

LIBRENG OPTICAL AT DENTAL SERVICES, HATID NG MEDICAL MISSION SA SINILOAN



SINILOAN, Laguna — Isang matagumpay na medical mission ang isinagawa sa Brgy. Magsaysay sa bayan ng Siniloan noong Pebrero 21, 2026, na naghatid ng libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga residente ng nasabing barangay.

Nakatutok ang aktibidad sa pagbibigay ng libreng optical at dental check-up upang matugunan ang pangunahing pangangailangan sa kalusugan ng komunidad. Maraming residente ang nabigyan ng konsultasyon, pagsusuri sa mata, at serbisyong dental mula sa mga volunteer na health professionals.

Pinangunahan ang programa ni Konsehal Aris Lauresta sa pakikipagtulungan ni Punong Bayan Engr. Patrick Go ng Siniloan at ng Sangguniang Barangay ng Magsaysay sa pamumuno ni Barangay Chairman Jose Beruela.

Naging katuwang din sa pagsasagawa ng



aktibidad ang Confederate Sentinel of God (CSG) sa pangunguna ni Founder Alvin Constantino. Tumulong sa koordinasyon ng programa sina Randy Madiral, kalihim ng CSG, at Gng. Geneva Ychon, ang masipag na katuwang ni Konsehal Aris sa bahagi ng Upland ng Siniloan.

Nagbigay rin ng

unteer, health professionals, at mga miyembro ng komunidad na naglaan ng oras at serbisyo upang maging matagumpay ang naturang proyekto. Nagpahayag din ng suporta si Gng. Cristy Lauresta sa patuloy na mga inisyatiba ng kanyang asawa para sa kapakanan ng mga mamamayan.

Matatandaan na si Konsehal Aris Lauresta ay nagsagawa rin Optical Mission sa Barangay Macatad, Siniloan, Laguna noong buwan ng Oktubre ng taong 2025.

Patunay lamang ang mga aktibidad na sinasagawa niya sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan at malasakit ng iba't ibang sektor ay mas napapalakas ang kalusugan at kapakanan ng komunidad.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

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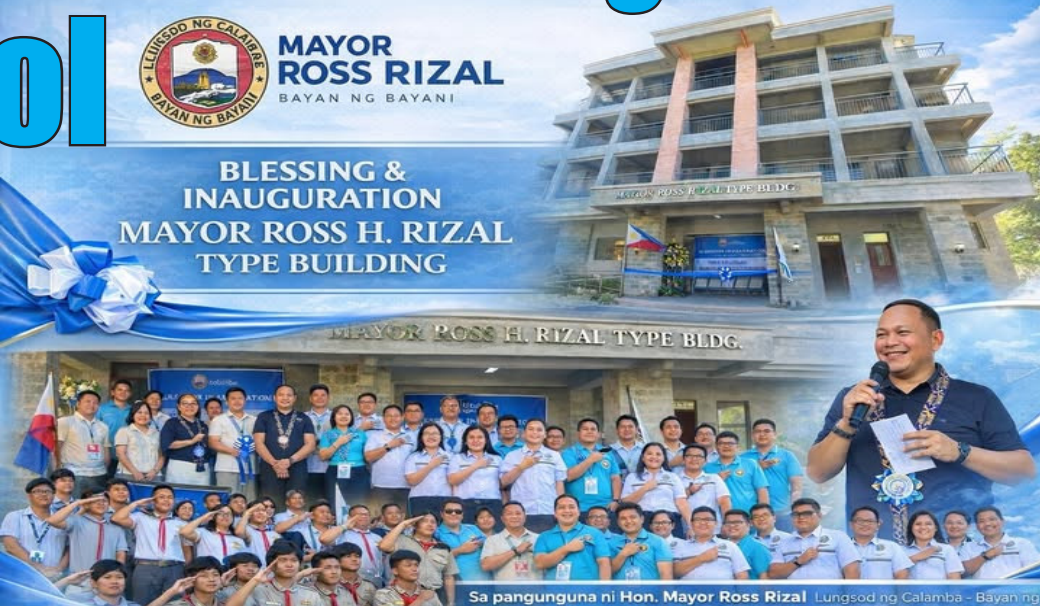
DERETSAHAN

WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING

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Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Inauguration of New School Building in Calamba, Expanding Opportunities for Students



Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Inauguration of "Gusaling Rizal" at Mapagong Elementary School, Boosting Learning Environment for Calamba Students



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal led the blessing and inauguration of the first phase of a new school building at Mapagong Elementary School, marking another milestone in the city's continued investment in education and youth development.

The newly constructed facility, named "Gusaling Rizal," is expected to provide a safer, more comfortable, and conducive learning environment for both students and teachers. The project forms part of the city government's ongoing efforts to strengthen the quality of education and support the growing needs of the school community.

During the ceremony, Mayor Rizal emphasized the importance of

investing in educational infrastructure to secure a brighter future for Calamba's youth.

"We continue to champion projects that will provide a brighter future for our young people. Together, we are building the foundation of knowledge for the next generation," Rizal said.

School officials, teachers, parents, and local leaders attended the event to witness the opening of the new facility, which represents the first phase of the school's infrastructure expansion.

City officials noted that the project reflects the administration's commitment to improving public education, ensuring that students have access to quality facilities that support learning, growth, and opportunity.

(Edjun Mariposque)

CAYETANO PUSHES BALANCED APPROACH IN SENATE RESOLUTION TO PROTECT OFWS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

MGA OSPITAL AT BOTIKA SA QUEZON, HANDANG MAGBIGAY NG PHILHEALTH GAMOT PROGRAM

CARD Bank

Bukas, para sa lahat

A FRESHLY BAKED START



Juliet Bascoguin, a baker and entrepreneur from Iloilo, stands proudly beside their bakery, a symbol of livelihood built from passion and patience.

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ESCUERO NAGMUNGKAHI NG PAG-AMYENDA SA TRAIN LAW UPANG BIGYAN NG PERMANENTENG KAPANGYARIHAN ANG PANGULO NA BAWASAN ANG BUWIS SA LANGIS



EDITORIAL:

CHIZ ASKS DOE TO ACTIVATE CONTINGENCY PLAN TO CUSHION IMPACT OF OIL PRICE HIKES

Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero today called on the Department of Energy (DOE) to put in place a comprehensive contingency plan against potential surge in prices of petroleum products amid the escalating tension in the Middle East to protect consumers, drivers, and local industries heavily dependent on oil.

Escudero warned that any further instability in the region could trigger significant disruptions in global supply that will have serious impact on the Philippine economy, which imports 99 percent of its oil requirements.

“Hindi na bago sa atin ang ganitong krisis kaya dapat handa ang bansa bago pa man lumala ang sitwasyon,” Escudero said, as he urged the Department of Energy (DOE) to lay out clear, actionable measures that would ensure adequate supply, stabilize local markets, and protect consumers from sudden price spikes.

According to the senator, proactive planning is essential given the volatility of the global energy landscape. “Mahalaga na ito ay ating mapaghandaan nang maayos upang matiyak na ang ating mga kababayan ay may maasahang proteksyon kapag lumala ang kaguluhan sa Gitnang Silangan.”

Last week, even before tensions erupted in the Middle East, local oil companies announced a fresh round of price hikes starting March 3, with diesel increasing by as much as PHP1.20 per liter. With renewed conflict in the region, many fear that pump prices will be adjusted significantly in the coming days.

Escudero, however, appealed to local industry players and the broader private sector to cooperate with government efforts by exercising prudence, transparency, and social responsibility, as he noted that while businesses operate within market realities, extraordinary global conditions require a heightened sense of public duty to prevent undue burden on Filipino households and industries.

The senator further called on the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to be ready with calibrated price-monitoring mechanisms and, if necessary, temporary price caps on essential goods should fuel-driven inflation accelerate.

“The government must be prepared to cushion the impact on consumers, especially low-income families who are most affected by rising costs,” he stressed.

At the same time, Escudero urged the national government to maintain close coordination with international partners and continuously assess risks to ensure timely interventions because any escalation could have immediate repercussions on shipping routes, supply chains, and global commodity prices.

He added that transparency and regular communication from government agencies such as the DOE and DTI will be crucial in maintaining public confidence. Clear advisories, updated assessments, and early warnings will help citizens and businesses plan accordingly and avoid panic-driven behavior in the market.

“We cannot control global events but we can control how ready we are to face them,” Escudero said.

A freshly...

Iloilo is widely known as the home of the famous Filipino Biscocho, a well-loved delicacy, popular for its crispy texture and buttery flavor. Over the years, it has become a symbol of the Ilonggos’ dedication to quality and taste.

Juliet Bascoguin, a 65-year-old native of Iloilo, spent more than a decade working for a company before choosing to step away from employ-

ment to focus on raising her three children. While staying at home, she put her Technical-Vocational (TechVoc) training in baking to good use by starting a small bakery, turning her skills into a source of both purpose and livelihood.

From flour beginnings

In 1998, 9J’s Bakery was established, a labor of love built by nine siblings who worked side by side. With Juliet’s ex-

pertise in baking, she took the lead in overseeing the bakery’s daily operation. Every profit earned was carefully reinvested in quality equipment, ensuring that each loaf and pastry met the bakery’s standard for taste and quality. Any leftover bread was turned into pudding, turning potential waste into another delicious treat.

Among the many bread they produced was biscocho, one of Iloilo’s famous delicacies. At first, money was among their best-selling breads. However, as Iloilo became more recognized for its biscocho, demand for their own version grew as well, particularly among tourists seeking the city’s signature treat.

As their business thrived, challenges were inevitable, including the rising cost of raw ingredients. At times, this led to misunderstandings with customers, but over time, they came to understand and adapt to the necessary price changes.

“Go lang ng go, ganon naman talaga ang business may ups and down, wag bibitiw at tuloy lang palagi ang laban

environments. Under the leadership of Mayor Rizal, the Calamba local government has prioritized programs and projects aimed at improving schools and expanding educational opportunities. The new building is expected to help address classroom needs while creating a more comfortable and effective space for teaching and learning.

Mayor Rizal emphasized that investing in education remains one of the city’s most important priorities, noting that the future of Calamba lies in the success of its youth.

The inauguration of the new facility marks another step in the city’s ongoing efforts to uplift the quality of education and support the aspirations of the next generation of Calambeños.

(Edjun Mariposque)

PAGGAWA NG SUMAN SA SANTAN, ITINAGUYOD NA KABUHAYAN NG SAMAHAN SA ATIMONAN

ATIMONAN, Quezon — Isinusulong ng 4K Partylist ang paggawa ng suman sa santan bilang alternatibong kabuhayan ng isang samahan sa bayan ng Atimonan.

Ayon sa grupo, ang tradisyunal na pagkain na suman sa santan na karaniwang ipinapares sa coco jam o latik ay nagsisilbing pinagkukunan ng kita ng mga miyembro ng samahan. Ang kinikita mula sa kanilang produksyon ay iniipon at ginagamit upang makatulong sa pang-araw-araw

na gastusin at pangangailangan ng kanilang mga pamilya.

Layunin ng programa na palakasin ang maliliit na kabuhayan sa komunidad at mabigyan ng dagdag na oportunidad ang mga residente sa pamamagitan ng mga gawing nakabatay sa lokal na produkto at tradisyonal na pagkain. Kaugnay nito, patuloy na hinihikayat ng grupo ang suporta sa mga ganitong inisyatiba upang makatulong sa pag-unlad ng kabuhayan sa mga lokal na pamayanan.

FROM PAGE 1

(Just keep going, that’s really how business is, there are ups and downs but don’t give up and always keep fighting),” she stated.

In 2014, Juliet became a client of CARD Bank, Inc., a microfinance-oriented rural bank under CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), initially to secure a loan for her child’s education. Over time, the bank became more than just a source of school funds, it also provided the additional capital needed to sustain their bakery business.

Through dedication, hard work, and the success of the business, Juliet was able to ensure that all three of her children completed their education.

Two are now working in Qatar, while the other became a certified public accountant.

Juliet’s story is a reminder that success often comes with struggles. There were highs and lows but she chose to keep going. And by refusing to give up, she proves that perseverance remains the heart of a successful business.



Anim Arestado sa Buy-Bust Operation ng Rodriguez PNP; Mahigit Php 156K Halaga ng Shabu Nasamsam

RODRIGUEZ, Rizal — Anim na hinihinalang tulak at gumagamit ng ilegal na droga ang naaresto ng mga operatiba ng Rodriguez Municipal Police Station (MPS) sa isang matagumpay na buy-bust operation na isinagawa bandang alas-3:55 ng madaling araw noong Marso 5, 2026 sa Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Kinilala ang mga suspek sa kanilang mga alyas na sina “Negro,” 45; “Joan,” 41; “Arvie,” 28; “Bento,” 39; at “Doraray,” 42, na pawang residente ng Brgy. San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Naaresto rin si “Jocie,” 48, na residente naman ng Brgy. Balite, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Sa isinagawang operasyon, nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang ilang pakete ng hinihinalang shabu na may kabuuang tinatayang timbang na humigit-kumulang 25 gramo at may tinatayang halaga na aabot sa higit ₱156,000. Kabilang sa mga nasamsam ang dalawang heat-sealed plastic sachet at isang unsealed plastic sachet na may tig-humigit-kumulang isang gramo ng shabu, gayundin ang isang knotted plastic sachet na naglalaman ng tinatayang 23 gramo ng nasabing ilegal na droga.

Bukod dito, narekober din ng mga operatiba ang iba’t ibang drug paraphernalia tulad ng aluminum foil na ginag-

amt bilang runway, tooter, at burner, isang digital weighing scale, dalawang lighter, isang maliit na stainless scissors, at isang belt bag. Nasamsam din ang buy-bust money na binubuo ng isang ₱1,000 bill at ₱500 na recovered money.

Nakumpiska rin sa mga suspek ang isang caliber .38 revolver na may kasamang tatlong live ammunition. Agad na ipinaalam sa mga suspek ang kanilang mga karapatang konstitusyonal mapatapos ang kanilang pagkakaaresto. Sila ay kasalukuyang nakapiit sa Rodriguez MPS Custodial Facility habang inihahanda ang kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 9165 o Comprehensive Danger-

ous Drugs Act of 2002 at Republic Act 10591 o Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act laban sa kanila.

Ayon kay Rizal Police Provincial Director Police Colonel Atty. Eleazar R. Barber Jr., patuloy na pinaigting ng Rizal Provincial Police Office ang kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusang sa lalawigan.

“Ang kampanya ng Rizal Provincial Police Office laban sa mga personalidad na gumagamit ng ipinagbabawal na gamot ay mas pinaigting upang mas mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusang sa lalawigan ng Rizal,” ani Barber.

(Madeline Go)

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Cayetano stressed the importance of a whole-of-government response to the situation, with the Department of Foreign Affairs providing leadership in coordination with the Department of Migrant Workers and other relevant agencies in monitoring developments, assisting Filipinos abroad, and preparing contingency plans when necessary.

He emphasized that protecting OFWs requires both compassion and institutional discipline, ensuring that government responses are grounded in expert assessments while remaining sensitive to the livelihoods, dignity, and stability of Filipino workers overseas.

He added that the Senate resolution also calls on government agencies to prepare measures that will cushion the Philippine economy from potential disruptions resulting from instability in the Middle East, particularly in relation to labor deployment and remittances PR

employers and workers and disrupt ongoing diplomatic and labor arrangements.

To address this concern, Cayetano introduced an amendment clarifying that repatriation should be undertaken only “in necessary situations.”

The change ensures that the government remains ready to bring Filipinos home when required, while recognizing that decisions must be based on actual conditions on the ground.

Cayetano also pushed to align the language of the resolution with the updated alert level system implemented by the Department of Foreign Affairs, ensuring that the Senate’s position reflects the same protocols used by Philippine embassies and consulates in assessing security risks and responding to crises in the region.

Drawing from his experience as Secretary of Foreign Affairs from 2017 to 2018, Cayetano emphasized that crisis responses involving Filipinos overseas must be guided by the assessments of diplomats and government personnel on

ESCUDERO...

Nanawagan si Francis Escudero na amyendahan ang Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law upang mabigyan ang Pangulo ng permanenteng kapangyarihan na suspindihin o bawasan ang excise tax at value-added tax (VAT) sa produktong petrolyo kapag lumampas ang presyo ng Dubai crude oil sa itinakdang benchmark ng pamahalaan.

Ayon sa senador, masyadong limitado ang kasalukuyang probisyon ng batas dahil kinakailangan pa ng partikular na kondisyon bago mapatupad ang suspensyon ng buwis sa langis.

Ipinaliwanag ni Escudero na mahalagang magkaroon ng mas malawak na probisyon sa batas upang agad na makapagbigay ng tulong sa publiko tuwing may biglaang pagtaas ng presyo ng langis sa pandaigdigang merkado, lalo na kung dulot ito

FROM PAGE 1

ng mga hindi inaasahang pangyayari tulad ng digmaan o pandaigdigang krisis. Aniya, hindi dapat makinabang ang pamahalaan sa mas mataas na koleksiyon ng excise tax habang nahihirapan ang mga mamamayan dahil sa patuloy na pagmahal ng produktong petrolyo.

Ang mungkahi ng senador ay lumutang kasunod ng pahayag ni Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na hihiling siya sa Kongreso ng emergency powers upang maibaba ang excise tax sa petrolyo sakaling umabot sa higit \$80 kada bariles ang presyo ng Dubai crude.

Gayunman, iginiit ni Escudero na mas mainam kung magkakaroon ng permanenteng pagbabago sa batas upang hindi na kailangang dumaan pa sa Kongreso sa tuwing may krisis sa presyo ng langis at agarang makakilos ang Pangulo para protektahan ang publiko.

Mga Ospital...

Inanunsiyo sa mga Quezonian ang listahan ng mga ospital at botika sa lalawigan kung saan maaaring maavail ang PhilHealth GAMOT Program. Layunin ng programa na matiyak ang mas malawak na akses ng mga rehistradong miyembro at kanilang mga dependent sa kinakailangang gamot, na may taunang benepisong umaabot hanggang ₱20,000 bawat isa.

Kabilang sa mga maaaring puntahan ang mga pasilidad sa ilalim ng Quezon Provincial Hospital Network - Quezon Medical Center at iba pang sangay nito tulad ng Candalaria, Alabat, Bondoc Peninsula (Catanauan), Claro M. Recto (Infanta), Guinayangan, Gumaca, Magsaysay (Lopez), Mauban, Polillo, Doña Marta (Atimonan), Sampaloc, San Francisco, San Nar-

ciso, at Unisan. Maaaring magtungo sa Mauban Rural Health Unit, RAKKK Prophet Medical Center, Inc., at Tayabas Community Hospital Inc..

Bukod sa mga ospital, kabilang din sa accredited providers ang ilang botika gaya ng Pagkatipunan Drugstore, Sixtwenty Pharmacy, St. Hildegard Pharmacy, Winjoy Drug and Cosmetics, Generika Drugstore, at Salvaci Pharmasave.

Sa ilalim ng GAMOT Program, may kabuuang 75 uri ng gamot na saklaw ng benepisyo. Sa mga ito, 21 mahahalagang gamot ang maaaring agad makuha sa mga accredited YAKAP Clinics, habang ang natitirang 54 na specialized medications ay maaaring maavail sa mga accredited GAMOT providers sa pamamagitan ng rese

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Calamba Police Nab High-Value Drug Suspect, Seize Php 340K Worth of Shabu in Buy-Bust



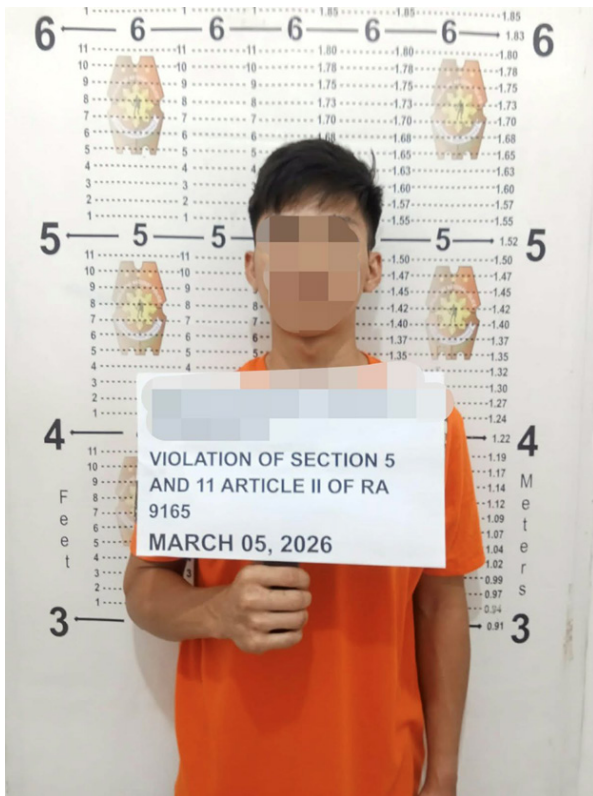
CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A 21-year-old high-value drug suspect was arrested by police during a buy-bust operation that led to the seizure of approximately ₱340,000 worth of suspected shabu in Barangay Real on Thursday morning, March 5, 2026.

The suspect, identified as alias “Jalal,” a married salesman and resident of Barangay Dos, Calamba City, was apprehended at around 11:32 a.m. in Purok 2, Barangay Real by operatives of the Calamba City Police Station.

Police said the operation was carried out under PDEA Coordination Control No. 4-00-03042026-026. The suspect was caught in the act of selling a heat-sealed plastic sachet containing suspected shabu to an undercover operative.

Authorities confiscated eight heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing white crystalline substance believed to be shabu with an estimated total weight of about 50 grams and a standard drug price of ₱340,000.

Also recovered from the suspect were two ₱100 bills, a ₱500 bill used as marked buy-bust money with serial number



AZ9350899, a black sling bag, a green coin purse, an Apple iPhone, and a company identification card.

The entire operation was documented using a body-worn camera and an alternative recording device to ensure transparency and proper procedure.

Police officers also informed the suspect of his Miranda Rights and the Anti-Torture Act upon arrest.

The suspect is currently under the custody of the Calamba City Police Station for documentation and inquest proceedings. He is facing charges for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Authorities said a detailed investigation report will follow as part of the ongoing case documentation. (Edjun Mariposque)

Most Wanted Rape Suspect Arrested in Calamba After 17 Years on the Run



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A 53-year-old tricycle driver listed as a Regional Level Most Wanted Person was arrested by police authorities during an operation in Barangay Canlubang on Thursday morning, March 5, 2026.

The suspect, identified only by the alias “Carlito,” was apprehended at around 10:33 a.m. by the Tracker Team of the Calamba Component City Police Station (CCPS), the

lead unit, in coordination with the Police Intelligence Unit–Provincial Special Operations Unit of the Laguna Police Provincial Office.

Police said the arrest was carried out by virtue of a warrant issued on January 30, 2009, by Jesus A. Santiago, presiding judge of the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 in Calamba City. The warrant was issued in connection with a rape case under Criminal Case No. 14949-

2007-C, with no bail recommended.

Authorities said the suspect is a native and resident of Ceris 3, Barangay Canlubang, and was included in the police Target Intelligence Packet under control number G_2026-19-4A-LPPO-CALAMBA CCPS.

The police operation was documented using one Body Worn Camera and one Alternative Recording Device in accordance with operational procedures.

After his arrest, the suspect was informed of his constitutional rights and given the mandatory anti-torture warning before being taken into custody at the Calamba CCPS detention facility.

Police are preparing the return of the warrant of arrest to the issuing court while the incident report has been submitted to the provincial intelligence unit.

The operation was checked and supervised by Dennis C. De Guzman, officer-in-charge of Calamba CCPS. (Edjun Mariposque)

EXPLICIT Madelaine Go

ARMY STATION HOSPITAL HOLDS HEALTH CARE FAIR FOR 28TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

TANAY, Rizal — In line with the celebration of its 28th Founding Anniversary, the Army Station Hospital of the 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division (2ID) launched its Health Care Fair CY 2026 at Camp Capinpin on Thursday, March 5. The activity was graced by 2ID Commander Major General Ramon Zagala and spearheaded by Army Station Hospital Commanding Officer Colonel Mailyn Pananiban.

Carrying the theme, “ASH @ 28: More than a Hospital—A Health Partner, A Community for Compassionate Care, and A Circle of Hope for 28 Years,” the event highlights the hospital’s continued commitment to delivering quality and compassionate medical services.

The Health Care Fair provides a wide range of medical and wellness services to active military personnel, their de-



pendents, and stakeholders from nearby communities. Through the initiative, the Army Station Hospital aims to promote preventive health care, strengthen medical support for soldiers and their families, and extend essential health services to civilians in surrounding areas.

Officials said the activity reflects the institution’s evolving role not only as a medical facility for the military but also as a vital partner in community health and wellness. Over the past 28 years, the Army Station Hospital has remained steadfast in its mission to provide holistic health care while fostering strong ties with the community it serves.

The Health Care Fair also forms part of a series of activities marking the hospital’s anniversary, celebrating nearly three decades of dedicated service to soldiers, their families, and the public.

VP Sara Duterte pinuna ang pananahimik ng ilang civil society sa pagbunyag ng 18 Marines

Pinuna ni Sara Duterte ang umano’y pananahimik ng ilang civil society organizations at mga grupong aktibong kumontra sa mga proyekto sa flood control kaugnay ng isyu ng pagbunyag ng 18 miyembro ng Philippine Marines.

Ayon sa Bise Presidente, hindi umano tinatalakay ng naturang mga grupo ang ipinaglalan ng 18 Marines na naglantad ng mga alegasyon laban sa ilang opisyal. Dagdag pa niya na tila “nakakabingi” ang

katahimikan ng mga ito sa kabila ng seryosong isyung inilabas ng mga sundalo.

Magugunitang nagpahayag ng suporta si Duterte sa 18 Marines na umano’y nagpakita ng tapang upang ilantad ang sinasabing pagbabayad ng nakamaletang pera sa ilang opisyal ng pamahalaan, kabilang na ang mga imbestigador ng International Criminal Court.

Kaugnay din ito sa mga alegasyong kinasasangkutan umano ni dating Zaldy Co.

PUBLISHER CORNER

CHIZ: PRESIDENT MUST BE GIVEN PERMANENT POWER TO DEAL WITH RISING OIL PRICES

Senator Chiz Escudero on Wednesday (March 4) called for amendments to the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Law that will empower the President to suspend or lower excise and value-added taxes (VAT) on fuel whenever global oil prices exceed the benchmark assumptions for Dubai crude set in the government’s Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF).

According to Escudero, the current safeguard in the TRAIN Law or Republic Act No. 10963 is “too narrow” and requires specific conditions before excise taxes can be suspended. He said a broader amendment is needed to ensure faster relief for consumers during oil shocks caused by force majeure events such as wars or global crises.

The veteran legislator shared that this has always been his position to grant the President automatic authority to suspend tax impositions to protect the public from sudden fuel price increases.

“The law should be amended to automatically give the President that power to suspend or lower excise and VAT rates when prices exceed the estimated range of Dubai crude oil based on the BESF, which guides



government budget assumptions,” he said. “Government cannot enjoy windfall in excise taxes at the expense of the public because of increase in prices brought about by force majeure,” Escudero added.

The senator’s proposal comes as President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. announced that he will ask Congress for emergency powers to reduce excise taxes on petroleum products if Dubai crude exceeds \$80 per barrel, a move the Chief Executive envisioned will help protect the Filipino people from impact of rising global oil prices.

Escudero said that the while the President’s request for emergency powers is a step in the right direction, a permanent amendment would be more effective.

“We should not wait for every crisis to pass through Congress before action can be taken. The law must already provide the President with the automatic authority to act when conditions demand it,” he pointed out.

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

Pointer Pau Dela Cruz



Katarungan para sa Laguna: Isang Hakbang Pasulong

Sa bawat lipunan, mahalaga ang pagkakaroon ng matibay at maaasahang sistema ng hustisiya. Ito ang pundasyon ng kaayusan, kapayapaan, at tiwala ng mamamayan sa pamahalaan. Kaya naman isang mahalagang hakbang para sa lalawigan ng Laguna ang kamakailang seremonya ng pagpipirma sa Deed of Usufruct na magbibigay-daan sa pagtatayo ng bagong gusali ng Department of Justice na tatawaging Katarungan Center.

Noong Marso 5, 2026, opisyal na nakuha ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna ang lupang pagtatayuan ng nasabing pasilidad sa Santa Cruz.

Pinangunahan ang seremonya nina Governor Sol Aragoness, Vice Governor JM Carait, Justice Secretary Frederick A. Vida, kasama ang iba pang opisyal ng pamahalaan at mga lider ng komunidad.

Sa kanyang mensahe, binigyang-diin ni Governor Aragoness ang kahalagahan ng proyektong ito hindi lamang bilang isang gusali kundi bilang simbolo ng serbisyong may malasakit sa mamamayan. Aniya, matagal na rin itong hinihintay ng mga taga-Laguna—ang pagkakaroon ng isang lugar na magsisilbing sentro ng hustisiya kung saan madaling makalalapit ang mga nangangailangan ng tulong legal.

Ipinakita rin ng gobernador ang kanyang pananaw sa mamumuno—na ang tunay na lider ay hindi lamang nakatuon sa isang aspeto ng paglilingkod kundi handang making sa boses at pangangailangan ng mamamayan. Sa ganitong paraan, ang mga proyektong inilulunsad ay tunay na nagiging makabuluhan at kapaki-pakinabang.

Samantala, ipinaalala naman ni Justice Secretary Vida na ang bawat Pilipinong lumalapit sa mga tanggapan ng hustisiya ay may dalang pag-asa at hangaring makamit ang katarungan. Sa pamamagitan ng Katarungan Center, inaasahang magiging mas mabilis, mas maayos, at mas madaling maabot ng publiko ang mga serbisyong legal.

Ang pormal na pagpipirma sa Deed of Usufruct ang nagsilbing pinakamahalagang bahagi ng programa. Sa pamamagitan nito, opisyal nang ipinagkaloob ang karapatang gamitin ng lalawigan ang lupa para sa pagtatayo ng nasabing justice facility.

Nagpahayag din ng suporta si Vice Governor JM Carait, na binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulungan ng pambansa at lokal na pamahalaan upang mas maihatid nang maayos at episyente ang serbisyo ng hustisiya sa mga mamamayan.

Sa oras na matapos ang konstruksyon, inaasahang magiging pangunahing sentro ang Katarungan Center para sa mga serbisyong legal, pagdinig sa mga kaso, at iba pang kaugnay na tungkulin ng sistema ng hustisiya. Higit sa lahat, magbibigay ito ng mas mabilis at mas madaling akses sa katarungan para sa mga residente ng Santa Cruz at mga karatig-bayan.

Sa huli, ang pagtatayo ng Katarungan Center ay hindi lamang isang proyekto sa imprastruktura. Ito ay simbolo ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng pamahalaan na tiyakin na ang hustisiya ay hindi lamang isang konsepto—kundi isang serbisyong tunay na nararamdaman at naaabot ng bawat mamamayan.



NO ONE LEFT BEHIND: PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE IV-A AND BJMP CALABARZON PARTNER FOR INCLUSIVE PDL HEALTHCARE

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was officially entered into by PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A (PRO IV-A), under the leadership of Acting Regional Vice President Edwin M. Oriña, MD and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Regional Office CALABARZON, headed by JCSUPT ISABELO V CARTIN JR, DSC, MBA, Regional Director of the Jail Bureau, to ensure the efficient reimbursement of the TB-DOTS benefit for the Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) in the region.

The signing ceremony highlighted a shared commitment between PRO IV-A and BJMP CALABARZON to improve access to quality healthcare services within jail facilities, particularly for tuberculosis prevention and treatment.

During the event, Dr. Oriña also presented an overview of key PhilHealth programs, including the PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP), which aims to further enhance the health and well-being of PDLs across Region IV-A through expanded benefits, streamlined processes, and improved service delivery.

This partnership represents a concrete step toward the full realization of Universal Health Care. By reinforcing coordinated efforts between PhilHealth and BJMP CALABARZON, the agreement ensures that even the most vulnerable sectors—including PDLs—are provided with equitable access to essential health services, affirming the principle that no one is left behind.



PhilHealth
Your Partner in Health



Volunteer groups scrub vandalized Cavite City historical markers clean

CAVITE CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Known for their pride in Cavite's role in history, Caviteños are wrapping up the National Arts Month with a series of restoration efforts of historical markers within the City of Cavite.

Last February 27, volunteers from the Cavite Historical Society, Cavite State University, Kabataang Kabitenyo and Temple Street Primera Familia led the city-wide cleaning and restoration of historical markers within Samonte Park.

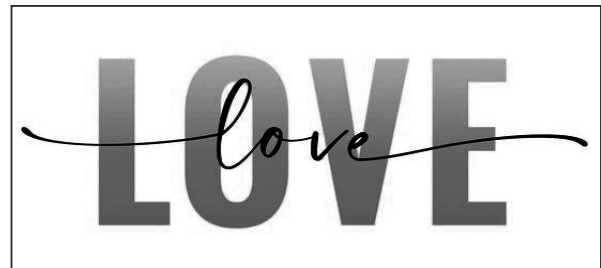
Led by the City Tourism Office and volunteers from the Manileños for Heritage Group, a non-government organization dedicated to re-

storing historical markers and monuments in Manila City, the cleaning and restoration activity included key historical items such as the 1872 Cavite Mutiny marker, Capital Marker, and the Ermita de Porta Vaga Façade and Marker.

In a statement, the city government noted that the project will prioritize the restoration of the Ermita de Porta Vaga replica monument and its marker.

"Recognizing our city's historical value as a cradle of revolutionary heroes and martyrs, they vowed to help the City Government in restoring these markers and monuments to their former glory."

The Ermita de Porta Vaga has been repeatedly defaced and vandalized over the past year, which captured the attention of civil society organizations.



EARIST, nakikiisa sa mas pinalakas na adhikain ng KWF para sa wikang Filipino



Bumisita at nakipagpulong ang Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) sa Eulogio 'Amang' Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST) noong 18 Pebrero 2026 upang ihain ang mithiin at panukalang magtatag ng Sentro ng Wika at Kultura (SWK) sa pamantasan at upang higit pang pagtibayin ang ugnayan ng KWF at EARIST sa pagtataguyod ng wikang pambansa at

kulturang Pilipino.

Pinangunahan ni KWF Tagapangulo Atty. Marites A. Barrios-Taran, kasama si Komisyoner Benjamin M. Mendillo Jr, ang opisyal na pagbisita at pakikipagpulong kay EARIST Pangulo Rogelio T. Mamaraldo.

Personal ding nilibot nina Barrios-Taran at Mendillo ang mga silid-aralan upang makahalubilo ang mga mag-aaral

na nagpapakadalubhasa sa Filipino. Ipinakilala ng dalawa ang mga programa ng komisyon na naglalayong mas mapalapit ang wikang pambansa sa mga kabataan. Layunin ng pagtatayo ng SWK na maging magkatuwang ang KWF at EARIST sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang pangwika, pananaliksik, at proyekto na magpapayaman sa kultura at identidad ng bansa.

SM MALLS IN LAGUNA GOES ALL OUT FOR FIRE PREVENTION MONTH



SM malls in Laguna joined the Fifth Nationwide Fire Drill conducted by SM and Bureau of Fire Protection. The activity brought together mall employees, tenants, security personnel, and janitorial staff in a unified effort to max out preparedness and strengthen emergency response capabilities across all departments.



ENCHANTED KINGDOM'S COO TAKES OATH AS PRESIDENT OF LAGUNA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INC.



EK COO Mrs. Cynthia Mamon, PhD inducted as president of LCCI

Now in its 30th year, Enchanted Kingdom — the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines — continues to be one of the lead advocates for local industry development, following the recent induction of its Chief Operating Officer, Mrs. Cynthia R. Mamon, Ph.D., as the president of the PCCI-Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (LCCI).

The induction ceremony of newly elected LCCI officers was held on February 16 at Enchanted Kingdom in Santa Rosa, Laguna led by Area Vice President Hoover Picar and Regional Governor Mary Ann Katigbak.

In acceptance of this role, Mrs. Mamon said, "We are committed to focus on Livelihood and labor concerns, Corporate sustainability, Community empowerment, and Innovation with integrity. These four principles support Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) South Luzon's guiding principles as presented by AVP Hoover Picar, namely Volunteerism, Excellence, Service, and Integrity (VESI). Through these, we look forward to transforming the lives of the people working for our companies and the communities we serve."

Celebrating its 50th anniversary, LCCI is a non-stock, non-profit, non-government organization, comprised of Laguna-based small, medium, and large enterprises, dedicated to foster a stronger, sustainable local economy, and promote



Induction of Officers of the Laguna Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Induction of Officers of Laguna Tourism Council

growth, resilience and competitiveness of the business community in the province.

Present during the induction ceremony were Department of Labor and Employment – National Conciliation and Mediation Board IV-A Director Cynthia Foncardas, Laguna Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (LEPIDO) Laguna Head Fatima Villaseñor, PCCI Los Baños President Grace Bondad Nicolas, PCCI Quezon City President Anne Marie Francisco, and PCCI Lipa City President Marites Jumarang. They were joined by past presidents of LCCI namely Atty. Rose Lynn Zara-Coloma, Marvin Adolfo, Virgilio Lorenzo, Richard Albert Osmond, and EK's President and Chairman Mr. Cesar Mario O. Mamon.

An economic briefing by Prof. Ronilo Balbieran, economist at the University of Asia and the Pacific followed after the induction ceremony.

Even prior to this, EK has been a long-standing active member of LCCI, as Mr. Mamon also served as its president from 2006 to 2007.

Championing Tourism

Mrs. Mamon was also reelected as the president of the Laguna Tourism Council (LTC), officially assuming the new term together with the other newly elected LTC officers during the oath taking

ceremony administered by Governor Sol Aragonés last January 22 in Santa Cruz, Laguna.

LTC is a provincial multi-sectoral body composed of representatives from various government and private organizations, serving as one of the main drivers in developing Laguna into a premier tourism destination in the Philippines.

Under Dr. Mamon's leadership ever since she stepped into the role in 2023, LTC has been working closely with the provincial government of Laguna, along with other local offices and non-government organizations across the country in promoting tourism, culture, heritage, and the arts to both domestic and foreign audiences.

Aside from this, they also support Laguna-based micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by providing platforms to showcase their world-class products and crafts through LTC's various events and collaborations happening inside and outside the province.

For more information and updates regarding these and EK's initiatives towards industry growth, sustainability, and tourism, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram.

Liwanag ng Pag-asa: Solar Panels at Bigas Ipinamahagi sa mga Pamilya sa Burdeos Khalsa Aid

Marso 1.

Pinangunahan nina Gina Gonzales, alkalde ng bayan, at Romulo Avila, bise alkalde, ang pasasalamat sa organisasyon na naghatid ng tulong sa humigit-kumulang 550 pamilyang may limitadong suplay ng kuryente sa kanilang lugar.

Naging posible ang nasabing misyon sa pangunguna ni Pauline Dela Cruz, Project and Media Coordinator, na nagsilbing tulay upang maipamahagi ang tig-20 kilong bigas at mga solar panel units sa mga benepisyaryong pamilya.

Ayon kay Mayor Gonzales, malaking tulong ang mga solar panel sa komunidad dahil magsisilbi itong "liwanag ng pag-asa" para sa mga kabataanang mag-aaral na nangangailangan ng sapat na ilaw sa kanilang pag-aaral.

Samantala, biniyang-diin naman ni Vice Mayor Avila ang matibay na ugnayan sa pagitan ng lokal na pamahalaan at ng organisasyon na nagsimula pa noong 2019.

Sa mensahe naman ni Ravi Singh, na ipinaabot sa pamamagitan ni Dela Cruz, muling pinagtibay ng Khalsa Aid ang kanilang adhikain na "Recognize the whole human race as one."

Isinasagawa ng organisasyon ang iba't ibang humanitarian missions sa iba't ibang bansa na apektado ng digmaan, malalaking sakuna, taggutom, at iba pang krisis.

Pinamumunuan ito nina Sandeep Singh Joshi bilang pangulo, Happy Singh bilang Project Manager, at sa patnubay ni Gurpreet Singh, International Project Development Head.

Ayon sa Khalsa Aid International, ang pondo para sa kanilang mga proyekto ay nagmumula sa mga donasyon ng kanilang mga kasapi at tagasuporta, at hindi sila lumalapit sa mga indibidwal o politiko upang pondohan ang kanilang mga programang pantulong.

(Pau Dela Cruz)



BURDEOS, Quezon — Nagpaabot ng taos-pusong pasasalamat ang pamahalaang lokal ng Burdeos sa tulong na ipinagkaloo ng Khalsa

Aid International matapos ang matagumpay na pamamahagi ng solar panels at ayuda sa mga residente ng Barangay Mabini at Barangay Bonifacio noong