

CAVITE GAZETTE

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CAVITE GOV'T PROVIDES FINANCIAL AID TO NEWBORN SCREENING PATIENTS

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirmed its commitment to child health and welfare as it distributed financial

assistance to 100 patients of the Newborn Screening Continuity Clinic (NBSCC) at the New Provincial Government Center.

Each beneficiary received ₱5,000 to help families

cover the medical needs and long-term care of children enrolled in the program, ensuring that infants diagnosed with congenital disorders receive consistent and life-

saving follow-up care. Provincial Administrator Gilbert V. Gandia, representing Governor Abeng Remulla, led the activity and reiterated the administration's dedication



FINANCIAL DISTRIBUTION FOR NEWBORN SCREENING CONTINUITY CLINIC PATIENTS

CAVITE YOUTH LEADERS BOOSTED THROUGH DYNAMIC CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP



Cavite youth leaders were further empowered as the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development

Officer (OPSWDO), rolled out a dynamic capacity-building workshop on Youth Leadership and Development for members of the Pag-Asa

to strengthening child healthcare services across Cavite. He emphasized the vital role of newborn screening in the early detection and management of congenital conditions, noting that timely intervention can greatly improve a child's quality of life.

Health officials, including Dr. Maria Victoria S. Torres and Ms. Helen Jariel, joined the event and expressed gratitude to the provincial government for its strong support, highlighting how the assistance eases the financial burden for families undergoing long-term medical treatments. Ms. Jhonalyn D. Bantigue, Follow-up Nurse for the NBSCC, provided parents with an overview of the continuity clinic and explained the steps for accessing financial aid to ensure they were well-informed about available services.

The program concluded with a message from Ms. Felipa Servañez, who thanked all partners and reaffirmed the shared mission of safeguarding the health and future of Caviteño children.

This initiative reflects Cavite's sustained efforts to deliver accessible, responsive, and family-centered healthcare during the crucial early stages of a child's development. (RUEL FRANCISCO, PIA)

Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP) on November 14 at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

Youth leaders and representatives from the municipalities of General Mariano Alvarez, Ternate, and Silang, and the cities of Trece Martires, Dasmariñas, General Trias, Bacoor, and Imus gathered for a day dedicated to sharpening leadership skills, building confidence, and cultivating a deeper sense of service. In her opening message, Ms. Jessie Rose Cruto of OPSWDO welcomed the participants and set a motivating tone for the day's sessions. The workshop featured engaging and insightful discussions led by Mr. Robin Q. Esteba and Mr. Jose Andrew Bunan, both Campus Missionaries in Indang.

Mr. Esteba emphasized the importance of self-awareness, encouraging the youth to identify and maximize their strengths as a foundation for effective leadership. Mr. Bunan followed with an inspiring talk on servant leadership, highlighting that genuine leadership begins with sincere service to others and reinforcing that leadership "is about living by example."

The event concluded with a message from PYAP Provincial Federation President Ms. Khaylan Sinuhin, who commended the collective efforts to build a strong, empowered, and community-grounded youth sector in Cavite.

With renewed passion and enhanced skills, Cavite's young leaders leave the activity more equipped and inspired to contribute meaningfully to the development of their communities.---R.DONES / CAVITE PIO

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REGIONAL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG PULIS NAIC

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga Warrant Officers ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang isang Regional Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang operasyon bandang 7:38 PM ng Nobyembre 20, 2025 sa Brgy. Maguyam, Silang, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JEFFERSON P. ISON, Acting Chief of Police ng Naic MPS, ang suspek bilang si Alias "GANI", residente ng Naic, Cavite, na nahaharap sa kasong Statutory Rape na paglabag sa Article 266-A (1)(D) kaugnay ng Article 266-B ng Revised Penal Code na inamyendahan ng RA 11648.

Naaresto ang akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inilabas noong Nobyembre 6, 2025 ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 15, Naic, Cavite. Ang naturang kaso ay hindi pinapayagang piyansahan, dahilan upang ituring ang suspek na isang malaking banta sa kaligtasan ng publiko.

Isinagawa ang operasyon alinsunod sa umiiral na police operational

procedures at ito ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ADR).

Sa pahayag ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, kanyang binigyang-puri ang mabilis at maayos na aksyon ng Naic MPS: "Ang matagumpay na pag-aresto na ito ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa Cavite sa pagtugis sa mga kriminal, lalo na sa mga may mabibigat na kasong hinaharap. Patuloy nating palalakasin ang mga operasyon upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at seguridad sa ating lalawigan. Hinding-hindi natin papayagang makapagtago ang mga lumalabag sa batas. Mananatili kaming kaagapay ng ating mga kababayan sa pagtataguyod ng isang ligtas at maayos na komunidad."

Patuloy na pinagtitiyab ng Cavite Police Provincial Office ang kampanya laban sa kriminalidad upang masiguro ang kapayapaan,

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG KAWIT MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Kawit Municipal Police Station ang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa Bacoor City, Cavite, dakong alas-11:30 ng gabi ng Nobyembre 19, 2025. Kinilala ni PLTCOL RESTY E. SORIANO, hepe ng Kawit MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Anna" at residente ng Kawit, Cavite. Isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Kawit MPS ang operasyon laban sa Most Wanted Person gamit ang Alternative Recording Device na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng RTC Bacoor City, Fourth Judicial Region, noong Oktubre 27, 2015.

Ang akusado ay nahaharap sa mga kasong paglabag sa Sections 7 at 14, Article II ng RA 9165, na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php 40,000.00

para sa Sec. 14 at Php 200,000.00 para sa Sec. 7 ng RA 9165.

Ang akusado ay kasalukuyang nakakulong sa Kawit MPS Custodial Facility. Ang Warrant of Arrest ay isasauli sa Court of Origin para sa karampatang aksyon.

Sa mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, kanyang binigyang-pugay ang matagumpay na operasyon. "Pinupuri ko ang Kawit Municipal Police Station sa matagumpay nilang operasyon na nagbunga ng pag-aresto sa isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person. Patunay ito na tuloy-tuloy at mas pinaigting ang kampanya ng Cavite PNP laban sa kriminalidad. Hinihikayat ko ang lahat ng ating kapulisan na ipagpatuloy ang ganitong dedikasyon para sa kaligtasan ng bawat Caviteño."

ARESTADO NG BACoor CCPS ANG CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Isang City Most Wanted Person ang naaresto sa isinagawang police operation ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa Bacoor City, Cavite dakong alas-12:00 ng tanghali ng Nobyembre 19, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A. DESAMITO, hepe ng Bacoor CCPS, ang naarestong suspek

operasyon. "Pinupuri ko ang Rosario MPS sa kanilang mabilis at maayos na operasyon. Ang pag-aresto sa akusado ay isang malinaw na tagumpay sa patuloy nating kampanya laban sa mga wanted persons sa buong lalawigan. Nananawagan ako sa ating mga kapulisan na ipagpatuloy ang mataas na antas ng dedikasyon at serbisyo para sa kapayapaan at seguridad ng bawat Caviteño."

na si alyas "Reynaldo", at residente ng Bacoor City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa laban sa suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Seksyon 7 at 14, Art. II ng RA 9165, na inilabas ng RTC Branch 89, Bacoor City, Cavite noong Setyembre 13, 2025, na may inirekomendang bail na Php 240,000.00.

Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device upang matiyak ang dokumentasyon at integridad ng proseso. Ang akusado ay pansamantalang nakadetina sa Bacoor Custodial Center at ang warrant of arrest ay isasauli sa hukuman ng pinagmulan para sa tamang dokumentasyon. Sa mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO. "Ang

CARMONA PNP, NAARESTO ANG CITY MOST WANTED PERSON SA CARMONA CITY, CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Carmona City Police Station ang isang City Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang operasyon, sa Carmona City, Cavite dakong 10:50 AM noong Nobyembre 19, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL MELVIN M. BALBA, hepe ng Carmona CCPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Eriberto", at kasalukuyang naninirahan sa GMA, Cavite.

Ang akusado ay sinilibhan Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Theft.

Isinagawa ng warrant operatives ng Carmona CCPS ang operasyon na maayos na naitala gamit ang dalawang Alternative Recording Devices. Ang Warrant of Arrest ay inisyu ng Regional Trial Court Branch 81, Quezon City, noong Disyembre 1, 1999,

na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php 24,000.00. Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Carmona CCPS ang nasabing akusado, habang ang Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa korte ng pinagmulan para sa nararapat na disposisyon.

Sa mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, kanyang pinuri ang Carmona CCPS. "Ang patuloy na pagtutulungan ng ating mga tauhan at ang masigasig na implementasyon ng batas ay patunay ng ating determinasyon na mapanatili ang katahimikan at seguridad sa ating mga komunidad. Nananawagan kami sa publiko na patuloy na makipagtulungan sa kapulisan sa pagbibigay ng impormasyon at pag-uulat ng mga kahina-hinalang aktibidad."

MALABON CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG CARNAPPING, ARESTADO NG TRECE MARTIRES POLICE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Trece Martires Component City Police Station ang isang City Level Most Wanted Person sa Trece Martires City, Cavite noong Nobyembre 20, 2025, bandang 12:05 ng madaling araw.

Kinilala ni PMAJ

matagumpay na operasyon na ito ay patunay ng dedikasyon at propesionalismo ng ating mga tauhan sa Bacoor CCPS. Patuloy ang ating paninindigan laban sa kriminalidad at katiwalian. Binabati ko ang lahat ng personnel na direktang nakibahagi sa operasyon. Ipagpatuloy natin ang mataas na pamantayan ng serbisyo para sa kapayapaan at seguridad ng ating mga kababayan sa Cavite."

MARITES L. JULIAN, OIC ng Trece Martires CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Nicole", residente ng Trece Martires City, Cavite. Isinagawa ng mga tauhan mula sa Warrant Section ng Trece Martires CCPS, gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), ang operasyon na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado para sa paglabag sa RA 10883 (New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016), na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php 300,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO:

"Ang matagumpay na pag-aresto sa City Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng dedikasyon at kahandaan ng Cavite Police na ipatupad ang batas at protektahan ang ating mga kababayan."

ARESTADO NG ROSARIO MPS ANG PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Arestado ng mga tauhan ng Rosario Municipal Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa Rosario, Cavite, dakong 2:15 ng hapon ng Nobyembre 20, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ARDIE O. BAGAMAN, hepe ng Rosario MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Regalado", at residente ng Rosario, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant at Tracker Team ng Rosario MPS, sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa Acts of Lasciviousness (Art. 336 of the RPC) in relation to Sec. 5(B) of RA 7610. Ang warrant ay inilabas noong Agosto

29, 2025 ng RTC Branch 17, Cavite City, na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php 180,000.00.

Ayon sa Rosario MPS, ang suspek ay naipaliwanag nang lubos ang kanyang karapatang konstitusyonal, at ang buong operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device.

Ang akusado ay pansamantalang nakakulong sa Rosario MPS Jail Facility. Ang Warrant of Arrest ay isasauli sa korte ng pinanggalingan para sa tamang dokumentasyon. Sa mensahe ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, kanyang binigyang-pugay ang matagumpay na

FINANCIAL LITERACY KEY AGAINST INVESTMENT SCAMS, SEC OFFICIAL SAYS

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is bringing financial literacy lessons in schools to help Filipinos make better financial choices and protect them against investment scams that are often “too good to be true”. Lawyer Erettsel Valle, Director of SEC Lipa Extension Office, warned the public to be wary of unrealistic investment offerings circulating online, especially those offering high returns with little to no risk.

“As the saying goes, if it’s too good to be true, it probably is. We are advising the public to look into the firm’s SEC primary registration and secondary registration to spot [if it’s] an investment scam.”

Primary licenses allow businesses, such as investment companies, to legally operate in a specific area and conduct business under the control of the SEC, while a secondary registration allows them to offer investment products legally.

Despite being registered as a corporation, Valle noted that an SEC Registration is not a license for companies to solicit investments.

“We should watch out for companies that may be registered as a corporation but have no secondary

licenses allowing them to offer investments to the public.”

Between January until October this year, the SEC has logged around 528 investment scam cases reported in the CALABARZON region. Should they fall prey to investment scams, Valle assured that the SEC is ready to provide free legal assistance to punish fraudulent companies.

“If you ever fall victim to these schemes, screenshot all your conversations and contact numbers related to the case. We will advise [the public] on the legal actions they can take.”

Valle added, “We have filed criminal cases for [scams] and have had them punished.”

The SEC is further strengthening its campaign against investment scams by bringing their financial literacy programs to colleges and universities, in a bid to teach youngsters about making smart financial and investment choices.

“We are working with all colleges and universities in CALABARZON and MIMAROPA to host financial literacy seminars, to teach kids how to handle their finances.”

BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ

CAREER CARAVAN OPENS DOORS FOR JOBSEEKERS IN CAVITE CITY

The Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), headed by Ms. Rizalie Pinpin Enero, in collaboration with the local government of Cavite City, under the leadership of Mayor Denver R. Chua, successfully organized the Cavite Career Caravan at the Montano

Hall on November 13. The event provided valuable career opportunities and employment services to the residents of Cavite City.

Mayor Denver R. Chua, together with Vice Mayor Raleigh Grepo Rusit and City Councilor Jet S. Barrera, showed full support and active

DOST-CALABARZON ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE 2025 4PS FAMILY DAY CELEBRATION IN GENERAL TRIAS, CAVITE

DOST-CALABARZON took part as one of the key invited agencies during the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) Family Day Celebration 2025 held on November 14, 2025, at the General Trias Sports Park in Santiago, General Trias City, Cavite.

The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office and the Cavite Provincial Operations Office of DSWD IV-CALABARZON-4Ps formally invited DOST-CALABARZON to the event, recognizing the agency’s important role in providing opportunities for Filipino families through science, technology, and education initiatives.

A total of 32 beneficiary families, representing two families from each municipality across Cavite, gathered for the celebration. The event also saw the participation of various local government unit (LGU) representatives from the province, including CBO, PICTO, OPENRO, DILG Cavite Province, SDO Bacoor City, SDO Dasmariñas City, and the DepEd Division Office. The program was facilitated by Ms. Roselyn

Daradal, 4Ps Coordinator of OPSWDO.

DOST-CALABARZON’s presence was further highlighted through the participation of Ms. Marielle P. Nueva of DOST-Cavite, who delivered a motivational message to the families. She introduced the different programs of the Department, emphasizing the DOST Scholarship Program, which provides opportunities for students to pursue higher education in the fields of science and technology. She also discussed the DOST Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Program, which offers support for families with existing or potential livelihood ventures, including access to free DOST training programs designed to strengthen community-based enterprises.

The celebration also featured inspirational messages from Pastor Edsel Alcantara and Pastor Conrado Perez, Provincial Coordinators of Pearl of the Orient, who spoke about the importance of family and unity.

By attending and participating in the 4Ps Family Day Celebration, DOST-CALABARZON reaffirmed its commitment to empowering Caviteño families through accessible science, technology, innovation, and educational opportunities. **DOST-CAVITE**

and determination, opportunities are well within reach for those who actively pursue them.---**F. TAMIO / Cavite PIO**

EDITORIAL

Bilang ng mga Walang Trabaho, Bahagyang Dumami

Naitala nitong Hunyo ang bahagyang pagdami ng bilang ng mga walang trabaho, mas mababa ito ngayon kumpara sa kaparehong buwan noong nakaraang taon.

Sa tingin kong isa sa mga dahilan ng pagdami ng bilang ng mga walang trabaho ay ang mataas na kwalipikasyong kinakailangan pagdating sa trabaho. Maari sanang bigyang solusyon ang sobrang taas na kwalipikasyon gayong hangad din ng iba na makahanap ng experience sa trabaho. Isa pa, higit na mababa ang sweldong natatanggap ng mga ito.

Maraming bagay ang maaaring naging dahilan ng pagbaba ng porsyento ng mga Pilipinong walang trabaho. Sana ay mapag-aralan ito at tanggapin ang suhestiyon ng mga Pilipino ukol sa isyung ito.

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GSIS CITES MEMBER FEEDBACK AS KEY DRIVER OF REFORMS IN NCR FORUM

MANILA—The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) on Friday highlighted the critical role of direct member feedback in shaping institutional reforms, following its 2025 NCR Stakeholders' Dialogue held this week in Quezon City.

The dialogue, conducted on Nov. 19 at the VS Hotel and Convention Center, gathered hundreds of members, pensioners, and government agency representatives for a full-day discussion on GSIS programs, services, and ongoing reforms.

"We are here to listen so we can better understand how to make your transactions with GSIS easier and more convenient," GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso said in a news release, noting that many of the agency's improvements began as suggestions from members.

"Every improvement you see started with someone speaking up in a dialogue like this one. Your feedback is the trigger for real change."

Veloso cited recent policy changes, including the removal of the required down payment for members purchasing the GSIS housing units they currently rent.

"Your monthly rent will now be treated as part of your amortization. That change came from you," he said.

Much of the program was dedicated to an open forum where members raised concerns on loan policies, pension processing, digital services, and other frontline programs.

GSIS officials responded directly, noting that such exchanges provide the agency with essential and unfiltered insights on member needs.

UP Diliman Chancellor Edgardo Carlo Vistan II, keynote speaker at the event, lauded the GSIS for grounding its reforms on collaboration and institutional alignment.

"Your theme, 'Basta sama-sama, tuloy-tuloy ang ginhawa,' is more than a slogan. It captures a truth that both GSIS and UP Diliman hold dear: that meaningful progress happens when institutions work together, when systems are aligned, and

when public service is strengthened by shared purpose," he said.

"Your continued efforts to modernize member services, strengthen records management, and enhance digital security directly contribute to nation-building."

The dialogue also featured updates on digital innovation and fraud prevention.

Scam Watch Pilipinas co-founder Jocel De Guzman discussed increasing threats of digital fraud targeting government employees, while GSIS presented enhancements to its mobile app and online platforms, including strengthened security features and improved user experience.

A key segment of the event honored top-performing government agencies for excellence in loan and premium collections, reduced past-due rates, and digital collaboration.

Among the awardees were CHED Region 4-B (Mimaropa), the University of the Philippines System, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, the House of Representatives, the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the Philippine National Police, the Anti-Red Tape Authority, the Public Attorney's Office, the National Housing Authority, the Department of Transportation—MRT 3, and the Commission on Audit.

Representing the awardees, acting Philippine National Police chief, Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr., thanked GSIS for recognizing agency performance.

"These awards remind us that accountability and good governance matter and that public service improves when every agency does its part," he said, adding that GSIS reforms are making systems "clearer, faster, and more reliable" for government workers.

Veloso, joined by GSIS Trustees Beatriz Torno, lawyer Garry De Guzman, and Gilbert Sadsad, said the GSIS will continue holding regional dialogues to reinforce transparency and accountability. (PNA)

BY WILNARD BACELONIA

IMO COMMENDS PCG OFFICERS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

MANILA — Two officers of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) received letters of commendation from the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for their efforts in women empowerment in the maritime sector.

In a statement on Friday, PCG Spokesperson Capt. Noemie Cayabyab said Rear Admiral Mitzie Silva-Campo and Commodore Christine Pauline Bergaño-Diciano received commendations under the IMO Gender Equality Award.

The recognitions, she said, highlighted the Philippines' growing leadership in promoting inclusivity and excellence in the global maritime community.

"The PCG celebrates their achievements as they continue to inspire future generations of women in maritime service," Cayabyab said.

Silva-Campo was commended for leading the development of gender-responsive policies that opened doors for women to attain flag rank in the PCG. On the other hand, Bergaño-Diciano was commended for advocating for women empowerment in the maritime sector across Southeast Asia.

Silva-Campo and Bergaño-Diciano received their letters of commendation during the IMO's 135th session held in London from Nov. 20 to 21. (PNA)

BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ

DA: ASF ACTIONS IN '3RD QUARTER STORM' WERE EFFECTIVELY MANAGED

MANILA—The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Friday assured that the country's actions against African swine fever (ASF) during the "third quarter storm" were managed well. In a media interview, DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa said there's a significant downward trend in the ASF cases in the Philippines compared to last year.

"Patuloy na nama-manage well ng department at patuloy na bumababa 'yung kaso ng (The department has been continuously managing it well, and there's a continuous decline in cases of) ASF," he told the Philippine News Agency (PNA) Headline.

The government has been rolling out its government-controlled vaccination program among healthy and ASF-negative hogs alongside stringent border measures across the country.

De Mesa said the difference in the third quarter ASF incidents poses a "very significant" downtrend from last year's total figure.

The "third quarter storm" refers to the seasonal

uptick of cases among the livestock sector, which is not exclusive to ASF.

"Yung kabuuang naitala nating insidente nasa (The sum of logged incidents is) almost 5,000 (or) 4,979. Ngayong third quarter ng taong kasalukuyan nasa 657 lang (this year's third quarter is only pegged at 657)," he added.

The department official stressed that there's no resurgence of ASF cases in the Philippines to date.

Based on the Nov. 18 update of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), only 27 barangays across the country have reported active cases of ASF by the end of October.

On Thursday, De Mesa said the incidents of ASF in stock farms in La Loma, Quezon City, remain isolated.

"Magkakaron ng affidavit of undertaking sa mga lechoneros, BAI, at QC local government unit (LGU) bago sila uli payagang magbukas (There will be an affidavit of undertaking between the lechoneros, BAI, and the QC LGU before they will be allowed to resume operations)," he said.

DBM VOWS TO PUSH FOR STRONGER DIGITAL PROCUREMENT REFORMS

MANILA — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Friday reaffirmed its commitment to accelerate procurement modernization and strengthen transparency as it marked the 25th anniversary of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS).

During PhilGEPS' silver anniversary celebration at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, DBM Officer-in-Charge Secretary Rolando "Rolly" Toledo said the agency remains resolute in advancing reforms that will make public procurement faster, more efficient, and more transparent.

"Procurement is not paperwork—it is public trust in motion. Every transparent transaction is a Filipino family protected," Toledo said, noting that PhilGEPS' silver milestone underscores both the progress achieved and the urgency of sustaining reforms.

Toledo emphasized the administration's commitment to deepen the modernization efforts initiated under former DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, whose leadership championed open government, digital transformation, and procurement reforms.

At the center of these continuing efforts is the proposed New Government Procurement Act (NGPA), which seeks to overhaul procurement rules to align the country with global standards.

The measure mandates digital-by-default processes, tamper-proof documentation, broader competition, and stronger anti-corruption safeguards. Complementing the NGPA is the full digital modernization of

PhilGEPS, including enhancements to the Open Data Portal that make procurement information—from planning to implementation—fully accessible to the public.

Toledo said these tools empower citizens and watchdogs to scrutinize government spending in real time.

In a video message shared at the event, Pangandaman highlighted PhilGEPS' importance, crediting the platform for enabling the Procurement Service-DBM to deliver its mandate efficiently through tools such as the Virtual Store, eMarketplace, eBidding facility, ePayment system, merchant registry, and the Open Data Portal.

Toledo also cited strengthened interoperability features, expanded e-bidding capabilities, improved protest and review mechanisms, and a wider capacity-building program across agencies as key components of the evolving reform agenda.

He lauded the Philippines' recent recognition at the 2025 Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Spain, where the country won both the Anti-Corruption Category and the Asia-Pacific Regional Award—achievements he said reflect the credibility of ongoing transparency initiatives.

"If the next 25 years of governance are to be defined by transparency, trust, and integrity, it will be because you chose to stay, you chose to serve, and you chose to stand as one," he told Procurement Service (PS)-DBM and PhilGEPS personnel.

PS-DBM Executive Director Genmaries Entredicho-Caong thanked former Pangandaman for her support and expressed confidence in Toledo's stewardship.

"We are certain that under the leadership of our DBM OIC-Secretary Rolly, the transformative reforms we initiated will not only continue but strengthen. Public procurement is in good hands," she said. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

The Quezon City LGU earlier ordered the temporary closure of 14 lechon shops in La Loma following the BAI's detection of ASF in some lechon-processing facilities in La Loma. (PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

SOTTO PUSHES JAIL DECONGESTION, BETTER PDL SUPPORT IN 2026 BUDGET

MANILA — Senate President Vicente Sotto III on Friday raised alarm over severe overcrowding in the country's prison facilities, urging immediate reforms and adequate funding to improve conditions for persons deprived of liberty (PDLs).

During the plenary deliberation on the Department of Justice's (DOJ) 2026 budget, Sotto cited Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) data showing a 293-percent congestion rate as of Oct. 31.

The New Bilibid Prison (NBP), with a capacity of 5,678, currently holds 21,996 PDLs—or an occupancy rate of 387 percent.

Sotto said other facilities face a similar strain, including the Correctional Institution for Women (CIW), which has a capacity of 1,280 but a population of 2,940; the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm in Palawan, with a capacity of 766 but housing 4,491 PDLs; and the Davao Prison and Penal Farm, with a capacity of 2,898 but holding 9,717 PDLs.

"These are just some examples, but all our prison facilities are severely overpopulated," Sotto said as he pressed BuCor to clarify how many new facilities are needed and how much funding must be allocated to significantly ease congestion.

Budget sponsor Senator Sherwin Gatchalian acknowledged the magnitude of the crisis, noting that improved management helped reduce congestion from 293 percent to 214 percent. He said BuCor would need around PHP55 billion to fully decongest jails through the construction of regional prison facilities.

BuCor's proposed 2026 budget is only PHP10 billion, including PHP676 million for buildings and structures.

Sotto emphasized the urgency of regionalizing prison facilities to distribute PDLs across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. He noted that inmate visitation plays a crucial role in rehabilitation, saying

behavioral issues often arise when PDLs are too far from their families.

The Senate leader also highlighted Republic Act 11928, the Separate Facility for Heinous Crimes Act, which he authored to ensure heinous crime convicts are isolated from the general PDL population.

"The reason we pushed for this law was to ensure that heinous criminals are kept separately, for the safety of other PDLs and the efficiency of our correctional system," he said.

Gatchalian reported a hike in the daily medical allowance of PDLs from PHP15 to PHP20 and said BuCor has affirmed that inmates are covered by PhilHealth.

Sotto also inquired whether PDLs could access the Department of Health's Medical Assistance to Indigent Patients (MAIP) or the Department of Social Welfare and Development's Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS).

Sotto cited initiatives such as the exhibit of PDL artworks at EVIA Mall and Letran Calamba's year-long jail ministry.

He encouraged BuCor to strengthen livelihood programs that help PDLs support their families legally and productively.

Gatchalian said BuCor promotes such livelihood activities because the income earned directly benefits PDLs.

He added that skills training and livelihood programs with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) prepare PDLs for employment or small business opportunities once released.

BuCor also runs readiness and orientation activities for Persons Restored of Liberty (PRLs).

While reintegration is not among BuCor's mandates, Gatchalian said reformation programs ensure that PDLs are physically and mentally ready to return to society. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

LTFRB TO LAUNCH ONLINE SERVICES IN DECEMBER

MANILA — The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) will launch the digitalization of its frontline services beginning next month as part of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive for the immediate shift of government services to digital.

In a statement on Friday, LTFRB Chair Vigor Mendoza II said information technology (IT) experts are already finalizing the development of a system that would pave the way for online transactions with the LTFRB, beginning with the confirmation of vehicles for public transportation.

"There is a sense of urgency to make all the transactions of the LTFRB fast and comfortable to all our tens of thousands of clients in the public land transportation sector," Mendoza said.

The LTFRB's full digitalization has come less than two months after Mendoza assumed

leadership of the office.

"This sense of urgency to improve our services will eventually benefit the millions of Filipino commuters," he said.

All LTFRB services will gradually be improved and brought to the digital platform.

"I am personally monitoring the update on the LTFRB full digitalization efforts, and by next month, we will launch the first phase, which is the online transaction of all our frontline offices nationwide," he said.

The digitalization efforts are one of the results of the LTFRB's series of consultations with various transport groups to discuss their primary concerns, including pending petitions and motions.

The LTFRB has begun consolidating the 37,000 pending motions and petitions that go as far back as two years to address them before the year ends. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

PNP, CGHMC INK DEAL FOR MEDICAL AID FOR COPS

MANILA — The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC) have reaffirmed their partnership through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) ensuring continued medical assistance for police personnel injured in the performance of duty.

In a statement on Thursday, Maj. Gen. Constancio Chinayog Jr., Director for Personnel Records and Management, said the signing of the agreement, held on Wednesday at the CGHMC in Sta. Cruz, Manila, aligns with the national aspiration for improved public service delivery, reflecting the direction under the vision "Bagong PNP para sa Bagong Pilipinas: Serbisyon Mabilis, Tapat at Nararamdaman."

"Every day, our men and women in uniform face risk and uncertainty in protecting our communities. They deserve timely, quality, and compassionate medical

care that acknowledges their sacrifice and strengthens their capacity to serve," Chinayog said. PNP spokesperson and public information chief Brig. Gen. Randulf Tuaño thanked the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, Inc., which owns the CGHMC, for its ongoing commitment to the welfare of the police force. The partnership represents a sustained effort to strengthen the morale, resilience, and readiness of police officers who risk their lives to maintain peace, order, and public safety, he said.

"When our police officers are assured that their health and recovery needs are well taken care of, they can serve the public with greater confidence and dedication," he added.

Under the partnership, all police personnel assigned in Metro Manila who sustained injuries in line of duty will be given preliminary medical aid and treatment at the CGHMC. The personnel would be

DOT TO TIGHTEN AIRFARE RULES AS GOV'T BOOSTS AIRPORT UPGRADES

MANILA — The Department of Tourism (DOT) is finalizing measures to promote airfare transparency and strengthen consumer protection, even as lawmakers push for the upgrade of key provincial airports and highlight gains from newly opened international and domestic routes.

During Friday's plenary debates defending the proposed 2026 budget of the DOT, Senator Loren Legarda said high domestic airfare remains a major deterrent to local travel, prompting the agency to coordinate closely with transport and competition regulators.

Legarda said the DOT, in consultation with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), Civil Aeronautics Board, Department of Trade and Industry, and the Philippine Competition Commission, is finalizing a code of conduct for online travel agencies to ensure fair pricing and transparency in airfares.

She said the initiative is aligned with the Internet Transactions Act and ongoing PCC investigations into possible non-competitive airline practices.

Alongside this, the DOT and DOTr will launch a public information campaign to help travelers access clearer fare information and identify cost-efficient travel options. Interpellating Legarda, Senator Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito reported

able to avail of surgery and major operations, as well as the use of its medical equipment and facilities, from admission to release free of charge upon the presentation of "line of duty" status or proof.

The hospital will cover all the expenses up to PHP1 million, with the amount in excess of that being covered by the patient-PNP personnel. (With Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/PNA) **BY CHRISTOPHER LLOYD CALIWAN**

that a large portion of the reallocation from flood control items will be directed toward airport improvement, particularly in tourism-centric areas.

He said Siargao, Mati, Legazpi, Bohol, and several other airports will undergo upgrades to expand capacity, improve runways, and support increased flight frequency.

"Para hindi masayang (So that nothing goes to waste), we still need construction to drive the economy," Ejercito said, noting that airport modernization will open more gateways for tourism and stimulate regional growth.

Legarda also highlighted gains from recent DOT-DOTr collaboration, pointing to new international routes launched under Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco's term.

These include flights by Air Canada from Vancouver; Philippine Airlines from Da Nang and Sapporo; United Airlines from San Francisco; Jetstar from Perth; Air India from New Delhi; and VietJet from Ho Chi Minh.

New domestic links have also been opened, including Manila-Cauayan, Cebu-Catarman, and multiple daily flights from Clark to El Nido, Coron, Masbate, and Siargao.

Legarda said the expanded route network demonstrates strong coordination between the DOT and DOTr, and provides opportunities to counter high domestic airfare by offering more travel choices to the public. Senator Erwin Tulfo, who raised concerns about the impact of steep airfares on local tourism, expressed support for the DOT budget after receiving assurance that the agency is pursuing reforms.

The DOT's budget, along with those of its attached agencies, was later deemed submitted for plenary consideration. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

DENR AWARDS 116 LAND PATENTS TO FARMERS, SCHOOLS, AGENCIES IN NEGOR

DUMAGUETE CITY, Negros Oriental (PIA)

— More than 100 farmers and institutions in Negros Oriental have received land titles under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (DENR) Handog Titulo Program, granting them legal ownership of the lands they have long cultivated or occupied.

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer Jimmy Panebio said the program is a free land-titling initiative that speeds up the processing and issuance of public land patents to qualified beneficiaries.

A total of 116 titles have been distributed in the province—104 agricultural and 12 special free patents—covering more than 16 hectares of public land.

Panebio said the initiative supports government efforts to promote social justice, reduce rural poverty, and bring government services closer to communities.

"This is done to alleviate poverty, bolster economic development, and bring government services closer to the people," said Panebio.

He added that the patents secure beneficiaries' tenure and allow them to fully develop and utilize their land.

Agricultural patents were awarded to beneficiaries in several towns, including 29 titles in Barangay Mansagaban, Bais City; 35 titles in Boloc-Boloc, Baslay, and Tugawe in Dauin; 14 titles in Valencia; 25 titles in Tayasan; and one title in Ayungon.

Special patents were also issued to the Department of Education for elementary schools in Guihulungan City, Vallehermoso, Bindoy, Ayungon, and Bayawan City to support continued school operations and future expansions.

Additional patents were granted to the Bureau of Fire Protection in Vallehermoso and the Municipal Trial Court in Siaton.

Tequila Ubag, 81, from

Barangay Bongbong, Valencia, expressed gratitude after finally receiving the title her family had pursued since 1995.

"Among dakong pasalamat sa gobyerno niining among nadawat na titulo sa dugay'ng katuigan nga among gipangandoy ug ang akong Mama pay nag-apply niini niadtung 1995 pa," said Ubag.

(Our deepest thanks to the government for this land title we have long hoped for, which my mother first applied for back in 1995.) Valencia Mayor Edgar Z. Teves also welcomed the distribution, saying the joint efforts of the LGU and DENR helped provide beneficiaries with stability, security, and pride.

"The event not only symbolizes progress and cooperation among agencies but also reflects the LGU's dedication to ensuring that every Valencianon enjoys the benefits of inclusive and sustainable development," Teves said. (JCT/PIA NIR Negros Oriental)

BY MARIA JENIFER C. TILOS

ISABELA JAIL RECEIVES AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

CITY OF ILAGAN, Isabela (PIA)

— The Isabela Provincial Jail emerged as one of the top-performing institutions at the Provincial Jail Wardens' Association of the Philippines (PJWAP) National Convention, earning multiple awards that highlight its excellence in leadership, facility management, and rehabilitation programs.

In the convention held in Davao Oriental from November 11 to 14, 2025, Provincial Warden Emelito M. Marquez received two major recognitions as Outstanding Provincial Warden and a Loyalty Award, in acknowledgment of his steadfast leadership and years of dedicated service to the province's correctional system.

Provincial Guard Gil Maramag was also honored as an Outstanding Provincial Jail Employee and received a Loyalty Award, reflecting the professionalism and commitment of the jail's personnel.

The Isabela Provincial Jail likewise secured several

top institutional awards, including Outstanding Provincial Jail, Best Rehabilitation Program, Best Livelihood Program, Best Conjugal Room, and Cleanest Provincial Jail, further cementing its reputation as one of the country's leading correctional facilities.

Marquez emphasized that these achievements reflect the institution's continued commitment to ensuring a safe, humane, and well-managed correctional environment. He added that the recognitions affirm their dedication to innovative rehabilitation and livelihood programs that support the holistic development of Persons Deprived of Liberty.

He noted that the institution's accomplishments set a strong benchmark for a strong correctional facilities nationwide, showcasing Isabela's model of excellence in jail management and rehabilitation services. (OTB/MGE/PIA Isabela)

BY MERLITO G. EDALE, JR.

DSWD CONTINUES TO BRING IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE TO UWAN-AFFECTED POPULATION IN CAR

BAGUIO CITY (PIA)

— The Department of Social Welfare and Development-Cordillera continues its monitoring and delivery of immediate assistance to the tropical cyclone Uwan-affected population in the region.

DSWD-CAR Regional Director Maria Catbagan Aplaten, in a press conference on November 14, shared that as of their latest data, there were 45,020 families composed of 154,154 persons in 831 barangays across the region who were affected by the super typhoon. Of these, 51 families (176 persons) remain in eight active evacuation centers while 895 families (2,915 persons) are being served outside ECs or those who seek refuge in houses of relatives or friends.

As per reporting period, there were also 3,890 partially damaged and 230 totally damaged houses recorded in Cordillera.

There were also reported 32 injured, two missing (one each in Kalinga and Mountain Province)

and 19 deaths (three in Benguet, 10 in Ifugao, four in Kalinga and two in Mountain Province).

In terms of immediate assistance, Aplaten shared that the DSWD-CAR already distributed 54,354 family food packs amounting to around P37.44 million and 19,985 assorted non-food items worth P44.88 million.

The DSWD-CAR has also disbursed around P9.98 million under its Assistance to Individuals in Crisis (AICS) program that include P10,000 for families with damaged houses, P5,000 for injured individuals, and P10,000 for the families of those who died due to Uwan.

Aplaten assured that the local social welfare and development officers continue to monitor and gather information down to the remote barangays in every province to ensure that all individuals and families that were affected by Uwan are accounted for and provided with immediate assistance.

The DSWD-CAR continues with the replenishment of family food packs (FFPs) in the different local government units in the region.

As of Nov. 16, a total of 28,069 FFPs are prepositioned at LGU storage facilities through the Disaster Relief Prepositioning Agreement (DRPA) while 12,488 more are prepositioned across provinces through DSWD-managed warehouses.

Aplaten is encouraging LGUs with no DRPA with DSWD-CAR to allocate a storage area or warehouse for strategic prepositioning of FFPs and non-food items.

She said the DSWD is also ready to move into the early recovery phase through its cash-for-work, food-for-work, and the Sustainable Livelihood Program, depending on the assessment and recommendations of the local SWAD officers. (JDP/CCD-PIA CAR) **BY CARLITO DAR**

DPWH FULLY SUPPORTS ICI'S ONGOING PROBE

DAVAO CITY — The Department of Public Works and Highways fully supports, and will cooperate with the Independent Commission on Infrastructure (ICI) investigation.

"Sa pamumuno ni Secretary Vince Dizon, patuloy na tutulong at susuporta ang DPWH sa imbestigasyong isinasagawa ng ICI," DPWH Undersecretary Arthur Bisnar has said. (Under the leadership of Secretary Vince Dizon, DPWH will continue to assist and support the investigations conducted by the ICI.)

The combined team is visiting various project sites nationwide as part of their inspection of government infrastructure projects.

On Nov. 5, the ICI led by Special Adviser Gen. Rodolfo Azurin Jr. and a

DPWH delegation led by Usec. Bisnar, together with former ICI special adviser and Baguio City Mayor Benjamin Magalong, visited and inspected infrastructure and flood-control projects in Davao City.

The team first inspected the road slope protection structure and the installed rockfall netting at the Junction Shrine Hills along the Diversion Road.

Members of the DPWH and ICI climbed the steep hillside to take samples of materials such as cyclone wire and netting for further laboratory testing, amid reports of possible irregularities in the project.

The group also visited the damaged portion of the flood-control structure near Governor Generoso Bridge in Gravahan, Matina. The P93-million project, which began in 2022 and was

completed in May 2023, partially collapsed just 8 months after completion due to strong river currents and heavy debris.

Azurin said the investigation will focus on determining whether the materials used complied with project specifications. "Possible defects or substandard materials might have been used instead of those stated in the DPWH contract specifications signed by the contractors," Azurin said.

Residents affected by the damage had to build an improvised wooden bridge to cross the area.

Belinda Valerio, a resident of Gravahan, shared that few people had fallen while crossing the improvised wooden bridge.

"May nahulog na isang bata at isang babaeng bagong panganak. Pinagtulungan

naming alsahin [buhatin] kasi nabalian. Nakakatakot kasi madulas at lumalaki minsan ang sapa [ilog]. Sana maayos na para lahat kami makadaan ng ligtas," she said.

(A child fell, and one woman who recently gave birth. We helped in carrying as she sustained injuries. We are scared as the river is slippery and usually would swell. We hope the bridge will be repaired so we can cross safely.)

Following the initial assessment, the ICI recommended that the DPWH construct a steel pedestrian bridge to ensure the safety of residents and prevent similar accidents.

The DPWH earlier explained that the cause of the delays in repairing the damaged flood-control structure were due to road right-of-way issues. (PIA/REC)

DOE EXEC CITES GAINS OF UTILIZING HYBRID POWER SOURCES IN SPUG AREAS

MANILA – An official of the Department of Energy (DOE) on Thursday emphasized the benefits to power consumers of utilizing renewable energy (RE) in areas being serviced by Small Power Utilities Group (SPUG), which sources power through diesel power plants.

DOE Undersecretary Rowena Cristina Guevara, in her speech during the focused discussion aimed to advance hybridization efforts in off-grid and missionary areas served by SPUG in Taguig City, said “hybridization of SPUG areas through the integration of RE can bring cleaner, reliable, and more affordable electricity in the long run for the Filipinos who need it most.”

She, however, pointed out that for this to happen, “we need to address and deal with one major challenge -- financing.”

“We are here to explore a bold possibility of enabling low-interest financing for renewable energy developers without sovereign guarantees and without the usual required power supply agreements. As we enter retail competition and open access, where contracts are shorter, this might seem ambitious -- but it is possible and would surely help transform how we scale RE in the Philippines,” she said, as quoted in a DOE press release.

The meeting was attended by officials and representatives of the DOE, National Power Corporation (NPC), Philippine Solar and Storage Energy Alliance (PSSEA), Philippine Hydro, Inc. (Phil Hydro), Wind Energy Development Association of the Philippines (WEDAP), multilateral banks and RE developers.

To date, the true cost of generation (TCGR) in SPUG areas averages about PHP18 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), with the maximum amount pegged

at around PHP62/kWh in some areas.

Guevara, however, said power consumers in SPUG areas pay only around PHP7 to PHP8/kWh since electricity in these areas is subsidized based on the rates approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), and paid through the subsidies collected from all electricity consumers nationwide.

Thus, the need to look for ways to encourage more RE players to operate in these areas to help provide power supply at lower cost, without the need for them to secure sovereign guarantees for low-interest financing, and without the need to first secure power supply agreements with distribution utilities.

“With our partners from the government and financial institutions, we aim to identify viable financing structures and determine new potential collaborations so that we can collectively bring RE solutions to SPUG areas and accelerate our energy transition goals,” Guevara added. (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

2 SOUTH KOREAN FIRMS PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL PRODUCTION

MANILA – South Korea's flag carrier Korean Air (KE) and engineering firm Samsung E&A have teamed up to build a reliable, large-scale sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production and supply ecosystem.

SAF lessens the carbon footprint in flight operations as this is made up of renewable waste and raw materials.

“This partnership will further contribute to the aviation industry's Net Zero 2050 goal and enhance our ability to effectively navigate evolving global environmental regulations, including SAF mandates,” KE said in a statement on Friday.

Through its partnership with Samsung E&A, the two will develop a SAF production and supply chain originating in the United States.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by KE Vice Chair Keehong Woo and Samsung E&A chief executive officer Namkoong Hong at the KE's headquarters in Seoul on Nov. 20.

KE and Samsung E&A will identify and evaluate overseas SAF production

projects, and review long-term SAF opportunities.

They will also explore investments in SAF-related technologies and projects. According to KE, the US was chosen as first target market since it has an abundant feedstock, advanced technology, and strong infrastructure.

Samsung E&A is currently reviewing participation in a US SAF project that will use gasification Fischer-Tropsch (FT) technology to convert woody waste into synthetic liquid fuel.

This next-generation approach expands the range of usable feedstocks beyond the limitations of first-generation SAF, which depends on restricted materials such as used cooking oil.

FT-based production can process non-edible and waste biomass such as wood residues, while offering significantly greater carbon-reduction benefits, KE said.

The airline said it is reviewing its participation as an offtaker of the SAF produced through the project.

“Through proactive project participation and continuous cooperation, we aim to accelerate

UNIFIED PRIVATE SECTOR STAND NEEDED FOR CRAFTING GOV'T POLICIES

MANILA – An official of Ayala Corp. on Wednesday cited the need for a unified position from the private sector to help the government craft policies that will benefit all sectors.

Citing his experience in government service, Ayala Corp. Managing Director Karl Chua, a former director general of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and undersecretary of the Department of Finance, said private sector groups have made countless policy suggestions but not all have materialized since many of these were aimed towards the sector that the groups represent.

“What the government needs is one voice from the private sector,” he said during the panel discussion of the Makati Business Club's year-end review and 2026 outlook dubbed “Beyond the Numbers” held in Makati City.

Chua noted the need for business groups to “come together, fix it among

global SAF adoption and advance our commitment to sustainable aviation and ESG (environmental, social and governance) management,” KE said.

To recall, KE is the first Korean carrier to operate a SAF-blended flight in 2017. In 2024, KE began using domestically produced SAF for select flights departing from Incheon International Airport and later expanded its use in flights via Gimpo International Airport.

KE has been using a 1 percent SAF blend on flights from Incheon to Kobe, and Gimpo to Osaka from Sept. 19, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2026. This will cover around 90 flights on the Kobe route and 26 flights on the Osaka route.

The airline's SAF is sourced from domestic suppliers, and was produced from used cooking oil. (PNA) **BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

additional options with additional fees (for some insurance firms), but Go said their products are not riders but the only coverage under Kaya Care. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

themselves, balance the trade-offs, and come to the government with one recommendation where we can help, not go in different avenues, trying to up each other with their own agenda, whether good or self-serving.”

“So, I think that is really what we need to do next. It is a critical juncture today not to be misused,” he said.

Chua said what the economy needs now is to boost productivity by ensuring the development of human capital.

This factor, he said, does not depend on the government alone but with the help of the private sector.

The need for enhanced programs on human capital was also raised by Gonzalo Varela, World Bank Group lead economist for Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, during the same event.

He said labor force participation in the Philippines is low compared to other countries in the region, with women participation even lower despite their higher educational attainment compared to men.

“So in a way, what you have when females don't work is that there's talent misallocation. They get education, but they don't all participate in productive employment. So ensuring that there are equal opportunities for females to participate in the labor market is going to be a source for faster growth of economies in East Asia, particularly in the Philippines,” he said.

The economist said what would help bolster the economy is the presence of policies that support human capital, creation of opportunities by having old firms embrace technological advancements without cutting the number of their personnel, entry of new firms due to absence of issues about market contestability, and having business regulations that are easy to follow.

“So that's the challenge ahead — ensuring you get into a virtuous cycle of opportunity creation and capability. You have to take advantage of technologies that are coming our way really fast,” Varela said. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

BPI LAUNCHES INSURANCE PRODUCT FOCUSED ON 3 CRITICAL ILLNESS

MANILA – An insurance product focused on covering three critical illness namely cancer, stroke and heart attack, is now available at an affordable price following its launch Friday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) consumer banking head Maria Cristina Go, in a briefing, said the insurance coverage offered by the bank and the BPI/MS Insurance Corporation (BPI MS) is aimed at helping Filipinos address the impact of these serious health risks that normally entail a large amount once one suffers from it.

Dubbed BPI Kaya Care, Go said this product was

made affordable so that even those who are 18 years old can purchase it, with a minimum annual amount of PHP859 for the basic coverage.

“For too long, critical illness insurance has felt complex and out of reach. We wanted to change that. BPI Kaya Care is more than a policy—it's a partner that helps families focus on recovery without financial strain, support that truly matters when it matters most,” she said.

Account holders or clients diagnosed at an early stage will receive 50 percent of the benefit, while late-stage or major diagnoses receive the full amount.

Go said the funding will

help clients address the cost of medications and therapy, if needed.

Citing her experience with family members who suffered from cancer, she said, “the fear is not the diagnosis itself but the potential inability to secure the necessary treatment that they need.”

“This worry highlights why insurance is nice to have. It is essential to peace of mind. A critical ailment brings enough pain. The family should be able to focus completely on recovery and well-being, not on financial calculations and stress,” she added.

The illnesses covered under BPI Kaya Care are normally “riders,” or



CHINA WINS JUNIOR WORLDS TEAM GOLD; YULO IN FOUR FINAL EVENTS

MANILA – China banked on standouts Yang Lanbin, Wang Chengcheng and Zheng Ao, to win its first men's team title in the 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships at the Manila Marriott Hotel, Newport World Resorts in Pasay City Thursday night. China tallied 163.095 points while Japan (162.429) and USA (162.329) settled for the silver and bronze medals.

"We just had the National Games in China a week ago and I got to do that, and now I've experienced the World Championships too, which is a big event for our junior teams. I've been a little tired from that, but team and country come first," Wang was quoted as

saying on the International Gymnastics Federation official website. Japan, the 2023 champion, was led by team captain Ojima Nao, Yasui Eijun and Kakutani Taiki.

"We come from different clubs and haven't done many competitions, so I was a bit nervous. But we all practiced and worked together, and I think we played a good match. I was pretty apprehensive during my first routine, but I think I was able to switch gears and do well afterwards," commented 17-year-old Ojima. He qualified for the parallel bars final, scoring 14.066 points behind American Danila Leykin (14.100).

Meanwhile, Filipino bet Karl Eldrew Yulo has

qualified for Saturday's floor, vault, horizontal bar and all-around events final. The younger brother of Paris Olympics double-gold medalist Carlos Edriel, Yulo scored 14.233 points to finish second in the floor exercise behind Russian Arsenii Dukhno (14.500) in the qualifications.

Yulo was fifth in vault (13.750), sixth in horizontal bar and 15th in all-around. "My wished came true, but my job is still not finished. I will do better and give my 100 percent in all my final events," said Yulo.

Meanwhile, the qualifications and the team ranking in the women's division was scheduled Friday. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

ATENEO FORGES TITLE DUEL WITH UST IN UAAP MEN'S TABLE TENNIS

MANILA – Ateneo de Manila University made it to UAAP Season 88 men's table tennis finals after beating Far Eastern University, 3-2, Thursday night at the Amoranto Sports Arena in Diliman, Quezon City.

Wrenzy Abad pulled off a 11-8, 11-4, 11-6 win over Dane Pila in the deciding singles match as the Blue Eagles forged a title showdown with the reigning champion University of Santo Tomas Tiger Paddlers.

FEU's Peter Shean Cubio prevailed over Mahendra Cabrido, 11-7, 11-8, 6-11,

11-9, while Ateneo's Rod Andree Garcia downed Christian Golez, 11-9, 4-11, 11-8, 12-10.

Rookies CJ Yamson and Gabriel Docto defeated Claer Riego and Louis Sacay, 11-4, 12-10, 11-8, to put the Blue Eagles ahead but Renz De Guzman tied the score to 2-all after trouncing Andrew Uy, 11-5, 11-9, 11-7.

In the women's division, UST kept its title defense alive with a 3-2 victory over De La Salle University. Rookie Kaye Manada played the heroics following her 13-15, 11-7, 11-5, 11-6 triumph over

Shyrein Redoquerio.

After UST's Kaye Encarnacion downed Kyle Cielo Bernaldez, 11-7, 17-15, 11-9, La Salle's Angel Laude clobbered Janna Mae Paculba, 11-5, 11-8, 11-2, and the pair of Cello Caoile and Sharina Mendoza conquered Samantha Bandojo and Jaylyn Valencia, 11-7, 7-11, 11-2, 7-11, 11-7.

UST levelled the score when last year's Rookie-MVP Althea Gudes won over Lillian Eborra, 11-6, 11-8, 11-8. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

ANTIQUE PROVINCIAL MEET ADDS 3 NEW SPORTS EVENTS

SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA, Antique – The Antique Provincial Athletic Association Meet will feature three new sports—wushu, weightlifting, and wrestling—when it runs from Dec. 4 to 7.

Department of Education Sports Officer Dr. Oliver Servillon announced

the additions on Friday, bringing the total number of sports events to 25.

"In previous years, there were only 22 sports events," Servillon said, noting that coaches are now available for the new disciplines.

The provincial government allocated PHP4 million for the event, covering food,

honoraria, and uniforms for participants.

Servillon urged athletes to continue training, noting the meet serves as a qualifier for the 2026 Western Visayas Regional Athletic Association Meet in Passi City, Iloilo. **(PNA) BY ANNABEL CONSUELO PETINGLAY**

ARELLANO U GAINS TWICE-TO-BEAT QF INCENTIVE

MANILA – Arellano University stunned defending champion Mapua University, 62-58, Friday in the NCAA Season 101 men's basketball tournament at the San Juan Arena, earning a twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinal round.

Jeadan T-MC Ongotan delivered 15 points, six rebounds, four steals, three assists and a block as the Chiefs finished the eliminations with a 7-6 win-loss card in Group A.

"I'll give the coaches and players credit. We

really worked hard on this because as soon as I walked in, they immediately said, 'Coach, we want to win,'" coach Chico Manabat said.

"Maybe the kids enjoyed the pressure too. That pressure came to us but they handled it well because these kids have the maturity."

The Cardinals also have a 7-6 record but they lost to the Chiefs by four points. Mapua only won by three over Arellano in their first encounter, 90-87.

Arellano may face Group

B third seed Letran, which has a 7-5 slate.

Renzo Abiera contributed 12 points and seven rebounds while Ernest John Geronimo had 10 points for the Chiefs, who trailed 25-33 at halftime. The third quarter ended at 45-all.

Drex Delos Reyes had 13 points and 10 rebounds while Cyril Rey Gonzales and John Christopher Recto chipped in nine points each for Cardinals. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

MUSEUM, UPGRADED FACILITIES UNVEILED AT PHILSPORTS REOPENING

MANILA – The unveiling of the modernized National Sports Museum was a highlight of the reopening of the newly refurbished facilities of PhilSports Complex in Pasig City on Wednesday.

The reopening was led by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos and their youngest son, Philippine Ambassador for Sports Vinny Marcos.

The museum serves as a lasting tribute to the country's rich sporting history and the achievements of Filipino athletes.

Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chairperson Patrick Gregorio expressed his gratitude to the First Family for supporting another pivotal moment for Philippine sports.

"My focus is only on three things -- athletes' welfare, facilities management and sports tourism. Thank you for supporting us on all counts -- all out. Your

consistency and sincerity are deeply felt," Gregorio told the Marcoses.

Also inaugurated were the National Athletic Center (formerly the weight training area) and the upgraded Dorm H with athlete-friendly accommodations that support training and recovery.

The dining hall and sports offices were likewise redesigned to enhance functionality and service, with the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) to establish its new office within the same building.

"I consider sports important for very, very many things, not only the glory it brings to our country and the pride it brings to every Filipino. It brings the country together," President Marcos said in his keynote address. "There's no other activity that builds character better than sports, especially for young people."

Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo; PSC Commissioners Bong

Coo, Edward Hayco, Fritz Gaston and Walter Torres; POC president Abraham Tolentino, Olympians, national athletes, and other sports officials also graced the event, along with Presidential Communications Office Secretary Dave Gomez, Education Secretary Sonny Angara, Interior and Local Government Secretary Jonvic Remulla, and Public Works Secretary Vince Dizon.

Gregorio said the enhancements, along with other ongoing renovations, aim to transform the PhilSports Complex into a premier training ground and competition venue for local and international events.

"This is an inspiration beyond this generation. Sports writes history. This is a legacy we will care for and see through," Gregorio said.

"From grassroots to gold, from gold to greatness. Our battle cry. Our people's story. Your winning legacy." **(PSC Media)**