

**PGC BRINGS FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION TO DASMARIÑAS CITY**



**SPES PROGRAM  
CONTINUES TO EMPOWER  
CAVITE YOUTH THROUGH  
MCDONALD'S PARTNERSHIP**

A total of 600 residents of Barangay Sampaloc II in the City of Dasmariñas benefitted from the Medical and Dental Mission spearheaded by the OPG-Medical Mission Team on September 30, 2025. Health services were provided by the dedicated health professionals of General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH), including medical consultations for 507 patients, dental services for 76 individuals, and 17 x-ray procedures. To further support the health and well-being of the community, free prescribed medicines and vitamins were also distributed to the beneficiaries. The initiative reflects the continued commitment of the Provincial Government to deliver accessible healthcare services and promote the welfare of Caviteños. — **R. TANAEL**

SPES beneficiaries will be deployed to various McDonald's branches across Cavite, including New Molino, Veramosa, Paliparan, Anabu Aguinaldo, Anabu, Anabu Kostal, SM Center Imus, SM Bacoor and North Molino.

The SPES program is designed to help underprivileged but deserving students continue their education by giving them short-term employment during school breaks. Through partnerships with private sector employers like McDonald's, the initiative not only aids students financially but also helps them build valuable workplace skills.

The success of this event signals continued efforts to reach more youth across the province, reinforcing Cavite's commitment to education, employment, and empowerment. — **A. SARTE**



The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (PESM), in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), continues its commitment to youth empowerment through the Special Program for Employment of Students (SPES). On September 22, 2025, at Mc Donald's Anabu Kostal Branch, the program welcomed a new wave of applicants, as 34 students were hired under the latest SPES rollout. The event marked another milestone in the ongoing collaboration between the government and McDonald's Philippines, aimed at providing students with both financial support and real-world work experience. The latest batch of

## RANK 1 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG NOVELETA PNP

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Noveleta Municipal Police Station ang isang Municipal Level Rank 1 Most Wanted Person dakong 3:50 ng hapon ng Oktubre 3, 2025 sa Noveleta, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PMAJ MARK ANTHONY DIATO SARNO, OIC ng Noveleta MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "ERL", residente ng Noveleta, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng warrant personnel ng Noveleta MPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PMAJ Sarno. Gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), matagumpay na naipatupad ang Warrant of Arrest laban sa akusado para sa kasong Rape by Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng

Art. 266-A Par. 2 ng RPC na inamyendahan ng RA 8353.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng RTC Branch 88, Cavite City, Cavite noong Oktubre 1, 2025 na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php120,000.00.

Kasalukuyang nakapiit ang suspek sa custodial facility ng Noveleta MPS para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang tagumpay ng operasyon laban sa isang Municipal Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan na maghatid ng hustisya at seguridad para sa mamamayan ng Cavite."

## HIGH VALUE INDIVIDUAL, ARESTADO SA BUY-BUST OPERATION SA DASMARINAS CITY

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Isang High Value Individual ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station matapos ang matagumpay na buy-bust operation dakong 5:20 PM ng Oktubre 1, 2025 sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, ACOP, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS ang suspek na si alias "Inday", at residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Siya ay nahaharap sa kasong paglabag sa Sec. 5 at 11, Art. II ng RA 9165. Isinagawa ang operasyon ng Intel/City Drug Enforcement Team ng Dasmariñas CCPS sa bisa ng koordinasyon sa PDEA, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek at pagkakakumpiska

ng mga sumusunod na ebidensya: pitong (7) piraso ng heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet na naglalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang kabuuang bigat na 80.10 gramo at may standard drug price na Php 544,680.00; isang (1) piraso ng Php500.00 bill na ginamit bilang buy-bust money; isang (1) itim na bag; at isang (1) TIN ID. Dumalo bilang mga testigo ang isang barangay kagawad at isang media representative.

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

## REGIONAL AT RANK 3 CITY LEVEL MWP ARESTADO NG IMUS PNP

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Isang Regional at Rank 3 City Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Imus Component City Police Station sa isinagawang operasyon dakong 2:30 PM ng October 2, 2025 sa Imus City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHEY CHEY ILANO SAULOG, Hepe ng Imus Component City Police Station, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Jay", residente ng Imus City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Imus Component City Police Station sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL SAULOG, kasama ang mga tauhan ng 401st A Maneuver Company RMFB4A, gamit

ang Body Worn Camera (BWC) at Alternative Recording Device (ARD), na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Rape under Article 266-A(1) of the RPC, na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 126, Imus City, Cavite, noong Hulyo 7, 2025, na walang piyansang inirekomenda. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang patuloy na tagumpay ng ating mga operasyon laban sa mga most wanted ay bunga ng mas pinaigting na dedikasyon at kooperasyon ng ating kapulisan para sa katahimikan at hustisya sa lalawigan ng Cavite."

## REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG NAIC PNP

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang isang Most Wanted Person (Regional Level) dakong 1:33 ng hapon ng Oktubre 3, 2025 sa Naic, Cavite.

operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD). Mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED:

"Ang pagkakaaresto ng isang High Value Individual sa Dasmariñas ay isang malaking hakbang sa pagpapatupad ng ating kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga. Hindi natin titigilan ang pagsugpo sa ganitong uri ng kriminalidad upang masiguro ang kaligtasan at kapayapaan ng bawat mamamayan ng Cavite."

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JEFFERSON PARRA ISON, OIC ng Naic MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "RICK", residente ng Tanza, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng mga Warrant Personnel ng Naic MPS sa ilalim ng superbisyon ni PLTCOL Ison, ang operasyon na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado para sa kasong 2 counts of Statutory Rape sa ilalim ng Para 1, Article 266-A kaugnay ng Para 1, Article 266-B ng RPC na inamyendahan ng RA 116481.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng RTC Branch 132, Naic, Cavite noong Setyembre 24, 2025, na may hatol na hindi pinapahintulatang makapagpiyansa.

Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative

## ILLEGAL DRUGS AND CALIBER .45 SEIZED, STREET LEVEL INDIVIDUAL NABBED

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite**— In an intensified campaign against illegal drugs, the Municipal Drug Enforcement Team of GMA Municipal Police Station conducted a buy-bust operation at around 11:30 PM of October 1, 2025, in GMA, Cavite. The operation led to the arrest of one (1) identified Street Level Individual (SLI) and the seizure of more or less 20.05 grams of suspected shabu, with an estimated standard drug price of ₱136,340.00 and Caliber .45 firearm.

The arrested individual was identified by PLTCOL BONNA A OBMERGA, ACOP GMA MPS as alias Joric resident of GMA, Cavite.

Seized from the operation were four (4) pieces heat sealed transparent plastic sachets containing suspected shabu with an estimated weight of 20.05 grams with a standard drug price of Php 136,340.00, one (1) piece five hundred peso buy-bust money, one (1) unit Caliber .45, one (1) magazine for caliber

.45, three (3) pieces live ammunition of caliber .45, one (1) black holster and one (1) green coin purse.

The arrested suspect is now under police custody and will be facing appropriate charges in violation of Republic Act 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 and Violation of RA 10591.

PRO4A Regional Director, PBGEN PAUL KENNETH T LUCAS, commended the Cavite PPO for their relentless efforts, stressing that this accomplishment reflects the strength of CALABARZON's intensified campaign against illegal drugs. He said the arrest of the suspect and the seizing of ₱136 thousand worth of shabu from circulation protect not only Cavite but the entire region. He further urged police personnel to remain steadfast with vigilance and integrity, while calling on the public to actively support the fight for a safer, drug-free CALABARZON.

Cavite Police Provincial Office Acting Provincial Director, PCOL ARIEL R RED, lauded the dedication of the ground operatives, noting that this success is more than just a law enforcement win, it is a step toward saving lives and steering the youth away from the dangers of illegal drugs.

The Cavite Police reaffirms its unwavering commitment to shield communities from the grip of illegal drugs. Beyond arrests and seizures, every operation is a step toward safer streets, stronger families, and a brighter future for the youth. With the active support of the community, we stands firm in its mission to turn the vision of a drug-free Cavite into a lasting reality

Recording Device (ARD) bilang dokumentasyon sa kawalan ng Body Worn Camera. Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Naic MPS ang akusado para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagkakaaresto sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng masigasig na kampanya ng Cavite Police laban sa mga mapanganib na kriminal upang mapanatili ang katahimikan at seguridad sa ating komunidad."

## MGA LOKAL NA PAMAHALAAN SA BATANGAS, HINIKAYAT MAGSAGAWA NG INFRASTRUCTURE AUDIT

**LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA)** — Isinagawang Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Batangas sa pangunguna ng Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) ang Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment meeting kaugnay ng Scenario Building for Taal Volcano and Earthquake ngayong araw, Oktubre 1, 2025.

Kaugnay nito, isang briefing ang isinagawa ni Paolo Reniva mula sa DOST Phivolcs kung saan sinabi nito na ang naganap na minor phreatomagmatic eruption ng Bulkang Taal ay walang dapat ipangamba o ikabahala ang publiko.

Nanatiling nasa Alert Level 1 ang Bulkang Taal matapos ang naging aktibidad nito bandang 2:02AM ngayong araw kung saan nagkaroon ng 2500 meter high eruption plume na papuntang northwest ang direksyon. “Ang naging aktibidad ng Bulkang Taal ay walang kaugnayan sa lindol na naranasan sa Cebu,” ani Reniva.

Nagsagawa naman si Deo Llamas mula pa din sa DOST Phivolcs ng orientasyon ukol sa lindol kung saan ipinaliwanag nito na maaaring magkaroon ng epekto sa lalawigan ng Batangas ang mga nangyayaring paglindol sa ibang mga lugar sakaling masanggi ang mga faults na matatagpuan sa probinsya.

“May mga earthquake faults na makikita sa Batangas kabilang ang Calatagan Fault, Lobo Fault na may dalawang bahagi ang Pinaghawahan

Segment at Jaybanga Segment, Calubcub Fault, Pulang Bato Fault at Batangas Bay Fault na maaaring makaapekto sa atin sakaling masaling ng ibang mga faults,” ani Llamas.

Samantala, sa isinagawang pagpupulong ng PDRMC, hinikayat ni Governor Vilma Santos Recto ang lahat ng lokal na pamahalaan na magsagawa ng Infrastructure Audit upang masiguro ang maayos na kundisyon at kalagayan ng mga pasilidad at gusali sa iba’t-ibang lugar sa lalawigan.

“Makabubuti sa lahat ng ating mga LGUs na magsagawa ng assessment sa kanilang mga pasilidad upang maiwasan ang mga pangyayaring tulad sa Cebu kung saan may mga gusaling bumigay. Dapat nating siguruhin na ang mga pasilidad na ating ginagamit ay matitibay at gawing prayoridad ang pagsasaayos nito sakaling makaranas ng malakas na lindol bilang paunang hakbang na din na maiwasan ang pagkawala ng buhay at ari-arian,” ani Santos-Recto.

Sinabi naman ni Paulo Ferrer, kinatawan mula sa LASAC o Lipa Archdiocesan Social Action Commission na nagsasagawa na ng Parish Risk Assessment ang simbahan.

“Hinihiling po namin ang tulong ng mga experts mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at Bureau of Fire Protection ukol sa pagsasagawa ng Parish Risk Assessment para siguruhin na nasa maayos

## BROOM-MAKING NOW A THRIVING BUSINESS WITH GOV'T SUPPORT

In 2015, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Calabarzon – Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) provided the Maragondon Dragon Grass SLP Association with P560,000-grant to start up broom-making using tiger grass, locally known as rasa. The cooperative started with 56 members.

In an interview with Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon, the group's Treasurer Jocelyn Capablanca said that the cooperative now has P1.9 million in funds, including member savings and accumulated assets from the help of the government. “The association's money right now is at P1.9 million including the savings of members and we have accumulated assets from the help of the government amounting to P2.3 million in total,” Capablanca said. She added that one of the association's assets is their donated building worth P1.5 million while another building is under construction for coffee production.

“The donated building is a big thing for us because it does not just serve as our office where we do meetings but also as a storage facility so the

na kalalagayan ang mga simbahan sa lalawigan. Mayroon ng anim na simbahan ang nagawan ng assessment at mayroon pang 60 na kailangang i-assess,” ani Ferrer.

Sa huli ay nagkasundo ang konseho na manatili sa Blue Alert ang kalalagayan ng Taal Volcano. (MPDC-PIA Batangas) **BY BHABY DE CASTRO**

broom products will not go to waste,” she stated.

Other national agencies have also contributed to the association's growth. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) provided a multi-commodity dryer, poly remover, and two grass cutters. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) allocated a 500-square-meter lot, while the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) extended aid through its TUPAD program, as well as Cash-for-Work and Food-for-Work initiatives.

According to Municipal Social and Development Officer (MSWDO) Leo James Postales, the association became self-sufficient and recognized for its achievements.

The group received multiple accolades, including the 2019 Gawad Makabagong Teknolohiya, DSWD's SLP Gawad Sibol for handmade microbusiness, and most recently, the 2024 Provincial and Regional CBP Implementer Award from DOST.

Capablanca underscored that SLP was transforming the members' lives. “What SLP gives to us is work – work to succeed in life,” she emphasized.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s administration continues to promote livelihood development through a revitalized SLP, now called Sibol, a step-by-step growth journey of SLP participants, which aims to strengthen economic empowerment and sustainability among vulnerable sectors. (KA PIA4A) **BY KRISTIANNE ANDRADE**

## EDITORIAL

### Paghirang ng Bagong Santo Mula sa Millennial Generation

Hinirang nang Santo ang tinguriang “Millennial Saint” na si Carlo Acutis na siyang pinakauna sa millennial generation. Pinangunahan naman ni Pope Leo XIV ang canonization sa harap ng libu-libong mga Katoliko.

Nakakatuwa na sa makabagong panahon ay may mga nahihirang pa rin na mga Santo kung saan makikita natin ang posibilidad na magamit ang mga imbensyon sa makabagong panahon upang maipakalat ang salita ng Disyos at tibay ng pananalig sa taas.

Makikita na hindi pa rin nawawala labis na pagmamahal sa ating Diyos sa kabila ng iba't-ibang hindi magandang pangyayari sa kasulukuyang panahon.

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## QUAKE-AFFECTED CEBU EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO WORK – DOLE

**MANILA** – Workers affected by the magnitude 6.9 earthquake that hit Cebu on Tuesday night should not be forced to come to work, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Friday.

In a radio interview, DOLE Secretary Bienvenido Laguesma said employers should be compassionate and help their workers especially in times of tragedy.

"Let us not insist for them (workers) to go to work," Laguesma said. "There shouldn't be any disciplinary action for not coming to work or wanting to go home."

Labor Advisory 17 - 2022 provides that there should

be no liability for employees in case of failure or refusal to work during weather disturbances and similar occurrences.

"Although it doesn't say 'earthquake' in the advisory, it is related to weather disturbances and similar events. I see that this earthquake is considered as a similar event," Laguesma said.

Employers, the DOLE chief added, could also exercise their "corporate social responsibility" by helping workers in need of assistance.

Laguesma also reminded employers that "the safety and health of workers is paramount." (PNA) **BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

## PSA FLAGS 840 IRREGULAR BIRTH REGISTRATIONS, BLOCKS 1,472 NATIONWIDE

**MANILA** – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on Friday reported to the Senate that it has identified hundreds of irregular late birth registrations and blocked more than a thousand certificates of live birth nationwide as part of reforms to strengthen the country's civil registry system.

During the budget hearing of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) and its attached agencies, PSA National Statistician Undersecretary Dennis Mapa said the agency reviewed late registrations from 2010 to 2024 using data analytics and field validation.

Out of 50,000 questionable entries, 840 were deemed "highly irregular."

Two from Pikit, North Cotabato have already been recommended for cancellation, with reports that the registrants were possibly of Chinese nationality.

Mapa added that the PSA has endorsed to the Office of the Solicitor General the cancellation of 1,472 birth certificates and three marriage certificates.

He clarified that while these cases came from several areas, more than 1,000 originated in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

"While the OSG studies these cases, all affected documents have already been blocked in our system to prevent their release," he said.

The PSA has also made reforms requiring individuals filing for late registration to simultaneously enroll in the national ID system, capturing both demographic and biometric data for verification.

Continuous audits of local civil registry offices are being conducted, with at least four personnel already facing cases for irregular issuances, Mapa said. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

## AGRI, INFRA DAMAGE FROM MIRASOL, NANDO, OPONG EXCEEDS P3B

**MANILA** – Combined damage for agriculture and infrastructure due to recent weather disturbances has exceeded PHP3 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Friday. Based on its latest situational report, the disaster response agency said total agriculture damage is now at P2,312,911,505 recorded in Region 1 (Ilocos Region), Region 2 (Cagayan Valley), Region 3 (Central Luzon), Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Region 5 (Bicol Region), Region 6 (Western Visayas), Negros Island Region and Region 12 (Soccsksargen).

Meanwhile, estimated infrastructure damage is at PHP1,845,370,789 recorded in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol Region,

Western Visayas and Central Visayas.

In the same update, the NDRRMC said damaged houses now totaled 140,070, of which 115,442 are classified as "partially damaged" and 24,628 as "totally damaged."

Affected families were placed at 1,209,202 equivalent to 4,586,011 persons residing in 9,285 barangays.

The number of reported fatalities remained at 40, with four so far confirmed, all in CAR.

Meanwhile, 41 persons were reported injured and 15 others missing, majority of them still undergoing validation, according to the NDRRMC.

The recent bad weather was caused by the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) and tropical cyclones Mirasol, Nando and Opong.

(PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

## QC SENDS TEAMS, P10-M AID TO QUAKE-HIT CEBU

**MANILA** – The Quezon City government has mobilized its resources to assist Cebu residents in the aftermath of the devastating magnitude 6.9 earthquake that hit the province and other parts of Eastern Visayas areas on Tuesday.

In a statement on Friday, the city government said that it has deployed a team of 26 personnel to Cebu to provide technical and humanitarian support.

The group includes engineers and disaster risk reduction experts who will help in the conduct of building and infrastructure damage assessments, as well as medical and psychosocial teams to deliver immediate care to affected residents.

"Maglalaan din ang Lungsod Quezon ng PHP10 milyon na financial assistance, tig-PHP1

milyon para sa siyam na bayan at isang lungsod sa Cebu, upang makatulong sa kanilang mga programa sa rehabilitasyon at pagbangon (Quezon City will also allocate PHP10 million in financial assistance, PHP1 million each for nine towns and one city in Cebu, to help with their rehabilitation and recovery programs)," the statement read.

The recipients of PHP1 million each are epicenter Bogo City and the municipalities of Medellin, San Remigio, Bantayan, Santa Fe, Tabogon, Tabuelan, Sogod, Carmen, and San Fernando.

"Quezon City stands ready to provide further assistance as needed. In moments of hardship like this, Cebu is not alone," the city government said. (PNA) **BY MARITA MOAJE**

## DOE CHIEF: COMMUNITY SUPPORT CRUCIAL FOR NUCLEAR POWER PROJECTS

**MANILA** – Energy Secretary Sharon Garin is hopeful for the operation of the country's first nuclear power plant by 2032, citing supportive policies and strong investors' interest, but stressed that community approval is the key for this to materialize. She said community acceptance and public consultations are among the major requirements in putting up a nuclear power plant.

"We should not build in a community that does not want nuclear power....because that is their community. If they don't want it there, then we cannot force them to accept it," she told journalists on the sidelines of the Philippine International Nuclear Supply Chain Forum 2025 at the Grand Hyatt in Taguig City on Friday.

Garin clarified that while she wants the first operational nuclear power plant "soon", this depends on so many factors, like investors' decisions.

"But what I would like to pursue within the term of the current president is meron na tayong license applications kasi 'pag may license na sila (we have license applications because if they already have a license), they are valid to construct already," she said.

She said once investors apply for a license, the regulators would be able to assess their capacity and evaluate where they will source their nuclear reactors, among others.

On Thursday, the DOE issued a comprehensive framework for the inclusion of nuclear energy in the country's power generation mix, through Department Circular (DC) No. 2005-10-0019.

Under the said framework, the first commercially developed and operated nuclear power plant (NPP) will become the baseload facility and be granted priority dispatch

in coordination with the DOE, the Independent Market Operator (IMO), and the System Operator (SO), regardless of the nuclear technology deployed, and will be automatically certified as an Energy Project of National Significance (EPNS), which gives it access to incentives and fast-track processing under Executive Order No. 30.

"This ensures a competitive investment environment for the Pioneer NPP, paving the way for further nuclear developments that will reinforce the country's long-term energy security," the DOE said in a press release.

The DOE said its officials and those from the Department of Finance, Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev), the Maharlika Investment Corporation, and other relevant agencies "will explore government participation models and financing options" within 90 days upon the framework's issuance.

"At the same time, grid readiness will be prioritized to ensure seamless integration of nuclear power into the transmission system," it said.

The Energy Regulatory Commission has also been tasked to coordinate with stakeholders to implement a Regulatory Asset Base-type model or similar capital recovery mechanism.

"By establishing clear rules for nuclear integration, we are giving confidence to investors, partners, and stakeholders that the Philippines is ready to responsibly and strategically adopt nuclear energy as part of its clean energy transition.

Nuclear will complement renewables by providing reliable, stable baseload capacity—ensuring that our economy has the energy security it needs to grow while meeting climate goals," Garin said. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## MANILA ARCHDIOCESE ORDERS ORATIO IMPERATA AMID CORRUPTION ISSUE

**MANILA** — The Archdiocese of Manila has ordered all its churches and prayer venues to mandate the praying of the Oratio Imperata for "integrity, truth and justice" amid the corruption issue hounding the country.

In a pastoral letter issued Thursday, Manila Archbishop Jose Cardinal Advincula also directed the ringing of bells at 8 p.m. starting Saturday, the same day of the start of the Oratio Imperata.

"We hereby mandate the praying of the Oratio Imperata for Integrity, Truth, and Justice in all shrines, parishes, oratories, and chapels of the Archdiocese of Manila," Advincula said in his two-page letter.

The prayer will be as follows:

Heavenly Father,

You led Your people out of slavery as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

In this time when shadows of deceit and corruption cloud our land, shine upon us Your light that scatters all darkness.

We confess that we ourselves have often walked in darkness.

In our silence, in our compromises, and in our indifference, we have allowed corruption to grow and falsehood to spread. Forgive us, Lord, and cleanse our hearts of this grave moral evil that robs the poor of bread and the nation of hope.

Give us leaders after the Heart of your Son: shepherds who serve, not wolves who devour. By the power of your Holy Spirit,

Give us the courage to reject lies, expose deceit, uphold justice and defend the truth, in all our dealings—whether public or private—that integrity may flourish in our land like a river and righteousness like a mighty stream.

O God of justice and mercy,

Make our nation a vineyard that bears good

fruit—not poisoned by greed, manipulation and selfishness, but nourished by honesty, compassion, and love.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Mary Mirror of Justice, St. Michael the Archangel, pray for us.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

The obligatory prayer, Advincula said, will replace the Prayer of the Faithful during the celebration of the Holy Mass — "a rare practice reserved only for the gravest of circumstances — as a clear expression of the urgency and seriousness of our situation."

The ringing of the bells, meanwhile, would be "both a prophetic cry of indignation and outrage against the evil of corruption, as well as a resounding call to contrition and conversion," he said.

"At the same time, it will be a manifestation of our fervent hope and undying love for our beloved country, trusting that God's justice and mercy will triumph," the cardinal added.

Advincula issued the letter amid investigations into alleged corruption in government flood control projects involving officials and private contractors.

He noted that the magnitude of corruption in the country has become "more and more appalling as we continue to discover its enormity and extent."

Advincula added that corruption has caused "untold damage" to institutions, people and to "the very fabric of our moral and social life."

"The evil of corruption is not merely a political or economic problem; it is a profound moral and spiritual crisis that gravely wounds the dignity of the human person and betrays the common good," the cardinal said. (PNA) **BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

## PASSAGE OF MAGNA CARTA FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS URGED

**MANILA** — As the country gears up for World Teachers' Day on Oct. 5, a lawmaker has called for the immediate passage of the Magna Carta for Private School Teachers to help stem the exodus of teachers in search of higher-paying jobs.

House Bill 3116 seeks to improve the quality of life of private school teachers and provide safeguards against inequitable treatment.

Solid North Party-list Rep. Ching Bernos on Friday called on the leadership of the House of Representatives to prioritize the passage of the bill as a gift to private school teachers in recognition of their "valuable work in shaping our youth."

Among the major provisions of the Magna Carta are the setting of working hours at a maximum of six teaching hours per day.

Teachers may be required to render more than six hours but not exceeding eight hours of actual classroom teaching a day upon payment of additional compensation at the same rate as his or her regular remuneration, plus at least 25 percent of their basic pay.

The probationary period is also set to six months, with teachers engaged after

the said period deemed regularized.

The bill also calls for the provision of hardship allowances for teachers faced with challenges in commuting to their place of work, conducting laboratory experiments, or other hazards.

"The sad reality in our country is that being a private school teacher amounts to heroic sacrifice, not only of financial security, but also career advancement, especially since they lack the protection and advantages that their public school counterparts have," Bernos said in a statement.

"This proposal is an urgent intervention given the need for fundamental standards regarding private teacher employment and working conditions such as criteria in the setting of salaries, monetary and leave benefits, their right to self-organization and other penalties for violation of any rights of private school teachers," she added.

Bernos added that public school teachers' salaries will serve as a benchmark in determining the remuneration for their private school counterparts, with annual salary adjustments to mitigate the effects of inflation. (PNA) **BY JOSE CIELITO REGANIT**

## SSS OFFERS CALAMITY LOAN TO QUAKE, TYPHOON -AFFECTED MEMBERS

**MANILA** — State-run Social Security System (SSS) said members recently affected by recent cyclones and the earthquake in Cebu may now apply for a calamity loan.

In a statement Friday, SSS said the calamity loan offering is in response to the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and instruction of Finance Secretary and Social Security Commission Chairperson Ralph Recto to provide immediate relief to earthquake victims and typhoon-affected members.

The calamity loan has a lower interest rate of 7 percent per annum and a loanable amount of up to PHP20,000.

"We want to assure our members that they can rely on SSS in times of calamities and other natural disasters. Our goal is to support the quick recovery of our members in quake-hit areas by providing them with an accessible loan program," SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes de Claro said.

Members can apply for the calamity loan using their My.SSS account. Once approved, loan proceeds will be credited directly to their enrolled disbursement account.

To qualify, members must be residing or working in an area declared under State of Calamity; have at least 36 monthly contributions at least six of which must

be posted within the last 12 months before filing; have online account with SSS (My.SSS) to file an online application; have no past due loan accounts and no outstanding restructured loans; not have been granted any final benefit; of legal age and under 65 years of age at the time of the loan application; and not been disqualified due to fraud committed against the SSS.

For employed members, their employers must be updated on SSS contributions and loan remittances.

Aside from Cebu, the SSS Calamity Loan Program also extends financial relief to members affected by the recent tropical cyclones — Mirasol, Nando and Opong — and the enhanced southwest monsoon.

More than 85 towns and cities in Ilocos Norte, Cagayan, Oriental Mindoro, Romblon, Masbate, Aklan and Maguindanao del Sur were earlier declared under a state of calamity.

"The series of typhoons in the past several days has affected the daily lives and livelihood of our members in different parts of the country. Through our new Calamity Loan Program, SSS is now more responsive to the needs of affected SSS members as the loan window is announced and implemented within a few days from declaration of State of Calamity providing immediate financial support and helping them recover sooner from these weather disturbances," de Claro said. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

## DA ALLOWS ONION, CARROT IMPORTS TO STABILIZE PRICES

**MANILA** — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Thursday said it has allowed the importation of the redd and white onions, as well as carrots, to help stabilize retail prices in local markets.

In an ambush interview on the 47th Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the country has already started importing red and white onions.

"We noticed that the price

of red onion went up two weeks ago to PHP140 to PHP160, which is too much," he said.

The DA chief said he allowed imports to arrive earlier than the initial target of Oct. 15.

"I have a feeling that the remaining local stocks are being withheld a bit to maximize prices. That's why we ordered import arrivals starting last week," Tiu Laurel said.

He said the import volume for red onions is around 3,000 to 5,000 metric

tons (MT), with arrivals expected only until a month before the local harvest in February.

Importation of white onions, meanwhile, had already started earlier.

"Since last month, we've been importing white onions, so prices have already dropped to around PHP100 to PHP120," Tiu Laurel said, noting that prices previously surged to PHP160 per kg.

Besides onions, the DA also announced the importation of carrots

beginning Oct. 1.

"For now, it's limited to a few hundred tons just to see the situation, since carrot prices also went up," Tiu Laurel said.

The DA is eyeing to source carrots from China, the Netherlands, and Cambodia.

As of Wednesday, the prevailing retail price of local carrots in Metro Manila stood at PHP257.58 per kg., according to the DA-Bantay Presyo. (PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

## MDW SENDING WATER TANKER, CARBOYS AND RELIEF GOODS TO CEBU

**DUMAGUETE CITY** – Metro Dumaguete Water (MDW) is sending a water tanker, 200 carboys or huge plastic water containers, and relief goods to earthquake-stricken areas in Cebu.

The water lorry to be sent on Saturday is in response to the province's call for immediate relief, specifically for areas in need of water, MDW said in a statement Friday.

The support will coordinate with Dumaguete City Water District and the associations of water districts in Negros Oriental and Siquijor.

Aside from an eight-cubic-meter capacity lorry, MDW and Metro Pacific Water will donate relief goods, including tents and ready-to-eat packs.

"MDW is sending its support to our neighbors in Cebu through our water trucks. In these difficult times, the power of community is truly

important," Robert Cabiles, MDW chief operating officer, said.

Meanwhile, Rotary Club of Dumaguete South president Nino Echiverri Viking said they sent financial assistance to the Rotary District's Disaster Management Committee and will be discussing what else to send next week.

"The giving of donations will not end in a week and they are usually sent in batches. This is a continuing effort as help is needed by the victims every day until they can stand on their own," Viking said in a statement.

Initially, they will send PHP30,000 from the club's disaster response fund.

The Rotary Disaster Management, Inc. has also mobilized volunteers from Rotary Clubs in the Visayas and Mindanao, not just to assist but also to help distribute aid. (PNA) **BY MARY JUDALINE PARTLOW**

## NEW PROTOCOL HELPS SHORTEN MILKFISH FARMING BY 85 DAYS

**ILOILO CITY** – The Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center/ Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) has developed a protocol that shortens milkfish (bangus) farming to 85 days, almost half of the usual culture period.

The SEAFDEC/AQD said its Dumagas Brackishwater Station (DBS) shortened the grow-out period of milkfish by using probiotics and high-protein feeds during the first 30 days of culture.

"Milkfish typically require four to five months (120–150 days) to reach approximately 440 grams, an ideal market size," the SEAFDEC/AQD said in a news release on Oct. 1.

Milkfish fingerlings from the Tigbauan Main Station stocked in pond 13 of DBS reached 350 to 400 grams. "The average initial weight of fingerlings was 37 grams, and they grew to 350 to 400 grams in just 85 days," DBS station head Edgar Somblingo said.

He said probiotics improved pond water quality by breaking down

organic matter for a stress-free environment that boosts growth, weight gain and feed efficiency. It also lowered the feed conversion ratio, which meant that less feed was required to produce a kilogram of fish.

"Shortening the grow-out period could mean lower production costs for fish farmers. This method can make milkfish culture more profitable," he said.

Compared to conventional methods, Somblingo added that the trial recorded a higher average body weight and a better survival rate.

SEAFDEC/AQD chief Dan Baliao said the department will share the farming protocols with fish farmers once further trials confirm the results.

"This is part of SEAFDEC/AQD's ongoing efforts to refine milkfish farming through practical and cost-saving techniques, but we want to be sure our methods are consistent before we share them with the industry," Baliao said. (With a report from **PERLA LENA/PNA**)

## ILOILO CHECKS STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF BUILDINGS AFTER STRONG QUAKE

**ILOILO CITY (PIA)**—The Iloilo City and provincial governments immediately began inspecting key government buildings on October 1, 2025, following the 6.9-magnitude earthquake in Northern Cebu, which was also strongly felt across Panay Island.

Work at the Iloilo City Hall resumed at 10 a.m. on Wednesday after a thorough inspection confirmed the safety of the main and annex buildings.

Inspectors from the Office of the Building Official (OBO), the Facility Conservation Office, and the City Engineer's Office declared the government facilities "safe for occupancy" following their assessment.

"The safety of our employees and the public remain our top priority, and we will continue to monitor and ensure the integrity of our government facilities," said Iloilo City Mayor Raisa

Trefias-Chu in a statement. The OBO also deployed multiple inspection teams to carry out simultaneous inspections across the city to ensure the structural integrity of buildings and safeguard public safety.

Trefias urged all building owners, administrators, and property managers in the city to remain vigilant, conduct internal assessments, and promptly report any visible cracks, defects, or structural concerns to their office for appropriate action.

Classes at all levels, both public and private, were also suspended throughout Iloilo City on Oct. 1 as thorough inspections of school facilities and other public structures were conducted to ensure they sustained no significant damage from the earthquake.

Meanwhile, in Iloilo province, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRMO) carried out both aerial and ground inspections of the Capitol building early Wednesday morning.

Operations at the Capitol resumed at 1:00 p.m. on Oct. 1, following a temporary suspension to ensure the safety of employees and visitors.

The suspension was recommended as a precaution due to the possibility of aftershocks, while the Provincial Engineer's Office (PEO) and the PDRMO conducted structural assessments of the building.

Governor Arthur Defensor Jr., in a statement, advised mayors of municipalities with high-rise buildings to conduct their own structural assessments in response to the earthquake.

He also emphasized the importance of suspending work in taller structures and classes in schools with three- to four-story buildings when necessary to ensure public safety. (AAL/JNH/PIA Iloilo/ Photos from Iloilo City Government) **BY JOHN NOEL HERRERA**

## KASADYA SA DIYANDI STREET DANCING 2025 SHOWCASES ILIGAN'S UNITY IN DIVERSITY

**ILIGAN CITY (PIA)**—The Kasadya sa Diyandi 2025 Street Dancing Competition brought together 10 contingents from Iligan City and northern Mindanao to showcase cultural performances through dance, music and tradition. Barangay Buru-un of Iligan City was named champion and received a P1 million cash prize. The group also earned special awards for Best in Street Dancing and Best in Diyandi.

Barangay Gusa from Cagayan de Oro City placed first runner-up, taking home P700,000. The group also received awards for Best in Maranao, Best in Higaonon, Best in Storyline and Best in Musicality.

Iligan City East National High School–Sta. Filomena was named second runner-up, earning P500,000. Barangay Ditucalan of Iligan City received the

Best in Eskrima/Batalya award.

Mayor Frederick Siao said the Diyandi Festival reflects Iligan's diverse cultural identity and the unity of Christian, Maranao and Higaonon communities.

"Ang Diyandi Festival dili lang kalipay ug kalingawan, apan usa ka timaan sa atong pagkahiusa. Sama sa atong patron nga si Señor San Miguel, arkanghel, padayon ta nga musalig ug kinahanglan maayo gyud ang mudaog batok sa daotan," he said.

(The Diyandi Festival is not only about joy and celebration, but also a symbol of our unity. Just like our patron, Señor San Miguel the Archangel, we must continue to have faith and ensure that good always triumphs over evil.) Several performers shared how joining the competition helped build their

confidence and cultural understanding.

Andrea Paradela of Barangay Buru-un, who portrayed Virgen De La Regla, said it was her first time joining. "Akong i-encourage ang mga kabatan-onan nga muapil ani kay very entertaining siya ug makaboost gyud og confidence," she said.

(I encourage the youth to join because it is very entertaining and can really boost confidence.)

Haryl Clent Cunto Alivio, a Higaonon from Barangay Rogongon who portrayed Señor San Miguel, said the festival highlighted the dances of Maranao, Higaonon, and Christian groups. He encouraged others to participate in similar activities to promote cultural preservation.

John Ryan Alviar from Bacolod, Lanao del Norte, said the event gave him a

deeper understanding of Iligan's history and culture while Kent Kyle R. Unong of Barangay Gusa said Iligan residents welcomed their group and gave them the opportunity to share their performances.

"As a youth, I encourage everyone to join and share their talent. Talent can be your driving force in the future, especially when you become a professional or go outside your community. I believe my dancing skills will never fade because it is in my heart and passion," he said.

James Mark Laranio of Barangay Abuno, who also portrayed Señor San Miguel, said the role carried pressure but was fulfilling when performed with faith.

Karyl Villarta of Barangay Ditucalan, who played a Maranao role for the first time, said she gained a

deeper understanding of Maranao culture.

"Sa pag-portray nako sa role isip Maranao, mas na-appreciate nako ang ilang culture. Nakita nako nga grabe kaayo sila ka-disiplinado," she said.

(In portraying the role as a Maranao, I gained a deeper appreciation of their culture. I saw how highly disciplined they are.) Ruel John C. Lauda from Bagong Silang said returning to Iligan for the fiesta after two years was a meaningful experience.

He described the Diyandi Festival as colorful and unique and invited people from across the Philippines and the world to witness the vibrant celebration every year. (LELA/PIA-10/ Lanao del Norte) **BY LOU ELLEN L. ANTONIO**

## SEC WARNS PUBLIC VS. GROUPS 'OFFERING' TO AID SCAM VICTIMS

**MANILA** – The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Friday warned the public to take “the highest degree of caution” against persons and groups offering assistance for scam victims through various online platforms. In a statement, the SEC said the offers for help are made through “Facebook pages, online groups, and other social media platforms”, and are “in fact, designed to defraud them a second time.”

The offers came in a form of “recovery of funds previously lost to scams or fraudulent schemes in exchange for advance fees or personal information; misrepresenting affiliation with government agencies or law enforcement authorities despite the absence of any lawful basis; fabricating testimonials, documents, or credentials to create a false appearance of legitimacy; and employing high-pressure tactics to induce victims into making immediate payments

or disclosing sensitive personal or financial information.”

“These online accounts or entities are not authorized by the Commission and have no legal authority to provide recovery services. On the contrary, they are being utilized as instruments to exploit already vulnerable victims,” the statement said.

“The Commission warns the public not to transact with, remit any sum to, or disclose personal information to such individuals or groups. Victims of scams are strongly urged to lodge their complaints directly with the proper authorities for appropriate action,” it warned.

SEC urges the public to send any request for assistance or inquiries to the Commission’s Enforcement and Investor Protection Department (EIPD) at [epd@sec.gov.ph](mailto:epd@sec.gov.ph). (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## PSEI SUSTAINS RISE AS PESO FINISHES SIDWAYS ANEW

**MANILA** – Bargain-hunting buoyed the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) for the second consecutive session Thursday, and the peso continues to keep its footing against the US dollar.

The main index rose 0.23 percent to 6,039.76 points, and the All Shares by 0.13 percent to 3,659.29 points. Most of the sector counters also gained during the day, led by the Mining and Oil after it increased by 2.20 percent.

It was followed by the Holding Firms, 1.26 percent; Financials, 0.44 percent; Industrial, 0.12 percent; and the Services, 0.02 percent.

Only the Property finished on the red after it fell 1.20 percent.

Volume reached 1.52 billion, amounting to PHP5.56 billion.

“The PSEi closed slightly

higher but remained relatively flat in today’s session, as the lack of catalysts continues to weigh on market momentum. Investors are taking advantage of the relatively affordable stock prices, which has allowed buying pressure to prevail over the past two trading days,” Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, said.

The local currency ended the day’s trade little changed against the US dollar at 58.08 from its 58.12 close Wednesday. It opened the trade strong at 58.05 from day-ago’s 58.4 and traded between 58.3 and 58.007. Average for the day stood at 58.14. Volume amounted to USD1.16 billion, lower than the day-ago’s USD1.72 billion. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## DOE WEIGHS IMPACT OF DATA CENTER INDUSTRY ON ENERGY SUPPLY

**MANILA** – Supply remains adequate to meet requirements of the energy-heavy data center industry but a Department of Energy (DOE) official said they need to know the sector’s long-term plan to weigh its impact on the power sector.

DOE Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara, during the ABS-CBN News Channel forum dubbed “The Clean Energy Shift: Powering a Green Economy with Renewable Energy” at the television station’s office in Quezon City on Thursday, said they are working with the private sector vis-à-vis the power requirement of the expanding data center industry.

She explained that data centers have around 120-megawatt requirement to date, and the industry forecasts this to rise to around 500MW in the next few years.

Guevara said this requirement will be met since the DOE has, so far, awarded over 1,300 renewable energy (RE) service contracts, with

a capacity of over 150 gigawatts.

“So that means that the off take for these green energy auction winners is also guaranteed. And also with the other 1,300 renewable service contracts, there is a market for them,” she said. “To us, this is exciting especially we’re going into AI (artificial intelligence) all over the world. It will be good if we have the power, or the energy to power this up.”

In an interview after the event, Guevara said she is awaiting a roadmap report from the Data Center Association of the Philippines and she expects this to be submitted within the year. “We have to make sure we don’t put up too much power plants. We just need to be able to meet their demands,” she said.

Guevara explained that there is a need to check the power supply and demand margin because “if we have (power) plants that are suddenly on forced outage, it’s not good for the country.” (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## FOREIGN CURRENCY LOANS UP IN Q2 2025

**MANILA** – Foreign-currency-denominated loans granted by banks went up by 0.9 percent in the second quarter of the year.

Data released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) late Tuesday showed that foreign currency deposit unit (FCDU) loans reached USD15.93 billion, up from the USD15.78 billion in the previous quarter.

Year-on-year, FCDU loans went up by 1.9 percent.

FCDU loans are foreign currency-denominated loans extended by FCDUs of local banks or local branches of foreign banks authorized by the BSP to

engage in foreign currency transactions.

These loans support economic activities that require foreign exchange, such as importers, businesses, and individuals with foreign currency transactions.

Of the total outstanding loans, 63.5 percent or USD10.12 billion were extended to Philippine-based borrowers, while the rest went to non-residents.

The BSP said major Philippine-based borrowers include merchandise and service exporters, towing, tanker, trucking, forwarding, personal and other industries, and power generation companies.

## SSS ROLLS OUT EMV-EQUIPPED, DUAL-FUNCTION MYSSS CARD

**MANILA** – State-run Social Security System (SSS) said Wednesday it has already started accepting applications for the MySSS Card.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph Montes De Claro said the MySSS Card launched on Sept. 8, acts as an official ID, replacing the Unified Multi-Purpose Identification (UMID) card. It also operates as a fully functional debit card linked to a savings account.

De Claro said the card is equipped with an EMV chip and is also integrated with the Philippine Identification System (PhilSys) eVerify and biometric authentication.

This provides a safe and convenient way for members to access SSS benefits and loans, as well as manage their daily financial transactions. De Claro said the card can also be used for shopping, public transport fares, and online purchases.

The card will be issued exclusively through SSS partner banks.

Issuance will start with Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC). RCBC, through its digital arm DiskarTech, will be the card’s first implementer.

The card will later include other banks such as Asia United Bank (AUB), China Bank, and Union Bank of the Philippines.

De Claro said the MySSS Card will automatically serve as the main disbursement account for SSS members.

“Once members apply for the MySSS Card, we will link their partner bank

savings accounts to SSS for benefits, loans, and other proceeds. They no longer need to enroll the MySSS Card in the Disbursement Account Enrollment Module (DAEM),” de Claro said.

“The SSS and RCBC partnership marks a significant milestone in the digital transformation of government services. The MySSS Card’s rollout will expand as more partner banks join the program. This will provide more options for card issuance and banking features,” he added.

The MySSS Card is available to all SSS members, pensioners, individual claimants, beneficiaries, and representative payees who possess a permanent SSS number; have an active account on the My.SSS Portal with updated personal details, including local address, mobile number, and email; and registered with the Philippine Statistics Authority under the National ID system.

Members with old SSS, UMID, or previous ID cards may apply for the MySSS Card to replace lost or existing cards.

De Claro said the MySSS Card application can be completed via My.SSS.

“Members choose their partner bank —initially RCBC—and consent to data sharing between SSS, the National ID system, and the bank,” he said.

After online verification and identity confirmation, members open a bank account either using their online app or by visiting a branch. For RCBC, members use the DiskarTech app to open the account.

The partner bank will produce and distribute the cards.

Metro Manila residents will receive their cards within 15 working days, while those outside Metro Manila will receive theirs within 20 working days. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

Most of these loans were medium- to long-term, with maturities over one year.

Meanwhile, deposits to FCDUs went up by 10 percent to USD60.67 billion from USD55.16 billion last year. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



## LIM, OLIVAREZ SECURE PCA OPEN SEMIFINAL BERTHS

**MANILA**— Top seed Alberto Lim Jr. stayed on track for back-to-back titles after reaching the men's singles semifinals Thursday in the 42nd Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Tennis Championships at the PCA indoor shell court in Paco, Manila.

Lim, a member of the national team, clobbered wild card Iggy Pantino, 6-1, 6-1, to set up a duel with Nilo Ledama.

Ledama pulled off a 6-1,

6-4 victory over Lance Jacob Fernandez in the other quarterfinal match.

Meanwhile, second seed Jed Olivarez also earned a semis ticket after eliminating 10-time champion Johnny Arcilla, 6-0, 6-1.

Olivarez, who saw action at the Davis Cup in Malaysia last June, will be up against John Benedict Aguilar, who beat Marco Makalintal, 6-0 (ret.).

In the women's singles

division, top seed Kaye Anne Emana downed Nina Angeline Alcala, 6-1, 6-2, to arrange a semifinal showdown with Tiffany Nocos, who prevailed over Anika Diwa, 6-3, 3-0 (ret.). The other semifinal match will feature Justine Maneja and wild card Tienielle Madis.

Maneza outplayed Jayden Ballado, 6-4, 6-3, while Madis defeated Elizabeth Abarquez, 6-3, 6-3. (PNA)

**BY JEAN MALANUM**

## BULLPUPS STAY PERFECT IN UAAP BASKETBALL

**MANILA** — National University Nazareth School drubbed University of Santos, 85-63, Wednesday to stay perfect in the UAAP Season 88 boys' basketball tournament at the UST Quadracentennial Pavilion in Manila.

Dean Tria scored 17 points (8-of-10 shooting) to go with four assists, three steals, two rebounds, and a block as NUNS joined idle Adamson University on top of the standings with similar 3-0 cards.

David Sabareza chipped in 13 points, seven assists, seven steals, and six rebounds; Nick Peña added 11 points, four rebounds, and two assists; while Jaypee Yanga had 10 points, six rebounds, and one steal for NUNS, which took a commanding 49-24 lead at halftime.

"This is a big boost to the morale of the kids because those are the contenders. We've already beaten the three contenders --UE (University of the East), FEU (Far Eastern University), then UST (University of Santo Tomas). We just have to keep our feet on the ground," NUNS head coach Leo Pujante said.

Ian Manalo and Jehove Gatumbato finished with seven points each while Malian center Moussa Diakite had six points, eight rebounds, and four blocks for the Bullpups, who extended their lead to 79-42 going into the final quarter.

Dats Datu led the Tiger Cubs with double-digit scorer with 16 points and five rebounds, followed by CJ Tabbuga with nine points, eight rebounds,

three blocks, and two assists.

UST slid to second place at 2-1, in the company of UE and FEU, which clobbered De La Salle Zobel, 80-65, in the other game.

Prince Cariño scored 23 points on top of 19 rebounds as the Baby Tamaraws bounced back from a 66-78 loss to the Bullpups last Saturday.

Dwyne Enriquez added 19 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and three steals, while Prince Pineda had 14 points, 10 rebounds, two steals, and a blocks.

"I told the players to move forward and forget about NUNS and learn how we lost the game. I told them to focus on the next game and be a man --not a boy -- be a man because we are heading into the next level. We can't just sit back and

## ALL SET FOR PSC-BATANG PINOY NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GENSAN

**MANILA** — It's all systems go for the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)-organized Batang Pinoy National Championships, which will be held in General Santos City on Oct. 25 to 30.

A total of 19,700 athletes from 191 local government units (LGUs) are competing in 27 sports: aquatics-swimming, archery, arnis, athletics, badminton, basketball (3x3), boxing, chess, cycling, dancesport, futsal, gymnastics, jiu-jitsu, judo, kickboxing, karate, muay, pencak silat, sepak takraw, soft tennis, tennis,

table tennis, taekwondo, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling and wushu.

"We are more ready than ever," said Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Commissioner Olivia "Bong" Coo during a press conference Thursday at the Century Park Hotel in Manila.

Coo, a four-time world champion and a World Bowling Hall of Famer, serves as project director of the Batang Pinoy, a tournament for athletes 17 years and below.

Meanwhile, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC)

Chairperson John Patrick Gregorio, along with Coo and Commissioners Matthew Gaston, Edward Hayco and Walter Torres, unveiled the overall champion trophy.

Gregorio announced that the prizes at stake are PHP5 million (first place), PHP4 million (2nd), PHP3 million (3rd), PHP2 million (4th) and PHP1 million (5th).

Pasig City won the overall title in the 2024 edition hosted by Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

## SENATE COMMENDS ALAS PILIPINAS FOR HISTORIC PERFORMANCE IN FIVB WORLDS

**MANILA** — The Senate on Wednesday adopted a resolution filed by Senate Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano congratulating Alas Pilipinas for its historic 19th-place finish at the 2025 FIVB Men's World Championship.

Cayetano, who sponsored Proposed Senate Resolution No. 143, said the team's breakthrough run "brought immense pride and honor" to the country and proved that Filipino athletes can excel when given the right opportunities.

"Sports brings Filipinos together. This team not only made us proud during the SEA Games, but they also made sure they will pleasantly surprise us," Cayetano said during his sponsorship speech.

He described sports as a "God-given activity" that promotes health and well-being, fosters unity even in the midst of political divides, and elevates the Philippines' global image through international success.

The Senate resolution said the achievement was made even more significant by the Philippines' role as the tournament's sole host.

All 24 senators supported and adopted the resolution, with Majority Floor Leader Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri and Senators Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, Joel Villanueva and Erwin Tulfo making their manifestations congratulating the national team.

Present at the Senate were Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF) president Ramon "Tats" Suzara and secretary-general Donaldo Caringal, and members of Alas Pilipinas led by head coach Angiolino Frigoni, deputy coach Ogie Mamon and team captain Bryan Bagunas.

The resolution cited standouts led by captain Bryan Bagunas, who was third among the tournament's top scorers, and Marck Espejo, who finished fourth among receivers.

Cayetano credited the

coaching staff led by Frigoni and the reforms implemented by the PNVF under Suzara, which he said opened doors to overseas tournaments and strengthened training programs for national players.

Cayetano, co-chair of the Local Organizing Committee and Chairman Emeritus of the PNVF, said honoring Alas Pilipinas is also about sustaining momentum for long-term sports development.

"Honoring Filipino athletes serves a public purpose because their achievements inspire national pride, set standards for sports programs, and justify sustained investment in facilities, training, and athlete support nationwide," he said.

Cayetano said the success gave the Philippines more confidence to host the FIVB Women's Volleyball Championship in 2029.

"Because of their performance and because of the successful hosting, two years from now, iyon namang Women's Volleyball Championship will be held in the Philippines and this time around we have much more time to prepare," he said. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**