



STRENGTHENING PEACE AND ORDER THROUGH MODERNIZATION: CAVITE PNP ROLLS OUT NEW PATROL CARS AND MOTORCYCLES

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite—The New Provincial Capitol became a stage of hope and progress as rows of brand-new patrol cars and motorcycles shone under the sun. The Cavite Police Provincial Office, headed by PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director, received 29 units of Toyota Innova patrol cars and 30 units of Yamaha NMAX motorcycles as part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's strong support to the PNP's anti-criminality operations and modernization program held at the New Provincial Capitol, Barangay San Agustin, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

The initiative, spearheaded by Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" D. Remulla reflects the provincial government's commitment to ensure that Cavite police remain fully equipped and ready to serve. Vice Governor Hon. Ram Revilla Bautista also graced the activity alongside chiefs of police, force commanders, logistics officers, and other distinguished guests.

After the ceremonial turnover, the patrol cars will be distributed to 23 city and municipal police stations across the province, enabling a stronger, faster, and more efficient police response.

"This is part of the CPNP's core pillar of accountability

and modernization. Since we are blessed with these resources, it is our duty to maintain, safeguard, and use them properly for the safety, peace, and order of Cavite," said PCOL Red in his message.

Beyond the numbers, each vehicle symbolizes a deeper commitment that every Caviteño deserves swift assistance, safer communities, and peace of mind knowing their police are always ready to respond. These wheels are not just for mobility; they are instruments of trust, guardians of order, and everyday reminders that the Cavite police stand firmly beside the people they serve.



30 GRAMO NG MARIJUANA NASAMSAM SA BUY-BUST OPERATION NG GMA PNP!

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dakong alas-5:30 ng hapon ng Agosto 21, 2025, nasamsam ng Station Drug Enforcement Team ng Gen. Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station ang may 30.00 gramo ng pinaniniwalaang marijuana sa isinagawang buy-bust operation sa Brgy. Poblacion 2, GMA, Cavite, na nagresulta rin sa pagkakaaresto ng isang Street Level Individual.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BONNAA OBMERGA, OIC ng GMA MPS, ang suspek na si Jovy, residente ng Brgy. Poblacion 2, GMA, Cavite.

Nakumpiska mula sa kanya ang tatlong (3) sachets ng marijuana na may kabuuang timbang na 30.00 gramo na

tinatayang nagkakahalaga ng PHP 6,300, at isang (1) motorsiklo na Honda Click. Isinagawa ang imbentaryo ng mga ebidensya sa presensya ng suspek, media representative, at Barangay Elected Officer. Naitala rin ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD). Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng GMA MPS ang suspek para sa inquest proceedings.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang pagbawi ng 30 gramo ng marijuana ay patunay ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng ating kapulisan na bawasan ang paglaganap ng ilegal na droga sa ating mga pamayanan.”

PHP 391,884 HALAGA NG SHABU AT CAL. 45 BARIL, NASABAT NG DASMARINAS CITY PNP, DALAWANG SUSPEK ARESTADO

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dakong alas-2:00 ng madaling araw ng Agosto 20, 2025, sa Brgy. Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, matagumpay na nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang Intel/City Drug Enforcement Team ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station nang may koordinasyon sa PDEA na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng dalawang suspek at pagkakasamsam ng mahigit Php 391,884 halaga ng hinihinalang shabu at isang Caliber .45 na baril na may bala.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, ACOP ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang mga suspek na sina alyas Ed, isang High Value Individual, at si Heidelyn, isang Street Level Individual, pawang mga residente ng Brgy. Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang apat (4) na piraso ng heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet na naglalaman ng

tinatayang 57.63 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may standard drug price na Php 391,884.00, isang (1) unit Caliber .45 Blue Thunder na baril na may serial number BT4970631, isang (1) bala ng Caliber .45, isang (1) Caliber .45 magazine, at isang (1) black leather pouch.

Ang operasyon ay maayos na nadokumento gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) at isinagawa sa presensya ng mga saksi na Barangay Elected officer at media representative.

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Dasmariñas CCPS ang mga suspek para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at pagsasampa ng kaso sa paglabag sa RA 9165 at RA 10591.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang pagkakasamsam ng halos apat na raang libong piso halaga ng ilegal na droga at baril ay patunay ng seryosong kampanya ng kapulisan laban sa krimen at droga sa Cavite.”

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG IMUS CITY PNP!

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dakong alas-12:00 ng tanghali ng Agosto 21, 2025, naaresto sa Brgy. Palico 4, Imus City, Cavite ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHEY CHEY I SAULOG, Hepe ng Imus Component City Police Station, ang akusado na si Russel, residente ng Brgy. Sabang, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Imus CCPS katuwang ang 401st A Maneuver Company RMFB4A, na may suot na Body Worn Camera (BWC) at Alternative Recording Device (ARD) bilang bahagi ng dokumentasyon.

Ang pagkakaaresto ay sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 11, Article II ng RA 9165, na inilabas ng RTC Branch 121, Imus City, Cavite, noong Nobyembre 28, 2024 para sa Service of Sentence.

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Imus CCPS ang akusado para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa paghahatid ng hustisya at katahimikan sa Cavite.”

MOST WANTED PERSON – REGIONAL LEVEL RANK NO. 10, ARESTADO SA CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Sa matagumpay na operasyon ng mga tauhan ng CIDG Cavite Provincial Field Unit katuwang ang Cavite Provincial Maritime Unit at Trece Martires Component City Police Station, naaresto ang Most Wanted Person Regional Level Rank No. 10 dakong 12:25 ng tanghali ngayong Agosto 19, 2025 sa Brgy. Buenavista III, Gen. Trias City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL DENNIS A VILLANUEVA, Officer-in-Charge ng Trece Martires Component City Police Station, ang akusado na si alyas “Marlou”, na residente ng Brgy. Buenavista III, Gen. Trias City, Cavite.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng mga Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng Art. 266-A, Par. 2 ng Revised Penal Code, kaugnay ng Sec. 5(b) ng RA 7610 na inamyendahan ng RA 11648 (3 counts), na

inilabas ng RTC Branch 5, Trece Martires City, Cavite noong Agosto 11, 2025, na may kabuuang piyansang Php600,000.00.

Naitala ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) sa kawalan ng Body Worn Camera (BWC). Ang akusado ay ipinaalam sa kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang alam niya.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang naarestong akusado ay dinala sa CIDG Cavite PFU Office para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

Pinuri ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, ang mahusay na koordinasyon ng CIDG Cavite PFU, Cavite Provincial Maritime Unit, at Trece Martires CCPS. Aniya, ang pagkakaaresto kay Marlou ay malinaw na patunay ng determinasyon ng PNP sa pagpapanatili ng hustisya at proteksyon sa kabataan laban sa pang-aabuso.

PHP 618,800 HALAGA NG SHABU, NASABAT NG DASMARINAS CITY PNP, DALAWANG HIGH VALUE INDIVIDUAL ARESTADO!

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dakong alas-4:15 ng hapon ng Agosto 20, 2025, matagumpay na nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang City Drug Enforcement Unit ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station sa Brgy. Salawag, Dasmariñas City, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng dalawang High Value Individual at pagkakasamsam ng mahigit Php 618,800 halaga ng hinihinalang shabu.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO LARRAQUEL OÑATE, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang mga suspek na sina alyas “Muklo” at alyas “Sadam”, parehong residente ng Brgy. Sultan Esmael, Dasmariñas City. Nakumpiska mula sa mga suspek ang dalawang (2) piraso ng heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet at isang (1) knot tie-

sealed transparent plastic bag na naglalaman ng tinatayang 91.00 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may standard drug price na Php 618,800.00.

Ang operasyon ay maayos na nadokumento gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD).

Ang nakumpiskang ebidensya ay dinala sa Provincial Forensic Unit, Imus City para sa kaukulang pagsusuri, habang inihahanda ang mga dokumento para sa inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang pagkakaaresto kina alyas Muklo at Sadam at pagkakasamsam ng mahigit kalahating milyong piso halaga ng shabu ay patunay ng determinasyon ng ating kapulisan na wakasan ang kalakalan ng ilegal na droga sa Cavite.”

PHP 149,600 HALAGA NG SHABU, NASABAT SA BUY-BUST OPERATION NG IMUS CITY PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dakong alas-9:20 ng gabi ng Agosto 19, 2025 sa Brgy. Alapan 2-B, Imus City, Cavite, ay nasamsam ng Station Drug Enforcement Team ng Imus Component City Police Station ang hinihinalang shabu na nagkakahalaga ng Php 149,600.00 sa isinagawang buy-bust operation na nagresulta rin sa pagkakaaresto ng isang Street Level Individual.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHEY CHEY I SAULOG, COP ng Imus CCPS, ang suspek na si alyas Bay, residente ng Brgy. Sabang, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Nakumpiska mula sa suspek ang dalawang (2) pirasong heat-sealed transparent plastic

sachets na naglalaman ng tinatayang 22 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu, isang (1) Marlboro Red cigarette pack, isang (1) Suzuki Burgman.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa nag may koordinasyon sa PDEA at naitala gamit ang Body Worn Camera (BWC).

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Imus CCPS ang akusado para sa pagsasampa ng kasong paglabag sa RA 9165.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Hindi natin hahayaan na kumalat ang ilegal na droga sa Cavite. Ang bawat butil ng shabu na ating nasasabat ay kaligtasan naibibigay sa ating komunidad.”

PAGGAMIT NG PAMBANSANG WIKANG FILIPINO, PANAWAGAN NG KWF

BATANGAS CITY (PIA)

– Hinikayat ng Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino(KWF) ang publiko na gamitin ang wikang kinagisnan upang hindi ito tuluyang makalimutan at mawala.

Ayon kay Commissioner Benjamin Mendillo Jr. ng KWF ang wika ay bahagi ng kultura at kinagisnan ng mga Filipino.

“Ang wika ay ginagamit na wika ng mas malaking pangkat o rehiyon na siyang ginagamit na medium ng komunikasyon.

Sa kabilang banda ang dayakleto ay variation ng wika kung saan iisa ang ibig sabihin bagamat dalawang uri ng salita na may parehong tunog”, ani Mendillo.

Kaugnay nito, hinikayat ng KWF ang lahat ng Pilipino na gamitin ang wikang Pambansa at huwag sanayin ang mga kabataan sa paggamit ng banyagang wika upang maiwasan ang pagkalusaw o pagkawala ng tamang kaalaman sa sariling wika.

Isa sa hamon na kinakaharap ng KWF ang patuloy na pagpapayabong ng wikang Pambansa upang maiwasan ang paglimot sa katutubong wika na maaaring maging sanhi din ng pagkalusaw ng wikang nakasanayan at maaaring maging sanhi upang tuluyang kalimutan ang kinagisnang wika.

Ayon pa kay Mendillo, ang asignaturang Mother Tongue na kasalukuyang itinuturo sa mga paaralan ay isang mabisang

sandata upang patuloy na mapayabong ang wikang Pambansa at nagiging matatag ang wikang kinagisnan. Ito ay isang mandato ng KWF upang maging lunsaran, mapanatili at mapasigla ang mga wika sa Pilipinas.

Nakikipag-ugnayan ang KWF sa Komisyon ng Edukasyon upang higit na maipakita ang mandato ng Komisyon at lalong mapag-ibayo at mas mapalakas pa ang pagpapayabong sa paggamit at pagtuturo ng wikang Pambansa.

Ang Buwan ng Wikang Pambansa ay batay sa atas na nilagdaan ni Dating Pangulong Fidel Ramos ang RA 1061 na nakasaad na dapat ipagdiwang upang lalong malinang, mapalakas at mapayaman ang ating wikang Filipino.

Tema ng taunang pagdiriwang ay “Pilipino at mga Katutubong Wika, Makasaysayan sa Pagkakaisa ng Bansa”.

Kabilang sa mga aktibidad na bahagi nito ang serye ng mga webinar na tumatalakay sa mga paksa na lilinang sa kamalayan, kaisipan at gigising sa ating diwa upang pahalagahan ang wikang Filipino. Ang mga guro sa Filipino at mga paaralan ay may kanya kanyang nakahanay na aktibidad para sa pagdiriwang na nagpapakita ng pagiging malikhain at mapayabong ang wikang pambansa. (MPDC-PIA Batangas)

BY BHABY DE CASTRO

YOUTH KEY TO SHAPING SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE —DLSU PROFESSOR

CALAMBA CITY (PIA)

— Young voters remain a key force in shaping grassroots leadership and barangay governance, a professor from De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) has emphasized.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency, Dr. Rommel Mazo, director of the DLSU-D's School of Governance, Public Service & Corporate Leadership, highlighted the role of the Sangguniang Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan in promoting participatory governance and training future tech-savvy leaders.

“In itself, the youth is a political force and they should actively participate in public governance and political decision-making processes. Their voices should be heard, especially during the time of AI (artificial intelligence) and Information and Communications Technology (ICT), because their access to this information affords them the insights only they could have.”

As the youth's first foray to participative governance and policymaking, the Sangguniang Kabataan provides a platform for translating national policies and goals affecting grassroots communities into local legislature.

“The Sangguniang Kabataan will create the ordinances that will implement government policies and the goals set by the UN [United Nations]. These goals must be translated into laws and ordinances, and implemented in the barangay.”

Formalized under the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015, the Sangguniang Kabataan

acts as the highest policymaking body on matters affecting the youth in the barangay wherein all its programs, plans and activities are decided with the consent of representatives, known as the Katipunan ng Kabataan.

To achieve this, Mazo emphasized the importance of providing a platform for the youth to give their collective opinions and perspectives, especially on policies that will affect their community. “The stability of our republic relies on the stability of our barangays, so we expect our officials to be competent and honest. Our expectations from our barangays should be the same as what we expect from our national government.”

Describing it as the ‘repository of knowledge’, Mazo noted the academe's role in promoting sustainable governance, where policies and programs by the government are anchored from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

It serves as the global blueprint to achieving a balance between economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection by addressing critical global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice.

In its 2024 Philippine Statistical Yearbook, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) noted that the CALABARZON is home to some 4,420,311 Filipinos aged between 15 to 29 years who are qualified to vote for the Sangguniang Kabataan. (PB/PIA4A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

EDITORIAL

Makeup Classes Pagkatapos ng Ilang Araw na Suspensyon, Iniuutos

Pagsasagawa ng mga makeup classes sa weekends o pagdagdag ng oras sa klase tuwing weekdays, iniuutos ng Department of Education upang makabawi sa nakaraang class suspensions.

Dapat lamang ito na isagawa sapagkat umabot din ng isang linggo ang patuloy na pagsuspinde ng klase, may mga bahagi pang umabot ng lagpas isang linggo ang suspensyon dahil sa patuloy na pag-ulan.

Kung nais na bumalik sa dating normal ang pagtatapos at pagbubukas ng academic year ay dapat lamang na habulin ang mga araw na hindi nakapag klase nang hindi na mag-aadjust pa ang pagtatapos ng mga estudyante.

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AFP REPORTS INCREASED PRESENCE OF CHINESE VESSELS IN AYUNGIN SHOAL

MANILA — An increased presence of Chinese vessels, including rubber boats armed with crew-served weapons, was monitored in Ayungin Shoal in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) where the BRP Sierra Madre (LS-57) stands watch, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said Thursday.

In a statement, the AFP said the increase had been observed on Aug. 20 through maritime domain awareness (MDA) monitoring activities.

"In total, five CCG (Chinese Coast Guard) vessels were present, supported by 11 RHIBs (rigid-hull inflatable boat)/fast boats and nine Chinese maritime militia vessels. Aerial assets were also monitored during the deployment, including one rotary aircraft and one unmanned aerial vehicle," it said.

Several of the CCG's fast boats were also observed to have been upgraded with mounted weapons,

including heavy crew-served weapons.

"China Coast Guard vessels have been seen conducting maneuvers and drills involving the use of water cannons at sea, while a number of smaller craft, such as rigid-hulled inflatable boats and fast boats, were also deployed inside the shoal," it added. The AFP said it would continue to monitor developments in the WPS.

In a separate message to reporters, AFP public affairs office chief, Col. Xerxes Trinidad, said the military has ready contingency measures.

"We affirm our commitment in performing our mandate to protect our sovereignty and sovereign rights in the WPS," he said.

Trinidad said the AFP's continuous monitoring activities provide a clear picture of the "operational environment and awareness of the situation." (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

BOC CONDEMNS 5 CONTAINERS LOADED WITH FORFEITED AGRI PRODUCTS IN SUBIC

MANILA — The Bureau of Customs (BOC), through the Port of Subic, has destroyed five containers of smuggled agricultural products through proper dumping.

In a statement on Thursday, the BOC said the shipments contained assorted frozen meat, fish, preserved fruits, vegetables, and other perishable items that were condemned in a facility in Subic, Zambales on Aug. 15.

The products were forfeited in favor of the government for lack of a phytosanitary certificate, in violation of a Department of Agriculture administrative order and a department circular in relation to Section 1113(f) of Republic Act 10863, the Customs

Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA).

"By condemning these illegal imports, the bureau reaffirms its commitment to protecting the health and safety of Filipino citizens. Smuggled agricultural products pose serious risks, and we will continue to act decisively against these threats," BOC Commissioner Ariel Nepomuceno said.

As mandated under Customs Memorandum Order 24-2021, the condemnation ensures that agricultural goods deemed hazardous or unfit for human consumption are properly disposed of.

"This measure safeguards the consumer from health risks posed by unsafe, unregulated, and illegally imported food products,"

PH, AUSSIE TROOPS HOLD LAND WARFARE DRILLS IN N. ECIJA

MANILA — Filipino and Australian troops taking part in this year's Exercise "ALON" are now conducting intensive land warfare drills to ensure greater operability between the two services, the Philippine Army (PA) said Thursday.

The exercises are being conducted in Fort Magsaysay in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija "and other training areas in the province," PA spokesperson Col. Louie Dema-ala said in a statement.

"While the broader exercise encompasses amphibious landings, air-sea operations and joint maneuvers, 'Victorious Troopers' are specifically engaged in the land domain of warfare focusing on ground-based tactical training and interoperability," Dema-ala said, referring to 84th Infantry Battalion of the 7th Infantry Division, the unit participating in the drills.

He added participating troops are undergoing intensive drills in combat shooting, jungle operations, live-fire exercises and urban combat supported by armor, artillery and engineers designed to enhance operational readiness and effectiveness in diverse terrain and combat environments.

This year's iteration of "ALON," or "Amphibious Landing Operations," kicked off on Aug. 15 and will run until Aug. 29.

Over 3,600 troops from the Philippines, Australia, the United States and Canada are taking part in Exercise "ALON" 25,

the media release added.

District Collector Noel Estanislao noted that the move shows the government's strong warning to smugglers —that public health and safety will never be compromised.

"The BOC will continue to rigorously enforce customs laws, ensuring a safer and more secure marketplace while deterring illegal trade that endangers the health of our citizens," he said. (PNA) **BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

which is being held across the joint operational area of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Northern Luzon Command (NOLCOM) and the AFP Western Command. Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Indonesia are participating as international observers.

Dema-ala said the PA will be primarily involved in the field training exercise (FTX) at the NOLCOM joint area of operations with air components from the Philippine Air Force and the Australian Defence Force.

The highlight of the FTX will be the combined live fire exercise at the combat readiness training area in Fort Magsaysay on Aug. 27.

"The PA aims to boost its thrust to enhance the individual and unit capabilities of land forces and increase its interoperability with the Joint Force and partner international armed forces as part of its active engagement with like-minded nations to ensure regional cooperation and stability," Dema-ala said. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

AFP REAFFIRMS 'UNIFIED APPROACH' VS. EMERGING SECURITY THREATS

MANILA — Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. has reaffirmed the military's commitment to address emerging security threats with a "unified and integrated approach."

An AFP statement on Thursday said Brawner made this remark during the first founding anniversary of the Armed Forces Intelligence Command (AIC) on Wednesday.

During the event, Brawner underscored the vital role of intelligence in safeguarding national security and advancing the military organization's capabilities.

"By continuously advancing its capabilities in conducting multi-domain intelligence and security

P2.3-M 'HOT MEAT' SEIZED IN BULACAN, 7 PERSONS ARRESTED

MANILA — At least 12,500.8 kg. of "hot meat" worth PHP2.3 million were confiscated in Marilao, Bulacan, resulting in the arrest of seven persons, the Police Regional Office (PRO) 3 (Central Luzon) said on Thursday.

In a statement, Central Luzon Police chief, Brig. Gen. Ponce Rogelio Peñones Jr., said the operation was carried out after barangay peacekeepers on patrol discovered the illicit transfer of suspected double-dead meat from a wing van to a refrigerated truck in Barangay Sta. Rosa 1 in Marilao at about 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. He said the incident was immediately reported to the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and Marilao Police Station, resulting in the arrest of seven individuals.

"This successful operation shows the strong partnership of the PNP (Philippine National Police) with local government and regulatory agencies in safeguarding the welfare

of our people. PRO-3 will remain vigilant against illegal practices that endanger public health and undermine consumer protection," Peñones said.

The confiscated meat was turned over to the NMIS for proper disposition, while charges for violation of Republic Act (RA) 9296, or The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines, are being prepared against the suspects before the Office of the Provincial Prosecutor in Malolos, Bulacan.

Meanwhile, Peñones said operatives of the Station Drug Enforcement Unit (SDEU) of Balanga City Police Station seized at least 1 kg. of suspected shabu with an estimated street value of PHP6.8 million during a buy-bust operation in Barangay Bagong Silang, Balanga City at about 10:45 a.m. Thursday.

The operation led to the arrest of a high-value individual and the recovery of a bag containing several sachets of suspected shabu, genuine and counterfeit peso bills used as buy-bust money, and other drug paraphernalia.

"This operation, guided by actionable intelligence, shows that PRO-3 remains firm and uncompromising in its fight against illegal drugs. We will continue to pursue high-value targets and dismantle drug networks to protect our communities," Peñones said.

The arrested suspect and the confiscated evidence were brought to the Balanga City Police Station for proper documentation and filing of charges for violation of RA 9165 or the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. (PNA) **BY CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN**

of certificate of grant for 117 plantilla positions allocated to the AIC, which further strengthened the unit's manpower and organizational capacity. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

DA CHIEF URGES HOUSE SUPPORT FOR RICE TARIFFICATION LAW CHANGES

MANILA — Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr. has appealed to lawmakers to back proposed amendments to the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), saying the current version has failed to protect local farmers and left the industry exposed to market volatility.

In a news release on Thursday, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reported that Tiu-Laurel made a presentation before the House Committee on Agriculture and Food, chaired by Quezon Rep. Wilfredo Mark Enverga, describing the RTL as a "well-meaning policy" with provisions that had unintended consequences, particularly on the welfare of Filipino rice farmers.

"Rice is more than just a staple. It fuels our workforce, sustains our families, and symbolizes food security for over 112 million Filipinos," he said. Tiu-Laurel said the RTL's full liberalization of rice imports stripped the National Food Authority (NFA) of its mandate to regulate supply, stabilize prices, and intervene during crises —effectively placing farmers at the mercy of market forces.

The result, he warned, has been unsustainable palay prices, driven down by a flood of cheap, high-quality imported rice.

Last month, farmgate prices reportedly fell to as low as PHP8 per kilo, well below the cost of production, even for the most efficient growers.

Tiu-Laurel also refuted claims that the government's PHP20 rice program caused the price drop, calling those assertions "absurd and simply untrue."

He cited NFA data showing palay prices began to rebound following President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s announcement of a temporary rice import suspension, which will take effect on Sept. 1.

"That rebound happened even as the PHP20 program continued. This

proves that market control, not subsidies, is the decisive factor," Tiu-Laurel said.

He said the core problem lies in the law itself.

"The real issue lies in the RTL. As currently written, it does not reform the rice industry —it threatens to kill it," he added.

Citing that the NFA is uniquely positioned to balance public interest with market dynamics due to its logistics network and long-standing experience, Tiu-Laurel called for data-driven policy reform, better regulation, and the restoration of a stronger role for the NFA.

"We must regain control of the rice industry. This is an industry too critical to be left entirely to the private sector," he said.

Tiu-Laurel also expressed support for House Bill 1, which seeks to revise the RTL and reestablish the government's authority to act during price or supply disruptions. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

DIOKNO FILES BILL TO BREAK LANGUAGE BARRIERS IN PH LAWS

MANILA — Akbayan Partylist Rep. Chel Diokno has filed a bill requiring the translation of Philippine laws with penal provisions into Filipino, Bisaya, and Ilokano to break the language barriers.

House Bill No. 3863 or the "Batas sa Sariling Wika" Act seeks to amend the Revised Administrative Code of 1987 to require translations into the three major Philippine languages representing the country's four largest ethnolinguistic groups: Tagalog (26 percent), Bisaya (14.3 percent), Ilokano (8 percent), and Cebuano (8 percent).

If enacted, the law will require all new laws with penal provisions to be translated within 90 days, and all existing laws with penal provisions —including the Revised Penal Code,

CA AFFIRMS CONVICTION OF 2 VIETNAMESE NATIONALS FOR KIDNAPPING

MANILA — The Court of Appeals has affirmed the decision of the Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 115 convicting two Vietnamese nationals for their involvement in the kidnapping for ransom of a Vietnamese woman three years ago.

In its 10-page decision dated Aug. 18, the CA "dismissed for lack of merit" the appeal filed by Nguyen Chi Trung, 30, and Phan Minh Viet, 32.

The two men were charged for the kidnap for ransom of their compatriot Nguyen Thi Ben Van, also known as "Miss Ann," whom they detained at two different safehouses on orders of their Chinese bosses for a total of 18 days in November 2022.

On Oct. 29, 2022, the victim had left a hotpot restaurant at the Aseana Business Park near the corner of Macapagal Boulevard and Aseana Avenue in Parañaque City to meet someone in a bar and did not return.

At around 9 p.m. on the same day, the victim's boyfriend received messages and video of the victim being beaten by the alleged kidnappers through Telegram and demanded PHP50 million from him

in exchange for her safe release.

In the course of negotiation, the ransom was reduced and was transferred in two tranches to a bank account given by the suspects for the victim's safe release.

The victim was then abandoned by her captors at Blue Mountain, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City where she was rescued.

On Nov. 17, 2022, a follow-up operation was conducted by authorities, resulting in the arrest of Viet at around 7 p.m. in his condominium at La Verti Residences, Pasay City, while Trung was arrested at around 3:30 p.m. on Nov. 18 at a karaoke bar in Barangay Tambo, Parañaque City.

The suspects were sentenced by the RTC to up to 40 years in prison.

"All told, the prosecution was able to establish beyond reasonable doubt that Trung and Viet participated in the commission of the crime. Accordingly, we find that the RTC did not err in convicting both of them for the crime of kidnapping for ransom," the CA said. (PNA) **BY BENJAMIN PULTA**

PCG BOOSTS MARITIME SECURITY WITH UAV MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

MANILA — The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is expanding the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to bolster maritime surveillance, coastal monitoring, and emergency response as part of its modernization program.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview on Thursday, PCG spokesperson Capt. Noemie Cayabyab said the UAVs were recently tested in a flying exercise in La Union to assess their capabilities in aerial surveillance and rescue support.

The drones are already in use for operations, including search-and-rescue, and are expected to play a greater role in enhancing maritime domain awareness.

"Ang UAV po natin ay may kakayahan po na lumipad hanggang 40 to 60 minutes... ang kakayahan po nito is iyong GPS navigation and live video feed transmission po. Maganda rin po itong automatic flight path programming at saka object tracking (Our UAVs can fly for 40 to 60 minutes... equipped with GPS navigation and live video feed transmission. They also have automatic flight path programming and object tracking)," Cayabyab said.

She said the Coast Guard follows its "10/30 doctrine," requiring small vessels to deploy within 10 minutes and larger ships or aircraft within 30 minutes of receiving UAV reports.

"So, ang kagandahan rin po nitong UAV po natin, later on 'no, we can use this data para magamit po na ebidensiya sa pagsasampa po ng mga kaso sa mga tao na lumalabag po sa ating

batas (The advantage of these UAVs is that their data can later be used as evidence in filing cases against violators of maritime laws)," Cayabyab said.

The UAV program is operated under the Coast Guard Aviation Command, which also maintains the drones.

Personnel undergo training in basic drone operations, flight planning, aerial mapping, sensor handling, troubleshooting, and advanced courses in data analysis and mission planning.

"Target po talaga natin na bigyan po ng pangunahing UAV units iyong ating mga command areas... para pantay-pantay ang surveillance capability at maabot po natin iyong mga malalayong lugar (Our target is to equip all command areas with UAV units... to ensure equal surveillance capability and reach remote areas)," Cayabyab said.

She added that the initiative is supported by allied countries and will ensure more effective coastal patrols and emergency response.

Cayabyab assured the public that PCG continues to work closely with other government agencies, emphasizing that its singular mission is to deliver genuine service to the Filipino people.

On the other hand, the PCG is also preparing 1,300 of its personnel to serve as election board members in the upcoming Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao parliamentary elections.

The deployment, according to Cayabyab, is part of the agency's broader support for national initiatives while maintaining its primary maritime security duties. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

Labor Code, RA 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act), Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act, Safe Spaces Act, and the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers, among others --to be translated within five years.

The Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (KWF) will serve as the lead translating authority, while the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) will be tasked with publishing the translations in the Official Gazette and making them available online.

"How can we expect ordinary citizens to follow the law if it's written in a language they can't understand? A worker in Mindanao shouldn't need

a lawyer or translator to understand the Labor Code; a mother in Ilocos should be able to read the Anti-VAWC law in her native tongue," Diokno said in a statement on Thursday.

"By translating laws with penalties into terms that are easily understandable by ordinary citizens in their local language, we minimize the risk of misunderstanding and misinterpretation."

Diokno said the proposal brings the Philippines in line with its Southeast Asian neighbors.

"In countries like Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste, laws are written and enforced in their own languages," he said. (PNA)

BY JOSE CIELITO REGANIT

'YAKAP' EMBRACES LEARNERS, PARENTS WITH HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

BACOLOD CITY (PIA)

— The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) here launched its Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) for learners and parents at Tayabas Elementary School (TES) in Talisay City, Negros Occidental.

This initiative aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call in his recent State of the Nation Address (SONA) to bring expanded and more accessible health services to Filipinos.

Through this initiative, PhilHealth intends to register school learners and their parents who are already members, ensuring their access to National Health Insurance Program (NHIP) services and benefits.

For parents who are not yet members, PhilHealth will first facilitate their membership registration, after which they must also register in the YAKAP program to avail of the expanded services.

Parent of a learner Ragie Mae Casuyon from Barangay Matabang expressed her gratitude, saying the program's free medical services and medicines would benefit not only her but also her child.

"Gapasalamat gid ko nga may ara nga program nga YAKAP kay makabulig gid bala sa amon kay libre na lang ang bulong kag check-up," Cayuson said. (I'm thankful that there's a program like YAKAP because it will truly help us since the medicines and check-ups are already free.)

Formerly known as Konsultasyong Sulit at Tama (KonSulTa), YAKAP is PhilHealth's flagship expanded primary healthcare program under the Universal Health Care (UHC) Law.

The program offers a wider range of free primary care services, including access to 75 essential medicines (up from 21 previously) with a maximum benefit limit of ₱20,000 per patient per year.

The expanded benefits also cover 20 laboratory tests, cancer screenings for colorectal, lung, liver, and breast cancers, and other outpatient treatments at no cost.

In partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Talisay City Government, PhilHealth targeted 479 students from Tayabas Elementary School for its first patient encounter (FPE).

PhilHealth Bacolod City head Edgar Yocariza reported that Talisay City recorded the highest number of registered PhilHealth members and dependents in the province as of June 30, 2025, and the second highest in Western Visayas.

"The LGU [local government unit] of Talisay amu ang pinakataas nga performing LGU sa bilog nga probinsiya when it comes sa PhilHealth registration, with outstanding 105 percent [coverage] in registration rate, kag number two sa bilog nga Western Visayas," Yocariza said.

(The LGU of Talisay is the best-performing LGU in the entire province when it comes to PhilHealth registration, with an outstanding 105 percent coverage in registration rate and ranking second across Western Visayas.)

Meanwhile, Talisay City Mayor Maria Rowena Guadalupe Lizares welcomed the collaboration, emphasizing the role of health in education.

"This initiative brought to us by the meaningful collaboration between PhilHealth, DepEd [Department of Education], and, of course, our President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., embodies the mechanisms necessary for transforming schools into health-promoting learning environments," Lizares said.

The public may register for YAKAP through the eGovPH app, the PhilHealth Member Portal, local PhilHealth offices,

GROUNDBREAKING OF PAGADIAN'S 'GOVNET' MARKS MILESTONE IN DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

PAGADIAN CITY,

Zamboanga del Sur — Pagadianons, and the rest of the province can now look forward to faster, more reliable government services as the city rolls out a new digital network.

The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) launched the Government Network (GovNet) project on August 19, marking the initial step towards delivering faster and more efficient government services.

Atty. Ralph Kevin Canton, airport manager of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines in Zamboanga del Sur, expressed optimism regarding the effect of the project on communication and service delivery.

"I am thankful to DICT for the GovNet project and for being one of its beneficiaries. It will help us communicate better and coordinate effectively with our stakeholders and clients at the airport," he said.

The Pagadian City GovNet is a flagship digital infrastructure initiative led by DICT, which seeks to interconnect 50 national, provincial, and local government offices in Pagadian City using a secure, high-speed fiber optic network.

Such connectivity will

facilitate interagency communication, improve the effective delivery of public services, and reduce costs and support Disaster Risk Reduction and Management operations through virtual emergency meetings and effective coordination.

"We are deeply grateful for this strategic support. This connectivity empowers our Operation Center/ Emergency Operations Center to maintain a 24/7 virtual presence via the Zoom platform, ensuring uninterrupted disaster monitoring and response during emergencies," Atty. Ruel S. Halanes, regional director of the Office of the Civil Defense.

The project, which began with the laying of a 48-line drop cable to provide high-speed connectivity, is targeted for completion by December 2025.

Don Mark Evan Dalid, technical education and skills development specialist II of Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, emphasized the advantages of the project to the public and stated that "we are thankful to DICT for GovNet. With reliable internet, our clients can access our programs online anytime, making training more flexible and helping us reach more people efficiently."

Pagadian GovNet is the result of the successful pilot initiative in Zamboanga City and marks another breakthrough in Zamboanga Peninsula's steps toward a digitally empowered public sector. Cheryl Ortega, regional director of DICT, emphasized the long-term impact of GovNet.

"Hindi lamang magtatapos sa internet access ang GovNet, kundi magbubunga ito ng mas malawak at mas pinahusay na serbisyo para sa mga mamamayan ng

PSA BRINGS NAT'L ID, BIRTH REGISTRATION TO AGTA COMMUNITIES IN QUIRINO

CABARROGUIS, Quirino

(PIA) — Taking another step toward inclusive governance, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in Quirino province recently brought Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) registration directly to the Agta communities in Maddela town.

Chief Statistical Specialist Cherry Grace D. Agustin said the Agta community, which traditionally depends on hunting, gathering, and small-scale farming, often faces challenges in accessing government programs due to their distance from service centers.

"The on-site registration spared them the time, effort, and cost of traveling to town, providing them immediate access to a secure and valid proof of identity," Agustin said, emphasizing that having a national ID empowers Indigenous Peoples by providing formal recognition and strengthening their sense of belonging.

Agustin added that the ID ensures easier access to social services, facilitates smoother transactions in banks

Zamboanga del Sur, bilang isang digitally enabled province," she said.

(GovNet will not only end internet access but will also lead to broader and improved services for the people of Zamboanga del Sur, as it becomes a digitally enabled province.) The DICT calls on the public to support and utilize GovNet since the project is creating a more connected government and better serving the citizens through technology. (EDT/PKG/PIA-Zamboanga del Sur)

BY PRINCESS KATE GERUNDIO

and other institutions, supports mobility for work or education, and opens doors to healthcare, social protection programs, and government aid, making inclusion and equal participation in society a reality.

"The national ID also helps reduce identity fraud, improves efficiency in government transactions, and serves as a single, universally accepted identification document, eliminating the need for multiple IDs," she said.

During the actual registration at Barangay San Dionisio I, Maddela, on August 7, 2025, there were 18 individuals, mostly members of the Agta tribe were successfully registered under the National Identification System.

Three Agta beneficiaries received free certificates of live birth printed on security paper under the Birth Registration Assistance Project.

Agustin said the same services will also be brought to other IP communities in the province soon.

She further reaffirmed PSA Quirino's commitment to ensuring that no Quirinian, especially those in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas, is left behind in the country's push for a unified and accessible identification system.

Alongside the national ID registration, PSA Quirino, through Birth Registration Coordinator Jamaica Asne and in partnership with the Local Civil Registry Office of Maddela, also assisted members of the Agta community in processing delayed birth registrations. (OTB/TCB/PIA-2, Quirino)

BY THELMA C. BICARME

SURVEY ON 'WHITE HYDROGEN' IN PALAWAN SHOWS PROMISING RESULTS –DOE

MANILA – The survey held from Aug. 12 to 15 this year aimed to discover potential sources of native hydrogen sources in Palawan showed "promising indicators", the Department of Energy (DOE) said Wednesday.

In a news release, the DOE said the survey was held at several areas that include Kay's Hot Spring in Brgy. Sta. Lourdes, Puerto Princesa City, and Bato-Bato Hot Spring in Brgy. Calategas, municipality of Narra, and in Puerto Princesa City.

These studies, which are part of the second part of the nationwide check on the country's potential for low-carbon energy source termed "white hydrogen", revealed "promising indicators of naturally occurring hydrogen, underscoring Palawan's potential to further contribute to the Philippines' clean energy transition, apart from the Malampaya project."

The joint technical team from the Energy Resource Development Bureau (ERDB) and the Energy Research and Testing Laboratory Services (ERTLS) gathered critical water, gas, and rock samples from hot springs and outcrops in the municipalities of Sofronio Española and Narra, and

the City of Puerto Princesa, the DOE said.

"The samples will undergo laboratory analysis by the DOE to determine their potential and to guide the country's broader strategy for harnessing indigenous clean energy resources. This effort forms part of the DOE's mission to enhance national energy security, diversify the energy mix, and accelerate the transition toward a low-carbon and sustainable energy future," it said.

The first reconnaissance survey was held from June 30 to July 4 at the Botolan Hot Spring and Nagsasa Seeps in Zambales and the Mangatarem Hot Spring in Pangasinan, among the nine areas being considered for native hydrogen exploration, a world first since the Philippines is the first to have the framework for such activity.

The other areas are the Casiguran Ophiolite belt in Aurora province; Angat Ophiolite Belt in Bulacan; Eastern Bicol-Eastern Mindanao Ophiolite Belt; Antique Ophiolite Belt; Western Bicol-Eastern Leyte Ophiolite Belt; Zamboanga-Sulu Ophiolite Belt; and Central Mindanao Ophiolite Belt. **(WITH A REPORT FROM JOANN S. VILLANUEVA/PNA)**

RECTO WELCOMES R&I'S AFFIRMATION OF PH INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING

MANILA – Japanese debt watcher Rating and Investment Information, Inc.'s (R&I) recent affirmation of the country's investment-grade credit rating shows that credit rating agencies and investors remain confident in the Philippines, Finance Secretary Ralph Recto said.

"Isa itong tagumpay na dapat ipagdiwang ng bawat Pilipino. Dahil ibig sabihin nito, nananatiling mataas ang tiwala ng mga credit rating agencies at investors sa atin (This is a success that every Filipino should celebrate. Because it means that credit rating agencies and investors remain confident in us)," Recto said in a statement Thursday.

"Kaya mas dadami ang papasok na investments, mas maraming magandang trabaho ang malilikha, mas tataas ang kita, at mas maraming Pilipino ang maiaahon natin sa kahirapan. (So more investments will come in, more good jobs will be created, income will increase, and we will be able to lift more Filipinos out of poverty)."

The R&I on Wednesday affirmed the Philippines' "A-" investment-grade rating with a stable outlook. An 'A-' rating reflects strong macroeconomic stability and robust creditworthiness.

This translates to lower interest rates on borrowings of the national government and the private sector, and helps attract more foreign direct investments.

In reaffirming its rating, R&I cited that the Philippine economy continues to grow at a relatively high rate among major countries in Southeast Asia.

In the second quarter of 2025, the Philippines' Gross Domestic Product growth of 5.5 percent outperformed its regional peers, including China (5.2 percent), Indonesia (5.1 percent), Malaysia (4.5 percent), Singapore (4.3 percent), and Thailand (2.8 percent).

R&I reaffirmed the Philippines' steady fiscal consolidation, highlighting the government's progress in reducing the fiscal deficit and improving debt metrics in line with its fiscal strategy. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

JAPAN DEBT WATCHER AFFIRMS PH'S INVESTMENT-GRADE RATING

MANILA – Japanese credit watcher Rating and Investment Information, Inc. (R&I) affirmed on Wednesday the Philippines' "A-" investment-grade rating with a stable outlook. An investment-grade rating signals low credit risk, thereby helping reduce borrowing costs.

This enables a country to allocate more funds to socially beneficial initiatives and programs.

"The economy of the Philippines continues to grow at a relatively high rate among major countries in Southeast Asia," R&I said in a report.

R&I said the Philippines is expected to realize stable economic growth as well as higher income level against the backdrop of robust public and private investments, development of domestic business such as Information Technology and Business Process Management (IT-BPM) industry, and population growth, among other factors.

It also cited the country's inflation rate, which fell to a six-year low of 0.9 percent in July 2025.

The rating agency added that the impact of the 19-percent US reciprocal tariffs is expected to be limited, citing the Philippine

economy's relatively low reliance on exports to the US.

R&I said the Philippines' manageable current account deficit and debt levels, as well as sufficient foreign exchange reserves, underpin the country's robust external position.

"The National Government's outstanding debt for 2024 was 60.7% of GDP. R&I believes that the government debt ratio will remain within manageable level with the progress in reducing fiscal deficits," it said.

"The government meets its funding requirements mainly through the issuance of government bonds in the domestic financial market. The country has a certain level of debt affordability, given a manageable interest payment burden," it added. The agency also cited stability of the banking sector as a key rating driver.

In a separate statement, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) welcomed the affirmation.

"The low inflation environment is thanks to the agile and evidence-based monetary policy. This environment supports an investment climate that is conducive to economic growth," BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr. said.

"In line with its financial stability mandate, the BSP continues to strengthen the Philippine banking system through policies that underscore strong capitalization, prudent risk management, and sound governance. These enable banks to finance productive economic activities while navigating a fast-evolving global economic landscape," he added. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

CHEMREZ'S SECOND BIODIESEL PLANT STILL IN PLANNING STAGE – EXEC

MANILA – The plan to build a second Chemrez coco-diesel plant remains on the table and will push through once the government lifts the suspension on the implementation of the 4 percent and 5 percent biodiesel blends.

Chemrez Technology Inc. (CTI), a subsidiary of D&L Industries Inc., currently has a biodiesel plant in Batangas. It is currently the largest manufacturer of biodiesel in the domestic market.

"I would say it's probably a matter of when, not if. Meaning, there's a high probability we will make a second plant. But, in terms

of when, how big, how much we'll spend, we still do not have that information since we are still in the planning stage," D&L Industries Inc. president and chief executive officer Alvin Lao said in a statement Thursday.

"We believe, for many reasons, it makes sense for us to consider a second plant even if the increase in the mandated blend has been postponed."

The National Biofuels Board, in an advisory on July 17, announced the suspension of the implementation of the 4 percent (B4) and 5 percent (B5) biodiesel

blends supposedly set for implementation by Oct. 1, 2025 and Oct. 1, 2026, respectively.

The decision, it said, was made "in view of the anticipated significant impact on pump prices and the potential inflationary effects on the national economy" as coconut oil prices remain high due to supply challenges faced by coconut farmers.

D&L earlier said it remains optimistic on the long-term outlook of the country's biodiesel sector, due to its benefits to the economy, environment, and consumers. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

BSP WARNS PUBLIC VS. ENTITIES MISUSING THE BSP'S NAME

MANILA – The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) advised the public to refrain from dealing with individuals or entities that falsely claim to be affiliated with or supervised by the BSP.

"The BSP reminds the public that its personnel will not extend loans, solicit money, nor ask any information that may compromise financial accounts of financial consumers," the central bank said in an advisory

Wednesday.

The BSP said it does not offer or hold deposit accounts for individual persons.

It added that it does not participate in any transaction between private individuals.

To confirm the authenticity of individuals or entities presenting themselves to be connected with the central bank or to report their illegal or fraudulent activities, the BSP encourages the public to

call (+632) 8811-1277 or 8811-1BSP or send an email to bspmail@bsp.gov.ph. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



ALEGARBES, BEJINO JOIN PH SQUAD FOR WORLD PARA SWIMMING TOURNEY

MANILA — Ariel Joseph Alegarbes and Gary Bejino have been added to the five-member national team roster for the World Para Swimming Championships scheduled from Sept. 16 to 27 in Singapore.

Alegarbes will compete in the S14 100m backstroke and 100m butterfly, while Bejino is entered in the S6 50m butterfly, and the 50m and 100m freestyle events.

Both swimmers received direct invitations from World Para Swimming.

At the 2023 ASEAN Para Games in Cambodia, Alegarbes set a new Games record of 2:18.19 in the men's 200m Individual Medley, breaking the 2022 mark of Malaysian Ethan Yin Jun Khoo.

Bejino, meanwhile, won

two gold medals in the 200m and 400m freestyle and added three silvers in shorter events (50m butterfly, 50m and 100m freestyle).

Two-time Asian Para Games champion Ernie Gawilan, Angel Mae Otom and Marco Tinamisan made it to the World Championships after earning slots at the World Para Swimming (WPS) World Series in Fuji, Japan last May.

Gawilan, who competed at the Tokyo (2020) and Paris (2024) Paralympics, qualified in the S7 men's 400m freestyle and SM7 200m Individual Medley events.

Otom, a triple gold medalist at the 2022 ASEAN Para Games, earned her spots in the women's 50m

freestyle, backstroke, and butterfly, while Marco Tinamisan, who hails from Quezon, qualified in the S3/SB3/SM3 men's 50m, 100m and 200m freestyle events.

"This is part of their journey going to the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles," head coach Tony Ong said in an interview Thursday.

Other members of the coaching staff are Brian Micael Ong, Majonie Pulumbarit and Leo Ramos.

The national team is also preparing for next year's ASEAN Para Games in Thailand and Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

VELOS, CONSTANCIO REIGN IN PHILTA NETFEST

MANILA — Cebuano netter Juvels Velos captured the boys' U18 crown of the Philippine Tennis Association (PHILTA) Age Group Championships after outlasting Al Jose Gairanod Jr., 6-4, 7-6 (5), at the CitiGreen courts in Cebu City on Wednesday.

The Grade 12 student at the University of the Visayas-Compostela campus secured his seventh title despite a wrist injury.

"It was pretty decent, hitting corner shots and applying what I've practiced was a good thing during that match even though I struggled with my wrist

injury," said the 16-year-old Velos in an interview Thursday.

He previously bagged a team silver and individual bronze in the 2024 Batang Pinoy National Championships in Palawan. He also saw action in the 2023 Palarong Pambansa in Marikina and the 2024 edition in Laoag City.

Meanwhile, Matthew Morris outplayed Jhunreal Anthony Espinosa, 6-4, 6-3, in the boys' U16 singles final. He also claimed the U18 doubles title with Rain Ninal.

In other final results, Marcus Go beat Claudwin

Seven Tonacao, 6-2, 0-6, 6-1 (U14) and Val Ian Gairanod downed Nino Miguel Lambating, 6-0, 6-4 (U12).

Marcus Go and Matthias Go won the U14 doubles title over Uzziah Rezin Giray and Claudwin Seven Tonacao, 6-1, 6-3.

On the girls' side, Gesellyn Constancio dominated the U18 division, sweeping Dorothy Antonette Araneta, 6-1, 6-0, before teaming up with Trisha Sio to take the doubles crown against Theia Go and Alexa Ong, 6-1, 6-2.

Donna Mae Diamante prevailed in U16 over Thea

Mae Castro, 6-1, 6-2.

In the U14, Ma. Carolien Fiel downed Ma. Angelica Dela Cerna, 6-3, 6-1, before the pair joined forces to rule the doubles over Kyla Caguioa and Kacy Virparia, 6-0, 6-1.

Caguioa bounced back to snatch the U12 singles crown against Donarose Olavidez, 6-1, 7-6 (5).

Winners received their awards from PHILTA secretary general John Rey Tiangco and United Tennis Philippines (UTP) board director Jackie Tomacruz. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

ZUS COFFEE TO REPLACE KURASHIKI ABLAZE IN PVL INVITATIONAL

MANILA — Japan's Kurashiki Ablaze has withdrawn from the Premier Volleyball League (PVL) Invitational following an internal issue involving head coach Hideo Suzuki. Kurashiki, the 2023 defending Invitational champion, pulled out after the Japan Volleyball League informed the team of a "serious compliance violation" allegedly

committed by Suzuki.

"In response to this notification, our team has decided to immediately commence an internal investigation and suspend all activities until the details of the incident are fully clarified," said Daisuke Watanabe, representative director of Ablaze Co. Ltd., in an official statement issued Thursday.

The PVL then tapped the

fifth-placed squad from the PVL on Tour to complete the six-team field.

An invitation was first offered to Farm Fresh owner Frank Lao, who instead fielded the ZUS Coffee Thunderbelles since the Foxies are not yet ready with a full training roster.

ZUS Coffee finished sixth in the PVL on Tour. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

PH GEARS UP FOR FIFA FUTSAL WOMEN'S WORLD CUP HOSTING

MANILA — The Philippines hopes to make an impact as host as well as on the field in the inaugural FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup.

A total of 16 countries will see action from Nov. 21 to Dec. 7 in Pasig City and Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

These are Spain, Italy, Poland, Portugal (Europe); Iran, Japan, Thailand, Philippines (Asia); Morocco, Tanzania (Africa); Canada, Panama (North America); Argentina, Brazil, Colombia (South America); and New

Zealand (Oceania).

The top two teams from each group will advance to the knockout phase, comprising the quarterfinals, semifinals, a third-place playoff and finals.

Spain, Italy, Brazil, Thailand and Canada will be the toughest teams to beat, according to Philippine Football Federation (PFF) president John Gutierrez during the weekly Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum at Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Manila on Tuesday.

"And if we look at ourselves as mediocre to these powerhouses, then what's the point of us participating" Realistically, we will be very competitive," Gutierrez said.

Coach Rafa Merino has a 20-women pool led by skippers Inday Tolentino and Isabella Flanigan. The team will be trimmed to 16, before the final 14 players. Gutierrez said the hosting preparations are right on schedule.

"We've been having meetings almost every day, updates on certain developments like venues getting them up to par with FIFA standards. It's looking good for us," Gutierrez said.

The PFF expects some

chinks but is prepared for anything.

"The local organizing committee (LOC) is doing an excellent job working with FIFA to make sure we are able to host this very prestigious event," he said. "We're not here just to participate. We're here to make an impact."

The national team will attend a training camp in Japan by mid-September. "It's really a milestone for women's sports that finally the World Cup for women's futsal is here. So we're very excited and thankful to FIFA for trusting us in hosting this event," Gutierrez said.

Isabella Fernando, head of government relations of the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup LOC, also attended the weekly session presented by San Miguel Corporation, Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Olympic Committee.

She said the official draw ceremony will be held on Sept. 15.

The tournament received a major boost through Administrative Order No. 35 signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for the creation of an Inter-Agency Task Force for the hosting. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**