



## **SAN JUAN CITY SUCCESSFULLY HOSTS WATTAH WATTAH FESTIVAL 2025 WITH NEW SAFETY PROTOCOLS IN PLACE**

The City Government of San Juan proudly announces the successful conclusion of the annual Wattah Wattah Festival, which drew an estimated 10,000 participants this year, according to data provided by the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Following the challenges and public concerns from last year's celebration, the 2025 festival was held under tighter security and stricter guidelines set forth by the City Government under the City Ordinance No. 14, S. 2025. Mayor Francis Zamora, who personally oversaw the preparations, expressed satisfaction with this year's outcome, commending the cooperation of the public and the efficiency of emergency and security teams.

"Ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa aking mga minamahal na San Juaneno sapagkat yung ating panawagan na magpunta dito sa Basaan Zone ay talagang pinagbigyan tayo. Nung una napakahirap magkaroon ng pagbabago dahil ito po ay nakasanayan na natin nitong mga nakaraang dekada. Kaya ipinaintindi natin sa ating mga mamamayan ang kahalagahan na dito mismo magsagawa ng basaan," he said.

Mayor Zamora thanked San Juanenos for following the rules and regulations set by the city. As of 2:00 PM, there are no untoward incident of passersby getting doused with water by fiesta-goers, a far cry from last year's events.

"I'm proud of how our citizens, guests, and city departments came together to ensure a festive yet disciplined celebration," declared Mayor Zamora.

### **Safety and Incident Summary:**

Despite the scorching 41-degree Celsius heat index, which led to several heat-related incidents, primarily with street dance performers, emergency teams were able to respond swiftly. The Incident Command Center reported the following:

- Medical Assistance Rendered:
  - o 2 cases of shortness of breath
  - o 8 cases of heat exhaustion
  - o 8 minor injuries
- Other Incidents:
  - o 3 public disturbances



- o 5 ordinance violators
- o 3 lost-and-found cases
- o 1 missing person case (now under resolution)

A total of 18 recorded incidents were managed promptly with no major threats to public safety.

The Wattah Wattah Festival, held annually in honor of St. John the Baptist, continues to be a beloved tradition in San Juan, marked by joyous water dousing, colorful parades, and spirited street dancing. While several street performers experienced mild hyperventilation due to extreme heat, medical teams were immediately dispatched and all cases were resolved on site.

The City Government is now planning a comprehensive post-event assessment to further refine festival safety for future years.