping warehouse in Manila.

In 2014, she married the love of her life, Rex L. Sardan. When they had their first child in 2015, she left her work in Manila and moved with her family to Oriental Mindoro to focus on raising their child. However, things did not go as smoothly as hoped. Even with her attention focused on their growing family, financial challenges arose as they struggled to meet their needs. It took them two years to move into their own home. How the flame started

In 2019, they decided to start a business. Little did they know that this step would spark growth in both their livelihood and their dreams. They established a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) trading business with a single primary brand.

Aside from the practicality of LPG not being perishable, they also wanted to provide for the daily household needs of their community.

With PHP 150,000 as their initial capital, drawn from the savings they had accumulated over the years, they purchased 100 cylinders to get started.

And with that, Sardan LPG Trading was



Snooky A. Sardan, a proud CARD Bank client from Oriental Mindoro, stands fulfilled and driven beside the filled LPG tanks of Sardan LPG Trading.

he beginning was far from easy. To ensure they always had stock and could continue serving customers, they worked hard and marketed persistently, using face-to-face, door-to-door, and person-to-person methods. They introduced and promoted their services across their municipality in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. And it worked! Households, stores, bakeries, eateries, and roasting businesses regularly bought tanks and refills from them.

Later, they added two more LPG brands to serve a broader market. Each year, they also added approximately 80 cylinders to their inventory, thereby strengthening their supply availability across various areas in the municipality. They eventually established multiple outlets as well.

But growth is not always smooth. They faced several uncontrollable challenges, including inflation that affected their profit margins and competition from new LPG dealers in their area. This pushed them to lower their prices beyond their ideal rate.

Still, because they had already earned the trust of their community, customers stayed loyal. Many even recommended them to others, helping their business continue to grow despite the challenges.

What Fuels the Flame More
In 2021, Snooky

became a client of CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank, along with her mother-in-law. She availed a PHP 10,000 loan to expand their LPG business further and invest in mobile financial services such as money transfers and load selling. This helped support their household as they continued to grow.

The following year, they hired a delivery staff to assist with operations. Yet, they remained very hands-on with the business, still passionately doing their part and taking their role in the management.

Because the business involves flammable products, they also invested in safety measures, including fire extinguishers, BFP inspections, and compliance with risk-reduction requirements.

In 2024, CARD Bank offered them a PHP 200,000 loan, which they used to start another business supplying calamansi fruits. Each harvest earns them around PHP 70,000, in addition to their continuously growing LPG business.

Snooky is deeply grateful for the support that helped her family grow and explore new business opportunities. With financial assistance and benefits such as savings and insurance, she hopes others can experience the same level of guidance and opportunity that transformed their family's journey.

Keeping the fire burning

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL ROLLS OUT "TULONG GULONG" PROGRAM, AIDING 1,770 TRICYCLE DRIVERS IN CALAMBA CITY



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The City Government of Calamba has officially launched the "Tulong Gulong para sa Tricycle Operators & Drivers Assistance (TODA)", providing much-needed support to the city's hardworking tricycle drivers, widely regarded as modern-day heroes of the road.

Led by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, the initial distribution benefited 1,770 TODA members from the barangays of Banlic, Mapagong, San Cristobal, Paciano Rizal, Parian, Bagong Kalsada, Masili, Sucol, Bucal,

For six years, their business has enabled them to make significant progress. They have acquired motorcycles, tricycles, and an elf truck, which they also use for deliveries. Today, they sell around 300 to 350 cylinders per month, or roughly 3,600 cylinders a year. But they are not stopping there.

They plan to expand their LPG outlets beyond District 1 in Oriental Mindoro and increase their storage capacity. They are also

Halang, and Pansol. The activity was held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, gathering drivers from various parts of the city under one unified program of assistance.

The Tulong Gulong initiative underscores the city administration's continuing commitment to uplift the transport sector, recognizing the vital role of tricycle drivers in Calamba's daily mobility and local economy.

Mayor Rizal emphasized that sustained support for TODA members is part of the city's broader goal of inclusive

planning to establish a gasoline station to provide affordable fuel services in their community, building a long-term business that their children can inherit.

When asked about their secret, Snooky emphasizes the importance of focus, consistent monitoring, and hands-on supervision.

She also advises exploring additional businesses that you can manage well.

Snooky and her husband are living proof that aspiring entrepre-

neers should not be afraid to take a chance. As long as there is an opportunity, grab it and manage it wisely.

And, of course, always be a responsible payer to those you have credited in investment.

Today, with their three children, they continue to work hard and keep the flame of persistence burning. Who would have thought that filling tanks would not only fuel the kitchen stoves of their customers, but also their dreams and visions?

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PUBLISHER CORNER

"BAKIT MAHALAGANG MAY LISENSYA AT REHISTRO ANG BAWAT SASAKYAN AT DRIVER?"



Sa gitna ng patuloy na pagdami ng mga sasakyang sa ating mga kalsada, madalas nating marinig ang argumento na "kahit may lisensya at rehistro, naaaksidente pa rin naman." Totoo ito—dahil ang aksidente ay hindi lamang nakabatay sa dokumento, kundi sa asal, disiplina, at paggalang ng bawat motorista sa kapwa. Ngunit mahalagang maunawaan na ang lisensya at rehistro ay hindi ginawa para gawing immune ang isang driver sa aksidente. Ginawa ito upang limitahan, kontrolin, at mapigilan ang mas malalang sitwasyon sa ating mga kalsada.

Ang lisensya ay hindi piraso ng plastik. Ito'y patunay na ang isang tao ay dumaan sa tamang pagsusulit, may sapat na kaalaman sa batas trapiko, at may ka-

kayahang magmaniobra nang ligtas. Kung walang lisensya, papaano mo masisiguro na ang isang motorista ay marunong huminto, umiwas, o magbigay-daan? Paano mo mapapanagot ang isang driver kung maging sanhi siya ng aksidente? Sa lisensya nagsisimula ang responsibilidad at pananagutan.

Ganito rin ang kahalagahan ng rehistro ng sasakyang. Hindi ito simpleng sticker o papel. Ito ang pagkakakilanlan ng sasakyang—kung kani-ano ito nakapangalan, kung ligtas ba itong gamitin, at kung nasa kondisyon bang pumasa sa mga pamantayan ng gobyerno.

Kapag may nangyaring insidente, ang rehistro ang nagbibigay ng malinaw na direksyon sa imbestigasyon, at ito rin ang nagtitiyak na hindi basta-basta nakakalusot ang mga sasakyang de-

likado o ilegal na nasa kalsada.

Hindi man garantiya ang lisensya at rehistro para maiwasan ang lahat ng aksidente, ito ang sandigan ng kaayusan at kaligtasan. Itinatangka nito ang minimum na pamantayan ng pagiging isang responsableng motorista. Kung wala nito, magiging ligaw at magulo ang daloy ng trapiko—parang kalsadang pinatakbo ng swerte at hulaan.

Kaya't kung tunay nating hangad ang mas ligtas na kalsada, magsisimula ito sa pagrespeto sa mga pangunahing dokumentong ito. Dahil ang lisensya at rehistro ay hindi lamang para sa driver—kundi para sa kapakanan ng buong sambayanan.

Cavite MSMEs BizCon champions digital empowerment for local entrepreneurs

The 2025 Cavite MSMEs Business Conference (BizCon) gathered micro, small, and medium enterprise owners, government partners, and industry experts on November 28 at Elijah Hotel and Residences, City of Dasmariñas. Organized by the Office of the Provincial Co-operatives Development Officer (OPCDO) in cooperation with DTI-Cavite and the Cavite Small and Medium Enterprises Development Council (CaSMEDC), this year's event carried the theme "Empowering MSMEs in the Digital Era: Building Trust, Security, and Innovation."

The conference aimed to equip local enterprises with the necessary tools and knowledge to thrive in an increasingly technology-driven market. In her opening message, CaSMEDC



Chair Teresita Leabres underscored the importance of digitalization in sustaining business growth and ensuring long-term competitiveness. DTI IV-A Assistant Regional Director Revelyn Cortez also expressed her support, noting CaSMEDC's continuous efforts to champion MSME development and describing the annual conference as a legacy that will benefit future generations of entrepreneurs.

DTI Cavite OIC-Provincial Director

Lilibeth R. Chavez introduced keynote speaker Assistant Secretary Leonila T. Baluyut, DBA, of the DTI Competitiveness and Innovation Group, who delivered her message through a recorded video. ASEC Baluyut highlighted trust, security, and innovation as key pillars that will empower MSMEs to succeed in the digital economy.

Setting the tone for the discussion, Ms. Liza C. Gabatan, Entrepreneurial Division Head



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Makabuluhang Unang Pasko sa Kapitolyo, Pinangunahan ni Gov. Sol Aragon

Nag-uumpaw ang kasiyahan at diwa ng Pasko sa Laguna Sports Complex nang pamunuan ni Governor Sol Aragon ang kanyang kasama ang mga empleyado ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna.

Pinagsama-sama ng makulay na pagtitipon ang mga pinuno ng departamento, kawani, utility staff, board members at mga panauhing delegado sa isang gabi ng pasasalamat, pagkakaisa, at masayang pagsasama.

Binuksan ng Provincial Administrator Atty. Nathalie Velasquez ang programa sa isang mensaheng nagbigay-pugay sa dedikasyon ng bawat empleyado. "Para po sa inyong lahat ito, sa lahat po ng empleyado ng Provincial Government of Laguna," aniya, na binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulungan sa patuloy na pag-unlad ng lalawigan.

Sa kanyang mensahe, iniha-yag ni Gov. Aragon ang labis na pasasalamat sa mainit na pagtanggap sa kanya bilang bagong gobernador. "Excited kami ngayong araw na ito dahil ito ang unang Pasko namin sa Kapitolyo. Sa inyong lahat na tumanggap sa amin dito, maram-

ing salamat po," pahayag niya. Idinagdag din niyang hangarin niyang manatili ang pagmamahal, pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan sa susunod pang mga taon.

Naging tampok ng pagdiriwang ang masasarap na pagkain, masiglang pagtatanghal mula sa iba't ibang cluster ng empleyado, palaro, at ang inaabangang pa-raffle. Isa sa ikinatuwa ng lahat ang pamamahagi ng ham sa bawat empleyado—mula department heads hanggang utility staff.

Mas lalo pang nagpasaya sa gabi ang anunsyo ng mga benepisyon matatanggap ng mga kawani: ₱20,000 Service Recognition Incentive (SRI) ₱5,000 Productivity Enhancement Incentive (PEI) ₱7,000 gratuity pay para sa mga job order personnel

Marami sa mga dumalo ang nagpahayag na naramdaman nilang labis silang pinahahalagahan sa ilalim ng bagong pamunuan.

Natapos ang pagdiriwang sa isang masigla at simbolikong pag-sisimula para kay Gov. Aragon, na nagtakda ng positibong tono para sa mas matatag na pamumuno at mas pinagbuklod na Kapitolyo ng Laguna sa darating na taon.

of the OPCDO, provided a conference overview and reaffirmed the provincial government's commitment to advancing MSME capacity-building and digital upskilling initiatives.

The conference proper featured a series of presentations centered on digital transformation. Mr. Robert S. Paguia (DICT) opened the technical sessions with an informative talk on cybersecurity essentials, offering practical measures to guard against cyber threats and secure consumer data. This was followed by Ms. Charisse C. Torio (DILG), who discussed how e-governance initiatives streamline processes and create a more accessible environment for business growth.

Participants also

gained insights on building consumer confidence through the DTI Trustmark, presented by Mr. Paulo V. Estrada of the DTI E-Commerce Bureau. Meanwhile, Ms. Maria Jammaica Soriano discussed the expanding role of artificial intelligence in business operations and encouraged MSMEs to explore AI tools as part of their innovation journey.

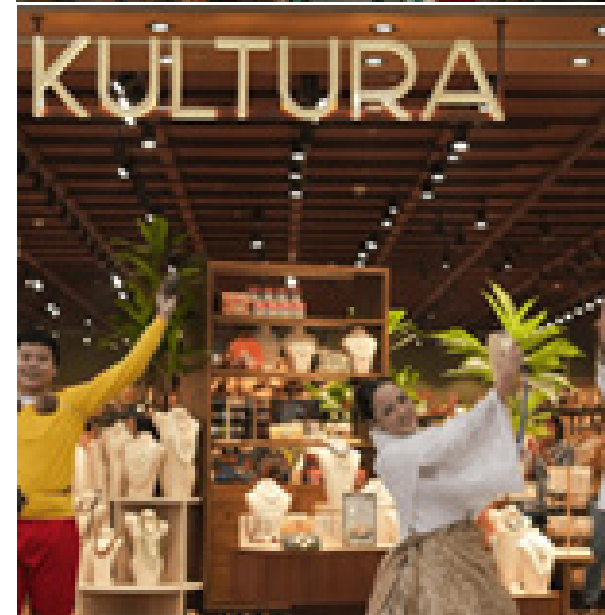
Interactive open forum sessions enabled attendees to directly engage with speakers, further enhancing their grasp of digital strategies and practical applications. The BizCon also celebrated local success stories. Ms. Jennifer Nuque of Francart Corporation & Deliclass Corporation and Mr. Jerold Chico of Heav-

enly Favored OPC shared their entrepreneurial journeys in navigating challenges, adopting innovation, and expanding their businesses in the digital era.

To cap the discussions, Ms. Sallie C. Lacson, Area Vice President for South Luzon of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, inspired MSMEs to remain forward-thinking and open to emerging technologies.

The event concluded with closing remarks from OPCDO Officer-in-Charge Myrachel P. Cuadra, who expressed her gratitude to all partners, speakers, and participants, recognizing their collective contribution to advancing Cavite's MSME sector. - R. Dones

CELEBRATING FILIPINO CRAFTSMANSHIP: KULTURA EXPANDS IN THE LION CITY OF THE SOUTH



Kultura officially recently unveiled its largest store in the South at SM City Santa Rosa—the Lion City of the South, a destination long recognized as a thriving hub of culture, community, and commerce in Laguna. With this opening, SM City Santa Rosa proudly becomes home to a space that celebrates the richness, artistry, and diversity of Filipino craftsmanship.

The Grand Opening brought the community together for a meaningful cultural moment, highlighting the creativity and traditions that define Kultura's commitment to elevating Philippine-made products. More than a store launch, the event offered an immersive experience that honored artisans from across the country—reflecting Kultura's mission to champion local talent and preserve Filipino heritage.

Shoppers are invited to explore the newly opened Kultura store this weekend, where they'll find a thoughtfully curated selection of handcrafted gifts, timeless home pieces, elegant Filipiniana, barongs, pearls, and unique holiday treasures. Each item carries a story of local communities and showcases the beauty of homegrown artistry.

Ground Floor, Expansion Wing — SM City Santa Rosa
Mall Hours: 10 AM – 10 PM



SM CITY BACOOR LIGHTING UP THE HOLIDAYS WITH GRAND MAGICAL CHRISTMAS PARADE



SM City Bacoor brought the magic of Christmas to life recently with the highly anticipated SM Supermalls Grand Magical Christmas Parade this year.

The event filled the mall with vibrant colors, enchanting music, and the heartwarming spirit of the holiday season.

The parade featured over 80 beloved Christmas characters, including Santa Claus and his elves, reindeer, and classic Christmas favorites. Adding a touch of fairy-tale magic, beloved princes and princesses also joined the festivities.

204K PESOS NA HALAGA NG HINIHALANG SHABU, KUMPISKADO NG TAYTAY PNP

TAYTAY, Rizal — Aabot sa mahigit P200,000 halaga ng hinihinalang shabu ang nakumpiska ng mga operatiba ng Taytay Municipal Police Station (MPS) matapos ang isang matagumpay na buy-bust operation sa Barangay Sta. Ana, Taytay, Rizal, bandang alas-6:40 ng gabi nitong Disyembre 11, 2025.

Dalawang indibidwal ang nadakip sa operasyon na kinilalang sina alyas "Burdado," 42 anyos, na itinuturing na High Value Individual

tured over 80 beloved Christmas characters, including Santa Claus and his elves, reindeer, and classic Christmas favorites. Adding a touch of fairy-tale magic, beloved princes and princesses also joined the festivities.

Shoppers and families were delighted as the characters marched through the mall, spreading joy and the true spirit of Christmas.

(HVI), at alyas "Tisoy," 35 anyos, kapwa residente ng Pasig City. Nakarekober ang mga pulis mula sa mga suspek ng pitong sachet ng hinihinalang shabu na may kabuuang timbang na humigit-kumulang 30 gramo at tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng P204,000.

Nasamsam din ang isang pitaka at isang SUV na ginamit umano sa ilegal na gawain. Kasalukuyang nahaharap ang mga suspek sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9165 o

ang Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Bukod dito, dahil sa kawalan ng kaukulang mga dokumento ng nasabing sasakyan, maaari rin silang kasuhan sa ilalim ng Republic Act 4136 o Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

Ang mga nadakip ay nasa kustodiya na ng Taytay MPS para sa masusing imbestigasyon, wastong dokumentasyon, at kaukulang disposisyon ng mga ebidensya.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

"PAMASKONG HANDOG 2025" KICKS OFF: MAYOR ROSS RIZAL CALLS FOR UNITY, LOVE, AND GRATITUDE THIS CHRISTMAS



Calamba City, Laguna — December 10, 2025

Calamba City officially began the distribution of "Pamaskong Handog 2025" today under

the leadership of Mayor Ross Rizal, marking the start of a seven-day city-wide rollout covering all 54 barangays. Thousands of Calambeño families are set to receive specially

prepared blue bags filled with grocery items intended for Christmas celebrations.

The initiative, which has become a well-loved tradition in Calamba,

underscores the city government's commitment to ensuring that every household enjoys a meaningful Noche Buena this holiday season.

In a heartfelt message to Calambeños, Mayor Ross Rizal delivered his Christmas greeting and reminded everyone of the true spirit of the season:

"Mga minamahal kong kababayan... Sa araw na ito ay sisimulan natin ang pamamahagi ng PAMASKONG HANDOG ng Pamahalaang Panlungsod sa LAHAT ng PAMILYANG CALAMBEÑO... Maging tunay na masaya nawa ang ating Pasko at masagana ang ating Bagong Taon.

Marami pong salamat sa inyong lahat." ("My beloved fellow citizens... Today, we begin the distribution of this year's PAMASKONG HANDOG FOR ALL CALAMBEÑO FAMILIES... May our Christmas be truly joyful and our New Year prosperous. Thank you very much to all of you.")

Mayor Rizal emphasized that the growing contents of the annual grocery package are made possible through responsible budgeting and disciplined use of city funds.

He noted that these improvements reflect Calamba's strengthened governance, which has earned recognition from various national

agencies. He also encouraged families to embody the values of love, generosity, and togetherness—traits central to both the holiday season and the city's vision for collective progress.

The city government expects the full distribution to be completed before Christmas, ensuring that every barangay receives their share of the holiday packages.

As Calambeños welcome the festive season, the "Pamaskong Handog 2025" stands as a symbol of unity, gratitude, and the city's continued advancement under Mayor Ross Rizal's leadership. (Edjun Mariposque)