

PHILHEALTH CITES MEDIA AS 'MULTIPLIERS OF INFORMATION' TO YAKAP SUCCESS

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) – Media plays a critical role in helping healthcare providers reach every Filipino, an official from the Philippine Health

Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) emphasized on their importance in the implementation of the Yakap ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP).

Arturo Ardiente, Field Operations chief for PhilHealth IV-A, called the media 'multipliers of information' in the implementation of the

YAKAP program during their Media Pasasalamat on November 14.

"We may not be able to reach all of our target clients, but with your [the media] help lumalakas ang aming loob. You are the multipliers of information, and you're the best sector we need to tap on."

With the help of the media, Ardiente expressed his hopes that the YAKAP Program will be able to serve more Filipino households.

"We need influencers, and many trust you [the media]. We need you to help us reach our mission—to make YAKAP a household name. Every letter, every

word you publish is very important to us."

Among those recognized were government media arms under the Presidential Communications Office (PCO), including the Philippine Information Agency IV-A (CALABARZON) and Radyo Pilipinas Lucena.

Her message of support, Ma. Cristina Arzadon, Regional Director of PIA CALABARZON, assured the public that it will continue to provide Philhealth with platforms to reach the public and provide vital information on the YAKAP and other health services under the Universal Healthcare (UHC) Law.

"We would like to thank PhilHealth for recognizing our media partners who actively support our government's mission

problem with solar energy is that it eats up most of our agricultural lands, ito ay wala."

Generating an estimated 9,105 MWh of clean energy annually to provide energy for 7900 homes, the NING*NING Solar Rooftop Project is seen to also help the country's push for renewable energy.

"Ningning also helps the community, they can help with solar streetlights and hopefully with solid waste management also. Hindi na rin pinoproblema ng homeowner ang solar panels because its operations and maintenance is with the solar company na."

Developer Joy-Nostalgy Group noted that Pasinaya Homes Prime Central also supports the country's push for renewable energy by preventing an estimated 6,233 tons of carbon dioxide emissions each year, thereby mitigating climate change through clean, renewable electricity. (PB-PIA4A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

to bring public health services under the Universal Healthcare Act,"

"As the grassroots communication arm of our government, the PIA is committed to provide PhilHealth with platforms to deliver timely, accurate, and relevant information that can help save the life of every Filipino."

Philhealth also recognized media partners from Cavite, Laguna Batangas, Rizal, and Quezon provinces who helped ensure that information on the benefits from the PhilHealth YAKAP will reach the public. (PB,CCM/PIA4A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**



REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, NAARESTO NG MAGALLANES PNP

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia — Matagumpay na naaresto ng Magallanes Municipal Police Station, katuwang ang Warrant Personnel ng Lubang Municipal Police Station, Occidental Mindoro, ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person.

Kinilalan ni PMAJRAYMOND T BALBUENA, Chief of Police ng Magallanes MPS, ang nasabing akusado bilang si alias "CHELSEA", residente ng Magallanes, Cavite. Ayon sa mga imbestigasyon, ang nasabing akusado ay pinaniniwalaang pinuno ng ASANO Criminal Group, na responsable sa iba't ibang ilegal na gawain sa rehiyon. Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa noong 2:30 PM ng Nobyembre 27, 2025, batay sa bisa ng mga sumusunod na Warrant of Arrest: Migrants Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995 (Section 6 (L)(M) of RA 8042, as amended by RA 10022) – walang recommended bail; Estafa (3 counts) – Recommended bail: P18,000 para sa tatlong kaso at Violation of Sec. 6 of RA 8042, as amended by Sec. 6 of RA 10022 in relation to RA 10175 – Recommended bail: P120,000

Naipabatid sa akusado ang kanyang karapatan sa ilalim ng Saligang Batas habang isinasagawa ang

pag-aresto. Agad siyang dinala sa Magallanes MPS para sa tamang dokumentasyon at karampatang disposisyon. Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) bilang bahagi ng transparency at maayos na dokumentasyon ng awtoridad.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO:

"Pinapakita ng matagumpay na pag-aresto na ito ang dedikasyon ng ating mga kapulisan sa pagpapanatili ng katahimikan at seguridad sa ating lalawigan. Ang Cavite PPO ay nananatiling matatag sa pagpapatupad ng batas at sa paglaban sa mga kriminal na grupong nakaaapekto sa kapayapaan ng ating komunidad."

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, detalye ng operasyon, o iba pang katanungan, maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa Magallanes Municipal Police Station sa pamamagitan ng kanilang opisyal na telepono o email. Ang tanggapan ay handang magbigay ng kinakailangang impormasyon sa publiko alinsunod sa umiiral na mga patakaran at alituntunin ng Philippine National Police.

PROVINCIAL MOST WANTED PERSON NAARESTO NG TANZA PNP

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng Tanza Municipal Police Station ang isang Provincial Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang joint law enforcement operation sa Tanza, Cavite, dakong 1:40 PM ng November 27, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JOVEN T BAHIL, hepe ng Tanza MPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Amanda" at residente ng Tanza, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng Tanza MPS, katuwang ang Cavite MARPSTA, ang operasyon na nagresulta sa pagkakadakup ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa RA 10883 (New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016), na inilabas ng RTC Branch 131, Trece Martires City, Cavite noong November 27, 2025, na may inirekomendang bail na Php300,000.00. Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station ang isang City Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang Service of Warrant of Arrest sa BJMP Dasmariñas City Jail, Brgy. Burol 2, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, dakong 12:25 PM ng November 27, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Gem" at residente ng Dasmariñas City.

Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng Dasmariñas CCPS ang operasyon sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 11, Article II ng RA 9165, na inilabas ng RTC Branch 128, Dasmariñas City, Cavite noong Hulyo 10, 2023, na may inirekomendang bail

na Php200,000.00. Ang operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Body Worn Camera at Alternative Recording Device.

Kasalukuyang nakadetine ang akusado sa Custodial Facility ng BJMP Dasmariñas City Jail para sa isa pang kasong RA 9262, at ang warrant ay inihahanda para sa pormal na pagbabalik sa korte ng pinagmulan.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Patuloy nating pinapalakas ang koordinasyon sa ating mga yunit upang matiyak na ang mga wanted persons ay napapanagot at ang ating komunidad ay nananatiling ligtas. Ang pagkakaaresto sa City Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng dedikasyon ng Dasmariñas PNP sa pagpapatupad ng batas."

REGIONAL MOST WANTED PERSON NAARESTO NG GMA MPS

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station ang isang Regional Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang operasyon sa GMA,

Cavite, dakong 12:20 PM ng November 26, 2025. Kinilala ni PLTCOL BONNA A OBMERGA, hepe ng GMA MPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Ezekiel", at residente ng GMA, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng GMA MPS ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), na nagresulta sa pagkakadakup sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Grave Threat. Ang warrant ay inilabas noong November 18, 2025 ng Municipal Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch GMA, Cavite, para sa Service of Sentence.

Ayon sa ulat, ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang naiintindihan.

Kasalukuyang nakakulong ang suspek sa custodial facility ng GMA MPS habang inihahanda ang pagbabalik ng Warrant

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang City Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang manhunt operation sa General Trias City, dakong 1:30 PM ng November 26, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang naarestong akusado na si "Maricor", at residente ng General Trias City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias CCPS ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device na nagresulta sa pagdakip sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 11, Article II ng RA 9165. Ang naturang warrant ay inilabas ng

CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON NAARESTO NG BACOR PNP

Camp BGen. Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang isang City Most Wanted Person, sa isinagawang manhunt operation sa Bacoor City, dakong 9:35 PM ng November 26, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, hepe ng Bacoor CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Jerwin", at

residente ng Bacoor City. Isinagawa ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor CCPS ang manhunt charlie operation gamit ang Alternative Recording Device, na nagresulta sa pagkakadakup sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 7 at 14, Article II ng RA 9165. Ang warrant ay inilabas ng RTC Branch 110, Bacoor City, noong November 24, 2025, na may inirekomendang bail na Php360,000.00.

Kasalukuyang nakadetine ang akusado sa Bacoor Custodial Center habang ang warrant ay inihahanda para sa pormal na pagbabalik sa korte ng pinagmulan.

of Arrest sa nag-isyu ng korte para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Patuloy ang pinaigting na mandato ng Cavite PNP kontra kriminalidad. Ang pag-aresto sa isang Regional Most Wanted Person ay patunay sa determinasyon ng ating kapulisan na panagutin ang mga nagkasala at panatilihin ligtas ang ating mga komunidad."

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Patuloy natin pinaigting ang manhunt operations upang matiyak na ang mga may sala ay napapanagot. Ang pagkakaaresto sa City Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng walang-sawang dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa Bacoor upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at seguridad sa komunidad."

CAVITE'S UGNAYAN SABARANGAY BRINGS SERVICES TO SILANG

On November 25, the Office of the Provincial Governor brought Ugnayan sa Barangay at Paligawan Covered Court, marking the first leg of the program in Silang for the year and reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to responsive and inclusive public service.

Governor Abeng Remulla led the activity, where he engaged with Silangeños, enabling them to express their needs, and building meaningful connections with the people. Supporting the initiative were 5th District Board Members Aidel Belamide and Ivey Jayne A. Reyes, along with Silang councilors and the ABC President,

who all joined in showing their solidarity with the community.

Silang Mayor Edward "GenTed" Carranza and Vice Mayor Crispin "Kidlat" Reyes also expressed their gratitude to Governor Abeng Remulla and Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista for their continuous support to the municipality and its residents.

The program remains a testament to the Provincial Government of Cavite's mission to bring public services closer to its citizens under the leadership of Governor Abeng Remulla. — **F. TAMIO / Cavite - PIO**

PGC BRINGS COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE TO BJMP TAGAYTAY

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) successfully carried out a Medical and Dental Mission at BJMP Tagaytay City on November 20, bringing essential healthcare services directly to Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL). Throughout the day, medical professionals delivered comprehensive support from consultations and dental care to diagnostic procedures ensuring that the health needs of the PDLs were given due attention.

A total of 409 beneficiaries

were served, including 332 medical consultations, 63 dental procedures, several diagnostic services such as ECG and X-ray examinations, with prescribed medicines and vitamins.

The mission once again highlighted the PGC's commitment to extending responsive and compassionate health services to all sectors, particularly those with limited access to regular medical care. —**R. Dones/ Cavite-PIO**

CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO KAWIT

The Cavite Career Caravan held at Mana Town Center in Kawit on November 19, transformed the venue into a vibrant hub of opportunities for jobseekers. A total of 62 applicants participated in the activity, with 20 successfully hired on the spot.

Twenty companies from a wide range of industries opened their doors to Caviteños, offering more than 8,000 job vacancies. The selection felt like a neatly arranged buffet of career paths, each one ready for exploration by

eager applicants.

Adding to the event's strength were several national agencies and provincial government office that set up assistance booths, including the Office of the Provincial Legal Officer (OPLO), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), PhilHealth, TESDA, Pag-IBIG Fund, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA). Their presence ensured that jobseekers had access to essential government services, document processing guidance, and employment-related support all in one stop.

The Cavite Career Caravan continues to sustain its mission of connecting Caviteños to employment while bringing government services closer to the people. The Kawit leg once again showcased how unified efforts can open doors, spark hope, and create smoother pathways toward brighter careers. — **OPIO**

EDITORIAL

Pinakamalaking Badyet sa DepEd, Naitala

Nakalusot na sa senado ang pinakamalaking budget sa kasaysayan ng DepEd na nagkakahalaga ng P1.044T na magiging pondo para sa taong 2026.

Kabi-kabila ang malalaking badyet na kinakailangang aprubahan. Sa ganito kalaking klase ng badyet ay maraming maaaring maisakatuparan at ang hinaing ng mga eskuwelahan ay maaaring mabigyan ng solusyon. Sana ay magamit sa maayos ang budget gaya ngsa pagsasaayos at pagdagdag ng mga pasilidad sa mga eskuwelahan gaya na lamang ng mga silid-aralan.

Sana makitaan ng pagbabago at kaayusan sa mga pampublikong paaralan at pati na rin sa mga estudyante.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE GRANTS EDUCATIONAL AID TO 1,743 STUDENTS

The Provincial Government of Cavite, under the leadership of Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, continued its commitment to supporting Caviteño youth through the Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite program. On November 25, 2025, a total of 1,743 students received educational assistance during a distribution event held at Cavite State University-Bacoor

Campus.

The initiative aims to ease the financial burdens of deserving students and empower them to pursue higher education. Governor Remulla emphasized the province's dedication to investing in the next generation, highlighting that education remains at the forefront of Cavite's development agenda. — **A. Sarte / Cavite - PIO**

CAVITE EXTENDS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PUP STUDENTS THROUGH ISKOLAR NG LALAWIGAN PROGRAM

Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla led the distribution of educational assistance to 2,543 students of Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Maragondon on November 26, underscoring the provincial government's commitment to uplifting

Caviteño youth through the Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite program.

The activity was further strengthened by the presence of Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, Maragondon Mayor Umbe Arca, and members of the

municipal council, who all expressed their support for the province's ongoing investment in education.

Iskolar ng Lalawigan program aims to empower students across Cavite by providing financial support essential for their academic journey. — **A. Sarte / Cavite - PIO**

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

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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

PBBM, ASEAN SECRETARY GENERAL TACKLE PH PREPS FOR 2026 CHAIRSHIP

MANILA — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. met with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn at Malacañan Palace in Manila on Thursday to discuss the Philippines' preparations for hosting the regional summit in 2026.

In a Facebook post, Marcos emphasized the importance of strong coordination between the Philippines and the ASEAN Secretariat to chart a future that benefits the region.

"It was a pleasure to welcome ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Kao Kim Hourn as we prepare for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN in 2026," Marcos said.

"We are laying the groundwork for a Chairship built on peace and security, shared prosperity, and people-centered progress. With strong coordination between the Philippines and the ASEAN Secretariat, we are ready to navigate our future together for the good of our region," he added.

During the meeting, Marcos and Kao discussed key priorities and deliverables for the Philippines' ASEAN chairship under the theme, "Navigating our Future, Together," according to a statement from the Presidential Communications Office (PCO).

Kao is on a working visit to the Philippines from Nov. 27 to 28 to provide full support for the preparations for the Philippines' hosting of the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits next year.

Philippine officials present at the meeting in Malacañan Palace were Foreign Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro, Executive Secretary Ralph Recto, PCO Acting Secretary Dave Gomez, and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary and ASEAN National Organizing Council Director General for Operations Ma. Hellen De La Vega.

Kao is also scheduled to meet with Lazaro, Trade Secretary Cristina Aldeguer-Roque, and Social Welfare Secretary Rex Gatchalian.

He is likewise set to meet with the Chair of the 2026 ASEAN Business Advisory Council.

During the formal launch of ASEAN Philippines 2026 on Nov. 14, Marcos pledged to promote peace and stability in Southeast Asia, while harnessing emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI) to help build a future-ready region. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

GSIS ENGAGES BASILAN TEACHERS, EYES SUPPORT FOR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL

MANILA—The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is strengthening member outreach in Basilan, with President and General Manager Wick Veloso meeting with teachers of Basilan National High School (BNHS) on Thursday to gather feedback and assess additional support for the province's largest public secondary school.

Veloso led the dialogue in Isabela City as part of GSIS' continuing effort to bring services closer to government workers in remote areas.

He said direct consultations help ensure that GSIS policies "remain responsive to the evolving needs of members," especially those serving outside urban centers.

BNHS, one of the biggest secondary schools under the Isabela City Schools Division, serves around 8,000 junior and senior high school students.

Teachers raised key concerns during the forum, including the resumption of dividend releases and improvements to the GSIS Educational Subsidy Program (GESP).

DFA: 1 FILIPINO IN ICU, 1 MISSING AFTER DEADLY HONG KONG FIRE

MANILA — An overseas Filipino worker (OFW) is in the intensive care unit (ICU) of a local hospital, while one is still missing after a deadly fire engulfed a high-rise residential complex in Hong Kong's Tai Po district, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Thursday night.

In an update, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Angelica Escalona said both are employed as domestic workers in the Chinese special administrative region.

Meanwhile, there are no confirmed Filipino nationals among the fatalities that have already risen to 65.

Escalona said the

Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong is in touch with Hong Kong's Police Force, Labour Department and Home Affairs Department to determine the whereabouts of the missing Filipino.

"The Department is monitoring the situation in Tai Po closely. The Department also wishes to thank Hong Kong authorities who are helping locate, identify and assist affected Filipinos," she said.

Meanwhile, a total of 23 Filipino domestic workers received welfare assistance from the Consulate, the Migrant Workers Office and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

The three earlier conducted a joint visit to the shelters administered by the Hong Kong government to extend assistance to the affected Filipino nationals. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

DHSUD, UP INK DEAL FOR RENTAL HOUSING UNDER PBBM'S EXPANDED 4PH

MANILA — The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the University of the Philippines (UP) on Thursday signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) formalizing the implementation of a pilot rental housing project under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

Located at Pook Marilag, UP Diliman in Quezon City, the project aims to provide affordable rental housing for UP faculty members, non-teaching personnel and long-time informal settler families within the campus.

It is the first rental housing initiative to be implemented inside a state university under the flagship housing program.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the partnership was in compliance with President Marcos' directive to broaden housing access for dignified living for Filipino families.

"Malinaw po ang direktiba ni Pangulong Marcos

DEPED CHIEF PLEASED WITH PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT FOR HIGHER BUDGET

MANILA — Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Sonny Angara on Thursday thanked the private sector for its support for the department's budget for 2026.

In a statement, Angara committed to "ensure that every peso is used effectively and that learners, teachers, and parents feel the impact in their classrooms and communities."

"The direction set by President [Ferdinand R.] Marcos [Jr.] to invest strongly in human capital provides us with the foundation to push reforms that matter," he said.

Angara issued the statement after the Senate approved a PHP1.044-trillion budget in the 2026 General Appropriation Bill to help DepEd advance education reforms in the country.

Among the groups that have expressed support for Angara's leadership are the Philippine Business for

Education, Makati Business Club, Management Association of the Philippines, Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines, and the Association of Foundations.

"We reiterate our confidence in Sec. Sonny Angara and the current team of DepEd, whose commitment to transparency, data-driven policymaking, and collaboration provides the stability needed to advance key reforms," the groups said in a joint statement.

Programs and items that received an increase in budget support include textbook and learning materials, school-based feeding, disaster response and school safety systems, school infrastructure funds, an expanded workforce, and increased benefits for teachers, as well as the ARAL learning recovery program. (PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

Jr.: siguruhin na walang Pilipinong maiiwanan sa programang pabahay ng pamahalaan. Na mas maraming pangarap ang matutupad sa tulong ng gobyerno lalo na ang mga higit na nangangailangan (President Marcos Jr.'s directive is clear: ensure that no Filipino is left behind in the government's housing program. That more dreams will be fulfilled with the help of the government, especially those who are most in need)" Aliling said as quoted in a news release.

The Marilag Residences Rental Housing Project will be developed through a design-and-build scheme. The UP Office of Design and Planning Initiatives will provide construction management support to ensure alignment with the university's development standards.

Phase 1 of the project covers the construction of 3 four-story buildings with 107 housing units each, using pre-fabricated residential clusters.

A total of 321 units is set to be constructed along with essential utilities, drainage

systems, water tanks and designated access routes. Full-site development includes 152 parking slots, as well as access roads and utility connections.

Aliling emphasized that the project strengthens efforts to diversify shelter options under the Expanded 4PH Program by accommodating families who prefer or require rental-based housing.

"Ang rental housing ay isa sa mga housing modalities sa ilalim ng Expanded 4PH Program ng ating Pangulong Marcos Jr. Ito ay para mas maraming pamilyang Pilipino pa ang matulungan manahan sa ligtas, disente at abot kayang pabahay (Rental housing is one of the housing modalities under the Expanded 4PH Program of our President Marcos Jr. This is to help more Filipino families live in safe, decent and affordable housing)," he said.

He added that the development is envisioned to serve as a long-term community for members of the UP System.

Preparatory works for the construction of the Phase 1 buildings shall commence following the MOA signing. (PR)

PTV DISTRIBUTION 98% COMPLETE AS PCSO HANDS OVER 82 MORE

MANILA – The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) has distributed 82 patient transport vehicles (PTVs) under its Medical Transport Vehicle Donation Program, reaching a remarkable 98.66 percent project completion or 1,620 out of the country's 1,642 cities and municipalities nationwide.

In a statement on Thursday, the PCSO said the 82 new PTVs were handed over to local government units in Western Visayas and the Negros Island Region in a turnover ceremony on Tuesday (Nov. 25) at the New Government Center in Bacolod City.

The event was led by PCSO General Manager Melquiades Robles, along with Chairman Felix Reyes and Director Jennifer Guevara, who presented the symbolic keys to the local chief executives that included Bacolod City Mayor Greg Gasataya. The delivery aligned with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s instructions to prioritize the health and well-being of every Filipino, especially those living in far-flung areas.

Of the 82 vehicles distributed, 37 were allocated to the Negros Island Region, including 11 for local government units (LGUs) in Negros Occidental, 22 in Negros Oriental, and four in Siquijor.

Additionally, 45 PTVs were allocated to various locations in Western Visayas: one for Guimaras, seven for Aklan, eight for Antique, nine for Capiz and 20 for Iloilo.

"These 82 PTVs represent more than just vehicles, they are lifelines for communities throughout Western Visayas and the Negros Island," Robles said.

Each PTV is equipped with a stretcher, oxygen tank, wheelchair, first aid kit, blood pressure monitor, and medicine cabinet. The ambulances were equipped for emergencies, and would ensure that patients can reach hospitals safely and swiftly. Robles underscored the program's progress as a reflection of the President's directive to "work faster,

reach farther, and serve better."

"The milestone achieved echoes the President's assertion in Butuan City that if we do not have a healthy population, we cannot have a happy nation. We must bring healthcare directly to the people," he said.

The newly delivered PTVs are set to significantly enhance inter-island healthcare mobility, allowing for quicker and safer patient transfers between provinces.

This increased capacity is crucial for remote communities that depend on distant hospitals for specialized care, ensuring that no patient is overlooked due to geographical constraints.

"Thanks to PCSO, local governments can now transport the sick and vulnerable to safety," said Mayor Gasataya.

"These vehicles will be crucial for disaster response and community support, especially during recent typhoons that hit Negros Occidental and surrounding areas."

For the year 2025, PCSO has allocated P1 billion for the procurement of an additional 395 vehicles, with plans to further extend health services across the Philippines.

This initiative aims to ensure that every region has access to the critical resources needed to address healthcare challenges, especially in the underserved.

(Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/PNA)

SENATE BOOSTS PCG BUDGET FOR NEW VESSELS, STRONGER WPS PATROLS

MANILA – The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is set to acquire additional vessels and equipment to strengthen its presence in the West Philippine Sea after the Senate augmented the agency's 2026 budget by PHP8.6 billion, transportation officials said during budget deliberations on Thursday. Senator JV Ejercito, sponsor of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) budget, said the augmentation would allow the PCG to procure new vessels, including a 97-meter multi-role response vessel (MRV) from Japan and three 87-meter vessels to expand the country's maritime patrol capability. The PCG will also receive around 40 aluminum boats for search-and-rescue operations, especially during typhoons and other calamities.

"Actually... they concentrated more on the multi-role vessels... And then three more 87 meters... Ang target nila (their target) is about five of these in the coming years," Ejercito said.

He added that while the Philippines does not expect to match China's large coast guard fleet, the goal is to build "a respectable Coast Guard fleet in the next coming years."

Responding to Senator Risa Hontiveros' question on whether the augmentation includes the

purchase of unmanned surface vehicles (USVs), Ejercito clarified that "there is no unmanned vessel on the list."

Hontiveros noted that her office received a request from the PCG for USVs and said she would forward the letter to the committee, adding that such assets "are a necessity in protecting our territory."

Ejercito also confirmed that the vessel acquisition will involve both foreign and domestic construction. "Yung pong (The) 97 meters will be from Japan. And then the others will be a joint venture with Austal. And one will be constructed in Cebu," he said, describing the move as supportive of efforts to strengthen the country's self-reliant defense posture.

Hontiveros said she welcomed the additional support for the PCG, calling the fleet expansion "much-needed and well-deserved," particularly given the Coast Guard's frontline role in asserting Philippine rights in the West Philippine Sea.

The strengthened PCG budget comes amid heightened maritime tensions and forms part of the government's broader efforts to enhance maritime domain awareness and operational presence in the West Philippine Sea. (PNA) **BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

STRICTER RULES HELP SHAPE A MORE RESPONSIBLE E-GAMES SECTOR – PAGCOR

MANILA – The country's E-Games and E-Bingo operators are navigating a difficult but necessary transition toward stricter safeguards and more transparent operations that help shape a more responsible industry, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) Chair and CEO Alejandro Tengco said.

Speaking during a gathering of the Association of Independent Licensed Gaming and Amusement Operators, Inc. (AILGAO) in Muntinlupa City on Wednesday, Tengco acknowledged that recent reforms have prompted adjustments across the E-Games sector.

He particularly cited the mandatory de-linking of e-wallets from online gaming platforms, which, he said, is intended to strengthen the credibility of legitimate operators while preventing potential harm to young and vulnerable players.

"You may be interested to know that in the third quarter of 2025, we recorded an industry GGR (gross game revenue) that was a bit lower than last year," Tengco said. "But this reflects an industry transitioning to stronger and safer practices."

He noted that the E-Games and E-Bingo segment still grew 17.4 percent in the third quarter compared with the same period last year, but admitted that the de-linking policy triggered a temporary GGR decline

in August and September. "We know that many of you were affected by this sudden development," he said. "However, we must not look at these reforms as obstacles but as safeguards designed to protect your players, your businesses, and the entire ecosystem you operate in." Tengco also warned that while legitimate licensees are adapting responsibly, illegal operators continue to expand aggressively without paying taxes or observing player protection protocols.

"They expose players to financial fraud and data theft. But the worst part is, they damage the reputation of the entire industry, including the legitimate ones," he said.

Tengco also commended the licensed operators for their resilience and willingness to comply with more stringent rules.

"Tonight, we recognize all of you for being the backbone of the legitimate online gaming sector: innovating and adapting quickly, and staying compliant even when the rules become stricter," he said. "You understand that integrity is the foundation of sustainability."

During the event, AILGAO presented the "Gaming Exemplary Leadership Award" to Tengco in recognition of his support for licensed operators and his efforts in championing safer and more transparent gaming standards nationwide.

AILGAO President Rafael Tabora, meanwhile, expressed gratitude for PAGCOR's initiatives and pledged the group's full cooperation.

"We welcome these reforms because they strengthen the legitimacy of our operations and create a safer environment for our players," he said. **(PR)**

NAPC, SC PUSH EXPANDED FREE LEGAL AID FOR POOR

MANILA – The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) is working with the Supreme Court's Unified Legal Aid Service (ULAS) to widen access to pro bono or free legal services for the country's poorest and most vulnerable communities.

NAPC Secretary Lope Santos III met with ULAS Interim Board chairperson Associate Justice Alfredo Benjamin Caguioa on Thursday to discuss ways

both institutions can jointly respond to the growing need for free legal support among the 14 basic sectors represented by NAPC.

Santos, accompanied by NAPC Policy and Institutional Consultant Andre Niccolo Tayag, underscored that many marginalized groups continue to face legal challenges yet lack the resources to secure legal representation.

These include land

and labor issues to documentation and access to justice.

Caguioa expressed strong support for a partnership, noting that ULAS was designed precisely to reach those who cannot afford legal assistance. "Ang buong philosophy ng ULAS ay para sa mahihirap (The entire philosophy of ULAS is for the poor)," he said.

The ULAS Initiative, whose rules took effect

in February 2025, aims to close the gap between the high demand for free legal aid and the limited availability of lawyers offering pro bono support.

The framework was developed by a Supreme Court technical working group led by Caguioa. Both parties also discussed formalizing the collaboration through a memorandum of understanding targeted for 2026.

The agreement is expected to define institutional roles, including NAPC's task of identifying qualified indigent beneficiaries who would receive pro bono representation. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

TAGBILARAN CITY SEEKS TO DECLARE BANAT-I, ELLY HILLS AS URBAN BIODIVERSITY ZONES

TAGBILARAN CITY, Bohol (PIA) — The Tagbilaran City government is seeking to declare Banat-i Hill and Elly Hill as urban biodiversity zones (UBZs) to protect two of the city's most prominent natural landmarks while promoting climate-resilient development for nearby communities.

Tagbilaran City Mayor Jane Censoria Cajes-Yap said the move aims to balance development with environmental safety, particularly in areas prone to landslides and flooding due to steep slopes and soil movement.

"There is only one direction, and the most reliable path is to legislate for Banat-I in Bool, and the nearby Elly Hill in Manga, Tiptip, and Ubujan to be converted into urban biodiversity zones (UBZ)," Yap said.

UBZs are designated areas in cities in order to protect, restore, and manage biodiversity while also considering social and economic needs.

Under the proposed framework, an UBZ would prioritize:

- Conservation of flora and fauna
 - Protection of green spaces such as forests, wetlands, riverbanks, and hillsides
 - Sustainable land use to reduce habitat fragmentation and disaster risks
 - Expansion of recreational and nature-learning areas for residents
- Areas within a UBZ can retain native vegetation and existing ecosystems while allowing carefully regulated development. The local government may also establish ecological corridors, linking green spaces, and create parks and trails that people can enjoy, without harming biodiversity.

To do this, the city will need to amend existing zoning and land use classifications for Banat-i and Elly Hills. The proposed measures include limiting or prohibiting activities such as large-scale construction, slope leveling, tree cutting, and other works that could increase environmental risks. The plan would also require:

- Stricter environmental compliance
- Mandatory environmental impact

assessments for projects in critical areas

- Protection of forest patches and vulnerable slopes from encroachment, quarrying, or subdivision
- Additional approval layers where building and subdivision permits are tied to environmental mitigation plans and buffer zones

Banat-i Hill, which overlooks much of Tagbilaran City, has long been classified by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as alienable and disposable land.

This allows titled property owners to pursue development subject to government regulations. Recent years, however, have shown the need for more climate- and safety-conscious planning on the hill.

Major projects have been proposed in the area, including the Central Visayas Cultural Hub—a 5.17-hectare complex initially designed to house performance spaces, museums for the provinces, a contemporary arts gallery, a local arts and culture training center, guest rooms, and an open amphitheater. Land preparation for the cultural hub began after the project's groundbreaking in November 2021.

By January 2024, the City Engineer's Office issued a stoppage order on site activities due to safety concerns raised by residents living below the slope.

A separate Hall of Justice project has also been identified for a half-hectare lot on Banat-i Hill, with earlier investment plans placing the project cost at P300 million.

The Department of Justice has yet to start construction, and the project is reportedly still under coordination.

In 2021, an attempt to develop a low-cost subdivision on one of Banat-i's summits was also halted for lack of permits and an Environmental Compliance Certificate.

Reports noted that preliminary earthworks had already begun before regulators intervened. These experiences, along with recent flooding and landslide incidents in other areas of the region, prompted the provincial

government and the city government to jointly revisit development plans for Banat-i and Elly Hills.

Gov. Aris Aumentado, during a stakeholders' meeting that gathered representatives from national agencies and local officials, stressed the importance of preventive measures in light of climate change and increasing environmental pressures. Yap said the city intends to work closely with the provincial government and national agencies to move in "a single direction" focused on safety and sustainability.

"I am formally requesting our Sangguniang Panlungsod, led by Vice Mayor Adam Jala and our City Councilors together with Congressman Baba Yap, to pass an Ordinance and or a Congressional Bill declaring Banat-i Hill in Barangay Bool and Elly Hill in Barangays Manga, Tiptip, and Ubujan as urban biodiversity zones," Yap said.

"This will ensure that the hills are protected, activities regulated, and the development in the area follows climate-resilience for the safety of our people and the preservation of natural landscapes," she added.

If approved, the UBZ declaration for Banat-i and Elly Hills is expected to serve as a model for integrating disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, and urban planning in other parts of Tagbilaran City and the province of Bohol. (RAHC/PIA Bohol) **BY REY ANTHONY CHIU**

MINDORO COASTAL COMMUNITIES TO BENEFIT FROM CLIMATE-HEALTH RESILIENCE PROJECT

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro (PIA) — Coastal communities across Mindoro Island stand to benefit from a new initiative that combines climate action with inclusive governance.

The ADAPT for Bluer Coasts and Community Resilience (ADAPT) Project was officially launched on Nov. 19 to build climate-resilient and equitable coastal stewardship in the province of Oriental and Occidental Mindoro.

The launch, held at Balai Mindoro, convened national government agencies, local government units, and community organizations in a unified mission to strengthen coastal livelihoods while ensuring that women, Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and persons with disabilities lead in resource management decisions.

The four-year ADAPT Project will deliver tangible benefits across 12 municipalities in the Mindoro Island, with initial pilots in Pola and Puerto Galera, in Oriental Mindoro, and in Sablayan and Looc towns in Occidental Mindoro.

The initiative was led by PATH Foundation Philippines Inc. (PFPI) and supported by the Climate and Ocean Adaptation and Sustainable Transition (COAST) Facility, a program of the U.K.

Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, directly addresses the needs of highly vulnerable coastal communities facing mounting climate and environmental threats.

Recamar Guiñares, program manager for the ADAPT Project, outlined the concrete benefits that will reach coastal residents. "Through three strategic outcomes—Protected, Productive and People, Mindoro communities will gain strengthened ecosystems, enhanced livelihoods and greater voice in decisions that affect their lives," Guiñares said.

Protected ecosystems will be achieved through nature-based solutions such as mangrove restoration, which will shield communities from typhoons and coastal erosion while supporting marine biodiversity. Productive coastal economies will grow through climate-smart aquaculture practices and new market access for sustainable seafood, directly improving household incomes. Most importantly, the People pillar ensures that women, youth and Indigenous leaders gain formal voice in governance structures and equitable access to marine resources.

Guiñares said that communities will benefit from innovative tools and

structures specifically designed for their needs. Women-led marine protected areas and women-managed areas (WMAs) will be established, giving women direct control over resource management and ensuring their economic interests are protected.

Local climate-health dashboards will equip communities with real-time information to monitor environmental changes and protect public health. Dr. Joan Regina Castro, executive vice president of PFPI, cited how this integrated approach will transform coastal life.

"We are moving beyond conservation alone to build true climate-health resilience that directly improves the lives of Mindoro's coastal residents," Castro said.

The project will begin with intensive implementation in the said pilot municipalities. Successful lessons learned will then be expanded to Calapan City, Naujan, San Teodoro, Bongabong and Bulalacao in Oriental Mindoro, and in Mamburao, San Jose & Santa Cruz in Occidental Mindoro, in subsequent years, ensuring that benefits reach as many Mindoro communities as possible. (AS/JBG/PIA MIMAROPA-Oriental Mindoro/With information from PFPI Mindoro Field Office) **BY ACE SAPIT**

DMW-CAR REITERATES WARNING AGAINST ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) — The Department of Migrant Workers Cordillera (DMW-CAR) has reiterated its advice to the public, especially the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and those aspiring to work abroad, to be vigilant and cautious against illegal recruitment activities.

This is following the report of over 50 individuals from Cordillera who have fallen victim to illegal recruitment by a certain Sheena Mae Martinez Canlas and her associates between July and November 2025.

DMW records show that Canlas is not licensed or authorized to recruit for overseas employment.

DMW-CAR Regional Director Cheryl Daytec said that the victims were promised jobs in Japan but

were denied entry upon arrival at the airport.

The victims shared that they were charged P150,000 to P200,000 in supposed processing and placement fees paid either directly to the recruiter or through intermediaries.

Some of the victims have already filed complaints for illegal recruitment and estafa at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The DMW-CAR recently held a coordinating meeting with the NBI-CAR to facilitate legal follow-up on the complaints and to ensure that investigations proceed thoroughly and properly.

"The NBI, tinututukan niya ang kasong ito. They told us na hindi nila pababayaan ito. We are

actively collaborating with the NBI kasi kami rin sa DMW, gusto naming mapanagot itong mga manloloko," Daytec said. She shared that they continue to provide assistance in terms of legal, psychosocial, and prosecution for the victims of illegal recruitment activities.

Daytec emphasized that OFWs and aspiring OFWs must engage only with licensed recruitment agencies and individuals authorized by the DMW whose status can be verified through any DMW office or the DMW official website.

She said that legal recruitment fees are only limited to passport application, medical examination, and

placement fees not exceeding one month's salary.

Daytec reiterated the common signs of illegal recruitment like guaranteed employment, unusually high fees, payments made directly to unverified persons, and recruitments done only through personal referrals.

The public is urged to report suspected illegal recruitment activities in the region to the DMW-CAR Office at 17 Manongdo Building, Magsaysay Private Road, Baguio City. [DEG with report from DMW-CAR] **BY DEBBIE GASINGAN WITH REPORTS FROM DMW-CAR**

NATIONAL TREASURER OPTIMISTIC ABOUT STRONG RISE IN TOKENIZED ASSETS

MANILA – Only around 0.01 percent of trillion-pesos worth of government securities are currently tokenized, thus National Treasurer Sharon Almanza expressed optimism about a big leap as she hopes that more people invest in these mode of growing their funds.

In an interview after the launch of the white paper dubbed "Project Bayani: The Philippines' Asset Tokenization Opportunity" in Taguig City on Thursday, Almanza said only around PHP1 billion worth of government securities, offered through bonds.ph mobile app, is currently tokenized, or in digital token form available on a blockchain.

The white paper, launched by the Philippine Digital Asset Exchange (PDAX), Saison Capital, and Onigiri Capital, estimates the country's tokenized-asset market, which include government bonds, mutual funds, and equities among others, to reach USD60 billion by 2030.

According to the research, about 14 percent of Filipinos already own cryptocurrencies, higher than the less 5 percent who invest in stocks, bonds, and mutual funds funds.

This, as mobile wallets such as GCash, PDAX, Maya, and Coins.ph offer embedded blockchain-enabled wallets and products with a minimum placement of PHP500.

The Bureau of the Treasury has partnered with PDAX and GCash to offer government bonds through their mobile platforms and this has allowed more people to invest in government securities.

Citing data based on the weekly report of PDAX, Almanza said there are already more than 400,000 users in the bonds.ph app, but this is still small compared to the universe of the government securities already issued.

"There's really potential, yes. It's encouraging when I see the report every week," she said.

Almanza, in a panel discussion during the event, said her wish it so have at least five additional banks with digital presence to take part in offering tokenized government securities by 2026.

PDAX founder and chief executive officer Michel Gaba, during the event, said the country has a unique advantage in securities tokenization since blockchain wallets are already being offered here.

"We're not starting from scratch. The infrastructure to deliver tokenized assets to million of Filipinos already exists in their pockets. Our focus now is to connect that infrastructure to real, regulated financial products," he said.

Gaba said regulation is not the issue but education of the investing public is, thus the need to teach them more about this mode of investment so that adoption follows. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

SEC THUMBS UP STA. LUCIA LAND'S RENTAL POOL OFFERING

MANILA – The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has approved Sta. Lucia Land, Inc.'s (SLI) rental pool deals, which allow the issuance of certificates of participation that provide holders share in the profits of the real estate units, which the company will offer for rental as hotel rooms.

In a press release Thursday, the SEC said the approval of the company's 16 registration statements for 2,382 certificates of participation was made by the Commission En Banc on Nov. 25.

Under the approved program, SLI "will offer certificates of participation priced at PHP70,000 apiece for 2,101 studio

956MW CAPACITIES ADDED IN NATIONAL GRID IN NEARLY 4 MONTHS

MANILA – About 956 megawatts (MW) capacity was added to the country's power capacity within four months after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. directed the construction of more power plants to ensure that all Filipinos will have electricity.

The Department of Energy (DOE), in a press release Thursday, said the 956MW of new power generation, along with the establishment of 160MW new energy storage system in Luzon and the Visayas, was achieved as of Nov. 27 following the directive of the President during his 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA) last July 28 to hasten the construction of 200 power plants.

It said the new capacity "forms part of the DOE's broader efforts to ensure sufficient and reliable power supply in support of the country's growing

economy."

It said the additional generation is being produced by 12 power plants using renewable energy (RE) technologies, one oil-based power plant, and one natural gas-fired power plant.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin said "every megawatt we add to the grid is not just a number on paper; it is electricity for homes, power for businesses, and confidence for investors."

"By combining renewable energy projects with flexible conventional plants and modern energy storage, we are building an energy system that is cleaner, more reliable, and more resilient. This is how we honor the President's directive: by turning commitments into completed projects that keep the lights on, bring down the risk of outages, and ensure that our people and our industries have the energy they need to move forward," she said.

The press release said the DOE will continue working with all stakeholders "to accelerate project implementation, streamline permitting processes, and ensure that future capacity additions remain consistent with the goals of energy security, affordability, and a just and orderly energy transition." (With a report from Joann Villanueva) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

on the remaining unsold units available, which will be used to cover the working capital for projects to be disbursed in 2025 and 2026," it said.

Aside from having a share in the profits of the rental units, holders of the certificates will have 30 nights per year free use of the units. (With a report from **JOANN VILLANUEVA/PNA**)

S&P GLOBAL RATINGS AFFIRMS 'BBB+' RATING ON PH

MANILA – S&P Global Ratings on Thursday affirmed its 'BBB+' long-term and 'A-2' short term ratings on the Philippines as it believes the slowdown on public infrastructure spending will be temporary. Outlook on these ratings remain positive, the credit rater said in a report.

"The government is continuing its fiscal consolidation, with its debt burden stabilizing. The country's external position remains a rating strength," it said, but noted that "current account deficits in recent years have decreased net external assets."

It kept the outlook "positive" as it considers that the country "will maintain its external strength and healthy growth rate, and the government's fiscal performance will strengthen over the next 12-24 months."

The affirmation of the ratings was made as the Philippine government digs deep into the anomalies in the flood control projects.

The investigation has resulted in the halting of budget allocation for flood control projects for 2026, with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. citing around PHP350 billion allocated for this year remains untapped.

This has resulted in the slowdown of domestic

growth in the third quarter of this year due to lower government spending.

Growth, as measured by gross domestic product (GDP), slowed to 4 percent from quarter-ago's 5.5 percent and year-ago's 5.2 percent.

"However, we believe this will not derail the country's long-term growth trajectory, which remains healthy," S&P said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Eli Remolona, in a statement, said the S&P rating affirmation "confirms our view of the favorable long-term economic growth prospects."

He said the country remains well-positioned against external risks given the USD110.2 billion worth of dollar reserves as October 2025, among others.

Finance Secretary Frederick Go said affirmation of the country's ratings "will ensure that every policy decision will support sustainable growth and long-term stability."

"Having a high credit rating will benefit Filipinos because this means cheaper financing for the government, and in effect, more resources for essential public services. This supports our goal of uplifting the life of every Filipino," he said. (PNA)

BY JOANN VILLANUEVA

SEC OPENS PLATFORM TO GUIDE BUSINESSES ON REGISTRATION PROCESS

MANILA – Entrepreneurs now have a guide to registering with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

SEC, in a press release on Wednesday, said the improved SEC Academy platform, academy.sec.gov.ph, guides users on the step-by-step process in company registration through the Electronic Simplified Processing of Application for Registration of Company (eSPARC) to ensure their compliance with requirements and in creating an account under the Electronic SEC Universal Registration Environment (eSECURE) to access all SEC digital services.

"As the SEC continues to transform the business registration process and

shift services online, we want to ensure that it remains easy and accessible to all entrepreneurs, whether they are tech-savvy or not," SEC Chairperson Francis Lim said.

"With the launch of the Company Registration Simulation, we aim to demonstrate that registration is simple and straightforward, hopefully empowering entrepreneurs to confidently take the first step in incorporating their business," he added.

SEC said these measures are part of the Commission's goal to provide more businesses with access to SEC's services and make it easier for companies to register using innovative technologies. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



FUTSAL WOMEN'S WORLD CUP: BRAZIL BLASTS ITALY; ARGENTINA BEATS PH

MANILA — Powerhouse Brazil led the four early quarterfinalists after six match days in the FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup (FFWWC) Philippines 2025, with eight other sides vying for the last four tickets.

Top-ranked Brazil, looking to add the inaugural FFWWC to its previous global and regional competition victories, dispatched Italy, 6-1, at PhilSports Arena in Pasig City on Wednesday for back-to-back victories in Group D and a sure quarters seat with a game to spare.

Meanwhile, the Philippines

ended its stint with a 1-5 loss to Argentina. Isabella Bandoja scored on a counterattack in the second half to avert a shutout in the final matchday of Group A.

Argentina (Group A) already made it to the quarterfinals even before the match, along with fellow top seeds Portugal (Group C) and Spain (Group B).

Portugal outclassed Asian champion Japan, 4-1, to get to six points.

Spain booked its Last 8 tickets with a second win Tuesday.

The race for the remaining seats heats up in the next three days of the prestigious tournament

backed by the Philippine Sports Commission and Philippine Football Federation.

Poland and Morocco, level at three points on one win and one loss, were slated to contest the No. 2 in Group A Thursday night.

On Friday, Thailand and Colombia, both with three points, battle it out for Group B No. 2. On Saturday, it's the turn of Japan and Tanzania in Group C, then Iran and Italy in Group D.

The quarterfinal stage is set Monday and Tuesday, with the victors moving forward to the semifinals on Dec. 5. **(PSC MEDIA)**

GREEN ARCHERS SHOOT DOWN BLUE EAGLES TO REACH FINAL FOUR

MANILA — De La Salle University banked on Jacob Cortez to beat Ateneo de Manila, 78-72, Wednesday night in the UAAP Season 88 men's basketball tournament at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Cortez finished with 20 points, while Mike Phillips chipped in 13 points, 16 rebounds, four assists, and two blocks as the Green Archers finished the elimination round with an 8-6 record, tied with the UST Growling Tigers, who hold the tiebreaker and will enter the semifinals as the No. 3 seed.

Cortez's jumper over Waki Espina gave La Salle a 76-72 lead, 12.4 seconds remaining.

Vhoris Marasigan scored 12 points and had three

assists, while Luis Pablo and JC Macalalag added nine and eight points, respectively, for the Green Archers, who cut a 47-58 deficit to 56-60 entering the fourth quarter.

"For that shot (with 12.4 seconds left), I don't know. I've been doing that since I was a kid, counting down by yourself, and there's no better way to do it than in an Ateneo-La Salle crucial game," said Cortez, who also had seven assists.

La Salle will face No. 1 National University in a twice-to-beat semifinal, having lost twice to the Bulldogs in the eliminations. UST will battle No. 2 University of the Philippines in the other bracket.

"These are the times that I was dreaming of when

I was young, watching Ateneo-La Salle games, and I always tell these guys that you're part of this moment right now, so make sure that you're gonna make lasting memories," La Salle head coach Topex Robinson said.

"During the first half, we were struggling because we were so over our emotions and we forgot to trust each other. Just give credit to these guys. They (Cortez and Phillips) really took care of us."

Playing in his final game with Ateneo, Dom Escobar delivered 18 points and four rebounds.

Kymani Ladi had 13 points and seven rebounds, followed by Divine Adili with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Jared Bahay and Espina contributed 11

KIM BEATS DIAZ TO REACH ITF J30 MANILA FIRST LEG QUARTERFINALS

MANILA — Kim Rae Youn of South Korea barged into the girls' singles quarterfinals after eliminating Filipino Jana Elena Nicole Diaz, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, Thursday in the first leg of the ITF J30 Manila at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Kim, the No. 8 seed, will next face No. 1 Yi-Ching Huang, who prevailed over Sana Manabe of Japan, 6-3, 6-2.

Second seed Park Seojin of South Korea, third pick Pimlaphat Lim of Thailand and fourth seed Ying Chi Chloe Wong of Hong Kong also moved to the next round.

Park downed Wang Jiayi of China, 7-6 (8), 6-4, to advance against Pimpisa

Wongwanitkajon of Thailand, who ousted No. 5 Emma Lam Singh Maan of Singapore, 6-3, 6-2.

Lim outplayed qualifier Angelina Hauko Shaw of Japan, 6-4, 6-3, to forge a quarterfinal duel with No. 7 Chou Pin-Tsen of Chinese Taipei, who conquered Xu Yishan of China, 6-4, 6-4.

Wong beat He Yuting of China, 6-4, 6-4, to advance against No. 6 Paweenon Nualsri of Thailand, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over Tanisha Kantam of Singapore.

In the boys division, qualifier Shun Munetoh of Japan clobbered Filipino Lucas Sebastian Go, 6-0, 6-1, to join compatriots Kango Endoh and Kuranosuke Suzuki in the quarterfinals.

No. 5 Endoh whipped Tri Srisen of Thailand, 6-1, 6-0, to advance against No. 2 Gao Ruochen of China, who defeated Tanathorn Tavachphongsri of Thailand, 6-1, 7-5.

Suzuki waylaid Panawat Sienghen of Thailand, 6-2, 6-1, to set up a meeting with top seed Luke Jie Xi Ho of Singapore, a 6-4, 6-3 winner over Filipino Kenzo Marcus Brodeth.

Ishizaki survived Filipino John Kendrick Bona, 6-3, 7-6 (8), to advance against No. 3 Ariyaphol Leekul of Thailand.

Other winners were No. 4 Napat Pattanalertphan of Thailand and Aoi Ishizaki of Japan. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

PERPETUAL SECURES 1ST SEMIS BERTH IN NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

MANILA — University of Perpetual Help prevailed over Jose Rizal University, 81-74, Thursday to reach the semifinal round in the NCAA Season 101 men's basketball tournament at the SM Mall of Asia Arena. Mark Derick Gojo Cruz delivered 23 points, two rebounds and two assists for the Altas, who finished on top of Group A with a 9-4 record to secure a twice-to-beat advantage.

Patrick Sleat chipped in 14 points, 10 assists and six rebounds, followed by Shawn Michael Rey Orgo with 10 points and John Cedrick Abis with nine points.

Perpetual will face the winner in the rubber match between Arellano University and Letran.

"Whatever we're doing, it's not enough. We have to add more to our games and put in the extra effort.

We also have to grow, not just as individuals but as a team," Sleat said.

Sean Salvador scored 18 points and Allen Laurenaria had 16 points and 10 rebounds, while Justin Lozano and Ivan Clarence Panapaan contributed 11 and eight points, respectively, for JRU, which ended the season with a 6-8 win-loss slate. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

KING CRUNCHERS MARCH TO 4TH STRAIGHT TRIP TO FINALS

MANILA — Jude Garcia came up with another impressive performance, carrying Criss Cross to a fourth straight final appearance after beating UST-Gameville, 25-17, 23-25, 25-23, 25-23, Thursday in the 2025 Spikers' Turf Invitational Conference at the FilOil EcoOil Centre in San Juan.

Garcia delivered 31 points on a 30-of-48 spiking clip

and 10 points, respectively. La Salle's victory eliminated Far Eastern University, which prevailed over UST, 81-79, in the other game. The Tamaraws missed the Final Four for the fourth consecutive season. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

as the King Crunchers improved to a 4-1 win-loss record, setting up a title duel with the winner between the Savouge Aesthetics Spin Doctos and visiting Kindai University of Japan.

The victory also eliminated defending champion Cignal, which ended its eight consecutive finals appearances.

"It was very challenging because UST really made us suffer and it really showed how we could regroup and compose ourselves on the court to get the win," said the three-time MVP Garcia after the one hour and 54-minute match.

"I feel like it's just one step at a time. We can't be complacent with what

we're doing because we had a lot of lapses in the past games, so we need to work on every point and every set of the match in the championship," he added.

Nico Almendras chipped in 10 points and 21 excellent receptions, while Gian Glorioso added nine points. Sherwin Umandal had 21 points on 19 attacks, a block, and an ace, alongside six digs for UST-Gameville, which concluded its campaign with a 1-4 semifinal card.

Gboy De Vega contributed 17 points, 21 receptions, and five digs, while Trevor Valera and Kenneth Salvador scored 14 and 12 points, respectively. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**