

Enchanted Kingdom unveils a month filled with magic for Eldar the Wizard's birthday



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, is set to make the entire month magical as it announces the spectacular lineup of enchanting gifts from its iconic Storyverse character, Eldar the Wizard, in celebration of his birthday this July.

Kicking off its Love Saribuhay campaign this quarter, EK is showering guests with magical treats both inside and outside the Park as it counts down to Eldar's Birthday Bash on July 25 at the Spaceport Grounds.

The highly anticipated celebration, which coincides with the soft opening of the Park over 30 years ago, will feature enchanting parades, shows, games, appearances, giveaways, and other surprises perfect for guests of all ages.

Eldar the Wizard has been the heart of EK's vibrant Storyverse and has brought magic, wisdom, and inspiration to generations of Filipinos for the past three decades.

He embodies EK's core values and in-

spires everyone to embrace love of God, respect, loyalty, integrity, and innovation.

Ahead of his grand birthday celebration, the beloved wizard is currently extending the magic and fun of the festivities beyond the park through Eldar's Birthday Bash Community Outreach Program.

As part of this initiative, Eldar heads to selected foundations and orphanages in Laguna to share enchanting treats, special performances, and memorable experiences with the beneficiaries.

EK will launch its newest seasonal show featuring all of the Storyverse characters in a surprise dance party, as they give back to Eldar the magic and joy he has shared with the kingdom and the Filipino people over the years.

Guests can also savor his special food selections, including the family feast bundle of Eldar's Meal exclusively offered at Amazon Grill and Launch-Time restaurants.

Alternatively, everyone can try the meal's

chicken inasal, which is available for solo orders at Snaptooth Snack Station, Parkside, and Diggers Treat.

Tropical Coolers' standout drink, Eldar's Purple Brew, will also remain available as a refreshing grab-and-go treat to enjoy while exploring the Park.

EK has also introduced its latest addition to its lineup of Eldar merchandise, adding everyday items such as pillows, purses, and bags in a variety of kinds and styles.

Meanwhile, the photo outlet in Rialto 4D and Eldar's Photo Hub in Victoria Park have rolled out its new Face Recognition feature, allowing parkgoers to easily access all their photos in one place.

In-park tenant partners are also taking part in the festivities, with Dairy Queen becoming the first to announce its offerings, including the exclusive in-park Eldar's Hat Dilly Bar and the Purple Yam Blizzard as the Blizzard of the Month.

As the ultimate gift for Eldar's big day, EK is bringing back its regu-

lar park hours of 11AM to 8PM every Friday to Sunday until August 30, before shifting to Thursdays to Sundays starting September 1.

Everyone can grab the chance to visit the Park on July 24 to 26 through Eldar's Birthday Bundle, which includes one (1) Regular Day Pass, a mixture of free treats from various in-park retail and food outlets, and participation in seasonal in-park activities, all for Php 1,400 only.

Plus, it offers re-



served seating to Eldar's Birthday Bash, exclusively guests visiting on July 25.

Promo is available for walk-in purchase or through the EK Online Store until July 26 only.

For more information and updates on Eldar's Birthday Bash 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.

SMC clears 116K tons of silt, waste from San Juan River in maintenance cleanup



AT BARANGAY DOÑA IMELDA, QUEZON CITY

San Miguel Corporation (SMC) is close to completing maintenance cleanup along the San Juan River, removing over 116,000 metric tons of waste and silt over the last 10 months to help improve water flow and

reduce flood risk in San Juan, Manila, Mandaluyong and Quezon Cities. This follows SMC's cleanup of the river from 2022 to 2024, clearing the waterway of about 322,000 metric tons of silt and waste through 7.6 kilometers of its entire

stretch.

SMC's cleanup teams returned in September after monitoring showed a buildup of waste in the river traversing Mandaluyong, Manila and San Juan Cities. To date, 116,157

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SP holds public hearing on proposed ordinance strengthening anti-hazing measures in Cavite

COURTESY CALL



Nagsagawa ng Courtesy Call si PBGEN Dominic L. Baccay, Acting Regional Director ng Police Regional Office 4A, kay Hon. Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, Gobernador ng Cavite, sa Cavite Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City. Ang pagbisitang ito ay naglalayong higit pang patatagin ang ugnayan at koordinasyon ng PNP at Pamahalaang Panlalawigan bilang magkatuwang sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan, kaayusan, at kaligtasan ng mamamayan, alinsunod sa Focused Agenda ni Chief, PNP PGEN Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., na nagbibigay-diin sa Community Support sa pamamagitan ng mas matibay na pakikipag-ugnayan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang stakeholders.

Cavite LGUs to include nutrition in disaster preparedness plans

TRAINING ON COCONUT-COFFEE FARMING SYSTEM



Bilang bahagi ng pagsusulong ng coconut-coffee farming system, pinalakas ng DA-ATI CALABARZON ang kaalaman at kakayahang ng tattumpung (30) magniniyog mula sa Bayan ng Silang, Cavite sa pamamagitan ng ikatlong batch ng Training on Coconut-Coffee Farming System na isinagawa noong Hulyo 22-24, 2026, sa Sham-bala Bar and Restaurant, Silang, Cavite.

Sa loob ng tatlong araw, pinalawak ng mga kalahok ang kanilang kaalaman sa coconut-coffee farming system sa

pamamagitan ng mga talakayan tungkol sa coffee propagation, pagtatatag at pamamahala ng coffee nursery, pamamahala sa mga peste at sakit, at tamang pagsasagawa ng coconut-coffee intercropping. Bahagi rin ng pagsasanay ang hands-on demonstration sa Uyang Eddie's Farm, kung saan aktwal nilang isinabuhay ang mga natutuhang konsepto at teknolohiya sa sitwasyon sa bukid.

Bilang pagkilala sa pagsisikap ng mga kalahok, nagbigay ng mensahe si Dr. Rolando V. cont. on page 6

Cavite Service Caravan reaches Tanza, delivers vital services and emergency response vehicles

The wait is over—it's time to shop BIG!



Catch the SM City Molino 3-Day Sale from July 31 to August 2 and score up to 70% OFF on great finds from your favorite stores! □ Shop more for a chance to win a brand-new Suzuki Fronx GLX AT Hybrid! □□Don't miss the biggest deals of the season!

#GalaToTheMax

Cayetano kinuwestiyon ang panibagong beripikasyon sa Taguig projects matapos unang linisin ng DPWH



SMC...

metric tons of waste and silt have been removed along 6.1 km of its waterway — from the Pasig River junction to Talayan, Quezon City — reflecting SMC's commitment to preserving the gains of its river rehabilitation effort.

"Regular maintenance clean-ups are a key component of our Better Rivers PH initiative.

Even if we have restored rivers to their natural depth, flow, and water-carrying capacity, improper waste disposal can aggravate silt build-up," said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

"At no cost to government and in coordination with local authorities, we will continue to monitor and ensure that these waterways are

cleared of obstructions so they can carry floodwaters efficiently, especially during the rainy season," he added.

The maintenance cleanup of the San Juan River forms part of SMC's continuing support for the government's flood mitigation drive, including the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) Oplan Kontra Baha which was launched by President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. last year.

In line with that, Better Rivers PH launched its first cleanup effort in the Visayas last month, deploying dredging teams tasked to remove waste and silt from a four-kilometer section of the Butuanon River in Mandaue City, Cebu that has re-

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stricted water flow to the Mactan Channel.

Maintenance cleanup operations continue along Tullahan River, removing 177,384 metric tons of debris along a 6.4-km stretch; the Bulacan River System, clearing it of 723,393 metric tons of waste and silt through 13.38 km; and Laguna rivers, where 107,192 metric tons have been cleared from 2 km of waterways.

Meanwhile, rehabilitation work remains in the Parañaque, Las Piñas, Alabang, Tabang, and Tanza river systems, with the overall progress of the river cleanup initiative reaching 201.27 km of river channels and 9.3 million metric tons of waste and silt removed over the last six years. PR

SP holds...

In a move to reinforce the Province of Cavite's commitment to protecting students and promoting safe educational environments, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan conducted a public hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 092-2026, which seeks to strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, on July 21, 2026, at the Conference Room of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Authored by 4th District Board Member Nickanor N. Austria, Jr. and co-authored by 1st District Board Member Juan Ysmael R. Gandia and 2nd District Board Member Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, the proposed

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ordinance aims to establish stronger preventive measures, monitoring mechanisms, and local coordination among educational institutions, local government units, and covered organizations to curb hazing incidents in the province.

The public hearing was presided over by BM Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, who underscored the significance of the initiative in strengthening youth protection and public safety.

"This is the first step in the right direction," BM Pagulayan said, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, and organizations in preventing hazing and protecting the welfare of students.

One of the highlights of the hearing was the presentation by the Cavite Provincial Investigation and Effective Management Unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Cavite, which provided participants with data and updates on fraternity-related incidents in the province. The discussion of the

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proposed ordinance was facilitated by Provincial Board Secretary Michelle F. Alcidi, allowing stakeholders to share their insights and recommendations to further enhance the measure.

The public hearing was attended by representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite, Department of Education (DepEd)-Cavite, Association of Private Schools in Cavite, State Universities and Colleges, Office of the Provincial Information Officer, Office of the Provincial Legal Officer, Sangguniang Panlungsod/Bayan Committees on Peace and Public Safety, youth representatives, and officers of covered organizations across the province.

The activity reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing efforts to strengthen local policies that promote safer communities, uphold the rule of law, and protect the rights and welfare of the youth through proactive governance and multi-sectoral collaboration. — OPIO



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EDITORIAL OFFICE

Business Office : #025 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1 Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite

Website: www.deretsahan.com

Mobile No.: 09365035056

Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

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Cavite Service...

The Provincial Government of Cavite continued its commitment to bringing accessible and responsive public services closer to communities as the Cavite Service Caravan successfully rolled out its fifth leg on July 23, 2026, at the Tanza Convention Center in the Municipality of Tanza.

Led by Governor Abeng Remulla, the service caravan further strengthened the provincial government's commitment to inclusive and people-centered governance by delivering a wide range of frontline services directly to Caviteños.

A highlight of the activity was the ceremonial turnover of 20 ambulances and 10 Bokyo to the Municipality of Tanza.

The additional emergency response vehicles are expected to enhance the municipality's capability to deliver faster medical and disaster response services, reinforcing the provincial government's continuing support for strengthening local emergency preparedness and public safety.

The one-stop caravan brought together provincial government offices, national government agencies, and partner organizations to provide a comprehensive array of programs and assistance designed to address the immediate needs of residents, particularly those with limited access to essential government services.

sential government services.

Among the key services offered were free medical consultations, dental and oral health care, laboratory services including electrocardiogram (ECG) and fasting blood sugar tests, pharmacy assistance, fluoride varnish application for children, and emergency medical support to ensure prompt response to health-related concerns.

Employment and livelihood opportunities were likewise highlighted through job matching activities, career coaching sessions, and assistance from participating agencies such as TESDA, PSA, DTI, SSS, NBI, OWWA, BIR, PNP, and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

Entrepreneurship development, cooperative assistance, and the promotion of locally made products through a trade fair also formed part of the caravan.

The activity also extended agricultural support services, including the distribution of vegetable seeds and seedlings, educational materials, and technical assistance for farmers and fisherfolk to help strengthen local food production and sustainable livelihoods.

Residents also benefited from various social services, including social welfare assistance, family planning counseling, legal aid, and special-

ized support for persons with disabilities.

Veterinary services such as free anti-rabies vaccination, deworming, and pet consultations were likewise made available.

To further promote digital inclusion, the caravan featured digital literacy programs, internet connectivity services, and information booths that raised awareness of various government programs and services.

Joining Governor Remulla during the fifth leg of the Cavite Service Caravan were 7th District Representative Ping Remulla,

Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista and 7th District Board Members Camille Del Rosario and Aldrin Anacan.

They were warmly welcomed by Tanza officials led by Mayor SM Matro, and members of the Sangguniang Bayan.

As the Cavite Service Caravan continues its province-wide rollout, the Provincial Government of Cavite remains steadfast in its mission to make government services more accessible, efficient, and responsive while strengthening local government capabilities through strategic assistance and resource support, ensuring that every Caviteño has greater access to quality public services closer to home. — OPIO

No resignation needed for incumbent officials joining Dasmariñas special polls, COMELEC clarifies

DASMARIÑAS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Incumbent local officials who will run for the Dasmariñas Special Elections for Cavite Fourth District Representative will not be considered resigned from their current posts, the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) has clarified.

Lawyer Mico Castro, Provincial Election Supervisor for COMELEC Cavite, in a statement, clarified that elective officials may remain in their

office and will not be deemed resigned should they file their Certificate of Candidacy (COC) for the upcoming polls.

"Elective officials (like mayors) do not forfeit their seats. They can campaign and remain in office concurrently. So Mayor Jenny [Barzaga] will not be deemed resigned if she files for candidacy."

Castro added that rules on succession will only take place should Barzaga win the race,

where her son, Vice Mayor or Third Barzaga, will be automatically declared as mayor.

Last July 15, former Vice Mayor Rex Mangubat was the first to formally file his COC to signify his intent to run for the House of Representatives post. The COMELEC declared a special election for the Cavite Fourth District following the expulsion of Francisco "Kiko" Barzaga from the lower house.

Cayetano...

Kinuwestiyon ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano nitong Lunes ang hakbang ng Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) na magsagawa ng panibagong beripikasyon sa umano'y mga ghost project sa Taguig gayong nauna nang sinabi ng ahensya na walang natukoy na ghost projects sa lungsod.

Sa kanyang Facebook livestream nitong July 20, sinabi ni Cayetano na umaasa siyang maninindigan si DPWH Secretary Vince Dizon sa naunang naging resulta ng beripikasyon ng ahensya.

Ayon sa senador, tatlong beses nang tiniyak ng kalihim sa kanya na napatunayan nang walang ghost projects sa Taguig.

"I hope hindi siya magpa-pressure and I hope he tells the truth because tatlong beses niya na sinabi sa akin na vinerify nila at walang ghost

projects sa Taguig," wika niya.

Iginiit ni Cayetano na walang saysay ang kanyang pagsusulong ng Senate Blue Ribbon Committee hearing sa mga irregularidad sa flood control projects kung babalewalain naman niya ang anumang isyu sa sarili niyang nasasakupan.

"It's so illogical that I am fighting for the truth and for the Blue Ribbon hearing tapos meron pala kaming problema sa sarili naming bakuran," wika niya.

Binalikan din ng senador ang naging mungkahi niya noong deliberasyon ng budget ng DPWH na kunan ng litrato ang lahat ng government infrastructure projects mula groundbreaking hanggang sa matapos ang konstruksyon upang mas madaling matukoy kung may mga ghost project at mapalakas ang transparency sa pagpapatupad ng

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mga proyekto.

"When he was in the DPWH budget hearing dito, sinabi ko, 'Sec. Vince, ba't hindi mo pakuhanan sa cellphone ng picture lahat ng project. Simulan mo sa 2025, 2024, 2023, pabalik.

Para kung sa cellphone palang bayad na pero walang project, ghost na iyon,'" wika niya.

Ayon kay Cayetano, paulit-ulit niya itong iminungkahi sa plenaryo ng Senado at sinabing ipinatutupad na rin ito sa Taguig.

Hinamon ng senador ang mga awtoridad na imbestigahan ang lahat ng umano'y ghost projects sa iba't ibang lugar sa bansa at huwag iton lamang sa Taguig ang pagsusuri.

"Isabay-isabay na natin kung gusto but don't single people out. From the start sinabi ko, imbestigahan ninyo lahat," wika ni Cayetano. PR

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July 15 to 17. Held in partnership with the Cavite Provincial Nutrition Office, the session gathered personnel from City and Municipal Action Officers and Coordinators, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Nutrition Office staff, and local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices across the province.

In a statement, the NNC CALABARZON emphasized the importance of ensuring proper nutrition as part of the four core pillars of DRRM: Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.

"By strengthening the capacities of local

cal nutrition and disaster response personnel, the training reinforced the province's readiness to integrate nutrition into the four core thematic areas of DRRM."

The NNC also highlighted the vital role of local government units in allocating resources to guarantee that nutrition interventions will continue even during emergencies.

"Cavite LGUs are expected to develop their respective DRRM-H-NiE Plans and integrate them into their Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs) and LDRRM Plans to facilitate the allocation of appropriate resources and ensure the implementation of nutrition interventions during emergencies."

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition, illness, and even death spike during emergencies.

Without access to diverse and healthy diets, crises can severely disrupt breastfeeding and infant feeding practices that are crucial for child nutrition.

EDITORIAL: TRABAHO IBIGAY KONTRA KRIMEN

Ang bawat lokalidad ay may kanya-kanyang "favela"—mga lugar kung saan nagsasama-sama ang kahirapan, kawalan ng trabaho, at mga impormal na paninirahan. Sa aking karanasan bilang Chief of Police ng Calamba City, humigit-kumulang 60–70!^ ng ating mga personalidad sa iligal na droga at nakatutok na mga suspek sa krimen ay nagmumula sa iilan lamang sa mga komunidad na ito.

Sa paglipas ng mga buwan, natukoy ko ang limang pangunahing lugar kung saan natural na napupunta ang mga tao dahil ang pabahay ay alinman sa napakamura o halos libre. Kung bago ka sa Calamba, walang trabaho, o nahihirapan sa pananalapi, kadalasan ito lang ang mga lugar na kaya mo.

Ang katotohanan ay kakaunti ang mga pagkakataon. Maraming residente ang may hindi matatag o mababang suweldo, habang ang iba ay wala. Lumilikha ito ng kapaligiran kung saan nagiging karaniwan ang katamaran, iligal na droga, at krimen—hindi dahil pinipili ng lahat ang landas na iyon, ngunit dahil napakakaunting alternatibo ang nakikita ng marami.

Sa ating Oplan Galugad kamakailan, nakatagpo tayo ng humigit-kumulang 40 indibidwal na umamin na gumagamit ng ilegal na droga o nagbebenta ng mga ito sa maliit na dami. Halos lahat ay mayroon nang mga rekord ng pulisya, kaya napakahirap para sa kanila na makahanap ng lehitimong trabaho. Marami ang nabubuhay sa pamamagitan ng pag-scavenging o paggawa ng mga kakaibang trabaho, mga aktibidad na minsan ay nauugnay sa pagnanakaw at iba pang mga krimen. Nagiging cycle na mahirap takasan.

Ang mga operasyon ng pagpapatupad ng batas tulad ng Oplan Galugad at antiillegal drug operations ay kailangan, ngunit pangunahing tinutugunan ng mga ito ang mga epekto ng problema. As long as unemployment and social exclusion remain, we will continue responding to the same cycle.

I asked many of them a simple question: "Kung bibigyan kayo ng pagkakataon, gusto ba ninyo magtrabaho?" Halos lahat ay sumagot ng oo.



PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) Caravan



The Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO) Trece Martires City successfully conducted the PhilHealth Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) Caravan in Barangay 4, Indang, Cavite, on July 14, 2026.

As part of the activity, the Rural Health Unit (RHU) of Indang, under the leadership of Dra.

Rosa Alegre, facilitated the First Patient Encounter (FPE), medical consultations, and the distribution of medicines. A total of 216 residents benefited from the caravan, gaining access to essential primary healthcare services within their community.

The YAKAP Caravan underscores PhilHealth's commitment

to advancing Universal Health Care by bringing quality and accessible healthcare services closer to Filipinos. Through strengthened partnerships with local government units and healthcare providers, PhilHealth continues to promote healthier communities and improve access to essential health services nationwide.

SSS Chief lauds Visa, RCBC-powered fare system rollout



Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro tested the new cashless fare system on Monday, 13 July 2026, at LRT-2's Legarda Station during the launch of the Automated Fare Collection System (AFCS), praising the rollout as a boost to commuter convenience.

Department of Finance (DOF) Secretary and Social Security Commission (SSC) Chairperson Frederick D. Go also

graced the launch. The AFCS, an initiative led by the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr), aims to streamline fare payments, reduce reliance on cash, and provide commuters with a faster and more seamless travel experience.

The cashless fare system is powered by Visa and Rizal Com-

mercial Banking Corp. (RCBC), an SSS partner bank for the MySSS Card. As part of RCBC's PISO Fare Cashback Promo, holders of the MySSS Card powered by RCBC DiskarTech may enjoy the promo from July 13 to July 31 when using their card, allowing eligible cardholders to ride for as low as ₱1, subject to the promo's terms and conditions. PR

Calamba Reaffirms Unity with Laguna Province as EA Nancy Dimaranan Represents Mayor Ross Rizal at Capitol's SOPA



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Executive Assistant Nancy Dimaranan officially represented Calamba City Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal during the "Isang Taon sa Kapitolyo" celebration hosted by the Provincial Government of

Laguna under the leadership of Governor Sol Aragones, reaffirming the city's commitment to collaboration and inclusive development across the province.

The event highlighted the (SOPA) State of the Provincial Address, the Provincial Government's accomplishments during its first year in office, showcasing key initiatives in healthcare, education, social welfare, livelihood, tourism, sports development, peace and order, and community empowerment aimed at improving the lives of every Lagunense.

Dimaranan said it was an honor to represent Mayor Rizal at the

milestone event, noting the strong participation of local and national leaders from across Laguna.

"Today, I had the honor of officially representing Hon. Ross H. Rizal, City Mayor of Calamba, during the 'Isang Taon sa Kapitolyo' celebration hosted by the Provincial Government of Laguna under the leadership of Governor Sol Aragones," she said.

She also emphasized that the gathering demonstrated the unity of public officials in pursuing the province's continued growth.

"It was inspiring to witness the strong presence of nearly all city and municipal mayors, vice mayors, members of Congress, provincial board members, national government agencies, and other local leaders.

Their attendance reflected a shared commitment to working together for the continued progress of Laguna," Dimaranan

added.

According to her, one message stood out throughout the program: "No Lagunense Will Be Left Behind."

She described the theme as a reminder that effective public service is anchored on compassion, unity, accountability, and collaboration.

On behalf of Mayor Rizal and the City Government of Calamba, Dimaranan expressed gratitude to Governor Sol Aragones and the Provincial Government of Laguna for convening leaders from across the province to strengthen partnerships and reaffirm their shared commitment to serving every community.

She concluded by emphasizing that through integrity, purposeful leadership, and cooperation, Laguna can continue building a stronger, more inclusive, and more progressive future for all its people.

(Edjun Mariposque)

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Maningas, RAgr, Center Director ng DA-ATI CALABARZON.

Hinikayat niya ang mga nagtapos na isabuhay at ibahagi ang kanilang mga natutuhan upang higit pang mapaulnad ang kanilang ka-

buhayan at makatulong sa pagpapalakas ng industriya ng niyog at kape sa kanilang komunidad. Nagpaabot din ng suportang si Bb. Shirley L. Villela, RAgr, mula sa Office of the Municipal Agriculturist ng Silang, Cavite, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsusulong ng mas produktibo, matatag, at maunlad na kabuhayan para sa mga magniniyog.



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Sariling Bersyon ng 911 Emergency Response System ng Laguna, Ilulunsad sa Oktubre; Isa sa Pinakamalaking Anunsiyo sa Unang SOPA ni Gov. Sol Aragones

Isa sa pinakamalaking anunsiyo ni Laguna Governor Sol Aragones sa kanyang kauna-unahang State of the Province Address (SOPA) nitong Lunes, Hulyo 20, ang paglulunsad ng sariling bersyon ng 911 Emergency Response System ng lalawigan—isang makabagong inisyatiba na naglalayong mapabilis ang pagtugon sa mga emergency, sakuna, at iba pang insidenteng nangangailangan ng agarang aksyon.

Ayon kay Aragones, sisimulan sa Oktubre ang pagpapatupad ng programang "Ambulance on the Go," na magiging pangunahing bahagi ng itatayong Laguna Command Center. Sa pamamagitan ng sistemang ito, inaasahang magkakaroon ng mas mabilis, organisado, at mas episyenteng koordinasyon sa pagitan ng mga ambulansya, rescue units, mga ospital, at iba pang emergency responders sa buong lalawigan.

Ipinaliwanag ng gobernador na layunin ng bagong sistema na mabawasan ang oras ng pagresponde sa mga insidente at matiyak na ang bawat residente ng Laguna ay agad na mabibigyan ng kinakailangang tulong medikal sa oras ng pangangailangan.

Bukod sa pagpapalakas ng emergency response, inilahad din ni Aragones ang malawakang pagpapahusay sa sektor ng kalusugan. Kabilang dito ang patuloy na pag-upgrade ng mga pampublikong ospital, pagtatayo ng Laguna Mega Clinic, pagpapalawak ng mga serbisyo ng Chemotherapy Center, Dialysis Center, at Eye Center, gayundin ang pagpapatuloy ng iba't ibang libreng serbisyong medikal para sa mga residente ng lalawigan.

Inihayag din ng gobernador na palalawakin pa ang saklaw ng Botika ni Gob sa pamamagitan ng pagdaragdag ng mga libreng gamot na ipamamahagi sa mga nangangailangan. Kasabay nito, ilulunsad ang Klinikang ni Gob, isang programang maghahatid ng serbisyong medikal direkto sa mga komunidad sa panahon ng People's Day, upang mas mailapit ang serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga mamamayan.

Sa larangan naman ng edukasyon, sinabi

ni Aragones na magtatayo ang pamahalaang panlalawigan ng mahigit 100 bagong silid-aralan upang makatulong sa pagresolba ng kakulangan sa mga pabilidad sa pampublikong paaralan. Isusulong din ang iba't ibang reporma sa Laguna University upang higit na mapataas ang kalidad ng edukasyon.

Ayon pa sa gobernador, humigit-kumulang 7,000 estudyante ng Laguna University ang inaasahang makikinabang sa mga programang pang-edukasyon ng lalawigan, kabilang ang libreng pag-aaral at iba pang suportang pang-akademiko.

Hindi rin nakaligtan sa kanyang ulat ang pagpapalawak ng mga programang pangkabuhayan para sa iba't ibang sektor ng lipunan. Kabilang dito ang pagbibigay ng pagsasanay at panimulang puhunan para sa mga kababaihan, magsasaka, mang-ingisda, maliliit na negosyante, at iba pang benepisyaryo upang magkaroon sila ng mas matatag na pinagkakakitaan.

Kasama rin sa mga pangunahing plano ng administrasyon ang pagtatayo ng Laguna Pasalubong Center, pagpapaulnad ng industriya ng turismo sa lalawigan, rehabilitasyon ng mga pangunahing kalsadang patungo sa mga tourist destination, at pagpapatuloy ng mga programang nakatuon sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan at kapaligiran.

Sa huling bahagi ng kanyang talumpati, nagpaabot ng pasasalamat si Governor Aragones sa mga alkalde, bise alkalde, mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan, mga kawani ng pamahalaan, at iba pang katuwang ng kanyang administrasyon na naging bahagi ng pagpapatupad ng iba't ibang programa sa nakalipas na isang taon.

Dinaluhan ng tinatayang 7,000 katao ang kauna-unahang SOPA ni Governor Aragones na ginanap sa Laguna Provincial Government Sports Complex sa Barangay Bubukal, Sta. Cruz, Laguna. Tinapos ng gobernador ang kanyang ulat sa panawagang ipagpatuloy ang pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan upang maihatid ang mas mabilis, mas mahusay, at mas makataong serbisyo publiko para sa bawat Lagunense.

EXPLICIT Madelaine Go

VIRAL NA PAGSIPA SA SIKLISTA, SUSPEK SUMUKO SA PULISYA; MOTORSIKLO NAIMPOUND

Sumuko sa pulisya ang lalaking rider na na-video habang sinisipa ang isang siklista sa gitna ng kalsada sa Binangonan, Rizal, matapos siyang makaranas ng matinding batikos mula sa publiko sa social media.

Ayon sa Binangonan Municipal Police Station (MPS), agad silang nagsagawa ng imbestigasyon matapos kumalat noong Hulyo 20, 2026 ang viral na video ng insidente. Sa naturang video, makikitang sinipa ng

sampa ng pormal na reklamo dahil sa nararanasan pa niyang pananakit ng katawan. Nilinaw naman niyang itutuloy pa rin niya ang pagsasampa ng kaukulang kaso sa tamang panahon.

Pansamantala namang pinalaya ang suspek, ngunit hindi ito makaaapekto sa posibleng pagsasampa ng mga kaukulang kaso laban sa kanya.

Samantala, nananatili sa kustodiya ng Binangonan MPS ang motorsiklong ginamit sa insidente matapos mabigong magpakita ang suspek



ng katibayan ng pagmamay-ari at ng Certificate of Registration (CR). Nag-isyu rin ang pulisya ng citation ticket kaugnay ng paglabag nito sa batas-trapiko.

Iginiit ni PLT-COL Evangeline P. Santos, hepe ng Binangonan MPS, na nananatiling nakatuon ang kanilang himpilan sa maagap na pagtugon, patas na imbestigasyon, at pagsunod sa due process sa lahat ng kasong dinadala sa kanilang tanggapan.

PUBLISHER CORNER

CHIZ: REVIEW OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO IMPROVE SCHOOL SAFETY, ACCOUNTABILITY



Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero on Sunday urged Congress to reassess the country's juvenile justice laws in the wake of the recent school shooting in Tacloban, saying no human-made statute is "perfect or untouchable" and must be revised when no longer responsive to current realities.

Escudero, who co-authored Republic Act No. 9344 in 2006 and its amendatory law Republic Act No. 10630 in 2013, said his long involvement in crafting the juvenile justice framework obliges him to support a fresh, evidence-based review amid fresh debates on juvenile accountability, school safety gaps, and gun access.

"Matagal na akong mambabatas at palagi kong sinasabi (na) iisang batas lamang ang inukit sa bato at galing sa Diyos, at 'yon ang hindi natin pwedeng baguhin. Lahat ng iba pang batas, sinulat lang sa papel ... galing 'yon sa tao. Walang perpektong mambabatas na alam ang lahat para makagawa ng batas na hindi na pwedeng baguhin habang buhay," Escudero said at the conclusion of a two-part edition of his Chiz Wiz podcast tackling the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act.

The senator noted that even the framers of the 1987 Constitution included mechanisms for amendment, recognizing that no law can anticipate

all future problems. "Kinikilala nila na hindi nila angkin ang lahat ng talino para sagutin ang mga problemang noong sinulat nila 'yon."

According to Escudero, revisiting the law should not be seen as an admission of error but as a necessary response to changing circumstances.

"Dapat bukas kaming lahat na mambabatas sa anumang pagbabago at tingnan ang pagkakataon para pagandahin, ayusin, iwasto, pabilisin, at tiyakin na mas maayos 'yung mga batas na ating ipapasa alang-alang sa interes ng ating bansa, mga kababayan, at siyempre ang mga kabataang Pilipino," he said.

Responding to questions from his podcast guests, he clarified that RA 9344 and RA 10630 already contain accountability, intervention, and rehabilitation mechanisms for children in conflict with the law, contrary to claims that minors "cannot be punished."

Escudero said he supports a "full-cycle review" of the juvenile justice system to address gaps in implementation and strengthen measures that protect public safety while upholding the principles of juvenile justice.

"Ang batas ay para sa tao. Kung hindi na tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng panahon, tungkulin naming ayusin at iakma ito," he concluded. #





Calamba Police Chief Pushes 'Kabuhayan Kontra Krimen' to Break the Cycle of Drugs and Crime



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Calamba City Chief of Police PLTCOL Dennis De Guzman has called for a long-term, community-driven approach to crime prevention, emphasizing that sustainable peace can only be achieved by addressing the root causes of illegal drugs and criminality.

In a statement, De Guzman said that based on his experience leading the Calamba City Police Station, around 60 to 70 percent of illegal drug personalities and focus crime suspects come from only a handful of communities where poverty, unemployment, and informal settlements are concentrated.

He explained that these areas often become home to individuals and families who cannot afford housing elsewhere, leaving many residents with limited employment opportunities and increasing their vulnerability to illegal activities.

During the recent Oplan Galugad, police encountered around 40 individuals who admitted to either using or selling illegal drugs in small quantities. According to De Guzman, nearly all of them already had police records, making it difficult to secure legitimate employment and forcing many to survive through scavenging and other informal jobs.

"I asked many of them a simple ques-



tion: 'Kung bibigyan kayo ng pagkakataon, gusto ba ninyong magtrabaho?' Almost all answered yes. The problem is that very few employers are willing to hire them because of their records. Simply giving cash assistance is also not the answer, as it often ends up feeding the same destructive habits," De Guzman said.

The police chief proposed a program that would provide former offenders and vulnerable residents with opportunities to work in cleaning and improving their own communities.

Instead of receiving financial aid, participants would earn rice and food for their families based on the work they complete.

He stressed that such an initiative would allow beneficiaries to regain their dignity through honest labor while contributing to cleaner and safer neighborhoods.

De Guzman also suggested complementing the program with regular community cleanups, sports activities, skills training, and livelihood opportunities to help steer participants away from crime and illegal drugs.

"We invite everyone—our local government, private sector, civic organizations, and the community—to collaborate in a Kabuhayan Kontra Krimen approach. Because lasting peace is achieved not only by arresting offenders, but by creating pathways for people to become productive citizens once again," he said.

The Calamba police chief emphasized that while law enforcement operations remain essential, lasting public safety requires a collective effort to provide hope, employment, and a second chance to those willing to rebuild their lives.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Mayor Ross Rizal Brings Brighter Streets and Stronger Support to Brgy. Majada Out



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Residents of Carmel Ville 1 in Barangay Majada Out can now look forward to brighter and safer streets following the turnover of 55 solar-powered street lights led by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H.



"At ang matagal na nilang hiling na service vehicle na "bokyo"? Agad natin itong aasikasuhin upang mas mapadali ang kanilang paglilingkod sa mga residente."

Mayor Ross Rizal concluded by reaf-

Rizal.

The initiative forms part of the city government's continuing efforts to enhance public safety, improve neighbourhood infrastructure, and provide sustainable lighting solutions for local communities.

In addition to the installation of the solar lights, the city government also extended financial assistance to the Carmel Ville 1 Homeowners Association to help fund the improvement of its community facilities.

Mayor Ross Rizal also assured residents that the long-requested service vehicle, locally referred to as a "bokyo," will be prioritised to help the homeowners association serve the community more efficiently.

Mayor Ross Rizal emphasised the city's commitment to delivering projects that directly benefit residents, saying:

"Isa na namang



hakbang tungo sa mas ligtas at mas maliwanag na komunidad ang ating naisakatuparan sa pamamagitan ng turnover ng 55 solar lights para sa Carmel Ville 1 sa Brgy. Majada Out."

He also highlighted the city's support for community development through additional assistance.

"Bukod dito, naging kaloob din tayo ng financial assistance sa kanilang Homeowners Association upang makatulong sa pag-aayos ng kanilang ibang facilities."

Addressing another long-standing request from residents, the mayor added:

(Edjun Mariposque)



CARD MRI Executives honored as Namumukod Tanging San Pableños 2026



Dr. Edzel A. Ramos (left), President of CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) Inc., was honored as Namumukod Tanging San Pableño for Transformative Education, and Frederick Nicasio M. Torres (right), Chair of Mga Likha ni Inay and Executive Vice President of CARD Indogrosir, was recognized as Namumukod Tanging San Pableño for Social Entrepreneurship.



Two executives of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), Dr. Edzel A. Ramos and Mr. Frederick Nicasio M. Torres, were recognized during the Gawad Ng Namumukod Tanging San Pableño 2026 held at the San Pablo City Convention Center on May 7 for their leadership and contributions to community development through the institutions they serve.

The award honors individuals from San Pablo City whose service and leadership have made meaningful contributions to community development. It also recognizes those who serve as leaders in their respective fields through their advocacy and achievements.

Transformative Education

Dr. Edzel A. Ramos, President of CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) Inc., the learning and training institute of CARD MRI that offers tertiary education, senior high school programs, and capacity-building programs, was recognized as Namumukod Tanging San Pableño for Transformative Education. This category recognizes individuals who promote quality and accessible education through meaningful programs, initiatives, and

partnerships.

Dr. Ramos is one of the key individuals behind CMDI's growth from a training unit established in 2000 into an academic institution dedicated to providing quality education to socio-economically challenged families. He began his journey with CARD MRI in 1996 as a Technical Officer of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO), where he worked closely with communities and witnessed firsthand the struggles of underserved families. These experiences strengthened his commitment to education and people development.

As CARD MRI expanded its training initiatives, Dr. Ramos transitioned into training and development roles, focusing on empowering individuals through education. When CMDI formally became a training institution in 2005, he served as its Training Director. He helped lead programs that trained more than 300 employees to teach financial education to students and community members.

Since its formal establishment, CMDI has strengthened its community-focused education and expanded its training programs. In 2013, the institution introduced the Microfinance Technology

NC II program under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and later became an accredited assessment center for the course.

In 2015, CMDI received approval from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to operate as a tertiary educational institution. In 2024, Dr. Ramos became the school's president, leading it to begin offering senior high school programs.

Today, CMDI remains committed to producing competent and values-driven learners who contribute to community development and social transformation. It now has four campuses in San Pablo City and Bay, Laguna; Tagum City, Davao del Norte; and Buenavista, Agusan del Norte, focusing on providing practical and values-driven education.

"We have always believed that education is a powerful tool in shaping the future of the youth. I am truly honored and at the same time grateful to be part of CMDI's journey," said Dr. Ramos as he reflected on CMDI's growth in expanding its educational service and in his years of service in CARD MRI.

"This recognition

inspires us to continue reaching more students, employees, and communities with limited access to quality education. We will continue creating learning opportunities, honing skills, and helping individuals build a better future for themselves and their families," he said.

Social Entrepreneurship

The local government of San Pablo also recognized Mr. Frederick Nicasio M. Torres as Namumukod Tanging San Pableño for Social Entrepreneurship. The award honors individuals who build enterprises that open livelihood opportunities and support inclusive growth within communities.

Torres currently leads different enterprise development and business support institutions under CARD MRI. He serves as Chairman of Mga Likha Ni Inay, CARD-Business Development Services Foundation Inc. (CARD-BDSFI), and CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CARD LFC). He is also the Executive Vice President of CARD Indogrosir and Ottokonek.

Beforehand, he started his career in CARD MRI as a management trainee in its financial institutions, particularly

at CARD, Inc. and CARD SME Bank, a thrift bank focused on providing financial services to small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs. Over the years, he took on leadership positions, including deputy director for operations and regional director, and this deepened his understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized sectors and the importance of creating opportunities for them to build and sustain their own businesses.

In 2013, Torres helped establish CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CARD LFC) to further expand support services for clients through leasing, business assistance, and housing finance programs.

Under his leadership, CARD-BDSFI has helped bridge micro-entrepreneur clients to the mainstream market by promoting local products and supporting their growth. This effort later paved the way for the establishment of Mga Likha Ni Inay (MLNI), which transforms locally sourced products from rural micro-entrepreneurs into marketable, locally inspired goods.

Meanwhile, CARD Indogrosir and Ottokonek, established in partnership with Indonesia's Salim Group, continue to strengthen community enterprises by wholesaling and retailing grocery goods at distributor prices. These also support clients and customers operating mobile stores, carts, and sari-sari stores in their communities.

Through these institutions, Torres has helped CARD MRI in strengthening access to markets and support systems for microentrepreneurs, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

"This recognition is for the Nanays who we are able to uplift through our mission at CARD MRI. Entrepreneurship becomes most meaningful when it creates opportunity and hope for communities. When we empower microenterprises to thrive, we prove that businesses can be both sustainable and compassionate. Real progress happens when growth is shared, and when every success story opens doors for others to rise with us," said Torres, reflecting on how CARD MRI shaped his advocacy for inclusive enterprise development.

Behind the Impact

At the core of Dr. Ramos and Torres' leadership in education and enterprise development is CARD MRI's shared mission to uplift underserved communities and help eradicate poverty.

Their recognition as Namumukod Tanging San Pableños reflects the impact of their work in education and enterprise development, as well as their commitment to building stronger, more inclusive communities.

CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito, and Senior Advisers Aniceta Alip, Dr. Lorenza dT. Bañez, and Dr. Dolores Torres also attended the recognition event. PR

"You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go, and see what happens."

MANDY HALE