

## BACOR CHIEF EXECUTIVES LEAD 47TH NATIONAL DISABILITY RIGHTS WEEK



# DOLE EXTENDS P373-K AID TO PARENTS OF CHILD LABORERS IN CAVITE

**CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)** — At least 19 parents and guardians of identified child laborers in Cavite received livelihood assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Region IV-A through its Cavite Provincial Office.

Beneficiaries received a total of P373,571.10 in livelihood assistance, consisting of starter kits for small enterprises such as sari-sari stores, eateries, street food vending, and frozen goods reselling.

In a statement, DOLE Cavite Provincial Director Marivic Martinez said the initiative reflects the DOLE's continued efforts to eliminate child labor and to help create a future where every Filipino child is free to learn, play, and dream.

"The livelihood assistance aims to ease the financial burden on vulnerable families and ensure that children stay in school and out of hazardous or exploitative labor. More than just livelihood support, the intervention is a meaningful step

toward breaking the cycle of poverty and helping these children become true Batang Malaya," Martinez said.

She also emphasized to parents and guardians of child laborers that they must sustain the livelihood package awarded to them and ensure that their children will no longer engage in any kind of work. "Alagaan at paunlarin n'yo po itong pinagkalooob ng DOLE sa inyo, pero higit sa lahat, hindi na pwede at dapat hindi na babalik ang mga anak n'yo sa pagtatrabaho," Martinez stressed.

"Ang focus dapat nila ay una, studies, kaya dapat pagbutihin ang pag-handle nito, para may pantustos kayo sa pangangailangan ng mga anak n'yo at, huli, ay ma-enjoy nila ang pagiging bata nila. Dapat naglalaro sila sa playground, hindi iyong nagwo-work kung saan," she added.

According to DOLE, child labor remains a deep-rooted social issue in the Philippines, often fueled by poverty and lack of

livelihood opportunities. Many children are forced to trade classrooms for construction sites, kitchens, or farms, missing out on their right to education, safety, and proper development.

"DOLE's ongoing interventions are a clear recognition that eradicating child labor requires more than enforcement, it demands empowerment. By equipping parents and guardians with viable means of income, DOLE helps ensure that children can return to school, reclaim their childhood, and pursue their dreams," DOLE Calabarzon said in a statement.

For parents like Grace Romera, the assistance is more than just financial — it's a second chance for their children.

"Bilang isang magulang, wala nang mas masakit pa kaysa sa makitang ang anak mo ay kinakailangang tumigil sa pag-aaral at magtrabaho dahil sa kakulangan sa kabuhatan.

Pero sa tulong ng DOLE Cavite na livelihood assistance na ito, muling

nabigyan kami ng pag-asa.

Maraming salamat po sa DOLE sa tulong," she said. A child beneficiary, Emily (not her real name), shared how the program changed her life: "Maraming, maraming salamat po sa pagbibigay sa amin ng panibagong simula. Hindi na po ako nagtitinda ng candy, maglalako ng tuyo at tinapa. Pangako ko po, mag-aaral ako nang mabuti at gagamitin ko ang ikalawang pagkakataong ito para tuparin ang aking mga pangarap. Sana po mas marami pa kayong matulungan na kagaya ko." Through programs like DOLE's livelihood assistance and the Child Labor Prevention and Elimination Program, the government affirms its goal of uplifting the most vulnerable sectors, fostering economic self-reliance, and ensuring that no Filipino child is forced to work at the expense of education and well-being. (with reports from DOLE 4A) **BY PIA CALABARZON**

**BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA)** — The Bacoor City Government, through the Persons with Disability (PWD) Affairs Office, recently celebrated the 47th National Disability Rights Week with a special event at the Strike Gymnasium.

The celebration brings together representatives from the 47 Federations of PWDs—one federation representing each barangay in the city—highlighting the strong commitment to inclusivity and empowerment for persons with disabilities.

The program featured the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected officers of the 47 Federation of PWDs Bacoor, led by Kap Jorwin Bautista, Head of the PWD Affairs Office. This milestone symbolizes a renewed dedication to uphold and advocate for the rights and welfare of PWDs throughout the city.

City officials, including Mayor Strike B. Revilla, Vice Mayor Rowena B. Mendiola, and Councilors from Districts 1 and 2, attended the event to demonstrate their unwavering support for the PWD community. In addition, relief goods from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) were also distributed by the City Government of Bacoor to assist PWDs and their families.

Aligned with the theme "Innovation for Inclusion — Building Inclusive Communities Together," the celebration highlighted Bacoor's ongoing efforts to create a more accessible and supportive environment for all residents, ensuring that persons with disabilities are empowered and fully integrated into community life. (RBF/Bacoor CIO) **BY RUEL FRANCISCO**



## PHP 510,000 HALAGA NG SHABU NASABAT, SUSPEK ARESTADO SA GEN. TRIAS CITY, CAVITE

### Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Bandang alas-7:00 ng gabi noong Agosto 13, 2025, matagumpay na naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng PDEU Cavite PPO at General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang High Value Individual (HVI) sa isinagawang buy-bust operation sa Brgy. Tejero, General Trias City, Cavite, na nagresulta sa pagkakasabat ng tinatayang 75 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may standard drug price na Php 510,000.00.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHESTER NOEL BORLONGAN, Chief ng PIU, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Tol", residente ng Brgy. Tejero, General Trias City, Cavite. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa nang may koordinasyon sa PDEA,

na nagresulta sa pagkakakumpiska ng sumusunod na ebidensya: Tatlong (3) piraso ng heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet na naglalaman ng puting kristal na substance na hinihinalang shabu, tumitimbang ng humigit-kumulang 75 gramo, may halagang Php 510,000.00.

Ang buong operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD).

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng General Trias CCPS ang suspek para sa pagsasampa ng kaukulang kaso sa paglabag sa RA 9165.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Hindi titigil ang Cavite Police sa pagtugis at pagbuwag sa mga sindikatong sangkot sa ilegal na droga."

## WANTED SA KASONG "ATTEMPTED RAPE," ARESTADO SA SILANG, CAVITE

### Cam BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Cavite Police Mobile Force Company (PMFC) sa pangunguna ni PLTCOL Joven T Bahil, katuwang ang Warrant personnel ng Tagaytay Component City Police Station, ang isang City Level Most Wanted Person sa Barangay Inchican, Silang, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL Joven T Bahil, Force Commander ng Cavite Police Mobile Force Company ang akusado na si alias Anton at tubong Inchican, Silang, Cavite.

Sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inilabas ng Acting Presiding Judge ng RTC Branch 18, Tagaytay City, nahaharap si alias Anton sa kasong Attempted Rape na may itinakdang piyansa na ₱120,000.00.

Matapos maaresto, agad na dinala ang akusado sa kustodiya ng pulisya para sa dokumentasyon

at pagsasagawa ng karampatang legal na proseso.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL Ariel R Red, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang ating tagumpay sa pagka-aresto sa akusado ay patunay na walang makakatakas sa sinumang lumalabag sa batas. Ang Cavite PNP ay patuloy na magsasagawa ng mas maigting na operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng ating mga kababayan. Hinihikayat ko rin ang publiko na makipagtulungan at magbigay ng impormasyon sa ating mga awtoridad."

Sa huli, ang patuloy na pagtutulungan ng kapulisan at komunidad, masisiguro nating ang Cavite ay magiging mas ligtas, mas payapa, at mas handang harapin ang hamon ng kriminalidad.

## 350 CALABARZON HEALTH FACILITIES ACCREDITED AS PHILHEALTH YAKAP

### CALAMBA CITY, Laguna

(PIA) — A total of 350 healthcare providers across the Calabarzon region are now offering free outpatient medical services under the government's YAKAP ng Pamahalaan (Yaman ng Kalusugan) program.

Formerly known as Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (Konsulta), YAKAP expands the scope of accessible health services, covering medicines, checkups, and basic laboratory tests.

Accredited YAKAP healthcare providers in the region include 78 in Cavite, 94 in Laguna, 55 in Batangas, 52 in Rizal, and 66 in Quezon province.

READ: Full List of Yakap Clinics

According to Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth), the revitalized program underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding every Filipino's health and well-being, in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision of a healthier nation under Bagong Pilipinas.

The initiative shifts the focus from treatment to prevention, aiming to bring essential healthcare closer

3, Tagaytay City, Cavite, noong Agosto 4, 2025, na hindi maaaringpiyansahan. Sakanyangpahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagkakaaaresto ng isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay na walang ligtas na kanlungan ang mga lumalabag sa batas. Patuloy nating poprotektahanang ating komunidad laban sa mga mapagsamantala."

to communities.

Under YAKAP, Filipinos now have access to 75 essential medicines, more than triple the previous 21, through partner pharmacies. This expanded list is covered by a maximum benefit limit of ₱20,000 per patient annually.

The program also increases coverage for laboratory services from 15 to 20 tests and introduces high value and specialty screenings for colorectal, lung, liver, and breast cancers to promote early detection.

PhilHealth clarified that members may avail of these cancer screening tests at no cost in select hospitals, provided they present a doctor's order from an accredited primary care provider.

Jasmin Taasan, a resident of Calamba City, Laguna, described the new program as a great help, stressing that through YAKAP she does not need to worry whenever she needs doctor consultations and laboratory checkups.

"Maraming salamat po sa PhilHealth at sa ating government sa pagpapalawak ng mga benepisyo pagdating sa pag-access sa mga angkop na serbisyong medikal at pangkalusugan. Malaking tulong po ito sa mga mahihirap na mamamayan natin na may sakit, makakapag pakonsulta sila ng libre at laboratoty tests para malaman kung ano tga ang sakit nila." she shared.

To make enrollment easier, registration for the primary care packages will soon be available through the eGov PH app, ensuring more convenient access to services. (FC, PIA4A) **BY FREDMOORE CAVAN**

## REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO SA BACOR CITY, CAVITE

### Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Bandang alas-12:05 ng tanghali noong Agosto 13, 2025, nagsagawa ng Manhunt Operation ang mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa Brgy. Mambog 1, Bacoor City, Cavite, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, Acting Chief of Police ng Bacoor CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Alvin", residente ng Brgy. Mambog 1, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay

isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor CCPS gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa Paglabag sa Section 5 at 11, Article 2 ng RA 9165, na may , na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 114, Bacoor City, Cavite, noong Mayo 16, 2025, na may Walang Piyansa.

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Bacoor Custodial Center ang suspek.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang walang tigil

## REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, NAARESTO SA TAGAYTAY CITY

### Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tagaytay Component City Police Station sa isinagawang operasyon dakong 8:25 AM ng Agosto 13, 2025 sa Brgy. Mendez Crossing East, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JEFFERSON P ISON,

na operasyon laban sa mga Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng dedikasyon at malasakit ng ating kapulisan para sa kapayapaan at seguridad ng ating lalawigan."

Chief of Police ng Tagaytay CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Simon," residente ng Brgy. Mag-asawang Ilat, Tagaytay City, Cavite. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Intel, Warrant, at WCPD personnel ng Tagaytay CCPS laban sa Most Wanted Person-listed Regional Level, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Rape sa ilalim ng Art. 266-A(1) kaugnay ng Art. 266-B ng Revised Penal Code, na inamyendahan ng RA 8353 at RA 11648. Ang nasabing warrant ay inisyu ng RTC Branch

LAGUNA GOV'T URGES YOUTH  
TO TAKE ACTIVE ROLE  
IN BUILDING SUSTAINABLE  
CITIES, COMMUNITIES

**CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA)** — As the provincial government of Laguna celebrates the 2025 National Youth Day and Youth Fest, it is calling on young Lagunenses to take a more active role in building sustainable cities and communities, underscoring their vital contribution to the province's inclusive and resilient future.

During a radio program of the Philippine Information Agency Laguna, the province's Youth Development Affairs (YDA) Officer Pinky Villaseñor stressed that youth participation is crucial in addressing environmental, economic, and social challenges brought by rapid urbanization.

"Today, SDG 11 or Sustainable cities and communities is timely and should be emphasized here in the province of Laguna because we are a rapidly developing province. So, the role of youth in building a well-organized, safe and inclusive community needs to be critical," Villaseñor stated.

This year's celebration carries the national theme "Local Youth in Actions for the Sustainable Development Goals and Beyond," highlighting the power of youth initiatives in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 11 or 'Sustainable Cities and Communities.'

The month-long Youth Fest, starting from August 12, features a series of activities, including community clean-up drives, climate education workshops, tree-planting activities, digital innovation challenges for urban solutions, leadership boot camps, and forums on

disaster preparedness and environmental protection. The events aim to showcase the role of youth in shaping a sustainable future for Laguna.

Additionally, YDA Laguna is set to hold an annual youth convention where youth leaders and stakeholders in the province are gathered to discuss about SDG's specifically about education, good governance and economic development.

"We will also conduct the Annual youth convention, here there is a discussion especially about the SDG's like education, good governance, economic development, so we also include youth stakeholders, youth workers who help with our program," she stated.

Villaseñor assured that the provincial government under the administration of Governor Sol Aragonese will continue providing platforms for youth voices to be heard, including consultations, policy dialogues, leadership training, and the integration of youth-led initiatives into the province's development agenda.

"To the youth of Lagunense, you are not only the future, you are also the present, so the sustainable development goals are not just for experts or officials, they are for all of us who want a more just, safer and more prosperous world. We need to act, unite and be an inspiration for each other."

Villaseñor reminds the youth that change and innovation are within every individual and collective action from everyone must be done to show the strong commitment for the development of society. (AM/PIA-4A) **BY ANNA MOLE**

BPI LOS BAÑOS SCICAT FARM  
PROMOTES AGRI-TOURISM AND  
TECH-BASED INNOVATIONS

**LOS BANOS, Laguna (PIA)**—Blending science, agriculture, and tourism, the Bureau of Plant Industry's Science and Technology for the Convergence of Agriculture and Tourism (SCICAT) farm in Los Baños is empowering communities to secure their food supply, embrace sustainable innovations, and safeguard the environment.

The agritourism farm showcases guided tours, skills training, and hands-on workshops on technology-based agricultural practices. Tourists and farmers can learn how to grow their own food and discover local agricultural produce.

Established in 2018 through funding from the Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), SCICAT, a government institutional farm, supports the Philippines' position as one of the leading agritourism destinations globally.

"Through farm tourism, tourists can experience rural life, learn about farming, and enjoy the natural beauty of the farm while discovering various farm products," said Melinda O. Mondoñedo, SCICAT Project Leader.

Mondoñedo highlighted that SCICAT's main goal is to promote research and development (R&D)-based technology innovations.

The farm currently features 13 technology packages under organic vegetable production, including herb production, black pepper production, field legumes, edible landscaping, urban agriculture featuring

container gardening, dragon fruit production technology, oyster mushroom cultivation technology, leafy vegetable production under a low net panel, hydroponics, protective cultivation, garlic production technology, and fruit and vegetable grafting.

Tourists can also see different lowland and indigenous vegetables and legumes, such as pinakbet dish vegetables like eggplant and squash and legumes like monggo, soybean, peanut, and – indigenous vegetables like saluyot (jute mallow), roselle, and alugbati (Malabar spinach).

She emphasized that the farm welcomes walk-ins and organized student tours and offers experiential learning with chosen technologies.

Meanwhile, it also promotes household food production through container gardening, particularly for those with limited space.

"We are encouraging every home to produce their own food through container gardening. BPI provides initial planting materials and trains the proper way of planting and how to take care of the plants," she said.

"We are not just addressing food security but also food safety. When they grow their own food, they are sure of the nutrients without chemicals," she added.

The community-based tourist attraction not only teaches sustainable agriculture, but also it can lead to the creation of employment and livelihood opportunities for residents. (KA PIA4A) **BY KRISTIANNE ANDRADE**

EDITORIAL

Wikang Nanganganib Mawala,  
Pinananawagang Pasiglahin

Sa nalalapit na Buwan ng Wika, nais pasiglahin ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino ang mga wika sa Pilipinas na nanganganib nang mawala. Ayon sa mga ito, sana ay hindi ito makalimutan at magawang maipasa sa mga susunod pang mga henerasyon.

Kung nais man talagang huwag mawala ang mga wika sa Pilipinas, dapat na isa ito sa mga kurikulum na itinuturo sa mga estudyante nang mapreserba at maipasa sa mga susunod na henerasyon. Hindi sapat na tuwing buwan ng wikan lamang ito inaalala at babalik rin pagtuturo ng ibang lengwahe sa mga eskuwelahan.

Hindi dapat basta lamang ito inaalala, dapat na inaalaral ito. Hindi lang dapat ang mga subject na paulit-ulit ikinekwento sa mga kabataan, dapat na maisingit din ang pagbibigay kaalaman ukol sa mga ganitong lengwahe upang sa gayon ay maging mulat ang mga ito na hindi lamang basta iilan ang mga lengwaheng mayroon tayo sa ating bansa.

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**ANABELLE K. DUMALI**  
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**JOHN RENNIEL K. DUMALI**  
*Circulation Manager*

**BRYAN V. DE LUNA**  
*Editor Consultant*

**JO-ANN K. ALCANTARA**  
*Lay Out Artist/Special Project Coordinator*

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Email: cavitegazette@gmail.com

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## TEODORO REITERATES NEED FOR CREDIBLE DEFENSE POSTURE

**MANILA** – Department of National Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. reiterated the urgent need for the country to build a credible defense posture amid complex geopolitical and socio-economic realities.

Teodoro delivered the message during the US-ASEAN Business Council 2025 Aerospace, Defense and Security (ADS) Mission to the Philippines, according to a news release on Friday.

"It is more painful to be behind the curve because one day you need to be on that curve. If not, you lose. And you have to win in whatever objective you set," Teodoro said.

"You cannot have a soft win which is not permanent. You have to have a firm win. And for me, the win is nobody touches the Philippines -- whoever it may be," he added.

The 2025 ADS Mission in the Philippines brought together representatives from major US companies in the finance, defense

and security industry, and provided an opportunity to contextualize the Philippines' defense capability buildup along with the regional and global security challenges.

Teodoro noted that the Philippine defense system is now "busy catching up on infrastructure development."

"You can never escape the hard fact that sooner or later, your lack of substance will catch up with you," he said.

The DND chief stressed that credible deterrence is urgently needed as the Philippines has already tried alternative dispute resolution mechanisms that, he said, "only work when you have a stick behind you."

"Our role now is to provide as much deterrence as possible in order for our president, our diplomats, and all our other sectors to have as big a toolkit as possible to protect our interests peacefully," Teodoro said. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

## AUSTRALIAN, PH TROOPS BEGIN 'ALON' DRILLS

**MANILA** – Australian and Filipino troops have begun Exercise Alon 25, the largest military drill between the two countries, the Australian Embassy in Manila announced Friday. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Australian Defense Force (ADF) will train around Luzon, including the islands of Palawan between Aug. 15 and 29.

More than 3,600 personnel are taking part, including members of the Royal Canadian Navy and the United States Marine Corps' Marine Rotation Force - Darwin.

This year's iteration will feature live-fire exercises at military training ranges and maritime zones.

"These activities will be conducted with due regard to the safety of the participants and wider community, including responsible advance public notification, while ensuring maximum training value," the embassy said. Vice Admiral Justin Jones AO CSC, RAN, chief of joint Operations,

said Exercise Alon 25 demonstrates the strength of the two states' security partnership.

"Exercise Alon 25 is an opportunity for us to practice how we collaborate and respond to shared security challenges, and project force over great distances in the Indo-Pacific," he said.

"This exercise reflects Australia's commitment to working with partners to ensure we maintain a region where state sovereignty is protected, international law is followed and nations can make decisions free from coercion," he added.

Launched in 2023, Exercise Alon has expanded to include maritime, land and air training, supported by cyber and space capabilities.

This year's ADF contingent includes the Australian Amphibious Force Joint Task Force Headquarters, Navy's Hobart-class destroyer HMAS Brisbane, Army combined arms land task group, and an Air Task Group operating Super Hornets, Growlers and Hercules aircraft.

The drill will also test joint force projection through the mass airlift of an Army battle group with armored, engineering, health and artillery units.

Amphibious landings and maritime maneuvers are also planned.

"We will come away from Exercise Alon 25 with experience that will enhance our interoperability with the Philippines, and ensure that we can work together in support of regional security." (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

completed. But look at it -- how can that be considered completed? Look, there's an island in the middle, grass is growing on it. It's already overgrown. That means they haven't been dredged in a long time," he said. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

## DSWD CHIEF WARNS ERRING CHILD CARE FACILITIES OF ARREST, PROSECUTION

**MANILA** – Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Friday warned private child care facilities that maltreat their wards of corresponding punishments.

"Hindi ko naman nilalahat. Alam kong marami po tayong mga care facilities na pribado na minamahal ang mga bata. Pero dun sa mga mangilan-ngilan na may ginagawang hindi tama sa mga bata, mahuhuli at mahuhuli kayo ng DSWD at ang hustisya natin ipapataw duon (I am not generalizing. I know we have a lot of private care facilities that love children. But to the few that maltreat the children, the DSWD will catch you and justice will be served)," Gatchalian said during a media interview on the sidelines of the payout activity for the beneficiaries of Ayuda sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) in San Fernando, Pampanga.

This came in the wake of the DSWD's cease and desist order (CDO) on New Life Baptist Church of Mexico, Pampanga Inc. (NLBCMPI), which is accused of child abuse violations and non-compliance with the agency's registration, license to operate, and accreditation standards.

"Hindi nyo pag-aari 'yung mga kabataan na nasa inyo kundi ipinagkatiwala lamang sila sa inyo ng lipunan, ng pamahalaan para arugain, mahalin, pangalagaan. Wala kayong karapatan na tratuhin sila ng masama o saktan niyo sila (The children are not your properties but only entrusted to you by society, by the government to take care and love. You don't have the right to abuse or hurt them)," Gatchalian

said.

He told reporters that social workers from the DSWD Field Office-Central Luzon, which has the jurisdiction over the NLBCMPI, are making sure that the children from the care facility are provided with appropriate interventions to enable them to cope with the trauma.

The social workers will conduct counseling for the children and will facilitate the reintegration of those who are ready to go back to their respective families. "Yung may mga trauma, sisiguraduhin na muna natin na makakakuha ng counseling, ng debriefing. Pangalawa may iba kasing mga bata na ready na for reintegration sa kanilang mga pamilya so tulad nga ng discuss ko kay Governor Baby [Pineda], kailangan natin ibalik 'yung mga pwede ng ibalik sa kanilang mga pamilya lalong lalo na 'yung may mga magulang na may kakayahan naman na alagaan ang kanilang mga anak (We will ensure that they will receive counselling and debriefing for their trauma. Those who are ready for integration, like what I have discussed with Governor Pineda, those ready to return to their families will be returned, especially those whose parents have the means to take care of them)," Gatchalian said.

He added that those who need further rehabilitation will stay at various facilities of the DSWD.

As of press time, the DSWD Central Luzon regional office has already identified the centers where the children can be transferred for temporary custody, while further assessing those who will be eventually reintegrated with their families. (PNA) **BY JOSE CIELITO REGANIT**

## PBBM VOWS ACTION VS. BULACAN FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT VIOLATORS

**MANILA** – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Friday pledged to take decisive action against individuals involved in the deteriorating flood control infrastructure in Calumpit, Bulacan.

Marcos made the vow after inspecting the rehabilitation of the river protection structure along Barangay Bulusan and the flood mitigation structure in Barangay Frances.

"Hahanapin natin kung sinong responsible dito, sa gobyerno, sa private. Kailangan managot sila sa kanilang ginawa (We have to find out who's responsible for this, whether from the government or the private sector. They must be held accountable for what they have done)," he said in an interview after the site inspection.

The river protection structure was built by St.

Timothy Construction Corporation, while the flood mitigation structure was constructed by Wawao Builders.

The two firms are among the top 15 contractors that secured most of the flood control projects nationwide. Marcos flagged the standard flood control work of the two contractors, citing the signs of concrete deterioration caused by their failure to comply with project specifications.

He noted that both contractors reported the flood mitigation projects as "completed."

"Hindi ginawa. Ito na naman, the same thing. Kapag titignan mo 'yung mga report sa atin, completed lahat, meron na naman iyan (It wasn't done. Here we go again, the same thing. When you look at the reports submitted to us, everything's marked

as completed, it's all there again)," Marcos said. "Tapos, ito na naman 'yung quality. Madaling-madaling makita. (Then, here comes the issue with the quality. It's very easy to see)."

Marcos also expressed dismay over the contractors' false claims regarding the completion of dredging and desilting works in areas where the flood control structures were built.

"Meron dapat desiltation. Doon na naman sa kontrata, desiltation, dredging, completed. Tignan naman niyo, paano magiging completed iyan. Tignan niyo, may isla sa gitna, tinutubuan ng damo. Masukal na iyan. Ibig sabihin, matagal na silang hindi nagde-dredge (Then there was supposed to be desiltation. Again, in the contract, desiltation and dredging are marked as

## PNP CHIEF: DRUG FIGHT BEGINS AT COMMUNITY LEVEL

**MANILA** — Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Nicolas Torre III on Friday ordered Barangay Anti-Drug Abuse Councils (BADACs) to take a stronger, more proactive role in shielding their communities from the scourge of illegal drugs, stressing that real and lasting success in the anti-drug campaign begins at the grassroots level.

In a statement on Friday, Torre said that while the PNP continues precision-targeted operations against drug syndicates and both high-value and street-level offenders, the lasting solution lies in mobilizing communities as active partners in prevention, rehabilitation, and sustained vigilance.

"Every barangay is a frontline post in our battle against illegal drugs. BADACs are not just administrative bodies -- they are the sentinels of their communities. We count on them to lead both in preventing the spread of illegal drugs and in giving hope to those willing to turn their lives around," Torre said.

According to Torre, barangay officials and residents have the unique advantage of knowing the realities on the ground—who is vulnerable, who needs intervention, and who preys on the

community through the illegal drug trade.

"BADAC members are the eyes, ears, and conscience of their barangays. They can identify threats early and mobilize the right support systems. This is where prevention begins, and prevention is always better than cure," he added.

The recalibrated national anti-drug strategy integrates intensified law enforcement with community-centered rehabilitation programs, aiming to neutralize drug sources while offering genuine opportunities for recovery to affected individuals.

The country's top cop stressed that the fight is not defined solely by arrests or drug seizures, but by safer streets, restored trust, and lives reclaimed from addiction.

"Illegal drugs erode families, destroy futures, and weaken the nation from within. By empowering BADACs, we are building a shield that no syndicate can easily penetrate," he said.

A total of PHP83 billion worth of illegal drugs have been seized and 153,000 suspects arrested since President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. assumed office in 2022. **(WITH A REPORT FROM CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN/PR)**

## LTO EYES DAILY DISTRIBUTION OF 25K LICENSE PLATES

**MANILA** — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) is looking to expedite the distribution of license plates nationwide through the hiring of specialists and increasing distribution to up to 25,000 plates daily.

LTO chief Assistant Secretary Vigor Mendoza II said the agency has so far hired 20 additional workers in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to expedite the distribution of licenses, according to a news release on Friday.

To date, a total of 52 people are handling the plate distribution with a daily average of 8,000 to 10,000 outbound plates from the LTO's plate-making plant and courier hub.

Those hired were strictly screened on computer literacy and background on a fast verification process to boost efficiency in the distribution system.

The LTO's work output analysis estimated that the additional manpower will result in an additional 13,000 to 15,000 plate releases everyday.

"Gaya ng ipinangako namin sa mga motorista at sa ating mga kababayan, gagawin namin ang lahat para maayos ang problemang ito. Tapos na ang backlog sa plaka (Like what we promised the public, we will do everything we can to fix this problem. The plate backlog is gone) and we are exhausting all efforts

## DHSUD RACES TO ZERO BACKLOG, TARGETS AUG. 25 TO ELIMINATE CASE PILEUP

**MANILA** — The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said on Friday that it is close to eliminating years of accumulated and pending regulatory and homeowners' association (HOA) cases under its Zero Backlog Program.

In a Bagong Pilipinas interview, DHSUD Undersecretary Sharon Faith Paquiz said the department is targeting to close the remaining 600 cases by Aug. 25.

She said since Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling assumed office in May, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has mandated him to streamline the processes and permitting of the DHSUD.

She said Aliling prioritized the creation of an inventory of pending cases and applications, tracking back from 2020.

The DHSUD was institutionalized in 2019 through the enactment of Republic Act 11201.

"So, noong nag-track kami ng 2020 until 2025 ng June, it came out na ang backlog po ng DHSUD for HOA and regulatory cases ay nasa mga 3,011 (So, when we tracked 2020 until 2025 in June, it came out that DHSUD's backlog for HOA and regulatory cases is around 3,011)," Paquiz said.

She said that since the Zero Backlog Program started, and until July 14, the number of piled-up cases went down to a little over 600.

"So, we still have one week to target in order for us to zero in the 600 backlogs that was incurred since 2020 until 2025 of June, and by Aug. 25 we're expecting that we will be zeroing our backlog," she added.

Paquiz said the main function of the DHSUD is to handle and monitor memorandum of agreement (MOA) cases, issue licensing permits, development permit, license to sell and certificate of registration to realty developments.

However, she explained that many of the backlog cases involve the department's dual mandate over HOAs and housing regulation.

"In the field of homeowner's associations, our applications, for example, include HOA registration. We have regulatory powers and functions, and we initially address all intra-corporate disputes and intra/inter-association disputes of HOAs so that they can be resolved at the DHSUD level, before they become adjudicatory per se," she said.

The program spans 13 DHSUD regional offices and uses a real-time digital tracking system to monitor case status from filing to resolution.

Paquiz said that by resolving disputes at the department level, the DHSUD aims to prevent costly and drawn-out legal proceedings.

"Too much delay breeds corruption, and too much delay makes people agitated," Paquiz said. **(PNA) BY MARITA MOAJE**

am thankful that everyone is working hard at the LTO, from the central office to the district offices. And through this, I am confident that we will accomplish this task once again," he said. **(PNA) BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

## JBC BEGINS VETTING PROCESS FOR NEW OMBUDSMAN

**MANILA** — Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla and 15 other individuals were officially named by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) in its list of applicants for the position of Ombudsman on Friday.

Aside from Remulla also in the JBC's official list of applicants were former Commission on Audit (COA) Chairperson Michael Aguinaldo; Department of the Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Romeo Benitez; law practitioner Jonie Caroché-Vestido; Court of Appeals (CA) Associate Justice Bautista Corpin Jr.; former CA Associate Justice Stephen Cruz; Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Geraldine Faith Econg; and Commission on Human Rights Commissioner Beda Epres.

Also in the list are Supreme Court (SC) Associate Justice Samuel Gaerlan; former Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Jacinto-Henares; Deputy Executive Secretary Anna Liza Logan, recently retired SC Associate Justice Mario Lopez; PDP-Laban Secretary General Melvin Matibag;

Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Michael Frederick Musngi; Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chairperson Felix Reyes; Regional Trial Court Judge Jason Rodenas; and former retired Regional Trial Court Judge Benjamin Turgano.

The JBC, a constitutional body, screens applicants to the judiciary and to bodies like the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman post became vacant after former Ombudsman Samuel Martires' seven-year term ended last July 27.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed Ombudsman special prosecutor, retired CA presiding justice Mariflor Punzalan-Castillo as acting Ombudsman in late July.

The JBC said it wants to hear inputs from the public. "We welcome your thoughts, concerns, or comments about the applicants for the position of Ombudsman," the JBC said.

The public is advised to click "<https://jbc.judiciary.gov.ph/jbc-survey/>" and take the survey before 4:30 p.m. of Aug. 26. **(PNA) BY BENJAMIN PULTA**

## VILLANUEVA BACKS DRUG TESTING IN SENATE AFTER MARIJUANA USE REPORT

**MANILA** — Senate Majority Leader Joel Villanueva on Friday reaffirmed his support for random drug testing for all senators, officials, and employees of the chamber, saying it is an important step in upholding the integrity of the institution.

"I have consistently supported calls for random drug testing among all officials and staff of the Senate, regardless of who is serving as Senate president," Villanueva said in a statement.

"On a personal note, I am open to undergo a drug test of any type. It is very important not only for us senators but for all civil servants to lead by example."

Senate Minority Leader Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, a long-time advocate of workplace drug testing, earlier suggested reviving the random drug testing in the Senate, which should cover everyone, from

senators to rank-and-file employees.

He recalled implementing similar tests during his term as Senate president in 2018.

The renewed calls came after news reports on Aug. 13 alleged marijuana use by a Senate staff member inside the Senate premises.

Senate Secretary Renato Bantug Jr. said Senate President Francis "Chiz" Escudero immediately directed the Office of the Sergeant-at-Arms (OSAA) to investigate.

The OSAA submitted its report the following day and furnished a copy to Senator Robinhood Padilla for information and action. Under Republic Act 9165, or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, government officials and employees are subject to drug testing as part of efforts to maintain a drug-free workplace. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

## BATAC FARMERS RECEIVE LIVELIHOOD BOOST THROUGH PRAWN CAGE CULTURE

**BATAC CITY** — Two farmers' associations in this city are now seeing the fruits of their labor after their cage culture of "ulang" (freshwater prawns) yielded bountiful results.

In January this year, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Ilocos Norte released some 45,000 post-larvae prawns in five small water-impounding dams in the villages of Mabaleng, Pimentel, Batac East, Magnuang and Dariwdiw, with some cultured in cages maintained by farmers' associations.

After more than six months, they are due for harvest.

As one of the recipients of the project, the Southern Pimentel Farmers' Association said prawn farming has given them an alternative source of income in communal bodies of water.

Freshwater prawns, which are common in Ilocos, Cagayan and other parts of Northern Luzon, are high-valued species that command a competitive price in the market -- from PHP450 to PHP600 per kilo -- and sell fast particularly among

balikbayan (returning overseas Filipinos) and restaurant owners.

With the success of the project, senior aquaculturist Vanessa Alimbuyugen of BFAR-Ilocos Norte told the Philippine News Agency on Friday that more farmers in various parts of the province have expressed interest to participate.

To sustain the local production of freshwater prawns, Alimbuyugen reported the first ulang hatchery funded under the provincial government's Sustainable Agroforestry Farm Enterprise-Bamboo Business Model (SAFE-BBM) program is now fully operational in Barangay Nangguyudan in Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

"The facility will provide a nearby source of post larvae for fisherfolk who wish to venture into ulang culture," she said.

Under the SAFE-BBM program, BFAR will be distributing more aquaculture inputs and land dispersal to interested farmers' associations to promote inclusive and sustainable aquaculture development in the province. (PNA) **BY LEILANIE ADRIANO**

## NORMIN HIV TESTING AT 20%; DOH TO CLOSE GAP

**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY** — The Department of Health (DOH) is intensifying its efforts to close the gap in human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) testing and treatment in the Northern Mindanao Region.

In a forum on Friday, nurse June Erika Obsioma, regional coordinator of the DOH National AIDS/STI Prevention and Control Program, said testing the population is essential to meet the national target of 95 percent.

"For now, we are at 20 percent of this target and

we need to close that gap by encouraging more tests and treatment for people living with HIV," she said.

The region recorded 178 new HIV cases from January to March. Since 1991, the total number of cases has reached 4,007. Civil society organizations in the city have called for a Local HIV and AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) Council to be institutionalized.

Robbie Pamisa, convenor of the Kagay-anon Plus, said the proposed ordinance is pending at

## NAT'L VEGETABLE CONGRESS TO PUSH ILOILO AS MULTI-AGRI FOOD HUB

**ILOILO CITY** — The 2025 National Vegetable Congress will put Western Visayas in the spotlight, particularly pushing Iloilo as a multi-agricultural food hub.

The three-day event set from Nov. 5 to 7 in the Municipality of Barotac Nuevo is organized by the Panay Organization for Progressive Agriculture (POPA) Agriculture Cooperative in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA). It aims to gather around 1,500 participants across the country.

POPA Agriculture Cooperative chair Larry Nacionales said on Friday that Iloilo is a multi-commodity province, and one of the significant legacies they would like to establish after the congress is for Iloilo to be a multi-agricultural food hub of Western Visayas.

"It is a very aggressive ambition, but if we help each other, we will work together, I think we can make Iloilo the food hub of

Western Visayas," he said during the launch held at The Avenue in Mandurriao district here.

DA Regional Technical Director for Operations, Ma. Teresa Solis said Western Visayas does not have a sufficient supply of vegetables, with supplies sourced from Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, and Benguet.

She hoped that the congress would open the minds of farmers and consumers to a healthy lifestyle, for them to eat vegetables.

She recommended that the conference include a topic on health and wellness.

Nacionales said the region has a 20 to 30 percent capacity to provide, and the rest are sourced outside.

"This congress, we will invite local government units to send their farmers to attend to see the market," he said.

Meanwhile, Nacionales said there will be a regional action planning workshop where they hope to have a unified Vegetable Industry Roadmap.

He said there is a need to revisit laws that support the industry and review the old roadmap.

"I hope this congress will serve as an awakening, shifting the minds of our policymakers to look into the aspect of how the vegetable industry is important in our agricultural economy," he said.

Participants can visit selected farms, showcasing agricultural innovations, in Iloilo for hands-on learning.

The gathering anchors on the "Innovative. Resilient. Sustainable. Market-Ready: Revitalizing the Vegetable Industry for a Food-Secure Bagong Pilipinas." (PNA) **BY PERLA LENA**

## BAGUIO OPENS ONLINE PORTAL FOR TRAFFIC CITATION PAYMENTS

**BAGUIO CITY** — The local government has launched an online portal to allow vehicle owners pay traffic citation tickets through their mobile phones or laptops.

The system aims to reduce queues and streamline processes, according to the City Information Office on Friday.

To pay online, users can visit <https://bcap.baguiogov.ph>, enter the citation ticket number (found on the upper right of the ticket), and click "pay now" to view the amount due.

Payments can be made via GCash by selecting bills, choosing government, and then Baguio City Traffic Violation.

A reference number will be issued as proof of payment.

Tickets and payment amounts can be viewed

online within 24 hours of issuance.

The portal is part of the city's wider push to digitize transactions, which already includes online tax and fee payments, as well as building and work permit applications.

Soon, all city government transactions will be accessible online.

From Jan. 1 to June 8, the Baguio City Police Office recorded 94,169 traffic violations, including anti-obstruction, illegal parking, and number coding offenses.

Unpaid tickets are forwarded to the Department of Transportation and remain in the database until settled, potentially affecting license and vehicle registration renewals. (PNA) **BY LIZA AGOOT**

## VETERINARY OFFICE STEPS IN AMID TRADERS-FARMERS SPAT ON HOG PRICES

**DUMAGUETE CITY** — The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) in Negros Oriental is calling for the reactivation of the provincial price monitoring council after hog traders and suppliers disagreed on a fair selling price of live pig meat in Valencia town.

PVO information officer Jaymar Vilos told the Philippine News Agency on Friday that a meeting was held recently in Valencia for farmers and traders to determine the fair price.

"The traders want to bring down the offer of the farmer-sellers of PHP150 a kilo per live meat so they can earn a decent profit," Vilos said.

The traders said they can buy live pigs from other areas in the province at a lower price than what is offered in Valencia, he added.

However, the farmers are refusing to yield, saying they are still in the recovery process following an outbreak of the African swine fever (ASF) last

year.

Vilos said the local government called for the meeting to help hog farmers recover from the outbreak last year that impacted several backyard raisers.

Valencia has been declared a "pink zone" according to the ASF categorization of areas affected by the animal disease.

A pink zone is a buffer zone where no ASF cases are detected but is adjacent to a red zone with confirmed ASF cases.

Farmers received indemnification from the national government in February and are now allowed to sell their hogs under controlled conditions outside of the municipality and the province.

The PVO, while assisting farmers in recovery efforts, does not have jurisdiction and control over the selling and trading of hogs and other livestock, Vilos said. (PNA) **BY MARY JUDALINE PARTLOW**

## PSEI EKES OUT SMALL GAINS FRIDAY, PESO SLIPS

**MANILA** — Positive sentiments in the local bourse allowed the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) to finish the week up, but the Philippine peso weakened against the US dollar.

The main equities index rose 0.38 percent to 6,315.93 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.22 percent to 3,751.23 points. Most of the sectoral gauges also registered gains, led by the Industrial with 1.01 percent increase.

It was trailed by the Services, 0.52 percent; Property, 0.13 percent; Financials, 0.08 percent, and Holding Firms, 0.005 percent.

Only Mining and Oil ended on the red after it declined 0.63 percent.

Volume reached 1.55 billion shares amounting to PHP10.35 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 109 to 83 while 57 shares were unchanged.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation chief economist Michael Ricafort traced the PSEi's jump partly to the expansion in remittance inflows last June, which rose 3.7 percent on an annual basis, and the end-June level by 3.1 percent.

However, he noted the

muted growth in the main index partly due to investors' wait-and-see stance for the results of the meeting between US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin later in the day (PH time) to discuss an end to the Russia-Ukraine war, the scheduled release of US retail sales reports, the University of Michigan Sentiment report, the US inflation expectations, and drop in the prices of oil in the international market.

The PSEi's immediate major resistance level next week is seen at around 6,370.

On the other hand, the local currency ended the week at 57.065 against the US dollar, from its 56.945 finish a day ago.

Its weakness showed early on after opening the day's trade at 57.1 from 56.7 a day ago.

It traded between 57.25 and 56.99, bringing the average to 57.14.

Volume rose to USD2.01 billion from day-ago's USD1.87 billion.

Ricafort forecasts the peso to trade between 56.90 and 57.20 on Monday and 56.70 and 57.30 for the whole of next week. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## GCASH, MAYA TO UNLINK FROM ONLINE GAMBLING PLATFORMS

**MANILA** — E-wallet GCash and digital payment firm Maya assured that they would comply with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) order to unlink from online gambling sites.

In a statement Thursday, GCash said it will fully comply with BSP's proactive directive to remove links and icons that connect payment apps to online gambling platforms. "We share the BSP's commitment to ensuring that digital financial services are used responsibly and in ways that protect the welfare of Filipinos," GCash statement said.

"Once we receive the official directive, we will immediately enforce the necessary changes to ensure compliance and safeguard our users," it added.

During the Senate Committee on Games and Amusement hearing on Thursday, BSP Deputy Governor Mamerto Tangonan said the central bank issued an order mandating e-wallets to unlink from online gambling platforms within 48 hours. In a separate statement, Maya indicated it is also ready to comply with the BSP's directive.

"The update will be implemented in line with

## BERONG NICKEL CORPORATION SECURES MPSA FOR LONG POINT MINE IN PALAWAN

**MANILA** — Berong Nickel Corporation (BNC), a subsidiary of DMCI Mining, recently signed a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) with the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), for its Long Point property in Aborlan, Palawan.

In a statement Tuesday, DMCI said the MPSA, signed on Aug. 8, covers around 2,177.34 hectares. It grants BNC the exclusive right to explore, develop, and utilize mineral resources within the contract area.

The MPSA has an initial term of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years, and will take effect upon registration with the MGB.

"We will work closely with our host communities to ensure development goes hand in hand with environmental stewardship and inclusive growth,

guided by the same standards that shaped our operations and ongoing rehabilitation of the Berong mine in Quezon," DMCI Mining Corporation President Tulsi Das Reyes said.

The Long Point mine holds an environmental compliance certificate for 1 million wet metric tons of annual production capacity, with operations are targeted to start by fourth quarter of 2025.

More than 1,000 jobs would be created under the project, with priority hiring for local indigenous and nearby communities.

Since 2024, the DMCI said BNC invested around PHP1 billion in the Long Point project for fleet expansion, port infrastructure, ongoing exploration activities and pre-operating costs. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

## PSEI DOWN ON BARGAIN HUNTING, PESO SLIPS

**MANILA** — Investors' decision to look for cheaper-priced shares resulted in the negative close of the local bourse's main index Thursday, and the peso ended weaker against the US dollar.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) shed 0.53 percent to 6,291.85 points, and the broader All Shares followed with a decline of 0.57 percent to 3,743.03 points.

Half of the sectoral indices the BSP's guidance. We assure customers that their accounts and transactions remain secure and fully operational," the Maya statement said.

"We remain focused on serving our customers while fully complying with regulatory requirements," it added. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

also finished the day on the red, namely Services, down 2.42 percent; Property, 1.02 percent; and Holding Firms, 0.65 percent.

On the other hand, Industrial rose by 0.38 percent, Financials by 0.09 percent, and Mining and Oil by 0.001 percent.

Volume totaled 2.09 billion shares, amounting to PHP8.41 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 106 to 84, while 46 shares were unchanged.

Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, said investors have likely taken profit after the recent rise of the main index, thus leading the bargain hunting during the day.

"Furthermore, investors are likely still waiting for developments in stock market news that could influence the overall market, along with the upcoming implementation

## NATIONAL ID SERVICES AVAILABLE AT CUBAO, TAFT MRT-3 STATIONS

**MANILA** — National ID services such as registration, National ID in paper format printing, and assistance in accessing the digital National ID are now available at Cubao and Taft Metro Rail Transit Line 3 (MRT-3) stations until Aug. 31, 2025, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said.

In a statement Thursday, the PSA said the services are available Mondays to Fridays from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

For National ID registration, passengers must bring and present supporting documents. In requesting the printing of the National ID in

paper format, the PSA said passengers must present their Transaction Reference Number (TRN), indicated in the transaction slip provided after National ID registration.

In cases of lost TRN, registered persons may provide his or her demographic details to the registration personnel for its retrieval, before checking the availability of the National ID in paper format.

"Further, assistance in accessing the Digital National ID can be availed by passengers with a smartphone and an internet connection," said the PSA. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

## DOE, PHIVOLCS PARTNER TO ENHANCE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

**MANILA**—The Department of Energy (DOE) and the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-Phivolcs) have teamed up to integrate scientific data into energy planning.

Energy Undersecretary and Task Force on Energy Resiliency Chair Felix William Fuentebella on Wednesday said, "energy resilience is only as strong as its weakest link."

Thus, the memorandum of agreement signing on Tuesday for the integration of Phivolcs' GeoRiskPH platform, which has comprehensive hazard maps, risk profiles, and exposure data with

DOE's Energy Disaster Information Management System (EDIMS), which has real-time disaster monitoring capabilities.

"Integrating robust scientific data into our resilience planning is paramount to improving the reliability of power and fuel for Filipinos, especially as climate change intensifies. Together with DOST-Phivolcs, we are forging a path towards a safer, more secure Philippines, where energy remains a reliable, sustainable, and safe lifeline for all," Fuentebella said in a news release on Wednesday.

In 2018, the two government agencies already partnered for the Rapid Earthquake Damage Assessment System (REDAS), targeted for a fast damage analysis, reduced downtime, and economic losses after seismic events.

"Aligned with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision of a 'Bagong Pilipinas', we are committed to delivering reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy to every Filipino household, empowering communities and lighting the path to a brighter tomorrow," Fuentebella added. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

of the PSEi rebalancing," he added.

Similarly, the local currency ended the day at 56.94 from its 56.72 close on Wednesday.

It opened the day stronger at 56.7 from 56.88 a day ago.

It even strengthened to 56.61 mid-trade but also dipped to 56.95, bringing the day's average to 56.73. Volume jumped to USD1.87 billion from the previous trading's USD1.63 billion. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



## CSB, UST TRIUMPH IN V-LEAGUE COLLEGIATE CHALLENGE

**MANILA** – De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde notched its second win Tuesday at the expense of Colegio de San Juan de Letran, 25-15, 25-15, 20-25, 25-20 in the 2025 V-League Collegiate Challenge at the Paco Arena Sports and Events Center in Manila.

Middle blocker Zamantha Nolasco led the Lady Blazers with 21 points on 12 attacks and eight blocks.

Rhea Mae Densing chipped in 13 points off 11 attacks and two blocks, while Shekaina Rhedge Lleses had 12 points, including two service aces. "It's obvious that since their mistakes have been happening one after

another, they're most likely either nervous or becoming overconfident. That's probably their problem," Benilde assistant coach Corrine Apostol said after the one-hour and 50-minute match.

"Coach (Jerry Yee) talked to them about the need to be strong, because in crucial games, you can't be nervous. Coach also pointed out the adjustments they needed because Letran also adjusted. Maybe, their courage just came out, especially since the score was close."

Gia Marcel Maquilang finished with 21 points, 14 digs, and 10 excellent receptions for the Lady Knights, who have a new coach in Aleks

Lahteenimaki of Finland.

Lahteenimaki replaced Oliver Almadro, who steered Letran to back-to-back NCAA Finals appearances.

In the men's division, opposite hitter Al Bukharie Sali scored 21 points off 16 attacks, two service aces, and three blocks as the University of Santo Tomas prevailed over Colegio de San Juan de Letran, 20-25, 25-17, 25-18, 25-21.

Gboy de Vega and JJ Macam contributed 13 and 12 points, respectively, while team captain Dux Yambao made 20 excellent sets as the Golden Spikers secured their second win. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

## REMOLINO, BURGOS GEAR UP FOR SEA GAMES

**MANILA** – Kim Andrew Remolino and Erika Nicole Burgos are hoping to be in their best forms to earn slots in the national triathlon team for the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Thailand this December.

At the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, Remolino won the aquathlon silver and triathlon bronze medals while Burgos won the mixed relay gold medal with Kira Ellis, Matthew Hermosa, and Inaki Lorbes.

Last Sunday, Remolino and Burgos proved their superiority by securing victories in the Sunrise Sprint Lapu-Lapu in Cebu. Remolino, representing

Talisay Luigi Triathlon Group-Go for Gold, clocked 1:10:03 in the race featuring 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer (km) bike, and 5-km run to retain the men's overall title.

"I feel that my fitness level has improved, especially in bike because I controlled my pace better, so I'm happy with the win," said the Cebuano in an interview Friday.

Remolino topped the swim leg (9:12), kept a steady pace in the bike leg (39:28), and registered the best time of 17:31 in the run leg. He was also the top performer in the 25-29 age group category.

Hermosa (1:10:34) was second overall, followed by

Renz Corbin (1:11:41).

Burgos, who competed for the Santé Barley team, secured the women's title with a time of 1:20:31.

Eunice Caluya, who was second overall with a time of 1:22:37, bagged the 16-19 title. Cebuana Nicole Marie del Rosario (1:27:23) was third overall.

"It was definitely not the best, especially on the run. I wasn't exactly feeling recovered from the jetlag so I only did what I could," said the 23-year-old Burgos, also the 20-24 age-group champion.

Burgos, a sports science graduate from the University of the Pilipinas-Diliman, was runner-up at the Century Tuna

## GILAS BOWS OUT OF FIBA ASIA CUP WITH QF LOSS TO AUSTRALIA

**MANILA** – Australia gave Gilas Pilipinas a reality check as the latter's FIBA Asia Cup campaign ended in another quarterfinal exit with a 60-84 defeat at the King Abdullah Sports City in Jeddah on Wednesday. Another slow start doomed Gilas as Australia, behind a solid three-point shooting, raced to a 29-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Gilas managed to stay close to Australia the rest of the way, but it only kept Australia from further blowing the game wide open.

Owen Foxwell and Jaylin

Galloway each scored 15 points for Australia, which will play the winner of another quarterfinal game between Chinese Taipei and Iran in the semifinals.

Kevin Quiambao put up 17 points on 5-of-8 shooting from long range and four rebounds for Gilas, which bowed out of competition for the second straight time after the quarterfinals.

Despite the defeat, coach Tim Cone remains proud of how Gilas fared in the continental event.

"I really like our team. I liked the way we played. I liked their togetherness.

They're all good guys, and they're easy to coach," Cone said.

However, he was disappointed at how Gilas was bamboozled in the quarterfinals.

"I didn't like our performance tonight. I didn't think we stepped up as much as we wanted to," he said.

Gilas will now shift its focus to the first round of the FIBA Basketball World Cup Qualifiers, where it will face Australia again, along with New Zealand and Guam. (PNA) **BY IVAN STEWART SALDAJENO**

## KICKBOXER BACYADAN MISSES PODIUM AT WORLD GAMES

**MANILA** – Kickboxer Hergie Bacyardan missed the podium at the World Games after losing to Serbian Aleksandra Krstic, 1-2, in the women's K1 -70kg event at the Sichuan Gymnasium in Chengdu, China on Thursday.

Despite her heavy

punches, high kicks, and knees connecting to the Serbian's face and body, the judges awarded the victory to Krstic, who was grimacing in pain throughout the match.

Meanwhile, Aislinn Yap bowed to Kazakhstan's Ulbossyn Adilova, 0-2, in the semifinals of the women's sambo combat -80kg at the Jianyang Cultural and Sports Centre Gymnasium.

Yap was scheduled to face Costa Rica's Nicole Castro later in the evening in the battle for the bronze medal.

In the men's individual duathlon, Franklin Yee had the best finish among the Filipinos after crossing the finish line 6 minutes and 23 seconds behind gold medal winner Benjamin Choquert of France (1:14:14) at the Xinglong Lake Hubin Arena.

Yee (1:20:37) was 24th among 34 entries, while teammates Maynard Pecson (1:23:59) was 28th and John Patrick Ciron

(1:26:50) was 30th.

The women's competition is set for Friday, with Merry Joy Trupa, a silver medalist at the 2025 Asian Duathlon Championships in Bahrain last February, six-time Southeast Asian Games champion Kim Mangrobang, and stalwart Bea Quiambao eyeing a Top 10 finish.

"We really have to go harder after the results today (Thursday). After these races, we will assess ourselves and look for a system of international coaches who can guide us well," said Triathlon Association of the Philippines President Tom Carrasco Jr.

The Philippines has already won three medals coming from Chezka Centeno (silver, women's 9-ball), Jenna Kaila Napolis (silver, women's 52kg jujitsu), and Carlos Baylon Jr. (bronze, men's wushu sanda 56kg), with three days left in the tournament. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**