

CALAX Earns Three GREEN Awards for Environmental Sustainability



From L-R: Santa Rosa City Councilor Hon. Carmela Rosa Gonzales-Colmenar; MPCALA Holdings Inc. Facilities Management and MEPF Senior Engineer Dhale Angelo D. Santos; MPTC Assistant Vice President for Central Quality, Environment, Safety and Health (QESH) Allan Jeffrey N. Ang; MPTC Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement Arlette V. Capistrano; Santa Rosa City Mayor Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas; Santa Rosa City ENRO Head Engr. Maria Amor A. Salandanan, EnP.; and Santa Rosa City Councilor Hon. Mythor C. Cendaña. Photo credit: Santa Rosa City Environment and Natural Resources Office

MPCALA Holdings Inc. (MPHI), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and the concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), has been recognized by the City Government of Santa Rosa, Laguna, for its unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability. This marks the fourth consecutive year the company has been honored by the local government.

The Guarantee of the Environment & our Ecological Niche (GREEN) Awards is the city's annual recognition program that honors organizations, institutions, and individuals for their significant contributions to environmental protection and sustainability.

This year, CALAX received three major awards in recognition of its green initiatives:

- Sustainable Development Partner: Recognizing MPCALA's contributions to environmental sustainability through its active participation in various coastal clean-up initiatives that help preserve ecosystems, reduce pollution in Laguna Lake, and support climate change

mitigation efforts.

- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partner: Awarded for the company's excellence in reducing energy consumption, promoting renewable energy solutions, and implementing energy efficiency initiatives across its offices, toll plazas, and facilities.
- Earth Hour Advocate: Presented for the company's active participation in the annual global Earth Hour movement and its continued efforts to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness



The awards were presented by the City Government of Santa Rosa and received by representatives of MPCALA.

"We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from the City Government of Santa Rosa. These awards reflect our commitment to integrating sustainability into every aspect of our operations, from building greener infrastructure to adopting environmentally responsible practices. As we continue to expand CALAX, we remain dedicated

to proving that infrastructure development and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand," said MPHI President and General Manager Andrew B. Pangilinan.

CALAX is a 44.6-kilometer expressway connecting the provinces of Cavite and Laguna. Once completed, it is expected to serve approximately 95,000 motorists daily. Currently, its operational segments span from Biñan, Laguna to General Trias, Cavite, significantly reducing travel time from

an hour to just 26 minutes. Beyond improving mobility, CALAX also advances environmental sustainability by helping reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions through shorter travel times. Its green initiatives include the integration of solar power systems, rainwater harvesting facilities, and the progressive transition of its corporate fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), reinforcing the company's commitment to responsible and sustainable expressway operations.



Aerial view of the MPT South Hub, featuring 1,184 solar panels that generate about 97% of the building's energy needs. The facility also has a rainwater harvesting system that reduces water use by 10%, along with EV charging stations for company electric vehicles.

dation and main source of financial support.

Mario started selling ice cream at around 9:00 AM and usually came home at 6:00 PM. When he returned, they would prepare another batch of ice cream for the following day. This has become their daily routine. Through daily hard work and teamwork, they sustain their livelihood and provide for their families. While Mario is out selling ice cream, Sherilyn manages the household and prepares ingredients for their products.

As with any business, there were times when their sales would slow, especially during the rainy season. However, despite these, they under-

stood that business was never constant. The good days and slow days are part of the journey, so they just kept moving forward.

"Para sa akin, importante talaga na may negosyo kasi magagamit mo yung income sa iba't ibang pangangailangan ng pamilya mo. (For me, business is really important because your income becomes something you can depend on when needs come up), Sherilyn stated.

To gain additional capital for their business, Sherilyn became a client of CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO) in 2019. Since then, she has been

able to access financial assistance whenever their funds fall short for production needs.

Currently, she uses her PHP 50,000.00 loan from the institution to purchase raw ingredients for their ice cream business. Aside from buying ingredients, her previous loans from CARD, Inc. were also used to renovate their house.

In the coming years, the couple hopes their business will continue to grow. Although they do not expect rapid expansion, they are happy to see it steadily and consistently grow over time. PR



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Hiraya Water Launches P600-Million Rehab Project in Dasmariñas City

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. 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 "boko," 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.

stance. "Bukod dito, nagka-loob 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: "At ang matagal na nilang hiling na service vehicle na "boko"? Agad natin itong aasikasuhin upang mas mapadali ang kanilang paglilingkod sa mga residente." Mayor Ross Rizal concluded by reaffirming the importance of collaboration between the local government and commu-

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



nities in bringing meaningful development to every barangay.

"Patuloy tayong magtutulungan upang makapaghatid ng mga programang may tunay na pakinabang sa bawat barangay." The turnover underscores the Calamba City government's continuing commitment to strengthening communities through infrastructure improvements, sustainable initiatives, and responsive public service under the CalambaGo development programme. (Edjun Mariposque)

Mula Lansangan Hanggang Cyberspace: Ang Bagong Hamon sa Seguridad ng Laguna

Sta Cruz, Laguna - Habang patuloy na pinatitibay ng Philippine National Police ang kampanya laban sa mga tradisyunal na krimen, isang bagong hamon ang unti-unting nangingibabaw—ang cybercrime. Sa panahon kung saan malaking bahagi ng pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay ay nakasalalay na sa internet at digital transactions, hindi na sapat ang pagtukot lamang sa mga nakasanayang krimen sa lansangan. Kailangang makasabay ang law enforcement sa mabilis na pagbabago ng teknolohiya at sa mga banta na kaakibat nito.

Ito ang mensa-heng binigyang-diin ni Laguna Acting Provincial Director PCol Sandro Jay DC Tafalla nang ihayag niya na nararapat nang isama ang cybercrime bilang isa sa mga pangunahing "focus crime" sa lalawigan. Para sa kanya, ang patuloy na pagtaas ng mga insidente ng online scams, e-wallet fraud, identity theft, phishing, at iba pang anyo ng digital deception ay malinaw na indikasyon na nagbabago na rin ang mukha ng kriminalidad.

Batay sa kanyang karanasan, halos araw-araw ay may mga reklamang may kaugnayan sa online transactions. Maraming mamimili ang nabibiktima ng mga

pekeng online seller, hindi natatanggap ang produktong binayaran, o kaya'y maling item ang ipinadadala. Hindi rin ligtas ang mga gumagamit ng online banking at e-wallets dahil sa dumaraming kaso ng unauthorized access at pagkawala ng kanilang ipon sa loob lamang ng ilang minuto.

Hindi na maituturing na simpleng panlilinlang ang cybercrime. Isa na itong seryosong banta sa ekonomiya at seguridad ng publiko. Ang mga biktima ay hindi lamang nawawalan ng salapi kundi pati ng tiwala sa digital platforms na mahalagang bahagi na ng modernong pamumuhay.

Sa ganitong konteksto, makabuluhan ang panawagan ni PCol Tafalla na kilalanin ang cybercrime bilang pangunahing prayoridad ng kapulisan. Ang ganitong hakbang ay hindi lamang magpapalakas sa law enforcement operations kundi magbibigay rin ng mas malaking puwang para sa information campaigns, digital forensic capability, at mas malawak na pakikipagtulungan sa mga institusyong pinansyal, online platforms, at iba pang ahensiyang may mandato sa cybersecurity.

Subalit hindi lamang sa usapin ng cybercrime umiikot ang naging direksiyon ng Laguna Police Provincial Office

sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni PCol Tafalla. Sa loob lamang ng unang tatlong buwan ng kanyang panunungkulan, naglatag ang Laguna PPO ng mga konkretong hakbang upang higit pang mapalakas ang kampanya laban sa kriminalidad.

Kabilang dito ang 766 anti-illegal drug operations na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa 913 indibidwal. Patuloy ding isinagawa ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted persons at mga lumalabag sa batas kaugnay ng legal na pag-lingat ng mga baril. Ang mga operasyong ito ay nagpapakita ng tuloy-tuloy na pagpapatupad ng batas laban sa mga pangunahing banta sa kapayapaan at kaayusan sa lalawigan.

Isa rin sa mahahalagang repormang ipinatupad ay ang 24/7 police visibility program. Sa pamamagitan ng reorganisasyon ng duty schedule at paglalagay ng mga tauhan sa mga lugar na higit na nangangailangan ng presensya ng pulisya, layunin nitong mapabilis ang pagtugon sa mga insidente at higit na mapalakas ang tiwala ng publiko sa kapulisan.

Kasabay nito, binigyang-halaga rin ng pamunuan ang kapakanan ng mga tauhan. Ang promosyon ng 55 police personnel ay hindi lamang pagkilala sa kanilang de-

dikasyon kundi bahagi rin ng pagpapataas ng morale ng organisasyon. Samantala, nananatiling insurgency-free ang Laguna—isang tagumpay na bunga ng patuloy na koordinasyon ng kapulisan, mga lokal na pamahalaan, iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno, at ng komunidad.

Sa kabuuan, ipinakikita ng kasalukuyang direksiyon ng Laguna PPO na ang pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan ay hindi na lamang nasusukat sa pagbaba ng bilang ng mga krimeng nagaganap sa lansangan. Sa digital age, kabilang na rin dito ang kakayahan ng kapulisan na protektahan ang mamamayan laban sa mga krimeng nagaganap sa cyberspace.

Ang tunay na hamon ngayon ay kung paano magiging mas mabilis ang pag-angkop ng mga institusyon sa patuloy na pagbabago ng teknolohiya. Kung patuloy na lalawak ang paggamit ng internet sa negosyo, edukasyon at pananalapi, dapat ding maging kasing bilis ang pagpapaunlad ng kakayahan ng law enforcement laban sa cybercrime.

Sa huli, ang seguridad ng mamamayan ay hindi lamang dapat maramdaman sa mga lansangan kundi maging sa bawat pag-click, paglipat ng pera, at pakikipagtransaksyon sa digital na mundo.(Pau Dela Cruz)

FORMALLY PRESENTS WEST PHILIPPINE SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF CLAIM TO UN

MANILA — The Philippines has officially submitted its formal technical and oral presentation to the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in New York, advancing its legal bid to define and secure its undersea maritime boundaries in the West Philippine Sea.

This high level diplomatic step establishes the country's formal claim over the seabed and subsoil resources of the West Palawan region. Under Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Philippines seeks to confirm exclusive sovereign rights over natural resources extending up to 350 nautical miles from its baselines.

Headed by Ambassador Enrique A. Manalo, the country's Permanent Representative to the UN, the delegation used the forum to uphold a rules based maritime order. The presentation explicitly requested the commission to take into account the 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, which invalidated overlapping claims not grounded in international law.

The submission

sion draws on 15 years of technical work, hydrographic surveys and geodetic mapping carried out across three administrations. Led by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority, officials say defining these boundaries is essential to protect the nation's long term energy security and seabed mineral rights.

This action comes at a critical time for regional relations, shortly after the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Manila. As a key maritime state, the Philippines continues to navigate complex security conditions while relying on established international legal processes to address long standing disputes.

While the Philippines describes the filing as a peaceful exercise of legal rights, it faces clear opposition. China has repeatedly rejected the 2016 arbitral ruling and objects to any submission that falls within areas it asserts under broad historical claims.

Neighboring states have also raised concerns. Malaysia has formally stated its opposition, noting that parts of the claimed continental margin overlap with maritime zones extending from its territory in Sabah.

WalterMart Community Malls Welcomes the First Starbucks in Cabuyao City



Cabuyao City, Laguna – August 2, 2026 — A new milestone in Cabuyao City's continued growth was celebrated today as Starbucks officially opened its doors at WalterMart Cabuyao, marking the first-ever Starbucks store in Cabuyao City and the second Starbucks branch located inside a WalterMart Community Mall.

The opening reinforces WalterMart's commitment to bringing globally recognized brands closer to Filipino families while creating meaningful everyday experiences within the communities it serves.

Designed to become a welcoming destination for families, professionals, students, and friends, Starbucks WalterMart Cabuyao offers the world-renowned Starbucks experience in a warm and convenient community setting. The store is open daily from 7:30 AM to 10:30 PM, providing customers with more opportunities to enjoy their favorite handcrafted beverages and food throughout the day.

For WalterMart Community Malls, the partnership goes beyond opening another coffee shop—it is about enriching the quality of life of the Cabuyao community.

"At WalterMart, our mission has always been to uplift the lives of Filipino families by bringing meaningful experiences closer to their communities. We are proud to welcome Starbucks to WalterMart Cabuyao and offer a world-class coffee experience that our cus-

tomers truly deserve. This is more than just opening a new store—it is about creating a place where families, friends, and the community can gather and create lasting memories," said Marygina Leonera, Regional Manager for Operations of WalterMart Community Malls.

Cabuyao City Mayor Dennis "DENHA" Hain also expressed his enthusiasm over the historic opening, describing it as another milestone in the city's rapid development.

"The arrival of Starbucks in Cabuyao is a testament to the city's continuous progress and growing investment potential. We are proud to welcome the first Starbucks in our city, made possible through WalterMart's continued confidence in Cabuyao. This development sends a strong message that Cabuyao is ready for more investors, more business opportunities, more livelihood for our people, and greater progress for our city," Mayor Hain shared.

The opening of Starbucks WalterMart Cabuyao reflects the shared vision of WalterMart and Starbucks in creating vibrant community spaces where people can connect, relax, and enjoy world-class products and service close to home.

As WalterMart continues to strengthen its role as the community's preferred shopping destination, the addition of Starbucks further enhances the overall mall experience, giving Cabuyao residents another reason to gather, celebrate, and enjoy moments together—one cup at a time. As Starbucks says, "It's not just coffee, it's Starbucks!"

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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 Aragonos," 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 ser-

vice 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 Aragonos 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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Pormal nang inihain ni Congressman Loreto "Amben" S. Amante ng Ikatlong Distrito ng Laguna sa Kamara de Representantes ang House Bill No. 10364, na naglalayong itaas ang income tax exemption upang mas maraming manggagawang Pilipino ang makinabang sa mas mababang pasanin sa buwis.

Ayon sa panukala, target nitong mapalawak ang saklaw ng mga empleyadong hindi na sasailalim sa pagbabayad ng income tax, partikular



Bill No. 10364 sa mga susunod na sesyon bilang bahagi ng legislative agenda.

(Don Calixto Martinez) (Photo courtesy: Cong. Amben Amante Updates)

EDITORIAL:

ISANG IGOROT NA MANDIRIGMA NA IPINANGANAK SA KAPANGAN, BENGUET, SI ERNESTO LUIS AY NAMUHAY NG ISANG PAMBIHIRANG BUHAY NG PAGLILINGKOD NA SUMAKLAW SA IBA'T IBANG DIGMAAN.

Nang bombahin ng mga Hapones ang Camp John Hay noong Disyembre 1941, si Luis ay isang mag-aaral pa lamang sa elementarya. Lumikas ang kanyang pamilya patungong Kapangan, kung saan siya ay unang nagboluntaryo bilang isang batang mensahero (courier). Binabagtas niya ang mga landas sa bundok nang nakaapak upang palihim na maghatid ng pagkain at mga kagamitan sa mga gerilyang nagtatago sa Camp Shangri-La (ang himpilan ng B Company).

Noong Mayo 2, 1944, sa edad na 17, opisyal siyang nagpalista sa B Company, 66th Infantry Regiment. Nang mabalitaan ang pagbabalik ni Heneral Douglas MacArthur, si Luis at ang kanyang mga kasamang mandirigma ay palihim na naglakad patungong La Union upang magbuhat ng mga armas, radyo, at mga b@la pabalik sa kabundukan. Ikinabit sa 130th Infantry Regiment ng US Army, ang yunit ni Luis ay nakipaglaban paakyat mula Naguilian upang palayain ang Lungsod ng Baguio.

Ang kanyang yunit ay kabilang sa mga kauna-unahang nakatapak sa loob ng Baguio Cathedral, kung saan sinalubong sila ng libo-libong lokal na bakwit nang may masigabong pagdiriwang. "Ang motto ng 66th Infantry Division ay 'Nowhere

yet Everywhere' (Wala Saanman ngunit Nasa Lahat ng Dako) — isang patunay sa kanilang kahusayan sa mga taktikang hit-and-run na gerilya sa mabundok at mabatong lupain ng Cordillera."

Matapos ang World War II, naging hadlang ang kahirapan sa buhay kaya hindi niya natapos ang kanyang pag-aaral sa mataas na paaralan. Nang makakita ng isang trak ng rekrutment ng hukbo na may slogan na "Join the Army and See the World" (Sumali sa Hukbo at Libutin ang Mundo), muli siyang nagpalista. Nagboluntaryo siya para sa Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) at sumali sa 14th Battalion Combat Team upang lumaban kasama ang mga puwersa ng United Nations hanggang sa magkaroon ng armistice (kasunduan sa pagtigil ng put'kan) noong 1953.

Pagkauwi sa Pilipinas, lumipat siya sa Philippine Constabulary (Konstabularyo ng Pilipinas) at tapat na naglingkod hanggang sa kanyang mandatoryong pagreretiro noong 1972. Si Ernesto Luis ay nananatiling isang buhay na simbolo ng katapangan ng mga Cordilleran. Noong Abril 2026, sa edad na 99, personal siyang dumalo sa ika-81 na pagdiriwang ng Baguio Liberation Day sa Veterans Park—nakatayo nang matuwid bilang ang huling natitirang saksing nakakita sa kagitingan ng mga mandirigmang Igorot na nagbawi sa kabundukan.

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DOE forms joint task force to remove VAT, system loss charges from electricity bills



MANILA, Philippines — The Department of Energy (DOE) has created an inter-agency Joint Task Force alongside key power sector regulators and distributors to carry out the president's directive to eliminate system loss charges and their corresponding Value-Added Tax (VAT) from monthly electric bills.

Narekoher ng QCPD ang Nawawalang Pampasaherong Bus sa Follow-up Operation

QUEZON CITY — Matagumpay na narekoher ng Quezon City Police District (QCPD) ang isang pampasaherong bus na iniulat na hindi na ibinalik ng driver at konduktor nito matapos ang isinagawang follow-up operation sa Rodriguez, Rizal. Sa ulat ng QCPD sa pamumuno ni PBGen.

Randy Glenn Silvio, ang insidente ay nagugat sa umano'y paglabag sa tiwala ng driver na kinilalang si alias "David" ng Cainta, Rizal at ng konduktor na si alias "Argel" ng San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal, na kapwa nahaharap ngayon sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10883 o ang New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016.

Ayon sa imbestigasyon, nagtungo noong Hulyo 9 sa District Anti-Carnapping Unit (DACU) ang operator ng bus upang iulat na hindi naibalik sa kanya ang isang 2011 Daewoo BH115E na may plakang UVL-197, sa kabila ng paulit-ulit na panawagan sa mga responsable. Nabatid din ng operator na namatao umano ang naturang sasakyan sa Rodriguez, Rizal kaya agad siyang humingi ng tulong sa pulisya para sa agarang pagbawi nito. Agad namang nagsagawa ng follow-up operation ang mga operatiba ng DACU sa pangunguna ni PLT-COL Hector Ortencio sa Barangay San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal.

Sa kanilang paghahanap, natagpuan ang naturang bus na nakapark sa loob ng isang dumpsite. Batay sa salaysay ng isang testigo, isang hindi nakikilalang lalaki ang nagparada ng bus sa lugar noong Hunyo 2026 at hindi na muling bumalik. Kalaunan ay positibong kinilala ng operator ang sasakyan bilang siya ring iniulat na nawawala. Nagsampa na ng kasong paglabag sa New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016 ang mga awtoridad laban sa dalawang suspek sa Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

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a statement on Thursday, July 30, the newly formed body unites the DOE, the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the National Electrification Administration (NEA), and electric cooperatives nationwide. "The Joint Task Force will coordinate the technical, regulatory, and legislative work needed to advance the Administration's commitment to fairer electricity rates, stronger consumer protection, and a more efficient power sector," the DOE said.

The formation of the task force follows President Marcos Jr.'s Fifth State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 27, where he urged the Congress to legislate on laws to amend the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (EPIRA) and called on to scrap the "system loss" being charged by the power concessionaires.

In response, the DOE said that it convened meetings with the ERC and the Manila Electric Company (MERALCO) to outline the regulatory framework and necessary policy adjustments. "The Department is likewise engaging other private distribution utilities to ensure that the reforms focus on delivering meaningful savings for consumers and operationally efficient electricity services," the DOE.

THROUGH THE JOINT TASK FORCE, THE DOE ADDED THAT THE AGENCIES WILL SUBMIT TECHNICAL RECOMMENDATIONS TO HELP BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS CRAFT

These initiatives reinforce the Administration's objective of lowering electricity costs while building a stronger and more efficient power system for the future," the DOE said. (Ian Laqui - Philstar.com)

higit pang palakasin ang kaalaman ng mamamayan tungkol sa kahalagahan ng soberanya, karapatang pandagat, pambansang seguridad, at pangangalaga sa yamang-dagat. Inaasahan ding magsisilbing daan ang paggunita sa Hulyo 12 upang maisulong ang mga gawaing pang-edukasyon at makabayon na magpapalalim sa pagmamahal sa bayan at pag-unawa sa pambansang interes. Sa pamamagitan ng ordinansang ito, ipinapakita ng Lalawigan ng Quezon ang pakikisa sa patuloy na pagtataguyod ng karapatan at soberanya ng Pilipinas sa West Philippine Sea. (Nelson Dimapilis)

Dizon assures accountability flood projects

MANILA — Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon assured Davao City 1st District Rep. Paolo Duterte of a thorough investigation into flood control projects in Davao City and a 2023 master plan that has yet to be implemented.

Dizon on Wednesday visited areas in the city affected by recent flooding and expressed frustration over what he described as deficiencies in a dike built to

enabling legislation in amending the EPIRA. "Beyond legislative reforms, the DOE, together with the ERC, NEA, electric cooperatives, and industry stakeholders is also advancing complementary measures to reduce system losses at their source through improved operational efficiency, strengthened enforcement against electricity theft, and the modernization of distribution networks.

These initiatives reinforce the Administration's objective of lowering electricity costs while building a stronger and more efficient power system for the future," the DOE said. (Ian Laqui - Philstar.com)



Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

Akay sa Pag-asa ng mga Batang may Autism

Sa lipunang matagal nang kulang ang mga programang tunay na nakatuon sa mga batang may Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), isang hakbang na nagbibigay ng pag-asa ang patuloy na pagpapatupad ng "Akay ni Gob sa May Autism" ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Laguna sa pangunguna ni Governor Sol Aragonese.

Noong Hulyo 9, umabot ang pagpaparehistro ng programa sa Ikalawang Distrito ng Laguna sa Hectan Extension Office sa Calamba City sa pangangasiwa ng Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO). Ngunit higit pa sa simpleng registration ang naging kabuluhan ng aktibidad. Ito ay naging pagkakataon upang maringing ang mga tinig ng mga magulang, lolo't lola, at tagapag-alaga na araw-araw na humaharap sa hamon ng pag-aaruga sa kanilang mga anak at apo na may autism. Isa sa mga kapansin-pansing mensahe ng mga benepisaryo ay ang matagal nilang paghihintay sa isang programang tunay na kumikilala sa kanilang kalagayan.

Marami ang nag-aakalang ang tulong ay para lamang sa mga batang kasalukuyang sumasailalim sa therapy. Kaya naman malaking ginhawa ang malaman nilang maaari rin silang maging bahagi ng programa kahit hindi na aktibong nagpapagamot ang kanilang anak. Masasalamain sa kanilang mga pahayag ang katotohanang hindi lamang pinansiyal ang kanilang pangangailangan. Ang pagpapalaki ng isang batang may autism ay nangangailangan ng matinding pasensya, sapat na kaalaman, at malaking gastusin. Para sa maraming pamilya, bawat tulong na kanilang natatanggap ay nagbibigay ng kaunting ginhawa sa mabigat na responsibilidad na kanilang pasan.

Lalong naging makahulugan ang pahayag ng isang lola na nagsabing kailangang-kailangan ng kanyang apo ang naturang suporta. Ipinakitita nito na hindi lamang mga magulang ang nakikipaglaban para sa kapakanan ng mga batang may autism. Marami ring lola, lola, at iba pang kamag-anak ang nagsisilbing pangunahing tagapag-alaga at umaasa rin sa tulong ng pamahalaan. Higit sa lahat, naging malinaw ang panawagan ng ilang magulang na sana'y hindi lamang tulong pinansiyal ang maging tugon ng pamahalaan. Hangad nilang magkaroon sa lalawigan ng sariling occupational at behavioral therapy facilities upang hindi na sila mapiliitang bumiyahang malayo at ngamastos nang malaki para lamang mabigyan ng kinakailangang serbisyo ang kanilang mga anak.

Ang ganitong mga mungkahi ay nagpapakita na ang usapin ng autism ay hindi lamang tungkol sa ayuda. Ito ay tungkol sa pagkakaroon ng isang komprehensibong sistemang nagbibigay ng pantay na oportunidad sa bawat batang may espesyal na pangangailangan. Sa pagpapatuloy ng "Akay ni Gob sa May Autism," nabibigyan ng pag-asa ang maraming pamilyang matagal nang naghahangad na mapansin ang kanilang kalagayan. Ang tunay na tagumpay ng programa ay hindi lamang masusukat sa dami ng mga nairehistro, kundi sa lawak ng serbisyong maihahatid at sa kalidad ng buhay na maibibigay sa mga batang may autism. Sa huli, ang isang lipunang may malasakit ay nasusukat sa paraan ng pag-aaruga nito sa mga pinakamahirang sektor. At kung ang bawat batang may autism ay mabibigyan ng sapat na suporta, pagkakataon, at pag-unawa, mas magiging makatarungan at mas makatao ang kinabukasan para sa lahat.

Be still
and know
PSALM 46:10

EXPLICIT

DALAWANG MOST WANTED PERSONS, TIMBOG SA MAGKAHIWALAY NA MANHUNT NG RIZAL

Dalawang Most Wanted Persons ang nasakote sa magkahiwalay na operasyon ng mga operatiba ng Binangonan Municipal Police Station (MPS) at Taytay MPS noong Hulyo 27, 2026, bilang bahagi ng pinaigting na kampanya ng Rizal Police Provincial Office (Rizal PPO) laban sa mga nagtatagong akusado. Bandang 2:50 ng hapon nang maaresto sa Brgy. Batingan, Binangonan si alyas "Jhong," na nakatala bilang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person. Inaresto siya sa bisa ng

Madelaine Go



warrant of arrest kaugnay ng kasong Acts of Lasciviousness, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱200,000. Sa hiwalay namang operasyon, bandang 5:10 ng hapon, nakapig sa Brgy. Sta. Ana, Taytay si alyas "Francis," isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person. Nahaharap siya sa kasong Estafa at inaresto sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 114, Bacor, Cavite. Ayon sa pulisya, maayos na ipinaalam sa dalawang akusado ang kanilang mga karapatan matapos ang pag-aresto. Kasalukuyan silang nasa

na hindi titigil ang kanilang tanggapan sa pagtugis sa mga wanted na personalidad. "Hindi titigil ang Rizal PPO sa paghahanap at pag-aresto sa mga wanted na personalidad. Ang bawat matagumpay na operasyon ay patunay ng ating matatag na paninindigan na pairalin ang batas at tiyaking mananatag ang sinumang umiwas sa hustisya. Patuloy naming

paigtingin ang aming kampanya upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng bawat mamamayan sa lalawigan ng Rizal," ani Barber. Samantala, muling nanawagan ang Rizal PPO sa publiko na makipagtulungan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng importasyon na makatutulong sa pagdakip sa iba pang mga wanted na indibidwal, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap na mapanatili ang isang ligtas at mapayapang komunidad.

PUBLISHER CORNER

CHIZ SEEKS FDA OVERHAUL TO BETTER PROTECT CONSUMERS



Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero has filed a measure proposing to overhaul the country's product regulatory system by transferring several functions of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to other government agencies better aligned with the nature and risks of the products they oversee. In filing Senate Bill No. 2310 bill, Escudero said his proposed reform aims to streamline government regulation, reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks, and strengthen public health and consumer protection through a science based, risk informed framework across agencies.

He also said the measure addresses long standing overlaps and delays that affect both consumers and businesses. "Product regulation efficiency is critical for promoting public health and safety, and for protecting consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products," Escudero said in the bill's explanatory note. "Through the establishment and enforcement of product standards and other regulatory measures, the government addresses matters that cannot reasonably be expected of individual consumers, such as verifying product quality, (and) ensuring compliance with technical and manufacturing standards," he stressed.

Under the proposed "Product Regulatory System Reform Act," the regulation of raw and unprocessed food products shall be transferred to the Department of Agriculture (DA), while processed food, cosmetics, and other consumer goods shall fall under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Other products could likewise be reassigned to specialized agencies depending on their risk profile and statutory mandates. Escudero emphasized that the realignment seeks to ensure that regulatory functions are exercised by agencies with the appropriate technical expertise and institutional capacity.

The measure also mandates inter agency coordination to avoid duplication and improve public service delivery. He underscored the urgency of updating the country's regulatory framework, citing "rapid technological advancements, increasing complexity of products, evolution of local and global markets, and the emergence of public health risks" as reasons for adopting a more responsive system. To ensure continuity of service, the bill provides transitory provisions allowing existing permits, registrations, and authorizations to remain valid until expiration.

Pending applications and enforcement actions will be completed by the agency to which the relevant function is transferred. The Bicolano senator said the proposed reforms aim to build "a coherent, adaptive, and efficient regulatory system that protects public health and safety and consumer welfare" while encouraging innovation and investment.

PEACE



Enchanted Kingdom gifts Filipinos with magic, fun, and hope at Eldar's Birthday Bash

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, brought Filipino families and communities together for an enchanting and uplifting celebration of its iconic Storyverse character at Eldar's Birthday Bash on July 25.

This signature event officially launched this quarter's Love Saribuhay campaign, a precursor to EK's 31st anniversary celebration in October and the introduction of even more educational and immersive experiences at AGILA The EKsperience: SARIBUHAY. This also coincided with the park's soft opening over 30 years ago.

Through this year's festivities, Eldar's

Birthday Bash showcased how EK transforms every personal milestone into a magical celebration through themed setups, fun games, captivating performances, and appearances by its Storyverse characters, with the Park serving as the enchanting backdrop for these unforgettable moments.

Eldar the Wizard served as the main character of the magical EK Storyverse which brought fun and hope to Filipinos inside and outside the Park ever since it opened in 1995.

Guests were welcomed into the festivities on the morning of July 25 as the Park opened with a live band and dance performance of the 'I Love EK'

song at the entrance and Victoria Park.

Later in the afternoon, the event kicked off with Eldar's Birthday Parade, featuring signature EK music performed by the Muntinlupa Black Diamonds marching band, together with the EK Storyverse characters and some of Eldar's friends from beyond the Park's magical gates. The lively parade then led guests from different themed zones to the Spaceport Grounds where the main birthday festivities were held.

Everyone was treated to a lineup of guest performances and spectacular shows that paid an enchanting tribute to Eldar, featuring an energetic dance showdown by

invited mascots of brand partners, Eldar's Surprise Show with all of EK's Storyverse characters and Eldar's Collection Fashion Show which showcased attendees dressed in their best Eldar look or in EK-inspired outfits.

Kids and the young-at-heart had the chance to get to know more about the jolly and wise wizard while getting enchanting giveaways through trivia and games. The iconic wizard also extended the celebration to his friends from the Women and Children Crisis Center, a social welfare facility in Santa Rosa, who were welcomed as special guests at the event.

Eldar's Birthday Bash was hosted by mem-

bers of EK's very own P-pop girl group, SMS, Nina and Zyrene, and was capped off with the Sky Wizardry Fireworks Display in the evening.

Earlier this July, Eldar notably brought his birthday celebration closer to the elderly and children across Laguna through visits to community welfare centers and schools, including Bahay ni Maria Home for the Abandoned Elderly and Children with Special Needs, Ang Bahay Parola, and Southville IV Elementary School, through which he shared treats, gifts, and a meet-and-greet with the beneficiaries.

EK also collaborated with Universal Robina Corporation (URC) for Eldar's Enchanted Kind-

ness, an in-park interactive booth which featured fun activities where guests can enjoy and score snack packs. Continuing his birthday celebration, Eldar will spread the magic further through special visits and appearances at various partner brands and institutions across South Luzon this August.

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.

Kampo ni VP Sara, Iginiit na Depensibong Tugon ang Kontrobersyal na Pahayag noong 2024

Iginiit ng kampo ni Vice President Sara Duterte sa nagpapatuloy na impeachment trial na may konteksto at dahilan ang naging kontrobersyal niyang pahayag noong 2024 na may kinalaman kina Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, at dating House Speaker Martin Romualdez. Ayon kay Atty. Mark Vinluan, isa sa mga abogado ng depensa, ang naturang pahayag ay hindi umano pagbabanta kundi isang reaksiyon sa sinasabing "Operation Romanov"—isang umano'y plano na naglalayong ipahamak si Vice President Duterte at ang kanyang buong pamilya. Ipinaliwanag ng depensa na nagsalita umano ang Bise Presidente upang ipagtanggol

ang kanyang sarili at ang kanyang pamilya laban sa mga umano'y banta sa kanilang seguridad.

Ayon kay Vinluan, naging target umano si Duterte ng hindi awtorisadong intelligence at surveillance operations, kabilang ang umano'y pag-profile sa kanyang mga tirahan sa Davao at Maynila, pagtanggap sa ilan niyang security personnel, at ang umano'y pagbibigay ng kanyang iskedyl sa isang opisyal na aktibidad sa Naga City, na nagdulot umano ng matinding pangamba sa kanyang kaligtasan. Samantala, sinabi ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) na sinubukan nitong imbestigahan ang sinasabing "Operation Romanov."

Ayon kay NBI Senior Agent Mark Calilung, inimbitahan nila sina Vice President Duterte at Princess Maui upang magbigay ng karagandang impormasyon tungkol sa umano'y banta, subalit hindi umano dumalo ang dalawa. Nanindigan ang NBI na bukas itong magsagawa ng masusing imbestigasyon sa anumang ulat ng banta sa buhay ng sinumang opisyal ng pamahalaan, ngunit kinakailangan umano ang pakikipagtulungan ng mga may direktang kaalaman sa naturang alegasyon. Ang pangalang "Romanov" ay hango sa angkan ng huling maharlika ng pamilya ng Russia na pinaslang noong 1918 kasama ang kanilang mga anak matapos ang Bolshevik Revolution.

BARANGAY UNO Pinangarangalan bilang TOP 1 Highly Commercialized Barangay



Sa 3rd MSME Summit ginanap sa Rizal Coliseum Calamba ay isang patunay ng patuloy na pag-unlad, mahusay na pamamahala, at masiglang ekonomiya ng ating komunidad. Ipinapakita nito ang bunga ng sama-samang pagsisikap ng mga opisyal ng barangay, mga negosyante, at bawat



mamamayan sa pagtataguyod ng kaayusan, paglago ng kabuhayan, at de-kalidad na serbisyo publiko.

Salamat po Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal at sa bumubuo ng MSME mula po sa ating Kapitán Marcelino Tuballas at Sanggunian Barangay Uno sa Pagkilala at Ka-

rangalan sa bawat mamamayan at Barangay.

Para po sa mga Taga-BARANGAY UNO ang Parangal na ito sa lahat po ng patuloy na Pakikiisa at Suporta para sa ika-gaganda at ika-uunlad ng ating Barangay, Salamat po !!! (Nelson Dimapiliis)

FROM PAGE 1

in Barangays Sampaloc IV and Victoria Reyes, benefiting approximately 16,000 households.

Upon completion, residents in these communities are expected to experience improved water pressure and increased water availability of up to 12 to 24 hours daily, highlighting PrimeWater's continued investment in strengthening water infrastructure and service delivery despite its transition to the Hiraya Water brand.

flects the company's commitment to restoring customer confidence through concrete improvements.

"Today is more than the beginning of an infrastructure project. It marks the beginning of restoring public trust, not through words alone, but through completed projects and services that every resident can genuinely experience," Santamarina said.

The P600-million investment covers water source development, transmission and distribu-

tion upgrades, non-revenue water reduction initiatives, large-scale meter replacement, and operational enhancements designed to improve service across Dasmariñas City. Among the flagship projects is the Non-Revenue Water Reduction and Total Pipe Replacement Program, which will replace 24 kilometers of aging pipelines and modernize the city's water distribution network. The initial phase includes the replacement of nine kilometers of pipelines



The Global Talent Pipeline and Regulatory Evolution of Philippine Nuclear Energy

Manila is executing a deliberate strategy to build a specialized nuclear workforce before its first commercial reactors ever break ground. The selection of five Philippine Science High School students to represent the country at the 3rd International Nuclear Science Olympiad in Saudi Arabia underscores this approach. Supported by the Department of Science and Technology Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, this state-funded talent pipeline addresses a critical domestic gap the near total absence of local nuclear engineering expertise.

This focus on youth STEM recruitment gained momentum from earlier global success. In the 2024 inaugural edition held in Clark, Pampanga, a Filipino student achieved the highest overall score worldwide, earning the title of Nuclear Science Ambassador from the In-

ternational Atomic Energy Agency. That milestone prompted the institute to establish the permanent Philippine Nuclear Science Olympiad to formalize talent identification across the country. Initial calls drew more than 500 applicants, forcing organizers to expand testing centers beyond Metro Manila including facilities at Mindanao State University Iligan Institute of Technology to reach high performers in the regions.

A significant timing gap however separates human capital development from actual energy infrastructure. In his State of the Nation Address, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reaffirmed his policy to integrate nuclear power into the national energy mix to bring down electricity costs. Despite this clear direction, energy planners confirm no commercial nuclear generation will come online within the

current administration. According to the Department of Energy, technical requirements safety licensing and adjustments to the Philippine Grid Code place the earliest realistic timeline for actual capacity injection between 2035 and 2038.

This creates a projected nine to twelve year window where trained specialists may lack immediate domestic deployment opportunities. The Science Education Institute provides generous support covering full tuition book allowances and monthly stipends for these scholars. Yet without active domestic facilities the system faces a structural period where highly skilled graduates risk underemployment or career stagnation before local projects are ready to hire them.

Private sector partners are stepping in to bridge this gap. Through

the Filipino Scholars and Interns on Nuclear Engineering program Meralco funds advanced degrees at premier institutions overseas including Ontario Tech University in Canada and Université Paris Saclay in France. This corporate effort creates career pathways that keep talent within the domestic energy sector working on planning and design even while no physical reactors exist to operate.

Simultaneously the state is working to embed nuclear education within the local university system. The University of the Philippines Diliman College of Engineering is reviewing plans to restore graduate level nuclear studies which are currently offered as introductory coursework under its energy engineering curriculum. Mapúa University has also introduced specialized tracks within its energy engineering program.

These developments aim to move the field from exclusive scholarship cohorts toward standard recognized engineering disciplines.

The most serious historic bottleneck however lay in regulation. To resolve this the government enacted Republic Act No. 12305 the Philippine National Nuclear Energy Safety Act officially establishing the Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority as an independent quasi judicial regulator. The authority has absorbed the regulatory functions of the Nuclear Research Institute completely separating safety enforcement from scientific promotion to meet strict international standards. With this dedicated legal framework now active state energy planners have shifted their focus to the vital work of finalizing safety guidelines site selection protocols and ca-

capacity auction rules.

This ongoing institutional rollout directly impacts the risk of losing trained professionals abroad. Although state scholars are bound by a service requirement equal to the duration of their financial support this obligation is temporary. Once those contracts end the wide disparity between local government salaries and compensation offered by expanding nuclear programs in the United Arab Emirates Europe and North America creates a powerful incentive to leave.

To build public acceptance the government has also launched extensive community outreach. The Department of Energy and the Philippine Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority conduct the Nuclear Energy Awareness Training program a series of seminars targeting public school science teachers regional engineers and community leaders.

CHIZ SEEKS TO INSTITUTIONALIZE BAN ON GAMBLING ADS, SPONSORSHIPS TO CURB ADDICTION

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero has proposed a nationwide ban on gambling-related advertisements and sponsorships to curb excessive and irresponsible gambling behavior while protecting minors and other vulnerable groups.

Escudero said the measure mirrors the country's earlier approach to the tobacco industry under Republic Act 9211, or the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003, which imposed sweeping restrictions on advertising to safeguard public health.

"It's about time that we regulate the gambling industry the same way we regulated tobacco two decades ago," he said upon filing of Senate Bill No. 2347, noting that both sectors pose significant risks when promotions become pervasive and youth targeted.

RA 9211, which Escudero supported during his tenure in the House of Representatives, prohibited tobacco advertising across print, broadcast, electronic, and outdoor media and barred

the use of celebrity endorsements and branded placements in entertainment content, which proved to be effective in reducing undue exposure among minors and non-adult smokers.

Escudero's SB 2347 seeks to apply a similar standard to gambling promotions by banning advertisements on television, radio, print, online, and social media platforms, including celebrity endorsements and influencer campaigns. The bill also calls for responsible gambling advisories in authorized consumer communications to remind the public of the risks of compulsive gaming.

The senator also cited the recent initiative of the Ad Standards Council (ASC), which voluntarily issued a self-regulation circular requiring its members to ban gambling imagery and paraphernalia across all media platforms.

"My bill shall institutionalize this effort by placing the restrictions under a national legal framework, ensuring uniform enforcement and prevent-

ing gaps in regulation," he stressed.

While the gambling industry contributes significantly to government revenues, employment, and tourism, "it has likewise fueled advertisements, promotions, sponsorships, marketing, and other analogous consumer communications that are becoming increasingly pervasive, sophisticated, and targeted," Escudero said.

The veteran legislator warned that the growing visibility of gambling-related services "presents significant public mental and physical well-being and socioeconomic concerns, particularly with respect to undue exposure, excessive, compulsive, and irresponsible gambling behavior."

In the bill's explanatory note, the senator cited the rapid expansion of online and digital gaming platforms, with the Philippine gambling industry recording some P396.13 billion in gross gaming revenues for Fiscal Year 2025, as evidence of its record-break-

ing growth.

He said the measure aims to balance economic gains with social responsibility, while holding gambling operators and advertisers to higher ethical standards.

To ensure orderly implementation, SB 2347 provides a one-year transition period upon the law's passage for gambling operators and advertisers to phase out existing materials and align their operations with forthcoming regulations, an approach will allow agencies and stakeholders to adjust compliance mechanisms before full enforcement takes effect, minimizing disruption while strengthening oversight, Escudero said.

Violations of the advertising ban will carry escalating penalties: a fine of up to P200,000 or imprisonment of up to one year for the first offense; P300,000 or up to two years for the second; and P500,000 or up to three years for the third, along with revocation of business permits or licenses.

Meanwhile, corporate officers and foreign nationals found liable will



face corresponding sanctions, including deportation.

The Bicolano senator said the imposition of penalties is "only to ensure its effective implementation," underscoring that deterrence is essential to protect public welfare and uphold the integrity of the law.

The bill also mandates an education and awareness campaign to promote responsible gambling and inform the public about available mental-health support

and consumer protection programs. Government agencies will be tasked to develop sustained information drives that highlight the risks of compulsive gaming and encourage informed decision-making among players.

Escudero said the measure ultimately seeks to "foster a more responsible gaming environment, protect minors and vulnerable persons, promote informed consumer choice, and advance public interest." (Nelson Dimapiliis)

Hiraya...

MANILA, Philippines — PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp., now operating as Hiraya Water Corp., has rolled out a P600-million capital expenditure program to rehabilitate and expand the water distribution system in Dasmariñas City, Cavite, reinforcing the company's long-term commitment to improving water services for residents.

Formerly known as PrimeWater Infrastructure Corp., the company recently received approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to

officially adopt the name Hiraya Water Corp. following its acquisition by Crystal Bridges Holdings Corp. While carrying a new corporate identity, the company said it remains focused on delivering reliable, sustainable, and efficient water services across its joint venture areas.

The investment program in Dasmariñas marks the first major infrastructure initiative following the formal turnover of operations and the issuance of the company's business permit earlier this year.

On July 29,

PrimeWater—now Hiraya Water—and the Dasmariñas Water District broke ground on the first phase of a long-term infrastructure development program. The initiative includes the development of new water sources, replacement of aging pipelines, upgrades to transmission and distribution facilities, and system-wide operational improvements aimed at enhancing water service reliability.

Company President Jose Paulino Santamarina emphasized that the infrastructure rollout re-