

MAYOR REVILLA LEADS CITYWIDE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS INSPECTIONS IN BACOR



CAVITE STRENGTHENS CSO INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The provincial government of Cavite is promoting more inclusive governance and community-responsive policies and programs by strengthening its partnership with civil society organizations (CSOs) in various local special bodies. In a joint meeting held recently, Provincial

Administrator Gilbert Gandia emphasized the vital role of CSOs in local development and their contributions to promoting transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. Among the local special bodies where CSO participation is crucial are the Local Development Council, Local Health Board, Local School

Board, and Local Peace and Order Council. Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator Engr. Lorna R. Leyran said these councils serve as convergence platforms where the government and civil society organizations collaborate to craft policies and programs that address the needs of Caviteños. During the meeting, officials from the

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Cavite Provincial Office presented the mandates and functions of these bodies to help CSO representatives better understand their roles in participatory governance.

The discussions highlighted how these councils contribute to inclusive planning, effective service delivery, education development, and the promotion of peace and order at the local level. These sessions provided CSO participants with valuable insights into their responsibilities within these governance structures, strengthening their capacity to actively contribute to local policy and program development. According to the provincial government, the initiative aims to deepen CSO engagement in local governance by equipping them with the knowledge and tools needed to participate meaningfully in decision-making processes.

During the action planning session, CSO

BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — In a proactive move to bolster Bacoor's disaster readiness, Mayor Strike B. Revilla led a series of inspections on Wednesday, October 14, 2025, focusing on the structural integrity and emergency preparedness of schools and public facilities across the city.

One of the keys stops on the mayor's inspection tour was the Divine Light Academy in Town & Country West, Barangay Molino 3. Joined by representatives from the City Engineering Office, Bacoor Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (BDRRMO), Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), and barangay officials, Revilla oversaw technical evaluations to assess the safety and resilience of the school's infrastructure.

Highlighting the importance of preemptive measures, the mayor underscored that inspections such as these are vital in ensuring the safety of students

representatives drafted strategies to enhance civic participation and ensure that grassroots perspectives are integrated into provincial programs and policies.

Meanwhile, DILG Cavite OIC-Provincial Director Marcial A. Juangco reaffirmed the agency's commitment to empowering civil society. He underscored that CSOs are not merely participants but vital partners in promoting transparency, accountability, and people-centered development across the province. **(RBF, PIA CAVITE)**

and residents before any potential disaster strikes.

"Safety is not just about location, but also about the preparedness of each individual," Revilla said, referencing Bacoor's proximity to the West Valley Fault, which poses risks despite the city not lying directly along it. During the school visit, Revilla engaged with both students and faculty, stressing the importance of vigilance and preparedness.

The BDRRMO distributed information on emergency "Go Bags" and citywide emergency hotlines, while Acting City Fire Marshal FSINSP Precious Petalio encouraged schools to participate in hands-on drills at the Strike Fire and Rescue Village.

The inspection team, which included BDRRMO Chief Richard Quion and City Engineering Office representative Engr. Jicky Jutba also conducted assessments at various public facilities and community centers. These efforts aimed to review safety protocols, ensure the presence of evacuation plans, and reinforce Bacoor's commitment to disaster resilience.

As the threat of major natural disasters like "The Big One" loom over Metro Manila and nearby areas, the city government is intensifying its campaign for disaster preparedness. Mayor Revilla emphasized the collaborative role of local government units, technical experts, and community members in building a safer, more resilient city. **(RBF/with reports from Bacoor CIO)**

BY RUEL FRANCISCO



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REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG TRECE MARTIRES CCPS AT CIDG CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng CIDG Cavite Provincial Field Unit at Trece Martires Component City Police Station ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person dakong 9:00 ng gabi ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Amadeo, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL DENNIS A VILLANUEVA, hepe ng Trece Martires CCPS, ang suspek na si alyas "Jay-R," residente ng Tondo, Maynila.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Tracker Team ng CIDG Cavite PFU katuwang ang Warrant Personnel ng Trece Martires CCPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL Villanueva. Gamit ang Alternative Recording Device

(ARD), matagumpay na naipatupad ang Warrant of Arrest laban sa akusado sa kasong paglabag sa Section 5(a) ng Republic Act 9262 o "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004."

Ang suspek ay agad na binigyan ng abiso ukol sa kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na pag-aresto sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng matatag na koordinasyon at dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pagpapatupad ng batas at paghahatid ng hustisya para sa ating mga kababayan."

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG NAIC MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person dakong 4:08 ng hapon ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Naic, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL JEFFERSON PARRA ISON, hepe ng Naic MPS, ang suspek na si alyas "Carlos," residente ng Naic, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Naic MPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL Ison. Gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), matagumpay na naipatupad ang Warrant of Arrest laban sa akusado

para sa dalawang bilang ng kasong Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng Article 266-A ng Revised Penal Code na inamyendahan ng Republic Act 8353 o "The Anti-Rape Law of 1997." Ang nasabing warrant ay may inirekomendang piyansa na Php240,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na operasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pag-aresto ng Provincial Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng kanilang dedikasyon sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan, seguridad, at hustisya sa buong lalawigan ng Cavite."

RANK 1 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON NG QUEZON, ARESTADO NG NOVELETA MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Noveleta Municipal Police Station (Lead Unit) sa koordinasyon ng Agdangan Municipal Police Station, Quezon, ang isang Municipal Level Rank 1 Most Wanted Person dakong 9:30 ng gabi ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PMAJ ANTHONY DIATO SARNO, hepe ng Noveleta MPS, ang suspek na si alyas "Edil," residente ng Bacoor City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga tauhan ng Noveleta MPS katuwang ang mga tauhan ng Agdangan 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 paglabag sa Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 (RA 9165) partikular sa Article 11, Section 11 – Possession of Dangerous Drugs.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagkakaaresto ng Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng patuloy na koordinasyon at dedikasyon ng ating mga kapulisan sa pagpapanatili ng katahimikan at kaayusan sa ating lalawigan."

CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG IMUS CCPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Imus Component City Police Station ang isang City Level Most Wanted Person dakong 12:30 ng tanghali ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Imus City, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHEY CHEY I SAULOG, Chief of Police ng Imus CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Jay," residente ng Imus City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Imus CCPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL Saulog. Gamit ang Body-Worn Camera (BWC) at Alternative Recording Device (ARD), matagumpay na naipatupad ang Bench Warrant of Arrest laban

sa akusado sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act 10883 o "New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016," sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inisyu para sa kanyang pagkabigong dumalo sa itinakdang pagdinig. Ang nasabing warrant ay may inirekomendang piyansa na Php120,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na operasyon laban sa Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng determinasyon at patuloy na pagsisikap ng ating kapulisan upang mahuli ang mga nagkasala sa batas sa lalawigan ng Cavite."

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG BACoor CCPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person dakong 5:50 ng hapon ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, Chief of Police ng Bacoor CCPS, ang suspek na si alyas "Franco," residente ng Bacoor City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor CCPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL Desamito. Gamit ang Alternative Recording Device

(ARD), matagumpay na naipatupad ang Warrant of Arrest laban sa akusado sa kasong paglabag sa Section 5(b) ng Republic Act 7610 o "Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act." Ang nasabing warrant ay may inirekomendang piyansa na Php180,000.00. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang patuloy na pag-aresto ng Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng dedikasyon at determinasyon ng ating kapulisan na maipatupad ang batas at maihatid ang hustisya sa Cavite."

DALAWANG HIGH VALUE INDIVIDUAL, ARESTADO SA BUY-BUST OPERATION NG DASMA PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng City Drug Enforcement Unit ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station ang dalawang High Value Individual dakong 2:30 ng madaling araw ng Oktubre 17, 2025 sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO LARRAQUEL OÑATE, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang mga suspek na sina alyas "Drex" at alyas "Dayday," kapwa residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng City Drug Enforcement Unit ng Dasmariñas CCPS na may koordinasyon sa PDEA na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng mga suspek at pagkakakumpiska ng

humigit-kumulang 54.39 gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang Standard Drug Price na Php369,852.00. Nakumpiska din sa mga ito ang isang (1) itim na pouch, isang (1) digital weighing scale, at isang (1) ₱500.00 na ginamit bilang buy-bust money.

Isinagawa ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) bilang dokumentasyon alinsunod sa umiiral na patakaran ng PNP.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na operasyon laban sa mga High Value Individual ay patunay ng mas pinaigting na kampanya ng Cavite Police laban sa iligal na droga."

CAVITE POLICE SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS THROUGH KADIWA NG PANGULO

CITY OF IMUS, Cavite (PIA) — As part of its efforts to support food security and promote local produce, the Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO) hosted another round of the “Kadiwa ng Pangulo” selling program at Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia in Imus City on Tuesday, October 14.

The initiative brought together various sectors to promote direct market access for local farmers, fisherfolk, and small-scale entrepreneurs, while providing affordable fresh produce and essential goods to the community.

Serving as guest of honor and delivering the keynote address on behalf of Cavite Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer Ms. Lerene M. Jimeno was Mr. Jose Alfonso O. Villanueva, Agriculturist I from the Department of Agriculture Region IV-A. Villanueva emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration in achieving food sufficiency and inclusive economic growth. P/Col. Ariel R. Red, Acting Provincial Director of the Cavite PPO, also expressed his strong support for the initiative, highlighting the police

force's role in advancing community welfare beyond traditional law enforcement.

“The KNP Store established at the Cavite PPO serves as a testament to the Philippine National Police's commitment to supporting national development goals through meaningful community programs,” he said.

Various PNP personnel, representatives from partner agencies, and community stakeholders attended the event, which featured a market showcasing local produce and goods.

Red added that beyond its immediate economic benefits, the event underscores the PNP's broader mission of fostering sustainable development, strengthening local economies, and empowering marginalized sectors through strategic partnerships.

“By championing initiatives like the Kadiwa ng Pangulo, the Cavite PPO affirms its dual role as both a guardian of peace and a proactive partner in nation-building,” he stressed. (RBF, PIA CAVITE) **BY RUEL FRANCISCO**

DOH URGES HOSPITALS TO FOLLOW BLOOD BANK COORDINATION POLICY AMID SHORTAGES

STA. ROSA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Health (DOH) has reminded hospitals of their policy on blood supply coordination to ensure safe and quality blood supply for patients in need of transfusion.

Citing Department Circular 2024-0406, Joseph Balderas, Medical Technologist II at the DOH-Center for Health Development in CALABARZON, emphasized that that hospitals and other healthcare facilities are responsible for coordinating with licensed or authorized Blood Service Facilities (BSF) to secure blood supplies for patients.

“It's not the patient nor their relative's [responsibility] to look for the blood supply, but the hospital's. Sadly,

there are instances when the relatives themselves had to look for blood when the hospital supply was low.”

This follows complaints from patients and their relatives, who were instructed by healthcare facilities to directly coordinate and procure the needed blood.

Balderas noted that this practice comes with risks such as blood mismatch and spoilage when not stored properly.

“There have been some reports when the relatives do secure the blood supply. But for some reason, they had to go home first. Some even stored the blood in freezers which caused it to spoil. That's what we want to avoid [with hospital-to-hospital coordination].”

In 2025, legislators passed House Bill 2132 to establish

PEZA, DOST INAUGURATE DLSU LAGUNA AS SPECIAL SCIENCE ECOZONE

BIÑAN CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Committed to harnessing the economic gains of the country through science, research, and innovation, the De La Salle University (DLSU) Innovation Hub in Laguna has officially earned its recognition as Knowledge, Innovation, Science and Technology (KIST) Ecozone.

The declaration is in line with the Proclamation No. 985, s. In 2025 of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. created and designated a parcel of land located at De La Salle University Science and Technology Complex as a KIST Ecozone.

Through the strategic partnership between the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and the institution, the DLSU Laguna Campus is seen as an active partner and contributor to the country's goal of inclusive and sustainable economic development through technology, innovation, and institutional partnerships.

For DOST Secretary Renato Solidum Jr., the realization of DLSU as a KIST ecozone marks a vital step in strengthening the country's innovation ecosystem by fostering stronger collaboration among the academe, industry, and government, thereby enhancing the nation's overall competitiveness in the scientific field.

“This is significant as it marks our second Knowledge, Science, Innovation, and Technology Park, where DLSU's research outputs and technologies can be further developed, commercialized, and nurtured to drive greater innovation and growth,” Solidum stated.

Rowena Naguit, Manager of PEZA's Management Information System and Corporate Planning Group, emphasized that the partnership between DLSU and PEZA goes beyond

a modern and efficient blood services network. The measure seeks to upgrade transfusion services, enhance blood supply management, and implement an efficient program for collecting and providing blood services and products across the country. (PB/PIA4A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

a simple agreement as it reflects a shared vision and commitment to creating a future-ready Philippines driven by innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.

“This partnership reflects a bold step towards the future, but to understand its significance, we must look back at the ecozone framework, which has evolved overtime to meet the demands of the changing economic landscape.”

According to DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC, being recognized as the first private higher education institution declared as a KIST Ecozone, is a historic milestone for the campus, marking it as the first KIST Ecozone established within a private university in the country.

“It is truly an honor to be the first private higher education institution in the country to be part of this special PEZA ecozone, we envisioned this place as a beacon of progress, collaboration, and transformative impact, this moment is made even more meaningful as it coincides with the jubilee celebration of the DLSU university charter, a testament to DLSU's enduring commitment to excellence, social responsibility and nation building,” Oca stated.

The DLSU Innovation Hub serves as a center for interdisciplinary research, innovation, and social impact which specializing in Advanced Biotech Systems and Engineering. It features state-of-the-art research and design laboratories, incubation and acceleration programs, innovation spaces, and will boost knowledge transfer, industry partnerships, and innovation-led entrepreneurship, aligned with the country's innovation and industrialization agenda.

DLSU Laguna is the second declared Knowledge Hub following Batangas State University. To date, over 30 HEIs across the country have participated in the nationwide orientation on the KIST Ecozone Program, marking the next step toward applying for official designation as KIST Developers. (CO, CH/PIA4A) **BY CHARMAINE ODONG, CHRISTOPHER HEDREYDA**

EDITORIAL

Student Beep Cards, Inilunsad na

Student beep cards na may automatic na 50% discount para sa mga estudyanteng nagkokomyut sa LRT at MRT, inilunsad na. Pangulo, nanguna sa paglulunsad ng proyekto.

Isang magandang balita na hindi na tumagal pa ang paglulunsad ng student beep cards. Kamakailan lamang nang mabalitaan na sinuspinde ang paglulunsad nito kaya naman nakakagalak malamang maaari na itong magamit ng mga estudyante ngayon.

Dapat din na inspeksyunin ito ng Presidente at maging hands on sa mga proyektong inilulunsad nito gayong maraming katiwalian ang lumalabas sa iba't-ibang ahensya ng gobyerno.

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REPORT CITES PH'S READINESS FOR NUCLEAR POWER BID

MANILA — The Philippines is among the three countries in Southeast Asia that are frontrunners in the nuclear power bid, given their resolve to institute policies that will bolster capacity to address rising power demand.

In a report distributed to journalists Friday, BMI, a unit of Fitch Solutions Company, said the Philippines, Vietnam and Malaysia already have nuclear power programs in place, which open opportunities for investments.

For one, the Philippines has committed to having at least 1,200 MW of nuclear power by 2032, and is a signatory to all major safety, security and safeguards and liability instruments and governance framework available to date, it said.

"This regulatory maturity, combined with concrete policy support and established institutional capacity, positions the Philippines as the frontrunner in ASEAN's nuclear race," it said.

"We believe there could be opportunities for an accelerated deployment given the Philippines' capabilities and experience, as the Bataan province houses Southeast Asia's only existing nuclear power plant, though it never became operational," it added.

The Department of Energy (DOE) has already 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 will be granted priority dispatch in coordination with the Independent Market Operator (IMO), and the System Operator (SO). The pioneer nuclear power plant that will be in operation 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.

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," Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said earlier. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

MANILA — Philippine National Police (PNP) acting chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., on Friday directed all police units to heighten health and safety measures to protect personnel and the public amid cases of seasonal flu that prompted class suspensions in Metro Manila.

This is in line with the directive of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., through the guidance of Interior Secretary Jonvic Remulla, to ensure the continuous delivery of public services while safeguarding the health and welfare of government personnel and the communities they serve.

"The PNP reminds all units to continue observing basic health protocols, including proper hygiene, regular hand washing, and the use of face masks when necessary, especially in crowded areas," Nartatez said in a news release.

Police offices and quarters are likewise reminded to ensure adequate ventilation and cleanliness at all times.

He also tasked the PNP Health Service to hold regular health checks and closely monitor personnel showing flu-like symptoms, so that they could be provided immediate medical attention to prevent further spread of virus within the ranks.

"Our goal is to ensure that our police officers remain healthy and capable of

performing their duties while safeguarding the well-being of the communities they serve," Nartatez said.

Earlier, Health Secretary Ted Herbosa clarified that there is no outbreak of influenza-like illness in Metro Manila despite the Department of Education's move to suspend classes in the National Capital Region from Oct. 13 to 14. At the same time, the PNP urged the public to remain calm and follow official health advisories.

"There is no cause for panic but it is important that everyone takes preventive measures such as staying home when sick and practicing proper hygiene. The PNP remains committed to supporting the government's efforts to ensure everyone's safety and well-being," Nartatez said.

Aid to quake-affected cops. Meanwhile, the PNP extended relief assistance to police personnel affected by the recent earthquakes in Davao Oriental through the Police Regional Office (PRO) 11 (Davao Region).

"The PNP leadership fully supports the initiatives of PRO-11 under the stewardship of Brig. Gen. Joseph Arguelles. From the national headquarters, we have directed all regional offices to ensure the immediate welfare of our personnel and to extend assistance not only to our police force but also to the affected communities,"

Nartatez said.

The PRO-11 conducted a post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation program for its personnel affected by the recent tremors that hit Manay, Davao Oriental and nearby areas last week.

Assistance distributed included financial aid for PNP members whose houses were partially or totally damaged, as well as grocery items for affected personnel and residents. The Regional Engineering Unit 11 (REU 11) also conducted a structural integrity assessment of police facilities to ensure the safety and functionality of PNP buildings in quake-hit areas.

On the other hand, the Regional Medical and Dental Unit 11 (RMDU 11) and Camp Sgt. Quintin M. Merecido Hospital (CSQMMH) provided medical and mental health first aid services, distributed vitamins and medicines, and conducted neuro-psychiatric evaluations to support the psychological recovery of affected personnel.

To strengthen the emotional and spiritual resilience of PNP members, life coaches were also deployed to conduct counseling sessions and uplift the morale of personnel and their families.

"We are closely coordinating with PRO-11 to monitor the condition of our personnel and facilities, provide necessary

logistical and financial support, and ensure that recovery and rehabilitation activities are sustained," Nartatez said.

Nartatez said the PNP places strong emphasis on the mental health and well-being of its members, especially in times of calamities.

"We recognize that disasters affect not only physical safety but also the emotional and psychological state of our personnel. Through our medical and support units, we are providing counseling, neuro-psychiatric evaluations, and stress debriefings to help our personnel recover mentally and emotionally," he added.

Nartatez also extended words of solidarity and encouragement to the affected police personnel.

"To our personnel and their families in Davao Oriental and nearby areas affected by the recent earthquake, the entire PNP organization stands with you. Your safety and recovery are our priority. Patuloy ninyong tandaan na hindi kayo nag-iisa. Ang buong PNP ay pamilya ninyo (Keep in mind that you are not alone. The entire PNP is your family.). Together, we will recover stronger and continue to serve the Filipino people," he said. (PNA) **BY CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN**

LTO PROBES DRIVER WHO RAMMED MULTIPLE MOTORCYCLES IN QC; 1 DEAD

MANILA — The Land Transportation Office (LTO) is investigating a Utility Vehicle (UV) Express driver who rammed several motorcycles along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

In a statement on Friday, LTO chief Assistant Secretary Markus Lacanilao assured that the Intelligence and Investigation Division will focus on the probe.

The 51-year-old driver, identified as Ruel Dela

Cerna, was driving a UV Express rammed multiple motorcycles along Commonwealth Avenue in Barangay UP Campus, near the central office of the Commission on Human Rights.

Dela Cerna was arrested by the Quezon City Police District (QCPD)-Traffic Sector while LTO personnel administered sobriety and alcohol breath analyzer tests on the driver.

"Bagaman negatibo ang resulta, sasailalim din ito

sa drug test (Despite the negative result, he will be administered a drug test)," Lacanilao said.

One rider died, according to reports quoting QCPD Director Col. Randy Glenn Silvio. Initial information released said 13 motorcycles and a car were rammed by the UV Express. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

GOV'T EYES FULL DRYING CAPACITY FOR NAT'L RICE BUFFER STOCK BY 2026

NUEVA ECIJA — The National Food Authority (NFA) is targeting to achieve 100 percent drying capacity for the country's rice buffer stock by December 2026.

The target marks a sharp increase from the current 12 percent drying capacity for procured palay (unhusked rice).

NFA Administrator Larry Lacson said the goal is achievable by December 2026.

"We will be 100 percent capacity, meaning kaya na naming tuyuin 'yung

bibilhin na namin na target (we can dry the palay that we are targeting to buy). We're filling up the 88 percent difference through this modernization," he said in an ambush interview Friday during the launch of a tonnage bag system in Nueva Ecija.

The NFA plans to procure 900,000 metric tons (MT) of palay from local farmers, enough to maintain a 15-day national rice buffer stock for emergencies and calamities.

Lacson said several rice

processing centers are being prepared for the inauguration beginning mid-2026, with all sites expected to be operational before the end of next year. "Mag-uumpisa tayong mag-inaugurate by the middle of next year, and we will finish all sites by year-end," he said.

The move forms part of the government's broader effort to strengthen food security and reduce post-harvest losses. (PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

NTF-WPS HAILS STRONG PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVES

MANILA – The National Task Force West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on Wednesday hailed the latest Pulse Asia survey showing strong public support for the government's transparency initiatives in the WPS.

In a statement, the task force also welcomed the Filipino public's "strong confidence" in the resolute defense of the Philippines' sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction in the WPS."

"We thank the Filipino people for their trust in the NTF-WPS and its member agencies, particularly the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), the Philippine Navy, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, all of whom gained high trust ratings from the public," the NTF-WPS statement read.

The survey, held from Sept. 27 to 30, also showed 41 percent of respondents identified the PCG as the most trustworthy government agency for updates and reports concerning the WPS.

"This strong vote of confidence is not just a reflection of institutional performance; it is a reflection of national unity in the face of continuing challenges to our sovereignty," the NTF-WPS said.

According to the Pulse Asia survey, 94 percent of Filipinos believe that the transparency initiative to expose China's coercive behavior in the WPS should continue.

The survey results, according to NTF-WPS, send a clear and powerful message that "the Filipino people stand for truth, transparency, and the defense of what is rightfully ours."

"We also draw our strength from the fact that 94 percent of respondents believe that the Philippines should continue its transparency policy and persist in publicly exposing

China's coercive and aggressive behavior," it added.

With this, the NTF-WPS vowed to sustain and further strengthen its transparency policy.

"We will continue to shine light on every illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive (ICAD) activity in our waters. We will not be silenced, we will not be intimidated, and we will never turn away from our duty to defend the Filipino people's rights and the nation's dignity," it said.

The survey showing 77 percent of the respondents identified the United States as the top country the Philippines can rely on reflects the enduring strength of the Philippines-US alliance.

It also said this partnership is rooted in shared values, mutual respect, and a common commitment to peace, stability, and the rule of law.

"This reinforces the need for the Philippines to strengthen its partnerships with like-minded nations who believe in a rules-based international order and a free and open Indo-Pacific," the task force said.

In a separate statement, the PCG touted its role in ensuring transparency and credible reporting on maritime updates.

"This strong public trust underscores the PCG's unwavering commitment to transparency, truth, and real-time communication, ensuring that every Filipino stays informed with verified maritime information," it said.

"This near-universal support underscores the public's firm backing for the government's approach of transparency and factual reporting on maritime incidents in defense of the country's sovereignty, sovereign rights, and other maritime interests," it added. (with report from Raymond Dela Cruz) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

PCG, US EMBASSY LAUNCH P140-M TRAINING PROGRAM

MANILA – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and the United States (US) Embassy on Friday launched a training program that aims to strengthen the PCG's operational readiness and capacity for maritime law enforcement.

The program was launched by PCG Commandant, Admiral Ronnie Gil Gavan, and US Ambassador MaryKay Carlson in a ceremony aboard the BRP Gabriela Silang at Pier 13, Port Area in Manila.

With a budget of PHP140 million, the three-year initiative will provide 110 courses and on-the-job training opportunities at US Coast Guard (USCG) training centers and operational units in the US. The project is funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs through the USCG. In addition to US-based training, the program will conduct nearly 60 formal courses and engagements with subject matter experts in the Philippines.

In particular, the program will provide technical courses for vessel operations and maintenance designed to develop instructors

for PCG training centers and on-the-job training and orientation at USCG training centers, aboard USCG vessels, and at operational shore installations responsible for fleet support management. In addition, USCG experts will provide advisory support to the PCG in enhancing its doctrine, procedures, and curriculum for vessel training and maintenance programs.

During the event, Gavan thanked Carlson and the US government for supporting the initiative and highlighted its potential impact beyond capacity-building.

On the other hand, Carlson said the program is an investment in people. "USCG personnel will work alongside their Philippine counterparts during maintenance and training cycles, building peer-to-peer trust and shared expertise. Likewise, PCG officers will train at US facilities to deepen leadership and technical skills that will help maintain an increasingly sophisticated fleet. Together, we will continue to ensure that these waters remain safe, open, and secure for all," she said. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

DMW: 2 MISSING FILIPINO WORKERS IN HONG KONG FOUND SAFE

MANILA – The Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) confirmed on Friday that the two overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) earlier reported missing in Hong Kong have been found safe and are now under the care of Philippine authorities.

In an online briefing, DMW Secretary Hans Leo Cacdac said 23-year-old Imee Pabuaya and 33-year-old Aleli Tibay were located by Hong Kong authorities at around 10:30 p.m. on Thursday and later brought to the Sha Tin Police Station before being turned over to the Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Hong Kong shortly after midnight.

He noted they have undergone psychosocial counseling from the

DMW's social welfare attaché and would undergo a medical checkup.

Based on reports from its Migrant Workers Office (MWO) in Hong Kong, the two were last seen on Oct. 4 at the Tsuen Wan District and failed to return home from a day off.

The pair claimed they got lost while hiking on a country trail, which led to their disappearance for nearly two weeks.

"Na-terminate na sila sa kanilang employer kaya't kukunin na 'yung kanilang belongings sa kanilang mga employer (Both workers have since been terminated by their employers, but they will first retrieve their belongings)," Cacdac said.

"Pero bago pa man ito mangyari, susubukan

NAT'L HOUSING EXPO 2025 BRINGS AFFORDABLE, QUALITY HOMES TO FILIPINOS

MANILA – Thousands of affordable and quality housing units will be made available to the public through the National Housing Expo 2025, to be held on Oct. 23 and 24 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview on Friday, Pag-IBIG Fund Public and Member Relations Group Vice President Jack Jacinto said the event forms part of the Marcos administration's push to deliver accessible, affordable and decent housing to every Filipino under the Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) program.

"Ang pinagkaiba lang po ng housing fair natin na ito ay maliban po sa makikita po ng ating mga kababayan iyon pong mga available na housing properties at tutulungan din natin sila na makabili ng mapipili nilang bahay sapagkat tutulungan ho natin sila sa kanilang (The only difference with this housing fair is that, aside from allowing our fellow citizens to see the available housing properties, we will also help them purchase their chosen home by assisting them with their) Pag-IBIG housing loan," he said.

Organized by the

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) in collaboration with the Pag-IBIG Fund and other key shelter agencies, the expo will feature onsite housing loan assistance that would allow members to know instantly how much they can borrow and which housing units fit their budget.

Jacinto noted that only developers with existing commitments under DHSUD's housing program were invited to join the event, ensuring that all featured properties meet affordability and quality standards.

Since assuming office, DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling has secured the support of private developers to build over 250,000 housing units nationwide by 2028, he said.

To expand reach, similar housing fairs are being held across the country:

- Cebu (Oct. 15–21, SM City Mabolo)
- Iloilo (Oct. 20–25, SM City Iloilo)
- Pampanga (Oct. 25, Robinsons Starmills)
- Bacolod (Oct. 27–30, 888 Malls)
- Batangas (Oct. 28 and 29, SM City Sto. Tomas)
- General Santos City (Nov. 8, Veranza Mall Atrium)

All housing fairs are free of charge and open to the public.

Those unable to attend in person can access similar services online via the Pag-IBIG Fund website. Once pre-qualified, applicants will be contacted by developers to proceed with the housing loan process.

The National Housing Expo 2025 will open its doors at 1 p.m. Interested attendees may register through the official Pag-IBIG Fund website. (PNA)

BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR

importance of maintaining contact with the Migrant Workers Office and the Philippine Consulate General, especially during emergencies. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

ISULAN MUNICIPAL GOV'T ROLLS OUT DELIVERY OF FREE MEDICINE, OTHER AID FOR SENIORS, PWDS

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat (PIA) – Senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PWD) in this town now have access to free basic maintenance medications through the municipal government's Botika on Wheels program.

The Botika on Wheels operates as a mobile pharmacy that aims to make healthcare services more accessible to communities, especially those in remote areas.

Recently, deliveries to beneficiaries have begun according to the assigned schedule for each barangay, ensuring an organized and efficient distribution process.

Mayor Bai Rihan Sakaluran earlier confirmed that all necessary supplies for the first round of distribution were prepared for delivery directly to the homes of eligible beneficiaries.

"This is healthcare made accessible, service that truly cares," Sakaluran emphasized.

The mobile pharmacy offered essential maintenance medications frequently required by seniors and PWDs, including those for hypertension, diabetes, and other chronic illnesses. Sakaluran, who personally led the inaugural distribution, stated that the ongoing program is part of her administration's initiatives during the first 100 days.

This effort, she said, underscores her commitment to delivering responsive health services and addressing the needs of vulnerable sectors in the community.

"Ito ay iilan lamang sa mga marami nating plano na programa at proyekto sa unang 100 araw natin para sa Bagong Isulan. Madaming plano, madaming pangarap para sa bayan ng Isulan. Naguumpisa pa lamang po tayo. Malayo pa ang ating lalakbayin at malayo pa ang ating tatahakin para sa mas maganda at maunlad na Isulan," she said.

(These are just a few of the many plans, programs, and projects we have for our first 100 days in New Isulan. We have

numerous aspirations for the town of Isulan. We are just beginning this journey, and we still have a long way to go toward achieving a better and more prosperous Isulan.)

In addition to offering free medicines, the local government of Isulan will also distribute wheelchairs and hearing aids to eligible beneficiaries of the Botika on Wheels program. (ORVR, PIA Region 12) **BY OLIVER ROSS RIVERA**

SIQUIJOR TOPS REG'L GROWTH; TOURISM, INFRA DEV'T DRIVE LOCAL ECONOMY

SIQUIJOR, Siquijor (PIA) — Siquijor's economy is expanding rapidly, fueled by growth in tourism, infrastructure, and job creation, according to Governor Jake Vincent Villa in his State of the Province Address (SOPA).

"We gather today to affirm a simple truth—that the province of Siquijor is steadily rising. We are proving that a small province united by purpose and grounded in good governance, can deliver big results," said Villa.

He noted that the SOPA is meant not only to showcase the province's achievements but also "to celebrate Siquijor's transformation that has captured national recognition."

The governor said that despite various challenges, the province has made substantial progress, particularly in tourism, infrastructure, and job creation.

Describing tourism as the "heartbeat of inclusive growth," he noted that tourism has significantly contributed to the province's economy.

He cited a recent Agoda New Horizons report naming Siquijor the fastest-growing destination for international visitors in the Philippines.

The island's attractions—such as Cambugahay Falls, Cantabon Cave, white-

TACLOBAN CITY (PIA)

— As a response to the challenge of the rapidly evolving demands of the global maritime industry, state-run National Maritime Polytechnic (NMP) is working on addressing skills gaps among Filipinos by integrating emerging technologies into its training programs and

research initiatives.

NMP Executive Director Victor A. Del Rosario said that as the maritime industry rapidly adopts with new advanced technologies, it is crucial for the upskilling and retraining of seafarers and other maritime professionals to keep pace with these changes.

NMP recognizes the importance of equipping its clients with the necessary competencies to handle these evolving technologies.

"The maritime industry is transforming with ships becoming smarter with digitalization, automation, decarbonization while we can expect for regulations to become more stringent. NMP must evolve to prepare our seafarers for these realities," Del Rosario said.

In collaboration with the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), a new skills framework is being initiated according to Del Rosario, that would level the impact of automation on maritime jobs and the emerging skillsets required for future-ready seafarers.

The shift toward smart shipping and environmentally sustainable vessels has prompted the global industry to reexamine traditional roles on board and, in response, NMP aims to become a national hub for innovation in maritime training and a key driver in upskilling the Filipino maritime workforce.

Established in 1978, NMP operates under the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) and is the only government-owned maritime training and research center in the country. It upgrades the capability and qualifications of the graduates of maritime schools in order for them to keep abreast with the continuing changes, innovations

sand beaches, and cultural heritage sites—have drawn a surge of visitors, leading to higher arrivals at fastcraft and ferry terminals and more tourism-related business activity across all municipalities.

"People continue to flock to the province of Siquijor where healing and adventure await," he said. Tourism revenue is projected to reach P300 million next year, with P1.25 million in direct income for the provincial government.

About 90% of new jobs created through tourism and infrastructure projects are expected to go to local residents.

"This means more families benefiting directly, more livelihoods secured, and a stronger future built by and for the community," he said.

Villa also reported that Siquijor's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 6.22% in 2023 to P12.77 billion, and further rose 7.9% in 2024 to P13.78 billion, according to data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) presented during the Provincial Product Accounts Dissemination Forum.

The growth rate was the highest in the Negros Island Region, surpassing Bacolod City (7.7%), Negros Oriental (5.4%), and Negros Occidental (5.1%). (RAC/PIA-NIR Siquijor) **BY RIZALIE ANDING CALIBO**

DOST TO DEPLOY AUTOMATED WEATHER STATIONS IN KALINGA

TABUK CITY, Kalinga (PIA)

— The Department of Science and Technology-Cordillera (DOST-CAR) will be deploying two Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) in Kalinga within the year as part of its efforts to help the agricultural sector counter the impacts of climate change.

The said device provides real-time weather monitoring and uses site-specific historical data for crop modeling and forecasting. Through the AWS, farmers will be notified when to plant and to irrigate which is crucial information amid the unpredictability of weather due to climate change.

The municipality of Rizal and the city of Tabuk were chosen as sites for the installation of the AWS given their profile as top producers of rice, corn, coffee, and banana, which are among the priority crops of the project and due to their topography.

"Based on the digital elevation model, ito 'yung isang basis kung bakit

Rizal and Tabuk. In terms of elevation, flat po talaga 'yung city of Tabuk and Rizal," said Engr. Roger Lee M. Suclad of the DOST-CAR.

The deployment of the AWS is part of Project SARAI or Smarter Approaches to Reininvigorate Agriculture as an Industry, an action research program developed to support the agricultural sector while providing science-based cropping systems, protocols, and long-term strategies.

"SARAI uses advanced technologies like crop forecasting models, real-time weather data and geographic information systems to deliver timely crop advisories. So, this SARAI enables farmers and stakeholders and even local government units to make informed decisions on what, when, and how to plant and manage crops effectively," said DOST-CAR Regional Director Nancy A. Bantog in a message.

The DOST-CAR said the initiative is a four-year project in the Cordillera with the first year of implementation focused in Kalinga and Mountain Province.

"Kalinga is really the priority for the SARAI project given the nature of the project plus our priority for year one is for rice," Bantog said.

Officials and staff of the DOST-CAR, DOST-Kalinga, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and stakeholders from the Kalinga, Tabuk City, and Rizal local governments discussed the memorandum of agreement for the project during an exploratory meeting on Oct. 15, 2025 at the Provincial Capitol.

The institutionalization of Project SARAI is part of the thrust of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. on food security and climate change mitigation. (JDP/IOS-PIA CAR, Kalinga) **BY IRYLL SICNAO**

and development in the maritime industry, and supplement the skills and competence of deck and engine licensed officers and ratings through job-oriented training programs aimed to increase their acceptability for employment in domestic and international shipping. As of September 2025 alone, NMP already trained nearly 20,000 seafarers, expanded its course offerings and upgraded its training simulators to align with the latest international standards and technologies.

As the global maritime sector faces challenges brought about by automation, environmental regulations, and shifting trade patterns, NMP vows to remain agile and responsive to emerging needs. (ACR/PIA Leyte) **BY AHLETTE C. REYES**

6 BUSINESS GROUPS BACK AMENDMENTS TO BANK SECRECY LAWS

MANILA – Six major Philippine business groups on Friday gave their support to measures aimed at amending the country's bank secrecy laws, namely the Republic Act (RA) 1405, the Law on Secrecy of Bank Deposits, and RA 6426, and the Foreign Currency Deposit Act.

The proposed amendments are included in the 44 priority bills proposed by the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council (LEDAC) for the 20th Congress, and these include giving the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) authority to investigate deposit accounts of individuals suspected of being involved in illegal activities.

In a joint statement issued by the Makati Business Club, the Filipina CEO Circle, the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines, Institute of Corporate Directors, the Justice Reform Initiative, and the Management Association of the Philippines, they said these laws "have acted and continue to act as straitjackets on regulators, preventing them from being efficient in undertaking measures, such as investigating and prosecuting people involved in corruption and money laundering."

"These legislative initiatives, once enacted, will align the Philippines with international standards on financial transparency and anti-money laundering. By empowering regulators and enforcement agencies with the authority to investigate corruption, tax evasion, and other illicit economic activities, the reforms will help ensure integrity across both public and private financial systems. In doing so, they will also boost the country's credibility and competitiveness within the global financial community," it said.

The groups also back the

bid to make the Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs) of government officials accessible to the public, "as originally required under RA No. 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees." RA 6713, it said, "was designed to create an investigative mechanism that will uphold all government employees and public officials to the highest standards of transparency and accountability."

"This was supposed to be a critical tool serving as a watchdog to prevent corruption. It sadly hasn't served those purposes. The reforms for this law will reinforce the constitutional principle that public office is a public trust and that accountability is essential for maintaining citizens' confidence in their institutions," it pointed out. The statement explained that "effectiveness of these laws will not rest solely on the reforms enacted, but also on the enforcement of legal consequences for those who violate, misrepresent, or ignore their provisions."

"Therefore, good governance is paramount. Good governance fosters a stable environment in which both local and foreign investors can make long-term commitments with confidence. When governance systems are predictable and information is accessible, the risks of corruption and policy uncertainty decrease, lowering the cost of doing business. This attracts sustained capital inflows, promotes fair competition, and contributes to stronger, more resilient economic growth," it said.

"We remain dedicated to collaborating with policymakers, regulators, and the business community to promote reforms that create a fair, transparent, and trustworthy economic

MERALCO PREPARES FOR CONTINUED TECH INNOVATION IN POWERSECTOR

MANILA – Pangilingan-led Manila Electric Company (Manila) is gearing up for more technological innovation in the energy sector, but remains on a wait-and-see for the revised rules of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) on the first regulatory period.

In a briefing Friday after giving a tour of Meralco's command center in Pasig City, Meralco First Vice President and Head of Networks Froilan Savet said included in their modernization bid is the smart meter, which provides information on real-time electricity consumption monitoring for customers.

The company bids to deploy 11 million smart meters under a 10-year program, once ERC approves Meralco's rate reset application, which discusses plans on investment, operations and prices, which remains pending before the ERC. Also part of this bid is the establishment of the Grid Edge Operations and Control Center (GEOCC), a state-of-the-art operations center that will be utilized to control Meralco assets and interconnected facilities along the last mile end users.

Other programs under this program are the distributed energy Resources, net-metering, embedded generation, and electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in more Meralco franchise areas.

environment; one that strengthens institutions, maintains integrity, and positions the Philippines as an attractive and reliable investment destination," it added. (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

"These will allow Meralco to transition to a potential future role as a Distribution System Operator," Savet said.

Savet declined to give any investment figures pending the ERC policy.

"The GEOCC will be part of the whole application to be submitted to the ERC for the next regulatory period, so its rollout will depend on the ERC approval," he added.

Meanwhile, Savet said their current equipment is strong enough to survive and provide power even with a magnitude 8 earthquake, depending on the location. "What we really want is we anticipate disaster, we absorb the impact, and then we adapt," he said.

He also said their System Average Interruption Frequency Index (SAIFI) to date is around 1.04 times, which means that on average one customer experiences a power interruption 1.04 times a year, on an average of 180 minutes.

"We are at par with Southeast Asian countries and rural utilities in the US," he said.

Meralco Vice President and head of Corporate Communications Joe Zaldarriaga, during the same event, said the power distribution utility has invested heavily in the distribution system and backbone "so that if any calamity, whether it's earthquake or a strong typhoon, we will be able to somewhat withstand."

"But at the same time, we have a very strategic protocol in place wherein our network crews are strategically located so we can respond almost instantaneously as long as the situation will allow it," he said. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

PSEI ENDS WEEK FLAT, PHP SIDeways VS. US DOLLAR

MANILA – For the second consecutive trading day, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) finished flat on mixed sentiments among investors, and the Philippine peso sustained its sideways close against the greenback.

The main stocks gauge slipped 0.07 percent to 6,089.53 points, and the All Shares declined by 0.19 percent to 3,665.08 points. Most of the sectoral counters also ended on the red, led by the Property after it went down 1.09 percent.

It was trailed by the Mining and Oil, 0.95 percent, and Industrial, 0.30 percent; while the Holding Firms was little moved after it declined by 0.007 percent. On the other hand, Services rose by 0.37 percent and Financials by 0.10 percent.

Volume reached 1.33 billion shares, amounting to PHP4.42 billion.

Decliners surpassed advancers at 109 to 83, while 56 shares were unchanged.

Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development

Corporation head of sales, said the local bourse "remained relatively flat for the second consecutive day despite the PHP (Philippine peso) stabilizing against the USD (US dollar).

"Moreover, mixed sentiments ahead of the upcoming earnings season likely kept the index moving sideways as investors await more earnings reports in the coming weeks," he said, adding, "investors also stayed cautious amid ongoing US-China trade tensions and uncertainty over the broader economic outlook."

Also, the local currency finished the trade little changed against the greenback at 58.16 from the previous day's 58.12 close.

It opened the day sideways at 58.02 and traded between 58.22 and 58.00. Average for the day stood at 58.11.

Volume went down USD1.43 billion from the day-ago's USD1.69 billion. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

QUALITY STANDARDS NOW UP FOR 'PAROL'

MANILA – A Philippine National Standard (PNS) has been issued for parol (Philippine-made lanterns), protecting consumers and further lifting the quality of Filipino craftsmanship globally.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in a press release on Thursday, said the PNS was launched recently in San Fernando, Pampanga, known as 'Home of the Giant Lanterns' and host to the annual Giant Lantern Festival in mid-December.

The national standards, the DTI said, are in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s goal to empower local industries and ensure consumer protection.

It was developed with the help of the UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE)

and underscores the government's support for local manufacturers under the Tatak Pinoy brand.

"More than ensuring product safety, these standards uplift our parol makers whose craftsmanship reflects Filipino pride. By guiding them toward quality and reliability, we empower their businesses to grow and thrive globally while protecting Filipino consumers," DTI Secretary Cristina Roque said.

DTI Fair Trade Group Assistant Secretary and Supervising Head lawyer Regino Mallari Jr. said the PNS for Philippine-made lanterns also ensures the sustainability of the lantern-making industry in the country. (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



FEU SECURES LAST QUARTERFINAL INCENTIVE IN SSL UNITY CUP

MANILA – Far Eastern University prevailed over College of Saint Benilde, 25-21, 25-20, 21-25, 25-23, Friday to secure the last twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinals of the 2025 Shakey's Super League (SSL) Unity Cup at San Andres Gym in Manila. Outside spiker Alyzza Devosora scored 10 of her 16 points in the fourth set as the Lady Tamaraws closed the second round with a 2-1 slate record to take the No. 2 spot in Pool F.

FEU, winner of the SSL National Invitationals Batangas leg, will face University of the Philippines, the No. 3 seed in Pool E, on Tuesday.

"We were thinking about the quarterfinals. We had to have a good standing. We actually had a goal of

3-0, but it was a bit lacking, we were shaky, we lost our pass. So we improved that even more to get the last set," Devosora said.

CSB held a 7-1 run to wrest the lead at 21-19 but FEU rallied behind Gerzel Petallo and Devosura to seal the win. Petallo finished with 17 points while Cla Loresco had eight points.

Zamantha Nolasco 14 points and Clydel Catarig scored 14 and 12 points, respectively for the Lady Blazers, who closed the round with a 1-2 card. CSB will battle twice-to-beat Adamson.

Meanwhile, University of the Philippines downed Ateneo de Manila University, 25-19, 25-15, 25-14, for its first win in three outings.

Jelai Gajero scored 12

points while Irah Jaboneta and Sarah Ali chipped in eight and seven points, respectively.

"We talked about mental toughness, which was a problem for us in the previous games. That's what we're working out, to fight with heart and mind. We were chasing our first win because it's important for us to boost our confidence," Gajero said.

Faye Nisperos finished with 11 points for winless Ateneo, which will take on Pool F top seed and twice-to-beat University of Santo Tomas in the next round.

Three-time champion National University will square off with San Beda University. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

PTA BETS CLASH FOR GENTRY OPEN WOMEN'S SINGLES CROWN

MANILA – Philippine Tennis Association (PTA) players Stefi Marithe Aludo and Tennielle Madis downed separate rivals Friday to arrange a championship duel of the Gentry National Open Tennis Championships at the Colegio San Agustin hardcourts in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

Aludo, the No. 7 seed, pulled off a stunning 6-3, 6-0 win over second pick Tiffany Claire Nocos.

The sixth-seeded Madis, on the other hand, demolished No. 8 Rachel Patricia Velez, 6-3, 6-0. It will be the first final

showdown between Aludo and Madis, who won the PCA Open doubles title last week.

"For me, it's the mental part. I really have to crawl for every point and focus point by point," said the 17-year-old Aludo when asked how she can beat Madis.

Madis, the country's top junior, is eyeing a second straight singles title after beating Kaye Anne Emana, 6-0, 6-3, in the PCA Open final.

"It would be nice to win another title. I will just do everything I can. I know that Stefi will also do her

best," said the 18-year Madis, who hails from M'lang, North Cotabato.

The Gentry Open, in partnership with Palawan Pawnshop National Tennis Championships, offers a total of PHP2 million in cash prizes.

The men's singles champion will get PHP300,000, and the runner-up PHP150,000, while in the women's division, the singles champion and runner-up will receive PHP100,000 and PHP50,000, respectively. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

GYMNASTICS JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS LOGO UNVEILED

MANILA – The Gymnastics Association of the Philippines (GAP) unveiled on Friday the 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships logo, which is inspired by the country's rich cultural and historical heritage.

With the global reputation of the Philippines as the "Pearl of the Orient Seas," the logo is a stylized oyster shell in a bright blend of purple, white, and golden hues in a translucent background with the official Federation Internationale de Gymnastique design – the FIG acronym – as the "pearl" at its center.

"Gymnastics is an energetic and spirited discipline, and we Filipinos are warm and passionate in anything we set our minds to, so it can shine with excellence. These facets went into conceptualizing our official logo for the Junior World Championships," GAP president Cynthia Carrion said.

She said the shell is "a direct tribute to the Philippines and our role as proud host of this global event," representing "a welcoming nation offering a safe and supportive space where future champions are discovered, celebrated, and inspired."

"We chose this as our logo because it symbolizes that we are a lush, lustrous and hospitable nation of over 100 million people. This is what we Filipinos are proudly known for. The prominent FIG logo within the oyster shell also symbolizes the universality of our sport, that is a top perennial attraction in the Olympic Games," said Carrion, a former Philippine Sports Commission commissioner.

The FIG now has 161 member countries, and 77 are sending 846 athletes to the tournament set at the Manila Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom inside the Newport Resorts World in Pasay City on Nov. 20-24. Carrion said that besides the Manila Marriott Hotel and because of the choice and strategic location of the competition, delegates can stay in other official hotel partners Sheraton Manila, Hilton Manila, Belmont Manila, Hotel Okura, Savoy Hotel and Hilton Express, all within walking distance of the competition arena within the premier leisure, shopping, entertainment, and gaming hub just across the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

"We have already

exceeded the numbers of the second junior worlds that had 234 gymnasts from 64 countries in Antalya, Turkey two years ago. We might be expecting more, and we will be ready for them," she said.

Just above the FIG logo are a male gymnast and a female gymnast performing on the rings and on the balance beam, respectively.

Carrion said they represent the young athletes who are being nurtured and cultured to become the next wave of outstanding gymnasts in the years to come.

"These select athletes are rare, talented, full of potential, and ready to shine on the world stage. Just like pearls formed through time and pressure, these gymnasts represent the result of years of dedication, discipline, and dreams," she added.

Representing the Philippines are Karl Eldrew Yulo, the younger sibling of Paris Olympic gold medalist Carlos Edriel Yulo, and Elisabeth Antone, the individual all-around bronze medalist at the Asian Juniors in Jecheon, South Korea in June. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

PH'S BUYTRAGO, ABADILLA BOW TO AUSTRALIANS IN FIRST Q'FINAL MATCH

MANILA – Filipinos James Buytrago and Ran Abadilla lost to Australians D'Artagnan Potts and Jack Pearse, 14-21, 18-21, Thursday in the first quarterfinal match of the Volleyball World 2025 Beach Pro Tour Challenge at the Nuvali Sands Court by Ayala Land in Santa Rosa City, Laguna.

The Alas Pilipinas pair, bronze medalists at the 2023 Cambodia Southeast Asian Games, moved to within 18-19 but fell short in the Pool H match.

"We adjusted very well in our strategies to disrupt their plays, but we just couldn't sustain our game to the end. The point merely went off during the

match maybe because of adrenaline," said Buytrago, who played with an injured right index finger.

Buytrago and Abadilla will face Americans Tim Brewster and Ryan Lerna in the second quarterfinal match later in the evening. Italy's Enrico Rossi and Marco Viscovich conquered Brewster and Lerna, 21-12, 22-20, to join Potts and Pearse in Pool H of the weeklong competition hosted by the Philippine National Volleyball Federation, headed by Ramon "Tats" Suzara.

"We still have a chance if we win against the USA in our later match. I believe we can bounce back later,"

the 26-year-old Buytrago said.

Indonesians Akbar Bintang and Sofyan Rachman Efendi, who won the 2024 Beach Pro Tour Futures in Wuhan (China), outplayed Germans Philip Huster and Maximilian Just, 23-21, 21-19, in Pool D.

In other results, Spain's Alejandro Juerta and Adrian Gavira downed Latvia's Ardis Beritis and Arturs Rinkevics, 21-19, 21-18, in Pool D, and USA pair Logan Webber and Hagen Smith prevailed over Denmark's Mads Mollgaard and Nicolai Houmann, 21-17, 18-21, 15-12, in Pool B. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**