

Laguna Receives Ambulances, Hosts Major OFW Reintegration Program Led by President Marcos

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A significant boost to public health and overseas worker support programs marked a high-profile visit by Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Laguna, highlighted by the turnover of emergency vehicles and the rollout of reintegration initiatives for returning Filipinos.

According to Sol Aragon, the province received two new ambulances, also referred to as Patient Transport Vehicles (PTVs), personally granted by the President. The additional units are expected to enhance the province's emergency response capability and improve access to health-care services, particularly in underserved communities.

Governor Aragon expressed gratitude for the continued national government support, emphasizing that the new ambulances will play a crucial role in saving lives and strengthening Laguna's healthcare system. Meanwhile,



Roseller 'Ross' H. Rizal welcomed President Marcos during the awarding ceremony of the Expanded Livelihood Program for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), along with the Reintegration Grant and Scale Demonstration and Training. The event was held at the historic Jose Rizal Shrine, Calamba City, Laguna.

Mayor Rizal described the President's visit as an honor for Calamba City, noting that the programs provide vital support and renewed



hope for OFWs transitioning back to life in the Philippines. He highlighted the importance of reintegration efforts in empowering returning workers to rebuild their livelihoods and contribute to local economic growth.

Also present during the event were local officials including Barangay Mayapa Chairperson Vicky Torres-Sumbillo, who joined in welcoming the national leadership.



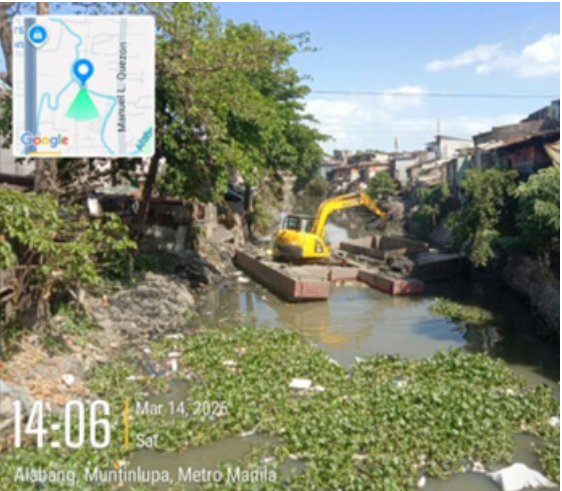
The dual initiatives—healthcare support through ambulance deployment and economic assistance for OFWs—underscore the administration's continued focus on inclusive development and community resilience.

"Always for the nation," Mayor Rizal affirmed, reinforcing the shared commitment of local and national leaders to public service. (Edjun Mariposque)

SMC's Alabang River cleanup boosts flood resilience in Muntinlupa



Alabang River, upstream of Cupang Bridge



Dredging near PNR Rail bridge

Alabang River (Facing Laguna Lake)

Before: July 2025

After: Feb 4, 2026



Relocation of ISFs and removal of encroached Sheet piles



Alabang River Mouth

San Miguel Corporation (SMC)'s river cleanup initiative has cleared a critical stretch of the Alabang River, boosting flood resilience in an area bounded by residential subdivisions, public roads, and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in Muntinlupa City.

Based on its latest monitoring report, SMC's Better Rivers PH river cleanup initiative has removed a total of 62,363 metric tons (MT) of silt and waste from the Alabang River, starting from its mouth at Laguna de Bay, through Cupang Bridge, and up to its section near the PNR Railway Bridge.

The effort is now progressing upstream toward the Alabang Viaduct area.

With this development, taken together with other simultaneous river cleanups that SMC is currently undertaking in

six other areas north and south of Metro Manila, the company's Better Rivers PH program has breached 9 million tons of silt and garbage removed from at least 10 major river systems, since 2020.

It can be recalled that SMC began its clearing operations of Alabang River upon the request of the Muntinlupa City local government unit (LGU) and in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), following a flooding incident at the Alabang Viaduct in July 2025.

Now, improved river flow has already been observed as rehabilitation of this critical waterway progresses, well ahead of the rainy season.

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Laguna Governor Sol Aragon

Earns Record - High Public Trust in Q1 P2 2026 Survey

Record-Breaking Approval:

Laguna Governor Sol Aragon Posts Exceptional Trust Ratings in Early 2026

TRUST RATING	91%
PERFORMANCE RATING	86%

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Beyond Barriers: How CARD Bank ensures financial accessibility for deaf clients



CARD MRI Senior Adviser Dr. Dolores M. Torres (1st row, 2nd from right) with CARD Bank staff and deaf clients (front rows), using hand language sign "CARD Bank" at Barleta Branch, Laguna.

In a banking environment where spoken communication is central to daily transactions, CARD Bank, Inc., a microfinance-oriented rural bank, is redefining accessibility by creating spaces and initiatives that allow persons with disabilities (PWDs), particularly deaf clients, to access financial services with convenience and dignity.

Inclusive communication Guided by national policies such as Republic Act No. 7277, or the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons, CARD Bank has made its deposit account opening and customer verification processes more inclusive. The goal is simple: make every client feel welcome from the very first step.

Across its branches, accessibility ramps and priority lanes help make physical access easier. Clear welcome signage at entrances and in Customer Ser-

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PNP MAIGTING NA IPATUTUPAD ANG ROAD SAFETY MEASURES PARA IWAS AKSIDENTE SA SEMANA SANTA AT SUMMER BREAK
CAYETANO, NANAWAGAN NG PAGKAKASUNDO; SENADO PINAGTIBAY ANG AGARANG PAGPAPATUPAD NG CONTINGENCY FRAMEWORK

ANILAG Festival 2026: Isang Linggong Selebrasyon ng Pagkakaisa at Level-Up na Kaunlaran sa Laguna
Produktibo ang Culminating Activity ng National Women's Month 2026 na isinagawa ng Rizal PPO

CALABARZON PUV DRIVERS HOPEFUL FOR FUEL SUBSIDY ROLLOUT TO EASE COSTS

CHIZ-ASEAN SUMMIT A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO PUSH FOR REGIONAL FUEL SHARING FRAMEWORK

MASIGLANG GRAND OPENING AT MGA PATIMPALAK ANG NAGPASIGLA SA KOMUNIDAD

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EASTER PARADE

A Parade of Bunnies, Balloons, and Easter Joy!

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Get ready for a MAX-OUT Easter Sunday experience at your most-loved SM City Calamba! We're bringing you the FIRST-EVER Easter Parade packed with colorful mascots, festive vibes, and non-stop fun for the whole family! Hop into the celebration, strike a pose with your favorite characters, and make this Easter a memorable one!

#CelebrateEasterAtSM
#GalaToTheMax
#GoAllOutAtSM



Produktibo...

FROM PAGE 1

TAYTAY, Rizal — Naging produktibo na isinagawa ng Rizal Police Provincial Office ang culminating activity ng pagdiriwang ng National Women's Month 2026 bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsusulong ng pagkakapan-tay- pantay ng kasarian at pagbibigay-halaga sa mahalagang papel ng kababaihan sa lipunan.

Idinaos ang programa noong Marso 26, 2026, ganap na alas-3:00 ng hapon sa Camp MGen Licerio I. Geronimo sa Barangay Dolores, kung saan nagtipon ang mga opisyal at kawani ng kapulisan upang makiisa sa selebrasyon.

Pinangunahan ang aktibidad ni Christine Al Marie B. Valenzona, Chief ng Police Community Affairs and Development Unit (PCADU), ang nasabing aktibidad ay nagsilbing patunay ng matibay na paninindigan ng kaniyang tanggapan sa pagtataguyod ng karapatan ng kababaihan at sa pagpapatibay ng isang lipunang may paggalang, pagkakapantay-pantay, at malasakit para sa bawat isa.

Ayon sa pamunuan ng Rizal PPO, ang nasabing aktibidad ay nagsilbing patunay ng matibay na paninindigan ng kaniyang tanggapan sa pagtataguyod ng karapatan ng kababaihan at sa pagpapatibay ng isang lipunang may paggalang, pagkakapantay-pantay, at malasakit para sa bawat isa.

Naging makabuluhan ang okasyon sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng mensahe mula sa mga panauhing tagapagsalita na sina Lhen E.

(Pau Dela Cruz)



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disaster preparedness and response measures were cited as crucial contributions to community safety and resilience.

Survey results indicate that many residents feel the tangible impact of these programs in their daily lives. Respondents noted a more active and visible local government presence, fostering a deeper sense of connection and trust within communities.

Residents also expressed their support and appreciation. A respondent from Los Baños highlighted the governor's dedication to inclusive public service, while another from Santa Rosa praised Aragon's leadership, calling her one of the finest not only in Laguna but across the country.

Overall, the findings underscore how responsive governance, clear direction, and consistent public engagement can build strong public trust.

As Laguna progresses through 2026, the survey reflects both recognition of current achievements and public expectations for continued progress and improved community programs.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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den. For Julius Castor, a jeepney driver from Laguna, the financial assistance to be distributed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) will help cover their daily expenses, particularly fuel costs, allowing them to continue operating.

"Malaki po, gawa ng siyempre yung kakarampot lang na kita ay napupunta na lang sa pang-krudo, tapos 'pag hindi naman kami naghanapbuhay at hindi nakakapamasada, wala din kaming kikitain, wala kaming kakainin, saktuhan lang po sa pambili ng pagkain, boundary pa, eh siyempre kakayod ka tala-ga," Castor said.

cont. on page 3

Laguna...

LAGUNA, Philippines — Sol Aragon's has opened 2026 on a high note, securing outstanding trust and performance scores in the latest provincial opinion poll.

Based on the Pulso ng Bayan Survey conducted by Social Pulse Philippines, 1,000 adult respondents from various parts of Laguna were interviewed from March 10 to 16. The results showed a 91% trust rating and an 86% performance rating for Aragon's—now the highest ever achieved by a sitting governor in the province.

The strong ratings reflect widespread public approval of the governor's leadership and the effectiveness of her administration's initiatives. Residents pointed to several key factors behind the high marks, including improved healthcare delivery, increased support for hospitals, expanded aid programs for different sectors, and continuous infrastructure development such as roadworks and public facilities.

Education initiatives also received recognition, particularly scholarship programs and youth-centered efforts. Meanwhile, strengthened

Calabarzon...

Some Public Utility Vehicle (PUV) drivers in the Calabarzon region praised the expected rollout of the government's fuel subsidy which aims to help them cope with rising oil prices amid tensions in the Middle East.

Since the effects of the crisis have been felt across the world, jeepney drivers have become one of the most vulnerable sectors, as they are heavily affected by the rising cost of fuel, particularly diesel, which they rely on for their operations.

Once the financial assistance is distributed to other regions following the National Capital Region (NCR), PUV drivers are expected to feel some relief, as it will help ease their financial bur-

EDITORIAL:

PAGSUNOD SA BAGONG PNP SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

LEVEL UP SA SOCIAL MEDIA COMPLIANCE

Bilang pagtugon sa inilabas na memorandum ng Philippine National Police (PNP) kaugnay ng mas mahusay at de kalidad na pagpapatupad ng social media policies, opisyal nang inilunsad ng lyak pa mit ang bago nitong logo na sumasalamin sa disiplina, propesyonismo, at tamang paggamit ng social media bilang isang PNP content platform.

Ang hakbang na ito ay alinsunod sa "Guidelines and Centralized Review Process for Unit Vlogging and Content Creation," na naglalayong tiyakin na ang lahat ng nilalathalang content na may kaugnayan sa PNP ay naaayon sa pamanayan ng organisasyon at nagpapalakas ng tiwala ng publiko.

Bilang admin at content creator ng , ako po ay buong paggalang at agarang tumugon sa mga panuntunang inilabas ng Police Community Affairs and Development Group (PCADG), alinsunod na direktiba ni Chief Director Staff ng PNP na si PLTGEN VINCENT D IGNACIO.

Ang mabilis na pagtugon na ito ay hindi lamang po pagsunod sa utos, kundi isang malinaw na paninindigan na maging mabuting halimbawa sa kapwa kapulisan—na ang bawat post, bawat content, at bawat mensahe ay dapat sumasalamin sa integridad, disiplina, at responsibilidad na hinihingi ng PNP Code of Ethics at PNP Social Media Guidelines.

Kasabay nito, buong suporta ang ipinapahayag sa pamunuan ng Philippine National Police sa ilalim ng liderato ni Chief PNP PGEN JOSE MELENCIO C NARTATEZ JR., gayundin sa PNP Focused Agenda na patuloy na nagpapalakas sa serbisyo ng kapulisan para sa mamamayan.

Suportado rin nito ang pamunuan ng National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) sa pamumuno ni Regional Director PMGEN ANTHONY AABERIN, at ang policy framework nitong Able, Active, Allied (AAA) na nagsisilbing gabay sa epektibo at makataong pagpapatupad ng tungkulin.

Bilang bahagi ng adhikain, isinusulong din ng Tambayan ng Pulis ang limang guiding principles ng NCRPO:

Sa pamamagitan ng mga prinsipyong ito, layunin ang patuloy na mapalakas ang ugnayan ng pulis at mamamayan—isang mahalagang pundasyon ng kapayapaan, kaayusan, at tiwala sa lipunan.

Bukod dito, aktibong tumutulong sa iba't ibang yunit ng Philippine National Police sa pagsasapubliko ng kaniyang mga accomplishment, operasyon, at good deeds ng kapulisan, upang maipakita sa publiko ang tunay na serbisyo at sakripisyo ng bawat pulis sa bansa.

Higit pa rito, magsisilbi itong plataporma at halimbawa sa pagbibigay ng mahahalagang impormasyon at inspirasyon tulad ng PNP Recruitment para sa gustong mapabilang sa hanay ng PNP, public safety awareness, at mga positibong kuwento ng kabutihan at serbisyo ng kapulisan, kasabay ng pagbibigay ng inspirasyon at good vibes sa bawat Pilipino.

Ang bagong logo ay hindi lamang simbolo ng pagbabago—ito ay panata ng mas maingat, mas responsable, at mas makabuluhang paggamit ng social media bilang instrumento ng serbisyo publiko.

Pinapaalalahanan din ang publiko na facebook profile na ito ay isang PNP content platform at hindi opisyal na page ng Philippine National Police.

CHIZ...

FROM PAGE 1

As AN pisisyon ng Southeast Asian na Association of this year. isulong ang panrehiyong pagkakaisa sa gitna ng kawalan ng katiyakan ng pandaigdigang enerhiya.

Sinabini Senador Francis "Chiz" Escudero na dapat magsikap ang Maynila na isulong ang ASEAN Petroleum Security Agreement (APSA) at tiyaking masusuportahan ng mga miyembrong estado ang isa't isa sa panahon ng pagkagambala sa suplay ng petrolyo.

Ang APSA ay ang iminungkahang balangkas ng ASEAN para sa emergency fuelsharing, na idinisenyo upang

payagan ang mga miyembrong estado na mag-supply ng petrolyo sa mga kapitbahay na nahaharap sa kulangan ng hindi bababa sa 10 porsiyento ng kani-

ang mga lokal na pangangailangan. Ang mga layunin nito ay patatagin ang suplay ng enerhiya, maiwasan ang mga pagkabigla sa ekonomiya, at palakasin ang sama-sama mang katatagan ng ASEAN sa panahon ng krisis.

Nabanggit ng Bicolano na senador na ang APSA scheme ay huwaran sa International Energy Agency (IEA), na nagpasimuno sa coordinated fuelsharing sa mga miyembro nito.

"Sa pamamagitan ng pagpapabilis sa pagkumpleto ng APSA, ang ASEAN ay maaaring magtatag ng sarili nitong mekanismo para sa emergency na supply ng gasolina, na na-trigger kapag ang isang miyembrong estado ay nakaranas ng kulangan ng hindi bababa sa 10 porsiyento," sabi ni Escudero.

Idinagdag niya na ang kaayusan na ito ay sumusuporta sa tatlong priority pillar ng ASEAN—Peace and Security Anchors, Prosperity Corridors, at People Empowerment—na sumasalamin sa kolektibong pagtuon ng rehiyon sa resilience, economic integration, at community solidarity.

"Ang kasalukuyang pagkasumpungin

sa Gitnang Silangan ay nagbibigay-diin sa pangangailangan ng isang rehiyonal na aksyon, na may pagtaas ng presyo ng langis at ang mga supply chain ay mahina. Kailangan nating kumilos bilang isang ASEAN," aniya.

Binigyang-diin ng beteranong mambabatas na ang balangkas ng fuelsharing ng ASEAN ay magiging pinakamabisa kung suportado ng mga miyembrong estado na may reserbang langis at kapasidad ng produksyon, tulad ng Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, at Malaysia.

"Ang kaniyang tungkulin ay napakahalaga sa pag-angkla ng kasunduan. Sa pamamagitan ng pagsasama-sama ng mga mapagkukunan, matitiyak ng ASEAN na ang mga pang-emerhensiyang supply ay hindi lamang ipinangako ngunit naihatid kapag kinakailangan," aniya.

"Ang pagbabahagi ng gasolina ay hindi lamang tungkol sa mga bariles ng langis. Ito rin ay tungkol sa tiwala, katumbasan, at katiyakan na walang miyembrong estado ang maiiwan."

Sinabi ni Escudero na ang pagiging chairman ng Pilipinas ay parehong responsibilidad at pagkakataon.

"Ito na ang pagkakataon nating pamunuan ang ASEAN tungo sa energy resilience. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulongan, mapoprotektahan natin ang ating rehiyon mula sa mga panlabas na pagkabigla at tunay na isama ang tema ng summit ngayong taon, "Navigating Our Future, Together," na may pagkakaisa at ibinahaging layunin."



In celebration of World Water Day, volunteers from SM City Tanza — including employees, security guards, and maintenance personnel — came together for a meaningful coastal clean-up initiative at Barangay Julugan 1, Tanza Cavite, led by SM Cares in partnership

Masiglang...

Noong Marso 17, opisyal na binuksan ang Anilag Festival Level-Up 2026 Grand Opening at Trade Fair, na dinumog ng libo-libong mamamayan at bisita.

Lalong pinasigla ang selebrasyon sa pagtatanghal ng SexBomb Girls, na nagbigay saya sa enerhiya sa mga manonood.

Sumunod ang iba't ibang patimpalak tulad ng SAYAWIT (Sing and Dance Competition) at ang makapigil-hiningang fireworks display na nagsilbing highlight ng gabi.

Pagpupugay sa Kultura, Kabataan, at Komunidad

Sa mga sumunod na araw, ipinakita ang yaman ng kultura at talento ng mga Lagunense sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang aktibidad gaya ng:

*Miss Gay Anilag 2026 Coronation Night
*Hataw Laguna Dance Fitness Competition

*Burdang Lumban Designers Competition
Mayora's Fashion Show

*Konsiyerto para sa Senior Citizens
*Enchanted Kingdom Magical Show

Nagbigay rin ng kasiyahan at oportunidad ang Grand Laguna Weddings and Events Expo, kung saan tampok ang mga negosyo at serbisyo para sa kasal at iba pang selebrasyon.

Serbisyong Panlipunan at Aktibong Partisipasyon ng Kabataan
Hindi lamang kasiyahan ang hatid ng festival, kundi pati serbisyong panlipunan.

Kabilang dito ang pamamahagi ng libreng gulay na naglalayong su-

FROM PAGE 1

portahan ang nutrisyon at kabuhatan ng mga mamamayan.

Nagkaroon din ng mga kompetisyon at palaro para sa kabataan tulad ng:

*Mobile Legends Competition
*Cheerdance Competition
*Anilag All-Star Basketball

Ang mga programang ito ay nagbigay-daan sa mas aktibong partisipasyon ng kabataan at pagpapalakas ng sportsmanship, teamwork, at disiplina.

Engrandeng Pagtatapos na Nagpakita ng Pagkakaisa at Pag-asang Nagtapos ang isang linggong selebrasyon noong Marso 21 sa pamamagitan ng isang engrandeng konsiyerto na tampok ang sikat na mang-aawit na si Bamboo Mañalac, na nagbigay inspirasyon at saya sa libo-libong manonood.

Sinundan ito ng makulay at kamangha-manghang Grand Fireworks Display, na nagsilbing simbolo ng pag-asa, pagkakaisa, at patuloy na pag-unlad ng Lalawigan ng Laguna.

Simbolo ng Lev-el-Up na Kaunlaran sa Laguna

Ang matagumpay na pagdiriwang ng Anilag Festival Level Up 2026 ay patunay ng patuloy na pag-angat ng Lalawigan ng Laguna—hindi lamang sa turismo at ekonomiya, kundi pati sa serbisyong panlipunan at pangkalusugan.

Sa pamumuno ni Gov. Sol Aragon's, ang festival ay naging malinaw na hudyat ng isang lalawigang tunay na nagle-level up—mas progresibo, mas maunlad, at mas handang harapin ang hinaharap para sa kapakanan ng bawat Lagunense.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

ya ang koordinasyon sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensya.

Batay sa datos ng PNP, bumaba ang kabuuang aksidente

with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office. Through teamwork and shared responsibility, volunteers helped protect our shores and promote environmental awareness in the community — reminding us that caring for our waters today means a better tomorrow for all.

#SMCaresCoastalCleanUps
#SMWasteFreeFuture
#EmpoweringCommunities

ANILAG...

LALAWIGAN NG LAGUNA — Buong sigla, pagkakaisa, at pagmamalaki na ipinagdiwang ng mga mamamayan ang matagumpay na isang linggong selebrasyon ng Anilag Festival Level Up 2026, isang makulay at makabuluhang pagdiriwang na sumasalamin sa mas pinaigting na pag-unlad ng lalawigan sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Gov. Sol Aragon's.

Ang Anilag, na nagmula sa salitang "Ani ng Laguna," ay muling itinaas sa mas mataas na antas ngayong taon sa pamamagitan ng mas malalaking papremyo, mas pinahusay na mga programa at serbisyo, at mas malawak na partisipasyon ng komunidad.

Ipinakita ng selebrasyon ang patuloy na pag-angat ng ekonomiya, turismo, kultura, at serbisyong pangkalusugan sa buong lalawigan.

Sa loob ng pitong araw, tampok ang iba't ibang aktibidad na nagbigay saya, inspirasyon,

PNP...

Inatasan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang lahat ng yunit nito na paigtingin ang pagpapatupad ng road safety measures upang maiwasan ang aksidente ngayong Semana Santa at summer break.

Ayon kay PNP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Randolph Tuaño, magde-deploy ng sapat na bilang ng mga pulis para sa mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng batas-trapiko, kabilang ang inspeksyon ng mga pampasaherong sasakyan sa mga terminal.

Mahalaga rin ani-upang koordinasyon sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensya.

Batay sa datos ng PNP, bumaba ang kabuuang aksidente

with the Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Office. Through teamwork and shared responsibility, volunteers helped protect our shores and promote environmental awareness in the community — reminding us that caring for our waters today means a better tomorrow for all.

Paalala ng PNP sa publiko na maging responsable at sumunod sa safety measures habang nagbabakasyon.

FROM PAGE 1

at oportunidad sa mga Lagunense—mula sa relihiyosong selebrasyon, trade fairs, kompetisyon, konsiyerto, hanggang sa mga programang pangkabuhatan at pangkalusugan.

Makulay na Pagbubukas at Pagkilala sa Natatanging Lagunense

Sinimulan ang selebrasyon noong Marso 16 sa pamamagitan ng Anilag Festival Procession na sinundan ng banal na misa, na nagbigay-diin sa pananampalataya at tradisyon ng mga mamamayan.

Isa sa mga tampok na programa ang Gawad Parangal sa Natatanging Lagunense 2026, kung saan kinilala ang mga indibidwal na nagbigay ng natatanging ambag sa komunidad at sa pag-unlad ng lalawigan. Kasabay nito ang paglulunsad ng Laguna Pilgrimage Tourism Package Tour, na naglalayong palakasin ang turismo at ipakilala ang mga makasaysayang simbahan at destinasyon sa lalawigan.

FROM PAGE 1

sa kalsada noong Abril hanggang Mayo 2025 sa 30,516 mula 31,992 noong 2024, ngunit tumaas ang bilang ng nasawi sa 919 mula 884.

Pinakamarami ang kaso sa Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Ilocos Region, at Northern Mindanao.

Kaugnay nito, hinimok ang mga motorista na tiyaking maayos ang sasakyan at planado ang biyahe.

Samantala, nagbabala rin ang PNP sa pagtaas ng pagkalunod. Noong 2025 kasi, nakapagtagla ng 151 incidente, tumaas ito mula sa 90 drowning incidents noong 2024, karamihan sa Ilocos Region at Calabarzon.

Nakikipag-ugnayan naman na ang Maritime Group sa mga resort at beach operators para sa kaligtasan ng publiko.

Paalala ng PNP sa publiko na maging responsable at sumunod sa safety measures habang nagbabakasyon.

(Nelson Dimapilis)



Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal’s Education Agenda Shines at Calamba Day Care Ceremony

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A message of hope, gratitude, and commitment to education highlighted a recent day care moving-up ceremony, where Nancy Dimaranan represented Roseller ‘Ross’ H. Rizal and delivered his heartfelt congratulations to young learners, parents, and educators.

Speaking on behalf of the mayor, Dimaranan described the occasion as a meaningful milestone marking the first step in the children’s educational journey. She emphasized the growth of the pupils—from hesitant beginners to confident and eager learners—drawing parallels to a child’s first steps in life.

“Today marks the completion of the first step in their educational journey—a moment filled with pride and joy,” she said, noting the shared efforts of teachers and parents in guiding the children’s development.

Dimaranan reaffirmed that education remains a top priority under the leadership of Mayor Rizal. She highlighted ongoing initiatives by the local government, including the construction of additional school facilities, provision of uniforms and school supplies, and continuous support for educators.

She also underscored the development of the City College of Calamba, which aims to expand access to free and quality higher education for the

Beyond...

vice Sections lets Deaf clients know that fair accommodation is available and accessible to all.

To support smoother communication, branches provide Filipino Sign Language (FSL) booklets, easy-to-read product guides, and instructional videos with FSL insets. The staff, including guards, customer service representatives, and cashiers, are required to keep a pen and paper on hand at all times to facilitate immediate written communication.

They are also trained to guide clients through forms and requirements while adhering to the Know-Your-Customer (KYC) and Anti-Money Laundering Act (AMLA) rules. Clients must still submit standard documents such as valid IDs and profile forms, and once their application is approved, they may open a deposit account with an initial deposit of PHP 200. In this process, accessibility goes hand in hand with compliance.

Financial inclusion across barriers

Inclusion at CARD Bank extends beyond physical modifications and documentation processes. It begins with a transformation in mindset.

On June 15, 2024, the bank held a whole-day Deaf Awareness Seminar at the CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) in Bay, Laguna. Sixty staff and faculty members joined the session, led by Inclusion Consultant Bayani Generoso Jr. and six Deaf

teachers.

Participants learned about Deaf culture, the basics of Filipino Sign Language, and the role of hearing individuals in advancing inclusion. Sessions covered visual-gestural communication, FSL guidelines, and practical ways to make financial services more accessible.

Through interactive activities such as practicing facial expressions, learning basic FSL signs, and joining open discussions, staff gain a deeper understanding of the Deaf community’s everyday experiences.

Feedback from the seminar reflected a renewed staff commitment to practicing inclusive communication. It reminded everyone that real financial inclusion means removing not only physical barriers, but also communication gaps and outdated mindsets.

Bukas, Para sa Lahat

As part of its social responsibility efforts, CARD Bank continues to work with underserved communities to improve lives through financial services, livelihood support, and capacity-building programs.

Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, Founder and Chair Emeritus of CARD MRI, emphasized this effort as part of promoting financial inclusion by removing barriers for persons with disabilities (PWDs). “Our mission has always been clear. Financial services should reach those who are often left behind. Financial inclusion

is not just about opening accounts; it is about opening opportunities,” he said.

Meanwhile, CARD Bank, Inc. President Marivic Austria reaffirmed this commitment, stating, “When we remove barriers for persons with disabilities and other underserved sectors, we affirm their dignity and strengthen our communities.” She added, “Inclusion is not an option; it is our responsibility.”

Account opening services for Deaf clients are now implemented across CARD Bank branches in several provinces, including La Union, Pangasinan, Benguet, Ilocos Norte, Laguna, Quezon, Oriental Mindoro, Occidental Mindoro, Tarlac, Batangas, Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Albay, Iloilo, Leyte, Samar, Eastern Samar, Marinduque, Bohol, Antique, Capiz, Masbate, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Cotabato, as well as in Metro Manila.

Alongside these services, the bank continues to introduce and promote deaf-friendly and inclusive measures to further improve banking accessibility. As of January 2026, CARD Bank serves 367 Deaf clients with active accounts.

By reaching out to the nearly 10% of the population living with disabilities, many of whom remain underserved by traditional institutions, CARD Bank, Inc. strengthens its ongoing commitment to inclusion.

Through accessible spaces, informed training, and active community engagement, CARD Bank shows that financial empowerment should not depend on one’s physical barrier.

It is a shared

right, open to all. ga, and Laguna river systems, as well as the Tullahan, Pasig, San Juan, and Navotas rivers, Better Rivers PH has rehabilitated a total river length of 184.33 kilometers, removing 9.01 million metric tons of garbage, silt, and debris as of March 22.

Along with previously completed cleanups of the Bulacan, Pampan-

FROM PAGE 1



PUBLISHER CORNER

ILANG MGA PRIVATE HOSPITALS PLANONG MAGTAAS NG SINGIL DAHIL SA NARARANSANG KRISIS SA GITNANG-SILANGAN

Nagbabadya na magtaas ng kaniilang singil ang mga private hospital sa bansa.

Ayon kay Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines Inc. (PHAPI) president Jose Rene de Grano, na pinaplano ng ilang mga kasamahan na magtaas ng hanggang limang porsyento sa mga sinisingil nilang fees.

Kasunod ito sa pagtaas ng presyo ng produktong petrolyo na nagiging apektado ang mga pagdeliver sa mga suplay nila ng gamot at



ibang mga medical supplies.

Hindi kasi maaring mag-operate ang mga pagamutan ng walang standby generator kung saan may ilang pagamutan din ang lumipat sa renewable energy para tumulong sa power utility subalit ito ay may kamahalan.

Calabarzon...

Although the said financial assistance will be rolled out in other regions in April 2026, the P5,000 fuel subsidy under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) of the DSWD is expected to ease the burden on PUV drivers—but it also leaves many wondering, what happens once the aid runs out?

“Makakatulong din naman kahit papaano, dahil para rin iyon sa pambili ng krudo. Pero sa tingin ko, hindi rin ito magtatagal dahil mahal pa rin ang presyo ng krudo. Mas mabuti sana kung pagkatapos ibigay ang tulong, bababa agad ang presyo kahit ilang araw lang. Gayunpaman, makakatulong pa rin ito, lalo na sa iba pang gastusin sa bahay tulad ng pagkain.”

Despite the anticipated government assistance, PUV drivers acknowledge that rising

petroleum prices remain inevitable due to ongoing international crises. Still, they express hope that measures will be implemented to help lessen the direct impact on their livelihood.

Roberto Macapagal, a tricycle driver from Calamba, Laguna, said that they are fully aware

FROM PAGE 2

of the ongoing crisis and recognize themselves as among the most affected sectors.

“Talagang aray po kami sa hina na nga rin po ng pamamasada namin wala na rin po kaming maisakay minsan, lalo na ngayon na tumaas talaga ang gasolina hindi naman po kami makapagtaas ng presyo gawa ng meron din po kaming taripa, yun po ang iniisip namin kaya po kami ngayon ay talagang tiyaga din po talaga para po at least meron din po kaming pangtustos sa aming pamilya,” Macapagal stated.

Amid the challenges posed by the ongoing crisis and rising fuel costs, he expressed appreciation for the government’s move to provide financial assistance, noting that it still offers some relief to drivers struggling with daily expenses.

“Sa ipagkaka-loob po ng Malacañang na ibibigay sa amin, malaking tulong na rin po ‘yun; ‘yun po ang magiging karagdagan na rin po para masapatan yung pang-araw-araw namin na minsan wala kaming kita, at least merong dumating sa amin na subsidy na gano’n, malaki din ang pasasalamat namin na mangyari yung

EXPLICIT

Madelaine Go

2ND INFANTRY DIVISION, IPINAGDIWANG ANG IKA-50 ANIBERSARYO



Ipinagdiwang ng 2nd Infantry (Jungle Fighter) Division ang ika-50 anibersaryo nito noong Marso 23, 2026 sa Camp Capinpin, Tanay, Rizal, na binigyang-diin ang limang dekadang serbisyo, patuloy na modernisasyon, at matibay na ugnayan sa mga katuwang na sektor.

Dumalo sa okasyon si Philippine Army Commanding General Lt. Gen. Antonio Nafarrete kasama si 2ID Commander Maj. Gen. Ramon Zagala, iba pang opisyal ng militar, stakeholders, at ilang mga sundalo ng Jungle Fighter.

May temang “2ID @ 50: Ang Inyong Matatag na Hukbong Katihan sa Timog Katagalugan,” itinampok sa selebrasyon ang patuloy na ambag ng dibisyon sa kapayapaan, seguridad, at kaunlaran sa rehiyon ng Southern Tagalog.

Kabilang sa mga tampok ng programa ang pagpapasinaya ng apat na bagong forward trucks, dalawang minibus, at dalawang inayos na quarters.

Nagkaroon din ng pagkilala sa mga natatanging sundalo at katuwang na indibidwal at organisasyon para sa kaniilang kontribusyon sa misyon ng dibisyon.

Pormal ding inilunsad ang “2ID Best Practices Handbook” na naglalaman ng mahalagang karanasan, inobasyon, at mga pamamaraan sa operasyon ng yunit, na iniiharap kay Lt. Gen. Nafarrete.

Isinagawa rin ang boodle fight bilang simbolo ng pagkakaisa at samahan ng mga dumalo sa selebrasyon.

Sa kanyang talumpati, binalikan ni Maj. Gen. Zagala ang 50 taong kasaysayan ng dibisyon at kinilala ang sakripisyo ng mga naunang henerasyon ng sundalo.

Ayon sa kanya, ang mga tagumpay ng 2ID ay bunga ng sama-samang pagsisikap, mahusay na pamumuno, at matibay na ugnayan sa mga katuwang.

Samantala, pinuri ni Lt. Gen. Nafarrete ang mga nagawa ng dibisyon at binigyang-diin ang mahalagang papel nito sa patuloy na pagbabago ng hukbong katihan. Hinimok din niya ang mga sundalo na manatiling handa at matatag sa gitna ng nagbabagong hamon sa seguridad.

Muling pinagtibay ng selebrasyon ang pangako ng 2ID bilang tagapagtaguyod ng kapayapaan, tagapaglingkod ng mamamayan, at tagapagtanggol ng Timog Katagalugan.

gano’n kapag ganyan na impact.

may krisis.”

With ongoing tensions in the Middle East, sectors like theirs are among the hardest hit, but the government has assured that aid will be provided to ease the

In line with this, prices of basic commodities such as canned meat and sardines are being closely monitored, with manufacturers guaranteeing adequate supply despite global uncertainties.



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

2ID Marks 50th Founding Anniversary, Celebrates Legacy of Service and Continued Modernization

Demonstrating five decades of steadfast service, operational excellence, and continuing modernization, the 2nd Infantry Division commemorated its 50th Founding Anniversary through a meaningful and forward-looking celebration held at Camp Capinpin on Monday, March 23.

The milestone event underscored the Division’s enduring legacy as a vital pillar of peace and security in Southern Tagalog, highlighting its strong partnerships with stakeholders and its readiness to meet evolving security challenges.

The celebration was graced by Antonio Nafarrete, Commanding General of the Philippine Army, who joined Ramon Zagala, military leaders, partner stakeholders, and Jungle Fighter personnel in honoring the Division’s golden anniversary and its unwavering commitment to serving the Filipino people.

Carrying the theme, “2ID @ 50: Ang Inyong Matatag na Hukbong Katihan sa Timog Katagalugan,” the celebration reflected the Division’s sustained dedication to peace, security, and development throughout the region, while reinforcing its role as a reliable partner in nation-building.

Among the highlights of the anniversary celebration was the inauguration of four new forward trucks and two minibuses that will further strengthen the Division’s operational mobility and responsiveness. Two newly renovated quarters were also formally opened, symbolizing the organization’s continuing efforts to improve the welfare and living conditions of its personnel.

The program also featured the recognition and awarding of outstanding soldiers and partner stakeholders for their invaluable support and contributions to the Division’s mission. In a significant milestone, the Division officially launched its 2ID Best Practices Handbook, which was presented to Lieutenant General Nafarrete.

The handbook documents key operational insights, innovations, and institutional practices developed by the Jungle Fighters over the years, serving as a guide for sustained excellence and organizational learning.

A traditional boodle fight capped the celebration, fostering camaraderie and unity among troops, leaders, and guests—an enduring symbol of solidarity within the military community.

In his message, Major General Zagala reflected on the Division’s 50-year journey, paying tribute to the sacrifices and dedication of past and present Jungle Fighters who have contributed to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

“These gains were not achieved by one unit alone. They are the result of strong leadership, sound planning, effective intelligence, and close coordination with our partners. More importantly, they reflect a collective and synchronized effort,” Major General Zagala emphasized.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Nafarrete commended the Division for its accomplishments and highlighted its critical role in the ongoing transformation of the Army, particularly as it shifts focus toward broader security responsibilities.

“Your initiatives, operations, and partnerships reflect a strong commitment to the whole-of-nation approach in achieving sustainable peace and development. As the Army transitions toward external security, your role remains vital,” he said.

He further encouraged the troops to remain vigilant and adaptable amid changing security dynamics.

“We cannot afford to be complacent. The environment continues to change, and so must we. Let us remain steadfast, resilient, and committed to excellence,” he added.

As it marks its golden anniversary, the 2nd Infantry Division reaffirmed its enduring commitment as Tagapagtaguyod ng Kapayapaan, Tagapaglingkod ng Mamamayan, at Tagapagtanggol ng Timog Katagalugan, continuing its mission of protecting communities and advancing lasting peace and development in the region.



From Vision to Venue: Mayor Ross Rizal Opens Bulwagang Rizal at Calamba Science School

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — What began as a heartfelt request from students and teachers has now turned into a landmark achievement for education in the city, as Phase 1 of the Bulwagang Rizal—the newly constructed covered gymnasium of Calamba City Science Integrated School—was formally blessed and inaugurated under the leadership of Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal.

Dubbed as a significant milestone for the city’s youth and academic community, the opening of Bulwagang Rizal marks a major step forward in providing a safe, functional, and modern space for school activities, programs, and gatherings.

In his message, Mayor Rizal emphasized that the project was once a simple yet meaningful appeal from both students and faculty.

“Noong nakaraang taon, ito ay taos-pusong hiling ng ating mga estudyante at mga guro. Sa ating sama-samang pagkilos at agarang pagtugon, agad itong nai-patayo upang magsilbing ligtas at maayos na lugar para sa mga programa, pagtitipon, at iba’t ibang gawain ng paaralan.”

The mayor underscored that the realization of the project reflects the power of listening and responding to the needs of the community, especially the youth.

“Patunay ito na kapag pinakikinggan natin

ang boses ng ating mga kabataan at mga guro, ang mga pangarap ay nagiging kongkretong proyekto para sa kapakanan ng buong komunidad.”

The newly inaugurated facility is expected to enhance student engagement, promote school spirit, and provide a reliable venue for both academic and extracurricular activities.

Mayor Rizal reaffirmed his administration’s commitment to fast, responsive, and compassionate public service, particularly in strengthening educational infrastructure for the future of every young Calambeño.

“Patuloy po tayong maglilingkod nang mabilis, maagap, at may malasakit para sa kinabukasan ng bawat batang Calambeño.”

#EdJunMariposqueCALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — What began as a heartfelt request from students and teachers has now turned into a landmark achievement for education in the city, as Phase 1 of the Bulwagang Rizal—the newly constructed covered gymnasium of Calamba City Science Integrated School—was formally blessed and inaugurated under the leadership of Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal.

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(Edjun Mariposque)

FROM PAGE 1

Cayetano...

Binigyang diin ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano nitoong Miyerkules ang pangangailangan ng pagkakasundo at pagkakahanay sa pagitan ng gobyerno at pribadong sektor sa gitna ng patuloy na tensiyon sa Middle East.

Ito ay matapos aprubahan ng Senado ang kanyang resolusyon na nananawagan sa Executive Branch na bumuo ng national contingency framework sa lalong madaling panahon.

Ang Senate Resolution No. 343, na co-authored ng 22 senador at co-sponsored ng Senate President, ay naglalayong maitatag ang isang National Contingency Framework na magbibigay daan sa bansa na paghandaan, tugunan, at makabangon mula sa malalaking krisis sa loob at labas ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng maayos na koordinasyon ng buong gobyerno at buong bansa.

Ayon kay Cayetano, kailangan mu-

nang magkaroon ng pagkakasundo sa mga institusyon bago epektibong makatugon sa malalaking emergency.

“Pag sobrang bigat ng problema, apektado y’ung regiona at buong mundo dahil we are now a global village and we now see na intricate na masayado ang koneksyon ng mga ekonomiya,” sabi niya.

“It’s like clockwork. ‘Di mo pwedeng sabihin na ito lang ang sira kaya umaandar pa y’ung relo,” dagdag niya.

Binigyang diin niya na layon ng resolusyon na palakasin ang kooperasyon sa pagitan ng national government, local government, at private sector sa panahon ng krisis.

“That is the spirit of this resolution, to call on the Executive [branch] dahil sila ang tinalaga ng ating konstitusyon to build a consensus with the private sector [and] with the local governments. To be fair, they are doing that. Nag-announce agad sila

ng mga measures,” wika ni Cayetano.

Dagdag pa niya, dapat ding nakaayon ang mga polisiya at programa sa national agencies, local government, at private sector. Aniya, madalas sinusubok ng mga krisis ang katatagan ng pundasyon ng isang bansa.

Ayon sa senador, maaaring maapektuhan ang global oil supply at magdulot ng economic shock kapag nasira ang mga critical infrastructures dahil sa tumataas na geo-

political tensions.

Binanggit din ni Cayetano na nagdulot ang mga krisis ng parehong hamon at oportunidad, depende sa kung paano naghahanda at tumutugon ang mga bansa.

“Let’s not miss opportunities. Ang lahat ng crisis may winners [at] may losers. There are things that will divide us, [But this contingency framework] is to prepare us not only for the challenges but also for the opportunities,” sabi niya. PR



Young Elegance Shines: 12-Year-Old Alliyah Rizal Captivates at DLSU Gala Night 2026

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A moment of pride and heartfelt reflection marked the appearance of 12-year-old Alliyah Rizal at the DLSU Gala Night 2026, where she impressed attendees with her poise, grace, voice and youthful elegance.

Alliyah, the granddaughter of Calamba City Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal, turned heads in a stunning formal gown, embodying both sophistication and innocence fitting her age. Her presence at the prestigious event highlighted not only her charm but also the strong family support behind her.

In an emotional message, Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal shared his sentiments on seeing his granddaughter grow:

“Minsan hindi mo namamalayan ang paglipas ng panahon. Ang aking apo ay isa nang ga-



nap na dalaga—parang kailan lang ay karga-karga ko pa siya. Nakakatuwa, nakaka-proud, at medyo nakaka-miss din ang mga panahong sila’y maliliit pa.”

Meanwhile, her mother, Aileen Rizal, expressed her pride and admiration for her daughter’s journey, saying: “Watching you

grow with grace has been life’s greatest privilege.”

Despite her young age, Alliyah carried herself with confidence and elegance, reflecting the values instilled in her by her family.

Her appearance at the gala became a touching reminder of how quickly time passes, especially for parents and

grandparents witnessing a child’s transformation.

The DLSU Gala Night 2026 served not only as a celebration of style and youth but also as a meaningful occasion for family pride and shared milestones, with Alliyah Rizal standing as a symbol of the next generation’s promise.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Calamba Empowers Youth: 3,000 Students Receive Job Training and Financial Boost Under SPES Program



Calamba City, Laguna — March 26, 2026 A total of 3,000 students in Calamba City took a significant step toward building their future careers after participating in an orientation for the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES), held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Information, Investment Promotions, and Employ-

ment Services Office (II-PESO), in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Laguna, and the City Government of Calamba under the leadership of Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal.

The orientation aimed to equip student-beneficiaries from various schools and universities with the knowledge and guidance they need before embarking on

a 20-day employment period across different government offices.

Mayor Rizal emphasized the city’s commitment to empowering the youth through meaningful opportunities, noting that each beneficiary will receive approximately ₱13,300.60 in wages, jointly funded by DOLE and the local government.

In addition, students will be granted a ₱1,000 transportation al-



lowance to support their daily commute.

“This program is designed not only to provide financial assistance for students’ upcoming school needs, but also to prepare them for the realities of the workforce,” Rizal said.

IIPEPO Department Head Noemi Talatala further explained that out of the 3,000 beneficiaries, 1,800 students are supported under the DOLE

program, which shoulders 60% of their wages, while the remaining 40% is funded by the city government.

The other 1,200 students, meanwhile, are fully supported under the city’s local employment program.

The SPES program is implemented under Republic Act No. 7323, as amended by Republic Act No. 9547 and Republic Act No. 10917.

It aims to provide

temporary employment to financially challenged students, helping them earn for their education while gaining valuable work experience.

With this initiative, the Calamba City government continues to invest in its youth—bridging education and employment, and fostering a more prepared and empowered generation.

(Edjun Mariposque)