

Rain or Shine, Calamba’s Service Continues: Social Pension, Flu Vaccination and Rice Aid Reach Majada In Communities

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — Essential government services continued to reach residents of Barangays Majada In and GK Majada in Barangay Canlubang despite the persistent rains, as the Calamba City government delivered assistance aimed at supporting senior citizens and vulnerable households.

Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal led the distribution of Social Pension to senior citizens in Majada In, providing financial assistance to help address their daily needs.

The activity was also paired with a flu vaccination drive, giving senior citizens additional protection against seasonal illnesses amid several days of rainy weather.

“Rain or shine, tuloy and serbisyo para sa



ating mga kababayan sa Majada In at GK Majada sa Barangay Canlubang.”

” Ipinamahagi natin ang Social Pension para sa ating mga mi-namahal na Senior Citizens sa Majada In. At dahil ilang araw na rin tayong inuulan, sinabayan na rin natin ito ng Flu Vaccination upang dagdag-proteksyon laban sa sakit.”

Meanwhile, households at GK Majada In also received rice assistance, with every household provided with rice to help ease the impact of rising daily expenses.

“Samantala, sa GK Majada In, namahagi rin tayo ng bigas bawat household.”

The initiatives underscore the city government’s continued focus on bringing social protection, health services and basic assistance directly to communities, particularly during challenging weather conditions.

“Anuman ang panahon, basta para sa Calambeño, tuloy ang serbisyo.” (Edjun Mariposque)



SMC’s Backyard Bukid farms expand to 9 sites, including first in Visayas and an all-women farm in Luzon

Established in 2020 as SMC’s pilot urban farming project, the Backyard Bukid at the SMC Head Office Compound continues to provide a healthy harvest for its volunteer employee-farmers.

San Miguel Corp.’s Backyard Bukid initiative has expanded to nine sites nationwide, including its first in the Visayas, as the concept grows beyond its original urban farming model to support food security and supplemental livelihoods in local communities.

The program was launched in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to provide food for utility and security personnel stranded by lockdowns at San Miguel’s headquarters in Mandaluyong City. It has since evolved into a community-based organic farming program implemented in several areas through San Miguel Foundation Inc. (SMFI).

Its newest site was launched earlier this year by San Miguel Foods (SMF) at the Antipolo Elementary School in Albuera, Leyte, where a Magnolia Poultry Processing Plant is located, setting the record as SMC’s first-ever



Backyard Bukid in the Visayas. It now operates as a support program for health, nutrition and livelihood, with 25 communi-



Backyard Bukid and what we’ve learned in making our own organic inputs. We really developed a strong sense of community, which is why our farm has been very productive,” Jonathan Dimailig, a community farmer, said at the harvesting ceremony that launched the new farm recently.

In March, another Backyard Bukid by San Miguel Foods was launched at the Soyang Elementary School in Echague, Isabela, together with SEED Philippines — an institutional partner that has been training SMC’s volunteers in organic farming.

Uniquely, this expansion in Northern Luzon enlisted an all-women farming group, thereby strengthening SMC’s support for women empowerment on the occasion of Women’s Month.

“We’re excited to see how this farm will continue to grow in Isabela under its all-female team. More than managing a source of food for their families, their taking charge of this livelihood project is a strong statement for the role of women not just in the family but in the community,” said SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang.

These two new farming sites add up to the seven active SMC Backyard Bukid farms located at the SMC Head Office

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Alfonso LGU assures inclusive rice aid following State of Calamity declaration

Mayor Ross Rizal Continues Youth Support as 1,100 SPES Beneficiaries Get Their Wages

A total of 1,100 student beneficiaries have received their wages under the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) during the third batch of payout held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City, Laguna.

The payout provides financial assistance to young Calambeños while giving them an opportunity to gain valuable work experience and develop skills that can support their education and future careers.

Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal emphasized the city government’s continued commitment to creating opportunities for the youth through programs that combine employment, learning, and educational support.

“Tuloy-tuloy ang pagbibigay ng oportunidad sa ating mga kabataang Calambeño! Umabot na sa 1,100 SPES beneficiaries ang nakatanggap ng kanilang sahod bilang bahagi ng ikatlong batch ng payout ng Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES).”

He also highlighted the importance of cooperation among stakeholders in making the program possible. “Bunga ito ng ating patuloy na pagtutulungan upang mabigyan ang kabataan ng pagkakataong matuto, makapagtrabaho, at magkaroon ng dagdag na suporta para sa kanilang pag-aaral.”

Rizal underscored the role of young people in the city’s continuing development, adding: “Kabataan ngayon, katuwang sa pag-unlad ng Calamba!”

The latest SPES payout reflects the city’s continuing efforts to help students gain practical employment experience while providing additional financial support for their educational needs. (Edjun Mariposque)



Fire Hits Unisun Shopping Mall in Sta. Cruz, Laguna; Declared Under Control After 4th Alarm

P700M worth of fake top footwear brands seized in Cavite

Crime Rate in CALABARZON Drops 27% as Police Intensify B.E.S.T. Policing Campaign



The crime rate in CALABARZON significantly declined in July 2026, marking an early accomplishment under the leadership of Police Regional Office (PRO) CALABARZON Acting Regional Director Police Brigadier General Dominic Baccay. During a press briefing on Tuesday, August 11, at the PRO4A MPC Hall, Camp Vicente Lim in Mayapa, Calamba City, Laguna, police officials reported that only 225 incidents of eight-focus crimes were recorded in July—27.18 percent lower than the 309 cases reported in June. The decrease came during Baccay’s first month as acting regional director and was attributed in part to the implementation of the B.E.S.T. Policing Framework, which stands for Be Visible, Engage Immediately, Serve Together, and Transform Trust.

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Crime ...

The framework serves as a guide for strengthening police visibility, responding promptly to threats, improving cooperation with communities, and building public trust in law enforcement. Baccay said the framework is aligned with the Focused Agenda of PNP Chief General Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. and the Safer Cities Initiative of Department of the Interior and Local Government Secretary Juanito Victor Remulla. 481 Illegal Firearms Presented Aside from the decline in crime incidents,

PRO CALA-BARZON also highlighted its intensified campaign against loose and illegal firearms. During the briefing, police presented 481 unlicensed firearms that were recovered, confiscated, or voluntarily surrendered or for safe keeping across the region's police provincial offices and units. The figure was 30 percent higher than the number recorded in June, reflecting intensified police operations against the proliferation and use of illegal firearms. Authorities also showcased several vehicles recovered by the Regional Highway Patrol Unit in connection with car-napping and rentangay scams reported in different

parts of CALABARZON.

The recoveries were presented as concrete examples of police efforts to protect motorists and communities from vehicle-related crimes. Recognition for Outstanding Police Units PRO CALA-BARZON also recognized its provincial offices and regional units for their effective and reliable service to communities in June. The recognition underscored the regional police office's effort to strengthen accountability, operational performance, and community-oriented policing. Baccay assured the public that the gains recorded by PRO CALABARZON are the result of sustained cooperation among the police, government agencies, local government units, and communities.

He emphasized that maintaining peace and order requires a collective effort, with police and citizens working toward the common goal of preventing crime and ensuring safer communities across the region. With the continued implementation of the B.E.S.T. Policing Framework, PRO CALA-BARZON aims to sustain the downward trend in crime while strengthening public confidence in the police service. (Edjun Mariposque)



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## Ika-128 Araw ng Tayabas, Ipinagdiwang; Gobernadora Tan, Nanawagan ng Pagkakaisa para sa Mas Maunlad na Quezon



TAYABAS CITY, Quezon — Pinangunahan nina Quezon Governor Angelina "Doktora Helen" D.L. Tan at Tayabas City Mayor Anthony "Kuya Piwa" Abustan Lim ang pagdiriwang ng ika-128

Araw ng Tayabas at Araw ng Kalayaan ng Lalawigan ng Quezon noong Agosto 13, 2026, sa Patio ng Basilika Menor ni San Miguel Arkanghel sa Lung-sod ng Tayabas. Dumalo sa

okasyon ang mga alkalde at kinatawan ng iba't ibang bayan sa lalawigan, mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan at Sangguniang Panlung-sod, gayundin ang mga kinatawan mula sa lokal

at pambansang pamahalaan.

Naging tampok sa pagdiriwang ang mensahe ni Governor Tan tungkol sa kahalagahan ng kalayaan at pagkakaisa sa harap ng mga pagbabago at hamon na kinakaharap ng mga Quezonian.

Ayon kay Tan, ang tunay na kalayaan ay hindi lamang nangangahulugan ng paglaya mula sa tanikala, kundi kakayahang mamuhay nang may dignidad, malasakit sa kapwa at pagpapahalaga sa kultura at kasaysayan. Binigyang-diin din ng gobernador ang hangarin ng pamahalaang panlalawigan na magkaroon ng isang Quezon na "malaya sa sakit, malaya sa kamangmangan, malaya sa gutom, malaya sa

kahirapan" at malaya sa mga hadlang na pumipigil sa pagkamit ng mga pangarap ng bawat mamamayan.

Sinabi niya na ang pakikibaka para sa kalayaan na sinimulan ng mga ninuno noong 1898 ay dapat ipagpatuloy sa pamamagitan ng serbisyong may malasakit, pamahalaang may paninindigan at pagkakaisang nakatuo sa magandang kinabukasan.

"Ang tunay na kalayaan ay hindi lamang nasusukat sa pagkawala sa tanikala. Ito ay nasusukat sa ating kakayahang mamuhay nang may dignidad, sa ating malasakit sa kapwa, sa pagpapanatili at pagpaparangal sa ating kultura at kasaysayan," pahayag ni Tan.

Kabilang sa mga naging panauhin sa pagdiriwang sina UNESCO National Commission of

the Philippines Secretary General Dr. Ivan Anthony Henares at Director Pablo Gabriel Malvar, na nagbahagi rin ng kanilang mga mensahe. Nakiisa rin sa okasyon ang mga miyembro ng Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Tayabas, mga lokal na opisyal at kawani ng pamahalaan.

Matapos ang programa, isinagawa ang salu-salo para sa mga panauhin na tampok ang mga tradisyunal na pagkaing Tayabasin, kabilang ang pinais, ginisang pato-la na may misua, ubod na may tahore at sinungnong tilapia.

Pinangunahan ng City Tourism Office, sa pamumuno ni Tourism Officer Wenda Saberola, ang mga aktibidad para sa pagdiriwang ng ika-128 Araw ng Tayabas. (Aida Dapula)

## CHIZ PROPOSES 5-YEAR TERM FOR BARANGAY, SK LEADERS

Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero has filed Senate Bill No. 2387 to extend barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) terms from four to five years, a move that would also reset their election to November 2028.

Escudero's bill amends Republic Act No. 12232, which currently provides a four year term, and allows incumbent officials to remain in office until 2028 to complete a full term under the proposal, because of the previous two-year extension of their tenure.

In his explanatory note, the Bicolano senator said giving village and youth leaders longer cycle in office would allow them to implement programs more effectively with fewer disruptions, cognizant of the central role of barangay governance in front-line service delivery. "Barangay governance plays a crucial role in the effective delivery of public service, peace and order, and community

development," Escudero wrote.

A longer cycle, he said, would "ensure stability, continuity, and more efficient implementation of local development plans," noting that many barangay projects span multiple years and are hampered by frequent electoral turnover.

The bill also reiterates existing term limit rules: barangay officials may serve up to three consecutive terms, while SK officials may serve only one. Those already on their third consecutive term will be ineligible to run again in the November 2028 elections.

Escudero said aligning barangay terms with medium term planning frameworks would strengthen local institutions and reduce administrative resets caused by short electoral cycles. The shift, he added, is intended to support more coherent development strategies at the community level.

## JA Sports Officially Opens Its Doors to Pickleball Players in Tayabas City



TAYABAS CITY, Quezon — JA Sports officially opened its doors to pickleball players following its grand opening ceremony on August 8, 2026, at the JA Sports Center along Tayabas-Pagbilao

Road in Barangay Mateuna, Tayabas City.

The opening ceremony featured a ribbon-cutting led by Mayor Piwa Lim, together with the owners and shareholders of JA Sports. Rev.

Fr. Dale Barreto Ko officiated the blessing of the JA Sports pickleball courts.

The ceremonial toss on each of the four pickleball courts was led by the families of Rona-belle and Arnel Casiño;

Ely and Florence Banad; Martin vand Honey Fanson; and Pickled Minds Social Club founders Yacov Valle and Antonia Jessica Cabrera.

Among the special guests who attended the ceremony were Mayor Piwa Lim and his wife, Mrs. Minda Lim, as well as Barangay Chairpersons Nelson Cablaida of Ma-teuna and Flora Esmiller of San Diego Zone-3.

The opening of JA Sports provides pickleball enthusiasts in Tayabas City and nearby communities with a new venue for recreation, training, competition, and social interaction as the sport continues to gain popularity in the area. *PR*

countable under the law," Nartatez said.

All seized items were turned over to the BOC for documentation and proper disposition.

During the inspection, Customs operatives found footwear bearing trademarks such as Adidas, On Cloud, New Balance, Asics, Crocs, Nike, Jordan, Puma, Converse, Skechers and Louis Vuitton. ~~Continued on page 6~~





# 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 customers 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!". PR

# Mekeni Brings Filipino Flavor and Innovation to WOFEX 2026

MANILA, Philippines — Homegrown Filipino food brand Mekeni Food Corporation strengthened its commitment to bringing quality Filipino-made products closer to consumers and business partners as it participated in the recently concluded World Food Expo (WOFEX) 2026 at the World Trade Center Manila.

Held from July 29 to August 1, WOFEX 2026 brought together food manufacturers, distributors, retailers, foodservice professionals, and industry stakeholders, providing a platform for brands to

showcase their products and connect with potential business partners.

Mekeni made its presence felt throughout the four-day exhibition, featuring its diverse portfolio of well-loved products designed for Filipino families and foodservice businesses.

Among the products highlighted at the Mekeni booth were its growing sausage portfolio, including the Mekeni Specials 4Cheese Sausage, Hungarian Sausage with Cheese, and Breakfast Sausage, offering consumers a variety of flavors and options for everyday



meals and occasions.

Beyond product showcasing, the event also provided Mekeni an opportunity

to engage directly with consumers, retailers, distributors, and industry partners, reinforcing the company's position as a homegrown Filipino brand with a growing presence in both domestic and international markets.

"WOFEX gives us a valuable opportunity to connect with our consumers and partners while showcasing the quality, innovation, and Filipino pride that continue to define Mekeni," said Pruds Garcia, Mekeni President.

The company's participation also reflects its continuing efforts to expand its market presence, strengthen business partnerships, and introduce its products to more consumers. **cont. on page 3**



## Pointer

Pau Dela Cruz

### Laguna PIO Strengthens Government Communication Through Creative Content Seminar

The Laguna Public Information Office (PIO) has intensified efforts to strengthen government communication through a seminar aimed at improving the quality, accuracy and consistency of information released through official social media platforms.

Led by PIO Head Danilo Lucas, the "Guidelines on Creative Content Creation" seminar was held Friday, August 14, at the PHO Training Room of the Provincial Capitol Compound.

The activity was conducted in coordination with the Provincial Human Resource Management Office (PHRMO) and the Management Systems Information Office (MSIO), with the support of the Provincial Government of Laguna under Governor Sol Aragones.

Among those who participated were Assistant Provincial Administrator Carina Macalos, Provincial Chief of Staff Director Ronald Barcena, Laguna Youth Patrollers President Bryan Guarnes, as well as newly designated Social Media Action Officers (SMAOs) and Assistant Social Media Action Officers (ASMAOs) from various provincial government departments and offices.

The seminar focused on creative content development, social media management and responsible government communication, with the goal of establishing a more unified approach in the preparation and presentation of official information.

Lucas emphasized the need for government information pages to have a common direction and purpose.

"Para magkaroon tayo ng iisang layunin at takbo para sa ating mga posting. Ang objective dito ay understand the role of an information page as a public platform," Lucas said.

Macalos expressed support for the initiative, stressing the importance of a systematic and organized approach in managing government social media content.

Guarnes, meanwhile, highlighted the responsibility of government communicators to provide accurate information, properly manage official pages and produce meaningful content that serves the public.

Barcena underscored the critical role of accurate information in effective governance, particularly amid the rapid spread of information online.

"Ang tamang solusyon ay nagsisimula sa tamang impormasyon," Barcena said. The Laguna PIO team also provided practical guidance on content development, social media management and responsible information presentation that the participating SMAOs and ASMAOs can apply in managing their respective office platforms.

The initiative reinforces the provincial government's Gobyernong May Solusyon agenda by promoting accurate information, responsible communication and meaningful engagement between government offices and the people of Laguna.

For the provincial government, effective public service begins not only with programs and solutions but also with ensuring that the public receives timely, accurate and understandable information about them.

## Mekeni ...

FROM PAGE 6

ers through meaningful industry engagements.

As Mekeni celebrates its 40th year, its participation in WOFEX 2026 forms part of the company's broader anniversary journey under the theme "May Kwento sa Bawat Timpla," celebrating four decades of stories, flavors, and shared moments with Filipino families.

With another successful WOFEX participation, Mekeni looks forward to bringing its products to more homes, businesses, and communities while continuing to tell its story through food. - PR

## EXPLICIT



### Madelaine Go

### DALAWANG MOST WANTED PERSONS, TIMBOG SAMAGKAHIWALAY 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 warrant of arrest kaugnay ng kasong Acts of Lasciviousness, na may inirekomendang piyansa na P200,000.

Sa hiwalay namang operasyon, bandang 5:10 ng hapon, nadakip 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 kani-kanilang custodial facility habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang dokumentasyon at iba pang legal na proseso. Binigyang-diin ni Rizal PPO Provincial Director PCOL ATTY. Eleazar R. Barber Jr.

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 umiwal sa hustisya. Patuloy naming patitigting 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 impormasyon 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

### CHINA REJECTS PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA JOINT STATEMENT, MAINTAINS PATROLS AT AYUNGIN SHOAL



BEIJING — China's Ministry of National Defense has formally rejected the joint statement issued by the Philippines and Australia expressing concern over maritime conduct in the South China Sea. Beijing affirmed that its forces will continue regular law enforcement operations around Ayungin Shoal despite international criticism.

Speaking on Friday, Senior Colonel Chen Xi, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defense, stated that Beijing firmly opposes what it described as unfounded accusations and smears from Manila and Canberra. The remarks came in direct response to the third Philippines-Australia Defense Ministers' Meeting held in Darwin.

During that meeting, Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles jointly raised concern over what they called destabilizing and dangerous conduct by Chinese vessels operating near disputed features. The two ministers reaffirmed their shared commitment to freedom of navigation and adherence to international maritime law.

Chen Xi maintained that operations conducted by the China Coast Guard were necessary, professional, and restrained. He described the deployments as countermeasures taken in response to alleged provocations from the Philippine side. No specific incidents or dates were cited in the official statement.

The spokesperson reaffirmed Beijing's long-standing territorial claim over the shoal, which it refers to as Ren'ai Reef. He stated the feature forms part of China's Nansha Qundao, rejecting any competing legal or territorial assertions. The position remains unchanged despite widespread international recognition of Philippine claims.

Beijing also repeated its demand for the Philippines to remove the BRP Sierra Madre from the shoal. The vessel has been grounded at the location since 1999 and serves as the country's permanent military outpost. China has long called for its removal as a condition for reducing pressure in the area.

The statement included a direct warning to third-party nations. It urged external powers to stop provoking confrontation and undermining regional peace and stability. The remark appeared to be directed at Australia and other allies whose growing security cooperation with the Philippines has drawn criticism from Beijing.

The exchange underscores deepening friction across the West Philippine Sea. Under the 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, Ayungin Shoal lies within the Philippine exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The tribunal determined China's broad historical claims have no legal basis under international law, a decision Beijing continues to reject.

Manila and Canberra have steadily expanded their defense cooperation under their Strategic Partnership. Both nations have emphasized shared interests in upholding freedom of navigation, maintaining regional security, and ensuring full respect for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

## Dalawang Truck Kargado ng 115 Motorsiklo, Nasabat sa Tiaong

TIAONG, Quezon — Nasabat ng mga awtoridad ang dalawang Isuzu dropside truck na kargado ng kabuuang 115 motorsiklo sa isang checkpoint operation sa Barangay Lalig, Tiaong, Quezon, madaling-araw noong Agosto 13, 2026.

Kabilang sa mga nakitang karga ang mga buo at disassembled o “chop-chop” na motorsiklo, pati mga engine at chassis.

Bandang alas-1:42 ng madaling-araw nang magsagawa ng checkpoint ang 1st Quezon Provincial Mobile Force Company (1st QPMFC), katuwang ang Regional Highway Patrol Unit 4A, Regional Special Operations Unit 4A, PHPT-Laguna at PHPT-Quezon.

Nasita ang dalawang truck dahil sa hindi ligtas na pagkakakarga ng mga motorsiklo. Hindi rin umano naipakita ng mga driver ang kaukulang dokumento para sa mga sasakyan at kargamento.

Dahil dito, isinailalim sa impounding at masusing beripikasyon ang dalawang truck at ang



mga kargang motorsiklo. Dalawang driver at apat na pahinante ang nasa kustodiya ng 1st QPMFC habang nagpapatuloy ang imbestigasyon.

Sinuri ng mga awtoridad ang engine at chassis numbers, LTO registration records, legal ownership, pinagmulan ng mga motorsiklo at iba pang kaukulang dokumen-

to. Batay sa paunang imbestigasyon, nakitaan umano ng mga paglabag na may kaugnayan sa Republic Act 10883 o New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016, Presidential Decree 1612 o Anti-Fencing Law at Republic

Act 4136 o Land Transportation and Traffic Code.

Patuloy ang koordinasyon ng mga pulis sa Tiaong Municipal Police Station, RHPU4A Investigation Section, RHPU4A MCU, PHPT-Laguna, PHPT-Quezon at iba pang concerned units para sa dokumentasyon at case build-up.

Ayon kay Quezon Police Provincial Office Director PCOL Romulo A. Abacea, paiigtingin ng pulisya ang checkpoint at verification procedures upang mapigilan ang pagdaan sa lalawigan ng mga sasakyang maaaring sangkot sa ilegal na aktibidad. (Aida Dapula)

## KABUHAYAN KONTRA KRIMEN PROGRAM, ISINAGAWA SA CALAMBA CITY

Isinagawa ng Calamba Component City Police Station, sa pangunguna ni PLTCOL Dennis C. De Guzman, ang Kabuhayan Kontra Krimen Program sa Sitio Tibag, Barangay Dos, Calamba City, katuwang ang Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Calamba sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni Mayor Ross Rizal.

Ayon kay PLTCOL. De Guzman, layunin ng programa na mabigyan ng pagkakakitaan at oportunidad ang mga residente upang makatulong sa pagpapalakas ng kanilang kabuhayan at maiwasan ang pagkakasangkot sa mga



dagdag na oportunidad upang magkaroon ng mangal at sustainable na kabuhayan para sa kanilang mga pamilya.

Bilang bahagi ng



gawaing kriminal.

May kabuuang 20 benepisyaryo ang nabigyan ng tulong sa ilalim ng programa. Sa pamamagitan nito, inaasahang magka karoon sila ng

programa, sama-samang naglinis ang mga beneficiaries sa lugar na dating marumi at napabayaan. Sa kanilang pagkilos, nakita ang malaking improvement sa kalinisan at

kaayusan ng kanilang komunidad. Sinundan ito ng pagbibigay ng goods bilang pagkilala sa kanilang pagsisikap.

Binigyang-diin ng Calamba Police at ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulongan ng kapulisan, lokal na pamahalaan at komunidad sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang nakatuon hindi lamang sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at kaayusan, kundi maging sa pagbibigay ng oportunidad sa mga mamamayan.

Ang Kabuhayan Kontra Krimen Program ay bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap na palakasin ang komunidad sa pamamagitan ng kabuhayan, pakikipagtutulongan at serbisyong direktang nakatutulong sa mga Calambeño.

FROM PAGE 1

## ALFONSO...

**ALFONSO, Cavite (PIA)** — Reeling from the effects of tropical cyclones Luis, Maymay and the southwest monsoon (Habagat), the Municipal Government of Alfonso is providing residents with a much-needed rice assistance.

Last August 11, Mayor Randy Salamat announced the local government's plan to provide all households with rice assistance for their residents.

To recall, the entire province of Cavite was placed under a State of Calamity due to the widespread impacts of the succession of weather disturbances.

Salamat assured that all residents, regardless of their financial status, will receive aid from the local government.

“Ngayon pong nasa ilalim tayo ng State of Calamity, maglalaan po ang Pamahalaang Bayan ng Alfonso ng bigas para sa lahat. Wala po “sana all” dahil para sa lahat po ito ng households, ano man po ang estado ng buhay at trabaho.”

Although the municipal government will ensure that every household will receive rice relief, Salamat reminded the public that they will only set aside a portion of their fund, adding preparations for any emergency that

may arise in the coming months.

“Hindi po natin lalahatin ang pondong nakalaan sa buong taon para sa kalamidad na dala ng Bagyong Luis, Maymay, at ng Habagat. Hindi po natin masasabi kung kailan lilitaw ang insidente kaya’t mahalaga po na manatiling may nakalaan pa rin in case of other emergencies.”

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan has earlier approved a declaration placing the Province of Cavite under a state of calamity following the onslaught of Habagat and tropical cyclones Luis and Maymay.

## SMC's ...

Complex in Mandaluyong City; the San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corp. facility in Gen. Trias, Cavite; the Better World Smokey Mountain Community Center in Tondo, Manila; and the SMF-led project sites in Barangay Sagurong in Pili, Camarines Sur; Barangay Guihing in Hagonoy, Davao del Sur; Barangay Impalutao, Impasug-ong, Bukidnon; and at Darong Marcos P. Saez Elementary School in Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur.

To date, the nine SMC Backyard Bukid farms have produced more than 4,300 kilos in assorted crops and generated additional income for 155 active employee and community farmers.

Among the leafy vegetables and salad herbs produced in these farms are lettuce, bok choy, kangkong, eggplant, lady finger, tomato, moringa, kalamansi, basil, arugula, and oregano, alongside fruit-bearing crops including banana and pa-

paya.

In the coming months, San Miguel Foods is set to develop more SMC Backyard Bukid sites located in public elementary schools in Bulacan, Il-oilo, and Misamis Oriental. At the same time, SMC's San Miguel Properties is also setting up its own community-managed farm in Barangay Tagabuli, Santa Cruz, Davao del Sur, to be a fully fledged SMC Backyard Bukid before the end of the year.

From the first SMC Backyard Bukid activated at the company's Head Office Compound in Mandaluyong City, the program has since expanded, with SMC ensuring that all participants undergo training by San Miguel Foundation partner, SEED Philippines, in organic farming methods, soil management, and crop care to keep the initiative sustainable.

Today, all SMC Backyard Bukid farmers practice organic and sus-

tainable farming by using natural alternatives to chemical pesticides and synthetic fertilizers. They apply fermented plant-based sprays, vermicast, and organic fertilizers to maintain healthy crops while protecting the environment. They also learned how to produce their own organic inputs, including fermented plant and fruit juices (FPJ/FFJ), fish amino acid (FAA), and oriental herbal nutrients (OHN).

"Our Backyard Bukids are a showcase of the initiative, teamwork, and resilience of our employee and community volunteers, which San Miguel is proud to support and encourage through the years," said Ang. "We will continue to replicate these farms in other areas to provide healthier food options and additional income for families, and turn idle land into a shared space for learning and sustainable livelihood — and a stronger community in the process."

## BASIC TOUR GUIDING TRAINING with Filipino Brand of Service Excellence at NU LAGUNA

The National University–Laguna proudly marked another milestone in its commitment to shaping future tourism professionals through the Basic Tourguiding Training with Filipino Brand of Service Excellence (FBSE), held from August 3 to 6, 2026. This intensive four-day program gathered 33 fourth-year Tourism students, immersing them in the values, skills, and standards that define the Philippines' hospitality and tourism identity.

At the heart of the training was the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence, a framework that highlights warmth, genuine care, and the distinct cultural touch that sets Filipino hospitality apart on the global stage. Students were guided to embody the principles of Maka-Pilipino service—a blend of professionalism, empathy, and cultural pride—while honing practical tourguiding techniques essential for their future careers.

The sessions were enriched by the expertise of distinguished speakers: Rosal A. Pamilon and Bren Kenneth V. Ramos, who shared their knowledge and experiences in tourism, communication, and service excellence. Their lectures and interactive discussions provided students with both theoretical grounding and real-world insights, ensuring that the training was not only informative but also deeply inspiring.

By the end of the program, participants expressed a renewed sense of pride in their chosen field, recognizing that tourguiding is not merely about leading groups but about representing the nation's heritage and values with excellence.

This initiative underscores the university's dedication to producing graduates who are not only academically prepared but also professionally competent and culturally grounded. As the tourism industry continues to evolve, programs like this ensure that future practitioners are equipped to uphold the Filipino Brand of Service Excellence, making every visitor experience memorable and meaningful.

The training concluded with a collective affirmation: that the students of National University–Laguna are ready to step into the tourism industry as ambassadors of Filipino hospitality, carrying with them the skills, values, and confidence to guide with excellence.

## Success built on decades of hard work

Even before the sun begins to rise and long before the rooster's crow can be heard, the rich aroma of hot cacao drink (sikwate) and freshly cooked puto maya already fills the air at Cogon Public Market, Cagayan de Oro City.

At her stall, Nice Floral Nanol works alongside her children and helpers to prepare and serve food that brings warmth to early marketgoers. From as early as 1:00 in the morning until 7:00 in the evening, they remain busy cooking, serving customers, and keeping their business running.

Story behind her venture

Limited financial resources forced Nice to stop studying after her first year in college. Instead of doing nothing, she followed her mother's footsteps in selling puto maya and sikwate. Helping in the family's business while growing up gave her an advantage and made it easier for her to start a venture.

In 1970, Nice started her small business of selling sikwate and puto maya, renting a stall in the old public market. As she worked daily at the market, she grew closer to one of her customers, and their friendship later led to marriage in 1982.

Over time, their eatery became known for its good quality food and affordable prices. Their well-loved combination of sikwate and puto maya is sold for PHP 40.00, with an option to add ripe mango for a sweeter taste.

As word spread,



*Nice Flora Nanol carefully mixes her hot cacao drink, best enjoyed alongside puto maya and mango, a classic combination well-loved by her customers.*

Nice's business began attracting not only regular customers but also tourists from outside the city, including some celebrities and vloggers who came to try her well-loved snacks.

The visits of well-known personalities further boosted the business's popularity, leading to more customers. To accommodate growing demand, she gradually expanded her space and took over nearby stalls in the cafeteria.

As her business continued to grow, challenges also became inevitable, especially in terms of limited capital. Nice uses around 30 kilos of glutinous rice daily, so when funds fall short, she turns to CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI, for loans to keep her business going.

She became a CARD SME Bank client in 2007, encouraged by its low-interest loans. Currently, she has an active loan of PHP 50,000.00 from the bank, which she

uses as additional capital for her business.

There may be other vendors selling the same products as hers, but the years of serving quality food have built each of them a loyal customer, making competition seem almost nonexistent.

Now at 74, Nice remains a hands-on entrepreneur who still goes to the market to help and oversee her business. Through her hard work, she was able to build a house, acquire vehicles, and provide for her family's daily needs.

With more than five decades of experience in business, her simple advice is to always keep moving. "Work hard, and by doing so, little by little, you will find yourself slowly getting ahead of life," she stated.

For those who wish to try their snacks, Nanol's Sikwate & Puto Maya is located at the cafeteria of Cogon Public Market in Cagayan de Oro City. PR

FROM PAGE P

## P700M worth ...

valued at approximately PHP700 million, based on the initial inventory and valuation.

Nartatez hailed all involved police units for the seizure and arrest of 656 suspects during 2,927 anti-smuggling operations conducted nationwide from July 1 to 31.

The operations targeted smuggling, intellectual property violations and other forms of illegal trade in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., through the guidance of Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, to

PHP628 million worth of smuggled and counterfeit goods in July.

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The operations targeted smuggling, intellectual property violations and other forms of illegal trade in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., through the guidance of Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, to

intensify the campaign against smuggling and other forms of economic sabotage.

"We will sustain intelligence-driven operations and strengthen coordination among our regional and local police units so that criminal groups cannot simply transfer their activities to other areas," Nartatez said. He also called on the public and the business sector to help authorities identify and report illegal trade activities.

## Fire Hits Unisun Shopping Mall in Sta. Cruz, Laguna; Declared Under Control After 4th Alarm

A fire broke out at the Unisun Shopping Mall in Barangay Santisima, Sta. Cruz, Laguna, late Friday night, August 14, and escalated to the fourth alarm early Saturday morning, August 15.

The blaze reportedly started at around 11:45 p.m. and prompted an immediate response from firefighters, including personnel of the BFP R4A Victoria Fire Station under the supervision of SFO4 Noriel B. Alcasid, Acting Municipal Fire Marshal.

Firefighters were seen climbing onto the mall's roof to battle the flames while continuously spraying water to contain the fire and prevent it from spreading further.

The fire was



declared under control at 7:47 a.m. on August 15, although firefighting operations continued as personnel worked to completely extinguish remaining flames and hot spots. As of the latest report, no injuries have been reported in connection with the incident.

Authorities are

continuing their investigation to determine the cause of the fire and assess the extent and estimated cost of damage to the shopping mall.

Further details are expected to be released once the investigation and damage assessment are completed. (Edjun Mariposque)