

SMC-cleaned rivers help mitigate flooding amid heavy rains; garbage remains a challenge



Before Major rivers cleaned and maintained by San Miguel Corporation (SMC) continued to carry large volumes of stormwater during sustained rains over the past two weeks, helping mitigate flooding in surrounding areas.

SMC cleanup teams reported no major incidents of river overflow in most areas covered by the program, except along portions of the San Juan River on August 17, when exceptionally heavy rain-fall pushed water levels beyond critical levels.

SMC Chairman and CEO Ramon S. Ang said rivers under the company's long-running Better Rivers PH initiative, now aligned with the government's Oplan Kontra Baha program, were better able to handle higher volumes of rainwater because of increased carrying capacity and improved flow.

Since 2020, SMC has removed accumulated



Before cannot move efficiently through storm drains, canals, creeks and pipes because of blockages or inadequate drainage capacity.

According to DOST-PAGASA data, its Science Garden station in Quezon City recorded 201.7 millimeters of rain in just five hours on August 17, including 138.7 millimeters between noon and 2 p.m. For perspective, the five-hour total was already close to half of the 455 millimeters recorded at the same station during Tropical Storm Ondoy in September 2009, when the record rainfall fell over roughly nine hours.

The exceptionally heavy rainfall pushed the San Juan River beyond critical levels, with overflow observed near Barangays Tatalon and Talayan in Quezon City.

Farther downstream, however, no river overflow was observed in San Juan City and Mandaluyong, where SMC's cleanup teams are nearing completion of maintenance dredging.

SMC has removed more than 442,700 metric tons of silt and

NLEX recognized by DENR for promoting public access to real-time air quality data

NLEX Corporation was recognized by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) Region III during the Environmental Summit 2026 on August 19 for its partnership with the agency in providing the public free access to real-time Air Quality Index (AQI) data through an outdoor LED billboard along NLEX in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

The recognition, presented during the summit held in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, acknowledges NLEX's contribution to the public dissemination of real-time AQI data from four Regional Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations through its LED billboard.

Through the partnership, the digital billboard displays real-time air quality data from monitoring stations in San Fernando, Meycauayan, Clark, and Zambales, making environmental information more visible and accessible to motorists and the public.

"We thank the DENR for this opportunity. Accountability starts with awareness, and by utilizing the LED billboard, we are making vital environmental data highly visible and accessible to everyone," said NLEX President and General Manager Luis S. Reñon.

The initiative forms part of NLEX Corporation's continuing commitment to environmental sustainability and public awareness. Among its other efforts are the "Road to Less Waste" initiative, which promotes proper waste disposal and recycling, and tree-planting activities that have resulted in more than 200,000 trees planted across the NLEX corridor. NLEX also continues to work with government agencies and local government units on various environmental initiatives.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC). PR



From L-R: Atty. Linel Manayang, Officer-in-Charge, Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division; Atty. Norlito Eneran, Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, Enforcement, Human Resources and Field Operations – Luzon; Toti Palileo, MPTC Assistant Vice President for Road Access and Mobility Services; Luis S. Reñon, NLEX President and General Manager; Kiko Dagohoy, NLEX Stakeholder Engagement Senior Manager; Allan Jeffrey Ang, NLEX Assistant Vice President, QESH; Ralph Pablo, Regional Executive Director; and Martin Jose Despi, Regional Director, Environmental Management Bureau Region 3.

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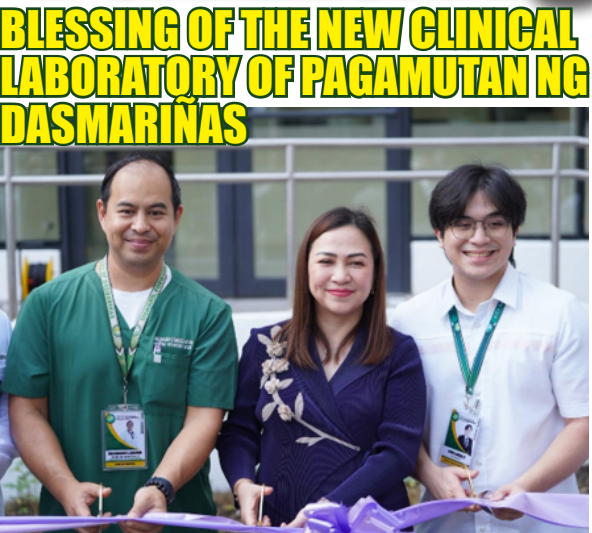
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PGC Brings Free Health Services to Residents of Tanzang Luma V P2



Today, August 24, 2026, marks a significant milestone in the advancement of healthcare services in the city of Dasmariñas with the official Blessing of the new Clinical Laboratory of Pagamutan ng Dasmariñas. The event was attended by Mayor Jenny Austria-Barzaga, Vice Mayor Third Barzaga, and the members of Sangguniang Panlungsod. This newly established facility reflects the local government's unwavering commitment in providing accessible, affordable, and quality medical care to every Dasmariño.

Cayetano, nanawagan ng school town hall dialogues matapos ipagpaliban ng DepEd ang shooter drill

SSS offers existing Emergency Loan Program to members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay, Habagat

MGA RESPONDER SA TANZA, CAVITE SINUBOK SA MALAKING SEARCH AND RESCUE DRILL

TANZA, CAVITE — SINUBOK ANG KAHANDAAN NG MGA RESPONDER SA TANZA, CAVITE SA ISINAGAWANG SEARCH AND RESCUE EXERCISE O SAREX BILANG BAHAGI NG PAGGUNITA SA NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE MONTH.

Isinagawa ang drill noong Hulyo 24 sa Villa Excellance Beach and Wave Pool Resort at pinangunahan ng Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office o MDRMO-Tanza.

Lumahok dito ang Cavite Maritime Police Station sa pangunguna ng kanilang Station Chief PMAJ Jerwin Lalamoro, Tanza Municipal Police Station, Philippine Coast Guard-Tanza Sub-Station, Bureau of Fire Protection-Tanza at Bantay Dagat-Tanza.

Dalawang emergency scenario ang isinagawa para masukat ang bilis at kahandaan ng mga responder.

UNANG SIMULASYON ANG MARITIME COLLISION INCIDENT, kung saan kailangang mabilis na rumesponde ang mga awtoridad sa insidenteng maaaring maglagay sa panganib sa buhay ng mga nasa dagat.

Sinundan ito ng SIMULATED EXPLOSION NA NAGDULOT NG LEVEL 3 FIRE ALARM sa parking area ng resort.

Sa drill, sinubok ang komunikasyon, koordinasyon at bilis ng pagtugon ng mga responder sa isang insidenteng nangangailangan ng sabay-sabay na aksyon ng iba't ibang ahensya.

Binigyang-diin ng mga opisyal ang kahalagahan ng paghahanda, mabilis na komunikasyon

Mayor Ross Rizal Turns Over New Vehicle to Regional Crime Laboratory PRO 4-A

CHIZ'S BILL FIXING TENURE OF BARANGAY, SK OFFICIALS RECEIVES STRONG BACKING



Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero's proposal to fix the tenure of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials to five years to ensure long-term stability in grassroots governance has received a multi-sectoral support during Monday's public hearing of the Senate Sub-Committee on Local Government.

In a committee hearing presided by Escudero, representatives from the Liga ng mga Barangay, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible

SMILE PARTY-LIST, NAMAHAHI NG WHEELCHAIR SA MEDICAL MISSION SA NAGCARLAN

Voting, and the National Youth Commission (NYC) expressed their strong support for the bill aimed at institutionalizing the five-year term and breaking the cycle of frequent postponement of barangay and SK polls.

"My bill does not extend. My bill fixes," Escudero told the public hearing which was also attended by officials of the Commission on Elections and relevant government agencies, and members of civil society groups.

"The natural effect will, of course, be to postpone

EDITORIAL: NAKAYAPAK Lathala ni Vida Rose Branson

Nakayapak man o may sapin ang mga paa sa paglalakbay, malinaw sana ang hangarin—daan tungo sa kabutihan, sa pag-unlad, at karangyaan ng buhay ng isang taong may pangarap.

Nakakatuwang isipin kung gaano kalayo ang maaaring patunguhan ng mga paa natin. Sa umaga pa lamang, ang isang gawain ay hindi masisimulan kung hindi tayo babangon mula sa kinahihigaan natin. Mula sa pag-aayos ng higaaan, sa pagluto at pagkain ng almusal, pagligo't paghahanda para sa mga susunod na gagawin sa isang araw ay hindi masisimulan kung hindi tayo babangon at iyayapak ang mga paa dapat nitong patunguhan.

Ang muling pagyapak natin ng ating mga paa sa lupa ng mundo ay isa ring pagkakataon upang ipagpatuloy ang paglalakbay na ating tinatahak sa buhay. Ang pagyapak natin ng ating mga paa ang siyang magdadala sa atin sa kung saan ang nais nating tunguhan.

Sa bawat pagyapak ay panibagong destinasyon at panibagong direksyon. Kung minsan may halo pa itong pagdududa—karapat dapat pa nga bang tumuloy sa lakbay na tinatahak? Baka, kailangang bumalik sa ating pinanggalingan, baka kailangang magbago ng direksyon, o baka kailangan munang ipahinga ang mga paa mula sa paglalakbay—hindi lahat ng pagyapak at lakbay ay perpekto at wasto. Hindi lahat ng destinasyon ay masisiguradong iyon na ang gugustuhin na wakas, ang tuldok ng paglalakbay.

Hindi rin naman nagmamadali, hindi karera ang lakbay ng buhay. Hindi dahil mayroon nang nauna sa kanilang nais na destinasyon ay dapat gayon din ang sundin. Iba-iba ang bilis ng yapak natin, mayroong pinipiling mabagal at paunti-unti pero may kasiguraduhang may patutunguhan, banayad lamang ang unlad at lakbay. Hindi lahat ng mga agarang nakararating sa nais na puntahan ay kuntento, hindi lahat ng mabilis ay masaya ang tagumpay.

Iba't iba rin ang kuwento ng ating paglalakbay. Sa bawat pagyapak ay panibagong kuwento, panibagong mga taong papasok sa ating buhay na may dalang impluwensya. Mayroon ding mga pagkakamaling magsisilbing aral na ating dadalhin sa ating pagpapatuloy sa paglalakbay. At hindi rin dapat nasusukat sa suot na sapin paa, nakasapatos, heels, sandals, o simpleng tsinelas, iba-iba man ang tatak, lahat tayo ay maaaring maglakbay patungo sa kaunlaran ng buhay.

Kung kaya't hindi dapat tayo tumitigil sa paglalakbay. Nakakapagod man at kung minsa'y nawawalan na tayo ng kagustuhan na iyapak muli ang ating mga paa, pero hangga't ginigising tayo ng umaga, ang bawat araw ay simbolo na ituloy ang lakbay na nasimulan.

Nakayapak man o may sapin ang mga paa sa paglalakbay, malinaw sana ang hangarin—daan tungo sa kabutihan, sa pag-unlad, at karangyaan ng buhay ng isang taong may pangarap.

Serbisyo Publiko: Hindi Dapat Nasa Papel Lamang, Dapat Ramdam

Sa pamahalaan, madaling bilangin ang mga programa. Mas mahalagang malaman kung may buhay bang nabago ang mga ito.

Sa Laguna, may mga serbisyong umaabot sa komunidad at tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng mga tao sa ilalim ni Governor Sol Aragon.

Hindi Lamang Libreng Pagkain
Noong Agosto 21, namahagi ang Laguna Pantry ng 4,000 pakete ng manok at gulay sa San Pedro at Biñan, kasama ang mahigit 2,000 pakete ng bigas.

Hindi lamang pagkain ang naipamahagi. Binili ang mga ito mula sa lokal na poultry raiser at magsasaka, kaya parehong nakinabang ang mga pamilya at producer.

Tulong sa Bantay Lawa

Noong Agosto 26, ipinamahagi ang honoraria sa mga miyembro ng Bantay Lawa sa pamamagitan ng Sectoral Concern Office.

Higit ito sa bayad. Pagkilala ito sa mga taong nangangalaga sa Laguna Lake at Seven Lakes of San Pablo.

Suporta sa mga Ina

Noong Agosto 28, dumalo ang mga breastfeeding mothers sa seminar na pinangunahan ng Provincial Health Office sa Cultural Center of Laguna.

Binigyang-diin dito ang kahalagahan ng impormasyon, screening, konsultasyon at regular na checkup upang maagapan ang mga problema sa kalusugan.

Scholarship na Mas Madaling Makamit

Tumanggap ng scholarship grants ang mga Iskolar ng Laguna mula Cavinti, Pagsanjan at Santa Cruz noong Agosto 28 sa Laguna Sports Complex.

Sa tulong ng LandBank Mobile ATM, mas mabilis nilang natanggap ang allowance. Dapat maging tulong ang scholarship, hindi dagdag na pasanin.

Ang Tunay na Sukatan

Hindi nasusukat sa laki ng badyet o dami ng proyekto ang mabuting pamamahala.

May pamilyang may pagkain ba? May magsasakang nakapagbenta ba? May inang nakatanggap ng suporta? May estudyanteng nakapagpatuloy dahil sa allowance? May Bantay Lawang kinilala ang serbisyo?

Kung oo, may kabuluhan ang programa.

Hindi sapat na may naibigay. Ang mahalaga ay may nagbago.

Ang pamahalaan ay pananagutan. Kailangang may epekto ang bawat programa at mapangalagaan ang dignidad ng mga benepisyaryo.

Naging makabuluhan ang serbisyo publiko kapag umaabot ito sa hapag-kainan, bukid, lawa, health center at paaralan.

Sa huli, hindi mahalaga kung gaano kaganda ang press release o karami ang litrato.

Ang mahalaga ay ang sagot ng mamamayan:

"May ginawa ba ang pamahalaan para sa iyo?"

Kung ang sagot niya ay, "Oo. Naramdaman ko," doon nagsisimula ang tunay na sukatan ng mabuting pamamahala.

Suspek sa Robbery with Homicide sa Mauban, Naaresto ng Quezon PNP

Investigation ng Mauban MPS, Quezon Police Intelligence Unit (PIU), Quezon Police Intelligence and Detective Management Unit (PID-MU), at 1st Quezon Provincial Mobile Force Company (QPMFC), natukoy ang pagkakakilanlan ng suspek na kinilalang si al-yas "Mervin," 39, residente ng Mauban.

Malaking tulong umano sa pagkakakilanlan ng suspek ang impormasyong ibinigay ng isang witness na naging bahagi ng imbestigasyon ng mga awtoridad.

Isinagawa ang hot-pursuit operation ng joint operating team na nagesulta sa pagka-kaaresto sa suspek sa kanyang tahanan.

Nakarekober mula sa suspek ang isang singsing na sinasabing pag-aari ng isa sa mga biktima, isang kutsilyo na umano'y ginamit sa insidente, at jacket at pan-

Napag-alaman din ng mga awtoridad na nawawala ang ilang personal na gamit ng mga biktima, kabilang ang isang wallet at cellphone. Sa follow-up in-

Pointer



Pau Dela Cruz



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Cayetano...

Nanawagan si Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano nitong Lunes ng pagsasagawa Department of Education (DepEd) ang planong live-shooter drills dahil sa pangambang maaaring makaapekto ito sa mental at emotional well-being ng mga estudyante.

Ayon kay Cayetano, dapat gamitin ang pagkakataon para pag-usapan ng buong school community ang kalagayan ng mga estudyante habang pinag-aaralan pa ang tamang paraan ng paghahanda sa mga ganitong insidente.

Binanggit niya ang joint statement ng Philippine Psychiatric Association (PPA) at Philippine Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (PSCAP) na humiling sa DepEd na ipagpaliban ang August 25 nationwide drill dahil maaaring magdulot ng psychological harm ang hyper-realistic simulations.

"They're saying that preparedness in schools is essential but the methods chosen must be trauma-informed and grounded in evidence," sabi ng Minority Leader nitong August 24, 2026.

Sa halip na agad magtakda ng bagong pet-sa para sa drill, iminungkahi ni Cayetano na magkaroon muna ng national day o half-day program para magkaroon ng town-hall type na pag uusap bawat paaralan.

"I just like to focus on the reaction. If the reaction is equally ill-planned or equally harmful, we might have a bigger problem after this drill," sabi ng senador.

SMILE PARTYLIST...

NAGCARLAN, LAGUNA — Hatid ang serbisyo at malasakit sa mga nangangailangan, namahagi ang SMILE Party-list ng mga libreng wheelchair sa mga benepisyaryo ng isinagawang medical mission sa bayan ng Nagcarlan, Laguna.



SSS...

QUEZON CITY, 17 August 2026 – The Social Security System (SSS) announced that members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon may access much-needed financial assistance under more flexible eligibility requirements," de Claro said.

"Under the ELP, which has been in effect since 01 May 2026, the required number of monthly contributions has been reduced from 36 to 18, provided that the member has at least six posted contributions in the last 12 months," de Claro said.

He added that self-employed, voluntary, non-working spouse, and land-based Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) members must have at least six-monthly contributions under their current membership type before the month of loan application.

"The ELP is part of SSS' continuing commitment to provide immediate financial relief to members

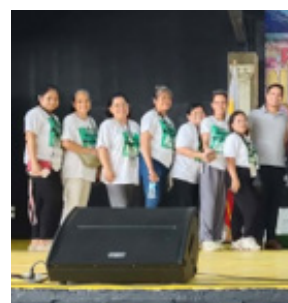
at pagtutulongan upang maging mas maayos ang pagresponde kapag may aktuwal na sakuna.

Layunin din ng exercise na makita kung ano pa ang kailangang pagbutihin sa sistema ng bawat ahensya at magsiguro na handa silang magtulongan sa oras ng emergency.

Ayon sa mga organizer, matagumpay na

naisagawa ang SAREX at nakatulong ito upang mapalakas ang kahan-daan at koordinasyon ng mga responder sa Tanza.

Patuloy namang pinagtitibay ng lokal na pamahalaan at mga katuwang na ahensya ang kanilang kahandaan upang maprotektahan ang buhay at ari-arian, lalo na ng mga komunidad na malapit sa baybayin. By: Martin Banaag



affected by unforeseen events. Through the ELP, qualified members affected by Tropical Storm Maymay and the enhanced Southwest Monsoon may access much-needed financial assistance under more flexible eligibility requirements," de Claro said.

Other eligibility requirements are as follows: Under 65 years old at the time of loan application; Have a valid Philippine home address on SSS records; Have an updated contact information in the SSS database;

Have no past-due emergency, calamity, salary, Educational Assistance Loan, or other short-term or long-term member loans; Have no outstanding re-structured loan; Have not been disqualified due to fraud committed against the SSS; Have not been granted any final benefit like retirement or permanent total disability benefits; and Have an active disbursement account enrolled through the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM) in the My.SSS

MGA RESPONDER... FROM PAGE 1

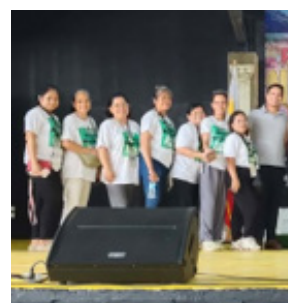
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Suspek ... FROM PAGE 2

talon na sinasabing suot niya nang mangyari ang krimen.

Patuloy ang imbestigasyon ng pulisya at isinagawa ang kaukulang proseso para sa pagsasampa ng nararapat na kaso laban sa suspek.

Ayon kay PCOL Romulo A. Albacea, Provincial Director ng QPPO, patuloy na paiitgingin ng pulisya ang pagtugon sa mga insidente ng krimen at pagbabantay sa seguridad ng mga mamamayan.

Hinimok din ni Albacea ang publiko na maging maingat at mapagmatyag sa kanilang mga tahanan at komunidad at agad ireport sa pinakamalapit na himpilan ng pulisya ang anumang kahina-hinalang kilos o sitwasyon.(Aida Dapula)



ang mga mahal sa buhay na may pangangailangan sa mobility.

Patuloy namang isinusulong ng mga organizer at katuwang na opisyal ang mga pro-



Qualified members may borrow up to ₱20,000 at an interest rate as low as 7% per annum. The loan is payable over 30 months, inclusive of a six-month moratorium period.

"Members are not required to make monthly amortization payments during the first six months from the date of loan approval. No penalties will be imposed during this period. Regular monthly amortization payments will begin in the seventh month," de Claro explained.

De Claro added that members affected by the tropical cyclone may also apply for an SSS salary loan at the same time, subject to the eligibility requirements.

Members may apply online for both the ELP and the salary loan through the My.SSS Portal at www.sss.gov.ph.



STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA — Matagumpay na isinagawa ang Operation SHEMA, isang general assembly ng Laguna Youth for Jesus Movement (LYJM), na nagtipon sa mga kabataan mula sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng lalawigan noong Biyernes, Agosto 21, sa Laguna Sports Complex, Barangay Bubukal, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Layunin ng pagtitipon na palakasin ang pananampalataya ng kabataan at isulong ang pagkakaisa, mabuting pagpapahalaga at positibong pagbabago sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Naging bahagi ng programa ang sama-samang pagsamba, pagtuturo at mga talakayan na nakatuon sa



pagpapalalim ng relasyon ng kabataan sa Diyos. Hango sa Deuteronomy 6 ang temang “Shema,” na nangangahulugang makinig o pakinggan.

Nagsilbi itong paalala sa mga kabataan at

Calamba Celebrates 284 Years as Mayor Ross Rizal Delivers State of the City Address

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — August 27, 2026 — The City of Calamba celebrated its 284th Foundation Day with a State of the City Address (SOCA) held at the Jose Rizal Coliseum, highlighting the city’s rich history, continuing development, and collective efforts toward a stronger future.

Mayor Roseller “Ross” H. Rizal led the celebration, reflecting on Calamba’s 284 years of history while emphasizing the importance of unity in sustaining the city’s progress.

“284 taon ng kasaysayan, pagbabago at pagkakaisa. Sa ating Foundation Day, ating ipinagdiriwang hindi lamang ang ating nakaraan, kundi pati ang Calamba na patuloy na umaangat at umuunlad.”

The SOCA also served as an opportunity to look back on the city government’s accomplishments and present plans for the coming years. Mayor Rizal underscored the significance of building on past achievements while preparing Calamba for its next chapter of development.

“Kasabay ng ating ika-284 na Aniber-

saryo ang State of the City Address, kung saan ating binalikan ang mga tagumpay ng nakaraan, inilatag ang mga susunod na plano, at nagbigay-pugay sa mga dating kawani ng Pamahalaang Lungsod ng Calamba na matagal na naglingkod at ngayon ay retirado na.”

A special tribute was also given to former city government employ-



kanilang pamilya na pakinggan at isabuhay ang Salita ng Diyos.

Tinalakay rin sa pagtitipon ang ilang suliraning panlipunan na kinakaharap ng kabataan, kabilang ang karahasan, gayundin ang mahalagang papel ng pamilya, paaralan at mga lider sa paghubog ng kanilang karakter at pagpapahalaga.

Kabilang sa mga naging tagapagsalita sina LYJM Chairman Bishop Noel Gonzales at Ptr. Prince Encarnation, kasama ang mga espesyal na panauhin na content creator navsina Ptr. Khan Santos at Ptr. Jericho Arceo.

Sa pamamagitan ng Operation SHEMA, nais ng LYJM na mahikayat ang mga kabataan na maging aktibong bahagi ng pagkakaisa at pagbabago upang makatulong sa pagtataguyod ng mas ligtas, maayos at makabuluhang kinabukasan para sa lalawigan ng Laguna.



ees who dedicated years of service to Calamba. Their contributions, according to the mayor, formed part of the foundation upon which the city continues to grow today.

“Sila ang ilan sa mga naglatag ng pun-dasyon ng Calamba na tinatamasa natin ngayon.”

The celebration underscored that Calam-

ba’s progress is a continuing story shaped not only by its leaders and government institutions, but also by generations of Calambefios who have contributed to the city’s development.

Mayor Rizal called on the people of Calamba to take an active role in shaping the city’s future as it enters another chapter in its long history.

SMC has removed more than 1.3 million metric tons of silt and waste from the Tullahan River, including about 184,000 tons from ongoing maintenance work.

In Laguna, where Better Rivers PH has removed more than 775,000 metric tons of silt and waste, rivers in San Pedro, Biñan, Sta. Rosa and Cabuyao were also observed to be flowing well. No flooding was recorded on any portion of the South Luzon Expressway.

There was also no flooding at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport or in nearby communities following SMC’s cleanup of rivers and creeks around the airport in Parañaque City. More than 380,000 metric tons of silt and waste have been removed from Parañaque waterways under the program.

“Cleaning up our rivers is a big help in mitigating floods, but it is not enough by itself. It is part of a bigger set of solutions,” Ang said.

“The whole system has to work, from our drains and creeks to pumping stations, flood-control infrastructure and the major rivers that carry the water downstream.”

“We also have a role to play. Better-flowing rivers can move floodwaters out more quickly, but water still has to reach those rivers. We need to keep garbage out of our drains and waterways,” he added.

Since 2020, SMC has undertaken one of the country’s largest privately funded river cleanup programs. Better Rivers PH was aligned last year with the government’s Oplan Kontra Baha, a broader flood-mitigation effort led by the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, with other national agencies, local governments and the private sector.

“Tayo ang kasalukuyang kabanata ng kasaysayan ng Calamba. Sama-sama nating isulat ang susunod na kabanata.”

The 284th Foundation Day celebration concluded with a renewed call for unity, service, and continued progress as Calamba moves forward while honoring the legacy of those who helped build the city.

“Mabuhay ang Calambefio! Mabuhay ang Calamba!” (Edjun Mariposque)

the upcoming election, but the subject matter of this bill is fixing the term, not just postponement.”

Escudero emphasized that barangay governments, as the frontline of public service, need longer terms to sustain community development, disaster response, and peace and order programs without election disruptions.

According to NYC representative Eriven Nepomuceno, the proposed measure is a “strategic progression to ensure that local officials have sufficient time to implement meaningful community programs and improve public service delivery.”

Councilor Jose Maria Rodriguez, who represented the Liga ng mga Barangay, said they “respectfully manifests its position in favor of a consolidated measure fixing the term of office of elected barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan at five years and establishing a definite election schedule corresponding to that term.”

Senate Bill 2387 reiterates existing term-limit rules: barangay officials may serve up to three consecutive terms, while SK officials are re-

PGC...

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) brought free medical and dental services closer to residents of Tangzang Luma V in Imus City through a medical and dental mission held on August 15, 2026, benefiting a total of 942 individuals.

The outreach activity provided residents with access to essential healthcare services, including medical consultations and dental services, helping address their immediate health concerns and promoting greater awareness of preventive healthcare.

Through the medical mission, beneficiaries were given the opportunity to consult with healthcare professionals and receive appropriate

EXPLICIT

Madelaine Go
PRO 4A, PINAGTIBAY ANG DISIPLINA AT PANANAGUTAN NG MGA PULIS.

Pinatitingkad ng Police Regional Office 4A (PRO 4A) ang kampanya para sa disiplina, pananagutan at propesyonalismo ng mga tauhan nito sa pamamagitan ng pagsasagawa ng PNPersonnel Accounting sa PRO 4A Covered Court, Camp BGen Vicente P Lim, Calamba City.

Dinaluhan ang aktibidad ng mga miyembro ng Regional Staff at ilang unit uniformed at sibilyang kawani ng PRO 4A bilang bahagi ng pagsisikap na mapanatili ang mga kawani sa tamang disiplina at gabay na bawat tauhan sa pagtupad ng kanilang tungkulin.

Isinagawa ang personnel accounting bilang suporta sa S.B.E.I. Policing Framework ng Regional Director na nangunguna ang E. Vicente, Engage Immediately, Serve Together at Transform, tanging itong police talaga ang pananagutan, tuloy-tuloy na pagkakato at maagang pagmamumuno sa paghahatid ng serbisyo-pulisya.

Binigyang-diin sa programa ang kahalagahan ng pananampalataya sa pagtupad ng tungkulin. Naghatid si Pastor Junie Austero ng My Brother’s Keeper Philippines mensahe tungkol sa pagtitiwala sa Diyos at paghangin ng Kanyang gabay at tulong sa pagsasagawa ng mga responsibilidad bilang mga tagapagpatupad ng batas.

Bahagi rin ng programa ang Police Information and Continuing Education (PICE) sa pamamagitan ng audio-visual presentation. Nagbigay ito sa mga tauhan ng mga makabuluhang impormasyon at panibagong kaalaman upang mapalawak ang kanilang kaalaman, kamalayan at propesyonalismo.

Samantala, nagbigay naman ng command guidance si PCOL Ivy C. Mallo, OIC, OCRS, kung saan binigyang-diin niya ang kahalagahan ng “toeing the line” o mahigpit na pagsunod sa mga alituntunin, pagpapanatili ng kahusayang sa trabaho at pagiging maingat sa bawat hakbang at desisyon.

Hinimok din ni Mallo ang mga tauhan na patuloy na sumunod sa direktiba at ipinagkatiwala ng kanilang mga nakatataas at commander upang mapanatili ang disiplina, pananagutan at propesyonalismo sa paghahatid ng serbisyo sa publiko.

Sa pamamagitan ng naturang programa, muling ipinakita ng PRO 4A ang layunin nitong magkaroon ng disiplina, responsable at propesyonal na hanay ng mga pulis na handang maglingkod nang maayos at makakaugnay ng tiwala ng mamamayan.

PUBLISHER CORNER

CHIZ’S BILL FIXING TENURE OF BARANGAY, SK OFFICIALS RECEIVES STRONG BACKING



Senator Francis “Chiz” Escudero’s proposal to fix the tenure of barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) officials to five years to ensure long-term stability in grassroots governance has received a multi-sectoral support during Monday’s public hearing of the Senate Sub-Committee on Local Government.

In a committee hearing presided by Escudero, representatives from the Liga ng mga Barangay, the National Citizens’ Movement for Free Elections, the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, and the National Youth Commission (NYC) expressed their strong support for the bill aimed at institutionalizing the five-year term and breaking the cycle of frequent postponement of barangay and SK polls.

“My bill does not extend. My bill fixes,” Escudero told the public hearing which was also attended by officials of the Commission on Elections and relevant government agencies, and members of civil society groups. “The natural effect will, of course, be to postpone the upcoming election, but the subject matter of this bill is fixing the term, not just postponement.”

Escudero emphasized that barangay governments, as the frontline of public service, need longer terms to sustain community development, disaster response, and peace and order programs without election disruptions.

According to NYC representative Eriven Nepomuceno, the proposed measure is a “strategic progression to ensure that local officials have sufficient time to implement meaningful community programs and improve public service delivery.”

Councilor Jose Maria Rodriguez, who represented the Liga ng mga Barangay, said they “respectfully manifests its position in favor of a consolidated measure fixing the term of office of elected barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan at five years and establishing a definite election schedule corresponding to that term.”

Senate Bill 2387 reiterates existing term-limit rules: barangay officials may serve up to three consecutive terms, while SK officials are restricted to only one term. Those already on their third consecutive term cannot run in the November 2028 elections.

According to Escudero, counting existing terms ensures fairness, preventing incumbents from benefiting from an outright extension.

The hearing agenda also included SB 2067 filed by Senator Imee Marcos, which seeks to postpone the November 2026 Barangay and SK elections to October 2027, citing economic and logistical constraints.

Escudero directed the committee secretariat to draft a report reflecting the amendments and resource persons’ inputs, which is expected to be completed this week for deliberation in the plenary.

“Subject to the amendments proposed by the parties which we shall consider—including the decoupling, the COMELEC’s points on appropriations and the election date, as well as the position of PPCRV and NAMFREL that elections proceed as scheduled with the five-year term to begin thereafter—we shall reflect these in the committee report,” he concluded.

Rizal Ville: Calamba's City-Built Homes Take Shape as New Community for Calambeños

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — Construction continues on Rizal Ville, the housing project of the City Government of Calamba located in Barangay Kay-Anlog, as part of the local government's efforts to provide decent and secure homes for Calambeño families.

Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal personally inspected the ongoing construction to monitor the progress of the project and ensure that the development moves forward as planned.

The project is envisioned not only as a housing initiative but also as the foundation of a new community where beneficiaries can build more secure and hopeful futures.

"Unti-unting nabubuo ang isang komunidad na magsisilbing tahanan at bagong simula para sa ating mga kababayang Calambeño."

Rizal Ville represents the city government's continuing commitment to creating opportunities for its residents through accessible housing and community development.

Rizal Ville — tahananang may malasakit, kinabukasang may pag-asa. (Edjun Mariposque)

INFANTA, MAY "Sumbungan App" na para sa mabilis na police response



Isang makabagong mobile application na naglalayong pabilisin ang pag-uulat ng krimen at emergency at agarang pagpapadala ng mga pulis ang inilunsad sa bayan ng Infanta noong Agosto 27.

Ang "Sumbungan App", o Integrated Public Safety, Emergency



Rizal Ville — tahananang may malasakit, kinabukasang may pag-asa. (Edjun Mariposque)

Mayor Ross Rizal Turns Over New Vehicle to Regional Crime Laboratory PRO 4-A

CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — A new service vehicle was formally turned over to the Regional Crime Laboratory of the Police Regional Office 4-A during a ceremony held at Calamba City Hall, Calamba City, Laguna, strengthening the agency's capability to deliver faster and more efficient forensic services.

Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal led the turnover of the vehicle, which was provided in re-



port the Regional Crime Laboratory in its operational activities, mobility, and delivery of forensic services across the region.

The city government also reaffirmed its commitment to supporting government agencies tasked with maintaining public safety, peace, and order.

"Patuloy nating susuportahan ang mga ahensyang katuwang sa pagpapanatili ng kaayusang at kapayapaan sa ating komunidad."

The turnover underscores the Calamba City Government's continued partnership with law enforcement agencies in strengthening public safety and ensuring more responsive government services for the community. (Edjun Mariposque)

ama ang iba pang force multipliers at mga usaping maaaring maresolba sa barangay.

Naniniwala ang lokal na pamahalaan at Infanta MPS na makatulong ang teknolohiya sa pagpapababa ng kriminalidad at pagpapalakas ng partisipasyon ng mga mamamayan sa pagpapanatili ng seguridad sa bayan. Ang Sumbungan App na ito ang kauna-unahang sa lalawigan ng Quezon at sa rehiyon. (Aida Dapula)

in support of law enforcement and crime investigation efforts.

"Matapos nilang ihain ang kahilingan sa Pamahalaang Lungsod, agad naman natin itong inaprubahan upang makatulong sa mas mabilis at mas epektibong serbisyo para sa ating mga kababayan."

The additional vehicle is expected to supplement the Regional Crime Laboratory PRO 4-A.

Libre ang application para sa mga residente ng Infanta at inaaahang magiging available sa Play Store sa mga susunod na araw. Isinusulong din ang paglalagay ng emergency push buttons sa mga bahay at establismiyento.

Ayon kay Mayor Lord Arnel "L.A." Ruanto, maaari pang palawakin ang sistema upang mais-

Homemade Success

In the City of Golden Friendship, Cagayan de Oro, Jaime and Candelaria Bedro built more than just a source of livelihood, but a life rooted in hard work, perseverance, and strong family values.

Originally from Cebu, Jaime grew up experiencing financial hardships at an early age. Because of the family's limited income, he was unable to finish his studies. Despite this, he remained determined to help his family earn a living.

Where the story begins

As one of his siblings worked in a business that makes longganisa, a Filipino-style sausage, Jaime started as a helper and, over time, learned the production process firsthand. As they became more confident in their skills, they eventually expanded their knowledge to include other food products, such as pork chicharon, a deep-fried pork belly or rinds.

In search of better opportunities and a fresh start, Jaime and his family moved to Cagay-

an de Oro in 1982. As they settled into their new home, they began using their skills to make homemade pork longganisa, which they sold within their community, as well as in nearby malls and private offices.

After years of hard work, Jaime met Candelaria, a resident of Cagayan de Oro who later became his wife. They got married in 1987 and worked hand-in-hand in starting their own longganisa business. To help meet the growing family, they also put up a small sari-sari store at home, which provided additional income to support their daily needs.

As time went by, the couple did not settle and continued searching for additional sources of income. In 1998, they began producing pork chicharon, which they sold to market vendors and store owners within their community, particularly in Cogon Market and Bulua Public Terminal.

Their passion for making longganisa remains. Every week, they carefully produce three to four batches of long-

Bagong PUP Campus Bubuksan sa Sariaya; Pisay Campus Isinusulong sa Lopez

SARIAYA, QUEZON — Bubuksan ang bagong campus ng Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) sa Sariaya, Quezon, habang isinusulong din ang pagtatatag ng panibagong Philippine Science High School (PSHS) campus sa Lopez, Quezon, ayon kay Governor Helen Tan.

Ayon kay Tan, unang iaalok sa PUP-Sariaya ang mga online post-graduate course, habang inaaahang susunod na bubuksan ang iba pang mga programa sa susunod na academic year.

Samantala, isinasaproseso na ang aplikasyon para sa pagtatatag ng bagong PSHS o Pisay campus sa Lopez na magiging isa sa mga panukalang campus sa

ganisa using fresh, locally sourced pork. Through years of experience, they learned that quality plays a huge role in keeping customers satisfied and maintaining the taste of their products.

"Sa ganitong business, ang major na challenge namin ay ang mga imported na karne ng baboy. Masusi naming tiningnan kung local at fresh ba ang karne dahil hindi

maganda ang kalidad ng longganisa kapag imported pork ang ginagamit," Jaime shared.

Meanwhile, managing their chicharon business was never easy. Their production was usually done twice a week and involved a long and careful process. From preparing and drying the pork skin to frying it properly, every step required patience and consistency. Aside from the increasing cost of raw materials, unpredictable



Inside their neighborhood convenience store, Jaime and Candelaria from Macabalan, Piapiang Puti, Cagayan de Oro City, proudly showcased their homemade longganisa, which reflects their simple yet meaningful journey in life.

weather has also become one of their biggest challenges. During rainy days, the pork skin took longer to dry, causing delays in production and affecting their usual schedule.

"Sa chicharon business naman, nakadepende sa quality ng pork skin or rinds ang dami ng magiging finished products mo, kaya hindi pare-pareho ang benta at kita," he explained.

Despite all the difficulties, they never wavered and continued working hard to sustain their livelihood.

A new door opens

As their business grew, so did the needs of their family. In need of additional capital, a neighbor introduced Candelaria to CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI, in 2012. After learning about the institution's loan and insurance ser-

vices, she decided to become a client.

She started with an initial loan of PHP 5,000, which gradually increased over the years to as much as PHP 100,000.

The additional capital helped them strengthen their business and support their household expenses. Seeing the positive impact on their livelihood, her husband also decided to become a client in 2020.

Together, the couple managed their loans responsibly and used them wisely to grow their business. Through discipline, hard work, and perseverance, they were able to gradually improve their living conditions while continuing to support the education and daily needs of their children.

A new door opens

As their business grew, so did the needs of their family. In need of additional capital, a neighbor introduced Candelaria to CARD SME Bank, Inc., a thrift bank under CARD MRI, in 2012. After learning about the institution's loan and insurance ser-

nabigyan kami ng oportunidad na magkaroon ng mapagkukunan ng dagdag na puhunan para sa aming negosyo. Sa 14 years ko bilang client, napayos namin ang aming bahay at nasuportahan ang pangangailangan ng aming apat na anak. Isa pa sa aming ipinagpapasalamat ay ang pagiging CARD scholar ng aming bunsong anak," Candelaria shared.

Despite the growing competition in their businesses, Jaime and Candelaria continue to persist. Beyond earning, they have also shared their skills and knowledge with relatives, some of whom are now starting businesses of their own.

Their sacrifices also helped open better opportunities for their children. Today, two of them are already working in Manila and have families of their own. One now helps them manage and sustain the family business, while their youngest is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Marketing Management at Cagayan de Oro College as a proud CARD scholar.

Through years of hard work, the couple was able to acquire a house and lot, expand their sari-sari store, and sustain their business despite the many challenges they faced along the way.

Looking ahead, Jaime and Candelaria remain committed to further growing their livelihood. They plan to expand their market reach and strengthen their brand presence. As part of their long-term goals, they also aim to officially register their longganisa products with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and comply with other relevant government agencies to formalize further and expand their operations.

Working side-by-side through the years, Jaime and Candelaria proved that simple beginnings, when driven by perseverance and love for family, can lead to lasting success. PR