

DOST CAVITE AND BULIHAN
INTEGRATED NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL SEAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR STARBOOKS ADOPTION

The DOST Cavite, in partnership with Bulihan Integrated National Highschool (BINHS), conducted a

STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Signing cum Orientation and User Training, held on November 03, 2025 at Silang, Cavite.

The program was spearheaded by Mrs. Kristine B. Caballo, Head Teacher of the Science Department;

Mr. Richard F. Orpiano, BINHS STARBOOKS Focal Person; and Mr. Fernando L. Magdato, STE Coordinator.

After the MOA Signing, Mr. Jayson Villariño, DOST STARBOOKS Regional Focal Person, led the orientation and training to faculty and staff of BINHS that aims to teach participants how to navigate STARBOOKS, which offers a vast collection of science and technology resources in text, video, and audio formats.

After the lecture, participants engaged in a hands-on session where they applied their newly acquired knowledge by operating the STARBOOKS system. Moreover, STARBOOKS

Governor Abeng Remulla led the successful conduct of Ugnayan sa Barangay program in Amadeo, Cavite on November 7 further strengthening the partnership of the provincial and the municipal government. He was joined by Vice Governor Ram Revilla, together with 7th District Board Member Camille del Rosario and local officials of Amadeo headed by Mayor Jose Domingo, Jr.

The activity fostered coordination between the Provincial Government of Cavite and the local government of Amadeo by bringing government services closer to the people. Residents were given the opportunity to raise their concerns, avail of various assistance, and participate in discussions on local development.

The event demonstrated the continued commitment of the provincial leadership to promote community engagement and responsive governance across Cavite. — **R. Dones/ Cavite PIO**

supports the school to promote digital literacy and equitable access to education. By bridging the gap between technology and learning, it empowers both teachers and students to become more resourceful and self-reliant in acquiring knowledge. (**DOST CAVITE**)



CAVITE PNP NAHULI ANG PROVINCIAL MOST WANTED PERSON SA GMA, CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite— Isang Provincial Most Wanted Person ang naaresto sa mas pinaigting na manhunt operation ng Cavite Police Provincial Office. Nagsagawa ng operasyon ang mga tauhan ng GMA Municipal Police Station, gamit ang Alternative Recording Device sa GMA, Cavite, bandang 8:10 ng gabi noong Nobyembre 12, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BONNA A OBMERGA, hepe ng GMA MPS ang akusado na si alyas "John", at residente ng GMA, Cavite.

Ang pag-aresto ay bunsod ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016 (R.A. 10883), na inilabas noong Nobyembre 5, 2025 ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 128, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, na may inirerekomendang piyansa

na ₱300,000.00.

Ang akusado ay naipaliwanag ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang lubos na nauunawaan. Siya ay pansamantalang nakakulong sa custodial facility ng GMA MPS, at ang warrant of arrest ay isusumite sa korte ng pinagmulan para sa nararapat na disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, pinuri ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, ang mga tauhan ng GMA MPS sa kanilang dedikasyon at mabilis na aksyon. "Patuloy ang Cavite PNP sa pagpapatupad ng batas at pagtugis sa mga wanted persons. Ang tagumpay na ito ay patunay ng ating determinasyon na mapanatili ang kapayapaan at katarungan sa lalawigan ng Cavite," ani PCOL Red.

ARESTADO ANG PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA ROSARIO, CAVITE HABANG KUMUKUHA NG POLICE CLEARANCE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Rosario Municipal Police Station habang nagsasagawa ng verification para sa National Police Clearance Application sa Opisina ng Rosario Municipal Police Station, bandang 10:40 ng umaga ng Nobyembre 13, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ARDIE O BAGAMAN, hepe ng Rosario MPS ang suspek bilang si alyas "James", at naninirahan sa Tanza, Cavite.

Sa bisa ng Operation Against Wanted Person, si NUP Rudolf Solis, verifier ng National Police Clearance System ng Rosario MPS, sa koordinasyon ng Warrant Section sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL ARDIE O. BAGAMAN, Chief of Police, ay nagsilbi ng Warrant of Arrest laban sa nasabing aplikante. Ang pag-aresto ay bunga

ng dalawang warrant of arrest para sa mga kasong Frustrated Murder at Theft na may mga petsang Nobyembre 22, 2022 at Oktubre 10, 2022. Ang mga ito ay inisyu ng RTC Branch 130, Trece Martires City at MTC Tanza, Cavite, na may inirerekomendang piyansa na Php200,000.00 at Php10,000.00. Ang operasyon ay naisagawa gamit ang Alternative Recording Device bilang bahagi ng transparency measures ng PNP.

Matapos maaresto, ang suspek ay ipinaalam sa kaniya ang kaniyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal at kasalukuyang nakapiit sa Rosario PNP Custodial Facility para sa karampatang dokumentasyon at disposisyon.

Mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director, Cavite PPO. "Ang matagumpay na operasyon na ito ay patunay ng masusing pagpapatupad ng Cavite PNP sa mga programa laban sa kriminalidad.

SUSPEK SA INSIDENTE NG HOMICIDE ARESTADO SA TANZA, CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Arestado ng mga tauhan ng Tanza Municipal Police Station ang isang lalaki na sangkot sa insidente ng homicide na naganap sa Tanza, Cavite dakong alas-11:00 ng gabi ng Nobyembre 10, 2025 (iniulat bandang alas-7:00 ng umaga ng Nobyembre 11, 2025).

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JOVEN T BAHIL, hepe ng Tanza MPS ang suspek na si alyas Alexis, at residente ng Tanza, Cavite, na agad na naaresto ng mga awtoridad.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, ang biktima at ang suspek ay magkarelasyon. Ayon sa paunang ulat, nagkaroon ng mainit na pagtatalo sa pagitan nila matapos mairita ang suspek dahil sa madalas umano siyang inuutusan ng biktima. Sa tindi ng galit, sinuntok ng suspek ang ulo ng biktima na naging sanhi ng pagkakahulog nito at pagkakasugat sa ulo.

Dahil dito, agad na humingi ng tulong ang mga kamag-anak ng biktima sa mga rumespondeng pulis na sina Pat Torres at

PCpl Cabadin ng Tanza MPS Beat 9, Sector 3 Paradhan, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek.

Sa kasalukuyan, isinasagawa na ang kaukulang dokumentasyon para sa paghahain ng kasong kriminal laban sa naarestong suspek.

Pinapurihan ni PCOL ARIEL R RED ang mga tauhan ng Tanza Municipal Police Station sa pangunguna ni PLTCOL JOVEN T BAHIL, hepe ng Tanza MPS, sa kanilang mabilis na aksyon na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek. Binigyang-diin niya na ang agarang pagresolba sa mga kasong kriminal ay patunay ng dedikasyon at malasakit ng Cavite PNP sa paghahatid ng hustisya at pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan sa lalawigan. Aniya "Hindi natin palalampasin ang anumang uri ng karahasan sa ating komunidad. Patuloy nating ipatutupad ang batas nang may integridad at malasakit para sa kapakanan ng bawat Caviteño."

ARESTADO NG GENERAL TRIAS PNP ANG MOST WANTED PERSON SA ROSARIO, BATANGAS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Arestado ng mga tauhan ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang Rank No. 3 City Most Wanted Person, sa isang operasyon na isinagawa sa Rosario, Batangas, noong alas-5:30 ng hapon ng Nobyembre 12, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS ang akusado bilang si alyas "Edme", at nakatira sa Rosario, Batangas.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias CCPS gamit ang

Alternative Recording Device. Nakuha ang akto ng pag-aresto batay sa Warrant of Arrest para sa Violation of Section 12, Article II ng RA 9165, na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 88, Cavite City, Cavite para sa service of sentence.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay pansamantalang nakakulong sa General Trias PNP Custodial Facility, Brgy. Bagumbayan, General Trias City, Cavite. Mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director, Cavite PPO. "Ang matagumpay na pag-aresto na ito ay patunay ng dedikasyon ng ating mga tauhan sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at seguridad sa ating mga komunidad. Patuloy ang Cavite PNP sa pagtupad sa tungkulin nito laban sa krimen at ilegal na droga, at pinapahalagahan natin ang kooperasyon ng bawat mamamayan para sa mas ligtas na Cavite."

ARESTADO NG DASMARINAS CCPS ANG ISANG CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang City Most Wanted Person ang naaresto sa isinagawang police operation ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station, sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite dakong alas-12:45 ng tanghali ng Nobyembre 12, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas Mark, at residente ng parehong lugar ng pagkakaaresto.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa laban sa suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa Paglabag sa PD 1612, na inilabas at pirmado ng presiding judge ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 90, Dasmariñas City, Cavite noong Hunyo 9, 2025, na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php120,000.00.

Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Body Worn Camera at Alternative Recording Device upang matiyak

ang dokumentasyon at integridad ng proseso.

Ang akusado ay pansamantalang nakapiit sa Custodial Facility ng Dasmariñas CCPS at ang warrant of arrest ay isasauli sa hukuman ng pinagmulan para sa tamang dokumentasyon.

Mensahe mula kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director, Cavite PPO. "Ang pagkakaaresto sa akusado ay patunay ng ating patuloy na pagsisikap na mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa ating mga komunidad. Pinapakita nito ang dedikasyon ng Cavite PNP sa pagtupad ng batas at sa pagpapanatili ng tiwala ng publiko sa ating hanay. Patuloy nating palalakasin ang ating koordinasyon sa mga lokal na yunit ng pulisya upang masiguro na ang sinumang lumalabag sa batas ay mapaparusahan at maipapakita ang hustisya sa ating mga kababayan."

MOST WANTED SA CAVITE, ARESTADO NG ROSARIO PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Rosario Municipal Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa Rosario, Cavite dakong 12:00 ng tanghali ng Nobyembre 11, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ARDIE O BAGAMAN, Hepe ng Rosario MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Jon", residente ng Rosario, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng Warrant at Tracker Team ng Rosario MPS sa ilalim ng direktang superbisyon ni PLTCOL BAGAMAN ang operasyon na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Acts of Lasciviousness Under Art. 336 of the

RPC in relation to Sec. 5(B) of R.A. 7610, na may inirerekomendang piyansa na Php200,000.00.

Ang operasyon ay naisagawa gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) bilang dokumentasyon, at ang akusado ay maayos na binasahan ng 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 mga Most Wanted Persons ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng ating mga kapulisan sa paghahatid ng hustisya at pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan sa buong Cavite."

TANZA COPS QUICKLY AID
MAN SUFFERING SEIZURE

The Philippine National Police (PNP), under the leadership of Acting Chief PNP, Police Lieutenant General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr., continues to demonstrate genuine compassion and quick response in times of need—this time through the swift actions of two patrollers from the Tanza Municipal Police Station in Cavite.

On November 9, 2025, at around 9:25 AM, PSSg Julain and PSSg Sarip were conducting routine patrols in Barangay Bagtas, Tanza, when concerned residents flagged them down about a man who had suddenly collapsed and was showing signs of an epileptic seizure.

Without hesitation, the officers immediately rushed to the scene, where they found the man convulsing on the ground. Acting with urgency and care, they secured the area, placed the man in a safe position to prevent injury, and ensured that his airway remained unobstructed until further medical help arrived.

Their prompt action prevented further harm and stabilized the situation, earning appreciation from nearby residents who witnessed the incident. Acting Chief PNP PLTGEN Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. lauded the two patrollers, saying, “The true measure of service is not only seen in major operations or arrests, but also in moments when our police officers extend help to those in distress. PSSg Julain and PSSg Sarip showed the essence of public service.”

PNP Spokesperson and Chief PIO, PBGEN Randulf T. Tuaño, also commended the act, emphasizing that these everyday acts of kindness

reflect the kind of policing the organization strives to uphold.

“Moments like these remind us that policing goes beyond enforcing the law. It is also about compassion and being the first to respond when someone needs help. Every police officer who serves with heart strengthens the image of a more humane and caring PNP,” said PBGEN Tuaño. The PNP encourages its personnel nationwide to continue embodying compassion, readiness, and dedication—values that define a Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas: Serbisyon Mabilis, Tapat at Nararamdaman.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
DISTRIBUTED TO 2,542
ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN

A total of 2,542 Iskolar ng Lalawigan from Cavite State University—Carmona Campus received their educational assistance during the payout held on November 12, at the CarSiGMA Gymnasium in the City of Carmona. The initiative underscores the Provincial Government of Cavite’s continued commitment to supporting students in their academic journey.

Governor Abeng Remulla and Vice Governor Ram Revilla personally graced the event, delivering messages of encouragement and reiterating the provincial leadership’s dedication to expanding educational opportunities for Caviteño youth.

Local leaders also showed strong support through their presence, including Carmona City Mayor Dahlia Loyola, 5th District Representative

PGC DISTRIBUTED
ASSISTANCE TO 100
NEWBORN SCREENING
CONTINUITY CLINIC PATIENTS

The Provincial Government of Cavite extended its continued support to child health and welfare through the distribution of financial assistance to 100 Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC) patients on November 12, 2025, at the New Provincial Government Center.

Each beneficiary received ₱5,000, aimed at helping families sustain the medical needs and ongoing care of children enrolled in the continuity clinic.

Representing Governor Abeng Remulla, Provincial Administrator Gilbert V. Gandia led the activity

Roy Loyola, Board Members Ilee Jane Reyes and Aidel Paul Belamide, and members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod. Their collective attendance highlighted the shared vision of strengthening education as a pathway to development.

During the program, provincial officials expressed their pride in the scholars’ efforts and emphasized the importance of accessible education in shaping the future workforce. The financial assistance provided aims to ease students’ academic expenses and empower them to focus more on their studies.

The distribution concluded successfully, giving students renewed motivation to pursue excellence and contribute to the progress of Cavite. — **OPIO**

and reaffirmed the provincial government’s commitment to improving child healthcare services. He also emphasized the importance of early detection and proper management of congenital disorders through the Newborn Screening Program.

Also in attendance were Dr. Maria Victoria S. Torres, OIC – Satellite Hospital and Head, Family Health Unit, and Ms. Helen Jariel, Development Management Officer IV-Provincial DOH Office, who both expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the provincial government for its unwavering support in ensuring continuous care for newborn patients. They highlighted how the assistance greatly eases the burden of families navigating long-term medical interventions for their children.

As part of the program, Ms. Jhonalyn D. Bantigue, Follow-up Nurse – (NBSCC), provided a brief background on the Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic and discussed the process of availing financial assistance, ensuring that parents clearly understand the services and support available to them.

To formally conclude the activity, Ms. Felipa Servañez delivered the closing message, extending appreciation to all stakeholders and reiterating the shared goal of safeguarding the health and future of Caviteño children.

The initiative reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite’s ongoing mission to promote accessible and responsive healthcare for every Cavite family, especially during the crucial early stages of a child’s life. — **OPIO**

EDITORIAL

Sama-samang Kilos-Protesta
ng mga Pilipino

Kilos-protesta kontra-katiwalian, hindi lamang sa Metro Manila isinagawa. Ang kilos-protestang ito ay isinagawa rin maging sa iba’t-ibang panig ng bansa.

Ang kilos-protestang ito ay isang pahiwatig na mulat ang mga mata ng mga mamamayan ukol sa katiwaliang nagaganap. Bukas ang kanilang mga utak at mata at hindi basta-basta isinasawalang bahala ang mga ganitong isyu. Isang malaking problema sa bansa ang korapsyon at ang pagkakaroon ng solusyon nito ay magmumula rin sa paggamit sa tama ng ating mga karapatan, lalo na ang karampatang ihayag ang ating ekspresyon ukol sa nangyayari sa ating bansa.

Sa ganitong paraan ay makikita ang pagkakaisa at lubhang kagustuhan ng mga mamamayan na puksain ang korapsyon sa ating bansa. Kaya sana, hayaan na magkaroon ng sapat na kalayaan ang mga Pilipino na ihayag nang payapa ang kanilang nararamdaman ng walang takot ukol sa mga suliranin sa katiwalian.

CAVITE
GAZETTE
PUBLISHING

ANABELLE K. DUMALI
Publisher / Editor in Chief

JOHN RENNIEL K. DUMALI
Circulation Manager

BRYAN V. DE LUNA
Editor Consultant

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

Ang **CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING** ay inilathala tuwing araw ng Martes na may tanggapan sa 217 Ligas 1, Bacoor, Cavite.

Contact #: 09954361217

Email: cavitegazette@gmail.com

PAUNAWA: Ang dyaryong ito ay natanggap ng kontribusyon na balita, artikulo sariling pananaw o opinyon ng mga kolumnista ang nilalaman ng kanilang mga artikulo ay wala pong kinalaman at pananagutan dito ang pamunuan ng publishing

ADVERTISING RATES
COMMERCIAL - - - - P200/COL.CM
LEGAL NOTICES - - - P160/COL.CM

P21-M SMUGGLED CIGARETTES SEIZED IN ZAMBO CITY; 7 NABBED

MANILA — Authorities arrested seven individuals and seized PHP21 million worth of smuggled cigarettes in a maritime operation in Zamboanga City, the Philippine National Police (PNP) reported Thursday. Police discovered the contraband during a seaborne operation on Wednesday afternoon, according to acting PNP chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. in a statement.

He said the police intercepted two motorized boats locally known as "Jungkung" that were spotted navigating suspiciously near Sta. Cruz Island and, upon

inspection, discovered 300 master cases of smuggled cigarettes.

The suspects, all adult males, were arrested while the seized items were brought to Zamboanga City Police Station 11 for documentation and proper disposition.

"This successful operation is a clear proof of the discipline, alertness, and teamwork of our PNP personnel," Nartatez said.

"Their collective effort prevented the illegal transport of millions worth of smuggled goods — protecting our communities and upholding the integrity of our borders." (PNA) **BY CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN**

PH, JAPAN ALIGN MARINE PROTECTION WORK WITH HIGH SEAS TREATY — DFA

MANILA — The Philippines and Japan are working to align their marine conservation initiatives with the United Nations High Seas Treaty, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Thursday.

The DFA said both countries agreed to strengthen cooperation on protecting the marine environment and ensuring the sustainable use of marine resources during the 8th Philippines-Japan Maritime Dialogue held in Tokyo on Nov. 6 to 7.

In a statement Thursday, the DFA noted that the dialogue covered a wide range of maritime issues, including safety of navigation, marine environmental protection, and cooperation in line with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the recently adopted UN High Seas Treaty, formally known as the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ).

The Philippine government deposited its ratification instrument for the BBNJ,

also known as the High Seas Treaty, last Sept. 23. The BBNJ is the first legally binding international accord dedicated to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in the high seas.

It aims to establish a framework for creating marine protected areas, conducting environmental impact assessments, and ensuring a fair sharing of benefits from marine genetic resources.

In the meeting, the sides also discussed common challenges faced by the countries and agreed to intensify cooperation for a "free and open Indo-Pacific and a stable maritime domain based on the rule of law."

The countries likewise highlighted the upcoming 10th Anniversary of the 2016 Arbitral Award, which definitively settled the status of the maritime entitlements of the Philippines in the West Philippine Sea and South China Sea.

The two sides expressed support for initiatives to synchronize efforts of

DHSUD TO LGUS: STRICTLY ENFORCE NO-BUILD ZONES, CLIMATE-RESILIENT PLAN

MANILA — The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) on Thursday urged local government units (LGUs) to strictly enforce no-build zones and strengthen the implementation of climate-resilient land use planning to help prevent flooding and other disasters in vulnerable areas.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview, DHSUD Undersecretary Henry Yap said the recent flooding in several parts of the country, including Cebu, can be attributed to the loss of forest cover and poor upland management. "Ang mga bundok po natin ay kakaunti na lang iyong mga forest cover. Dahil dito, mabilis po iyong pagbaba noong tubig galing sa uplands natin. (Our mountains now have very little forest cover. Because of this, rainwater quickly flows down from uplands, overwhelming our drainage systems)," Yap said.

He cited data showing that during the onslaught of Typhoon Tino (international name Kalmaegi), Cebu received over 180 millimeters of rainfall in a 24-hour period between

like-minded countries to promote a rules-based order.

The DFA said Japan looked forward to the Philippines' chairship of ASEAN in 2026, and both sides expressed confidence in a stronger Manila-Tokyo partnership in the years to come.

The maritime dialogue was co-chaired by DFA Assistant Secretary Emmanuel Donato Guzman of the Maritime and Oceans Affairs Office, and Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Deputy Director-General Kyoko Hokugo of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau.

The maritime dialogue follows the Philippines-Japan Vice-Ministerial Dialogue convened last Oct. 2. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

Nov. 3 and 4—higher than the province's average monthly rainfall of 130 millimeters.

Yap emphasized the need to review the permits issued in upland areas, noting that flood control projects alone cannot solve the problem.

Additionally, waterways that can be widened must be identified, and settlements must be properly managed.

In connection with this, the government is now implementing a "whole-of-government approach" to address the problem, with agencies such as the DHSUD, National Housing Authority, Department of Public Works and Highways, and local government units (LGUs) working together.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered all agencies to coordinate closely—from the relocation of residents to the clearing of drainage systems.

Yap said LGUs must update their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) to incorporate climate and geohazard data from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The DHSUD provides technical assistance to LGUs in preparing CLUPs, particularly those that lack the capacity to hire consultants.

It also released guidelines on urban design, open spaces, and green and resilient settlements.

On the relocation of families living in danger zones, Yap said the DHSUD ensures coordination with other agencies to provide safe, complete, and livable communities.

He added that the NHA has inventoried completed but unoccupied housing units, following Marcos's directive to prioritize their distribution to qualified beneficiaries.

The DHSUD is ready to help LGUs prepare their climate-responsive plans, he said. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

COMELEC EYES SALN CHECK AFTER SOCE DECLARATIONS

MANILA — The Commission on Elections (Comelec) is looking at the Statements of Contributions and Expenditures (SOCES) of candidates to check whether their declarations with regard to their campaign contributions are correct.

According to Comelec Chairperson George Garcia, the checking is not only focused on a certain candidate but on all those who participated in the polls.

"It's safe to say that the SOCES are being looked at individually regarding declarations and correct declarations. It would be nice to have public statements, at least something to base it on," he said in an interview on

Thursday.

At the same time, Garcia noted that they are looking at the possibility of asking for the candidates' Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN).

"We are studying on how to make a request. Is it to the agency where the personality belongs or to the Office of the Ombudsman?" he said. Election offense, perjury and falsification of public documents are the possible penalties for misdeclaration in the SOCE.

"The Comelec's purpose is not to remove them. Criminal cases. Removal is up to the agencies or departments to which they belong," the Comelec chair added. (PNA) **BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

GSIS WILLING TO PROLONG RELIEF EFFORTS FOR MEMBERS' FASTER RECOVERY

MANILA — The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) on Thursday said it is prepared to recommend an extension of its ongoing financial relief program if many members continue to struggle in the coming months.

In an interview with Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon, GSIS Vice President for Corporate Communications Marge Jorillo said the program is currently set to run until Feb. 7, 2026, but the pension fund is ready to adjust if post-calamity recovery remains difficult for its members.

"Hanggang Feb. 7, 2026 po na itatakbo namin ang programa, at kung sakali naman pong kailangan pang habaan o palawigin ay amin naman pong iri-recommend iyan sa aming governing board, sa aming board of trustees (The program will run until Feb. 7, 2026, and if it needs to be extended, we will recommend it to our governing board, our board of trustees)," Jorillo said.

Jorillo reiterated that only

qualified active members may avail of the program. To be eligible, applicants must have no administrative or criminal cases, must not be on leave without pay, and must maintain at least PHP5,000 in net take-home pay, as mandated by law.

"Dapat active member... at gaya nga po ng nasabi ko kanina, dapat po may matitirang limang libo sa kanilang suweldo dahil nakasaad po ito sa batas (Members must be active... and as I mentioned earlier, they must have at least PHP5,000 left in their salary because this is required by law)," she said. She added that GSIS continues to monitor the situation of government workers in typhoon-affected areas to determine whether additional relief measures are needed.

The interview also highlighted the government's ongoing coordination efforts to support public sector employees rebuilding homes and livelihoods after recent calamities. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

SC: VLOGGERS' FREEDOM OF SPEECH NOT VIOLATED IN CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) has ruled that a congressional inquiry on the spread of fake news online did not violate the right to free speech of vloggers invited as resource persons.

In a decision made public Thursday, the SC En Banc dismissed the petition filed by Ernesto Abines Jr. and others asking it to prohibit the House of Representatives from requiring them to attend legislative inquiries involving their social media posts.

The petitioners questioned the validity of the hearings, arguing before the SC that the inquiries violated their right to free speech, and that the House Tri-Committee humiliated and insulted them.

They claimed that the proceedings aimed to silence them and regulate their social media content, creating a chilling effect on free expression.

The SC disagreed, ruling that there was no violation of the vloggers' right to free speech.

Article III, Section 4 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech, expression, and the press as pillars of a democratic society.

The SC said these rights have two aspects -- freedom from prior restraint or government censorship, and freedom from subsequent punishment. "While these rights may be restricted, any regulation must be aligned with legitimate objectives. In this case, simply inviting the vloggers as resource persons did not violate their freedom of expression," the SC said.

"The invitation did not regulate what they said or how they expressed themselves. Congress, as part of its functions, only wanted to gather information for crafting laws, not to punish anyone for spreading 'fake news' or to suppress speech," it added.

The SC ruled that Congress cannot be prevented from inviting resource persons to

legislative inquiries just because the topic involves speech.

Congress, it said, has the power to enact laws penalizing forms of speech that are not protected under the Constitution, such as those that create disorder or threaten society.

It also ruled that Rep. Robert Ace Barbers' privilege speeches, which initiated the congressional hearings, did not violate petitioners' freedom of expression.

"His speeches were not meant to silence or punish anyone. He delivered the speeches in his official capacity as a Member of the House, addressing a serious social problem -- the deliberate spread of misinformation that harms not only public officials, but also ordinary citizens," the SC said.

The SC also emphasized that Congress has broad authority to regulate matters for the common good.

In this case, the House acted within its power when it conducted an inquiry to find ways to address the spread of false or misleading information, which can undermine public trust and threaten social stability, it said.

"The dangers of the proliferation of false information and narratives are not difficult to imagine, and the need to address this issue most promptly is truly imperative. Allowing the unregulated dissemination of erroneous facts will ultimately degrade trust among the people and threaten the stability and reliability of day-to-day transactions," the SC said.

However, the SC noted that some lawmakers' questioning during the hearings was unduly harsh or demeaning.

It emphasized that resource speakers are entitled to their constitutional rights and should be treated with courtesy and respect during legislative inquiries. (PNA) / **BY BENJAMIN PULTA**

US MILITARY SENDS ASSETS TO HELP PH IN RESPONSE EFFORTS

MANILA – The United States Military has deployed various assets to support the Philippines' government's response efforts after two devastating typhoons that hit the country.

"I have been thoroughly impressed by the preparedness and forward-leaning measures taken by the Philippine government during this situation, and we will support the lead of our Philippine counterparts as we carry out this relief mission together as a fully-aligned team," said US Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Robert Brodie, the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade commanding general.

"Support to our friends, allies, and partners, and their people in a time of need, is non-negotiable. Together, we are overcoming distance, weather, and logistical challenges to save lives," he added.

The US Indo-Pacific Command on Thursday said its relief operations for communities hit by Typhoon Tino (international Kalmaegi) and Super Typhoon Uwan (international name Fung-wong) were launched in response to a request from

the Philippine government. The US military is working in close coordination with the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, and the Office of Civil Defense in conducting the relief operations. It has been in mission planning with the Philippines since Nov. 5.

"This effort highlights the long-standing US-Philippine Alliance and the shared commitment to regional resilience and humanitarian assistance," the US Indo-Pacific Command said.

Two powerful typhoons left a trail of destruction across the Philippines, leaving thousands displaced and more than 200 killed.

Typhoon Tino made landfall on Nov. 4 and brought strong winds and heavy rains that triggered massive flooding in the Visayas and Mindanao, specifically Cebu.

Super Typhoon Uwan, meanwhile, smashed into the archipelago over the weekend, causing huge and damaging storm surges in several coastal towns in Northern Luzon. (PNA) / **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

SENATOR SEEKS EXPANDED 4PS, HIGHER CASH GRANTS

MANILA – Senator Jinggoy Estrada has filed a measure seeking to expand the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and increase cash grants to ensure that the government's flagship anti-poverty initiative remains responsive to the needs of Filipino families.

In a news release Thursday, Estrada said inflation has eroded the value of 4Ps grants and exposed gaps in program implementation, prompting the need for a more inclusive and comprehensive approach under Senate Bill 1487, or the proposed Expanded Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (E4Ps) Act.

"Millions of Filipinos have already benefited from the 4Ps, but the cash grants and mechanisms that sustain the program have not kept up with inflation and present realities," he said. "Through this bill, we want to make sure that the program continues to empower – not just assist – our most vulnerable sectors."

A 2024 study by the Congressional Policy and Budget Research Department showed that the real value of 4Ps

grants declined by about 30 percent since 2019.

Senate Bill 1487 proposes a PHP200 to PHP250 increase in grant amounts, new conditional cash grant provisions, and a mandatory yearly review and adjustment based on inflation.

Key reforms under the bill include extending household coverage from seven to 10 years for families who remain poor after the regular program cycle; raising the maximum age of eligible child-beneficiaries from 18 to 22; including households with undernourished children aged 0 to 6; and prioritizing "food poor" families in beneficiary selection.

Estrada also pushed for adult education as an added program condition, recognizing the need to equip parents and adult household members with skills that support long-term livelihood.

Adult beneficiaries may enroll in Alternative Learning System classes or take entrepreneurship and skills training through TESDA, supported by a community mobilization grant to cover meals and transportation. (PNA) / **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

ILOCOS, W. VISAYAS WORKERS, 'KASAMBAHAYS' TO GET WAGE HIKE

MANILA – Minimum wage earners in Ilocos and Western Visayas will see higher wages this month, following the issuance of Wage Orders by their respective Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Boards (RTWPBs), the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) said Thursday.

In Ilocos region, the approved daily wage increase is PHP45 for the non-agriculture sector employing less than 10 employees and the agriculture sector, increasing their daily minimum wage to PHP480, or PHP12,520 per month.

For the non-agriculture sector employing 10 or more employees, the

increase is PHP37, raising their daily minimum wage to PHP505, or PHP13,172 per month.

In Western Visayas, the approved daily pay hike is PHP37 for the non-agriculture, industrial, and commercial sector employing more than 10 workers, bringing their daily minimum wage to PHP550 daily or PHP14,346 per month.

For those in the same sector but employing 10 workers or less, the increase is PHP40, bringing the daily minimum wage to PHP525 daily or PHP13,694 per month.

Meanwhile, workers in the agriculture sector will receive an additional PHP40, bringing the daily minimum wage to PHP520 or PHP13,563 per month.

Meanwhile, domestic workers or "kasambahay" in Ilocos and Western Visayas will also receive monthly increases of PHP700 and PHP500, respectively, covering an estimated 259,819 domestic workers.

The increases pegged the monthly minimum wage rate in Ilocos Region to PHP6,700 and PHP6,500 in Western Visayas.

Wage Order Nos. RB1-24 and RB1-DW-6 of RTWPB-I and Wage Order Nos. RBVI-29 and RBVI-DW-07 of RTWPB VI will take effect Nov. 19, 2025, 15 days after their publication on Nov. 3.

The new wage orders align with the continuing directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. for the timely and regular review of

regional minimum wage rates to reduce uncertainty, enhance fairness for all stakeholders, and foster a stronger link between productivity and wages.

The DOLE noted that retail and service establishments regularly employing not more than 10 workers, and enterprises affected by natural calamities and/or human-induced disasters, may apply for exemption from the wage increase until Jan. 17, 2026.

Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBEs) with valid Certificates of Authority from the Department of Trade and Industry are not covered by the minimum wage law. (PNA) / **BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

BUKIDNON ARTISANS URGE SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS ARTS, CULTURE-BASED GROWTH

MALAYBALAY CITY (PIA) — The Bukidnon Creatives Guild urged the government and private sectors to support indigenous arts as a source of livelihood, cultural preservation, and sustainable growth.

Guild President and international artist Waway Saway said Indigenous crafts such as weaving, basketry, embroidery, and traditional musical instruments reflect tribal roots and can develop into creative industries with proper support.

“Creative industries of Indigenous peoples are tied to their culture. We need to document these skills and coordinate aid from agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),” Saway said during the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) Bukidnon Interaction program, Oct. 19.

He linked indigenous creativity to agriculture and tourism, citing examples such as packaging coffee products in bamboo boxes with tribal designs or reviving traditional instruments for performances and trade. “If these traditions have economic value, young people will continue them,” he said.

Saway urged local governments to establish Creative Industry Councils in every municipality to help manage and promote indigenous products. He drafted proposed ordinances and shared them with local legislators to channel DTI assistance and ensure the sustainability of Indigenous industries.

He also envisioned Bukidnon as a center for soil painting and other Indigenous art forms, similar to how Aboriginal art in Australia gained international recognition. “Promoting tribal designs

through exhibitions and films could preserve heritage while creating new livelihood opportunities,” he said.

Saway said sustainability depends on protecting natural resources such as bamboo and rattan, which are key materials for weaving and crafts. He urged communities, businesses, and government agencies to provide artisans with tools, training, and market access.

“With proper support, Indigenous communities can transform their culture into an asset for economic growth, environmental protection, and cultural pride. This will not only sustain their traditions but also drive Bukidnon’s overall development,” Saway said. (MBD, GIP/PIA-10/Bukidnon)/ **BY MICHAEL B. DAMING**

DAR TEACHES ILOILO ARBS ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS

ILOILO CITY (PIA) — The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR)—Iloilo remains committed to increasing efforts to enhance the entrepreneurial skills of agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) in the province, paving the way to creating more sustainable livelihood opportunities to improve their economy.

Under the Farm Business School (FBS) program of DAR, 30 ARBs from the Aglibacao-Lonoy Agrarian Reform Cooperative completed the 17 comprehensive learning sessions on October 17.

The FBS program was designed to transform ARBs into farmer-entrepreneurs and enable them to access greater value in the market chain, according to DAR – Iloilo.

MORE VULNERABLE SECTORS IN ABRA BENEFIT FROM BENTENG BIGAS PROGRAM

BANGUED, Abra (PIA) — More vulnerable sectors in Abra can now benefit from the Benteng Bigas Meron Na program under the National Food Authority (NFA).

NFA-Ilocos Norte Cluster Manager Engr. Jonathan Corpuz shared that the expanded Benteng Bigas Program will cover senior citizens, Persons with Disability (PWDs), solo parents, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiaries, farmers, and tricycle and jeepney drivers.

“Daytoy ket makatulong ti kailian tayo ket nu makalakotayo ket adda space ti bodega tayo ta makagatang tayo pay from our local farmers,” he explained.

Corpuz said that farmers need only to present their Registry System for Basic

Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) IDs at the NFA-Abra in Calaba, Bangued to buy a maximum of 50 kilos of rice per month until December at P20 per kilo. Meanwhile, senior citizens, solo parents, PWDs, 4Ps members, and jeepney and tricycle drivers can claim a maximum of 30 kilos per month at 10 kilos per purchase.

“For senior citizens i-present da lang ti senior citizen ID da kasta met kadagiti 4Ps members, solo parents, ken PWDs. Dagiti tricycle ken jeepney drivers can present their LTFRB IDs to claim the Benteng Bigas,” he said.

Corpuz also urged local farmers to sell their produce to the NFA which buys clean and dry palay at P23 per kilo compared to the P16 and P17 per kilo buying price of private traders and dealers.

He also said that the NFA no longer buys palay from middlemen or traders but purchases directly from local farmers.

The Benteng Bigas, Meron Na is among the flagship programs of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure affordable food is available for Filipinos, especially those in the vulnerable sectors. (JJMT, PIA-CAR, Abra) **BY JAMIE JOIE MALINGAN**

On the other hand, Beare congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to become pillars of agricultural progress in their community.

The Aglibacao-Lonoy Agrarian Reform Cooperative was organized in 2013 and has 54 members, of which 31 are active, coming from the villages of Aglibacao and Lonoy in Calinog town. (AAL/LAF/PIA Iloilo) **BY LILIBETH A. FRENCH**

INSTALLATION OF HIGHER- CAPACITY PIPELINES SEEN TO RESOLVE MARINDUQUE TOWN’S WATER ISSUES

BOAC, Marinduque (PIA)

— The ongoing excavation works in several barangays of Boac, which is causing heavy traffic and daily congestion for residents, are part of a major water system upgrade being implemented by water company-Maynilad Boac to resolve water issues in the area.

Maynilad Boac is the lone water provider in the municipality operating under Amayi Water Solutions, Inc.

The activity, which has secured all required permits from Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (EMB-DENR), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Provincial Engineering Office, the Municipal Engineering Office, and Sanguniang Barangays, involves the installation of higher-capacity pipelines to replace old lines and meet the municipality’s rising water demand. The first phase covers 16 kilometers of the total 77-kilometer pipeline network to be laid under the long-term improvement program.

Residents, students, and employees have reported travel delays due to road diggings. The water company acknowledged the inconvenience but emphasized that the upgrade will result in a more reliable and sustained water service for the municipality.

In a statement, Maynilad Boac General Manager Janice A. Malundas said the ongoing infrastructure work is long overdue and essential to ensuring water security.

“Ang nakikita ng Boacaños

at Marinduqueños ngayon sa ginagawa ng Maynilad Boac ay abala sa normal na daily routine. Ang realidad ay resulta ito ng matagal na kakulangan sa infrastructure na makakapag-supply at tutugon sa kasalukuyan at hinaharap na pangangailangan sa tubig,” Malundas said.

She added that the public can expect improved water pressure, increased supply, and compliance with the Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water once the system upgrade is completed.

“Kasunod ng abala, dadaloy din ang ginhawa. Salamat sa pang-unawa, dadaloy din ang ginhawa. Hangad ng Maynilad Boac na makapagbigay ng serbisyo at pagbabago sa buhay ng Boacanos at Marinduqueños,” she added.

The project also includes the development of eight new deep wells, rehabilitation of existing wells, and upgrades to water treatment facilities. Once operational, the company will increase its water supply enabling 24-hour water availability—an improvement from the current 18-hour supply.

Ten barangays are currently affected by excavation works, namely Daig, Tampus, Isok I, Isok II, San Miguel, Mercado, Murallon, Malusak, and Santol.

The next phase of the project will cover additional barangays, including Mataas na Bayan, the remaining portion of Santol, Mansiwat, Bangbangalon, Laylay, Ihatub, Balaring, Caganhao and Amosing. (JRR/JBG/PIA MIMAROPA-Marinduque) **BY JOHN RUEL RAMOS**

RECTO CITES LUMAGUI'S ACHIEVEMENTS AT BIR

MANILA – Finance Secretary Ralph Recto on Thursday thanked former Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Romeo Lumagui Jr., saying his stint at the bureau made it “stronger and more credible.”

In a statement issued a day after Presidential Communications Office acting Secretary Dave Gomez announced the appointment of Finance Undersecretary Charlito Martin Mendoza as the new BIR chief, Recto cited Lumagui's contribution in ensuring adequate financing for the government.

“I thank Commissioner Jun for being a great partner and a fearless leader in our shared effort to ensure a reliable revenue flow for our people and to reform the tax system. Under his leadership, we have seen a stronger and more credible BIR. Nagpapasalamat ako

sa kaniyang mahusay at tapat na paglilingkod sa sambayanang Pilipino (I thank him for his capable and honest service to the Filipino people),” he said. “Rest assured, the BIR is in good hands as Commissioner Charlie will uphold the same integrity and excellence he has exemplified.”

Lumagui was appointed in November 2022. He pushed for the agency's Digital Transformation Program (DX), which modernized tax administration, streamlined processes, and strengthened taxpayer compliance.

Other programs under his term include the Online Registration and Update System (ORUS), a web-based platform providing end-to-end registration and taxpayer information management; the implementation of the Run After Fake Transactions

RE HOLDING FIRM CREATES NEW ENTITY FOR RETAIL ELECTRICITY MARKET

MANILA – Alternergy Holdings Corporation (ALTER) announced Thursday it has opened a new entity that will focus on retail electricity supply as part of its expansion plans, citing growth opportunities in this segment.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the company

(RAFT) drive, which saw the filing of civil, criminal, and administrative cases against individuals involved in selling and use of ghost receipts; and the strengthened drive against the illicit trade of excisable goods, such as cigarettes and vapes.

Recto said these programs would be bolstered under the new leadership, as Mendoza is a “steady hand and reform-driven leader.”

“We will miss Usec. (Undersecretary) Charlie at the DOF, but I believe the BIR needs him more at this time. I trust that under his leadership, the BIR will meet and even exceed our revenue targets. Above all, I trust that he will always keep the well-being of our taxpayers at the heart of all your efforts,” he said.

Mendoza was a former District Collector for the Bureau of Customs - Port of Cebu from July 2019 to October 2022, whose term saw the office identified as the first customs collection district to have its main port and all subports ISO 9001:2015-certified.

He is a licensed geodetic engineer, having earned a degree in Geodetic Engineering from the University of the Philippines. He finished his Bachelor of Laws degree from San Beda University and ranked third in the 2004 Philippine Bar Examination. (With a report from Joann Villanueva/**PNA**) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

that the government's bid to further increase the share of RE in the country's total energy mix is a good boost to Siemens' domestic business. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

said the Securities and Exchange Commission has approved the creation of ALTER Power RES, Inc. (ALTER Power), eyed to supply renewable energy (RE) to end-users.

ALTER is also set to register ALTER Power with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to secure a retail electricity supplier (RES) license.

“The creation of ALTER Power is part of Alternergy's overall expansion plans. We aim to be a supplier of choice by end-users that place considerable value to sustainability,” Gerry Magbanua, president of ALTER and ALTER Power, said in a regulatory filing. Citing the steady growth of the retail electricity market for several years now, Magbanua said demand is around 6,500 megawatts as of August this year.

This demand is around 45 percent of the total system peak in the domestic market, he said, but added current players are “vertically integrated companies which are in the generation, distribution, supply sectors.”

“With ALTER Power, we hope to create and stimulate greater competition and supplier diversity in the retail electricity market,” he said. Meanwhile, ALTER said stable growth of its 12.5 megawatts-peak solar farm in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental, the Kirahon Solar, helped drove the company's net income in the first quarter of fiscal year 2026 to PHP22 million, up 26 percent in the same period during the previous fiscal year.

ALTER'S fiscal year starts on July 1 and ends on June 20 the following year. Its first quarter runs from July 1 to end-September.

“This growth was achieved despite lower-than-expected operating revenues from the Palau Solar PV (photovoltaic) + Battery Energy Storage System, which was impacted by reduced solar irradiation,” it said, referring to its project in

ERC SET TO REVIEW RULES FOR SETTING RETAIL POWER RATES

MANILA – The Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) is set to review the implementation of policies regarding the ineligible recovery of associated generation cost on power supply agreements (PSAs) in setting retail power rates to ensure that these follow the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (EPIRA) of 2001.

During an open meeting on Thursday, streamed online through its Facebook page, ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Francis Saturnino Juan cited the large number of cases involving ineligible PSAs as well as those with over and under recoveries.

He said the issue started around 2009 when more PSAs were filed with the ERC, using previous rules that allow distribution utilities (DUs) and power

generation firms to implement a PSA using ERC-approved tariff rates pegged on the National Power Corporation's (NAPOCOR) Portfolio of Plans.

Under the said Portfolio of Plan, power rates are subsidized by the NAPOCOR.

He, however, said the issue cropped up when more generation companies started to operate, and entered PSAs with the DUs to ensure a market for their prospective supply and to secure funding for the construction of new power plants.

This resulted in the increase in the number of PSAs implemented without prior approval of the ERC, with some of the contacts having a renewal clause that allows the continuation of the PSAs for up to two years without any ERC approval.

With the implementation of the competitive selection process (CSP), which requires all PSAs of DUs to undergo a transparent and competitive bidding process, Juan said PSA implementation without prior ERC confirmation and approval was stopped in June 2015.

Thus, the issue about who should shoulder the cost of the generation charge to set the retail rate, and the rising applications for reconsideration of the PSAs.

“In determining the generation charge or the generation component of the retail rate, we should still be guided by the principle of full recovery of just (and) prudent economic cost,” he said.

He said a generation company will not produce power without any cost, but a DUs will not shoulder it. This also resulted in a rise in emergency PSAs, which have higher generation rates.

“I will propose that we study and revisit the existing policy of the Commission regarding ineligible recovery of associated generation cost on ineligible power supply agreements to improve our policies and heed what is the standard set under Section 25 of the EPIRA,” he said, referring to the setting of retail power rates. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

SIEMENS EXEC EYES FURTHER GROWTH AS MORE PH FIRMS TURN TO SMART INFRA

MANILA – An official of Siemens is optimistic about the sustained growth of their operations in the Philippines as more domestic players turn to smart infrastructure.

Fabian Bergeron, Siemens Inc. Philippines President and Chief Executive Officer, in an interview during the ceremonial turnover of command from his predecessor, Jose Marie Enrico Buergo, on Tuesday evening, said decarbonization moves of more power producers in the country bolster Siemens' business since it provides components and technologies aimed to help power producers reduce their carbon footprint.

He noted that while their business of providing key components to power grids is just a portion of their total operations in the country, it is “a key portion” and is expected to remain robust as more companies automate.

He disclosed that they

are currently in talks with potential clients for a technology that will remove a potent greenhouse gas called sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) and instead use clean air in producing power.

“We have done it already with other customers in other countries. (The) Philippines, I think, will be one of the next ones to adopt this technology to decarbonize their operations. That's for smart infrastructure. Factory automation is a low-hanging fruit,” he told journalists.

“We have many technologies that help customers reduce their energy consumption. And when you reduce energy consumption, you reduce your carbon footprint. Everybody is saving money but also helping the climate as a result.”

Bergeron said their investments in renewable energy (RE) are through their partners, but noted

Palau, which to date is the largest solar hybrid project in the Western Pacific.

Carmen Diaz, ALTER chief finance officer, in the same disclosure, said they continue “to exercise strict financial management as we await the start of commercial operations of our projects that would bring steady revenue generation.”

Diaz said consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) rose by 17 percent to PHP89 million from PHP76 million in FY 2025.

“ALTER is focused on completing the construction of our projects. We have started the testing and commissioning of our Hermosa Solar Power Project and (it) is expected to be in commercial operations very soon. We are almost complete in the construction of our Dupinga Run-of-River Power Project while the Tanay and Alabat Wind Power Projects have started installation of the first wind turbines,” she said.

“It is only a matter of time now, these projects are expected to boost ALTER's financial standing.” **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



HEAVY BOMBERS BEAT GENERALS IN NCAA BASKETBALL

MANILA – The Jose Rizal University (JRU) relied on Sean Salvador to prevail over Emilio Aguinaldo College (EAC), 69-66, in the NCAA Season 101 men's basketball tournament at the San Juan Arena on Wednesday.

Salvador fired six triples to finish with a game-high 24 points. He also had seven rebounds, two assists, and a steal.

"I told Sean earlier, he should adjust because he's throwing away a lot of balls," JRU head coach Nani Epondulan said of Salvador's five turnovers. "Maybe with these kinds of games, he will learn and mature early."

Allan Laurenaria chipped in 15 points while Shawn Argente added 12 points as the Heavy Bombers improved their win-loss

record to 6-5 in Group B. Kyle Ochavo scored 19 points for the Generals, who absorbed their second straight loss.

Wilmar Oftana contributed 12 points, six rebounds, three assists, and two steals as EAC remained at the bottom with a 4-6 slate. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

HIDILYN DIAZ BANNERS PH WEIGHTLIFTING TEAM TO THAILAND SEA GAMES

MANILA – Nine weightlifters, led by Olympian Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo, will compete in the Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) in Thailand next month.

Diaz-Naranjo, who delivered the country's first gold medal (55kg) at the Tokyo Olympics, will see action in the 58kg category. Others in the roster are Rosegie Ramos (W 48kg), Jhodie Peralta (W 53kg), Elreen Ann Ando (W 63kg), Kristel Macrohon (W 69kg), Fernando Agad Jr. (M 60kg), Dave Lloyd Pacaldo (M 65 kg), Albert Ian Delos Santos (M 71kg) and John Dexter Tabique (M 94kg). Naranjo-Diaz won back-to-back gold medals in the SEAG held in the Philippines (2019) and Vietnam (2021), but skipped the Cambodia edition (2023) to focus on the Asian Championships, one of the qualifying events for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Peralta pocketed two medals, a gold (snatch) and bronze (clean and jerk), at the 3rd Asian Youth

Games in Bahrain last month, while Ando, a two-time Olympian, won the bronze medal at the 2025 IWF World Championships in Forde, Norway.

Macrohon, a gold medalist at the 2019 SEAG, tallied 236 kg. (105-131) to win three bronze medals at the Asian Weightlifting Championships in Zhejiang, China last May. The Philippines also secured seven silver medals -- three each from Ando and Ramos, and one from Agad.

Delos Santos is optimistic about his debut in the SEAG, scheduled from Dec. 9 to 22.

"It's a dream to win the gold medal in the SEA Games. I will do my best to make it happen," the second year financial management student from Universidad de Zamboanga said in an interview Thursday.

Despite missing the podium at the World Youth and Junior Championships in Forde, Norway last Oct. 6, Delos Santos registered a world junior record of 185kgs on his third

attempt in the clean and jerk, finishing eighth in the men's 71kg category.

At the World Youth and Junior Championships in Lima, Peru last May, he pocketed the Juniors 67kg title with a total of 309kgs (134-175).

The 5-foot-8 son of former national lifters Alvin and Diwa also captured the gold (clean and jerk) and silver (total) medals in the Junior division of the 2025 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan. In 2023, he won two golds and two silvers in the Youth and Junior men's 61kg divisions in the same tournament held in India.

"As has always been our plan, the SEA Games and the Asian Games are just stepping stones for us. Win or lose, our goal is the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, so the lifters have to prove us they are capable or they will miss the boat," Samahang Weightlifting ng Pilipinas (SWP) President Monico Puentevella said.

Puentevella, who

SPIN DOCTORS CONQUER SEALIONS TO BOOST SPIKERS' TURF SEMIS BID

MANILA – Savouge Aesthetics boosted its semifinal campaign in the Spikers' Turf Invitational Conference after pulling off a 25-14, 25-20, 25-23 victory over PGJC-Navy, at the Paco Arena on Wednesday.

Mark Frederick Calado finished with 13 points, eight receptions, and seven digs as the Spin Doctors improved their record to 4-2.

Reymark Betco also had 13 points, including

an attack that sealed the victory for Savouge after one hour and 26 minutes. After Shawie Caritativo broke a 22-all score with a cross-court hit, an illegal block was called on Abdul Hafiz Bangcola, giving the Spin Doctors match point.

"We really adjusted our rotation. Based on the stats, we saw that we had a lot of errors, and we couldn't kill right away in some rotations. So that's what we're working out. I'm very happy with what I saw

today," said Savouge head coach Sydney Calderon.

Giles Torres and Angelo Reyes contributed nine points each, while Caritativo added eight points for Savouge, which will face defending champion Signal on Friday. Joeven Dela Vega and Greg Dolor finished with 13 and seven points for the Sealions, who dropped their fifth consecutive match. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

NU KEEPS EYES ON SSL UNITY CUP CROWN

MANILA – University of Santo Tomas is expected to bounce back in Game 2 of the Shakey's Super League (SSL) Unity Cup best-of-three title series on Saturday and the flawless National University will be ready.

Starring Samantha Cantada, the Lady Bulldogs pulled off a 15-25, 25-23, 25-17, 13-25, 15-12 victory over the Tigresses in Game 1 to remain unbeaten in 11 outings. NU also moved to within a win of claiming its fourth consecutive crown. "We won Game 1 but we can't relax. We'll rest but relaxing and being

complacent is not allowed because it's not over yet," Cantada said in a news release Thursday.

The Alas Pilipinas U18 standout earned the MVP award for leading NU-Nazareth School to its first-ever title in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League.

On her seniors debut, Cantada was named Best Player when the Lady Bulldogs won the National Invitionals.

UST will bank on Angge Poyos, Regina Jurado, Marga Altea, Xyza Gula, playmaker Cassie Carballo and senior libero Detdet

Pepito in a bid to tie the series.

"The series isn't over yet. We'll come back. There's still a chance and that's what we'll try to get," UST head coach Shaq delos Santos said.

Supporting Cantada are Celine Marsh, Chams Maaya, Kaye Bombita, Vange Alinsug, setter Lams Lamina and defense specialist Shaira Jardio.

Meanwhile, Far Eastern University and Adamson University will fight for the bronze medal also on Saturday. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

3RD FIG ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS MEDALS UNVEILED

MANILA – The Gymnastics Association of the Philippines (GAP) unveiled on Thursday the clam-shaped gold, silver and bronze medals for the winners of the 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships set from Nov. 20 to 24 at the Manila Marriott Hotel in Pasay City.

"We recognize the hard work and effort of our young athletes in striving to gain glory for flag and country. So we created these attractive medals in tribute

to their achievements at the world juniors," GAP president Cynthia Carrion said in a statement.

"More than anything else, every time they look at their medals, our top performers will feel and sense that their feats were worthy of the struggles and challenges they went through in achieving them." Similar in design to the tournament logo, the sparkling medals have the FIG emblem as the "pearl" centerpiece with the "3rd" insignia wrapped around its edges, while silhouettes of a male gymnast on the rings and a female gymnast flipping on the balance beam are above them.

The location, Pasay City, and dates are also engraved into the medals of the competition supported by the Office of the President, Philippine Sports Commission, and

the Department of Tourism. Aside from medals, the podium finishers will also receive a plushie of the official mascot -Bughaw for the boys and Lila for the girls.

"These cute and cuddly mascots are part of our exclusive package in recognizing the gallant feats of these young athletes, who will emerge as the next generation of world gymnastics stars," Carrion said.

Karl Eldrew, the younger brother of Paris Olympics gold medalist Carlos Edriel Yulo, will represent the Philippines in the blue-ribbon event.

The younger Yulo is currently in Tokyo, Japan where he is training under renowned Japanese coach Munehiro Kugimiya, who developed Carlos Edriel Yulo into a world and Olympic champion. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**