CARD Clinics and Allied Services, binuksan ang klinika at diagnostic facility nito sa Cotabato City



Nagtipon ang mga opisyal, kawani, at kliyente ng CARD MRI sa ribbon-cutting ceremony ng bagong klinika at diagnostic facility sa Lungsod ng Cotabato. Sa pagbubukas ng pasilidad na ito, muling pinagtitibay ng CARD MRI ang pangako nitong maghatid ng de-kalidad at madaling maabot na serbisyong medikal sa mas maraming miyembro at komunidad.

Opisyal ng binuksan ng CARD Clinics and Allied Services Inc. ang klinika at diagnostic facility nito sa Cotabato City noong Hunyo 22, 2026. Ito ay isang malaking hakbang sa pagpapalawak ng pangunahing serbisyong pangkalusugan at pangkalahatang pag-unlad ng komunidad para sa mga pamayanan sa Mindanao.

Sa paniniwalang magkaugnay ang tunay na pag-unlad ng kabuhayan at abot-kayang de-kalidad na serbisyong pangkalusugan, itinatag ng CARD MRI ang klinika at diagnostic facility upang isulong ang holistikong kalusugan kasabay ng umiiral nitong mga programang Islamic financing.

Nag-aalok ang pasilidad ng abot-kaya at angkop sa kultura na pangunahing serbisyong medikal para sa mga residente ng lugar. Maaaring dumiretso ang mga pasyente para sa pangunahing konsultasyong medikal, regular na pagpapasuri, diagnostic x-ray, at iba pang pangunahing serbisyong pangkalusugan.

Sinabi ni CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip na bahagi ang proyektong ito ng mas malawak na hakbang laban sa kahirapan. “Ang kagaanapang ito ay higit pa sa pagbubukas ng isang klinika at diagnostic facility. Sinasalamin nito ang ating misyon na tugunan ang kahirapan sa pangkalahatang paraan, hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng pagsuporta sa pampinansiyal na kakayahan, kundi sa pagtiyak din na ang mga komunidad ay may direktang akses sa serbisyong pangkalusugan,” aniya.

Ayon naman kay Dr. Michelle Anne Dy-Menil, pangulo ng CARD Clinics, ang bagong pasilidad ay isang malaking tulong para sa mga lokal na karaniwang nagbibiyahe pa ng ilang oras para lamang magpatingin sa doktor. "Dinadala natin ang de-kalidad na pangangalagang medikal nang direkta sa mga tao. Idinisenyo ang klinikang ito upang mapanatiling malusog ang mga pamilya," pahayag niya.

Naitayo ang pasilidad sa tulong ng suporta ng The Nippon Foundation.

Dinaluhan ang pormal na pagbubukas nina CARD MRI Founder and Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip; CARD MRI Resource Mobilization and CARD MRI International Group Director Jean Pauline Landicho; CARD Clinics President Dr. Michelle Anne Dy-Menil; iba pang pinuno, opisyal, kawani, at mga kliyente ng CARD MRI; gayundin ang mga lokal na pinuno ng komunidad.

Bukas ang pasilidad para sa mga kliyente ng CARD at sa publiko. Matatagpuan ito sa Rosales Street, Rosary Heights 6, Sinsuat Avenue, Lungsod ng Cotabato.

Kasunod ng pagbubukas na ito, naghahanda na rin ang CARD Clinics na buksan ang ikalawa nitong pasilidad sa Narciso Marcos Highway, Barangay Biaba Damag, Lungsod ng Marawi. PR

MPTC GEARS UP FOR INCREASED UNDAS TRAFFIC



Motorists are advised to plan their trips and expect increased traffic volume across major expressways during the Undas period.

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) will implement its “Biyaheng Arangkada” program from October 29 to November 3, 2026, across its expressway network: NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CAVITEX, CALAX, and CCLEX in Cebu. The program aims to support traffic management, road safety, and motorists’ travel needs during the peak travel period.

The program is being implemented on SCTEX in partnership with the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), and on CAVITEX in partnership with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) through PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC).

Traffic volume across MPTC’s expressways is projected to increase by around 5% overall, with an average increase of 12% expected during the peak travel days of October 30 and 31.

On NLEX and SCTEX, outbound traffic is expected to peak from Friday afternoon through Saturday afternoon, while return traffic is expected from late afternoon on November 2 through the early morning of November 3. CAVITEX and CALAX are expected to experience high traffic volumes on the afternoon of October 30 and the morning of November 3.

To help manage the anticipated traffic surge, MPTC will mobilize approximately 2,000 traffic, toll, security, incident response, technology, and support personnel, round the clock, across its expressways. Traffic operations teams will work closely with the Philippine National Police (PNP), local government units (LGUs), and other government agencies throughout the period.

Motorist assistance and services

Motorist assistance and services under “Biyaheng Arangkada” include:

• 24/7 customer assistance through the customer service hotline 1-35000 and MPT DriveHub app.

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TRB approves collection of second-tranche toll rates for CAVITEX R1 Expressway Extension

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has approved the collection of the second-tranche toll rates under the approved 2020 and 2023 toll petitions filed by CAVITEX Infrastructure Corporation (CIC) and Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) for the CAVITEX R1 Expressway Extension, covering the Zapote, Las Piñas to Kawit, Cavite segment, effective October 28, 2026.

Starting October 28, motorists using the seven-kilometer CAVITEX R1 Extension will be charged P103 for Class 1, P207 for Class 2, and P310 for Class 3 vehicles.

The 2020 and 2023 toll petitions covered periodic toll adjustments due for implementation in 2021 and 2024, respectively. To help cushion the impact on motorists, the approved toll adjustments were divided into two tranches. The first tranche was implemented in October 2025, while the second tranche will be collected starting October 28, 2026.

Serving more than 50,000 motorists daily, the CAVITEX R1 Expressway Extension is a key economic corridor connecting Metro Manila to Cavite and Southern Luzon. Motorists will also experience faster travel time in the Southern Luzon corridor to Metro Manila as CAVITEX will soon connect to CALAX via the CAVITEX-CALAX Link (CCLink).

Measures to support motorists and key sectors

In previous months, various toll relief measures were implemented to support public transportation and the movement of people and goods. These included exemptions for accredited Class 2 public utility buses (PUBs) and public utility vehicles (PUVs), as well as toll rebates for Class 3 vehicles and accredited vehicles transporting agricultural products.

In line with the implementation of the adjusted toll rates, the ABANTE Program, a toll reprieve initiative for public

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Senate Minority bloc nanindigan para kay Dela Rosa, nanawagan ng diyalogo at due process



Cavite provincial government brings care closer to Ternate residents

PAGE 06

PBBM APPOINTS FINANCE VETERAN LIMLINGAN AS NEW SSS CHIEF



QPHN-QMC Expands Emergency Care in Quezon

PRO IVA News Release No. 2026-15

LUCENA CITY – Quezonians now have access to a more modern, spacious, and better-equipped emergency care facility with the blessing of the new Emergency Room of the Quezon Provincial Health Network–Quezon Medical Center (QPHN-QMC).

Quezon Governor Dr. Helen Tan, Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, and Senator JV Ejercito led the inauguration of the new facility, which was funded through the 20% Development Fund of the Province of Quezon.

In her message, Gov. Tan highlighted the provincial government’s commitment to strengthening healthcare services for Quezonians, with the new Emergency Room providing a more conducive facility where patients requiring urgent medical attention can receive appropriate and timely care.

PhilHealth President and CEO Dr. Beverly Lorraine C. Ho, meanwhile, emphasized the importance of ensuring that improvements in healthcare facilities are matched by greater access to services for every Filipino. She highlighted PhilHealth’s continuing commitment to strengthening financial protection and supporting a healthcare system where members can access the services they need when they need them most.

PhilHealth Regional Office IV-A
PhilHealthRegion4A region4a@philhealth.gov.ph
www.philhealth.gov.ph philhealthofficial teamphilhealth actioncenter@philhealth.gov.ph

Higit sa Php40-M halaga ng suporta para sa mga magsasaka sa Batangas, ipinagkaloob ng DA-4A

Tinatayang ₱40,952,080.66 ang kabuuang halaga ng agrikultural na suporta na ipinagkaloob ng Department of Agriculture IV-CALABARZON (DA-4A) sa mga magsasaka ng bayan ng Nasugbu, Batangas noong ika-9 ng Oktubre.

Pinangunahan ito ni DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. na nagbahaging ang bayan ng Nasugbu ay itinuturing na isa sa mga may pinakamaraming produksyon ng palay, mais, high- value crops, at niyog sa lalawigan ng Batangas. Kaya naman ang mga suportang ipinamahagi ay parte ng layunin ng Kagawaran na gawing mas episyente ang gawain ng mga magsasaka sa produksyon tungo sa mas maunlad na kabuhayan.



Kabilang sa mga nasabing suporta ang mga binhi ng hybrid rice, yellow corn, at mga gulay; abono at foliar; punla ng calamansi at mangga; knapsack sprayer; at iba pang mga kagamitan mula sa mga Banner Program ng Kagawaran. Tampok din dito ang ipinagkaloob na Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) ng Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) at four-wheel tractor ng Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech).

Ayon kay G. Renato Caballes, miyembro ng Nasugbu Corn and Cassava Farmers Association, sila ay nagagalak lalo pa at kabibigay lang sa kanilang samahan noong nakaraan ng hauling truck pambyahe ng mga produkto, ay nasundan agad ito ng sako-sakong hybrid yellow corn seed. Aniya ay panamang-panama ito dahil higit sa 100 magmamais na ang aktibong miyembro nila ngayon. PR

CCEAP was recognized as a National Exemplar across all three People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Awards cat-

cont. on page 3

EDITORYAL:

SECRETARY JONVIC REMULLA, MAY MGA TANONG KAMI SA PHP 50 MILLION REWARD PARA KAY BATO DELA ROSA.

1. Sinabi mong alam ninyo kung nasaan si Bato dela Rosa. Sinabi mo ring nasa Mindanao siya at may mga makapangyarihang taong nagpoprotekta sa kanya. Kung may intelligence na kayo, bakit kailangan pang mag-alok ng ₱50 milyon? Anong impormasyon pa ang kulang?

2. SAANG EKSAKTONG LINE ITEM NG BUDGET KUKUNIN ANG ₱50 MILLION? Magkano ang manggagaling sa DILG at PNP? Sino ang nag-apruba? Ano ang legal na batayan at paano ito ia-audit? Hindi porke confidential funds ay exempted na sa accountability.

3. Hindi ba ninyo posibleng inilalagay sa panganib ang publiko? Kayo mismo ang nagsabing armado at mapanganib si Dela Rosa. Paano ninyo titiyaking walang ordinaryong mamamayan ang magtatangkang magmanman o manghuli dahil sa ₱50 million reward? Ano ang safety protocols ninyo?

4. Paano poprotektahan ang mga informant at kanilang pamilya? May ligtas at confidential bang reporting channel? Paano ninyo pipigilan ang false accusations, fraudulent tips, at mga taong maaaring madamay dahil sa maling impormasyon?

5. Kung alam ninyo kung sino ang mga makapangyarihang taong umano'y nagpoprotekta sa kanya, ano na ang resulta ng inyong imbestigasyon? May ebidensya ba ng obstruction of justice? May pananagutan bang hinahabol?

6. Paano ninyo nakuha ang halagang ₱50 milyon? May objective risk assessment at cost-benefit justification ba? Bakit ito ang pinakaangkop na paggamit ng pondo kumpara sa pagpapalakas ng intelligence at law enforcement operations?

Secretary Remulla, hindi namin hinihingi ang classified operational details. Ang hinihingi namin ay LEGAL NA BATAYAN, FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AT PUBLIC SAFETY.

Hindi game show ang law enforcement. Hindi jackpot prize ang pera ng taumbayan. At hindi dapat isugal ang kaligtasan ng ordinaryong Pilipino para sa isang reward.

Confidential ang operasyon, pero hindi puwedeng confidential na rin ang accountability.

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

MANDY HALE

MPTC...

• Medical assistance from standby teams at designated locations across the expressways.

• Free towing to the nearest exit for Class 1 vehicles, including Class 1M vehicles on CCLEX, from 6:00 a.m. on October 30 to 6:00 a.m. on November 3.

• Free 24/7 basic mechanical services at select NLEX and SCTEX Rest and Refuel Stations and toll plazas along CAVITEX and CALAX.

• EV charging stations at select NLEX Rest and Refuel Stations.

• Free Wi-Fi at select NLEX Rest and Refuel Stations, in partnership with Smart.

• Free bottled water at roadside assistance stations, courtesy of Maynilad.

Roadworks, lane closures, and maintenance activities will be suspended from October 29 to November 3, except for emergency safety repairs. Traffic teams and marshals will monitor conditions and implement measures as needed.

Plan ahead for smoother travel

Motorists are encouraged to plan their routes ahead of time. NLEX Connector offers an alternative route between western Metro Manila and destinations in Northern and Central Luzon, while access from Mindanao Avenue provides another connection to the NLEX mainline for motorists from eastern Metro Manila.

In the south, CAVITEX C5 Link connects C5 Road in Taguig to CAVITEX, providing access to Parañaque, Las Piñas, Bacoor, and Kawit. CALAX connects Cavite and Laguna, with its operational stretch running from Mamplasan in Biñan, Laguna, to Governor's Drive in General Trias, Cavite.

Before traveling, motorists should ensure their RFIDs are properly installed and sufficiently funded. They can reload through the MPT DriveHub app using e-wallets and other online payment platforms, or at customer service centers along the expressways. Motorists should also observe speed limits and traffic regulations, take breaks when needed, and check official expressway social media pages and the MPT DriveHub app for traffic updates and advisories.

The "Biyaheng Arangkada" program is supported by MVP Group companies PLDT-Smart and Maynilad, as well as partners Wilcon Depot and The Philippine STAR.

Expanding expressway connectivity

MPTC continues to expand its expressway network. The upcoming opening of NLEX-C5 Northlink Segment 8.2 Section 1A, connecting NLEX Mindanao Toll Plaza to Quirino Highway, will provide an additional access route to NLEX, with onward connections via NLEX Connector toward Manila and via NLEX and SCTEX to destinations across Central Luzon and Northern Luzon.

In the south, the full alignment of Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) is nearing completion , while the planned opening of the CAVITEX-CALAX Link (CCLink) will directly connect CAVITEX and CALAX. Together, these projects are expected to support regional mobility and provide motorists with more route options. (MPTC Corporate)

PBBM...

FROM PAGE 1

Department of Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go (left) administers the oath of office to newly appointed Social Security System (SSS) President and Chief Executive Officer (PCEO) Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan (right) during the oath-taking ceremony at the Department of Finance.

QUEZON CITY, 16 October 2026 – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed today finance and investment veteran Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security System (SSS).

Limlingan succeeded Robert Joseph Montes de Claro, who was appointed Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

As the new SSS Chief, Limlingan will prioritize the enhancement and expansion of member loan programs, the improvement of the investment portfolio's risk-adjusted returns, and the relaunch of the Pension Booster Program.

Limlingan previously served as a Member of the Social Security Commission (SSC), the SSS' policy-making governing body, representing the employers' group. He was appointed to the SSC on 19 November 2024 and took his oath on 25 November 2024.

As a Commissioner, Limlingan chaired the SSC's Risk Management and Actuary Committee and sat on its Investment Committee, Contribution and Collection Committee, and Corporate Governance Committee. The SSC oversees SSS policy, provides policy direction, supervises management actions and exercises quasi-judicial functions in cases involving social security coverage, benefits, contributions and penalties under Republic Act No. 11199 or the Social Security Act of 2018.

Experience in finance and public service

Limlingan brings experience in finance, investments, risk management, entrepreneurship and public service. He is managing director of Regina Capital Development Corp. and previously served on the board of state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, where he chaired the Risk Oversight Committee.

He also served as senior vice president at Small Business Corp., where he worked on financial-recovery initiatives for small enterprises and treasury-investment optimization.

Earlier in his career, Limlingan provided consultancy services to the National Economic and Development Authority and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which is now known as the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Limlingan holds a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, majoring in history and humanities, from the Ateneo de Manila University. PR

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DTI KALAKAL QUEZON COCONUT TRADE FAIR 2026, NAGTATAMPOK NG LOKAL NA PRODUKTO SA SM CITY LUCENA





Tampok ang mga produktong gawa sa niyog at iba pang lokal na delicacy mula sa mga magsasaka, kooperatiba, at maliliit na negosyante sa DTI KALAKAL Quezon Featuring Coconut Trade Fair 2026 na ginaganap sa Mall Atrium ng SM City Lucena mula Oktubre 28 hanggang Nobyembre 3.

Layunin ng aktibidad na maipakilala ang mga produkto ng mga lokal na magsasaka, kooperatiba, at micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), gayundin ang mahikayat ang publiko na tangkilikin ang mga lokal na negosyo.

Kabilang sa mga kalahok ang Flavors of Quezon, Padre Burgos Coconut Farmers Cooperative, Ilayang Talim Agriculture Cooperative, Samawin Coconut Farmers Agriculture Cooperative, Coco Deli Coconut Products, Yakap at Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative Q1 at Q2, Alabat Island Farmers Producers' Cooperative, Quezon Federation of Union of Cooperative, RVNJY Food Products, Cho's Food Products, Mikastra Integrated Farm, Rhudarda Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Myrtle's Agriculture Farm, at Imasat Consumers Cooperative.

Sa pagdaraos ng trade fair sa Mall Atrium ng SM City Lucena, nagkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga kalahok na maipakita ang kanilang mga produkto sa mga mamimili at mapalawak ang kanilang merkado.

Inaanyayahan ang publiko na bisitahin ang trade fair at suportahan ang mga lokal na negosyante, magsasaka, at kooperatiba upang makatulong sa pagpapaunlad ng kanilang kabuhayan at sa pagpapalakas ng lokal na ekonomiya.

(Aida Dapula)

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS, STAKEHOLDERS DISCUSS WASTE MANAGEMENT AND SUPER EL NIÑO SOLUTIONS IN CALABARZON



CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — Environmental experts and stakeholders gathered in Calamba City on Friday, October 30, 2026, for a forum tackling pressing environmental concerns, including solid waste management, plastic pollution, and the impacts of Super El Niño in the CALABARZON region.

Dubbed "Talakayan sa Kalikasan," the program carried the theme "Talakayan sa Basura, El Niño, at Kalusugan: Solusyon sa CALABARZON" and was organized by the Confederation of Circular Economy Clubs of the Philippines (CCECP), in collaboration with the Circular Economy Club.

Held at Max's Restaurant, Olivarez Plaza, Turbina, the forum provided a platform for discussions on sustainable environmental practices and science-based solutions to address the region's growing environmental challenges.

Among the resource speakers was Virginia C. Cuevas, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus at the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), academician, and member of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST), who discussed solid waste management, plastic pollution, and environmental health.

Corazon C. Gasapos, Chief of the Environmental Monitoring and Enforcement Division of the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) CALABARZON, presented sustainable solutions to the garbage crisis, emphasizing the importance of responsible waste management and environmental protection.

Meanwhile, Bernadeth T. Lucillo, Senior Weather Specialist of the Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (DOST-PAGASA), discussed the impacts of Super El Niño in CALABARZON and the need for communities to adapt and adjust to changing climate conditions.

The discussions were followed by an open forum and audience interaction, allowing participants to raise questions, share insights, and express environmental concerns. A media roundtable also provided an opportunity to further discuss possible solutions and collaborative actions.

The activity underscored the importance of cooperation among academic institutions, government agencies, communities, businesses, and environmental advocates in addressing waste management, climate change, and public health concerns.

Established in 2024, CCECP is a Securities and Exchange Commission-registered environmental non-government organization and a member of the International Circular Economy Club network. It promotes education, research, environmental advocacy, and community-based initiatives to advance a circular economy that prioritizes resource efficiency, waste prevention, reuse, and recycling.

Through initiatives such as Talakayan sa Kalikasan, CCECP seeks to strengthen environmental awareness and encourage collective action toward a cleaner, more sustainable, and climate-resilient CALABARZON.

(Edjun Mariposque)

Senate Minority...

FROM PAGE 1

Nanawagan ang Senate Minority sa administrasyon nitong Sabado na makipag-usap sa kampo ni Senator Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa upang mapayapang maresolba ang kanyang sitwasyon, kasabay ng pagpahayag ng suporta sa karapatan ng senador na humarap sa mga paratang laban sa kanya sa mga korte ng Pilipinas.

Ayon sa Minorya, nauunawaan nila ang hangarin ng administrasyon na maresolba ang usapin alinsunod sa batas at mapanatili ang kaayusan. Nag-alok din sila ng pakikipagtulungan upang makahanap ng legal at mapayapang solusyon.

"The Senate Minority stands with Senator Ronald 'Bato' dela Rosa in defending his right to due process and supporting his call to answer the accusations against him before Philippine courts," ayon sa kanilang statement.

"We believe a peaceful resolution that respects our laws and protects lives remains possible," dagdag ng grupo.

Kinilala rin ng grupo ang mga responsibilidad ng kalihim ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) at ng hepe ng Philippine National Police (PNP) sa pagresolba ng usapin.

Gayunman, nanawagan sila ng pagpipigil at pag-iingat mula sa mga opisyal ng pamahalaan, mga alagad ng batas, pamilya at abogado ni Dela Rosa, kanyang mga taga suporta, at iba pang maaaring makaapekto sa sitwasyon.

Malugod din nilang tinanggap ang pahayag ni Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla na mas nais nito ang negosasyon kaysa sa isang operasyon na maaaring magdulot ng pagkasawi ng mga Pilipino.

"Walang Pilipinong dapat mamatay para lamang mapatunayan ng sinuman ang kanyang punto," pahayag ng Minorya.

Iginiit ng mga senador na dapat ikonsidera ng pamahalaan ang kahandaan ni Dela Rosa na humarap sa mga paratang sa mga korte ng Pilipinas bilang batayan upang simulan ang diyalogo. Binanggit din nila ang panawagan ng senador para sa mapayapang pagpapahayag ng suporta.

"The Minority is ready to help work out a lawful process through which the allegations can be heard and answered, with fairness to those seeking justice and a full opportunity for him to defend himself," ayon sa pahayag.

Binigyang diin din ng grupo na nagkabisa noong 2019 ang pagalis ng Pilipinas sa Rome Statute, ang kasunduang nagtatag sa International Criminal Court (ICC). Binanggit din nila na nananatiling hindi kasapi ng kasunduan ang ilang malalaking bansa, kabilang ang United States, China, Russia at India.

Ipinunto rin nila ang naunang pagtanggi ni Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. na makipagtulungan sa imbestigasyon ng ICC dahil sa usapin ng soberanya. Binanggit din ng grupo ang pagkakaiba ng pakikipagtulungan ng administrasyon sa International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) at sa ICC.

"We respectfully ask that the protection of Philippine sovereignty and the rights of our citizens remain central to the government's decisions," ayon sa minority bloc.

Bilang halimbawa, inilahad ng mga senador ang isang hypothetical na sitwasyon kung saan bibisita sa Pilipinas ang isang dayuhang pinuno ng estado na may warrant of arrest mula sa ICC, gaya ni Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Ayon sa kanila, natural na suriin muna ng mga awtoridad ang mga batas ng Pilipinas, mga international obligation, at mga kinakailangang proseso bago magsagawa ng pag-aresto o pagsuko sa naturang opisyal.

"Although the legal circumstances differ, Senator Dela Rosa, a Filipino citizen in his own country, deserves no less care in protecting his rights," ayon sa pahayag.

Sinabi rin sa pahayag ng Minorya na handa silang tumulong sa usapan ng administrasyon at abogado ni Dela Rosa. Naniniwala ang grupo na kayang panindigan ng mga institusyon ng Pilipinas ang batas, pangalagaan ang mga karapatan ng senador, at itaguyod ang hustisya nang hindi nagdudulot ng hindi kinakailangang pagkamatay sinumang Pilipino. PR

CALAMBA, BAGUIO ONLY CITIES HONORED WITH DSWD GAWAD SERBISYONG MAHUSAY



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — The City Government of Calamba has received the Gawad Serbisyong Mahusay Award from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in recognition of its programs promoting the welfare and well-being of young people.

Among the initiatives recognized was the Peer Solution Project: Provision of Free Psychosocial Services for the Youth, which provides support, guidance, and psychosocial services to help address the needs of young people.

According to Mayor Roseller H. Rizal, only Calamba City and Baguio City received the distinction, highlighting the recognition given to their youth-focused initiatives.

"Tanging Calamba City at Baguio City lamang ang pinagkalooban ng naturang parangal."

Mayor Rizal reaffirmed the city's commitment to strengthening programs that protect and support the youth and help them build a better future.

"Patuloy nating isusulong ang mga programang nagbibigay-proteksyon, suporta, at mas magandang kinabukasan para sa bawat kabataang Calambeño."

The award underscores the importance of accessible psychosocial support and youth-centered programs in promoting the welfare, development, and future of young people in the community.

(Edjun Mariposque)

QPPO tumanggap ng 30,205-square-meter na lupain para sa planong pasilidad



LUCENA CITY — Tumanggap ang Quezon Police Provincial Office (QPPO) ng donasyon na lupang may lawak na 30,205 metro kuwadrado na nakalaan para sa pagpapaunlad ng mga pasilidad nito sa hinaharap.

Pormal na nilagdaan ang Deed of Donation with Acceptance noong Oktubre 27, 2026, sa Camp BGen Guillermo P. Nakar sa Lucena City.

Ipinagkaloob ni Merian H. Reyes, general manager ng Starhorse Shipping Lines Inc., ang nasabing lupain bilang suporta sa pagpapalakas ng organisasyon at pagpapabuti ng serbisyo ng pulisya sa lalawigan ng Quezon.

Dumalo sa seremonya sina Police Regional Office CALABARZON Regional Director PBGEN Dominic L. Baccay at Quezon Police Provincial Director PCOL Romulo A. Albacea, na lumahok sa pormal na pagtanggap ng donasyon.

Sa isinagawang programa, ipinakita rin sa pamamagitan ng video presentation ang panukalang pagpapaunlad sa nasabing lupain. Kabilang sa plano ang pagtatayo ng moderno at maayos na pasilidad na magsisilbing suporta sa administratibo at operasyonal na gawain, gayundin sa kapakanan ng mga tauhan ng QPPO.

Sa kanyang mensahe, pinasalamatan ni Baccay si Reyes sa ipinagkaloob na lupain at binigyang-diin ang kahalagahan ng pagtutulungan ng mga ahensiya ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor sa pagsuporta sa mga programang magpapalakas sa kakayahan ng kapulisan at pagpapanatili ng kaligtasan ng mga komunidad.

Ayon sa QPPO, inaasahang magsisilbing pundasyon ang donasyon para sa mga susunod na proyektong pang-imprastraktura na makatutulong sa pagpapahusay ng operasyon at paghahatid ng serbisyong pulisya sa buong lalawigan.

(Aida Dapula)

Mangingisda sa Jomalig, tumanggap ng deep-sea fishing vessel sa ilalim ng DOLE livelihood program





REAL, QUEZON — Tumanggap ang mga mangingisda sa bayan ng Jomalig ng isang deep-sea fishing vessel sa ilalim ng Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood Program (DILP) na naglalayong palakasin ang kabuhayan ng mga lokal na mangingisda.

Isinagawa ang memorandum of agreement (MOA) signing, paglulunsad at turnover ng fishing vessel noong Oktubre 27, 2026, sa Port of Real, Quezon.

Pinangunahan ni Jomalig Mayor Nelmar T. Sarmiento ang delegasyon ng lokal na pamahalaan kasama sina Vice Mayor Dahlia T. Manalo, Municipal Agriculture Officer Elizabeth A. Eyatid at Jomalig Fisherfolks Federation (JOFFED) Chairperson Arch. Juan V. Romero.

Dumalo rin sa aktibidad si DOLE Region IV-A OIC-Regional Director Atty. Nepomuceno A. Leaño II, DOLE Quezon Provincial Office Head Cristina H. Barayang, Philippine Coast Guard District Southern Tagalog Commander Commo. Geronimo B. Tuvilla at Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) IV-A Regional Director Sammy A. Malvas, kasama ang mga kinatawan ng MARINA IV-A, Provincial Government of Quezon at iba pang katuwang na ahensya.

Sa pamamagitan ng nilagdaang Inter-Agency Convergence MOA, nagkasundo ang mga katuwang na ahensya na magbigay ng suporta sa proyekto, kabilang ang tulong pangkabuhayan, teknikal na gabay sa pangisdaan, kaligtasan sa karagatan, regulasyon at patuloy na pagsubaybay sa operasyon ng fishing vessel.

Layunin ng proyekto na mapalawak ang oportunidad ng mga mangingisda sa Jomalig na mapataas ang produksyon at kita sa pamamagitan ng deep-sea fishing, kasabay ng pagsusulong ng ligtas at responsableng pangingisda.

Nagpasalamat naman ang Pamahalaang Bayan ng Jomalig sa DOLE IV-A, Provincial Government of Quezon, BFAR IV-A, MARINA IV-A, Philippine Coast Guard, JOFFED at iba pang katuwang na institusyon sa kanilang suporta sa proyekto.

Kabilang din sa pinasalamatan ng lokal na pamahalaan si Quezon First District Rep. Wilfrido Mark M. Enverga dahil sa kanyang suporta sa mga programang naglalayong mapabuti ang kabuhayan ng mga mamamayan.

Inaasahang makatutulong ang proyekto sa pagpapalakas ng sektor ng pangisdaan at pagbibigay ng mas maraming oportunidad pangkabuhayan sa mga mangingisda at kanilang pamilya sa Jomalig.

(Aida Dapula)

TRB...

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utility vehicle (PUV) operators, will be reactivated effective October 28, 2026. For 60 days from this date, ABANTE-accredited traditional and modern jeepneys, UV Express units, and buses with authorized routes using the CAVITEX R-1 Expressway Extension (Kawit) will be eligible for toll rebates. Meanwhile, the toll rebate for vehicles transporting agricultural products will remain in effect until November 30, 2026, to support the movement of agricultural goods. Continued investments in CAVITEX

The joint venture partners continue to invest in infrastructure and technology upgrades along CAVITEX, even prior to the approval of toll petitions, including:

• Expansion joint replacement at bridges along the Parañaque segment and Imus Viaduct to improve ride comfort and structural reliability;

• RFID system upgrades and Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) technology to enable faster, more seamless transactions; and

• Pavement rehabilitation in critical portions of the Kawit and Parañaque segments.

These investments, together with the toll adjustment, will support the continued delivery of reliable, safe, and efficient expressway services.

CIC and PRA, and its operator PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC), reaffirm their commitment to providing infrastructure that strengthens connectivity and economic activity across Southern Luzon.

Cavite...

FROM PAGE 1

The Provincial Government of Cavite extended essential healthcare services to residents of Barangay Poblacion I, Ternate, through a medical mission held on October 21, 2026.

The outreach served a total of 585 patients, including 475 medical consultations, 10 electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures, and 100 fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, providing residents with accessible health services within their community.

Through continued medical missions, the provincial government reinforces its commitment to bringing essential healthcare services closer to Caviteños and promoting community well-being.—OPIO

PUBLISHER CORNER



THE PUNISHER PUNISHED: HOW BEIJING'S ATTEMPT TO BULLY MANILA BACKFIRED INTO GLOBAL EMBARRASSMENT

The 13th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) in Cebu was intended by Beijing to serve as a high-profile exercise in asymmetric diplomatic coercion. By downgrading its delegation to a Manila-based defense attaché, Senior Captain Yang Lei, China established its lowest level of representation in the history of the forum.

Supported by state-run commentary from the Global Times, which framed the minimized delegation as a deliberate withholding of its Defense Minister to penalize Manila's behavior, China attempted to weaponize non-participation.

The strategic calculus appeared designed to disrupt the ministerial agenda, cast doubt on the Philippine chairmanship, and signal that regional security architectures cannot function optimally without high-level endorsement from Beijing.

Instead, the tactical maneuver evolved into a profound strategic misstep, proving that when a major power attempts to bully a smaller neighbor, it risks exposing its own limitations and incurring global embarrassment.

The epicenter of this diplomatic friction emerged from a formal statement issued by Chinese Ministry of National Defense spokesperson Senior Colonel Zhang Xiaogang via the Chinese Embassy in Manila.

In the official release, Beijing accused the Philippine side of allowing a certain "self-serving politician" to act recklessly and abuse the chairmanship to construct obstacles to China's participation. This highly personalized broadside targeted Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr., who served as the chairman of the summit.

Rather than projecting the calculated authority of a confident superpower, this public reaction via the embassy signaled a highly tense diplomatic row, exposing a Chinese defense apparatus deeply frustrated by its inability to dictate the parameters of the regional gathering.

By transforming a multilateral security forum into a public vendetta against the ASEAN Chair, Beijing triggered an institutional defensive reflex among Southeast Asian capitals.

For decades, China's regional approach has favored bilateral tracks, leveraging economic influence to prevent the formation of a unified regional front on maritime security.

However, by launching explicit accusations against the host nation through its diplomatic mission, Beijing forced other Southeast Asian nations to quietly maintain institutional solidarity with the Philippines to preserve the integrity of the rotating chair and the core principle of ASEAN centrality.

Furthermore, by choosing to occupy its seat with a low-level attaché rather than a cabinet official, Beijing surrendered its direct capacity to shape consensus or dilute collective statements in real-time.

The response from Cebu was a quiet, systematic normalization of China's downgraded presence. Led by Manila, ASEAN member states and dialogue partners executed the summit agenda without interruption. Discussions regarding compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the maintenance of a rules-based maritime order proceeded with notable clarity, unencumbered by the diplomatic interventions usually introduced by high-level Chinese delegations.

Manila's management of the protocol further highlighted the tactical limitations of Beijing's approach, turning the intended snub directly back on the sender. Teodoro neutralized the embassy's accusations of abuse by noting that no other ASEAN member nation shared Beijing's grievances, stating clearly that the narrative remained China's isolated position rather than that of the regional bloc.

In terms of protocol, while Teodoro personally welcomed arriving heads of delegation and deputy ministers, the lower-ranked Chinese defense attaché was instead received by Defense Undersecretary Ignacio Madriaga.

Teodoro defended this arrangement by noting that parity in rank and stature dictates diplomatic reception, stating that a defense undersecretary receiving a military attaché was already more than courteous.

This episode marks a clear inflection point for the Indo-Pacific security architecture, highlighting the limits of wolf warrior diplomacy when applied to multilateral institutions.

This clumsy retreat follows a pattern of erratic, uncoordinated maneuvers, illustrated earlier during the Seoul Defence Dialogue.

In that instance, a public confrontation occurred regarding an uncoordinated memorandum detailing Beijing's South China Sea positions. The Philippine defense chief read the note aloud to the audience, criticized the action as grey-zone coercion, and told Beijing to show basic decency and have some shame.

The subsequent developments at the Cebu summit demonstrate that Beijing's post-summit messaging has devolved into a cycle of public complaints. The paradoxical narrative from the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, which censures Manila for obstruction while claiming that sending an attaché reflects firm support for ASEAN centrality, reveals a foreign policy apparatus struggling to manage its self-imposed isolation.

By avoiding multilateral accountability on the South China Sea, China did not project superpower dominance; it highlighted a strategic vulnerability, confirming to its neighbors an unwillingness to engage in rule-based defense dialogues under an independent chair.

In the modern geometry of Southeast Asian diplomacy, withholding a minister does not halt the machinery of regional cooperation; it simply ensures that ASEAN and its global partners learn to secure their own institutional salvation, leaving the bully isolated at the table of his own making.

EXPLICIT



Madelaine Go

NO. 4 REGIONAL MOST WANTED SA NEGROS ISLAND, ARESTADO SA KASONG PANGGAGAHASA SA MINOR DE EDAD

Arestado ng mga operatiba ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang No. 4 Regional Most Wanted Person ng Negros Island kaugnay ng kasong panggagahasa sa menor de edad na anak ng kaniyang kinakasama.

Kinilala ang suspek sa alyas na "Sid," 46-anyos, isang caretaker at residente ng Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. Nadakip siya noong Oktubre 27, 2026, sa Barangay Bayanihan, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng mga tauhan ng Bayawan City Police Station sa ilalim ng Negros Oriental Police Provincial Office, katuwang ang Gapan City Police Station.

Nabatay ang pag-aresto sa mga warrant of arrest laban sa suspek para sa kasong Qualified Rape of a Minor sa ilalim ng Article 266-A(1), kaugnay ng Article 266-B ng Revised Penal Code, na may dalawang bilang din ng Acts of Lasciviousness sa ilalim ng Article 336 ng nasabing batas.

Batay sa alegasyon, sinamantala umano ng suspek ang pagkakataong wala sa bahay ang ina ng biktima, na nagtatrabaho bilang kasambahay sa ibang tahanan, upang abusuhin ang kaniyang menor de edad na stepdaughter.

Ayon pa sa mga ulat, tinakot umano ng suspek ang bata at ang kaniyang ina na papatayin sila sakaling isumbong ng biktima ang pang-aabusong kaniyang naranasan.

Matapos ang pagkakaaresto, ipinaalam sa suspek ang kaniyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal at pansamantala siyang inilagay sa kustodiya ng Gapan City Police Station habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang dokumentasyon at mga legal na proseso.

Binigyang-diin ni PNP Chief PGEN Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. ang kahalagahan ng pagpapanagot sa mga suspek sa pamamagitan ng tamang proseso ng batas.

"Walang sinuman ang dapat makaiwas sa batas, lalo na kung nakataya ang kaligtasan at dignidad ng isang bata. Patuloy nating tutugisin ang mga wanted na indibidwal at sisiguraduhing ang mga alegasyon ng matinding pang-aabuso ay maihaharap sa mga nararapat na hukuman," pahayag ni Nartatez.

Hinimok din niya ang publiko na makiisa sa pangangalaga sa mga bata laban sa anumang uri ng pang-aabuso.

"Huwag nating hayaang manaig ang takot. Ang bawat batang nakararanas ng pang-aabuso ay dapat mapakinggan, maprotektahan, at matulungan," dagdag pa ng PNP Chief.

Ang pagkakaaresto ay bahagi ng PNP Focused Agenda, partikular sa Enhanced Managing Police Operations, na naglalayong palakasin ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted na indibidwal at tiyakin ang pananagutan sa pamamagitan ng legal na hakbang.

Sa ilalim ng direktiba ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., patuloy na paiigtingin ng PNP ang mga operasyon upang maprotektahan ang mga bata at maiharap sa hukuman ang mga lumalabag sa batas.

Nananatiling nakatuon ang PNP sa adhikaing "Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas: Serbisyong Mabilis, Tapat, at Nararamdaman."

HIGIT...

FROM PAGE 1

egories, with Ann Santiago named People Manager of the Year.

□Employer of the Year recognizes how we build and care for our people. It reflects our talent and development strategy, our culture of labor-management cooperation, our focus on employee engagement, and Coke Kalusugan, our health program for associates, and our commitment to sustainability and to the communities we serve.

□People Program of the Year under Strategic HR, recognizes CCEAP's 'Talent Factory' – Frontline Development: career pathways that carry frontline associates into leadership.

□People Program of the Year through Corporate Citizenship, recognizes CCEAP's 'This Is Forward': Tapon to Ipon, renewable energy and water stewardship across our plants, the AGOS Project for clean water access, disaster relief supported by a business continuity plan, and Unlad Kabuhayan, livelihood training for associates' families.

Thank you to PMAP, the judges, and the people of CCEAP who make, move, and sell our products. We share this win with you



DERETSAHAN
WEEKLY NEWS PUBLISHING

Enchanted Kingdom celebrates 31 years of magic with Fiesta ng Saribuhay anniversary show









Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, proudly marked its 31st anniversary on October 17 with Fiesta ng Saribuhay, a vibrant celebration of the county's culture, people, and biodiversity.

As a homegrown Filipino company, the theme park reaffirmed its pride in the country's rich cultural and natural heritage through an enchanting lineup of local festivities, seasonal entertainment, in-park decor, and other immersive experiences highlighting the classic local traditions, world-class talent, shared values, strong community spirit, and the natural beauty of the Philippines.

"Celebrating 31 magical years is not just a milestone for EK. It is also a celebration for the Filipinos who have been an integral part of our story for the past three decades. As reflected by the Philippine eagle and in the lyrics of our anniversary song, Lipad, we want to showcase the best of the Filipinos, such as the values of Lakas, Talino, at Katatagan, among the many qualities that make us uniquely enchanting, through our upcoming experiences and offerings in the years to come," said Nico R. Mamon, EK's 31st Anniversary Chairman.

The festivities are anchored at the continuous enhancements at the Park's award-winning flying theater, AGILA The EKsperience: SARIBUHAY. Strengthening its powerful call for Filipinos to appreciate and protect the environment, EK finally opened the attraction's newly updated areas, including a new entry experience, the Ang Kwento ng Agila walkthrough that shares even more stories behind the attraction and the world of the Philippine eagle, and the PUGAD concept store with its improved thematic experience.

The main anniversary celebration on October 17 kicked off with a warm welcome at the Park, as a lively Filipino dance fiesta greeted guests at the front gate and Victoria Park. In the afternoon, EK Storyverse Characters joined their friends from the Saribuhay Village in spreading the festive spirit throughout the Park with the grand Fiesta ng Saribuhay Anniversary Parade.

The parade ushered in the Fiesta ng Saribuhay Concert at the Spaceport Grounds, an enchanting nighttime show that highlighted incredible Filipino music and talent across various OPM genres. Performers included promising soloists FYNE and Prince Liu, indie band Sacred Red, electrifying P-pop girl group XONARA, and the multi-awarded R&B singer-composer Dionela.

EK's homegrown talents also performed their newly released songs for the Park's 31st Anniversary. The all-male vocal group Kingsmen opened up the show with the festive remix of their song, Saribuhay, and the P-pop girl group SMS brought national pride and power with Lipad. These two tracks are now available for streaming on Spotify, Apple Music, YouTube Music and Amazon Music.

Serving as the spectacular finale was the Lipad ng Agila: A Pyromusical Fiesta, where the parkgoers marveled at the iconic figure of the Philippine eagle circling up in the night sky with the vibrant fireworks display.

Fiesta ng Saribuhay: EK's 31st Anniversary Celebration is made even more magical with our co-presentors, Coca-Cola, Universal Music Group Philippines, and One Platinum Corporation. The following brand sponsors also extended their support for this milestone celebration: McDonalds, Maya, Hotel Dream-World, Harvey, Cherifer, Ate Rica's Bacsilog, Baga Burger, Ceelin Gummies, C-Lium Fibre, Poten-Cee Gummies, Entrasol, Farlin, SD13 Advertising Corp, JCB, Nurture, Australia's Own, Barilla, Tulip, Ellite Ads Corp., Woods' Peppermint Lozenges, McCormick, Fitbar, Halls, Zim, Caliraya Resort Club Inc., Thoy Entertainment Productions, Reyes Barbecue, Marble, Mello, Sucere, Bang's T&J Salon Professionals, and Bear Brand Fortified Milk.

Also, a special thanks to these tenant partners: Magnolia Ice Cream Flavorhouse, Fortune Bakeshop, Lil' Orbits Mini Donuts, Zenzu, Dairy Queen, Shakes Station, Auntie Anne's, KarateKid, Shakey's, Cafe Mary Grace, Teho Apparel, Mr. Pluffy, Cast Members Multipurpose Cooperative (CCMPC), ViewTrue Express Digital Imaging, Midway Mirror Maze, Xtreme Paintball Philippines, Sigue Trading, Alcatraz, Potato Corner, and Po Jang.

For more information and updates on EK's 31st Anniversary Celebration and its other events and offerings, visit https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram.

CALAMBA MAYOR ROSS RIZAL INAUGURATES FOUR MAJOR PROJECTS IN BARANGAY MABATO



CALAMBA CITY, LAGUNA — Four major community development projects were formally inaugurated in Barangay Mabato by Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal, marking another milestone in the city government's efforts to improve local infrastructure and provide livelihood support.

The projects include road concreting, the construction of a mini gymnasium, and the reconstruction of a covered court, all aimed at improving community facilities and providing residents with better spaces for public activities and gatherings.

Also highlighted during the inauguration was the turnover of ₱500,000 in financial assistance to the Mabato Coffee and High-Value Crops (HVC) Agriculture Cooperative to support its livelihood and agricultural initiatives.

Mayor Rizal emphasized the importance of bringing infrastructure development and economic opportunities directly to communities across the city.

"Patuloy nating inilalapit ang mga proyektong pang-imprastraktura at suportang pangkabuhayan sa bawat barangay upang mas mapabuti ang serbisyo, oportunidad, at pamumuhay ng ating mga kababayan."

The projects form part of the city government's continuing efforts to strengthen barangay facilities, support local agricultural enterprises, and promote community development through infrastructure investments and livelihood assistance.

(Edjun Mariposque)

MAYOR ROSS RIZAL DELIVERS IMPROVED ROAD ACCESS TO BUNGGO COMMUNITY



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna — Residents of Pabahay in Barangay Bunggo, Calamba City, can now enjoy safer, smoother, and more convenient travel following the completion of a road concreting project spearheaded by the city government under the leadership of Mayor Roseller "Ross" H. Rizal.

The project aims to improve road accessibility and provide residents with a more comfortable route for their daily activities, while making it easier for vehicles to enter and pass through the community.

Mayor Rizal emphasized that the road improvement was made possible through the cooperation and shared efforts of the local government and the community.

"Ang road concreting sa Pabahay, Brgy. Bunggo ay bunga ng pagtutulungan ng lokal na pamahalaan at ng mga mamamayan."

He also stressed that the project goes beyond providing a concrete road, as it brings added convenience and safety to residents and motorists.

"Higit pa sa sementadong kalsada, ito ay dagdag na ginhawa at kaligtasan sa paglalakbay, mas maayos na pagpasok ng mga sasakyan, at mas komportableng daan para sa araw-araw na pamumuhay ng mga residente."

The mayor underscored the importance of unity between the government and the people in bringing meaningful improvements to local communities.

"Patunay na sa pagkakaisa ng pamahalaan at mamamayan, mas maraming pagbabago ang kayang maisakatuparan para sa ikauunlad ng bawat pamayanan."

The road concreting project forms part of the city government's continuing efforts to improve local infrastructure and deliver essential services that directly benefit Calambeños.

"Sama-sama sa mas maayos na daan, sama-sama sa mas maunlad na Calamba!"

(Edjun Mariposque)

'Dapat mapakinabangan ng tunay na nangangailangan' — Bong Go urges clear guidelines, wider info drive as PhilHealth exempts PWDs from premium contribution



Senator Christopher "Bong" Go called on the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to ensure that its updated rules on the coverage of persons with disabilities are implemented clearly, consistently and with sufficient public information so that qualified Filipinos can actually benefit from the program.

Go, vice chairperson of the Senate Committee on Health and a health reforms crusader, stressed that the government must clearly explain who is eligible, what requirements must be submitted and how PWDs can access their benefits under the National Health Insurance Program.

"Maganda ang programa, pero dapat malinaw sa ating mga kababayan kung sino ang eligible, ano ang requirements, at saan sila lalapit. Huwag nating pahirapan ang mga PWD na karapat-dapat namang makatanggap ng benepisyo," Go said.

The call comes as PhilHealth issued Circular No. 2026-0017 aligning its registration, validation and premium administration procedures with the Unified Persons with Disabilities ID System or UPWDIS. The circular implements Republic Act No. 11228, which mandates the automatic enrollment of qualified PWDs in the National Health Insurance Program.

According to Go, the policy should ultimately be measured by whether it reaches legitimate beneficiaries, particularly PWDs who may already be dealing with added medical and daily living expenses.

"Dapat mapakinabangan ito ng mga tunay na nangangailangan. Pera ng taumbayan ang ginagamit natin dito, kaya siguraduhin nating napupunta ang tulong sa mga kwalipikado at talagang nangangailangan ng suporta," he said.

He emphasized that the guidelines must be easy to understand so qualified beneficiaries are not discouraged or confused by technical requirements, while safeguards remain in place to ensure that government subsidies are properly targeted.

Under the circular, Filipino PWDs included in the official PWD Registry are automatically covered under the National Health Insurance Program regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status. The registry currently relies on the Department of Health's Philippine Registry of Persons with Disability and will eventually transition to the UPWDIS once the latter becomes fully operational.

Go said this distinction should be clearly communicated to the public, particularly because registration and verification requirements differ depending on a person's employment and registry status.

The circular provides that local government units, through their respective Persons with Disability Affairs Offices, have primary responsibility for registering PWDs, issuing official PWD identification cards and ensuring their information is encoded and updated in the government registry.

PWDs may also register directly at the nearest PhilHealth Local Health Insurance Office by submitting a completed PhilHealth Member Registration Form and a photocopy of their PWD ID, subject to verification against PhilHealth and the PWD Registry. Once validated, the member's record may be registered, reclassified or updated.

Go stressed that PhilHealth, local governments and concerned agencies should make these procedures readily understandable and accessible, particularly for PWDs and their families who may have difficulty navigating government processes.

The new policy also provides different premium arrangements depending on the beneficiary's circumstances.

Self-earning individuals, professional practitioners, Overseas Filipino Workers, and other direct contributors without an employer-employee relationship may be reclassified as indirect contributor PWDs once their disability status is verified, with their premiums fully subsidized by the National Government.

For employed PWDs, the premium is shared equally between the employer and the National Government. For non-employed PWDs classified as indirect contributors, the National Government shoulders the full premium.

The circular also addresses cases in which an individual possesses a valid PWD ID or supporting medical documentation but has not yet been confirmed in the official registry.

Such individuals may be tagged "For Verification" while their records are being validated. During that period, they remain entitled to PhilHealth benefits under existing rules, although reclassification and premium subsidy treatment will depend on confirmation in the registry.

Go said these transitional arrangements underscore the importance of close coordination among PhilHealth, LGUs, the DOH, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the National Council on Disability Affairs so qualified beneficiaries do not fall through administrative gaps.

He likewise highlighted the need for an aggressive information dissemination campaign.

(Anna Gob)

Quezon, kinilala sa 2026 CALABARZON SubayBAYANI Awards



Ginawaran ang pamahalaan. Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Quezon ng mga parangal na Exemplary Local Government Unit (LGU) at Top Performing Province sa 2026 CALABARZON SubayBAYANI Awards ng Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) noong Miyerkoles, Oktubre 28.

Ayon sa anunsiyo ng pamahalaang panlalawigan, kinilala ang Quezon sa pagsisikap nitong itaguyod ang maayos na pamamahala, partikular sa pagsubaybay at pag-uulat sa mga proyektong pinopondohan ng lokal na pamahalaan.

Sa ilalim ng SubayBAYAN System, sinusubaybayan ang progreso at dokumentasyon ng mga locally funded project upang mapalakas ang transparency at accountability sa paggamit ng pondo ng sa panganib, pananagutan sa sariling kaligtasan, at agarang pagkilos upang maiwasan ang aksidente.

Hinikayat ang mga kalahok na maging mapagmatyag sa mga posibleng panganib, panagutan ang kanilang mga kilos, at piliin ang pinakaligtas na hakbang bago kumilos. Ang mga prinsipyong ito ay maaaring isabuhay sa tahanan at komunidad.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagsasanay at pamamahagi ng go bags, layunin ng programa na palakasin ang kamalayan sa kaligtasan at kahandanan ng mga mamamahayag sa kanilang trabaho at sa araw-araw na paglalakbay.

(Anna Gob)

Aboitiz Power, pinalakas ang road safety awareness ng Quezon media

Responsable. Mulat. Handa.

Ito ang mga prinsipyong binigyang-diin ng Aboitiz Power sa isinagawang #SafeStations road safety training para sa mga media practitioner sa Quezon nitong Miyerkoles, Oktubre 28, sa Barangay Mayuwi, Tayabas City.

Bukod sa pagbibigay ng praktikal na kaalaman sa kaligtasan sa kalsada at paghahanda sa emergency, namahagi rin ng go bags o emergency kits sa mga kalahok upang makatulong sa kanilang paghahanda sa mga hindi inaasahang pangyayari.



Pinangunahan ang aktibidad ng Global Technical Center of Excellence (GTCOE) ng Aboitiz Power Transition Business Group (APTBG), na nakatuon sa disiplina sa kalsada, pagkilala sa mga panganib, at responsableng pagpapasya, lalo na para sa mga propesyonal na madalas bumiyahe dahil sa trabaho.

Binigyang-diin ni Mayshelle Rosario, direktor ng GTCOE, ang kahalagahan ng kaalaman at pagsasabuhay ng mga pamantayan sa kaligtasan bilang bahagi ng propesyonal na responsibilidad.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni Boyet Uapal, senior training manager ng GTCOE, ang Safety Mindset na nakabatay sa tatlong prinsipyo: pagkilala