Calamba City Earns Multiple DOLE–PESOMAP Honors Under Mayor Ross Rizal's Leadership

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The City of Calamba once again affirmed its strong commitment to job creation and livelihood development after receiving multiple recognitions during the Performance Assessment and Planning Exercise conducted by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region IV-A in partnership with the Public Employment Services Office Managers Association of the Philippines (PESOMAP) CALABARZON Chapter.

Under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, Calamba City's Public Employment Service Office (PESO) was cited as a High Performing PESO in several key areas, all under the 1st Class Component City Category.

These include:

High Performing PESO with the Most Number of Programs Implemented

High Performing PESO in Provision of Labor Market Information

High Performing PESO in Referral and Placement of Qualified Jobseekers

The recognitions highlight the city government's effective implementation of employment programs, efficient dissemination of labor market information, and strong job-matching initiatives that connect Calambeños to quality employment opportunities.

Mayor Rizal said the awards reflect the collective effort of the city government to uplift the lives of its constituents through sustainable employment and inclusive economic growth.

"Ang mga parangal na ito ay patunay ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng ating Pamahalaang Lungsod na maghatid ng de-kalidad, episyente, at makabuluhang serbisyo para sa bawat Calambeño.

Sama-sama nating ipinagpapatuloy ang adhikaing trabaho para sa lahat at maunlad na kinabukasan para sa Calamba!"

City officials noted that the consistent performance of Calamba's PESO plays a vital role in strengthening the local economy by generating jobs, supporting workers, and partnering with industries and institutions.

With these latest honors, the City of Calamba further solidifies its position as one of CALABARZON's leading local government units in employment facilitation—driven by a leadership focused on opportunity, productivity, and long-term economic benefits for its people.

(Edjun Mariposque)

CARD MRI clients win Microentrepreneur Awards for Digital Innovation

CARD, Inc. clients Carmelita Dapanas (second from left, left photo) and Annalisa Monil (third from left, right photo) receive the Digital Champion Microentrepreneurship Award during the 4th Digital Financial Inclusion Awards. (Photo from MCPI Facebook Page)

CARD Bank, Inc. client Raquel Lanaban (second from right) receives the Digital Financial Inclusion Award under the Microentrepreneur Category for maximizing her sales through digital platforms. (Photo from MCPI Facebook Page)

CARD SME Bank, Inc. client Niel Danica Polong (second from right) receives the Microentrepreneur Award under the DFIA for expanding her customer base through digital platforms after making her signature pancit dishes an online favorite. (Photo from MCPI Facebook Page)

Four clients from institutions under the CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) were honored as Digital Champions at the 4th Digital Financial Inclusion Awards (DFIA) held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Assembly Hall in Malate, Manila.

The awardees include two clients of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO), and one client each from CARD Bank, a microfinance-oriented rural bank, and CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank.

As a mutually reinforcing network, CARD MRI integrates financial and social development services with digital innovations to support client enterprises and improve quality of life. "It's such an honor for us to support these award-winning entrepreneurial journeys. Their success inspires us to keep our mission moving forward," said CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito.

Inspiring stories of digital transformation

Among the awardees is Carmelita Dapanas, a CARD, Inc. client from Manticao, Misamis Oriental. She operates a hydroponic farm producing green bell peppers and salad tomatoes, alongside coconuts and cacao that she processes into tablea. By leveraging Facebook, Messenger, and mobile cash services, she connects with customers nationwide and now supplies hotels, restaurants, and public markets in Iligan City and nearby areas. Another CARD, Inc. awardee, Annalisa Monil from Bilar, Bohol, transformed the Bilar Stem Vegetable Farm into a thriving enterprise that supplies resorts and restaurants in Panglao Island, while also operating a retail store in Tagbilaran City. By accepting orders through Messenger and processing payments via mobile cash services and online banking, she has significantly expanded her market reach—creating more livelihood opportunities within her community.

cont. on page 2

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DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY PUBLISHING
The paper that stand for real values and gives you real value for money
Vol. II - Series 27 - January 18-24, 2026

LALAKI, SUGATAN SA UMANONG AKSIDENTENG PAGPAPAPUTOK NG IMPROVISED SHOTGUN SA BARAS, RIZAL

Kalagayan ng Nasagip na Fil-Am sa OcMin, Patuloy na Sinusubaybayan ng Army at LGU

CALAMBAGO in Action: National–Local Leaders Unite to Accelerate Calamba's Development

PGC BRINGS MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION TO BRGY. SAN FRANCISCO, GENERAL TRIAS

On January 13, a total of 354 residents received medical consultations while 75 patients availed of dental services during a Medical and Dental Mission spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite in Barangay San Francisco, City of General Trias.

The activity also offered diagnostic services to Gentriseños, with 75 patients undergoing fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, eight availing of electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, and another eight receiving X-ray examinations.

These services aided health professionals in providing proper medical advice and appropriate care. Free prescribed medicines and vitamins were subsequently distributed to the patients.

City Councilor Kyle Salazar graced the activity, expressing his support and appreciation for the medical and dental mission team. Dental professionals from the City Health Office, along with Barangay Health Workers, also assisted to ensure the smooth and efficient conduct of the activity.

Through the continued partnership of the Office of the Provincial Governor and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer, the medical and dental mission program continues to expand access to quality healthcare services across the province, promoting hope, wellness, and improved health outcomes for Caviteños.

— J. Reyes

MGA KORAP SA HUDIKATURA, PINABABANTAYAN SA PUBLIKO

AFP, iginiit na boluntaryo ang pananatili ni Fil-Am activist Chantal Anicoche sa kustodiya ng militar

Pagpapalakas ng IAS para sa pagiging independent oversight, welcome sa PNP

PH-UAE free trade deal magdudulot ng mas maraming trabaho at mas murang bilihin – Recto

CAYETANO-LED MINORITY BLOC PRESSES SENATE FOR CLEAR, TRANSPARENT BUDGET AMENDMENTS

EDITORYAL:

PAGKUMPISKA NG DRIVER'S LICENSE: MAY HANGGANAN ANG KAPANGYARIHAN NG LGU TRAFFIC ENFORCER

Original Content by : Rommel Garcia Poblador

Ang pagpapatupad ng batas-trapiko ay may layuning panatilihin ang kaayusan at kaligtasan sa kalsada. Ngunit ang kapangyarihang ito ay may malinaw na hangganan sa ilalim ng batas.

Sa ilalim ng RA 4136 (Land Transportation and Traffic Code), ang Driver's License ay inisyu at nire-regulate ng Land Transportation Office (LTO). Dahil dito, ang mga patakaran kung kailan ito maaaring kunin o hindi ay itinatakda sa national level, at ipinatutupad sa pamamagitan ng opisyal na issuances ng LTO at DOTr.

Kapag ipinagbabawal ng national policy ang pagkumpiska

Kung may umiiral na patakaran na hindi pinapahintulutan ang pagkumpiska ng Driver's License at ipinilit pa rin itong kunin, ang aksyon ay maaaring ituring na lampas sa itinakdang kapangyarihan.

Ito ay hindi usapin ng pagsuway sa tao, kundi pagsuway sa batas at sa national policy na nagpapatupad nito.

Mga posibleng legal na implikasyon

Kapag napatunayang walang legal na basehan ang pagkumpiska, maaaring pumasok ang usapin sa ilalim ng umiiral na batas at patakaran, tulad ng:

- Usurpation of Authority (RPC Art. 177), kung ang kapangyarihang ginamit ay hindi ipinagkaloob ng batas
- Grave Abuse of Authority o violation of civil service rules, bilang usapin ng administrative accountability
- Civil liability, kung may napatunayang pinsala o perhuwisyo sa motorista

Ang mga ito ay hindi awtomatikong parusa, kundi mga posibleng legal na epekto na dumadaan pa rin sa due process.

Paalala para sa lahat ng traffic enforcers

Ang pinaka-ligtas at tamang hakbang kung may paglabag sa trapiko ay:

- mag-isyu ng citation o ticket, at sundin ang umiiral na national policy tungkol sa Driver's License.
- Ito ay proteksyon sa motorista at proteksyon din sa enforcer laban sa hindi kinakailangang legal na isyu.

BOTTOM LINE

Ang kapangyarihan sa kalsada ay hiram ng batas, at ang batas ang nagtatakda ng hangganan nito.

Kapag malinaw ang patakaran ng LTO at DOTr, ito ang dapat sundin upang maging patas, propesyonal, at legal ang pagpapatupad ng batas-trapiko.

DISCLAIMER:

Ang editorial na ito ay inilabas para sa layuning pang-impormasyon at legal awareness lamang. Hindi ito payong legal tulad ng isang lawyer. Ang mga pahayag ay nakabatay sa umiiral na batas, legal principles, at opisyal na patakaran ng LTO at DOTr sa oras ng pagsulat.

Ang anumang pananagutan na nabanggit ay hindi awtomatikong ipinapataw at dumaraan pa rin sa tamang proseso ng batas at due process. Para sa pinal na interpretasyon at aplikasyon, kumonsulta sa lisensyadong abogado o sa kaukulang ahensya ng gobyerno.

CARD MRI...

FROM PAGE 8

Raquel Lanaban, a CARD Bank, Inc. client from Bilusa, Davao City, was also recognized for her batik and handcrafted products business, which she established in 2010. By leveraging Facebook and Messenger, she increased her sales by 90%, adopted digital payment options, and now supports a network of resellers across five areas in Mindanao.

Meanwhile, Niel Danica Polong, a CARD SME Bank, Inc. client from Silang, Cavite, transformed her pancit business into an online favorite after launching a Facebook page during the pandemic.

With the introduction of cashless payment options and an expanded menu, 60 to 70 percent of her orders now come from online customers.

Digital Financial Inclusion Awards

The Digital Financial Inclusion Awards (DFIA) is a financial inclusion initiative funded by the Citi Foundation, in partnership with Microfinance Council and supported by Citi Philippines and the Bangko Sentral ng Pllipinas (BSP).

Now in its fourth year when it spun off from the previously known Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards (CMA), it recognizes outstanding microentrepreneurs and microfinance institutions that effectively use digital solutions to conduct financial transactions, strengthen enterprises, and expand livelihood opportunities.

BSP Governor Eli M. Remolona Jr. highlighted the shifting narrative around microentrepreneurs during the awarding ceremony, noting that digital tools were long perceived as too technical, costly, and complicated.

He emphasized that the awardees have proven this notion outdated, demonstrating that with simple yet innovative solutions— such as online selling, QR payments, and digital business systems— Filipino entrepreneurs are redefining what is possible in the digital economy.

The ceremony also recognized 13 other microentrepreneurs and three MFIs.

Each awardee received PHP 100,000 in cash and a laptop to further support their digital transformation.

The recognition of CARD MRI clients at the DFIA highlights the growing role of digital innovation in inclusive finance. These awardees showed how technology can empower communities, strengthen livelihoods, and pave the way for sustainable growth across the Philippines.

CALAMBAGO...

FROM PAGE 1

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Key national and local government leaders convened for the CALAMBAGO in Action:

Executive Planning Session, reinforcing collaboration between the National Government and the City Government to fast-track Calamba's development agenda.

The planning session brought together Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, Vice Mayor Totie Lazaro, Congresswoman Cha Hernandez, and members of the city's Executive Committee in a unified discussion focused on strengthening governance and service delivery.

During the meeting, officials reviewed ongoing priority projects across the city, including bypass roads, drainage systems, road repair, and road widening initiatives. These infrastructure efforts are designed to ease traffic congestion, improve mobility, and enhance the overall quality of life for Calamba residents.

Leaders also mapped out future development projects envisioned to serve as the foundation of a more progressive, safer, and resilient Calamba.

The discussions emphasized long-term planning, inter-agency coordination, and sustained public service to ensure that growth remains inclusive and people-centered.

With national and local stakeholders aligned, city officials underscored their commitment to continuous, collaborative service—keeping Calamba's development moving forward for the benefit of all its citizens.

(Edjun Mariposque)

PH-UAE...

FROM PAGE 1

Inaasahang magbubukas ng mas maraming trabaho, magpapababa ng presyo ng bilihin, at magpapalawak ng oportunidad para sa mga Pilipino ang bagong free trade agreement sa pagitan ng Pilipinas at United Arab Emirates (UAE) na pinirmahan ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. noong Enero 13, 2026 sa Abu Dhabi.

Ito ang binigyang-diin ni Executive Secretary Ralph Recto.

Ayon kay Recto, ang Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) ang kauna-unahang free trade deal ng Pilipinas sa isang bansa sa Middle East.

Layunin nitong pababain ang taripa, palawakin ang market access ng mga produkto at serbisyo, at hikayatin ang pamumuhunan, na makikinabang ang mga magsasaka, manggagawa, propesyonal, at MSMEs.

Makikinabang din ang mga Pilipinong nagtatrabaho sa healthcare, IT, konstruksyon, turismo, at iba pang sektor sa mas bukas na access sa UAE.

Kasabay nito, nilagdaan din ang kasunduan sa defense cooperation na magpapalakas sa ugnayang pangkalakalan at pangseguridad ng dalawang bansa.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

PEACE

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Mga korap...

FROM PAGE 1

Pinababantayan na rin ni Senator Kiko Pangilinan sa publiko ang mga abusadong huwes na hinahayaang makatakas ang mga opisyal sa pananagutan.

Kaugnay na rin ito sa naunang pahayag ni Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla na hindi lang sa ehekutibo at sa mga mambabatas talamak ang katiwalian kundi pati na rin sa hudikatura.

Pinuna ni Pangilinan na marami ang galit ngayon sa mga kurakot na politiko at mga public works subalit nang maabswelto ang ilang mga nakasuhan ng plunder noon ay wala man lamang nagalit sa mga mahistrado.

Giit ng senador, hindi lamang ito isyu ng katiwalian kundi isyu rin ng katarungan sa sistema ng hudikatura.

Katunayan, mas malawak pa aniya ang katiwaliang nangyayari kabilang ang malaking pananagutan mula sa hudikatura pero sa kabila nito ay hindi kilala kung sino ang mga korap sa nasabing sangay ng gobyerno.

Hinimok ni Pangilinan ang mga kababayan pati na ang media na maging vigilante sa hudikatura para maiparating ang malinaw na mensahe na hindi kukunsintihin ang anumang pangaabuso sa kapangyarihan.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

Pagpapalakas...

FROM PAGE 1

Welcome sa Philippine National Police (PNP) ang posibilidad na pagpapalakas ng Internal Affairs Service o IAS kahit na mahiwalay ito mula sa organisasyon.

Kasunod ito ng naging pahayag ng dating PNP Chief at ngayon Senate President Pro Tempore na si Panfilo Lacson kung saan sinabi nito na maghahain sya ng bill na gagawing independent ang IAS.

Layon nito na mabigyan ng mas malawak na kapangyarihan para sa pagharap sa mga tiwaling kapulisan.

Ayon kay Acting PNP Chief Lt. General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., ilang mga hakbang ang naipatupad na para mapanatili ang integreidad at kalayaan ng IAS sa pagtugis sa mga tiwaling myembro ng kapulisan sa buong bansa.

Tiniyak naman ni Nartatez sa publiko na aalisin nito ang lahat ng mga tiwaling pulis sa kanilang mga ranggo kung saan ito ang kanyang prayoridad.

Nangako rin sya na magiging ehemplo sa pagpapatupad ng law enforcemen, pagpapalakas ng pamamahala sa mga operasyon pati na ang paninindigan sa integridad at disiplina sa police organization.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

7 Sibilyan, 9 Pulis Arestado sa Kaso ng Nawawalang Sabungero

Umakyat na sa pitong sibilyan ang inaresto ng Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) kaugnay ng kaso ng mga nawawalang sabungero.

Bago ito, siyam na pulis na ang nadakip at kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng CIDG bilang bahagi ng patuloy na imbestigasyon.

Sa isang press briefing sa Camp Crame, inihayag ni CIDG Director PMGEN Robert Alexander Morico III na ang mga nadakip na sibilyan ay pawang mga security personnel at empleyado ng sabungan na iniuugnay kay negosyanteng si Charlie "Atong" Ang.

Ayon pa sa CIDG, umabot na sa 17 ang naaresto mula sa kabuuang 18 akusado na pinaghahanap batay sa mga warrant of arrest na inilabas ng Laguna Regional Trial Court Branch 26.

Patuloy namang tinutugis ng mga awtoridad si Ang at isang dating pulis na nananatiling at large.

Kalagayan...

FROM PAGE 1

CAMP CAPINPIN, Rizal — Patuloy na tinitiyak ng mahigpit na ugnayan sa pagitan ng Pamahalaang Bayan ng Abra de Ilog at ng 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division ng Philippine Army ang maayos na kalagayan at kapakanan ng nasagip na Filipino-American na si Chantal Anicoche, kasunod ng engkuwentro noong Enero 1 sa Occidental Mindoro.

Bilang bahagi ng follow-up medical intervention, personal na nagsagawa ng pagsusuri noong Enero 8 si Municipal Health Officer Dr. Mianne Airish Hernandez kay Anicoche sa lugar kung saan siya pansamantalang nasa kustodiya ng mga tropa ng 76th Infantry (Victrix) Battalion. Isinagawa ang naturang pagsusuri alinsunod sa direktiba ni Abra de Ilog Mayor Meg Constantino upang matiyak ang kanyang pisikal na kalagayan matapos ang ilang araw na pananatili sa kabundukan.

Ayon kay Dr. Hernandez, bagama't may natukoy na ilang kagat ng insekto sa mga braso at binti ni Anicoche, wala naman umanong nakitang malubhang sugat o palatandaan ng pisikal na pang-aabuso. Agad siyang binigyan ng kinakailangang gamot at inirekomendang sumailalim pa sa patuloy na obserbasyon at karagdagang pangangalaga.

Samantala, sinabi ni 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division Spokesperson at Division Public Affairs Office Chief Colonel Michael Aquino na ang isinagawang independent medical assessment ng LGU ay mahalagang patunay ng transparency at propesyonalismo sa pagtugon sa mga usaping makatao.

"Ang malayang pagpasok ng municipal health officer at ang malinaw na medical findings ay nagpapatunay na ang kalagayan ni Chantal ay ligtas at maayos. Ito rin ay nagsisilbing sagot sa mga maling impormasyong kumakalat online," pahayag ni Aquino.

Dagdag pa niya, ang aktibong partisipasyon ng lokal na pamahalaan ay nakatulong upang pabulaanan ang mga alegasyong may mga sibilyang sinaktan o inabuso sa mga operasyon noong Enero 1, na umano'y walang batayan batay sa aktuwal na resulta ng pagsusuri.

Muling pinasalamatan ng 2nd Infantry Division ang Pamahalaang Bayan ng Abra de Ilog sa maagap na pagtugon at patuloy na koordinasyon, at binigyang-diin na ang ganitong pagtutulungan ay mahalaga sa pagtitiyak ng dignidad, kaligtasan, at karapatan ng bawat indibidwal na apektado ng armadong tunggalian.

Iginiit naman ng Philippine Army ang kanilang pangako na ipagpatuloy ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga LGU at health authorities upang matiyak na ang lahat ng nasasangkot o naaapektuhan ng mga operasyon ay makatatanggap ng nararapat na pangangalaga, proteksyon, at paggalang sa karapatang pantao.

(Pau Mojar)

Cayetano...

FROM PAGE 1

"It's an extraordinary budget with extraordinary problems. Dapat extraordinary rin y'ung solution. We cannot be half transparent. Yes there are reforms and I acknowledge that. [Pero] kung mag rereform na rin tayo, itodo na rin natin."

In his plenary inquiry on Tuesday, Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano warned that interpellations lose their value when committee amendments are adopted in advance, noting that Senate committee reports already imply changes to the General Appropriations Bill (GAB). The minority leader also insisted that they should know who will be introducing the amendments to ensure full transparency in the process of finalizing the budget.

Lalaki...

FROM PAGE 1

BARAS, Rizal — Isang 44-anyos na lalaki ang sugatan at kasalukuyang nagpapagamot matapos umanong aksidenteng pumutok ang isang improvised shotgun habang sila ay sakay ng motorsiklo sa Southville 9, Barangay Pinugay, Baras, Rizal.

Kinilala ang biktima na si Cirilo, isang vulcanizer at residente ng nasabing barangay. Ayon sa ulat ng Baras Municipal Police Station (MPS), naganap ang insidente bandang alas-11:00 ng umaga noong Enero 14, 2026, ngunit iniulat lamang sa pulisya dakong alas-9:50 ng umaga noong Enero 15, 2026.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, nakatanggap ng tawag ang Baras MPS mula sa isang concerned citizen hinggil sa nasabing insidente. Agad na rumesponde ang mga pulis at beripikahin ang ulat, subalit pagdating sa lugar ay napag-alamang naidala na ang biktima sa Amang Rodriguez Memorial Medical Center upang gamutin ang tinamong pinsala.

Sa isinagawang pagsisiyasat sa lugar ng insidente, narekober ng mga pulis ang isang (1) improvised shotgun o sumpak. Natagpuan din ang isang itim na Yamaha Mio i125 na minamaneho ng biktima bago mangyari ang insidente. Sa compartment sa harap ng motorsiklo, dalawang (2) piraso ng shotgun shell ang nakuha, na agad isinailalim sa kustodiya ng Baras MPS.

Sa follow-up investigation na isinagawa sa ospital, nakapanayam ng mga pulis ang pasahero ng biktima na si Jessa, 45 taong gulang, live-in partner ng biktima at kapwa vulcanizer.

Ayon sa kanyang salaysay, sakay sila ng motorsiklo patungo sana sa kaibigan ng biktima nang bigla niyang marinig ang malakas na putok mula sa improvised shotgun na pag-aari umano ng biktima. Dahil sa pagkabigla, agad niyang dinala ang biktima sa pinakamalapit na ospital upang humingi ng agarang lunas.

Patuloy ang isinasagawang imbestigasyon ng Baras MPS upang matukoy ang kabuuang detalye ng insidente.

Isusumite ang narekober na improvised shotgun at mga bala sa Provincial Forensic Unit (PFU) para sa ballistic examination, habang isasailalim naman sa beripikasyon ang motorsiklong nasangkot sa insidente.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

AFP...

FROM PAGE 1

Kinumpirma ng Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) na nananatili sa kustodiya ng militar ang Filipino-American activist na si Chantal Anicoche, ngunit iginiit na ito ay batay sa kanyang sariling desisyon.

Ayon kay AFP Spokesperson Col. Francel Margareth Padilla, nagsagawa si Anicoche ng undertaking na pinirmahan sa harap ng independent lawyer mula sa Integrated Bar of the Philippines, na nagsasaad ng boluntaryo niyang pananatili sa hospital ng militar upang ipagpatuloy ang kanyang medical procedure.

Binibigyang-diin ni Padilla na ito ay kanyang "free will" at mariin nilang tinatanggihan ang mga paratang ng ilang grupo kaugnay sa insidente.

Samantala, nagpapatuloy ang security operations ng militar sa Abra De Ilog upang matiyak ang seguridad ng komunidad.

(Nelson Dimapilis)

be still and know
PSALM 46:10

MPT SOUTH RECOMMENDS: SUMMER ESCAPADES IN TAGAYTAY

The first thing that strikes one's mind on hearing the word "summer" is that of vacations. As exciting as it may sound, selecting the best summer holiday destinations can be a tedious task. Fret not, because Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South) has got you covered.

Road trip is a popular summer activity, and so MPT South invites travelers to "Biyaheng South" (travel to the South), explore hidden gems and treasures of the provinces of Cavite and Laguna that will surely give you that refreshing summer spirit, made even more accessible through its Cavite-Laguna expressway (CALAX).

Here are some suggested activities that you can enjoy down South, courtesy of MPT South:

1) Cafe-Hopping

Tagaytay has always been a perfect spot for cafes, thanks to its good weather and perfect scenic view of Taal Lake. Visit these fairly new instagrammable cafes in the city, sip on their delicious beverages, and relax with its overlooking view.

Lawa Café-Tagaytay (Located at Purok 2 Maharlika West, Tagaytay, Cavite)

HOW TO GET THERE: via CALAX, take the exit at Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., turn right onto Tagaytay-Calamba Rd., drive straight until you reach Tagaytay, Cavite.

Lawa Café- Tagaytay (Located at Purok 2 Maharlika West, Tagaytay, Cavite)

HOW TO GET THERE: via CALAX, take the exit at Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., turn right onto Tagaytay-Calamba Rd., drive straight until you reach Tagaytay, Cavite.

Kape Sina Una-Tagaytay (Located at Tagaytay-Nasugbu Highway, Laurel, Batangas (Before Twin Lakes Tagaytay)

HOW TO GET THERE: Via CALAX, take the exit at Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., turn right onto Tagaytay-Calamba Rd., drive straight until you reach Tagaytay, Cavite.

2) Food trip

Your Tagaytay food trip will never be completed without a satisfying bowl of the most famous Bulalo (beef shank soup). But have you also tried the 'rising star' dish in the city? The Sizzling Bulalo. This is one of the best sellers, aside from their lechon belly, of this new farm-to-table restaurant located near Tagaytay.

Famu Dining- Located at Purok 5 Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, Pasong Langka, Silang, Cavite

HOW TO GET THERE: via CALAX , take the exit at Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., turn right onto Tagaytay-Calamba Rd., drive straight until you reach Famu Dining. How about trying some 'extra-ordinary' dishes? This restaurant offers Sinigang na Fried Chicken! A fried chicken marinated in Sinigang broth.

Kapeng Mainit- Located at Maharlika Avenue cor. A. Cruz Herrera Maharlika East, Tagaytay City.

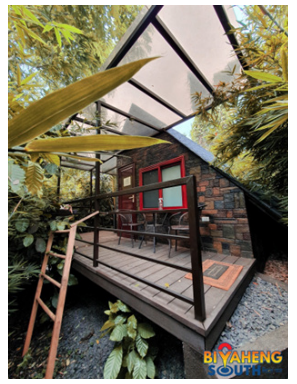
HOW TO GET THERE: via CALAX , take the exit at Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Rd., turn right onto Tagaytay-Calamba Rd., drive straight until you reach Tagaytay, Cavite

3) Staycation

To fully enjoy your much awaited trip, spend a night or two with your loved ones, family, or friends in this cozy city. Book a stay here in a breezy, quiet, and serene bed and breakfast located near Tagaytay that offers forest cabin rooms perfect for unwinding!

Lucia's Bed and Breakfast- Located at Daang Balite Rd, Silang, Cavite

HOW TO GET THERE: via CALAX : exit at the Laguna Blvd. Interchange, turn right onto South Blvd., turn right onto Cardiac Rd., drive straight onto Brgy. Tibig Rd., turn left then turn right onto Munting Ilog, turn left onto Iba Elementary School, turn right onto E Asuncion, turn left onto J Rizal then merge on Emilio Aguinaldo Hwy., turn left onto



Daang Balite Rd. (Infront of Acienda Designer Outlet)

"We invite travelers to make use of CALAX to reach summer destinations such as Tagaytay, so that they can save on time, and make the most of their summer experience.

To add to making sure your road trip goes smoothly, we encourage travelers to have an RFID installed and make sure it has sufficient load, to avoid queues at our cash lane", said MPT South Assistant Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management and Spokesperson, Ms. Arlette V. Capistrano.

The toll road company also assures 24/7 motorist assistance as seasonal travelers on its network is expected to increase during the period.

"Our social media page and hotline 1-35000 is available 24/7 for customer assistance. We also have emergency call boxes along CALAX that directly connects to our traffic control room, for emergency roadside assistance" added Capistrano.

MPT South holds the concession for the 18-kilometer Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX); the 14-kilometer Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (CAVITEX); and the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment. These are ongoing projects that will soon be interconnected and will shorten the travel time from Metro Manila to Cavite and Laguna by 45 minutes.

For more travel tips going to South, follow MPT South's tourism page @biyahengsouth on Facebook and TikTok!

Metro Pacific Tollways South is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road development arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation. Aside from the CAVITEX and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) network in the South of Manila, MPTC's portfolio includes the concessions for the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), the Subic-Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX), the NLEX Connector Road, and the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) in Cebu.

"An Ordinance Establishing Guidelines for the Naming and Renaming of Streets, Public Schools, Plazas, Buildings, and Other Public Structures in the City of Calamba"

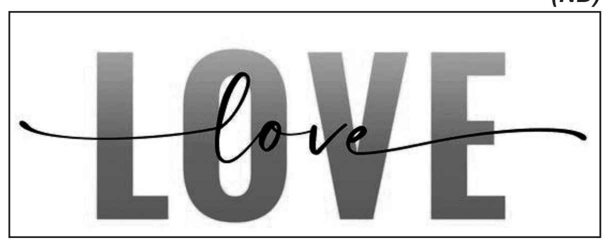
Kaninang umaga ay pinangunahan natin ang isang Committee Hearing na layong maglatag ng malinaw at makatarungang proseso sa pagpapangalan at pagpapalit ng pangalan ng mga pangunahing lugar sa Lungsod ng Calamba—mula sa mga kalye, plaza, gusali, mga pampubliko at pribadong paaralan, hanggang sa iba't ibang pampublikong istruktura sa lungsod.

Layon ng ordinansang ito na matiyak ang pagiging makabuluhan, makasaysayan, at nararapat ng mga pangalan ng ating mga pampublikong lugar, habang isinasaalang-alang ang kasaysayan, kultura, at pagkakakilanlan ng mga Calambeño, pati na rin ang pagsunod sa tamang proseso at konsultasyon sa komunidad.

Tayo po ay Committee Chair ng Committee on Naming of Public Streets, Places and Structures, na siyang pangunahing author ng naturang ordinansa.

Sa pamamagitan ng ordinansang ito, hangad ng Sangguniang Panlungsod na mapanatili ang dignidad ng ating mga pampublikong pook at maipagpatuloy ang pagpapahalaga sa kasaysayan at identidad ng Lungsod ng Calamba.

(ND)



PUBLISHER CORNER

PCG KUMILOS PARA PROTEKTAHAN BANGKANG PINOY NA 'HINAHARAS' NG CHINA SA SCARBOROUGH SHOAL

Ibinunyag ng Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) na nakapag-rescue ito ng isang bangkang pangisda matapos umanong harasin at harangan ng mga barko ng China malapit sa Bajo de Masinloc (Scarborough Shoal) sa West Philippine Sea.

Ayon sa PCG, nangyari ang insidente nitong Enero 12 nang tangkaing pumasok ng bangka sa isang pangisdaan sa kanlurang bahagi ng shoal. Isang barko ng People's Liberation Army Navy at isang China Coast Guard vessel ang sumindi ng sirena at humarang sa ruta ng bangka mga 16 nautical miles mula sa shoal.

Dahil dito, lumihis ang kapitan ngunit patuloy umanong sinundan ng China Coast Guard. Rumesponde ang BRP Cape San Agustin at kinuha ang kapitan para bigyan ng medikal na atensiyon at makuha ang buong ulat. Nakunan din ng PCG ng photo at video ang umano'y mapanganib na maniobra ng Chinese vessels.

Nagbigay ang PCG ng diesel fuel sa bangka para maipagpatuloy ang pangingisda. Wala pang pahayag ang Beijing, na dati nang iginiit na proteksiyon lamang ng kanilang "rights" ang kanilang aksiyon.

Sinabi ni PCG Commandant Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan na nananatiling committed ang PCG sa pagprotekta sa mangingisdang Pilipino alinsunod sa UNCLOS at 2016 Arbitral Award.

Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Hustisya para kay Gianni: Walang Oras ang Dapat Masayang

Sa bawat balitang may kinalaman sa pagkamatay ng isang bata, hindi lamang galit ang gumuguhit sa damdamin ng publiko—kundi matinding tanong: May hustisya pa ba para sa mga walang kalaban-laban? Sa San Pablo City, ang tanong na ito ay malinaw na tinutugunan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Laguna.

Mariing inatasan ni Governor Sol Aragones ang agarang pag-usad ng kaso ng batang si Gianni, na nasawi sa isang karumal-dumal na insidente. Walang paligoy-ligoy ang direktiba ng gobernador sa Laguna Provincial Police: gawing prayoridad ang imbestigasyon at panagutin ang mga may sala—agad.

Hindi ito nanatiling salita lamang. Personal na nagtungo si Gov. Aragones sa burol ng bata, kasama si Police Colonel Junar Yupio, Provincial Director ng Laguna PNP. Sa harap ng nagluluksa at wasak na pamilya, malinaw ang mensahe: hindi sila nag-iisa, at ang gobyerno ay kumikilos.

"Ang instruction po natin kay PD at sa mga pulis ay ibigay ang lahat para magkahustisya ang anak ninyo," mariing pahayag ng gobernador.

Isang simpleng linya, ngunit mabigat ang kahulugan—isang pangakong hindi dapat mapako.

Tumugon naman si Col. Yupio ng buong pagtitiyak. Ayon sa kanya, aktibong pagtutulungan ng buong hanay ng PNP ang kaso hanggang sa makamit ang hustisya.

Hindi raw iiwan ang pamilya, at mananatiling bukas ang tulong ng kapulisan sa anumang kanilang pangangailangan.

Sa panahong maraming kaso ang nababaon sa katahimikan at pagkaantala, mahalagang paalala ang paninindigan ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Laguna: ang hustisya, lalo na para sa isang bata, ay hindi dapat hinihintay—ito'y dapat hinahabol.

Oo, may mga prosesong kailangang sundin sa ilalim ng batas. Ngunit hindi kailanman dapat maging dahilan ang proseso upang palamigin ang sigasig sa paghahanap ng katotohanan.

Ang sakit ng pamilya ay hindi kayang sukatin ng oras, at ang pananagutan ay hindi dapat ipagpaliban.

Sa kaso ni Gianni, malinaw ang paninindigan: walang puwang ang pagkaantala.

Ang hustisya ay hindi pabor—ito ay obligasyon. At sa mata ng publiko, patuloy na babantayan kung ang obligasyong ito ay tutuparin hanggang sa huli.

Regional Most Wanted Suspect Arrested in Calamba for Rape and Abuse of a Minor

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A Regional Most Wanted Person accused of sexually abusing a minor was successfully arrested in a joint police operation on the night of January 13, 2026, in Southville Phase 6, Barangay Kay-anlog, Calamba City.

The suspect, identified as alias "Jo," 28, a construction worker and resident of the same barangay, was apprehended by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest issued by the Family Court, Branch 8 of Calamba City. He faces two (2) counts of Qualified Rape of a Minor and two (2) counts of Acts of Lasciviousness—serious offenses for which no bail was recommended.

The arrest was carried out through a coordinated operation led by the RID4A–Special Team, with the support of warrant personnel from the Calamba City Police Station (CCPS). Authorities reported that the operation was conducted smoothly and without incident.

Police ensured transparency and adherence to legal procedures, with the arrest documented using Alternative Recording Devices (ARDs). The suspect was also informed of his constitutional rights in accordance with the Miranda Doctrine and the Anti-Torture Law.

The accused is currently under the custody of the Calamba CCPS, while all necessary documents are being prepared for submission to the court for proper legal disposition.

PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman, Chief of Police of Calamba City, emphasized the police force's commitment to protecting children and ensuring justice, stating:

"Ang matagumpay na joint operation na ito ay patunay ng matibay na koordinasyon ng iba't ibang yunit ng PNP. Hindi kami titigil hanggang sa mapanagot ang mga taong gumagawa ng karahasan laban sa mga bata.

Ang Calamba Police ay nananatiling matatag sa pagbibigay ng hustisya at proteksyon sa kabataan."

Authorities reiterated their call for community cooperation in reporting crimes, particularly those involving children, as law enforcement continues its intensified campaign against violence and abuse.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Sirang Lupa to Get Its Own National High School as Mayor Ross Rizal Pushes Education and Community Services

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Barangay Sirang Lupa is set to have its own National High School, marking a major milestone in the city's efforts to expand access to quality education under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal.

Mayor Rizal personally inspected the ongoing construction of the new Sirang Lupa National High School, underscoring the local government's commitment to improving learning facilities and easing classroom congestion in the growing community.

"Isang 4-storey, 16-classroom building na magsisilbing dagdag na espasyo para sa mas maayos at de-kalidad na edukasyon ng ating mga mag-aaral."

The four-storey school building, equipped with 16 classrooms, is expected to significantly enhance the learning environment for students, providing modern and adequate spaces that support effective teaching and academic development.

Alongside the education project, the site is also planned to house the new Barangay Hall of Sirang Lupa, bringing essential government services closer to residents.

"Kasabay nito, dito rin planong ilagay ang bagong Barangay Hall ng Sirang Lupa—isang hakbang tungo sa mas accessible at mas maayos na serbisyo para sa ating mga kababayan."

City officials said the dual-purpose development reflects the city government's integrated approach to community building—strengthening both education and public service delivery to drive local progress.

With education and service development moving forward hand in hand, the project is seen as a key step toward the long-term growth and improved quality of life in Barangay Sirang Lupa, reinforcing Calamba City's vision of inclusive and sustainable development under Mayor Rizal's administration.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Sleeping Man Beaten to Death in Calamba; Police File Murder Case Against Jealous Ex-Partner

PLtCol. Dennis C. De Guzman

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A 21-year-old man died after being brutally assaulted by the former live-in partner of his girlfriend in Barangay Siete, Calamba City, in the early hours of Friday, January 9, 2026, police said.

The victim, identified as James, was asleep inside a room with his girlfriend, Leana, when the suspect allegedly entered and launched a sudden and violent attack.

CCTV footage showed the suspect barging into the room and repeatedly punching James while he was defenseless.

Authorities said the victim sustained at least 20 consecutive punches and two powerful kicks to the head. Despite Leana's attempts to stop the assault, the suspect continued the attack.

"Itong lalaking sumugod ay kanyang karelasyon dalawang taon na ang nakakalipas na dati ring nakatira doon.

At itong bahay na ito ay pagmamay-ari ng magulang ng witness, itong babae na kinakasama ng victim," said Police Captain Benhur Balgemino, Assistant Chief of the Investigation Section of the Calamba PNP.

Leana told police that the suspect had earlier asked permission to enter the house, claiming he would only get clothes for their four-year-old child. However, authorities said his true intention appeared to be violent.

Following the attack, James was rushed to the hospital, where he remained confined for four days due to severe head injuries. He even celebrated his birthday at the hospital on January 11.

However, his condition worsened, and he died on the afternoon of January 14 due to complications from serious head trauma.

Police said jealousy may have been the motive behind the crime, based on statements from Leana and the victim's mother.

The 23-year-old suspect is now facing a murder charge and has reportedly gone into hiding after failing to appear at a barangay summons starting January 10.

"murder ang isasampang kaso kasi po itong ating biktima ay natutulog, walang kalaban-laban, pinagsusuntok ng suspect," said PLtCol. Dennis C. De Guzman.

PLtCol. De Guzman added that authorities are just awaiting the victim's death certificate and additional documents from the family and partner to formally file the case as police continue their manhunt for the suspect.

(Edjun Mariposque)

"17 Arrested as Police Tighten Net on Missing Cockfighting Case; Businessman Atong Ang Named PH's Most Wanted"

PHILIPPINES — The Philippine National Police–Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP–CIDG) has arrested seven civilians in connection with the high-profile case of the missing cockfighting enthusiasts, bringing the total number of suspects in custody to 17.

CIDG Director PMGEN Robert Alexander Morico III announced during a press briefing at Camp Crame that the seven civilians recently apprehended are security personnel and cockpit employees allegedly linked to businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang. Prior to this, nine police officers had already been arrested and are now under CIDG custody as part of the ongoing investigation.

According to the CIDG, the arrests stem from warrants issued by the Regional Trial Court of Laguna, Branch 26, which named 18 accused in relation to the disappearance of the sabungeros. Authorities confirmed that only one suspect remains unaccounted for.

The CIDG said manhunts are continuing for Ang and a former police officer who are both still at large.

Meanwhile, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has officially designated Charlie "Atong" Ang as the country's Number One Most Wanted. DILG Secretary Jonvic Remulla said Ang is accused in the disappearance and alleged killing of more than a hundred cockfighting participants.

Remulla also announced a ₱10-million reward for information that would lead to Ang's arrest, with the funds to be sourced from the DILG's budget. He warned that Ang is considered armed and dangerous, citing reports that the businessman is heavily guarded by multiple bodyguards.

Authorities assured the public that the government remains committed to pursuing all those involved and bringing justice to the families of the missing sabungeros, as the investigation continues to widen.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Suspek sa Pagpatay ng Bata sa San Pablo, Sinampahan ng Kaso sa Piskalya

San Pablo City, Laguna — Sinampahan ng kasong murder sa piskalya ang isang suspek na kinilalang si alyas "Lito" kaugnay sa pagpatay sa isang menor de edad sa lungsod ng San Pablo.

Ayon kay PMajor Gerry Malipol, Deputy Chief Of Police ng San Pablo ang pagsasampa ng kaso ay nakabatay sa mga testimonya ng mga kaanak ng biktima na nagtuturo sa suspek bilang responsable sa krimen.

Ibinahagi rin ng mga magulang ng biktima na may galit ang suspek sa bata, dahil sa paratang na binu-bully nito ang apo ng suspek.

Samantala, mariing itinanggi ni alyas "Lito" ang akusasyon laban sa kanya at ang umano'y motibo na iniuugnay sa insidente.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng mga awtoridad habang hinihintay ang susunod na hakbang ng piskalya kaugnay sa kasong isinampa.

(Nelson Dimapilis and Joel Cabactulan)