

SM Supermalls Honored at Economic Times Human Capital Awards Southeast Asia 2026

Organization secures Gold for Visionary HR Leadership and Silver for ESG & CSR Excellence, reinforcing its commitment to high-potential talent growth and nation-wide community impact.

Share Some of the most meaningful work within an organization happens quietly, away from the day-to-day routine.

It unfolds when employees step forward to volunteer in coastal cleanups, assemble relief packs for disaster-affected communities, or establish structural pathways that

cellence in Employee Involvement for ESG & CSR, acknowledging its organization-wide mobilization of human capital toward environmental, social, and governance causes.

Building a Culture Where People Thrive

At the center of the Gold recognition for Visionary HR Leadership is a strategic commitment to investing in the holistic employee experience. Over recent years, SM Supermalls has instituted unified frameworks encompassing talent and career development, learning



Cheryll Ruth L. Agsaoay, Group Head and Senior Vice President for Human Resources, SM Supermalls, receives the Gold award for Visionary HR Leadership. SM Supermalls celebrates two recognitions at the Economic Times Human Capital Awards Southeast Asia 2026, honoring its people-centered approach to leadership and employee involvement in ESG and CSR.



Trusted, tech-savvy, and transformative. The 7-year employee experience transformation journey of HR is anchored on leadership synergy, people empowerment, digital innovation, sustainability, and shared purpose, helping build a future-ready organization.

help colleagues envision long-term careers within the company. Recognizing a workplace culture where corporate purpose and personal growth converge, SM Supermalls received two major honors at the Economic Times Human Capital Awards Southeast Asia 2026 during a formal gala ceremony held on July 24 at One Farrer in Singapore.

The prestigious regional platform awarded Cheryll Ruth L. Agsaoay, Group Head and Senior Vice President for Human Resources, the Gold Award for Visionary HR Leadership.

Simultaneously, SM Supermalls earned the Silver Award for Ex-

and technology systems, leadership pipelines, culture-building efforts, and well-being initiatives.

By combining human-centered leadership with digital capabilities, the company has transformed its human resources operations, generating a reported 230 percent return on investment from HR technology deployments over a three-year timeline.

These strategic investments have delivered measurable operational milestones across the organization achieving 99 percent retention rate among high-potential talent, alongside a 75 percent informal succession realization rate for critical roles.

Furthermore, overall employee retention at SM Supermalls is at par with global high-performing company norms. Yet, leadership emphasizes that metrics represent only a portion of the broader ongoing trajectory.

"We are proud of our progress, humbled by how much more there is to do, and committed to getting better every day.

This recognition inspires us to keep improving how we listen, learn, and build a better workplace for our people," said Cheryll Ruth L. Agsaoay, Group Head & Senior Vice President for Human Resources, SM Supermalls

Extending Pur-

community involvement.

Through SM Cares, the corporate social responsibility arm of SM Supermalls, employees actively participate in nationwide coastal cleanup drives, disaster response efforts, and accessibility workshops designed to foster inclusivity for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. In the first half of 2026 alone, 40 percent of the total workforce volunteered time and talent to support localized initiatives across the Philippines.

"Our business exists to serve people, and that responsibility extends beyond our malls. We are proud of how our employees continue to step for-

meaningful impact follows" said Steven T. Tan, President, SM Supermalls

Together, the two awards highlight an integrated organizational strategy: one aspect focuses on cultivating an environment where professionals can build fulfilling careers, while the other empowers those same individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.

Viewing these accolades as a standard for continuous improvement rather than a final destination, SM Supermalls remains dedicated to advancing its HR practices and community programs throughout the country.

About SM Super-

malls SM Supermalls is one of Southeast Asia's largest mall developers and operators, with 90 malls in the Philippines and 9 in China. For generations, SM has grown alongside Filipino communities by creating destinations where people, businesses, and opportunities come together.

Through "My SM", SM continues to evolve with the changing lifestyles of Filipino communities—creating places where people can discover, connect, move, play, and recharge through thoughtfully designed



Employee volunteers join the Happy Walk with Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc., Brigada Eskwela, and coastal clean-up to give back to the community.

pose Beyond the Workplace

The company's people-first philosophy extends past internal talent management into direct

ward and contribute their time, talent, and heart to causes that uplift communities.

When purpose and people come together,

experiences, better connectivity, and spaces that bring everyday life closer together.

My SM. Your Most Loved Supermall.

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CALABARZON juvenile council calls for stronger referral system for CICLS

Cayetano hinikayat ang mga Pilipino na kumapit sa pananampalataya sa gitna ng pag-ulan at mga unos

15 students oriented for deployment to McDonald's branches in Cavite



On September 22, a total of 15 students participated in the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES) Orientation at McDonald's Buhay na Tubig, City of Imus branch, and were prepared for deployment to various McDonald's branches across the province of Cavite. The orientation provided the students with important information and guidelines as they prepared to begin their deployment. The session was facilitated by Ms. Anina Bayot, from McDonald's, together with Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, Department Head of OPG-OPPESM. Also present during the orientation was Bacoor PESO Manager, Dr. Abraham D. De Castro, who joined the activity in support of the students and the program. The activity aims to help equip the students with the necessary knowledge and expectations as they take their first steps toward gaining valuable workplace experience. — OPIO

SSS honors Filipinos abroad through Global Kabayan Day

PhilHealth urges LGUs to lead shift to primary care to maximize UHC financing

Mayor Ross Rizal Leads Rice Assistance Drive for 15,000+ PWD Families



Calamba City, Laguna — More than 15,000 families of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) in Calamba City are set to receive rice assistance through the national government's rice distribution program, with the first batch already underway.

Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal said the initial distribution marks the start of the provision of rice assistance to PWD families across the city, with each family entitled to 20 kilos of rice.

cont. on page 2

IMUSEÑO, OPEN NA ANG MCI HMO LOUNGE



Noong September 28, 2026 pormal na nag-bukas ang MCI HMO Lounge para sa komportableng approval process sa inyong HMO at insurance provider sa Medical Center Imus, Buhay na Tubig Road, Imus City, Cavite. Kasama dito ang first-ever AgoraPod dito sa Cavite na ginawa para sa mabilis na approval ng konsulta sa Intellicare and AVEGA Managed Care users! ☐ Bukas ang aming HMO Lounge ng Monday to Saturday, 6:00AM to 10:00PM sa 3rd floor ng Outpatient Building (via North Elevator).



EDITORIAL:

PWD, WHEELCHAIR AT KARAPATANG MAGKAROON NG BARIL

May mga nagtatanong: Kapag ba ang isang tao ay PWD o naka-wheelchair, bawal na agad siyang kumuha o mag-renew ng LTOPF at PTCFOR?

Batay sa RA 10591 at Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations, hindi nakasaad na ang pagiging PWD o wheelchair user, sa sarili lamang nito, ay automatic na disqualification para magkaroon ng firearm.

Sa katunayan, may partikular na provision ang Revised IRR para sa PWD na may physical at/o sensory impairment. Ang requirement ay medical certificate na nagsasabing kaya ng applicant na gamitin ang partikular na firearm nang efficiently, effectively at safely.

Ibig sabihin, hindi dapat ang simpleng tanong ay:

“PWD ba siya?”

Mas mahalagang tanong ay:

“Qualified ba siya sa ilalim ng batas at

kaya ba niyang gamitin at pangasiwaan ang firearm nang ligtas?”

Mahalaga ring tandaan na magkaiba ang LTOPF at PTCFOR. Ang pagkakaroon ng LTOPF ay hindi automatic na nagbibigay ng PTCFOR. May hiwalay na requirements at qualification ang permit to carry.

Hindi rin dapat paghaluin ang physical disability at mental incapacity. Ang pagiging wheelchair user ay hindi nangangahulugan na ang isang tao ay mentally incapacitated o awtomatikong legally disqualified.

Kung may aplikanteng PWD na hindi pinagbigyan, makatarungan lamang na malaman niya ang eksaktong legal o administrative basis ng denial. Hindi sapat ang simpleng paliwanag na:

“Naka-wheelchair ka kasi.”

Kung mayroong partikular na regulation o memorandum na nagbabawal sa isang wheelchair user, dapat itong malinaw na maipakita at maipaliwanag kung paano ito naaayon sa umiiral na firearms law.

Ang pagiging PWD ay hindi dapat awtomatikong ituring na kawalan ng kakayahan. Ang dapat suriin ay ang qualification, medical condition, functional capability at safety, ayon sa itinakda ng batas.

Sa batas, mahalaga ang qualification—hindi ang label.

DISCLAIMER:

Ang editorial na ito ay para sa public information at awareness lamang. Hindi ito legal advice at hindi kapalit ng opisyal na interpretasyon o desisyon ng PNP-FEO o ng korte. Para sa aktuwal na aplikasyon o renewal ng LTOPF at PTCFOR, sumangguni sa kasalukuyang rules at requirements ng PNP-FEO.

CALABARZON...

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The Regional Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (RJJWC) CALABARZON is pushing for a stronger and more coordinated referral system to ensure that Children in Conflict with the Law (CICLs) receive timely, appropriate, and child-sensitive intervention in their communities.

The call was raised during the council's 3rd Quarter Monitoring and Facility Visit on Sept. 8, which covered selected police stations and local government offices in Laguna. The activity reviewed the handling of CICL cases and identified gaps in coordination, documentation, referral, and intervention.

In Pakil, Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) personnel led by PCpl. Richelle I. Araya shared the barangay's experience in handling cases involving children, including incidents of theft and physical injury. The monitoring team stressed the need to promptly coordinate cases with the appropriate social welfare office for assessment and intervention.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) IV-A Social Welfare Officer II August E. Perpetua of the Protective Services Division emphasized proper

PhilHealth...

Investments in health should lead to meaningful and sustainable gains at the community level," PhilHealth Acting President and CEO Dr. Beverly Ho said at the 1st Unilab Foundation Executive Symposium held at Pasig City on September 28, 2026.

To maximize the financing from PhilHealth and DOH, local government units (LGUs) must go beyond running public health facilities and lead the integration of their local health systems.

Dr. Ho presented PhilHealth YAKAP as the gateway to province- and city-wide health systems.

As PhilHealth funds individual-based services through YAKAP and GAMOT, LGUs can

channel their own resources to run population-based public health programs.

She urged local leaders to deliver improvements for their constituents through YAKAP empanelment to their facility of choice and investment for EMR, epidemiology & surveillance, health promotion, and non-medical factors that influence health outcomes.

Dr. Ho affirmed that PhilHealth will continue working with the DOH to support LGUs, with the upcoming roll out of the enhanced YAKAP and GAMOT programs. The symposium gathered public and private sector leaders to discuss ways to strengthen health systems and advance Universal Health Care.

Mayor...

“Sinimulan na natin ang 1st Batch ng pamimigay ng Biyayang Bigas mula sa Pamahalaang Nasyonal para sa mga pamilya ng ating mga Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).”

“Bawat pamilya ay tatanggap ng 20 kilos ng bigas, at sa kabuuan, mahigit 15,000 PWD families sa Calamba ang mabibiyayaan.”

Rizal expressed his appreciation to the national government, led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., for providing assistance intended to directly benefit Filipino families.

“Maraming salamat sa Pamahalaang Nasyonal, sa pangunguna ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., para sa tulong na direktang nakararating sa ating mga kababayan.”

The mayor also highlighted the contribution of taxpayers in supporting government programs and services.

“At higit sa lahat, maraming salamat sa ating mga taxpayers. Ang bawat buwis na inyong ibinigay ay naibabalik sa mamamayan bilang serbisyo, tulong at biyaya.” He summed up the initiative with the message: “Buwis ng mamamayan, ibinabalik sa mamamayan.”

(Edjun Mariposque)



referral procedures and complete case documentation before a child is turned over to the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO). Medical certificates and other relevant records, he said, provide social workers with essential information for assessing the child's circumstances and needs.

Perpetua also underscored the importance of child-sensitive approaches during interviews and assessments, particularly in cases involving possible abuse or violence.

He encouraged frontline workers to follow prescribed procedures and use appropriate assessment tools when necessary.

In Kalayaan, the monitoring team discussed with MSWDO Officer Aime Magana the handling of CICLs involved in physical injury cases, including children aged 13 and 14. The council highlighted the role of barangays and the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) in ensuring prompt referral and community-based interventions suited to each child's age and circumstances.

The monitoring team, composed of representatives from JJWC,

DSWD, Philippine Information Agency (PIA) CALABARZON, and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) IV-A, also called for continuing training and technical assistance for barangay personnel. Preventive efforts such as school lectures, anti-bullying activities, school visits, and community education were cited as measures to address concerns before they escalate.

Meanwhile, Lumban police personnel led by PSMS Marife Recio reported community initiatives, including regular patrols, coordination with barangay Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) desks, and school lectures on anti-bullying and the Safe Spaces Act.

The monitoring team also discussed the need for suitable temporary shelter where children can be kept separate from adult offenders.

The RJJWC CALABARZON emphasized that a functional referral network linking barangays, police, schools, MSWDOs, DSWD, and other concerned agencies is vital to connecting CICLs with appropriate services without unnecessary delay, while ensuring that interventions focus on protection, rehabilitation, and the child's welfare.



EDITORIAL OFFICE

Business Office : #023 Coastal Green St., P. F. 1
Espiritu, Bacoor City Cavite

Website: www.deretsahan.com

Mobile No.: 09365035056

Email ad: deretsahan2024@gmail.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

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SSS...

The Social Security System (SSS) brought its 69th Anniversary celebration closer to Filipinos in Hong Kong through the 2026 SSS Global Kabayan Day held from September 12 to 14 at the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) OFW Global Center.

Anchored on the anniversary theme, “Bawat Isa Protektado, Bawat Bukas Sigurado,” the three-day activity gave OFWs, pensioners, Filipino community leaders, and other members of the Filipino community an opportunity to learn about SSS programs and services, raise concerns, and access assistance.

The activity was held with the support of the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, led by Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr., Consul Von Ryan Ferrera, and Labor Attaché Atty. Cesar L. Chavez, Jr., together with other Philippine government offices, Filipino community organizations, and SSS partner institutions.

The activity opened on September 12 with a town hall meeting where Filipino community leaders and media guests received updates on SSS programs and services, and raised questions and concerns directly with SSS officials.

On behalf of the SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro, Vice President for Asia, Americas and Pacific Operations Division Atty. Paul Erik D. Manalo presented an overview of SSS services, while Vice President for Member Relations and Support Division Atty. Marissa C. Mapalo discussed the latest SSS programs.

“Our OFWs continue to contribute to their families, communities, and the country, even while working far from home. As their social security institution, SSS must also be there for them wherever they are,” Manalo said.

“We want our members abroad to know that their SSS remains accessible to them. Through activities like the Global Kabayan Day, we are able to bring our services closer,

er, provide timely information, and listen directly to their concerns,” he added.

The presentations were followed by an open forum with Filipino community leaders and media guests. The activity also provided onsite assistance to OFWs applying for the MySSS Card. SSS Foreign Representatives assisted members through the application process, with support from SSS officials.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) assisted members with National ID registration and verification, a key step in securing a MySSS Card. SSS participating financial institutions, such as Asia United Bank (AUB) and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), also provided onsite assistance for MySSS Card applications.

The main Global Kabayan Day program on September 13 highlighted the experiences and contributions of OFWs and SSS pensioners through testimonials and recognition activities. Around 30 SSS pensioners residing in Hong Kong were recognized in appreciation of their years of membership and contributions to the SSS. Some pensioners also shared their personal experiences and reflections.

The program also marked the signing of memoranda of understanding between SSS and Global Alliance Hong Kong and between SSS and Diwa't Kabayan Society, strengthening ties with Filipino community organizations in Hong Kong.

On September 14, the onsite services continued, allowing OFWs and other members of the Filipino community to access assistance on MySSS Card applications and other SSS-related concerns.

The 2026 Global Kabayan Day formed part of the SSS' 69th Anniversary celebration and marked the first time that its annual OFW Day and Pensioners' Day activities were brought together in an overseas setting. Hong Kong and Barcelona served as the inaugural international venues for the initiative. PR

Ruanto, Nakipag-ugnayan sa mga Senador para sa mga Proyekto ng Infanta

INFANTA, QUEZON — Muling nagtungo sa Senado si Infanta Mayor Lord Arnel “L.A.” Ruanto noong Setyembre 30 upang humingi ng karagdagang suporta at pondo para sa mga pangunahing proyekto at pangangailangan ng bayan.

Ayon kay Ruanto, nasa humigit-kumulang ₱80 milyon kada taon ang Economic Development Fund ng munisipyo na kailangang pagkasyahin para sa mga proyekto sa mga barangay at iba pang sektor.

Sinabi ng alkalde na hindi ito sapat upang matugunan ang mga pangangailangan ng halos 100,000 residente ng Infanta, batay sa Comprehensive Household Information System (CHIS) ng munisipyo.

Kasama sina Vice Mayor Mannie America, ilang konsehal at ang Municipal Administrator, nakipag-ugnayan si Ruanto sa mga opisyal ng pamahalaan upang maisulong ang karagdagang suporta para sa mga proyekto ng bayan.

Kabilang sa mga iniulat niyang pondong nakuha o commitment ay ₱20 milyon para sa improvement at expansion ng evacuation center sa Gumian sa pamamagitan ng Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), sa tulong nina Executive Secretary Ralph Recto at Usec. Georgina Yang.

Iniulat din ang ₱50 milyong commitment para sa bagong municipal building sa tulong ni Sen. JV Ejercito, habang isinusulong naman ang pondo para sa modernization at expansion ng Infanta Municipal Fishport at Passenger Port sa tulong ni Sen. Kiko Pangilinan.

Para sa sektor ng edukasyon, kabilang sa mga isinusulong ang karagdagang mga classroom upang makatulong na matugunan ang mahigit 100 classroom backlog sa bayan, sa tulong ni Sen. Bam Aquino.

Sa sektor ng kalusugan, kabilang naman ang mga health facility para sa bubuksang Super Health Center at Infirmary Hospital, sa tulong ni Sen. Risa Montiveros.

Kabilang din sa mga proyektong isinulong ang karagdagang pondo para sa pagsasaayos ng pamilihang bayan at DOLE TUPAD assistance para sa mga benepisyaryo sa Infanta, na inugnay ni Ruanto sa tulong ni Sec. Francis Tolentino.

Nagpasalamat din ang alkalde sa mga opisyal at senador na ayon sa kanya ay patuloy na nagbibigay ng suporta sa mga proyekto ng Infanta, kabilang sina Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian, Sen. Migz Zubiri, Sen. Bong Go, Sen. Joel Villanueva, Sen. Lito Lapid, Sen. Robin Padilla at Sen. Ronald “Bato” dela Rosa.

Sinabi ni Ruanto na patuloy na naghahanap ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga paraan upang mapabilis ang pagpapatupad ng mga proyektong tugon sa pangangailangan ng mga residente.

(Aida Dapula)

China, mabilis ang construction sa Antelope Reef sa WPS

Mabilis na umuusad ang konstruksyon ng china sa Antelope Reef sa Paracel islands, kabilang ang pagtatayo ng runway na ayon sa mga analyst ay maaaring matapos pagsapit ng kalagitnaan ng 2027.

Makikita ang grading works, mga tambak ng graba at konkretong materyales, at mga compaction crane na ginagamit sa pagtatayo ng runway. Makikita rin ang isang gravel barge na patungo sa bagong tayong wharf.

Ayon sa mga Security analyst at Military officials, maaaring maging mahalagang offshore military base ng China ang Antelope Reef kapag nakumpleto, dahil mapapal-

Cayetano...

Hinikayat ni Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano ang mga Pilipino na manatiling matatag at kumapit sa pananampalataya sa gitna ng patuloy na pag-ulan at iba pang pagsubok na kinakaharap ng bansa.

Sa kanyang mensahe sa ika-44 anibersaryo ng Mandaport Apostolic Pentecostals (MAP) Church nitong August 30, sinabi ni Cayetano na hindi maiiwasan ang mga unos sa buhay, ngunit kayang malampasan ng mga taong matibay ang pundasyon sa kanilang pananampalataya ang anumang pagsubok.

“Kung may bagyo o wala sa ating buhay, dadating at dadating ‘yan kahit saan tayo mapunta... Pero ang sabi sa Bible, ‘pag tama y’ung ugat mo, tama kung saan ka nag-build, madaranas mo lahat ‘yan pero hindi ka mauugat,” wika ni Cayetano.

Sinabi ni Cayetano na hindi lamang mga bagyo at malalakas na ulan ang mga unos na kailangang harapin ng mga Pilipino, kundi pati ang pagbaha, kawalan ng trabaho, mababang sahod, pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihin at mataas na

presyo ng gasolina. Binigyang diin din niya na ang pagiging nakaugat sa pananampalataya kay Kristo ay may kaakibat na pananagutan na isabuhay ito at maging “ambassadors of Christ” sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Bilang dating kalihim ng Department of Foreign Affairs, inihalintulad ni Cayetano ang mga Kristiyano sa isang ambassador na kumakatawan hindi sa sarili kundi sa kahariang kanyang pinaglilingkuran.

“Ang ambassador ay walang karapatan sabihin ang kanyang opinion kasi ang nire-represent po niya ay ang kanyang bansa.

In the olden days and biblically you are representing the Kingdom and the King,” wika niya.

Ayon kay Cayetano, bahagi rin ng pag-sasabuhay ng pananampalataya ang pagkilala sa dignidad ng bawat tao kahit may hindi pagkakasundo,

h a b a n g nananatiling nakatoun sa mga problemang kailangang lutasin.

“You have to remember na kahit kalaban mo, kahit galit na galit sa kanya, gawa din siya ng Panginoon,” wika ni Cayetano, na ibinahagi ang payong ito sa kanya ng mga pastor.

Sinabi ng Minority Leader na dala rin niya ang ganitong pananaw sa pagtugon sa korapsyon.

“H a l i m b a w a tingin ko y’ung isang tao, corrupt — hindi siya yung kalaban ko, y’ung corruption ang kalaban ko,” wika niya.

Sa pagtatapos ng kanyang mensahe, hinikayat ni Cayetano ang mga Pilipino na manatiling nakakapit sa kanilang pananampalataya anuman ang unos at hirap na kanilang pagdaanan.

“Ang gina-guarantee ng Panginoon, ‘pag ikaw ay nakaugat sa Panginoong Hesu Kristo, hindi ka mauugat,” wika niya.

-PR





CARD MBA marks its 27 years of empowering and protecting Filipino families



The Natatanging MBA Coordinators, together with selected CARD MRI Executive Committee members and Senior Advisers, gathered for a memorable group photo to commemorate the 27th founding anniversary celebration.

CARD Mutual Benefit Association (CARD MBA), Inc., one of the microinsurance arms of CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), celebrated its 27 years of building resilience among Filipino families and communities on September 9, 2026, at Maharlika Square, San Pablo City, Laguna.

CARD MBA CEO Jocelyn Dequito shared that the celebration "is a milestone not only for CARD MBA, but for every member and family who entrusted us to protect their future and support them towards financial freedom".

For 27 years, CARD MBA has centered

its mission on helping Filipino families cope with unexpected events without falling further into poverty. CARD MBA supports its members through a wide range of products and services, including death and accidental benefits, retirement fund, redemption packages, disaster relief assistance, mass wedding, and more.

People behind its service

CARD MBA is 100% owned and managed by its members. During its Annual General Membership Meeting, CARD MBA elected its new Board of Trustees, with representatives from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao.

The newly elected board of trustees includes Marissa R. Bautista (North Luzon), Shirley M. Solina (South Luzon), Neila S. Perez and Emma C. Ti-ad (Visayas), and Alma B. Esmaña and Elvira B. Lumbrino (Mindanao), each serving a two-year term.

CARD MBA President Rowena H. Macias said the Association's progress over the years has been closely tied to the work of its people.

"We have witnessed how CARD MBA consistently delivers meaningful products and services that uplift our members and their families," she said.

The organiza-

tion also recognized MBA Coordinators who have shown strong performance and commitment in helping members with their insurance concerns.

Eight finalists were selected for the 2026 Natatanging MBA Coordinator awards. Emelita R. Araño of Batangas was named the National Winner. Jemilyn A. Sales of Camarines Sur placed first, while Marry Rose R. Ballete of Surigao del Sur took second place.

The Ka-Seguro Awards were also presented to MBA Coordinators who achieved the highest microinsurance product enrollments. The awardees were Jeneyv Ariola and Raquel Garcia

(Cagayan), Maricel Villanueva (Surigao del Sur), Marcelena Cañaverl (Sultan Kudarat), Jovelyn Tuyor (Davao Oriental), Elisa Alapit (Pangasinan), Janice Mercado (Cagayan), Rosemarie Gines (South Cotabato), Josephine Balili (Surigao del Sur), Alma Esmaña (Sultan Kudarat), and Flor Cacho (Nueva Ecija). This award recognizes their dedication and efforts in helping the Association provide a financial safety net and protection to millions of Filipino families.

New product for retired members

One of the highlights of the anniversary was the introduction of the Family Security Plan Extension, which gives retired members aged 70 and above an option to continue their insurance coverage.

The product is available in two forms: the Individual Plan covers the member, while the Package Plan covers both the member and their partner. For the latter, the partner must be 60 to 75 years old and mentally and physically well.

The new plan is intended to address the need for continued insurance protection for older members who have limited coverage options after retirement.

27 years of ensuring Filipinos CARD MBA's 27th anniversary recognized the dedication and work of its management, officers, staff, and MBA Coordinators in providing microinsurance and financial assistance to Filipino families, particularly those who need support when unexpected events affect their lives and finances.

The celebration was attended by CARD MRI Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, CARD MBA Chief Executive Officer Ms. Jocelyn Dequito, CARD MRI Managing Director Mr. Aristeo Dequito, along with CARD MRI Senior Advisers, some Executive Committee Members, CARD MBA officers and staff, and MBA Coordinators.

As of July 31, 2026, CARD MBA has 95 provincial offices, serving more than 8.4 million active members and insuring more than 25 million individuals. In terms of claims payments, the institution has processed over 500,000 claims, with total claims paid exceeding PHP 2.6 billion.

To know more about CARD MBA, visit its official website @ <https://cardmba.com/> and its official Facebook page @ CARDMBAofficial.

MEGAWORLD, VILLAROMAN PARTNER FOR GOLF LIFESTYLE HUB IN CAVITE

Sports and leisure group Villaroman Golf Academy is expanding into Megaworld's Maple Grove township in General Trias City, Cavite, with a new golf and lifestyle hub that will add sports, recreation, and dining options to the 140-hectare mixed-use development.

The academy will occupy a 2.7-hectare site and feature a 50-bay driving range, golf hitting bays, state-of-the-art golf simulators, and practice areas designed to replicate actual golf course conditions. Golfers will be able to train on real grass, artificial turf, fairway, bunker, and rough surfaces.

The big picture Beyond golf, the facility will include a dedicated short-game area with bunkers, three tournament-grade pickleball



Present during the ceremonial signing of memorandum of agreement were (from left): Lourdes Gutierrez-Alfonso, president and CEO, Megaworld; Kevin Tan, president and CEO, Alliance Global Group, Inc., parent company of Megaworld; Carito Villaroman, founder and CEO, and Philip Yeung, co-founder and Head of Legal, VGA./Contributed Photo

courts, a players' lounge, a golf-specific gym, a sports retail zone, a resto and sports bar, and a café, positioning the development as a broader sports and lifestyle destination.

Megaworld and Villaroman Golf Academy (VGA) enter into a partnership for a new golf and lifestyle hub at Maple Grove in General Trias City, Cavite./Contributed Photo Villaroman Golf Academy will cater to beginners, enthusiasts,

Maple Grove in General Trias City, Cavite./Contributed Photo Megaworld and Villaroman Golf Academy (VGA) enter into a partnership for a new golf and lifestyle hub at Maple Grove in General Trias City, Cavite./Contributed Photo Villaroman Golf Academy will cater to beginners, enthusiasts,

and competitive golfers through structured training programs. The academy is led by founder and head coach Carito Villaroman, a former touring professional who has coached Filipino golf standouts including Yuka Saso and Bianca Pagdanganan. It is also accredited by the Games and Amusements Board

to certify professional golf coaches across the country. "We are excited to welcome Villaroman Golf Academy to Maple Grove as we introduce new destinations for sports, leisure, and dining in this part of Cavite. These new additions form part of our vision to continue building Maple Grove into a township that offers more than residential and business spaces, giving the growing community greater access to recreation and lifestyle experiences closer to home," Megaworld Lifestyle Malls Maple Grove said.

Why it matters The addition of Villaroman Golf Academy strengthens Maple Grove's portfolio of sports and recreational facilities, complementing its existing

biking and jogging track, futsal field, retail establishments, residential communities, and office developments. The township's commercial district also continues to expand with restaurants, cafés, and national retail brands serving residents and businesses.

Located along Governor's Drive in General Trias City, Maple Grove is connected to Metro Manila through CAVITEX and CALAX and is being developed as a mixed-use township with residential, commercial, office, and institutional components anchored by a 35-hectare commercial district. A ceremonial signing for the partnership was attended by executives from Megaworld, Alliance Global Group, and Villaroman Golf Academy



PUBLISHER CORNER

CHIZ SAYS REFORMING 54-YEAR-OLD RA 6552 VITAL TO BRIDGING HOUSING, FINANCE GAPS

Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero is pressing for amendments to Republic Act No. 6552 or the Realty Installment Buyer Act, saying the 54-year-old law must be updated to fit today's housing and financial landscape.

Escudero, chair of the Senate Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, said families face



unfair treatment under the current framework, and told colleagues that a single missed payment should not erase years of hard work and investment toward owning a home.

"In pushing this bill, we give Filipino homebuyers a better chance of making it to the finish line—and finally calling the home they have worked and paid for their own. One missed payment should be a setback, not the end of the road toward owning a home," he said.

At Tuesday's plenary, the veteran legislator sponsored Senate Bill No. 2504, which he said will expand protections for Filipino homebuyers who purchase real estate on installment.

RA 6552 was enacted in 1972 and authored by the late Senator Ernesto Maceda, earning it the popular name Maceda Law. The landmark measure established grace periods, refund entitlements, and safeguards against arbitrary cancellation of contracts.

While the law was groundbreaking in its time, "it must now be strengthened to reflect the realities faced by today's homebuyers," according to Escudero.

The proposed amendments expand grace periods and refund entitlements. Buyers who have paid at least two years will enjoy a month's grace for every year of payments made, plus a cash surrender value starting at 50 percent and rising by 5 percent annually after five years, up to 90 percent. Those with less than two years of payments will be entitled to a 60-day grace period.

The senator explained that the bill also gives buyers more options before cancellation. During the grace period, they may transfer or assign their rights, settle installments in advance, or pay the balance in full without surcharges.

The proposal requires cancellations to be executed by notarial act, effective only after the 30-day period and refund payment. Delayed refunds will carry a penalty of 1.5 percent per month. Sellers must also transfer and register ownership within 120 days of full payment, with unjustified delays penalized at 0.05 percent of the contract price per month.

Escudero emphasized that ceilings on delinquency penalties will be set, and none may be imposed during the grace period.



My Opinion Anna Del

ANG PINAKAMAGANDANG PARANGAL PAHINGA AT PAMILYA

paghahanda ng aralin sa halip na makapamasyal kasama sila? Madalas, ang pamilya ang nauunahan — sila ang sila ang naghihintay.

At ngayong Oktubre 5, ibinigay sa mga guro ang pagkakataong ibalik ang oras sa kanila. Sana ay maabot din ito ng buong lalawigan ng Quezon — na ang bawat guro sa bawat bayan, mula sa unang distrito hanggang sa huli, ay makatanggap din ng ganitong pagpapahalaga. Karapatan ng mga guro ang huminto sandali at magpahinga kasama ang mga mahal sa buhay.

Walang kailangang tapusin. Walang kailangang isumite. Walang kailangang isulat kundi ang pasasalamat sa harap ng hapag-kainan kasama ang pamilya.

Sana lahat ng parangal na maaaring ibigay — plake, sertipiko, papuri — wala nang hihigit sa isang araw na sabihin sa amin: "Sapat na ang ibinigay mo. Ngayon, para naman sa iyo."

Hindi pagiging makasarili ang pagpapahinga. Ito ang pagpupuno sa sarili upang muling makapagbigay.

Bilang guro, hindi ko maibibigay ang pag-asa kung wala akong lakas.

Bilang manunulat, hindi ako makasusulat ng maganda kung ang akling puso ay pagod at malungkot.

Sana, sa susunod na araw ng mga Guro, walang maiiwan.

Sana, ang buong Quezon Province ay sabay-sabay na magpahinga. Dahil kung sino man kami, kung ano man ang aming nagawa — lahat ito ay dahil din sa pamilyang nasa aming likuran.

Sa lahat ng nagbigay ng pagkakataong ito — maraming salamat. Ang lakas na makukuha namin sa araw na ito ay ibabalik namin sa aming mga mag-aaral, sa aming pagsusulat, at sa aming pamilya — nang buo at mas masigla pa.

Maligayang araw ng mga Guro. Ang pinakamagandang parangal ay ang pagkakataong magpahinga, at mahalin ang sarili at ang pamilya. Wala nang hihigit pa rito.

EXPLICIT APAT NA REGIONAL MOST WANTED TIMBOG SA MURDER AT RAPE CASES

Apat na itinuturing na high-priority wanted persons ang magkakahiwalay na nasakote ng mga operatiba ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa Metro Manila, Region 3 at Region 13 mula Setyembre 30 hanggang Oktubre 1, 2026, kaugnay ng mga kasong murder, attempted murder, rape at paglabag sa Republic Act No. 7610.

Inisagawa ang magkakahiwalay na operasyon sa ilalim ng pamumuno ni PNP Chief PGen Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., bilang bahagi ng tuloy-tuloy na kampanya ng kapulisan laban sa mga wanted person na may kinakaharap na mabibigat na kaso.

Sa Intramuros, Manila, naaresto noong Setyembre 30 ang No. 1 Most Wanted Person ng National Capital Region (NCR). Nahaharap ito sa mga kasong Murder at Attempted Murder, na may kaukulang rekomendasyon sa piyansa mula sa korte.

Samantala, sa Butuan City, nadakip ng mga tauhan ng Butuan City Police Office ang No. 3 Most Wanted Person sa lugar. Nahaharap naman ito sa mga kasong Statutory Rape at paglabag sa Republic Act No. 7610, o ang Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.

Sa Lianga, Surigao del Sur, magkasaniib na puwersa ng pulisya ang umaresto rin noong Setyembre 30 sa No. 3 Most Wanted Person ng Police Regional Office 13. Kabilang sa mga kinakaharap nitong kaso ang Murder at ilang bilang ng Attempted Murder.

Samantala, sa Dingalan, Aurora, naaresto noong Oktubre 1 ng mga operatiba ang No. 6 Most Wanted Person ng Police Regional Office 3, na nahaharap sa mga kasong Statutory Rape at Rape by Sexual Assault.

Bingyang-diin ni PGen Nartatez ang kahalagahan ng tuloy-tuloy na police operations at koordinasyon sa paghahanap at pag-aresto sa mga wanted person, kasabay ng pagtiyak na naayon sa batas ang bawat operasyon.

"Sundin ang warrant, sundin ang batas, at igalang ang karapatan ng bawat isa. That is how we do our job," ani Nartatez.

Bahagi ng mga operasyon ng pagpapatupad ng PNP Focused Agenda, partikular sa ilalim ng Enhanced Managing Police Operations (EMPO), na naglalayong palakasin ang koordinasyon, pagpapalano at pagsasagawa ng operasyon batay sa mga nakalap na impormasyon at pangangailangan ng bawat kaso.

Ayon sa PNP, patuloy nitong isinusulong ang propesyonal, responsable at mabilis na pagpapatupad ng batas habang pinangangalagaan ang due process at mga karapatan ng bawat indibidwal.

Nasa kustodiya na ng pulisya ang apat na naarestong wanted persons at sasailalim sa kaukulang proseso para sa pagpapatuloy ng kanilang mga kaso. Niilina naman ng PNP na ang pagkakaaresto o pagkakasampa ng kaso ay hindi nangangahulugan ng pagkakasala, dahil ang pinal na pagpapasya ay nananatili sa korte.

Patuloy namang isinusulong ng PNP ang programang "Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas: Serbisong Mabilis, Tapat at Nararamdaman," bilang bahagi ng layunin nitong ilapit ang serbisyo ng kapulisan sa publiko habang nananatiling sentro ng bawat operasyon ang batas at due process.

200 foreign nationals, sangkot sa umano'y human trafficking at scam sa Zamboanga Sibugay

Sinalakay ng mga awtoridad sa magkakaiibang operasyon ang umano'y mga human trafficking at scam hub na kinasangkutan ng halos 200 na foreign nationals sa bayan ng Alicia at Siay sa Zamboanga Sibugay nitong Biyernes, Oktubre 2.

May posibilidad na ang ilang mga sangkot ay nakaranas din ng trafficking, exploitation, pamimilit, illegally recruited, at iba pang uri ng



Madelaine Go

paglabag, ayon sa inisiyal na imbestigasyon ng National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) at ng Bureau of Immigration (BI) katuwang ang iba pang ahensiya.

Narekober ng awtoridad ang humigit-kumulang na 2,000 mobile phones, kabilang ang ilang mga computers, laptop, at iba pang gadgets. Iniimbestigahan na rin ng ahensiya ang posibilidad na ginamit ang mga ito sa umano'y pambibiktima at

ingang-scams. Inaalam pa ng ahensiya, katuwang ang iba pang mga kaugnay na kagawaran, ang aktwal na bilang ng mga sangkot na foreign nationals at nationalities ng mga ito, gayundin ang iba pang marekober na karagdagang ebidensiya.

Pinag-aaralan din ng awtoridad ang mga angkop na reklamang isasampa laban sa kanila.

(Nelson Dimapilis)



ROSARIO, CAVITE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES 2026 TUTOK KAINAN DSP FOR 75 UNDERNOURISHED CHILDREN AGED 6-23 MONTHS

22 and 24 Sep-tember 2026 | Rosario, Cavite — The Municipality of Rosario, Cavite successfully launched the 2026 Tutok Kainan Dietary Supplementation Program (TKDSP) for 75 undernourished children aged 6-23 months in the

three (3) target barangays, namely Ligtong III, Silangan I, and Tejeros Convention. This activity marked the commencement of the 180-day pure dry feeding complement-education and other early childhood care and devel-

opment (ECCD) services to combat stunting and strengthen service delivery of the first 1000 days (F1KD) interventions.

The launching was led by the Rosario Municipal Nutrition Committee (MNC) through Municipal Nutrition Action Officer (MNAO) Ms. Maria Rea A. Villa with the assistance of the Midwives, Nurses, and Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs) from the three barangays. Representing NNC CALABARZON was Nutrition Officer (NO) II PNFP Cavite Ms. Samantha E. Bantilan.

During the launching, NO II PNFP Bantilan oriented the beneficiaries through the discussion of the rationale of the TKDSP in combatting malnutrition, specifically stunting among 6-23 months old children. She also discussed the program components including the provision of dietary supplementation, nutrition education, and other ECCD services.

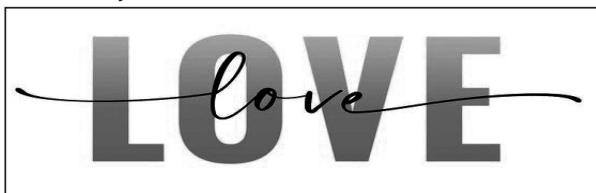
She also underscored the importance of following the scheduled distribution of dry commodities and reporting of any gastrointestinal discomfort manifested by the beneficiaries. A demonstration on the proper preparation of the complementary food was also conducted by the BNSs to guide parents and guardians in preparing the food for their children.

After the program proper, NO II PNFP Bantilan conducted a coordination meeting with the barangay implementers to discuss the implementation arrangements, schedules, and monitoring of the program deliverables. The roles and responsibilities of the municipal and barangay implementers were likewise reiterated to ensure timely and proper program implementation and monitoring. The meeting further provided an opportunity to clarify implementation concerns and align reporting mechanisms.

Following the successful launching of the 2026 TKDSP in the Municipality of Rosario, the program's 180-day implementation is expected to conclude in March 2027. Throughout the implementation period, the Rosario MNC, in coordination with the barangay health and nutrition workers, will continuously monitor the beneficiaries' compliance, food intake, and nutritional status.

Through the collaborative efforts of the LGU implementers, parents and guardians, and NNC CALABARZON, the 2026 TKDSP reflects the continued commitment of local stakeholders to strengthen community-based nutrition action and ensure that young children receive appropriate nutrition support during the first 1,000 days of life.

Furthermore, Rosario MNAO Villa emphasized the conduct of monthly weighing and height-taking, daily monitoring of the intake of beneficiaries, and photo documentations to be provided by the parents or guardians, to monitor the consumption of the cooked dry commodities.



LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY RD. LOT 5, ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY LOT 4, BLK. 5, ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 3-4-5 BY LOT 25, BLK. 5 & ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 5-1 BY LOT 6, BLK. 5 ALL OF THE SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN, BEING S. 77 DEG. 47' E., 5463.39 M. FROM BLLM 1, CAD-452-D, SILANG CAD, THENCE N. 45 DEG. 18' E., 12.50 M. TO PT. 2; THENCE S. 44 DEG. 42' E., 12.50 M. TO PT. 3; THENCE S. 45 DEG. 18' W., 7.45 M. TO PT. 4; THENCE S. 45 DEG. 18' W., 5.05 M. TO THE POINT. 5; THENCE N. 44 DEG. 42' W., 12.50 M. TO THE PT. OF BEGINNING, CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX (156) SQ. M. MORE OR LESS. ALL PTS. REFERRED TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN AND ARE MARKED ON THE GROUND BY PS CYL. CONC. MONS. 15X40 CM., BEARINGS TRUE; DATE OF ORIG. SURVEY, AUG. 26-SEPT. 28, 1982 & THAT OF SUBD. SURVEY, JUNE 1-15, 2008 & WAS APPROVED ON DEC. 12, 2008.

Is registered in accordance with the provision of Section 103 of the Property Registration Decree in the name of

Owner: SPOUSES ROMANO R. CALUPAD AND ESPERANZA R. CALUPAD FILIPINOS
Address: BLOCK 5, LOT 11 NARRA STREET, ALFONSO 2, BRGY. SINALHAN, STA. ROSA LAGUNA"

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date. It shall be held on November 11, 2026, without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate and verify for themselves the **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 076-2015004587**, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above stated time and date.

Tagaytay City, September 11, 2026.

(SGD) **VARBRA ANN A. VARIAS-DIMAYUGA**
Clerk of Court & Ex-officio Sheriff

(SGD) **ALEX E. MARTINEZ**
Sheriff-in-Charge

WARNING:

IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW

Copy Furnished:

CHINA BANKING CORPORATION
Mortgagee
8745 Paseo de Roxas cor. Villar St., Makati City

SPOUSES ROMANO R. CALUPAD AND ESPERANZA R. CALUPAD
Mortgagors

(1) Block 5, Lot 11, Narra Street, Alfonso 2, Barangay Sinalhan, 4026 Sta. Rosa, Laguna
(2) Block 5 Lot 5, Nirwana Bali West South Forbes Golf City, Barangay Inchican, Silang, Cavite 4118

DERETSAHAN WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING
SEPT. 27, OCT. 04 & 11, 2026

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF CAVITE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT & EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF

New Justice Hall, J.P. Rizal Avenue,
Kaybagal South, Tagaytay City

Email Address:

rtc1tgtocc@judiciary.gov.ph

Contact Nos. 09676699985/(046) 419-0464

CHINA BANKING CORPORATION,
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

EJF NO. TG-26-094

FOR: Extra Judicial Foreclosure
of Real Estate Mortgage under Act
No. 3135 as Amended

**SPOUSES ROMANO R. CALUPAD
and ESPERANZA R. CALUPAD**

Mortgagors,

x-----x

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as Amended by Act No. 4118, filed by mortgagee, **CHINA BANKING CORPORATION**, a universal banking corporation duly organized and existing under and by the virtue of the Philippines laws, with principal office and place of business at 8745 Paseo De Roxas cor. Villar St., Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of Real Estate Mortgage executed and notarized on August 24, 2021 by mortgagors, **SPOUSES ROMANO R. CALUPAD and ESPERANZA R. CALUPAD**, both of legal age, Filipino citizens and with postal addresses at (1) Block 5, Lot 11, Narra Street, Alfonso 2 Homes, Barangay Sinalhan, 4026 Sta. Rosa, Laguna, and (2) Block 5 Lot 5, Nirwana Bali West, South Forbes Golf City, Barangay Inchican, Silang, Cavite 4118, in favor of the mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by **TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 076-2015004587** of the Registry of Deeds for Tagaytay City, in order to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the mortgagors in the amount of **ONE MILLION TWENTY-EIGHT THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-NINE PERSOS AND 86/100 (Php 1,028,179.86)** inclusive of interest, penalties, attorney's fees and other charges and expenses, as of April 7, 2026, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex- Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru her deputy, Alex E. Martinez, will sell at public auction on **November 4, 2026 at 10:00 o'clock** in the morning or soon thereafter, at the New Hall of Justice of Tagaytay City, to the highest bidder, for Cash Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

**TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE
NO. 076-2015004587**
Registry of Deeds for Tagaytay City

"IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BRGY. OF PUTTING KAHOY, MUN. OF SILANG, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 5, BLK. 5 OF THE SUBD. PLAN PSD-04-208747, BEING A PORTION OF PCN-04-003257), SITUATED IN BRGY. OF PUTTING KAHOY, MUN. OF SILANG, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF



MAJAYJAY LGU AT MERALCO, NAGKASUNDO SA ENERGIZING PARTNERSHIP

Ni Kevin Pamat-mat

MAJAYJAY, LA-GUNA — Pinagtibay ng Sangguniang Bayan ng Majayjay ang Resolution

isang Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) kasama ang Manila Electric Company (MERALCO).

Layunin ng kasunduan na itatag ang

koordinasyon sa pagitan ng lokal na pamahalaan at MERALCO hinggil sa mga serbisyo at pangangailangan sa kuryente ng munisipyo.



No. 211-2026, na nagbibigay-awtoridad kay Municipal Mayor Romeo P. Amorado na makipagkasundo at lumagda sa

"MERALCO-Majayjay Local Government Unit Energizing Partnership," isang pagtutulungan na nakatuon sa pagpapalakas ng

Batay sa resolusyon, bahagi ng layunin ng partnership ang pagsusulong ng ligtas, sapat, maaasahan

Majayjay Rising: Laguna's Historic Town Emerges as a Must-Visit Tourist Destination



MAJAYJAY, LA-GUNA — Nestled at the foot of Mount Banahaw, the municipality of Majayjay is drawing attention as one of Laguna's picturesque destinations, offering visitors a mix of natural attractions, rich history, cool mountain scenery, and a peaceful provincial atmosphere.

Known for its lush landscapes, waterfalls, rivers, and heritage sites, Majayjay provides tourists with opportunities to explore nature while experiencing the town's centuries-old cultural character.

Among the attractions that make Majayjay worth visiting are its scenic waterfalls, includ-

ing Taytay Falls, as well as its verdant mountain surroundings and refreshing waterways. The town is also home to the historic San Gregorio Magno Church, one of Laguna's notable heritage landmarks.

Beyond tourism, Majayjay is also showing signs of economic progress under the administration of Mayor Romeo P. Amorado, with the municipality recently moving from a 4th-class to a 3rd-class municipality in Laguna, reclassification declared by the provincial government in late December 2024.

Mayor Amorado said the reclassification reflects the municipality's continuing development

and efforts to strengthen its local economy.

The shift in classification is expected to further highlight Majayjay's potential for investment, livelihood opportunities, infrastructure development, and tourism growth.

With its combination of natural beauty, historical heritage, and continuing economic development, Majayjay is positioning itself as a destination where visitors can enjoy the tranquility of nature while discovering the cultural treasures of Laguna.

For travelers looking beyond the usual tourist destinations, Majayjay offers a refreshing escape—where waterfalls, mountains, history, and local hospitality come together in one beautiful Laguna town.

(Edjun Mariposque)



Laguna Police Seize Php4.2M Worth of Illegal Drugs, Arrest 292 in September

S A N - TA CRUZ, LA-GUNA — Illegal drugs valued at ₱4,259,441 were seized while 292 individuals were arrested in a series of intensified anti-drug operations conducted by the Laguna Police Provincial Office (Laguna PPO) across the province from September 1 to 30, 2026.

Under the leadership of Provincial Director PCOL Sandro Jay DC Tafalla, Laguna PPO units carried out a total of 258 anti-illegal drug operations during the one-month period.

Police said the operations resulted in the confiscation of approximately 617.25 grams of suspected shabu and 125.32 grams of suspected marijuana.

The Laguna PPO said the seizures were the result of sustained operations by various police



units aimed at preventing the distribution and sale of illegal drugs in communities across the province.

Authorities also emphasized the importance of public cooperation in the campaign against illegal drugs, particularly through the timely and reliable reporting of information that could assist police in identifying individuals allegedly involved in illegal activities.

The Laguna PPO said it would continue to conduct lawful, human-rights-based and intelligence-driven operations while strengthening police-community part-

nerships to help maintain peace, order and public safety throughout Laguna.

"Ang pagkakasamsam ng halos ₱4.2M halaga ng ilegal na droga sa loob lamang ng isang buwan ay patunay ng ating tuloy-tuloy na pagsisikap na mailayo ang mga ipinagbabawal na gamot sa ating mga lansangan at komunidad. Patuloy nating paigingtin ang ating mga operasyon at palalakasin ang pakikipagtulungan sa mamamayan upang mapigilan ang paglaganap ng ilegal na droga sa Laguna," pahayag ni PCOL Tafalla.

(Edjun Mariposque)