

Calamba Marks Labor Day with Massive Job Fair, Expands Opportunities for Workers



Calamba City, Laguna — The 124th Labor Day celebration was successfully held in Calamba on May 1, 2026, at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, carrying the theme “Decent Jobs for All: A Shared Goal Toward a New Philippines.” The event gathered stakeholders from government

and the private sector in a unified push to generate employment and support workers. A major highlight of the celebration was the job fair, which opened a wide range of employment opportunities for job seekers. A total of 86 private companies participated, including six offering over-

seas employment, providing applicants with both local and international career prospects. Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal extended his appreciation to all attendees, including representatives from government agencies, private companies, and job seekers. He also expressed gratitude to the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for selecting Calamba as the venue for the regional

Labor Day program. The mayor emphasized that the city continues to attract increasing investments, resulting in more employment opportunities for its residents.

He also cited the success of the recently conducted Mega Job Fair, held as part of Calamba’s cityhood anniversary celebration, as proof of the local government’s sustained efforts to boost employment. Mayor Rizal further underscored

Calamba’s growing role as a hub of opportunity in the CALABARZON region under the leadership of DOLE Region IV-A, noting that the convergence of opportunities and aspirations reflects a brighter future driven by unity and collaboration.

Congresswoman Cha Hernandez also delivered a message, outlining legislative measures being advanced in Congress aimed at protecting workers’ rights and promoting their welfare.

Meanwhile, Donald Castro conveyed the message of Governor Sol Aragon, highlighting key provincial programs designed to assist underprivileged communities. These include initiatives that purchase agricultural produce and fishermen’s catch for distribution to those in need.

In his address, DOLE Region IV-A Regional Director Atty. Erwin N. Aquino emphasized that the job fair aims to bridge the gap between employers and job seekers, streamlining the hiring process and improving access to employment.

The program also

featured several key activities, including the signing of Memoranda of Agreement (MOAs) for the establishment of a new Job Placement Office at the City College of Calamba, the implementation of the Government Internship Program (GIP) in partnership with DepEd, and the TUPAD Tuloy Pasada program in collaboration with the LTRFB.

Additional highlights included the ceremonial launch and awarding of TUPAD assistance for workers in agriculture and transportation, distribution of grants under the DILP-WODP, recognition of outstanding youth and employers through the Youth Employability Awards and Employer Awards, and the provision of various government assistance services.

The event concluded with the recognition of partner Public Employment Service Offices (PESOs) and a ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the DOLE Job Fair, reinforcing Calamba’s commitment to inclusive growth and employment generation.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Parañaque Eyes Economic Boost with Full Connectivity of CAVITEX C5 Link

Parañaque City is poised for accelerated economic growth as Mayor Edwin Olivarez expressed strong optimism following the full connectivity of the 7.7-kilometer CAVITEX C5 Link, which now provides a high-speed gateway to key business hubs in Cavite and Taguig.

For Mayor Olivarez, the milestone marks the realization of a long-envisioned transformation for the city’s competitiveness. “Pang-arap lang ito dati, ngayon totoo na,” the Mayor said. “The opening of the CAVITEX C5 Link Segment 3B will make travel from Parañaque to Cavite and Taguig, and back, in just a matter of minutes. More impor-



tantly, its impact on businesses, investors, and opportunities for our city will be immeasurable.”

Segment 3B completes the alignment of the CAVITEX C5 Link. It connects Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) to C5 Road in Taguig City, reducing travel time from the usual 1.5 hours to just 15 minutes.

The improved mobility is expected to serve as a vital economic enabler, particularly as rising fuel costs continue

to affect logistics and daily travel.

CAVITEX C5 Link provides efficient access to NAIA and C5, via key interchanges at the R1 Expressway (Coastal Road), Sucat Road (Dr. A Santos Avenue), and C.P. Garcia Avenue (C5 Road), benefitting over 30,000 motorists daily.

The operational benefits of the project are echoed by the city’s traffic management team. Reynaldo Murillo, Head of the Parañaque Traffic



and Parking Management Office (TPMO), emphasized the project’s role in improving urban traffic systems.

“Dahil kumpleto na ang koneksyon mula Cavite papuntang Metro Manila, inaasahang mababawasan ang traffic at mapapadali ang access sa mga pangunahing lugar tulad ng Taguig at airport. Ginhaw sa biyahe at mas maayos na daloy ng trapiko ang pangunahing benepisyo nito,” Murillo noted.

Barangay Moonwalk Chairwoman Jemelene Qui also shared the Mayor’s optimism, noting the immediate relief for local residents. “This development is expected to make daily commutes more convenient and contribute to a more productive environment for everyone,” Qui said.

While the alignment is now fully connected, a portion of Segment 3B is currently operating under a modified scheme, with two lanes in each di-

rection, as the remaining Right-of-Way (ROW) concerns are being addressed to achieve its full six-lane capacity with a 2x2 service road. Despite this, the local government remains confident that the new connectivity will immediately drive investments, stimulate business activity, and generate more employment opportunities for Parañaqueños.

The CAVITEX C5 Link expressway is a joint venture between Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation’s (MPTC) subsidiary, the Cavite Infrastructure Corporation (CIC), and the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) and operated by the PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC).



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Solar Lights Bring New Sense of Safety to Calamba Community

SMC's river cleanups reach 9.12M metric tons of waste, silt removed since 2020



In the Tullahan River, SMC cleared 144,324 metric tons from 4.37 kilometers of waterways running through Manila, Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

San Miguel Corporation’s (SMC) ongoing river cleanup program has removed more than 9.12 million metric tons of silt, solid waste and other debris from major waterways since 2020, with the company continuing flood-mitigation work at no cost to the government.

The program, known as Better Rivers PH, is SMC’s voluntary initiative to help restore the depth, width and water-carrying capacity of major river systems so they can drain floodwaters more effectively, particularly in low-lying communities.

The latest figure includes more than 1.04 million metric tons recently cleared from four river systems under maintenance operations aligned with the government’s Oplan Kontra Baha program. The work covered 24.29 kilometers of waterways along the Tullahan River, San Juan River, Laguna rivers and the Bulacan River System.

cont. on page 4

DASMAÑAS CITY GREEN LADIES INC. 15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Happened last April 30, 2026, at the City of Dasmariñas Arena, the Dasmariñas City Green Ladies Inc. celebrated their 15th Anniversary with a dazzling masquerade party. The event showcased elegance, unity, and their continued commitment to community service and empowerment. Present at the event were Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, Vice Mayor Third Barzaga and Members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod, extending their support to the celebration.

DSWD intensifies Pag-Abot Program in CALABARZON, expands reach to Cavite and Rizal
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It's worse in the provinces: Cayetano warns against 'one-size-fits-all' oil crisis aid
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“Libreng Pustiso, Libreng Ngiti: Laguna Reaches Hundreds in Dental Outreach”



Pag bati Mula sa Deretsahan Weekly News Publishing

Rizal PNP Media Summit 2026, Matagumpay na Naisagawa



EDITORIAL:

TULOY PO ANG LABAN NATIN...

Taliwas po sa sinasabi ng ilan na iniwan na raw natin ang mga kabataang naghabla sa isang kapitán, ito po ay walang katotohanan lalo na at wala naman po silang alam.

"Simula po ng lumapit sila sa atin para humingi ng tulong upang maisampa ang reklamo sa RTC hanggang sa kasalukuyan po na paglilitis sa MTC ay patuloy po tayong natulong kaagapay ang ilan pa nating mga kaibigan".

Bagama't payong legal, mobilization at tulong pinansiyal po (para sa abogado nila) ang ating naibabaghi ay andiyan din po si Pastor Rinler Villamayor at Dra. Xhan Yu na umaagapay sa ating mga kabataan at iba pa nating mga kaibigan na mas mabuti na hindi na po natin banggitin ang pangalan.

"Bagama't salat sa pananalapi, kaalaman at koneksiyon ang ating mga kabataan ay kanilang isinatabi ang mga hadlang na ito. Kahit na may takot/pangamba ay hindi nila inalintana ito bagkus ay hinarap nila ng may pananalig sa Panginoon at hustisiya".

Anuman po ang kahihinatnan ng laban nila na ito at saan man umabot ay hindi po tayo hihimpil sa pagsuporta/pagtulung. Manalo man o hindi, ang mahalaga ay nalpaglaban nila kung ano ang tama at naging ehemplo o simula sila ng pagtutugis sa diuman'y pang-aabuso sa kanila at paglapastangan sa kanilang karapatang pantao.

Nauunawan at iginagalang ko po ang damdamin ng iba lalo na ang hindi makaunawa sa proseso ng hustisiya kaya sila ay hindi nasisiyahan o sang-ayon sa ginagawa kong pagtulung.

"Sa mundong ito, gumawa man tayo ng tama o mali ay may laging puna ang iba kaya mas mabuti po na gawin na natin ang dapat at nararapat upang makatulong sa iba, maging magandang halimbawa sa kapwa at mapanatili ang balanse kahit ano ang katatayuan ninuman".

Dahil hindi po natutulog ang Panginoon at SIYA ay laging nakatungay sa ating lahat; maaring manalo ka sa kasong ito pero matatalo ka naman sa eleksiyon. Ito ay sapat na upang magsilbing aral sa lahat na katulad mo at sa iyong sarili. May panahon pa para magbago ng gawi at ituwid ang iyong ugali.

At sa mga kabataang ito, patnubayan nawa kayo lagi ng ating Panginoon.

SMC...

SMC said the maintenance cleanups are meant to help sustain the gains from earlier Better Rivers PH operations, including cleaner waterways and improved depth, width and water-carrying capacity, while preventing the renewed buildup of waste and silt that can obstruct floodwater flow.

"These river systems were among the waterways covered by our earlier cleanup efforts, but keeping them clear requires continuing maintenance," SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said. "This latest work, in support of the government's Oplan Kontra Baha program, is part of our effort to protect the progress we have already made, preserve their water-carrying capacity, and prevent the buildup of waste and silt that can worsen flooding."

Since 2020, SMC has completed cleanup works across 10 major river systems, including the Bulacan, Pampanga, Pa-

sig, Tullahan, San Juan, Navotas and Laguna river systems, covering a total of 188.48 kilometers of waterways.

The largest volume from the latest maintenance operations came from the Bulacan River System, where SMC removed 710,168 metric tons from 13.38 kilometers of the Maycapiz-Talip-Bambang River and the downstream portion of the Meycauayan River.

In the Tullahan River, SMC cleared 144,324 metric tons from 4.37 kilometers of waterways running through Manila, Navotas, Malabon, Valenzuela and Caloocan.

SMC also removed 83,289 metric tons from 4.54 kilometers of the San Juan River, covering sections from the Pasig River junction through Mandaluyong and San Juan, up to the Talayan area in Quezon City.

The company is also assisting in the partial demolition of a pumping station structure that has

Libreng...

Hundreds of residents from Laguna received free denture assessments during a program held on April 30 at the Laguna Sports Complex.

The initiative was led by the Provincial Government of Laguna under Governor Sol Aragoness, in collaboration with health-care workers and licensed dentists.

The program aimed to deliver accessible and quality dental services to communities across the province, particularly to those in need of oral health support.

Beneficiaries were accommodated on-site, where they underwent proper dental evaluations and consultations as part of the government's ongoing health outreach efforts. According to the provincial government, the activity forms part of its continuing mission to bring essential healthcare services closer to the people, strengthen preventive care, and promote oral health awareness among

been obstructing water flow in Matalahib Creek in Talayan.

In Laguna, operations along the Biñan and San Isidro rivers yielded 107,192 metric tons of silt and waste from two kilometers of waterways.

SMC is also completing works in Parañaque, where 378,288 metric tons have been removed from 9.62 kilometers; the Lantayan, San Pedro and Silang-Santa Rosa rivers in Laguna, where 130,679 metric tons have been removed from 1.30 kilometers; and the Alabang River, where 64,837 metric tons have been extracted from 1.03 kilometers.

Other ongoing works include the Las Piñas River System, with 198,477 metric tons cleared from 2.36 kilometers; Tabang River in Bulacan, with 36,838 metric tons removed from 9.30 kilometers; and Tanza River in Navotas, with 10,441 metric tons cleared from 0.38 kilometer.

Last March, SMC

Lagunenses.

It also underscores the administration's commitment to implementing responsive and inclusive public health programs that address the needs of every resident. The initiative was warmly welcomed by beneficiaries, many of whom expressed their appreciation.

One recipient shared, "Maraming salamat po, Gob Sol Aragoness, sa pagbibigay sa amin ng libreng pustiso. Malaking tulong po ito sa amin." The successful rollout of the free denture assessment program highlights the Provincial Government of Laguna's dedication to enhancing public health services and prioritizing the well-being of its constituents.

Through sustained medical and dental outreach initiatives, the administration continues to work toward making healthcare more accessible, inclusive, and responsive—ensuring that no Lagunaense is left behind.

(Pau Dela Cruz)

also began cleaning the upstream section of the Tullahan River in Quezon City, particularly in the Fairview and Novaliches areas.

The company said it has so far removed 51,350 metric tons from 1.5 kilometers of river channel.

Ang said improved water flow and water quality have already been observed in rivers covered by the program, but long-term results will depend on sustained upkeep and public cooperation.

"After cleaning, deepening and widening these waterways, we need everyone's help to keep them from being clogged again," Ang said. "Proper waste segregation and disposal will prevent blockages in canals and waterways that should carry rainwater out to the rivers and eventually to Manila Bay.

This is one practical way our communities can help reduce flooding during heavy rains."

Rizal...

RIZAL, Pili-pinas — Matagumpay na isinagawa ang Rizal PNP Media Summit 2026 noong Abril 21, 2026 sa pangunguna ng Rizal Police Provincial Office (Rizal PPO), sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Eleazar R. Barber Jr., Provincial Director.

Pinangunahan ng Public Information Office (PIO) ng Rizal PPO ang programa sa pamumuno ni Mariesol E. Tac-taquin, Chief ng PIO, na naglayong higit pang patatagin ang ugnayan at kolaborasyon sa pagitan ng kapulisan at ng media sa lalawigan.

Naging tampok na mga tagapagsalita sa aktibidad sina Maclord M. Talamayan ng National Police Commission (NA-POLCOM) Rizal, Joel Sy Egco, at Michael Angelo R. Datuin, Pangulo ng Rizal PNP Press Corps.

Ibinahagi nila ang mahahalagang kalamayan hinggil sa responsableng pamamahayag, tamang pagpapalaganap ng impormasyon, at ang mahalagang papel ng media bilang katuwang sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at kaayusan.

Dinaluhan ang summit ng iba't ibang

FROM PAGE 1

media practitioners mula sa lalawigan ng Rizal na nagpahayag ng suporta sa layunin ng programa na palakasin ang tiwala, transparency, at epektibong komunikasyon sa pagitan ng Philippine National Police (PNP) at ng media.

Ayon kay PCOL Barber, mahalaga ang ganitong inisyatiba upang mapatatag ang ugnayan ng kapulisan at media bilang katuwang sa paghahatid ng tama at napapanahong impormasyon sa publiko.

Binigyang-diin din niya na sa pamamagitan ng bukas na komunikasyon at kooperasyon, mas napalakas ang tiwala ng mamamayan at ang kakayahan ng pulisiya na maglingkod nang mas epektibo.

Ang matagumpay na pagsasagawa ng Rizal PNP Media Summit 2026 ay patunay ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng Rizal PPO na itaguyod ang transparency, accountability, at respeto sa pagitan ng mga institusyon, habang pinatitibay ang partnership sa media tungo sa isang ligtas, maayos, at mapayapang komunidad.

(Pau Dela Cruz)



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660...

A total of 660 jobseekers were hired on the spot (HOTS) during the 124th Labor Day Job Fair spearheaded by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional Office IV-A (CALA-BARZON) on May 1, 2026.

Almost 2,000 jobseekers flocked to the event, reflecting strong demand for employment opportunities and the effectiveness of DOLE's job matching efforts.

Held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna, the job fair gathered employers, government agencies, and partners to deliver employment opportunities and essential services in one accessible venue.

Among those hired was Aaron Doctora of Calamba, Laguna, who shared, "Kinakabahan ako sa dami ng tao, pero naging maayos ang interview. Dahil sa job fair na ito, nahired on the spot ako—so-brang worth it."

Christine Joy Ortiz of Bay, Laguna likewise expressed, "Medyo matagal ang proseso, pero worth it dahil nakapasa ako. Masaya ako na hired na." Strengthening Employment Through Partnerships

Key highlights included the signing of memoranda of agreement

with the City College of Calamba for a Job Placement Office, the Department of Education for the implementation of the Government Internship Program (GIP), and the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) for the implementation of TUPAD Tuloy Pasada.

Targeted Assistance for Affected Sectors
A major highlight of the event was the ceremonial launching and awarding of TUPAD Tuloy Pasada, conducted in partnership with the LTFRB, to provide immediate support to transport workers affected by rising fuel costs.

Under this initiative, 845 transport workers will benefit from emergency employment assistance amounting to ₱10,723,050.00 for a 20-day work period.

Complementing this was the ceremonial awarding of TUPAD under the Integrated Services for Livelihood Advancement and Sustainable Employment, implemented in convergence with partner agencies for the benefit of the agriculture and fisheries sector.

A total of 1,400 farmers and fisherfolk beneficiaries will be engaged in canal reha-

FROM PAGE 1

bilitation for 20 days, with a total allocation of ₱18,298,000.00, providing immediate income support while strengthening food production systems.

Livelihood, Youth, and Worker Support

Livelihood assistance was likewise provided under the DOLE Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP), which supports individuals in starting or expanding small businesses through starter kits and equipment.

One beneficiary, Marilyn Makiling of Santa Rosa, Laguna, received a Milk Tea and Coffee Shop Package worth ₱46,820.00, which includes equipment to help revive and upgrade her business.

She shared, "Malaking tulong ito sa amin. Natanggap ko ang kagamitan para sa milk tea at coffee shop na matagal ko nang pangarap. Mas pag-iigihan namin ito para makatulong sa pang-araw-araw, lalo na bilang isang PWD."

SPES payouts and other employment support services were also provided, reinforcing support for students and vulnerable workers.

The event also highlighted CALABARZON's strong youth em-

ployability initiatives, with beneficiaries Althea Danielle Guerra (SPES), Mary Jean Balderas (JobStart), and Earl Maynard Atentar (GIP) recognized at the national Labor Day celebration in General Santos City led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr..

Bringing Srives Closer to the People

A Government One-Stop Shop featuring agencies such as SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, and the Civil Service Commission provided convenient access to employment-related services.

Meanwhile, the Kadiwa ng Pangulo generated ₱79,030 in sales, supporting both consumers and local producers.

DOLE CALABARZON Regional Director Atty. Erwin N. Aquino emphasized that initiatives like the job fair make it easier for ordinary Filipinos to access jobs and government support in one place—helping them secure income, rebuild livelihoods, and move toward a more stable future.

The Labor Day Job Fair underscores DOLE's continuing commitment to expanding access to employment, strengthening partnerships, and delivering inclusive and responsive services for Filipino workers.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) support his point. In March 2026, inflation reached 4.3 percent in areas outside the National Capital Region (NCR), higher than the 3.4 percent recorded in NCR.

Transport inflation also increased rapidly in areas outside NCR at 7.3 percent, compared with 4.2 percent in NCR.

Wage levels also varied significantly across the country.

The National Wages and Productivity Commission lists the daily minimum wage in NCR at up to P695, while MIMAROPA is at P455.

In Eastern Visayas, the rate ranges from P422 to P452, and P426 to P439 in Zamboanga Peninsula.

These differences support Cayetano's point that the "one-size-fits-all" approach of providing a uniform amount and type of aid may not work on the ground.

He said this is true even within the trans-

port sector, where drivers

It's worse...

Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano is urging the government to adopt a tailored and localized response to the oil crisis, saying a one-size-fits-all approach throughout the country will not work because the impact varies across regions and sectors.

In a recent Facebook vlog, Cayetano said national discussions often focus on Metro Manila and fail to reflect the situation in provinces, islands, and remote communities.

"Ang tendency natin, dalawa: one is we talk (mainly) about Metro Manila and number two, when we talk, we're talking as if buong Metro Manila is the same situation sa bundok, sa isla, sa bawat barangay sa ating bansa," he said.

"Pag nagbigay tayo ng tulong, 'pag tayo naghanap ng solusyon, kailangan personalized 'yan. Kailangan nakatutok 'yan sa sitwasyon ng lugar," he added.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) support his point. In March 2026, inflation reached 4.3 percent in areas outside the National Capital Region (NCR), higher than the 3.4 percent recorded in NCR.

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These differences support Cayetano's point that the "one-size-fits-all" approach of providing a uniform amount and type of aid may not work on the ground.

He said this is true even within the transport sector, where drivers

face different fuel costs depending on the kind of vehicle they operate and the type of fuel they use.

"For example, P5,000 na ayuda. Kung taxi driver ka tapos gas ang gamit mo, kulang ang P5K. Pero kung jeepney driver ka at diesel ang sasakyan mo, [mas lalong kulang y'un].

So magkaiba sila ng sitwasyon," he said.

At present, the government is distributing P5,000 in aid per bus, taxi, and UV express driver under its fuel subsidy program.

Meanwhile, jeepney drivers, whether of modern or traditional units, get P1,500 each.

The burden is even more pronounced in some off-grid areas like Palawan, where fuel is not only used for transport but also for power generation.

Cayetano said in other areas, unemployment also remains a major problem, suggesting that in some localities, the response may need to go beyond fuel subsidy and include livelihood or employment support.

"Problemang problema talaga y'ung gasolina because [apektado nga] y'ung public transportation.

Pero sa maraming rural areas, pagkain, presyo, at kawalan ng trabaho pa rin ang problema," he said.

The Minority Leader said this is why government response should be based on complete data.

"Kung mali ang facts natin, mali din ang conclusion natin. Kung mali ang figures natin sa pagbibigay ng ayuda, hindi magiging effective," he said.

Cayetano had previously pushed for giving local government units a bigger role in responding to community needs, saying they are in the best position to see conditions on the ground and determine the most appropriate assistance for vulnerable sectors.

-PR



We Hope Medical Group, Gov. Sol Aragonese Launch Free Chemotherapy Center in San Pablo, Expanding Cancer Care in Laguna



SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna — Cancer patients in Laguna now have greater access to life-saving treatment after the provincial government officially graced the cutting of ribbon on its free chemotherapy center at the San Pablo City District Hospital on April 29, 2026, in partnership with We Hope Medical Group, AML Life Care, the Provincial Health Office, and the Laguna Health Team.

The initiative, led by Governor Sol Aragonese, aims to ease the burden of cancer treatment costs for families across the province while bringing medical services closer to communities outside the capital area.

The newly opened facility is equipped with 20 chemotherapy chairs (can accommodate up to 50 patients daily) and has begun accepting patient registrations. Requirements for qualified beneficiaries include a valid ID and a PhilHealth Member Data Record (MDR). Operations are set to begin immediately, offering free chemotherapy treatment to eligible patients.

As added support, patients undergoing treatment will also receive half a sack of rice to help with their daily needs while receiving medical care.

Governor Aragonese said healthcare remains one of the top priorities of her administration, especially for patients battling serious illnesses such as cancer. She also announced plans to establish more free chemother-



apy centers in different parts of Laguna to make treatment more accessible province-wide.

Meanwhile, Dr. John Paul Aclan, Chairman and CEO of We Hope Medical Group, praised the governor's commitment to healthcare services.

"Saludo ako sa pagpupursigi ni Gov. Sol Aragonese na matulungan ang mga cancer patients at matugunan ang kanilang pangangailangan sa libreng paggamot. Bihirang-bihira ang mga opisyal na tulad ni Gov. Aragonese na tunay na nakatuon sa kapakanan ng mga pasyente," Aclan said.

Dr. Aclan also shared that We Hope Medical Group has already expanded its free cancer treatment services to Santa Rosa, Cabuyao, Calamba, and Famy, in

addition to San Pablo City.

We Hope Medical Group is known for its growing network of oncology and specialty care centers focused on making cancer treatment more affordable and accessible to Filipinos. Through partnerships with local governments and healthcare institutions, the group has been actively supporting free and subsidized treatment programs in various areas of Laguna.

The San Pablo facility follows the earlier opening of chemotherapy center at the Laguna Medical Center (LMC), marking another milestone in strengthening the province's healthcare system.

Laguna continues to position itself as one of the leading provinces in expanding free cancer treatment services for residents in need.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Mayor Ross Rizal Welcomes Pag-IBIG Regional Housing Fair as 20,000 Homes Open to Filipino Families in Calamba



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Thousands of residents and home seekers flocked to the opening day of the Pag-IBIG Fund Regional Housing Fair at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, marking the start of a two-day event aimed at making homeownership more accessible to Filipino families.

The housing fair, running from April 27 to 28, 2026, features more than 20,000 housing units from 50 participating developers, offering a wide range of affordable housing options for Pag-IBIG Fund members. Eligible members may apply for housing loans through Pag-IBIG Fund to purchase homes from the developers joining the fair.

Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross"

H. Rizal emphasized the continued strengthening of programs designed to provide affordable housing opportunities and a better future for every Filipino family.

He also expressed gratitude to Pag-IBIG Fund officials for choosing Calamba City as the venue for the major regional event.

The mayor added that through collective efforts and strong partnerships, the dream of owning a home is becoming more attainable for Filipinos.

The event formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by Hon. Jose Ramon P. Aliling, Secretary of the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DH-

SUD) and Chairman of the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, alongside Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta, Mayor Ross Rizal, and other key officials.

As part of the program, Stakeholder Recognition Awards for South Luzon were also presented to top employee-partners, top collection agency partners, and top developers in recognition of their support and contributions.

Together with its partner developers, the Pag-IBIG Fund Regional Housing Fair seeks to help workers achieve the dream of owning homes that match their financial capacity, reinforcing the government's commitment to housing access and economic progress.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Pointer
Pau Dela Cruz
2ID Hosts Digital and Social Media Summit 2026 in Tanay

Government communicators, media practitioners, and information officers from various sectors convened at Camp Capinpin on April 29 for the opening of the 2nd Infantry Division (2ID) Digital and Social Media Summit 2026, aimed at strengthening coordination and promoting credible communication in today's evolving information environment.

Spearheaded by 2ID Commander Major General Ramon Zagala, the two-day summit gathered participants from different units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police, public information offices, and other stakeholders. The initiative highlights the importance of unified, timely, and truthful messaging in addressing misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation.

The opening ceremony underscored the need for collaboration among key communicators to build trust and deliver impactful narratives.

Participants were encouraged to align perspectives and reinforce their shared responsibility of guiding the public with accurate information amid the fast-paced digital landscape.

Carrying the identity "VIRAL" and guided by the theme "TRIUMPH," the summit sets the tone for a collective effort to enhance digital communication capabilities, strengthen coordination, and boost public confidence across government platforms.

On the first day, Army content creators took center stage, sharing field-based insights and engaging in discussions that highlighted the role of communication in shaping the information domain.

Through experience-driven exchanges, participants deepened their understanding of the challenges and opportunities in modern information dissemination.

Organizers emphasized that communication today goes beyond function—it is a mission.

As the information environment continues to evolve, government communicators were urged to uphold integrity, counter false narratives, and ensure that truth remains at the forefront of every platform they engage.

The 2ID Digital and Social Media Summit 2026 is expected to further solidify partnerships and reinforce a unified front in delivering credible and trusted information to the public.

Solar...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Residents of Spring Homes Subdivision in Barangay Bucal can now expect brighter and safer nights following the official turnover of 60 solar-powered street lights, marking a significant step toward improved community security and sustainable infrastructure.

The initiative, led by Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, underscores the local government's commitment to enhancing public safety while promoting eco-friendly solutions

across the city.

In his message, Mayor Rizal highlighted the immediate benefits of the project: "Sa pamamagitan nito, masisiguro ang dagdag na seguridad sa gabi at mas komportableng pamumuhay para sa ating mga residente."

He emphasized that the installation is only the beginning of a broader plan to expand solar lighting in more areas of Calamba:

"Ito ay simula pa lamang ng tuloy-tuloy na pagbibigay-liwanag sa iba't ibang bahagi ng ating

PUBLISHER CORNER

NAPAPANSIN PO BA NINYO, NA TILA PARAMI NG PARAMI ANG MGA IKINAKARGANG EXTRA CHARGES SA BILL NATIN SA MERALCO?



Dahil para po sa kaalaman ninyo, ito po ang mga ipinapasa-load saatin mga paruk-yano ng serbisyong ito:

1. Lifeline Subsidy - tayong nagbabayad sa mga programang libreng pakuryente ng gobyerno na nakapaloob sa mga 4Ps na programa po nito.

2. Senior Citizen Subsidy - tayong nagbabayad ng lahat ng discount na ibinigay sa ating mga senior citizens para po sa konsumong kuryente nito.

3. Feed in Tariff Allowance - tayong nagbabayad sa lahat ng ginagawa ng gobyerno para maipromote po ang renewable energy sa bansang ito.

4. Green Energy Auction Allowance - tayong nagbabayad sa lahat ng mga bagong renewable energy projects na ipinapa-bidding po ng gobyerno.

5. Generation Charge - tayong nagbabayad ng halaga ng kuryente na binibili po ng gobyerno sa independent power producers sa bansang ito.

6. Transmission Charge - tayong nagbabayad ng halaga ng kuryente na binibili po ng gobyerno sa independent power producers sa bansang ito.

7. Systems Loss Charge - tayong nagbabayad ng anumanang losses o nawawalang kuryente dahil po sa pagtatransmit na ito.

8. Universal Charge - tayong nagbabayad ng halaga ng kuryente na binibili po ng gobyerno.

lungsod—isang patunay na ang serbisyong may malasakit ay patuloy nating pinapanday para sa bawat mamamayan."

The deployment of solar lights not only enhances nighttime visibility but also aligns with sustainable energy efforts, reducing electricity costs

nagbabayad upang magbigyan ng kuryente ang malalayong lugar sa bansang ito.

9. Taxes - at siyempre po, hindi po mawawala ang 12% VAT, na ipinapatong po ng tatlong beses sa transaksyong ito, sa generation, sa transmission, at sa distribution po ng Meralco.

Kaya huwag na po kayong magtaka, kung napakataas po ng kuryente sa bansang ito, kumpara sa mga karatig bansa po natin sa mundo.

Dahil lahat nalang po na puwedeng ipasa, ay ipinasa na po sa taumbayan ng gobyerno.

Kaya sa susunod na may makikita po kayong pulitiko;

Na ipinagamalak po nito sa entablado na nagbibigay po ng libreng pakuryente ito;

O nagbigyan po niya ng pakuryente ang mga malalayong lugar sa bansang ito;

O nagbigyan po niya ng renewable energy projects ang nasasakupan po nito;

Alam niyo na po kung sino talaga ang tunay na nagbabayad sa mga ipinagamabay-abang nito.

Napapansin na po talaga na pag aralang muli, kung makatarungan po ba ang diskarteng ganito ng gobyerno.

while ensuring consistent illumination even during power interruptions.

City officials noted that similar projects are expected to roll out in other barangays, further strengthening safety, accessibility, and quality of life for Calamba residents.

(Edjun Mariposque)

EXPLICIT

Madelaine Go
11 TAUHAN NG NCRPO DRUG UNIT, SINIBAK NG NAPOLCOM.



Inatasan ng National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) ang pagsibak sa serbisyo ng labing-isang tauhan ng Regional Drug Enforcement Unit ng National Capital Region Police Office (RDEU-NCRPO) matapos mapatunayang sangkot sa mga kasong pagdukot at malubhang paglabag sa tungkulin.

Sa inilabas na desisyon ng Commission En Banc, napatunayang may pananagutang administratibo ang mga nasabing pulis sa dalawang bilang ng Malubhang Maling Gawi at dalawang bilang ng Di-Angkop na Pag-uugali ng Isang Pulis.

Nag-ugat ang kaso sa reklamang inihain nina Milagros Estacio at Elizabeth Sotto noong Setyembre 3, 2025. Ayon sa kanila, dinukot umano ng ilang pulis ang kanilang mga anak sa magkahimalay na anti-drug operations noong 2021. Iniugnay rin ng mga nagreklamang ang insidente sa misteryosong pagkawala ng ilang "sabungeros," dahilan upang igiit ng NAPOLCOM ang mas masusing imbestigasyon.

Sa naunang pahayag, binigyang-diin ni Commissioner Ralph Calinisan ang kahalagahan ng due process. Aniya, kinakailangang suriin ang bawat kaso nang hiwalay at batay sa ebidensya upang matiyak ang patas na paghatol.

Kabilang sa mga sinibak sa serbisyo sina Police Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Jay E. Orapa, Police Major Mark Phillip S. Almedilla, Police Senior Master Sergeant Mark Anthony A. Manrique, at iba pang tauhan ng unit.

Batay sa rekord, noong Pebrero 17, 2021 sa Maynila, ilagal na dinukot ng mga nasasakdal si Dane Mark M. Carlos. Sinundan ito ng panibagong insidente noong Marso 24, 2021 sa Las Piñas City, kung saan dinukot naman si Charles Dean Sotto.

Ayon sa NAPOLCOM, ang mga nasabing gawain ay malinaw na paglabag sa umiiral na mga patakaran at itinuturing na Malubhang Maling Gawi. Dagdag pa rito, ang pagdukot ay isang magbigat na krimen sa ilalim ng Revised Penal Code dahil sa ilegal na pagkakait ng kalayaan—isang pangunahing karapatan ng mamamayan.

Binigyang-diin ng Komisyon na ang ganitong uri ng paglabag ay hindi lamang kriminal kundi sumisira rin sa tiwala ng publiko sa kapulisan. Lalo pa itong pinalala ng katotohanang isinagawa ang mga krimen habang ginagamit ng mga nasasakdal ang kanilang kapangyarihan bilang mga alagad ng batas.

Dahil sa bigat ng mga kasalanan, ipinatay ng NAPOLCOM ang pinakamataas na parusa—ang tuluyang pagtanggali sa serbisyo, kasama ang mga kaukulang kaparusahan alinsunod sa batas.

Ayon kay Calinisan, ang insidente ay isang malinaw na pagtataksil sa tiwala ng publiko. Iginiit niyang hindi pahihintulutan ang anumang uri ng pang-aabuso ng kapangyarihan sa hanay ng pulisya.

Sa huli, muling tiniyak ng NAPOLCOM ang kanilang paninindigan na linisin ang hanay ng kapulisan at papanagutin ang sinumang lalabag sa batas, anuman ang kanilang ranggo o posisyon.

Enchanted Kingdom welcomes pets and animal lovers to a magical, inclusive one-day Pets Day event



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, opened its magical gates to cats, dogs, pet owners, and animal lovers for a pet-inclusive one-day Furever Enchanted Ogg's Pets Day event held last April 26.

As part of this quarter's Forever Enchanted Summer campaign, the theme park celebrated the bond between pets and owners while promoting animal welfare through fun activities and surprises, all prepared especially for dogs, cats, and their human companions by EK's beloved character, Ogg the Guard.

The festivities kicked off at the Enchanting Events Place (EEP) Foyer with learning sessions on basic obedience training, pet health and safety, responsible ownership, and animal bite awareness, led by speakers from the Santa Rosa City Veterinary Office, Animal Bite Center, and the dog training institution Ca-

nine Connections. Volunteers from the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) were also present to support the event.

EK also partnered with Calamba City-based animal rescue organization, Second Chance Aspin Shelter Philippines Incorporated (SECASPI), to host an onsite pet adoption drive, giving rescued cats and dogs the opportunity to find loving forever homes among event participants.

Pets and their furparents had a magical time bonding at Ogg's Paw Ville located at the Agila Grounds.

This pet-inclusive space featured an EK-themed pet playground, a vibrant photobooth, complimentary services like pet training consultations, veterinary checkups, and anti-rabies shots, along with a magical bazaar, packed with pet essentials, treats, merchandise, and giveaways.

All attendees gained access to these ex-

citing pet-friendly activities and experiences, along with exclusive savings on Regular Day Passes, allowing pet owners to enjoy the rest of the Park after the event.

Forever Enchanted Summer

Plan your enchanting vacation ahead with EK's updated Park schedule starting this April. EK is currently open Thursdays to Sundays from 11AM to 8PM.

Starting May 4 until June 30, guests can enjoy the Park's over 30 rides and attractions, along with our other enchanting experiences on Fridays to Sundays from 1PM to 8PM.

For more information and updates on the Furever Enchanted Ogg's Pets Day and EK's other events and offerings, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram.

Workers Demand Wage Hike Mark Labor Day with Rally in Calamba



tion in the area as roads were closed to accommodate the program, affecting the flow of vehicles passing through the busy Crossing district.

As part of the demonstration, organizers from PAMANTIK-KMU, Kultura Kontra Kolonya, and the Southern Tagalog Cultural Alliance unveiled symbolic protest art, including an effigy and a mural featured during the regional mobilization.

The effigy, titled "Galyon ng Imperialismo," depicted what organizers described as intensifying imperialist interests of the United States, citing its military engagements in West Asia and Palestine, as well as its continued influence in the Philippines through policies such as the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA). The imagery also drew parallels to colonial-era exploitation during Spanish rule and modern displays of military power.

Meanwhile, the mural titled "Sulyap sa Proletaryadong Bukas" illustrated the collective aspirations of the Filipino people for pro-people social transformation led by the working class. The artwork was a collaborative effort by various groups and sectors involved in the Labor Day activities.



Calamba City, Laguna — Various labor groups under the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in Southern Tagalog gathered at Crossing, Calamba City to commemorate the 124th International Labor Day with a mass protest calling for higher wages and greater recognition of workers' rights.

Participants voiced a unified demand to increase wages, emphasizing the need to raise the

temporary traffic congestion in the area as roads were closed to accommodate the program, affecting the flow of vehicles passing through the busy Crossing district.

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temporary traffic congestion in the area as roads were closed to accommodate the program, affecting the flow of vehicles passing through the busy Crossing district.

HVI Suspect Nabbed in Calamba Buy-Bust; PhP 346,800 Worth of Shabu, .45 Pistol Seized



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — A high-value individual (HVI) listed during a buy-bust operation conducted by the Calamba City Police Station under the supervision of PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman, on Tuesday evening, April 28, 2026, in Barangay Majada Out.

Police identified the suspect only by his aliases Mac and Makmak, 32, a motorcycle mechanic and resident of Barangay Sirang Lupa, Calamba City.

The operation was carried out at around 6:15 p.m. under coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) through Control No. 4-00-04272026-027.

According to police, the suspect was apprehended after allegedly selling one sachet of suspected shabu to an undercover operative.

Recovered during the operation were 14 heat-sealed plastic sachets containing suspected shabu weighing approximately 51 grams, with an estimated street value of ₱346,800.

Also confiscated were a caliber .45 pistol, one magazine, seven live rounds of ammunition, a pistol holster, a black sling bag, a coin purse, two ₱100 bills, and one marked ₱500 bill used as buy-bust money.

The police said the entire operation was documented using a body-

worn camera and an alternative recording device.

The suspect was informed of his Miranda rights and the Anti-Torture Act before being taken into custody.

He now faces charges for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, as well as Republic Act 10591, the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Calamba City Chief of Police PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman checked the operation report, while the suspect remains under police custody pending documentation and inquest proceedings.

(Edjun Mariposque)

DSWD...

CARMONA CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to intensify the implementation of its Pag-Abot Program across the CALABARZON region, expanding its reach in Cavite and Rizal to assist more families and individuals in street situations (FISS).

In Dasmariñas City, Cavite, 14 individuals and families were profiled in February 2026, with 11 voluntarily agreeing to receive immediate intervention.

To further enhance service delivery, DSWD also opened its fourth Pag-Abot Program

processing center in Cavite in March 2026, improving accessibility and response capacity in the region.

Meanwhile, in Rizal, the program continues to deliver positive results. In March 2025, five individuals in Cainta were successfully reintegrated with their families.

In April 2026, 47 individuals and families from Antipolo City and Taytay participated in financial literacy sessions to strengthen their capacity for sustainable reintegration.

Further strengthening its outreach, DSWD Field Office IV-A conducted reach-out operations

in Antipolo City on April 8, 2026, where 13 individuals from the barangays of Cupang, Dela Paz, and Mayamot voluntarily coordinated with the agency to transition away from street living.

The operation, conducted under the Pag-Abot Program, aims to provide appropriate interventions to individuals and families to help them achieve safer and more stable living conditions within their respective communities.

According to Christina Argayoso, Project Development Officer of DSWD Field Office IV-A, the individuals underwent documentation and as-

Dispatcher Killed in Los Baños Shooting; Jeepney Driver Arrested After Swift Police Operation



LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA — A 24-year-old jeepney dispatcher was shot dead following a heated altercation with a driver on the afternoon of May 1, 2026, in front of a bank along the National Highway in Barangay Batong Malake.

Police identified the victim as alias "Christan," a resident of Barangay Bayog, Los Baños. He was rushed by responding officers to Bay District Hospital but was declared dead on arrival at around 6:20 p.m. by the attending physician due to a gunshot wound to the neck.

Initial investigation by the Los Baños Municipal Police Station (MPS) revealed that the incident occurred between 5:20 p.m. and 5:25 p.m. The suspect, identified as alias "Rodolfo," 45, a jeepney driver from Calauan, Laguna, was reportedly driving his passenger jeepney with his 10-year-

old son and several passengers onboard when a confrontation erupted between him and the victim.

Authorities said the argument escalated when the victim allegedly assaulted the suspect. In response, the driver alighted from his vehicle, drew a .38 caliber revolver, and shot the victim twice.

Witnesses in the area claimed the dispute may have stemmed from disagreements over dispatch fees, with tensions reportedly heightened by rising fuel costs. However, police said this angle remains under investigation.

Through the coordination of local traffic enforcers and authorities nearby, details of the suspect's vehicle, including its plate number and direction of escape, were immediately relayed to the police.

Under the leadership of PLTCOL Alexy E. Sonido, Acting Chief of Police of Los Baños MPS, a hot pursuit operation

was promptly launched. The suspect was arrested shortly after in Barangay Sto. Domingo, Bay, Laguna, a neighboring town.

Recovered from the suspect was an Armscor .38 caliber revolver containing two spent cartridge cases, while a slug was also retrieved from the crime scene.

The suspect is now in police custody as authorities prepare the necessary charges for murder against him.

Police continue to investigate the incident, including verifying witness statements and establishing the full sequence of events leading to the fatal shooting.

(Edjun Mariposque)

FROM PAGE 1

The intensified implementation of the Pag-Abot Program reflects DSWD Field Office IV-A's continuing commitment to reach individuals and families in street situations and support their journey toward stability and reintegration.

With strengthened coordination among local government units and sustained provision of essential services, the agency reaffirms its goal of helping vulnerable sectors rebuild their lives with dignity, safety, and opportunity—ensuring that no one is left behind in the path toward inclusive social protection and development.