

Calamba Honors Dr. Jose Rizal on the 129th Anniversary of His Death



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The City Government of Calamba solemnly commemorated the 129th death anniversary of National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal in a meaningful ceremony led by Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal, alongside Governor Sol Aragon, Congresswoman Cha Hernandez-Alcantara, and members of the Calamba City Sangguniang Panlungsod.

The commemoration began with a wreath-laying ceremony at The Plaza, followed by a visit to the historic Rizal Shrine, the birthplace of Dr. Jose Rizal, where a short program was held in honor of his enduring legacy and contributions to the nation.

In his message, Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal underscored the continuing relevance of Rizal’s ideals in today’s society, especially as the nation faces modern challenges.

“Ngayong araw, ating ginugunita ang ika-129 anibersaryo ng kamatayan ng ating Pambansang Bayani na si Dr. Jose Rizal. Sa temang “RIZAL: Sa Pagbangon ng mga Mamamayan: Aral at Diwa Mo ang Tunay na Gabay,” muli nating binabalikan ang kanyang mga aral na patuloy na nagbibigay-liwanag sa landas ng ating bayan.”

He emphasized that Rizal’s life remains a powerful reminder of genuine patriotism rooted in action and moral integrity.

“Ang kanyang buhay at sakrisyo ay paalala na ang tunay na pagmamahal sa bayan ay naipapakita sa pagkilos, integridad, at malasakit sa kapwa. Sa gitna ng mga hamon ng ating panahon, ang diwa ni Rizal ay nananatiling gabay sa ating pagkakaisa at pagbangon bilang isang sam-bayanan.”

Mayor Rizal concluded by calling on Filipinos to draw inspiration from the National Hero’s example in building a better future for the country.

“Nawa’y mag-silbing inspirasyon ang kanyang halimbawa upang ipagpatuloy natin ang laban para sa isang makatarungan, makabayan, at mas maunlad na Pilipinas.”

The annual commemoration reaffirmed Calamba City’s deep historical connection to Dr. Jose Rizal and its commitment to preserving and promoting his ideals for future generations.

(Edjun Mariposque)

DEEP IN THE DOUGH



Glynn Ronquillo, a CARD Bank client (left), joyfully holds one of her fuzzy-wire creative crafts beside her sari-sari store merchandise, while some of her newly baked pastries (right) are pre-ordered and others are offered to customers.

Glynn grew up on the island of Negros. Fresh out of college, she worked as a promodiser in a department store, never imagining that the bagger who often helped her on shift would one day become her husband. They married young, started a family at 25, and welcomed their first child a year later.

She once dreamed of becoming a teacher and completed a Bachelor of Science in Education, majoring in Technology and Livelihood Education. However, without



the opportunity to take the licensure exam, she had to set that dream aside and focus on raising their family. In 2012, her husband was transferred to Iloilo City to work as an office clerk for a major holding company. The couple moved there, hoping the change would bring stability.

But the years between 2007 and 2012 were anything but stable.

With only her husband’s minimum-wage salary, Glynn found herself juggling a series of side-lines just to make ends meet. She sold cosmetics and skincare products through a direct-selling company. She cooked dishes and set up make-shift food trays in front of busy establishments, hoping passersby would stop for a meal. When she became pregnant with their second child, she opened a small sari-sari store from the window of their rented home, starting with only PHP 500 in capital.

Still, the income was never enough for their first child entering school, a baby on the way, and a family adjusting to a new life in Iloilo.

But there was one thing Glynn knew she had: baking.

It had been her

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

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“Philippines Begins Enforcement of E-Bike, E-Trike Ban on Major Roads to Enhance Traffic Safety”



MANILA, Philippines — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) has officially begun enforcing a ban on electric bicycles (e-bikes) and electric tricycles (e-trikes) along key thoroughfares in Metro Manila starting January 2, 2026, as part of efforts to improve road safety and manage traffic flow more effectively.

Under the new directive, e-bikes and e-trikes are no longer permitted to travel on major roads such as EDSA, C-5 Road, Roxas Boulevard, and the stretch from Quirino Avenue to Magallanes-South Luzon Expressway (SLEX). Traffic enforcers have been deployed to strategically monitor and prevent violations along these high-volume corridors.

According to LTO

Chief Markus Lacani-lao, the prohibition is grounded in road safety concerns, as these lightweight, slow-moving vehicles are considered ill-suited for roads dominated by faster and heavier traffic. The agency explained that allowing e-bikes and e-trikes on busy national highways poses significant risks to all road users.

Motorists found operating the prohibited electric vehicles on restricted routes may face penalties under existing traffic laws, including fines and possible impoundment of the vehicle, as outlined under the Land Transporta-

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RPPO, NAGDAOS NG “TALK TO MEN” PARA SA MGA BAGONG PNCO SA RIZAL



TANAY MPS, NAKIISA SA IKA-129 ANIBERSARYO NG RIZAL DAY

LTO sisimulan na ang paghihigpit sa mga e-trikes sa pangunahing kalsada ng Metro Manila

DENR-EMB recognizes barangays for waterways cleanup through Gawad Taga-Ilog

DSWD IV-A builds stronger pathways for 4Ps families through multi-sector partnerships

EDITORIAL: ESCORT AY SEGURIDAD, HINDI PRIBILEHIYO SA KALSADA

Sa kalsada, madalas nating makita ang mga convoy ng lokal na opisyal na may kasamang motorcycle escort na may blinkers at wang-wang. Sa mata ng publiko, tila ito ay normal at awtomatikong karapatan ng mga Mayor at Governor. Ngunit sa ilalim ng batas, hindi ganito kasimple ang usapin. Totoong maaaring bigyan ng PNP security escort ang mga halal na opisyal ng LGU—kung may malinaw na banta at may written authority mula sa PNP. Ang layunin nito ay seguridad, hindi kagin-hawaan sa trapiko. Hindi ito nagbibigay ng blanket authority para gumamit ng wang-wang, blinkers, o mangharang ng daloy ng sasakyan.

Dito nagkakaroon ng maling akala: maraming escort na ginagamit ng LGU ay plantilla lamang ng Traffic Enforcers. Sila ay hindi HPG, hindi PSPG, at hindi itinuturing na emergency vehicle. Dahil dito, wala silang legal na kapangyarihan na gumamit ng wang-wang, mag-clear ng traffic, o magpataw ng “VIP passage” sa kalsada.

Sa batas, malinaw: ang wang-wang at blinkers ay eksklusibo sa lehitimong emergency vehicles at awtorisadong PNP/AFP units. Ang paggamit nito para lamang sa pag-iwas sa trapiko o pagpapabilis ng biyahe ay hindi emergency—ito ay abuso.

Ang posisyon sa gobyerno ay hindi lisen-sya para lumabag sa traffic laws. Ang escort ay para sa proteksyon, hindi pribilehiyo. Kung walang HPG o PSPG at walang aktwal na emergency, ilegal ang wang-wang, at ang “escort” ay walang bisa sa ilalim ng batas.

Sa huli, ang tunay na liderato ay sumusunod sa batas—lalo na sa kalsada kung saan pantay-pantay dapat ang lahat.

Ang editorial na ito ay opinyon batay sa umiiral na prinsipyo ng batas at mga pangkalahatang patakaran sa traffic at public safety. Hindi ito kapalit ng opisyal na legal advice.

Philippines... FROM PAGE 1

tion and Traffic Code (RA 4136) and related regulations.

Despite the enforcement, LTO officials emphasized that the measure is intended to protect both riders and other motorists, not to eliminate the use of e-bikes or e-trikes entirely. The ban applies specifically to major thoroughfares, while these vehicles may still be allowed on smaller local roads and designated routes.

The Electric Vehicles Association of the Philippines (EVAP) acknowledged the ban, with some groups even advocating for a nationwide implementation of similar measures to streamline the use of electric transport.

As the policy rolls

out, the LTO said it will continue collaborating with local government units and other stakeholders to identify safer alternative routes for e-bike and e-trike operations, alongside public information campaigns and road safety education.

(Edjun Mariposque)

LTO... FROM PAGE 1

Istriktong ipatupad ngayong araw, Enero 2, ng Land Transportation Office (LTO) ang pagsita sa mga electric tricycles, o e-trikes sa mga pangunahing kalsada ng Metro Manila.

Ang mga pangunahing kalsada ay kinabibilangan ng kahabaan ng Quirino Avenue patugong Magallanes hanggang South Luzon Expressway, Epifanio de los Santos Av-

Governor Sol... FROM PAGE 1

Isang patunay ng tapat at walang humpay na paglilingkod sa publiko ang muling pagkilala kay Laguna Governor Sol Aragonés matapos siyang gawaran ng Most Consistent Public Servant Award ng The League of Fraternal Order of Eagles – Philippine Eagles, Inc.

Iginawad ang parangal bilang pagkilala sa matatag, malinaw, at makataong pamumuno ni Governor Aragonés na patuloy na nagdudulot ng positibong pagbabago sa iba’t ibang komunidad sa lalawigan ng Laguna. Ayon sa organisasyon, ang kanyang integridad, pagiging maaasahan sa

pamamahala, at malasakit sa kapakanan ng mamamayan ang naging batayan ng pagkilalang ito.

Sa loob ng kanyang panunungkulan, kinilala si Governor Aragonés bilang isang lingkod-bayan na nananatiling tapat sa prinsipyo ng bukas at makataong pamamahala—isang pamumunong inuuna ang kapakanan ng mga mamamayan kaysa sa pansariling interes.

Ang kanyang mga programang pangkaunlaran at serbisyong panlipunan ay patuloy na nagbibigay ng pag-asa at inspirasyon sa maraming Lagunense.

RPPO... FROM PAGE 1

RIZAL — Upang mabigyan ng malinaw na direksyon at matibay na pundasyon sa serbisyo, nagsagawa ng Talk to Men si Police Colonel Feloteo A. Gonzalgo, Acting Provincial Director ng Rizal Police Provincial Office (RPPO), para sa mga bagong naitalaga o newly downloaded na Police Non-Commissioned Officers (PNCOs) sa lalawigan ng Rizal, ngayong Enero 3, 2026 bandang alas-9:00 ng umaga.

Layunin ng aktibidad na ihanda ang mga bagong PNCOs sa kanilang mahahalagang tungkulin bilang mga tagapagpatupad ng batas, gayundin ang pagbibigay-diin sa kanilang responsibilidad sa pagpapanatili ng kaayusan, kapayapaan, at tiwala ng publiko sa hanay ng kapulisan.

Sa kanyang mensahe, binigyang-diin ni PCOL Gonzalgo ang

FROM PAGE 1

enue, C-5 Road at Roxas Boulevard.

Ayon kay LTO Chief, Assistant Secretary Markus V. Lacanilao na ang nasabing pagbabawal ay para na rin sa kaligtasan ng mga may-ari ng ebike dahil ang nasabing mga kalsada ay ginawa para sa mga mabibilis na sasakyan.

Magpapakalat sila ng mga enforcers sa mga kritikal na lugar para

kahalagahan ng disiplina, integridad, at propesyonalismo sa bawat kilos at desisyon ng isang pulis. Hinikayat din niya ang mga bagong PNCOs na pairalin ang malasakit sa komunidad at igalang ang karapatang pantao sa lahat ng pagkakataon.

Ayon kay PCOL Gonzalgo, ang pagiging pulis ay hindi lamang trabaho kundi isang bokasyon na nangangailangan ng sakripisyo, katapatan, at malasakit sa kapwa. Aniya, mahalagang maisabuhay ng bawat pulis ang mandato ng Philippine National Police (PNP) para sa isang serbisyong “mabilis, tapat, at nararamdaman.”

Ang Talk to Men ay bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng RPPO na mapalakas ang moral, disiplina, at propesyonal na kakayahan ng mga tauhan nito upang mas mapabuti ang serbisyong ibinibigay sa mamamayan ng lalawigan ng Rizal.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

bigyan ng impormasyon ang mga motorista at matiyak na ipinapatupad ng tama ang batas.

Ang mga maaresto na nagmamaneho ng e-trikes sa pinagbabawal na lugar ay mahaharap sa parusa kasama na ang pagmumulta at ang posibilidad na pag-impound ng kanilang sasakyan.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

Sa kanyang mensahe ng pasasalamat, buong pagpapakumbabang sinabi ni Governor Aragonés, “Madami pa po kailangan gawin, madami pang pangarap ang kailangang tuparin. Sa awa ng Diyos, gagabayan Niya tayo sa ating paglilingkod.” Ipinakita ng kanyang pahayag ang kanyang paninindigan na ang parangal ay hindi katapusan kundi paalala ng mas magat na pananagutang kaakibat ng tiwalang ibinibigay ng taumbayan.

Pinuri naman ng mga lokal na opisyal at residente ng Laguna ang

Pres. Marcos... FROM PAGE 1

Hinikayat ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr ang mga Pilipino na gunitain ang mga aral na humubog sa bansa nitong nagdaang 2025.

Sa kaniyang mensahe sa Bagong Taon 2026 ay marapat na tignan ng mamamayan ang nakamit na tagumpay ganun din ang mga hamon sa buhay.

Dagdag pa nito na sa pagsisimula ng panibagong taon ay isang mahalaga na gawin ang pagtingin sa nakaraan at pagbabago.

Bukod sa pagkakaroon ng personal resolutions ay panawagan ng Bagong Taon ang pagsuri kung paano nakatawid sa bagong taon.

Una ng sinabi ng Pangulo na nagkaroon ng maraming hamon ang bansa noong 2025 kung saan patuloy ang paglaban ng kaniyang gobyerno sa kura-psyon.

(Nelson Dimapilis)



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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

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DENR-EMB... FROM PAGE 1

LAUREL, Batangas (PIA) — In its continued effort to inspire local government-led initiatives, particularly among barangays to keep waterways and water bodies clean and trash-free, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A gave honors for cleanup efforts during the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Awarding Ceremony on December 19.

According to DENR-EMB Regional Director Robert Angelo Metin, the program aims to enhance water quality and maintain the cleanliness of rivers in the Province of Cavite, demonstrating that the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Program, which was successfully implemented in the National Capital Region, can also be adopted by nearby regions as part of collective efforts to protect the environment.

“This is anchored on the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court Mandamus that calls for the cleaning and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Here in the Province of Cavite, we can see a portion of Manila Bay, which is why the Gawad Taga-Ilog Program was initially launched here,” Director Metin said.

Through the dedication of barangay officials and residents, these initiatives serve as inspiring models of sustainable environmental governance and shared responsibility for the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations.

Barangay Daine 1 in Indang, Cavite, led by Barangay Chairperson Arnold Pegollo, was hailed as the winner in the Upland Category, with the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Award serving as a testament to the community's collective efforts in promoting cleaner waterways and a sustainable environment.

“There were so many preparations from paperwork, weekly clean-

up activities, and the maintenance of the river and the materials recovery facility (MRF), to Hapag ni PBBM, our community garden, vertical garden, and composting facility because everything required hard work and constant maintenance to ensure that all of these is in good condition for the Gawad Taga-Ilog,” the chairperson explained.

Pegollo added that even before receiving recognition from the DENR-EMB, the barangay had already been working with partner agencies, organizations, and the community to protect the environment, especially their waterways, which he said is vital for sustainability and the well-being of future generations.

“We continuously care for our rivers and conduct tree-planting activities along our easements, while maintaining our waterways to help increase water flow and preserve our water sources.

With the prize money we received, we plan to upgrade our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) into a more efficient, organized, and user-friendly facility that promotes proper waste segregation in the community,” Pegollo said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon.

As part of the first batch of the GTI Program in Cavite, Pegollo, along with other winners from the Upland and Lowland Categories, expressed their commitment to sustaining the program, particularly in maintaining, cleaning, and rehabilitating facilities to promote cleaner and sustainable waterways.

Following the success of the GTI Program 1.0, the DENR-EMB is preparing to launch GTI Program 2.0, which aims to include local government units within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), such as General Mariano Alvarez, Silang, Carmona, and Tagaytay City.

DEEP... FROM PAGE 8

passion for as long as she could remember. So quietly, between school errands and household chores, she returned to her mixing bowls and measuring cups. She baked cookies, breads, and pastries, and anything she could sell. Her first loyal customers were her husband's workmates, then fellow parents at her children's school, and finally neighbors who followed the sweet smell that wafted from her kitchen.

Her bread pudding became a neighborhood favorite.

Her business journey took a turn in 2014 after she was invited to a CARD center meeting. Encouraged to open a savings account, she and her husband later became clients of CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank.

Soon after, she took her first loan of PHP 5,000, just enough to buy a refrigerator for her expanding baked goods and to add capital for her sari-sari store. Over the years, the habit of saving through CARD Bank helped her grow her business slowly but consistently, giving her the confidence to keep going even after setbacks.

And there were setbacks, especially health challenges. There were days when large orders came in, but her body could not keep up.

Yet each time, Glynn found her way back to the kitchen and contin-

ued baking with eagerness. Soon enough, she is also baking customized cakes for specific customer orders.

Today, that future is finally taking shape. Her eldest is now a first-year college student, a CARD scholar; her youngest is in fifth grade. Her business, first driven by necessity, has grown into a trio of thriving ventures: a sari-sari store, baked pastries and customized cakes, and, later, fuzzy-wire creative crafts—all run with the same consistent diligence.

When asked what she would tell others dreaming of starting their own business, Glynn advises knowing your market. “Dapat hindi lang yung gusto nila kumita, dapat passion din nila (ang kanilang negosyo) para may eagerness din na mag-grow ang business nila... (It shouldn't just be about wanting to earn money; their business should also be their passion, so they'll have the eagerness to grow it),” she said, and advice clearly reflected in her own dedication, as she continues with heart despite any setbacks. She also advises always managing any loans carefully, as timely repayment keeps your business healthy.

Her words are simple. But like her soft, warm, love-baked bread pudding, they carry the quiet strength of a woman who built a life day by day with both hands deep in the dough.

And there were setbacks, especially health challenges. There were days when large orders came in, but her body could not keep up.

Yet each time, Glynn found her way back to the kitchen and contin-

Tanay MPS... FROM PAGE 1

TANAY, Rizal — Nakiisa ang Tanay Municipal Police Station (MPS), sa pangunguna ni Police Lieutenant Colonel Arnel M. Tabao, Officer-in-Charge, sa pagdiriwang ng ika-129 Anibersaryo ng Rizal Day na ginanap sa Tanay Park, Barangay Plaza Aldea, Tanay, Rizal.

Ang makabuluhang pagdiriwang ay pinangunahan ng Pamahalaang Bayan ng Tanay sa pamumuno ni Mayor Rex Manuel A. Tanjuatco, katuwang si Vice Mayor Ruel Estrella, kasama ang mga opisyal ng lokal na pamahalaan, kinatawan ng iba't ibang ahensya

ng pamahalaan, at mga mamamayan ng bayan.

Layunin ng aktibidad na gunitain ang buhay, sakripisyo, at kabayanihan ni Gat Jose Rizal, na nagsilbing inspirasyon sa pagsusulong ng pagkakaisa, nasyonalismo, at pagmamahal sa bayan.

Binigyang-diin sa pagdiriwang ang patuloy na kahalagahan ng mga aral at adhikain ni Rizal sa kasalukuyang henerasyon, lalo na sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan, kaayusan, at responsableng pagkamamamayan.

Pau Dela Cruz)

DSWD IV-A... FROM PAGE 1

C A L A M B A CITY, Laguna — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to reinforce its commitment to empowering Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) households by widening access to education, employment, and healthcare services through strategic partnerships across the CALABARZON region.

On December 15, 2025, the regional office entered into new partnership agreements with five institutions from the education, training, and health sectors—National University (NU) Dasmariñas, University of Batangas, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc., Technovative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc.

Assistant Regional Director Mylah Gatchalian said the partnerships are aligned with the Department's thrust to equip 4Ps beneficiaries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and health support needed to achieve self-reliance as they prepare for transition or graduation from the program.

“These collaborations strengthen our capacity to deliver more responsive and comprehensive services, particularly in education, skills development, and health, which are critical to improving the long-term outcomes of 4Ps households,” Gatchalian noted.

Through the partnership, NU Dasmariñas and the University of Batangas will extend scholarship opportunities, competency-building ini-

tiatives, and community-based programs that aim to enhance the academic performance and employability of 4Ps college students.

Meanwhile, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. and Technovative Training Center, Inc. will provide enterprise-based training programs designed to link technical education with actual industry requirements, offering beneficiaries pathways toward certification and employment through partner companies.

Dualtech Training Center President Engr. Jerry Web Muhi emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration, stating that the initiative seeks to develop learners who can contribute meaningfully to their communities and to national development.

To further support the well-being of 4Ps families, San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. will deliver medical assistance and preventive healthcare services, helping reduce health-related expenses that often hinder economic progress.

Currently, DSWD Field Office IV-A maintains active partnerships with 49 external stakeholders from civil society organizations, private institutions, and higher education sectors in the region.

The Department underscored that sustained collaboration with various sectors remains essential in advancing inclusive development, ensuring that 4Ps families are not only assisted but are fully equipped to build healthier, more productive, and self-sustaining lives.

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

MANDY HALE



Three Robbery Suspects Nabbed, Stolen Appliances Recovered in Swift Calamba Police Operation

A robbery incident in Barangay 3 (Poblacion), Calamba City was swiftly resolved through the immediate action of the Calamba Component City Police Station (CCPS), resulting in the arrest of three suspects and the recovery of most of the stolen items.

The incident was discovered at around 12:30 PM on December 31, 2025, and was officially reported to CCPS at approximately 3:25 AM on January 1, 2026. The robbery occurred along Burgos Street in Brgy. 3 (Pob.), Calamba City.

Based on police investigation, the victims found that several appliances were missing from their establishment. Authorities determined that the suspects initially entered through an internal door of the building, where they took electrical wiring. The suspects then forcibly broke through a plywood wall to gain access to a neighboring store, from which they stole various appliances.

The stolen items included a 32-inch Everest television worth ₱14,000, an Everest air conditioner valued at ₱24,000, and a Mega Pro Plus karaoke set with microphone worth ₱11,000, all of which were successfully recovered by the police. However, a Sharp washing machine with a 10.5-kilogram capacity valued at ₱19,000 has yet to be recovered.

Through an immediate follow-up operation, police arrested three suspects who are now under the custody of the Calamba Component City Police Station.

The suspects were identified as Alyas King, 25 years old, a resident of Sitio Tibag, Barangay 2, Calamba City;

Robbery Incident sa Brgy. 3 (Pob.), Calamba City, Agarang Nasolusyunan: Tatlong Suspek Arestado, Karamihan sa mga Ninakaw na Gamit Narekober



"Sa pagsalubong ng Bagong Taon, pinagtitiyag ng Calamba Police ang aming pangako na agad tutugon sa anumang banta sa seguridad ng ating komunidad. Hindi kami itigil sa pagpapatupad ng batas at sa pagbibigay-proteksyon sa buhay at ari-arian ng bawat Calambeño. Patuloy ang aming panawagan sa publiko na makipagtulungan at agad mag-ulat ng anumang kahina-hinalang gawain."

PLTCOL DENNIS C DE GUZMAN
OIC, Calamba CCPS

Alyas Toni, 20 years old, a resident of Purok 6, Barangay 2 Tibag, Calamba City; and Alyas George, 45 years old, a scrap merchant and resident of Purok 7, Barangay Parian, Calamba City.

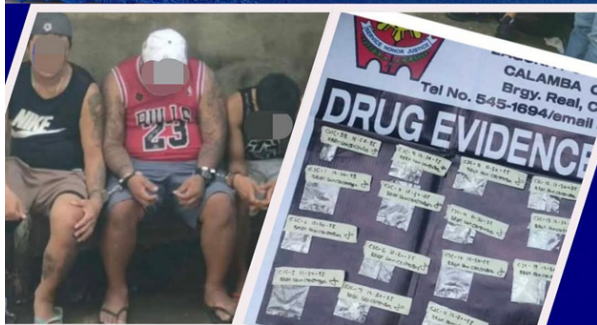
The suspects will be charged through inquest proceedings. Authorities are also conducting further investigation to determine their possible involvement in another robbery incident in Barangay Real, Calamba City, as part of efforts to dismantle a group believed to be behind a series of related crimes in the city.

Police officials commended the swift response and professionalism of the operating units, which led to the rapid arrest of the suspects and the recovery of most of the stolen property.

"Sa pagsalubong ng Bagong Taon, pinagtitiyag ng Calamba Police ang aming pangako na agad tutugon sa anumang banta sa seguridad ng ating komunidad. Hindi kami itigil sa pagpapatupad ng batas at sa pagbibigay-proteksyon sa buhay at ari-arian ng bawat Calambeño. Patuloy naming hinihikayat ang

Three Drug Suspects Nabbed in Calamba Buy-Bust; Php 149K Worth of Shabu Seized Ahead of New Year

Tatlong Drug Suspek. Bagsak sa Buy-Bust ng Calamba Police: ₱149K Halaga ng Shabu Nasamsam sa San Cristobal



"Habang papalapit ang bagong taon, mas pinaigting pa ng Calamba Police ang operasyon laban sa ilegal na droga. Hindi namin hanapyan na masita ang kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng ating komunidad. Patuloy kaming magbabantay at kikilos upang masigurong ligtas ang bawat Calambeño sa pagpasok ng bagong taon."

PLTCOL DENNIS C DE GUZMAN
OIC, Calamba CCPS

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Three individuals were arrested in a successful buy-bust operation conducted by the Calamba City Police Station, resulting in the seizure of more than 22 grams of suspected shabu valued at approximately ₱149,600.

(Edjun Mariposque)

The operation was carried out at around 3:55 p.m. on December 30, 2025, just days before the New Year, in Purok 4B, Barangay San Cristobal, Calamba City. The suspects, identified only by

their aliases Mark, Alvin, and Je, were apprehended after allegedly selling suspected shabu to an undercover police operative during the buy-bust operation conducted under a valid PDEA Coordination Control Number.

Recovered from the suspects were fifteen (15) sachets of suspected shabu weighing around 21 grams, one (1) sachet weighing approximately 1 gram, buy-bust money, mobile phones, and other related evidence. The entire operation was documented using Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) and Alternative Recording Devices (ARD). The suspects were also informed of their Miranda Rights and the Anti-Torture Warning Act.

The arrested individuals are currently under the custody of the Calamba City Police Station for documentation and inquest proceedings, while appropriate charges are being prepared against them. The operation was conducted in close coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

Calamba City Police Chief PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman emphasized the police force's intensified campaign against illegal drugs as the year comes to a close.

"While the New Year is approaching, the Calamba Police have further intensified operations against illegal drugs. We will not allow peace and safety in our community to be compromised. We remain vigilant and proactive to ensure the safety of every Calambeño as we welcome the new year," De Guzman said.

The Calamba City Police reiterated its commitment to sustaining aggressive anti-illegal drug operations to maintain peace and order in the city, in line with its goal of being the finest police force in Laguna.

(Edjun Mariposque)

STRONG START FOR 2026: PNP NABS 8 MOST WANTED, SEIZES Php 8.8M WORTH OF ILLEGAL DRUGS



STRONG START FOR 2026: PNP NABS 8 MOST WANTED, SEIZES ₱8.8M WORTH OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

"We are starting 2026 with firm and focused police action. These results show that our personnel remain vigilant—even during the holidays—because public safety does not take a break."

PLTGEN JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ JR
Acting Chief, Philippine National Police

As the nation welcomes 2026, the Philippine National Police (PNP) marked the opening hours of the new year with decisive law enforcement

actions, arresting eight (Most Wanted Persons (MWP) and neutralizing illegal drugs worth ₱8.8 million in a series of operations conducted from

10:00 PM of January 1 to 9:00 AM of January 2, 2026. These accomplishments, carried out across multiple regions, reflect the PNP's sustained focus on public safety and accountability under the PNP Focus Agenda on Enhanced Managing Police Operations (EMPO), aligned with the national vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a safer and more orderly Philippines.

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PUBLISHER CORNER

SIMBAHAN NG KATOLIKO, IBINENTA SA IGLESIA NI CRISTO NG MAHIGIT 22M

Nabalitaan natin kamakailan ang pagbili ng Iglesia Ni Cristo ng mga simbahanang Protestante at mga gusali ng ilang sekta ng relihiyon at mga ari-arian sa Amerika, Australia at Japan nito lamang 2025.

Noon pa ginagawa ng INC ang pagbili sa mga simbahan ng ibang relihiyon na sarado na dahil halos wala nang nagsisimba, upang maging sambahan naman ng mga miyembro ng Iglesia.

Buwan din ng Disyembre taong 2017, nang mapaulat sa Northeast Times, isang community newspaper sa Northeast Philadelphia, USA na naipagbili na ng simbahanang Katoliko ang isa sa kanilang pinakamatandang simbahan sa Amerika.

Ito ang, Mater

Dolorosa Catholic Church building na nasa Frankford Northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

Ayon sa report, nabili ang simbahanang ito ng INC sa halagang \$450,000 o may katumbas na halaga noong 2017 ng mahigit 22 Milyong Piso kung saan ang palitan ng piso kontra dolyar ay nasa 50 pesos.

Ayon pa sa ulat, ang pabawas nang pabawas na bilang ng nagsisimba at ang lumalaking financial burden ng simbahanang Katoliko ang dahilan kung bakit napilitang magsara ang Mater Dolorosa church.

Subalit bago pa mabili ng INC ang simbahan na ito, iniulat naman ng website na Philly Voice na kasabay ng Mater Dolorosa church ay may dalawa pang simbahan ng Katoliko ang tumigil ng operasyon sa Philadelphia.



Kabilang sa mga simbahanang ito ay ang Saint Cecilia Church sa Coatesville at ang Saint John of the Cross Church sa Roslyn.

Ang tatlong simbahanang ito ay opisyal na idineklarang sarado ng Archdiocese of Philadelphia noong September 16, 2016 ayon pa sa website ng Philly Voice.

Sinasabing ang Mater Dolorosa church ay naipatayo ng mga Katoliko noong 1914, at ito rin ang taon ng paglitaw ng INC sa bansang Pilipinas.

Halos walong taon na itong dako ng pagsamba ng INC kung saan marami na muling tao ang nagtutungo at pumapasok doon.



Colonel Maily T. Panganiban Isang Modernong Bayaning Pilipino- Unipormado).

Isang huwaran ng tunay na ipinapamalas ni Colonel Maily T. Panganiban, FPOGS, FPSRM (GSC), MMHOA, MPMDEVSEC, Commanding Officer ng 2nd Army Station Hospital, matapos siyang kilalanin bilang Gawad Pilipino – Hero of the Year (Natatanging Bayaning Pilipinong Unipormado).

Ipinagmamalaki ng 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division ang karangalang ito na iginawad kay Colonel Panganiban—isang pagkilalang sumasalamain sa kanyang pambihirang tapang, walang pag-iimbot na paglilingkod, at taos-pusong malasakit sa kapwa, lalo na sa larangan ng serbisyong medikal sa hanay ng Sandatahang Lakas ng Pilipinas.

Sa gitna ng mga hamon ng kanyang tungkulin, tahimik ngunit matatag na isinasabuhay ni Colonel Panganiban ang diwa ng isang modernong bayani—isang lider na inuuna ang kapakanan ng kanyang mga tauhan at ng mga pasyenteng kanyang pinaglilingkurang.

Ang kanyang dedikasyon ay patunay na ang kabayanihan ay hindi lamang nasusukat sa larangan ng digmaan, kundi sa araw-araw na sakripisyo, malasakit, at serbisyo para sa kapwa.

Ang parangal na ito ay hindi lamang personal na tagumpay ni Colonel Panganiban, kundi isang tagumpay din ng buong Jungle Fighter Division, na patuloy na itinataguyod ang mga pagpapahalagang service beyond duty, compassion in action, at quiet heroism in uniform.

Sa kanyang halimbawa, muling pinapaalalahanan ang sam-bayanang Pilipino na may mga bayani pa ring tahimik na naglilingkod—nakatinding, handang magsakripisyo, at buong pusong nag-aalay ng serbisyo para sa bayan.

PNP Seizes Php 1.5-Billion Worth of Unregistered Imported Tobacco in New Year's Eve Operation



The Philippine National Police (PNP) unveiled the results of a major anti-smuggling operation during a press briefing held at 2:00 PM on Janu-

ary 1, 2026, at TALA Cargo Solution along Mabolo Street in Malabon City. Authorities presented the discovery and seizure of unregistered imported to-

bacco products valued at approximately ₱1.5 billion, uncovered during a New Year's Eve operation.

The briefing was led by PNP Acting Chief

PLTGEN Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., with key officials in attendance including PBGEN Hansel M. Marantan, Director of the Highway Patrol Group

(HPG); PBGEN Christopher R. Dela Cruz, Acting District Director of the Northern Police District (NPD); and Bureau of Customs (BOC) Enforcement Group Deputy Commissioner Nolasco K. Bathan.

According to officials, the contraband was discovered inside a cargo facility in Malabon during a coordinated anti-carnapping and traffic enforcement operation conducted by the Regional Highway Patrol Unit-National Capital Region (RHPU-NCR) and RHPU-3. The operation led to the arrest of three individuals who were unable to present proper documentation for the imported tobacco products.

PNP leadership underscored that the suc-

cessful seizure highlighted the effectiveness of sustained patrols, intelligence-driven operations, and strong inter-agency coordination in curbing large-scale smuggling and other high-value crimes. The operation, they said, aligns with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to intensify law enforcement efforts against illicit trade.

The PNP reiterated its commitment to its reform agenda under the banner of "Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas: Serbisyong mabilis, tapat, at nararamdaman," assuring the public of continued vigilance to protect the economy, uphold the law, and safeguard national security.

(Edjun Mariposque)

LOVE

be still
and know



NEW BASKETBALL COURT BRINGS HOPE AND UNITY TO GREENCREST VILLE, CALAMBA CITY



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Residents of Greencrest Ville Phase 1 and 2 in Barangay Banlic marked a milestone with the blessing and inauguration of their newly built basketball court, led by Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal. The project stands as a symbol of community cooperation and a renewed commitment to youth development and healthy living.

The new court was made possible through the support and generosity of the Dugong Bayani Foundation, whose

partnership with the local government helped turn the vision into reality. Designed as a safe and accessible space, the facility is expected to promote sportsmanship, strengthen neighborhood ties, and provide the youth with a constructive venue for recreation.

During the ceremony, Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal emphasized the importance of shared responsibility in building stronger communities, highlighting how sports facilities play a vital role in shaping disci-

pline, teamwork, and unity among residents.

“Sama-sama nating itinataguyod ang aktibong pamumuhay at mas matibay na komunidad,” Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal said.

The inauguration of the Greencrest Ville basketball court reflects the City Government of Calamba’s continuing efforts to invest in grassroots sports and community infrastructure, ensuring that every barangay has spaces that nurture both physical well-being and social solidarity.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Cayetano...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano on Wednesday warned that the government’s continued failure to release a verified database of alleged ghost flood-control projects is weakening ongoing investigations and fueling public confusion.

During his interpellation on the Department of Public Works and Highways’ (DPWH) proposed 2026 budget early morning of November 26, Cayetano again pressed the agency to produce a single, official list of the projects under question.

“My proposal is

that we define the terms and you have a counter, whether on your website or kay Presidente.

[For example], ‘We’re looking at 8,000 projects. We’ve looked at 407 [that] are ghost.’ Para whether media or naninira sa gobyerno or nanglilito, [walang pagtatalunan],” he said.

The Minority Leader’s call echoed the same warning he has been raising in recent months in interviews and public statements.

“Mas klaro y’ung facts, better y’ung debate,” he stressed.

“Let’s be precise, not only for the cases kasi mato-throw out y’ung case. We owe it to the people to be truthful.”

Cayetano said the longer the government leaves the numbers unclear, the more room there is for misinformation and politically driven claims.

He added that allowing unverified estimates to keep floating around, such as the widely mentioned figure of around 400 alleged ghost projects, would erode public trust if the actual number turns out to be much smaller.

“Mark my words. If we keep using 400 then we find out it’s 100, the public will suspect pinagtakpan natin y’ung 300,” he said.

“The longer period na wala kayong database, mas magsususpetsa ang mga tao.”

Non-oath statements can be useful leads Cayetano also argued that statements made outside formal hearings, including interviews, vlogs, and news reports, may still be leads if they come from major players in the controversy.

“Everyone is say-

ing ‘pag hindi ka under oath, walang value y’un... But lahat ng magsalita, may value. Bakit? It’s a lead,” he said.

He added that while such statements may have no probative value in court, “major players” speaking publicly should not be ignored. “I’m not saying it’s true. And most people who will talk will have half-truths... Pero y’ung iba sa internet, sa vlog, sa news, hindi [totoong] walang value – lead y’un eh.

Major player y’un eh,” he said.

C a y e t a n o

wrapped up his interpellation by reminding DPWH not to “paralyze” necessary public infrastructure as it works to resolve the massive flood-control scandal.

“Two years from now, pag-uusapan nating dalawa: Sinong nakulong at tama ba y’ung nakulong? But two, may nagawa ba ang DPWH? [Kasi] kung may nakulong pero y’ung mga project na dapat nating ginawa ay hindi natin ginawa, [talo pa rin ang taumbayan],” he told DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon.

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FROM PAGE 1

Mga Illegal na Paputok at Boga, Sinira ng PNP PRO-4A



Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba City – Matagumpay na sinira ng Police Regional Office 4A (PRO-4A) ang mga nakumpiska at na-seize na ilegal na paputok at boga bilang bahagi ng pinaigting na kampanya ng Philippine National Police laban sa mga ipinagbabawal na pyrotechnic devices sa rehiyon ng CALABARZON.

Ang aktibidad ay isinagawa alinsunod sa umiiral na mga batas at regulasyon upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng publiko, lalo na ngayong nalalapit ang pagdiriwang ng Bagong Taon.

Kabilang sa mga

sinirang kontrabando ang iba’t ibang uri ng high-risk firecrackers at improvised devices na maaaring magdulot ng malubhang pinsala sa buhay at ari-arian.

Ayon kay PBGen Paul Kenneth T. Lucas, Regional Director ng PNP PRO-4A, mahalaga ang agarang pagsira sa mga nakumpiskang ilegal na paputok upang maiwasan ang muling pagkalat ng mga ito sa komunidad.

Aniya, bahagi ito ng kanilang matibay na paninindigan na ipatupad ang batas at pangalagaan ang kapakanan ng mamamayan.

Dagdag pa ni Lu-

cas, patuloy ang mahigpit na pagbabantay at operasyon ng PNP PRO-4A laban sa ilegal na paggawa, pagbebenta, at paggamit ng paputok, kasabay ng pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno.

Muli niyang hinikayat ang publiko na makipagtulungan sa kapulisan sa pamamagitan ng pag-uulat ng mga ilegal na aktibidad kaugnay ng paputok, upang matiyak ang isang ligtas, mapayapa, at masayang pagdiriwang sa buong rehiyon ng CALABARZON.

Via Joel Cabactulan



STRONG...

key areas. All arrested individuals are now under proper police custody and facing due legal processes.

In the campaign against illegal drugs, police units also recorded significant gains. In Kalinga, authorities destroyed 7,000 fully grown marijuana plants valued at ₱1.4 million during a large-scale eradication operation. Meanwhile, a joint buy-bust operation in Cebu City led to the arrest of a High-Value Individual (HVI) and the seizure of 1,030 grams of shabu worth ₱7.4 million.

Acting Chief PNP, PLTGEN Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. said the early accomplishments send a clear message as the new year begins.

“We are starting 2026 with firm and focused police action. These results show that our personnel remain vigilant—even during the holidays—because pub-

lic safety does not take a break,” PLTGEN Nartatez said. “This is about protecting communities, enforcing the law fairly, and making sure that criminals are held accountable.”

He added that these operations underscore the PNP’s continuing transformation under the current administration.

“Under the guidance of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., we will continue strengthening our operations through EMPO—smarter deployment, tighter coordination, and faster response. This is how we deliver police service that our people can truly feel,” he stressed.

The Acting Chief PNP, PLTGEN Nartatez emphasized that the guid-

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ing principle of “Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas—Serbisyonag Mabibilis, Tapat, at Nararamdaman” will remain at the core of police operations throughout 2026.

“Hindi ito pang-isang taon lang. This will continue to guide us every day—sa lansangan, sa komunidad, at sa bawat operasyon—so that the public sees and feels a police force they can trust,” PLTGEN Nartatez said.

As 2026 begins, the PNP reaffirms its commitment to relentless law enforcement, respect for human rights, and responsive public service—ensuring that safety, justice, and order remain at the forefront of the nation’s new year.

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