

RSA: New SLEX 6x6 lanes operational in December; full expansion complete by mid-2025

The new 6x6 lanes configuration of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) from Susanna Heights, Muntinlupa to Calamba, Laguna — with two additional lanes on both southbound and northbound sides — will be opened in December, in time for Christmas, San Miguel Corporation (SMC) chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang, said.

The at-grade expansion, undertaken by San Miguel unit and SLEX concession holder SMC SLEX Inc., is proceeding on schedule, with the said 29-kilometer stretch slated to open in the third week of December.

Meanwhile, construction on the section from Calamba to Sto. Tomas, Batangas, as well as the expansion of some 20 bridges connecting the SLEX main carriageway, will be completed by July 2025, Ang said.

"This December, as our countrymen pre-

pare to celebrate Christmas and travel more to spend time with friends and family, they can look forward to a wider, better SLEX. This will help in significantly reducing traffic buildup during the Holiday rush," Ang said.

"The SLEX expansion is a major undertaking that entailed significant effort and investment, and a lot of patience and cooperation from motorists and stakeholders. We are very glad that motorists can soon enjoy faster trips to and from Southern Luzon," he added.

Ang said that ensuring that SLEX is fully operational throughout the construction period has been a consistent priority of the company.

"Our contractors and project teams continue to do everything they can to minimize impact on vehicle traffic," Ang said. "We want to assure our motorists that we will continue to work as efficiently as possible, and minimize

disruptions to their travel as we complete the expansion."

As the main expressway connecting Metro Manila to the CALABARZON region and beyond, SLEX serves an integral role in economic development in region.

The SLEX expansion program is seen to support the growth of Region 4A, which accounts for about 15% of the country's total Gross Domestic Product.

The company has also fully-decommissioned the Calamba Main Toll Plaza, which used to be the terminus of SLEX, as well as the SLEX Greenfield Toll Plaza, the

terminus of the SLEX-Toll Road 3 project that connected Calamba to Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

Structures have been dismantled, and the roads will be paved once the expansion work proceeds in that area.

In addition to the expansion of the entire carriageway, toll plazas at SLEX have been fitted with automatic license plate reading (ALPR) cameras as part of SMC Infra's efforts to comply with government mandates on barrier-less expressways.

With the help of ALPR cameras, the company said it was able to lift barriers at toll entry plazas across SLEX, to reduce

the need for motorists to slow down or fully stop while passing through.

This slowdown increases the likelihood of traffic build-ups, which sometimes extend to public roads that are interconnected with SLEX.

In 2022, the company implemented the Seamless Southern Tollways project which reduced the number of stops motorists had to do when traveling along the Skyway System, SLEX, and Star Tollway.



Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro Awarded Most Outstanding Vice Mayor of the Philippines in the Gawad Pilipino Awards



Calamba City, Laguna — Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro has been recognized as the Most Outstanding Vice Mayor of the Philippines in the prestigious Gawad Pilipino Awards, Linkod Bayan.

his tireless efforts in implementing impactful programs for the community.

Vice Mayor Lazaro shared a heartfelt message with the Calambenos:

"PANALO PO TAYO—Patuloy ipananalang ang Masang Calambeno! Ang parangal na Most Outstanding Vice Mayor



of the Philippines ay isang patunay na ang inyong Pangalawang Ama ng Lungsod ng Calamba ay nagtatrabaho, nakikinig, at nagpapatupad ng mga programang makatutulong upang itaas ang antas ng pamumuhay ng bawat pamilyang Calambeno kung saan walang mawalan, lahat kasama sa pag-unlad ng mahal nating Calamba."

The Vice Mayor also reiterated his commitment to delivering pro-

grams with genuine care under his "Alagang Lazaro" initiative. He promised to open more opportunities and partnerships that will empower Calamba families.

"Ngayong 2025, tuloy-tuloy nating iparamdam ang Alagang Lazaro na may tunay na malasakit sa mga Calambeno. Marami pa tayong buuksang oportunidad, pararamihin pa natin ang mga SUSI na makatutulong natin sa patuloy na



pag-angat ng bawat pamilyang Calambeno."

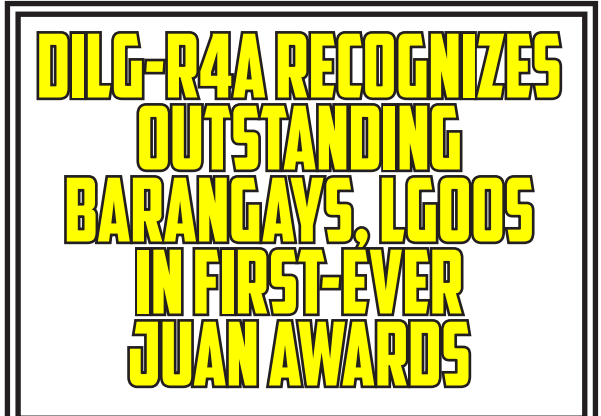
Vice Mayor Lazaro also acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Calamba's leaders, including Mayor Roseller H. Rizal and Congresswoman Cha Hernandez Alcantara, in ensuring the city's progress:

"Laging tandaan, kasama sina Mayor Roseller H. Rizal, Congresswoman Cha Hernandez Alcantara, sa Pamahalaang Calambago, Calambeno ang tunay na panalo!"

The Gawad Pilipino

nas Linkod Bayan Awards is a highly regarded recognition body that celebrates outstanding public servants who exemplify excellence in governance and public service. Vice Mayor Lazaro's achievement is a testament to his dedication to the people of Calamba and his vision of an inclusive, progressive, and prosperous city.

Congratulations, Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro, for this well-deserved recognition! Calamba City is truly proud of your leadership and commitment. (Edjun Mariposque)



EBOSS 2025: A More Enhanced and Streamlined Service for Local Businesses

Cavite PESO and TESDA Join Forces to Empower Job Seekers Through Contact Center Services NC II Training



In a bid to create opportunities for job-seekers, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager, in partnership with TESDA

Cavite Provincial Office, has successfully concluded the Community-Based Training on Contact Center Services NC II.

The program, held from November 27 to December 20, 2024, combined 13 days of on-line learning with 5 days of in-person training at the Cavite Provincial Capitol

compound in Trece Martires City. Participants, including displaced POGO workers, OFWs, OFW dependents, and unemployed individuals, were

trained to become certified customer service professionals, equipped with the skills to thrive in the fast-growing contact center industry.

Designed to address unemployment and skill gaps, the training program aimed to open doors to new career paths while fostering personal and professional growth. By empowering participants to meet industry standards, this initiative serves as a stepping stone for many toward financial stability and meaningful employment.

The program culminated in a graduation ceremony on December 20, 2024, at the Ceremonial Hall which featured inspiring messages from

key leaders, including Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, PESO Manager, Ms. Evangelina E. Plazo, TESDA Cavite Officer-in-Charge, Mr. Earl Jim D. Sumaoang, University and Community Partnership Supervisor - Foundever Philippines Corporation, and Mr. John Ray B. Malaca, President/TVI Head of IExcel School of Communication and Technical Skills, Inc., emphasizing the importance of education and perseverance in achieving success.

This collaborative initiative highlights the shared commitment of OPPEM and TESDA to uplift communities by providing life-changing opportunities through skill development and job placement. - R. Tanal

Editorial

ANG KINAUGALIANG NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION SA TUWING BAGONG TAON

Nakaugalian na ng mga Pinoy ang gumawa ng famous new year's resolution o pangako ng magandang pagbabago sa tuwing sasapit ang bagong taon.

Kailangan pa ba talagang hintayin ang pagsapit ng bagong taon para sa isang pangako ng magandang pagbabago? Alam nating lahat na ang kasagutan ay 'hindi'.

Ngunit dahil may kasabihang 'bagong taon bagong buhay', nakagawian na ng maraming kaakibat ng pagsalubong sa bagong taon ang pagkakaroon ng New Year's resolution.

May kasabihan tayong mga Pinoy: 'Nasa Diyos ang awa, nasa tao ang gawa'. Idagdag pa natin ang sa wikang ingles: 'Faith without action is dead'.

At kung hindi sapat, narito pa ang Italian version nito: 'Chiedi al Signore aiuto ma non startene seduto'. Walang dahilan upang sabihing hindi ito naiintindihan, maliban na lamang kung hindi ito nais intindihin.

In short, kailangang kumilos! Kung nais may marating, bukod sa pagdarasal at pananalig, ay aksyon ang kailangan para maabot anuman ang ninanais.

Huwag manatiling isang 'Juan tamad' na naghihintay sa pagbagsak ng mangga sa bibig habang prenteng-prenteng namamahinga sa ilalim sa puno nito.

Tandaan na ang bawat pagod at pawis ay ginagantimpalaan ng maayos na tadha-na.

DILG CLOSES OVER P12.98-M LBP TRUST FUND

Following the recommendations of the Commission on Audit (COA), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has closed its four trust fund accounts at the Landbank of the Philippines (LBP) with an aggregate amount of over P12.98 million.

Earlier, COA flagged the DILG for maintaining four unauthorized bank accounts, stating that their creation and retention as of yearend 2023 "have no legal basis".

The Department said the accounts were used as depository accounts for funds from other national government agencies. The accounts were created to ensure the

prompt release of funds to support the implementation of various programs and projects.

According to the DILG, it had earlier closed the P1.73-million RO IX Trust Regular Account and the DILG-NCR Local Government Academy Special Project Account with P111,009.42.

Meanwhile, the DILG is processing the closing of the P1.116-million DILG-NCR Special Project Account and the P10.025-million DILG Central Office Trust Account.

For the latter, the Department has returned the unutilized P2.363-million balance to the source agency; and has utilized

DILG-R4A...

As part of its commitment to recognize the tireless efforts and continuous dedication of barangays in the region, the Department of the Interior and Local Government-Region IVA (DILG-R4A) recognized 91 barangays in the first-ever "Juan Awards: Gawad Parangal para sa Natatanging Barangay"

In his message during the awarding ceremony held recently at Aquamarine Recreational Center, Barangay Banay-Banay, Lipa City, Batangas, DILG-R4A Assistant Regional Director Darrell I. Dizon highlighted the importance of sustained excellence.

"Beyond the recognition and incentives, the fundamental objective of each assessment

Laguna V. Governor Karen Agapay Highlights 2024 Accomplishments as Province Welcomes 2025

Laguna Vice Governor Atty. Karen Agapay expressed heartfelt gratitude to the people of Laguna as the province ushers in the new year. In a message shared on December 31, 2024, she stated, "Thank you, mga Ka-Agapay! 2024 is almost over, and we are excited to welcome 2025 with you!"

The Vice Governor also proudly shared the remarkable accomplishments of her office for 2024:

8,967 ordinances and resolutions approved and attested.

176,098 individuals received free legal assistance.

Over P28.8 mil-

lion the P5.834-million from the Department of Trade and Industry and the Bureau of Fire Protection - Interagency Task Force. As of today, the BFP-IATF Fund balance of only P199,627.90 shall be utilized for unpaid claims, after which any remaining balances shall be remitted to the Bureau of Treasury

and audit is to ensure the continuous commitment of our local government units down to its grassroots level," he said.

The 91 outstanding barangays in CALABARZON were recognized for their exemplary performance in the DILG's flagship programs such as Barangay Trailblazers for Outstanding Performance (TOP) Tanod Awards; Lupong Tagapamayapa Incentives Awards (LTIA); Kalinga at Inisyatiba para sa Malinis na Bayan (KALINISAN); and Seal of Good Local Government Barangay (SGLGB).

Concerned City and Municipal Local Government Operations Officers were also recognized for their invaluable support to the success of their respective barangays.

lion in provincial grants released and P18.4 million in financial aid distributed. 59,894 beneficiaries of free haircut services.

106,624 benefited from various outreach programs, including medical and livelihood assistance.

4,701 workers hired through partnerships with private companies.

Support extended to 735 barangays, RHUs, and groups with food supplements and medical supplies.

510 public schools benefited from book donations.

As Laguna enters 2025, Vice Governor Agapay reaffirmed her

(BTr) at year-end.

The DILG is now coordinating with the BTr to open the Modified Disbursement System Trust Account under LBP. This account will be used for fund transfers granted or entrusted to the Department and may take effect in January 2025. DILG GOV

FROM PAGE 1

DBM APPROVES MEDICAL ALLOWANCE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES STARTING 2025

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), led by Secretary Amenah "Mina" Pangandaman, has approved Budget Circular No. 2024-6, detailing the guidelines for providing an annual medical allowance of up to P7,000 to qualified government personnel. The initiative will take effect in Fiscal Year 2025.

This program aligns with Executive Order No. 64 s. 2024, signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on August 2, 2024, which also includes a salary increase for government employees.

"This is a promise fulfilled," Secretary Pangandaman stated. "Starting 2025, eligible government employees will receive medical allowances to help cover health-related expenses, such as HMO subscriptions, hospitalization, and medicines."

The allowance will cover all civilian gov-

ernment personnel, including those in national government agencies, state universities and colleges, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, and local water districts. Employees can opt for HMO-type coverage through group purchases or receive reimbursements for health-related expenses, especially in areas with limited access to HMO services.

"This medical allowance is not just a benefit; it's a vital investment in ensuring a healthy and high-performing workforce," Secretary Pangandaman added.

The program is expected to significantly improve the well-being of thousands of government employees, particularly those in remote areas, by providing much-needed support for their healthcare needs.

The event, titled "Little Brave Warriors", was organized to celebrate and support these children and their families.

It featured games, cash prizes, grocery giveaways for medya noche, and donations from CMC employees.

A Special Welcome

In her speech, Ms. Lirio Lomarda, Marketing and Business Development Head of CMC, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the children and their families.

"Mula po sa pamunuan ng Calamba Medical Center, isa pong karangalan ang buksan ang aming pintuan sa mga espesyal na bata, lalo na sa mga nangangailangan ng espesyal na atensyon at pag-aaruga," she said. She also praised the mothers, calling them heroes for their unwavering dedication to their children. "Let's give an applause to all mothers who bravely attend to the needs of their children despite the challenges," Lomarda added.

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CMC HOSPITAL HOSTS FIRST CHARITY EVENT FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



CALAMBA Medical Center (CMC) in Laguna held its first-ever event for children with health conditions (Congenital Heart Disease , Autism Spectrum Disorder, Epilepsy, Hydrocephalus , Leukemia, Colostomy and Global Developmental Delay) on Saturday, December 28, 2024 welcoming more than 50 young participants from different areas in the province.

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Commitment to Continued Support Lomarda announced CMC's commitment to support similar events in the future and revealed also from establish dedicated clinic --- we already have 'yung CORE center for Occupational Rehabilitation and Early intervention , we are working to create ZBen package for Philhealth to cover the Rehabilitation and therapy of children with special needs .

"Sobrang napa-ka-iksi ng preparasyon, pero everything fell into place. Nagsimula lang kami ni Ms. Cyrill Quilo, and now, CMC management has fully supported this event," Lomarda shared.

InsiderPH expresses gratitude and hopes for continued support

On her part, Quilo extended heartfelt thanks to the Calamba Medical Center (CMC) and its staff, as well as to individuals who generously contributed to the success of the "Little Brave Warriors" event.

"Una po sa lahat, on behalf of Insider Philippines, lubos pong nagpapasalamat sa pamunuan at mga empleyado ng Calamba Medical Center, at sa ilang indibidwal na walang alinlangang tumulong at nag-donate para sa ating mga 'Brave Warriors' ng Laguna," Quilo said.

She highlighted the significance of host-

ing the event on December 28, coinciding with the Feast of the Holy Innocents (Niños Inocentes) commemorating the children slain by King Herod of Judea after Jesus Christ was born and he will be "The King of Jews" . "Hindi naging alintana ang panahon upang makadaupang-palad ang mga batang nakikipaglaban sa kani-kaniilang sakit, lalo na ngayong araw ng selebrasyon ng Niños Inocentes, na isa sa mahalagang araw matapos ipanganak ang maghahari sa sanlibutan , Quilo shared.

Despite limited preparation time, Quilo expressed pride in InsiderPH's role as a bridge that brought together individuals to make the event possible. "Bagaman ilang araw lamang ang naging preparasyon ng kauna-unahang charity event ng InsiderPH, kami lamang po ang naging daan o tulay katuwang ang mga indibidwal upang maisakatuparan ito," she said.

She also expressed hopes for more opportunities to help children in the future. "At atin pong idinadalangin na magtuloy-tuloy pa ito sa mga susunod na panahon upang maraming bata pa ang matulungan sa munting kakayahan," Quilo concluded.

The announcement was met with emotional reactions from parents, many of whom expressed gratitude and were moved to tears by



CMC's generosity. Collaborative Efforts

The event was organized in partnership with Cyrill Quilo, publisher of InsiderPH, and supported by CMC's President and CEO Atty. Pillar Nenuca P. Almira. Additional backing came from CMC staff, some individuals Mr. Harjeet Sodhi, Julyenn Raine Quiambao, Jexzear

and Arnel reopened their doors with a renewed purpose and a new name: Alcoh Bistro. Transitioning from a bar-centric identity, the couple envisioned a family-friendly restaurant where great food and exceptional customer experience would take center stage.

"When people hear 'Alcoh,' they often think of beer or videoke," Florey shared. "But as a mother watching my four boys grow, I began to reflect deeply on why I do what I do. I wanted Alcoh to be more than just a business—I wanted it to be something we could proudly pass on to our children."

With no formal education in Business Management, Florey faced challenges in running the bistro. Seeking to grow her knowledge, she turned to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Rizal Provincial Office. A social media post about the Kapatid Mentor ME

Atienza , Toys o Laruan (Mascot), Dr. Gerry Sales, and Dr. Paul Allan A. Espina of 1COOPHealth, as well as the Office of Albay 2nd District Representative Joey Salceda, chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means. A Celebration of Kindness "This day is special because it's not

just about Christmas, but about celebrating these children and their families," Lomarda emphasized.

The Little Brave Warriors event showcased the power of community and compassion, leaving a lasting impact on the children and their families as they headed home with gifts and memories to cherish.

Success Story...

(KMME) program caught her attention, sparking a journey that would redefine her business.

Florey joined KMME, submitted her requirements, and went through a mentorship process. Presenting her Business Improvement Plan to a panel of experts, she not only gained invaluable insights but also earned the distinction of Best Presenter.

"The program taught me the importance of value in our business," she recalled. "Before, my focus was just on generating sales to cover expenses. But KMME gave me a bigger vision for Alcoh Bistro and for our family."

Since completing the KMME program, Florey and Arnel have made significant strides in improving Alcoh Bistro. The air-conditioned dining area has been transformed into a cozy, inviting space perfect for small events and celebrations. Their menu now boasts upgraded

dishes and new recipes, reflecting their commitment to offering only the best to their patrons.

Alcoh Bistro still retains its videoke charm, inviting customers to sing their hearts out while enjoying Filipino favorites. But the Serratos' focus is clear: creating a dining experience where families can come together, enjoy great food, and make lasting memories.

Florey's journey is a testament to the power of determination and adaptability. With a renewed vision and the support of programs like KMME, she has not only redefined Alcoh Bistro but also inspired others in her community.

"Through KMME, we've dared to dream bigger for our business and our family," Florey said with pride.

Today, Alcoh Bistro isn't just a business—it's a symbol of resilience, reinvention, and a family's unwavering commitment to building a brighter future. PR

FROM PAGE 4

STEPS TOWARD ACHIEVING DREAMS



Chita M. Tamayao, a CARD client and entrepreneur from Tuguegarao City achieved success despite life's challenges.

In Tuguegarao City, Chita M. Tamayao's story shows her grit and resilience shaped through unwavering determination and faith in God.

Her journey began in her hometown where she first studied and worked. She finished a 2-year college course and then worked as a Pharmacy Secretary for three years before starting a family.

Chita and her husband tried different businesses to support their growing family, including tricycle rentals, selling coffee, and running a small store. However, their Mikki noodle business became their main source of income.

In 2019, Chita's life took a turn when she was introduced to CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance

NGO). Encouraged by friends, she took a loan of PHP 5,000, eventually growing it to PHP 100,000, which helped expand her business.

"The financial support from CARD was crucial for our Mikki noodle business and my children's education," Chita says.

Life once tested Chita's faith and dedication when her husband passed away, leaving her as the sole provider for their four children. Despite this overwhelming challenge, Chita's spirit never wavered. Chita continued running their businesses to support their four children. Her resilience led her to diversify her offerings, and today her market stall includes various products, such as lumpia wrappers, sprouted mung beans and other seeds, garlic, onions, and other household essentials with daily sales reaching PHP 15,000.

Despite challeng-

es and tough competition, Chita's hard work and friendly nature earned her loyal customers at Don Domingo Market.

Chita's path has also led to big personal wins. She has also renovated her home, supported her children's education, and bought a motorcycle for business deliveries.

Chita shows that with perseverance and the right support, success is possible. Her partnership with CARD played a key role in her business growth, allowing her to overcome obstacles.

"To aspiring entrepreneurs, starting a business is not easy. It involves facing many challenges and making wise decisions. Stay focused, keep personal desires separate from business goals, and persevere through every challenge," Chita advises.

Her life and work continue to inspire others, proving that with determination and the right support system, the sky is the limit. PR

DSWD Beneficiaries Receive Go Negosyo Mentoring



Entrepreneurs from poor, vulnerable and marginalized households and communities received entrepreneurship mentoring from Go Negosyo's pool of veteran mentors as the non-profit lent its support to the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

GoNegosyo conducted a mini version of its 3M on Wheels program to provide business guidance to SLP beneficiaries toward the overall objective of helping improve their socio-economic conditions through accessing and acquiring necessary assets to engage in and maintain thriving livelihoods. 3M on Wheels is Go Negosyo's free public entrepreneurship roadshow, usually conducted in shopping malls in major urban cities across the Philippines.

"Our efforts to promote entrepreneurship among Filipinos is amplified by collaborations such as this with the DSWD," said Go Negosyo founder Joey Concepcion. He explained that the mentoring was made possible through a Memorandum of Agreement with the DSWD to provide mentorship for the beneficiaries of their SLP program so that they can be guided as they work toward building their businesses.

Concepcion added that First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos's Lab For

All was instrumental in expanding entrepreneurship mentoring as beneficiaries from areas where the medical and social services caravan is conducted undergo one-on-one mentoring with Go Negosyo before they are given the capital support.

Similar partnerships have been established through government agencies such as the Department of Education, Department of Tourism, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Agrarian Reform, and the Department of Trade and Industry.

The free mentoring was held in support of the program during the SustainEnablers Livelihood Congress 2024 of the DSWD National Capital Region, held last November 11 to 13 at the Great Eastern Hotel in Quezon City. Seventy-five participants from across the NCR received one-on-one coaching and consultation from the pool of entrepreneurship experts, consultants and veteran entrepreneurs, namely

Marvin Adolfo, Roman Buysong, Perry Camba, Pat Ballecer, Rommel Villoria, Evelyn Breguera, Florlynn Dela Pena, Leah Ayeng, Max Yap, Senedith Delos Reyes, Jordan Patente, RC Flores, and Inday Almonte.

The event was to celebrate the SLP program's accomplishments and highlight the contributions of its partner stakeholders, staff, and participants. The SustainEnabler Awards Program is a platform to highlight the journey of program beneficiaries who have become self-resilient individuals and spread community-level prosperity.

The DSWD's Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) was started in 2011 and implemented through two tracks: Microenterprise Development and Employment Facilitation. Through the microenterprise track, beneficiaries are provided a one-time financial capital assistance from DSWD, given access skills enhancement, and building/re-building and developing physical and natural assets.



Pointer Pau Dela Cruz

MODERNIZATION AT APOLITICAL POLICE FORCE NGAYONG 2025 ISUSULONG NI PNP CHIEF ROMMEL MARBIL

Nangako si Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Marbil na isusulong niya ang isang modernisadong police force na walang kinikilingan sa politika ngayong 2025.

Sa kaniyang mensahe nitong Enero 2, sinabi ni Marbil na layon nila ngayong taon na patuloy na gampanan ang kanilang tungkuling protektahan ang buhay ng mga Pinoy at isulong ang "rule of law" sa bansa.

"Peace and order are the cornerstones of a thriving community. As we begin a new chapter, I assure every Filipino that the PNP remains steadfast in its commitment to protecting lives, securing properties, and upholding the rule of law," ani Marbil.

Dagdag pa ni Marbil "We envision a modern police force for a modern Filipino society—responsive, professional, and attuned to the times."

Binalangkas din ng hepe ng PNP ang pagtuon ng organisasyon sa technology-driven policing, na itinatampok ang mga inisyatiba tulad ng pag-deploy ng body-worn cameras, real-time crime mapping, at enhanced cybercrime prevention units.

"In today's interconnected world, technology is not just a tool—it is an indispensable part-

ner in law enforcement. From advanced analytics in crime prevention to artificial intelligence in tracking criminal activities, the PNP is committed to employing innovative solutions to ensure public safety," saad niya.

Samantala, sa papalapit na midterm elections ay iginiit din ni Marbil na hindi nababahiran ang kapulisan ng mga impluwensya sa politika.

"The PNP stands as a pillar of democracy, adhering to the principles of justice, impartiality, and service above self. We are a police force that prioritizes the welfare of the people, untainted by political affiliations or influences," aniya.

"A modern police force thrives on a strong partnership with the people. Together, we can create safer neighborhoods and build a nation where peace and security prevail."

Kaugnay nito, ipinangako ni Marbil ang dedikasyon daw ng kapulisan para sa "transparency," "accountability," at "professionalism" sa pagtupad ng kanilang tungkulin.

"Let us move forward into this New Year with hope and determination. The PNP is here to serve, protect, and modernize for the benefit of every Filipino," wika ni Marbil

EBOSS 2025...

CALAMBA, Laguna – Mayor Ross Rizal kicked off the new year with a visit to the newly upgraded Electronic Business One Stop Shop (EBOSS) 2025, at the City Hall of Calamba City, Laguna. This visit, marking the first working day of 2025, was aimed at ensuring a smooth process for businesses renewing their permits.

The newly improved EBOSS 2025 is designed to expedite and simplify services for local entrepreneurs, reflecting the government's commitment to efficient and

effective public service. As part of the "Ramdam Na Reporma" initiative of the CalamBAGONG Pamahalaan, the administration is prioritizing accessibility and ease for every resident and business owner.

Mayor Rizal expressed optimism for the year ahead, emphasizing a prosperous and meaningful journey for all residents of Calamba. "Maka-Diyos at Maka-Rizal na CalamBAGONG Taon po sa ating lahat!" he declared in his message, highlighting the government's unwavering dedication to reforms that truly

FROM PAGE 1

benefit the community. With the upgraded EBOSS 2025, local businesses can look forward to faster transactions and a more convenient business permit renewal experience. The Mayor's office continues to prioritize the needs of the citizens as they usher in a new era of governance.

PUBLISHER CORNER

EIGHT MAJOR VALUES THAT CAN TRANSFORM A COMMON LEADER INTO A GREAT LEADER!



1. Integrity
Why it transforms: Integrity builds trust and credibility. When a leader is honest, transparent, and consistent in their actions, they create a foundation for strong relationships with their team and stakeholders. A great leader must lead by example, and integrity ensures alignment between words and actions.

2. Vision
Why it transforms: A compelling vision inspires people to achieve more than they thought possible. Great leaders think beyond the present, setting a clear direction for their team or organization. This focus on the future motivates others and creates a sense of purpose.

3. Empathy
Why it transforms: Empathy allows leaders to connect with their team on a deeper level, understanding their needs, concerns, and motivations. By valuing and respecting individuals, a leader fosters a positive and inclusive environment, which enhances team loyalty and performance.

4. Courage
Why it transforms: Great leaders must make tough decisions, take calculated risks, and stand by their principles even when it's uncomfortable. Courage enables a leader to face challenges head-on, inspire confidence, and drive innovation in uncertain times.

5. Humility
Why it transforms: Humility keeps a leader grounded and open to feedback. Great leaders recognize that they don't have all the answers and actively seek out the strengths and insights of others. This value helps them build collaborative and empowered teams.

6. Accountability
Why it transforms: Taking responsibility for both successes and failures sets great leaders apart. Accountability demonstrates reliability and creates a culture where everyone feels empowered to contribute, knowing their efforts will be acknowledged and challenges addressed.

7. Commitment to Growth
Why it transforms: Great leaders prioritize their own personal development as well as the growth of their teams. By embracing learning, fostering curiosity, and supporting professional development, they create an environment of continuous improvement and innovation.

8. Gratitude
Why it transforms: Gratitude encourages leaders to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of others. This value builds morale, strengthens relationships, and creates a culture of positivity that inspires team members to give their best.

Together, these values empower a leader to build trust, inspire action, and cultivate a thriving, motivated team. They differentiate someone who simply manages from someone who truly leads with purpose and impact.



Calamba Honors the 128th Commemorative Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal's Martyrdom



Calamba City – A tribute to the 128th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal, Calamba City, under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, held a meaningful program at the historic Bahay ni Rizal.

This year's theme, "Rizal sa Bagong Pilipinas: Buhay at Aral, Aming Nilalandas," resonated with the enduring legacy of the country's National Hero. The event highlighted his sacrifices and unwavering love for the nation, inspiring Filipinos to embody his ideals of freedom, progress, and patriotism.

In his message, Mayor Ross Rizal emphasized the importance of Dr. Jose Rizal's vision in

guiding the city's journey toward inclusive development through the administration's "Ramdam na Reporma" initiatives.

"Sa araw na ito, sabay-sabay nating alalahanin ang sakripisyo at pagmamahal ni Dr. Jose Rizal para sa bayan. Sa patuloy nating pagtahak sa landas ng Ramdam na Reporma, inspirasyon ang kanyang diwa upang higit nating higitan ang ating mga nasimulan," the Mayor stated.

Mayor Ross further called on every Calambeño to continue Rizal's fight for a brighter future:

"Hindi tayo titigil hangga't ang pangarap na bayan ni Rizal—malaya, maunlad, at para sa

lahat—ay ating makamit. Sama-sama, Calambeño, ipagpatuloy natin ang laban para sa mas maliwanag na kinabukasan!"

The commemoration not only honored Dr. Jose Rizal but also reminded everyone of the power of unity and bayanihan in building a nation grounded in justice and equality.

As Calamba pays tribute to its most celebrated son, the city continues to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for Filipinos, ensuring that the hero's teachings remain alive in the hearts of its people.

Mabuhay ang diwa ni Rizal!
(EDJUN MARI-POSQUE)

SUCCESS STORY/ FROM BAR TO BISTRO: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF ALCOH BISTRO



Antipolo City, 26 December 2024 – Nestled in the heart of Rizal, Alcoh Bistro stands as a testament to resilience, transformation, and family values. The brainchild of

Florey Serrato, a mother of four and a Mass Communication. Alcoh Bistro is more than just a dining spot—it's a legacy in the making.



preneural journey began in 2009, alongside her husband, Arnel, with the opening of Alcoh Bar. The establishment became a local favorite for its lively atmosphere, cold beer,

and videoke nights. However, like many businesses, the pandemic in 2019 forced its closure, putting a pause on their dreams. In 2022, Florey Cont. on page 7

PAGBANGON AT PAG-ASA PANGKABUHAYAN PARA SA MGA NAGBALIK LOOB NA DATING REBELDE NPA SA ILALIM NG E-CLIP



Tanda ng pagsubortang pangamalahang para sa mapayapa ang maginhawang pamumuhay ng mga dating rebelde, nakatanggap ng tulong pangkabuhayan ang dalawang mga dating rebelde mula sa Enhanced Comprehensive Local Integration program o E-CLIP ng Gobyerno dito sa Brgy. F. Simeon, Ragay, Camarines Sur.

Patunay ito na ang ating pamahalaan ay laging nandyan na tumulong para sa ating mga kababayan na naligaw ng landas at nag balik-loob sa gobyerno at makapag simulang muli ng payapa, makasama ang pamilya at mga mahal sa buhay.

Dahil dito, patunoy na nananawagan ang Battalion Commander

ng 81st Infantry (SPARTAN) Battalion sa mga natirirang rebeldeng NPA na hanggang ngayon ay nasa kabundukan pa na abandonahan na ang armadong pakikibaka, magbalikloob sa pamahalaan para mamuhay ng tahimik kasama ang inyong pamilya at mga mahal sa buhay. (Nelson Dimapilis)



112K WORTH OF CONFISCATED ILLEGAL FIRECRACKERS, SOAKED IN A CEREMONIAL DISPOSAL OF ILLEGAL FIRECRACKERS AND PYROTECHNIC MATERIALS



Kampo Heneral Paciano Rizal – Laguna Police Provincial Office (PPO) headed by PCOL GAUVIN MEL Y UNOS, Acting Provincial Director, together with personnel of PNP Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD), Regional Civil Security Unit(RCSU) 4A, and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) soaked in water the confiscated

illegal firecrackers worth of Php112,076.00 in a ceremonial disposal of illegal firecrackers and pyrotechnic materials today at Kampo Heneral Paciano Rizal, Brgy. Bagumbayan, Sta Cruz, Laguna.

The Laguna Police Provincial Office (LPPPO) has intensified its campaign against the use and distribution of prohib-

ited firecrackers in line with national directives to ensure public safety during the holiday season. The accumulated data regarding confiscated prohibited firecrackers, emphasizing the number of incidents, types of firecrackers confiscated.

The Laguna PPO confiscated seven (7) bundles of kwitis, seven (7)

bundles of sawa, five (6) packs of judas belt, five (5) packs of whistle bomb, 31 packs of pla-pla, 28 packs of kaingkong, 24 packs of 3 star, two (2) boxes of whistle bomb, two (2) boxes of bawang, two (2) boxes of pop-pop, one (1) pack of baby rocket, two (2) stes of judas belt, two (2) sets of five colors, one (1) peony fountain, two (2) pieces of diamond prosperity fountain, one (1) jumbo silver fountain, six (6) pieces batibot fountain, one (1) piece diamond fountain, one (1) piece fountain silver, one (1) piece battery candle fountain, two (2) pieces diamond fireworks color pearl flowers, 11 pieces kwitis and 805 pieces of boga. The confiscation efforts resulted in a sub-

stantial impact, reducing the risk of firecracker-related injuries and accidents during the holiday season. The combined estimated value of confiscated items reflects the proactive measures of the Laguna PPO in safeguarding the public. Laguna PNP has intensified the operations against selling of prohibited firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices in relation to the implementation of the Rule II of the revised IRR of R.A 7183 (An Act Regulating the Sale, Manufacture, Distribution and Use of Firecrackers and Other Pyrotechnic Devices).

This simultaneously operation conducted province-wide in Laguna, adhere to confiscate illegal firecrackers and firecrack-

ers with no permit that being used outside community fireworks display and to arrest and file necessary charges against all individuals who are found violating the directives in coordination with LGUs and other concerned agencies.

PCOL UNOS said "I commend the effort of Laguna PNP in this operation against the selling of illegal firecrackers in the whole province of Laguna, to make sure that we celebrate a peaceful New Years and for those who are caught selling illegal firecrackers, they will face necessary charges"

(#gtgsabeniano/ Kevin Pamatmat)

