

OPPEM EMPOWERS YOUTH THROUGH SPES ORIENTATION IN SILANG



MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

PGC EMPLOYEES MARK CIVIL SERVICE MONTH WITH TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY IN TAGAYTAY

In celebration of the 125th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Human Resource Management

Officer (OPHRMO), spearheaded a Tree Planting and Tree Growing Activity on September 19, 2025, at the Taal Volcano Protected Landscape in Tagaytay City.

The event, which gathered sixty (60) employees from various PGC offices, was part of the Employees' Month Celebration under the Civil Service Commission's nationwide

observance of "Linggo ng Malasakit sa Kalikasan." The initiative highlighted the importance of sustainable environmental protection and natural resource management. A

In line with its commitment to provide meaningful opportunities for the youth, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment

(DOLE), successfully held an orientation for the Special Program for the Employment of Students (SPES) on September 18, 2025, at McDonald's Highway, Silang, Cavite.

A total of 55 beneficiaries took part in the activity, gaining valuable knowledge about the program's objectives, benefits, and guidelines. The SPES, a flagship initiative that bridges education and employment, aims to assist students in pursuing their studies while acquiring essential workplace experience.

The joint effort of OPPEM and DOLE highlights the Provincial Government's continuing commitment to empower the youth by creating opportunities that provide both financial support and professional growth.---**R. DONES**

total of 150 seedlings were planted during the activity, reinforcing the provincial government's commitment to conservation and ecological balance. Anchored on the anniversary theme, "Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani: Puso, Dangal, at Galing para sa Bayan," the activity emphasized the role of government workers not only as public servants but also as stewards of the environment.

Ms. Maria Fe Mojica-Satsatin, Head of the OPHRMO, expressed her gratitude to the employees for their active participation and support, noting that their collective efforts reflect the true spirit of public service and solidarity for a greener Cavite.

Civil Service Month is observed every September

by virtue of Presidential Proclamation No. 1050, s. 1997, commemorating the establishment of the Philippine civil service and honoring the invaluable contributions of government employees across the nation.---**A. CABRERA**



PGC EMPLOYEES' TREE GROWING ACTIVITY
 SEPTEMBER 19, 2025 | TAAL VOLCANO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, TAGAYTAY CITY

MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

RANK NO. 4 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG GMA MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station ang isang Most Wanted Person (Municipal Level Rank No. 4) dakong 6:06 ng gabi ng Setyembre 25, 2025 sa Brgy. Tirona, GMA, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL BONNA A OBMERGA, hepe ng GMA MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Chi", residente ng Brgy. Poblacion 2, GMA, Cavite. Isinagawa ng mga Warrant Operatives ng GMA MPS ang operasyon laban sa Most Wanted Person sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Robbery with Violence Against or Intimidation of Persons na

inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 109, na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php100,000.00. Ang nasabing operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) at ang naarestong suspek ay dinala sa GMAMPS para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang patuloy na pag-aresto sa mga Most Wanted Person ay nagpapakita ng dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan na tiyakin ang kaligtasan at hustisya para sa ating mga mamamayan."

CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG BACoor CCPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor Component City Police Station (CCPS) ang isang Most Wanted Person (City Level) dakong 8:30 ng gabi ng Setyembre 25, 2025 sa Brgy. Aniban 1, Bacoor City, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, hepe ng Bacoor CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Del", residente ng Brgy. Aniban 1, Bacoor City, Cavite. Isinagawa ng mga tauhan mula sa Warrant Section ng Bacoor CCPS ang isang Manhunt Charlie operation gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado para sa paglabag sa

Section 11, Article 2 ng RA 9165. Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng RTC Branch 113, Bacoor City, Cavite, na may petsang Hunyo 19, 2025 na walang inirekomendang piyansa. Kasalukuyang nakapiit ang akusado sa Bacoor Custodial Center para sa nararapat na disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang patuloy na pag-aresto sa mga Most Wanted Person ay isang mahalagang hakbang upang mapanatiling ligtas ang ating mga komunidad laban sa kriminalidad."

TOP 8 PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG NOVELETA MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Noveleta Municipal Police Station ang Top 8 Provincial Level Most Wanted Person dakong 4:30 PM ng Setyembre 23, 2025 sa Brgy. Sta. Rosa 1, Noveleta, Cavite. Kinilala ni PMAJ MARK ANTHONY DIATO SARNO, OIC ng Noveleta MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Gerald", residente ng Brgy. Sta. Rosa 1, Noveleta, Cavite. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa na gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) at nagresulta ito sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa kasong paglabag sa Section 5 at 11, Article II ng RA 9165

sa ilalim ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 16, Cavite City, Cavite, na may petsang September 3, 2025, para sa Service of Sentence. Ang naarestong suspek ay kasalukuyang nakapiit sa Custodial Facility ng Noveleta MPS para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang mas pinaigting na operasyon ng ating kapulisan laban sa mga most wanted person ay patunay ng ating determinasyon na protektahan ang ating mga komunidad laban sa kriminalidad at ilegal na droga."

MOST WANTED PERSON (MUNICIPAL LEVEL) ARESTADO NG TANZA MPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tanza Municipal Police Station (kaagapay ang General Trias Component City Police Station) ang isang Most Wanted Person (Municipal Level) dakong 2:20 ng hapon ng Setyembre 25, 2025 sa Brgy. San Juan 2, General Trias City, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL JOVEN T BAHIL, Officer-in-Charge ng Tanza MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Delma", residente ng Brgy. San Juan 2, General Trias City, Cavite. Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng Tanza MPS (lead unit) ang law enforcement operation laban sa Most Wanted Person na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng nasabing akusado sa kasong Homicide na inisyu ng Regional Trial

Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 131, Trece Martires City, Cavite noong Setyembre 17, 2025 na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php120,000.00. Ang akusado ay ipinaalam at binasahan ng kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa panahon ng pag-aresto at dinala sa Tanza MPS para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Ang nasabing operasyon ay naitala gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD). Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagsisikap ng ating kapulisan na maaresto ang mga Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng ating dedikasyon na tiyakin ang hustisya at katahimikan sa ating lalawigan."

MOST WANTED PERSON (CITY LEVEL RANK NO. 4 - MC) ARESTADO NG GENERAL TRIAS CCPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang Most Wanted Person (City Level Rank No. 4 - MC) dakong 5:40 ng hapon ng Setyembre 24, 2025 sa Brgy. Pasong Camachile 1, General Trias City, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang akusado na si @ALEX, residente ng Brgy. Pasong Camachile 1, General Trias City, Cavite. Isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias CCPS ang operasyon laban sa Most Wanted Persons gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa kasong paglabag sa Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children

Act (RA 9262) na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 65, Infanta, Quezon noong Setyembre 24, 2025 na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php100,000.00. Kasalukuyang nakapiit ang akusado sa General Trias City Custodial Facility, Brgy. Bagumbayan, General Trias City, Cavite para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa mga Most Wanted Person ay isang patunay ng walang humpay na pagtutok at dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at kaligtasan sa ating lalawigan."

RANK NO. 8 CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG DASMARINAS CCPS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station ang Rank No. 8 City Level Most Wanted Person dakong 6:20 PM ng Setyembre 24, 2025 sa Barangay Victoria Reyes, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, COP ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Marcos", residente ng Barangay Victoria Reyes, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel ng Dasmariñas CCPS gamit ang Body Worn Camera (BWC) at Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa kasong Rape sa bisa ng

Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 90, Dasmariñas City na may petsang April 10, 2025 at may inirekomendang piyansa na Php200,000.00. Ang naarestong suspek ay kasalukuyang nakapiit sa Custodial Facility ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station para sa karampatang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagtutok ng ating kapulisan sa paghuli ng mga most wanted person ay patunay ng ating pagsisikap na maipagpatuloy ang katahimikan at kaligtasan ng ating lalawigan."

DOH PUSHES EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH TO ENHANCE HEALTHCARE IN CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, Philippines (UP), Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Health (DOH) in Calabarzon had convened top universities, research partners, and health and higher education institutions for the 7th Regional Health Research Forum to advance evidence-based healthcare research in the region.

DOH Calabarzon OIC-Regional Director Dr. Voltaire S. Guadalupe said the forum served as a platform for various health research stakeholders in Calabarzon to connect, share best practices, and exchange information on healthcare research and innovations.

“By enhancing our health research through evidence-based approaches, we can bridge the gaps in our healthcare system and elevate the health of Filipinos,” Guadalupe stressed.

He added that the initiative aligns with the goals of the 8-Point Action Agenda and the National Unified Health Research Agenda (NUHRA), which aim to improve health outcomes, strengthen health systems, and ensure access to care for all.

At least 19 higher education institutions from Calabarzon and Metro Manila participated in the forum held on September 11–12, 2025, at the Bayleaf Hotel in General Trias City.

These included leading universities such as the University of the

Philippines (UP), University of Santo Tomas (UST), De La Salle University (DLSU), De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute (DLSMHSI), and Batangas State University (BatStateU), along with other higher education institutions across the region and Metro Manila.

Themed “Research that Matters: Achieving Goals of the 8-Point Action Agenda”, the research forum was organized by the Research and Innovation Development Unit (RIDU) in partnership with the Health Research and Development Consortium CaLaBaRZon (HRDCC) and the Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD).

Finalists from both the Student and Professional Categories competed in the Poster Competition, showcasing their research expertise. Student Oral Presenters also highlighted how their work could make a meaningful impact on communities.

Winners of each competition will represent the region at the 19th Philippine National Health Systems Research (PNHRS) Week, to be hosted by the Health Research and Development Consortium–Region XII in SOCCSKSARGEN. (PIA4A) **BY FRED MOORE CAVAN**

RIZAL FOOD PRODUCERS RECEIVE P1.2M DOLE GRANT TO EXPAND GROWTH

ANTIPOLO CITY, Rizal (PIA) — A local food producers’ organization in Rizal has received a P1.2 million grant from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to enhance its operations.

According to the DOLE Rizal Provincial Office, the grant was awarded to the Samahan ng mga Rizaleño sa Sektor ng Agrikultura at Pagkain, Inc. (SARAP) under the agency’s Adjustment Measures Program (AMP).

It aims to support product development, process improvements, and capacity-building initiatives for its members.

“DOLE reaffirms its commitment to supporting Rizal’s micro, small, and medium enterprises. This assistance is expected to enhance product quality, improve market access, and expand operations across Rizal and beyond,” said DOLE Rizal’s Supervising Labor and Employment Officer Victoria B. Natanauan during the ceremonial turnover held on September 9.

The grant was awarded during the SARAP Food Industry Conference: Spice Up Your Business – A Flavorful Guide to Scaling Up, organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in partnership with Meralco and SARAP.

The conference is part of the Championing Creative Rizal Project, a market-driven initiative that aims to strengthen the local food sector by equipping entrepreneurs with the tools to meet consumer demands and innovate.

Rosario Ola, President of SARAP, expressed gratitude to DOLE for extending its support

beyond traditional labor-related concerns.

“Maraming salamat sa pagtulong sa maliliit na industriya. Akala namin noon, ang DOLE ay tungkol lamang sa pagpapatupad ng ating labor laws,” Ola said.

“Kaya natutuwa kami na ang mga maliliit na negosyante mula sa probinsya ng Rizal na nasa industriya ng pagkain ay nabigyan ng pagkakataong maging benepisyaryo ng AMP,” she added.

The Adjustment Measures Program, formally established through DOLE Department Order No. 241, Series of 2024, is designed to help enterprises and workers cope with economic disruptions.

It provides practical interventions such as training and skills upgrading, adoption of new technologies, product innovation, just transition programs for digitalization and sustainability, and productivity improvement initiatives.

“This initiative marks the second time DOLE has partnered with DTI to scale up MSMEs in Rizal. Earlier in 2024, the Rizal Exporters and Manufacturers Association, Inc. (REMAI) also benefited from the program. The continuation of this partnership underscores the government’s commitment to fostering resilient, innovative, and competitive MSMEs in the province,” Natanauan explained.

Present during the awarding ceremony were DTI-Rizal Provincial Director Cleotilde M. Duran, DTI-Rizal Division Chief Sharon F. Dioco, and DOST-Rizal OIC-Provincial Director Niña Sherylle Giron. (FC/DOLE-RPO)

BY DOLE RIZAL

EDITORIAL

Universal Healthcare, Abot Kamay Na Nga Ba?

Ipinagmamalaki ngayon ng Pangulo na malapit nang maabot ng bansa ang Universal Healthcare. Sa pagbisita niya sa Bataan General Hospital sa Balanga, Bataan ay nabanggit niya na marami na ang mga pasyente ang sumasadya sa hospital para magpagamot, hindi kagaya noon na iniisip pa ang bayarin bago pumunta ng hospital. Pinuri rin ng Pangulo ang hospital dahil sa pagpapatupad ng Zero Billing Policy kung saan hindi na kinakailangan pang pumila sa kahera ang pamilya ng pasyente, ang mismong staff na a nito ang maghahatid na siyang nais ng Pangulo na tularan ng iba pang mga hospital.

Maari man na nakaya ng naturang hospital ang ganitong mga bagay ay paano naman ang ibang hospital na nagkakaroon ng mga problema ukol sa badyet at pasilidad? Sana ay mabigyan ng solusyon ang iba pang mga problema ukol sa sektor ng medikal.

Isang maganda bagay kung bibigyan ng sapat na solusyon ang mga problema sa bawat sektor upang lubos itong maayos at maging madali para sa mamamayan na maaccess ang ganitong mga bagay. Nang sa gayon ay maramdaman din ng mga mamamayan ang mga ganitong balita na umano ay paglago ng ekonomiya o pagiging maayos ng pamumuno sa bawat sektor.



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PH TO GET SHARE IN \$55-M US MARITIME SECURITY FUNDING

MANILA – The Philippines is among the countries set to get a portion of the United States' new USD55 million or approximately PHP3.2 billion funding on maritime security in the region, the US Department of State said Thursday. The new allocation is aimed at helping enhance the maritime law enforcement capacity of countries in the Indo-Pacific, including the Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Pacific Islands, and still unnamed "maritime South Asian nations."

The State Department said the funding will enable the beneficiary states to "counter illicit maritime activities, exercise their sovereign rights, and interdict illicit fishing and maritime trafficking operations."

The new funding was announced during the US-co-hosted ministerial meeting on "Reinforcing Cooperation to Achieve a Secure and Stable Maritime Domain" on the sidelines of the 80th UN General Assembly in New York on Sept. 24.

In the high-level gathering, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro rallied nations to uphold international law and cooperation at sea.

State Secretary Marco Rubio, for his part, called for collective actions to advance a free and open Indo-Pacific, including the South China Sea.

The US Department of State, quoting the US top diplomat as saying, said Rubio further highlighted China's "expansive and unlawful maritime claims" in the vital sea lane and the "destabilizing ways it attempts to enforce them." In addition, Rubio encouraged close coordination among countries to reinforce the freedoms of navigation and overflight and the free flow of commerce globally.

"Discussed critical maritime security issues with my counterparts at the UN today. A free, open Indo-Pacific is vital to global trade and security. Together, we're building a coalition to safeguard these principles," he said in a separate post on X on Thursday.

Forty countries actively participated in the meeting, which was co-hosted by the US with the Philippines, Australia, Estonia, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania, and the United Kingdom. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

EX-SC SPOX HOSAKASWORN IN AS ICI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MANILA – Former Assistant Court Administrator and Supreme Court (SC) spokesperson Brian Keith Hosaka on Thursday formally assumed his post as executive director of the Independent Commission for Infrastructure (ICI).

Hosaka took his oath before SC Associate Justice Jose Midas Marquez a day after President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. appointed him to the fact-finding body tasked to look into the

alleged corruption and irregularities in government flood control and related projects.

In an advisory, the ICI said all its official statements and communications will be issued solely through its chairman, retired Justice Andres Reyes, and Hosaka, who will also serve as the body's spokesperson.

Before his appointment to ICI, Hosaka served as Governance Commission for GOCCs (GCG) commissioner where

PH JOINS CROSS-REGIONAL PUSH FOR TREATY VS. FISSILE MATERIAL

MANILA – The Philippine government has joined a cross-regional call for the immediate start of negotiations on a treaty that would ban the production of fissile material used in nuclear weapons.

Fissile materials such as highly enriched uranium and plutonium are essential raw materials in manufacturing nuclear weapons.

The proposal for a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), which is seen to prevent the expansion of nuclear arsenal among countries, has been around for years, but actual negotiations have yet to begin.

"The finalization and entry into force of a multilateral, non-discriminatory, and effectively verifiable FMCT are both critical and urgent," said Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro, in her remarks at the First FMCT Friends Ministerial Meeting on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Sept. 24.

Lazaro described the FMCT as a "much-needed pillar" in global security, citing rising geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, Europe, and South

and East Asia.

She also raised concern over the "rapid expansion of nuclear arsenals" in the Asia-Pacific region, warning that such developments undermine the Non-Proliferation Treaty and decades of progress toward nuclear disarmament.

In Asia-Pacific alone, Lazaro raised the alarm over a "rapid expansion of nuclear arsenals"—moves she said go against the spirit of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and gains in nuclear disarmament in the past decades.

"The threat of use of nuclear weapons intensifies current strategic competition and protracted conflicts in Europe, the Middle East, South and East Asia," she said.

"These geopolitical complexities, more so, demand collective effort to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world. Existing commitments to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation must be upheld. There is no room for backsliding," she added.

The FMCT Friends group is composed of both nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states working to increase political momentum for the treaty.

Its members include the Philippines, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The inaugural FMCT Ministerial Meeting was chaired by Japanese Foreign Minister Iwata Takeshi.

At the gathering, member states adopted a joint statement reaffirming their commitment to a "non-discriminatory, multilateral, and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile material for use in nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

The US participated as an observer. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

DOH SENDS ADD'L MEDICINES, HEALTH COMMODITIES TO BATANES

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) has dispatched additional supplies of medicines and health commodities to Batanes, in support of the Batanes General Hospital (BGH) and the province's local government units.

In a Facebook post on Thursday, the DOH reported that the shipment included emergency medical kits, breastfeeding kits, Vitamin A capsules, pulse oximeters, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) mannequins, which are expected to boost the province's preparedness and capacity to respond to health emergencies.

Batanes, one of the country's most typhoon-prone provinces, often faces challenges in logistics and healthcare delivery due to its remote location and frequent exposure to extreme weather.

The agency said sufficient stocks of essential medicines and commodities will be made available to ensure

uninterrupted health services for residents.

Health teams also visited the Batanes General Hospital and Boulder Beach Road to conduct inspections of the delivered supplies and assess the current situation on the ground.

The DOH has also prepositioned essential health commodities in Western and Eastern Visayas ahead of Typhoon Opong's expected landfall. Supplies included emergency medicines such as doxycycline and oral rehydration salts, along with nutrition, hygiene, and mental health support kits. DOH Health Emergency Response Teams have also been placed on high alert for immediate deployment to affected areas.

These initiatives follow the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to ensure prompt medical response in vulnerable areas, especially during the ongoing series of typhoons affecting the country. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

LTFRB TO SUMMON OWNERS OF INACTIVE PUVS ON COMMONWEALTH

MANILA – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) is set to review all 3,972 public utility vehicles (PUVs) with franchises to operate along Commonwealth Ave. to ensure sufficient public transport in the area.

In a news release, the Board said franchise holders found to be inactive or not operating will be required to explain through show-cause orders.

LTFRB Chair Teofilo Guadiz III said the review is in line with Acting Transportation Secretary Giovanni Lopez's order to safeguard commuters and ensure PUV franchises are properly utilized.

"Mahigpit naming

ipatutupad ang direktiba ng DOTr upang matiyak na nagagamit nang tama ang mga prangkisa (We will strictly enforce the directive from the DOTr to ensure that franchises are being used properly)," Guadiz said.

On Wednesday, Lopez ordered the verification of the almost 4,000 PUVs plying Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City after personally experiencing the commute along the busy thoroughfare.

He ordered the LTFRB to study the situation and provide a recommendation that would increase the supply of PUVs along Commonwealth Avenue. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

SAGIP SAKA ACT, CONGRESSIONAL AGRI BODY KEY TO FOOD SECURITY: PBBM

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday emphasized the need to implement the Sagip Saka Act and create a congressional commission on agriculture (AGRICOM) to ensure food security and affordability in the country.

Marcos made the statement after meeting with select Cabinet officials and lawmakers at Malacañan Palace in Manila.

“Sagip Saka Act at AGRICOM, aarangkada na para sa mas murang pagkain at sapat na kita para sa mga magsasaka at mangingisda (Sagip Saka Act and AGRICOM, set to launch for more affordable food and fair income for farmers and fisherfolk),” he said in a Facebook post.

The meeting was attended by Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., and Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella III, based on the photos shared by the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) on its official Facebook page.

Also present were Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan, Apayao Lone District Rep. Eleanor Bulut-Begtang, and Quezon 1st District Rep. Mark Enverga.

In a statement, the PCO said Marcos led the discussion on the implementation of the Sagip Saka Act to ensure direct purchase of produce and support for farmers.

The expansion of extension services from the DA and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) was also discussed, the PCO added.

“Layon ng DA na magpadala ng 6,000 staff sa mga rehiyon para tulungan ang mga magsasaka sa makabagong teknolohiya at serbisyo at iba pang extension services (The DA aims to deploy 6,000 staff across regions to assist farmers with modern technology, services, and other extension services),”

it said.

During the meeting, Marcos also ordered the review and amendment of the Agricultural Tariffication Law to better protect local produce.

Marcos also approved the creation of AGRICOM, a commission tasked with preparing broader reforms in the agricultural sector. EO on palay buying floor price

Marcos also ordered the DA to coordinate with Bersamin and Pangilinan’s offices for the crafting of an executive order (EO) establishing the palay buying floor price, the PCO said.

This, as Marcos sought the establishment of a floor price for the purchase of palay (unhusked rice) to prevent unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of farmers during harvest season.

Pangilinan recommended setting a floor price for buying palay and engaging local government units (LGUs) in palay procurement through the Sagip Saka Act, noting that the farmgate prices of palay remain low during the peak harvest season, leaving farmers vulnerable to traders who buy their produce at lower rates.

“Marcos affirmed the strong support from LGUs for the PHP20 per kilo rice program and efforts to bring down rice prices. However, the President said that while the retail prices of rice are declining, farmers continue to suffer as traders purchase palay at a very low cost,” the PCO said.

Marcos ordered the full implementation of the Sagip Saka Act of 2019, also known as Republic Act 11321, to support farmers and the Benteng Bigas program, which makes rice available at PHP20 per kilo.

Review of NFA charter Marcos also ordered a review of the charter of the National Food Authority (NFA) to strengthen the provision on farmer support services, the PCO said.

OWWA LAUNCHES MOBILE CLINIC, FREE MEDICINE PROGRAM FOR OFWS, FAMILIES

MANILA – Access to healthcare and medicine for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), including their families, will soon be made easier through a new mobile diagnostic clinic and the Alagang OWWA Botika.

At the ceremonial turnover of the mobile clinic in Pasay City on Thursday, OWWA Administrator Patricia Yvonne Caunan thanked First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., for donating a LAB for ALL mobile medical and clinical laboratory truck to the agency, which would benefit OFWs and their families.

“Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa ating mahal na First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, for her generosity, at kitang-kita naman, isang magandang medical truck ang ibinigay sa OWWA. At sa suporta ng ating mahal na Pangulo, Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (We are grateful to our beloved First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos, for her generosity, and it is evident, a beautiful medical truck was given to OWWA. And with the support of our beloved President, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.),” Caunan said.

Aside from the mobile clinic, OWWA also launched its Alagang OWWA Botika under the YAKAP (Yaman ng Kalusugan Program). “Maraming matutulungan na mga kababayan natin kasi i-re-register natin ito under the YAKAP program ng PhilHealth (Philippine Health Insurance Corp.) which means libre na

RA 12078 extended the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) until 2031.

“The President also said that the NFA should return to its original mandate of stabilizing prices and not rely on importation, which was never part of its core function,” the PCO said. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

serbisyo para sa ating mga kababayan and at the same time sustainable siya kasi hindi sa OWWA siya, PhilHealth ang magsusholder ng ating expenses para sa ating mga OFWs (This would help many of our countrymen because we will register it under the YAKAP program of PhilHealth which means free services for our countrymen and at the same time it is sustainable because it is not from OWWA, PhilHealth will bear our expenses for our OFWs),” she added.

Caunan said the mobile clinic is equipped with X-ray, ultrasound, and laboratory facilities. Free consultations and diagnostic services will be exclusively provided to active OWWA members and their dependents through the program, starting with weekly operations at the program’s headquarters in Pasay City.

Meanwhile, OWWA also signed a memorandum of agreement with VidaCure, an accredited partner of the YAKAP at GAMOT Program under PhilHealth, for the establishment of the Alagang OWWA Botika. Through the partnership, active OWWA members and their families will have direct access to essential medicines.

The first rollout of the Alagang OWWA Botika will start on Sept. 29 at the OWWA Central Office, while the mobile clinic will operate once a week.

The agreement also introduces an enhanced primary care package, expanding the former Konsulta Program offering free or subsidized consultations, laboratory and cancer screening tests, and other vital health services for active OWWA members and their families.

The mobile clinic will initially serve Metro Manila before expanding to regional OWWA offices, while the Alagang OWWA Botika is targeted to roll out nationwide in the coming months. (PNA) **BY MARITA MOAJE**

LAZO IN UN: CALL OUT ACTIONS THAT UNDERMINE SECURITY, SAFETY AT SEA

MANILA – The Philippines co-chaired a high-level ministerial meeting on maritime security and safety on the sidelines of the 80th United Nations General Assembly in New York City, rallying nations to uphold international law and cooperation at sea.

The Foreign Ministerial Meeting on “Reinforcing Cooperation to Achieve a Secure and Stable Maritime Domain,” held on Sept. 24, was attended by at least 40 countries.

In her remarks, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro urged the participating states to sustain dialogue and “call out actions that undermine maritime safety and security, and violate international law,” particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). “The oceans that connect our nations also commit us to a shared responsibility: keeping our seas peaceful, secure and stable, for the

benefit of all,” she said.

She warned against “illegal, coercive, aggressive and deceptive actions—especially those that risk the lives of seafarers, compromise the safety of vessels and aircraft, and impede the inherent rights of fisherfolk to fish,” stressing that international cooperation guided by law “illuminates the way forward.”

The meeting acknowledged pressing challenges in maintaining a secure and stable maritime domain, while underscoring the importance of international law, marine environment protection, freedom of navigation and commerce, global connectivity, and the protection of critical underwater infrastructure.

The Philippines co-hosted the meeting with Australia, Estonia, Greece, Japan, the Netherlands, Romania, the United Kingdom, and the United States. (PNA)

BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA

NAIA PUTS UP TEMPORARY SLEEPING QUARTERS FOR STRANDED PASSENGERS

MANILA – Temporary sleeping quarters were set up across all terminals of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) for passengers who may be affected by Severe Tropical Storm Opong (international name Bualoi).

Several beds were placed inside the terminals to ensure stranded passengers are comfortable while waiting, airport operator New

NAIA Infra Corp. told the Philippine News Agency on Friday.

Also on Friday, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines recorded 134 canceled flights, mostly domestic, due to the effects of Opong.

Low-cost carrier Cebu Pacific announced that an additional 46 domestic flights were canceled during the day. (PNA) **BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

NCSC PUSHES LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMS TO EMPOWER SENIOR CITIZENS FOR NATION-BUILDING

CEBU CITY, Cebu (PIA) —

The National Commission on Senior Citizens (NCSC) is working with government agencies and the private sector to create livelihood opportunities that promote the inclusion of senior citizens in nation-building. NCSC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mary Jean P. Loreche said the initiative aligns with President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s vision of empowering older persons as active contributors to society.

"Isa sa aming isinusulong ngayon ay livelihood opportunities for our older persons at ito po ay naka-angkla sa [layunin ng] ating pangulo. Isa po yan sa kanyang programa kung saan sinasabi niya na gusto niya na ang ating mga nakakatanda ay kasama for nation building," Loreche said.

(One of the things we are advocating now is livelihood opportunities for our older persons and this is anchored in the goal of our president. That is one of his programs where he says he wants our elders to be included for nation building.)

According to Loreche, the commission has partnered with the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to implement programs tailored for senior citizens. One of the first projects, set to launch in Intramuros, Manila before the end of September, will give senior citizens opportunities to serve as tour guides. The DOT will provide training to qualified seniors to prepare them for the role.

"Siksik sila sa kaalaman and experience, mas maganda yun (They are full of knowledge and experience; that's even better)," Loreche said.

To qualify, senior citizens must meet three criteria: they must be able, capable, and willing: should be able, should be capable, and

should be willing.

In Central Visayas, the NCSC will also engage with hotels and resorts to open more opportunities for senior citizens.

Meanwhile, Loreche revealed that SM Holdings has committed to allocating jobs for seniors in its establishments nationwide. TESDA will provide retraining and retooling programs to ensure older workers can match skills with available livelihood opportunities.

"In all workforce industries natin, syempre kailangan naming pag-aralan ano yung makakagaan lang sa kanila, pangalawa, yung angkop sa kanila," Loreche said.

(In all our workforce industries, of course we need to study what is easier for them; secondly, what is suitable for them.) Cebu provincial government has also expressed support, with senior citizens applying for posts at the upcoming Capitol extension office in Balamban town, according to NCSC-7 Regional Director Jocelyn O. Tabotabo.

"Even at the Capitol, senior citizens have already started applying," Tabotabo said. Balik Scientist Senior Program

In addition to providing livelihood opportunities, the NCSC will soon launch the "Balik Scientist Senior Program," modeled after the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) initiative.

The program will encourage Filipino senior scientists, both abroad and in the Philippines, to share their expertise and experiences.

"When you're already an older person, you want to have that feeling of belongingness... kailangan meron yung feeling of inclusivity. Kailangan ma-feel nila na they are still very useful [They need to feel included and useful]," Loreche said.

Incentives and sustainability

The commission is also in talks with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to offer tax incentives to companies that employ senior citizens.

Loreche stressed that providing meaningful work opportunities is more sustainable than relying solely on financial aid or "ayuda."

"We want those entering that age group to be more productive na sila at kasama natin upang palawigin at palawakin pa ang ekonomiya ng ating bansa (We want those entering that age group to be more productive and to be with us to expanding our country's economy)," Loreche said.

There are about 800,000 senior citizens in Central Visayas, with 300,000 to 400,000 residing in Cebu province, according to Tabotabo.

The number of senior citizens will continue to grow in the country, according to Loreche. She noted that by 2050, the United Nations projects one in five Filipinos will be senior citizens.

Given this trend, she said the NCSC will continue to prioritize livelihood programs to ensure older persons are empowered, engaged, and included in the country's development. (JJT/PIA7) **BY JOSITTE ANN TISTA**

FARMERS RECEIVE LIVELIHOOD BOOST THROUGH DAR'S POULTRY PROJECT IN GLORIA

CALAPAN CITY, Oriental Mindoro (PIA) —

Farmers in Barangay Malamig, Gloria, Oriental Mindoro are set to benefit from a new livelihood project after the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) distributed poultry assistance to members of the MAMBAM Empowered Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (MEFACO).

The support package includes 300 ready-to-lay chickens and 50 sacks of starter layer feeds worth ₱277,500, provided under DAR's Program Against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) 2025.

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) —

The Cordillera Administrative Region has made significant steps in nurturing its youngest population as revealed in the 2023 National Nutrition Survey (NNS) on the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices.

Senior Science Research Specialist Josie Platon-Desnacido said the Cordillera region leads the way in setting a commendable standard in IYCF practices, surpassing national averages in key breastfeeding indicators.

The findings related to breastfeeding practices include early initiation of breastfeeding within one hour after birth, exclusive breastfeeding from birth up to five months, and continued breastfeeding up to one and two years.

For the early initiation of breastfeeding, a remarkable 66percent of infants aged 0-12 months in CAR were breastfed within one hour of birth, surpassing the national estimate of 61.2%. This early initiation is crucial for establishing successful breastfeeding and providing newborns with vital colostrum, Desnacido said.

CAR stands out

with 78.1% of infants exclusively breastfed from birth up to five months. This figure is substantially higher than the national estimate of 50.4%, indicating that nearly 8 out of 10 Cordilleran mothers are practicing exclusive breastfeeding.

The region ranked third with 70.7% of infants continuing to be breastfed up to one year, compared to the national average of 53.3%.

Even at two years of age, 55.8% of young children in CAR continue to receive breastmilk, significantly higher than the national estimate of 40.9%.

These figures highlight CAR's robust support systems and awareness campaigns promoting the benefits of breastmilk for infant health and development.

"Pero sana po e maintain natin iyan o mas dagdagan pa natin ang percentage," she said.

Desnacido shared these data during the Regional Dissemination forum on the Key Findings of the 2023 National Nutrition Survey for the Cordillera region held September 18, 2025.

Aside from breastfeeding, the region also

demonstrates notable progress in complementary feeding, which involves introducing safe, adequate, and nutrient-rich foods to infants starting at six months while continuing breastmilk, Desnacido said.

She explained the indicators like the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) which measures the variety of foods consumed, drawing from eight essential food groups (breastmilk, grains and tubers, dairy products, legumes and nuts, fresh meat, eggs, Vitamin A-rich foods, and other fruits and vegetables).

CAR recorded 22.7% of infants meeting the MDD, higher than the national estimate of 14.5%. This suggests a greater emphasis on varied diets for young children in the region.

For the Minimum Meal Frequency (MMF) which refers to the minimum number of complementary food meals children receive daily, CAR registered 90.1%. This indicates a slight gap where efforts can be intensified to ensure all children receive the recommended meal frequency based on their age and feeding type (e.g., 2 meals for breastfed infants 6-9 months, 3 meals for breastfed 10-23 months, and 4 meals for non-breastfed 6-23 months).

Combining both MDD and MMF, the Minimum Acceptable Diet ensures both dietary diversity and adequate meal frequency. CAR achieved 22% in MAD, surpassing the national estimate of 13.9%, demonstrating that a significant portion of Cordilleran infants receive a comprehensive and appropriate diet.

These timely and relevant IYCF data serve as vital inputs for crafting laws, policies, and programs aimed at improving IYCF practices and addressing childhood malnutrition. (JDP/MAWC-PIA-CAR) **BY MARIA APRILA CRUZ**

CUETO

BSP TO CLOSE DIGITAL BANK APPLICATION BY DECEMBER 2025

MANILA – The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will stop accepting new applications for digital bank licenses starting December 1, 2025.

"The closure of the application window follows the Monetary Board's approval of a moratorium on digital bank licensing on 18 September 2025. The moratorium will remain in place until further notice," the central bank said in a statement on Thursday.

Interested applicants have until the end of November to submit applications.

These will be evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis and must meet all documentation and licensing requirements, both in terms of form and substance.

The BSP reminded applicants that incomplete

or non-compliant submissions will not be accepted after the deadline.

"The decision is part of the BSP's broader effort to balance digital innovation with financial stability. By carefully evaluating applicants, the BSP aims to ensure that only those with sound governance, robust risk management frameworks, and a compelling value proposition that meets the needs of Filipinos will be granted digital banking licenses," the BSP said.

There are currently six licensed digital banks operating in the country.

In January 2025, the BSP lifted an earlier moratorium and increased the cap on the number of digital banks to 10. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PSEI SLIPS ANEW, PESO WEAKENS TO 58-LEVEL

MANILA – Investors' sentiments continue to impact the local bourse's main index, which again slipped Thursday, while the peso weakened to the 58-level against the US dollar.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) shed 1.09 percent to 6,042.28 points, and All Shares by 0.78 percent to 3,653.50 points.

All the sectoral gauges also ended on the red, with Mining and Oil posting the biggest drop at 2.81 percent.

It was trailed by Holding Firms, 1.79 percent; Industrial, 1.43 percent; Property, 1.36 percent; Financials, 0.33 percent; and Services, 0.19 percent. Volume reached 2.61 billion shares, amounting to PHP6.97 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 134 to 64, while 50 shares

were unchanged.

"The market continued to decline today, with selling pressure dominating and no green candles seen throughout the week. Additionally, the depreciation of the PHP (Philippine peso) against the USD (US dollar), with USD/PHP hitting the 58-mark, is weighing on investor sentiment toward Philippine equities," Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, said.

The local currency ended the day's trade at 58.1 against the greenback from its 57.46 on Wednesday.

It opened the day way down at 57.75 from its 57.33 start in the previous session.

It traded between 57.73 and 58.17, bringing the day's average to 57.91.

Volume surged to USD2.15 billion from the previous trading's USD1.73 billion. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

ADB EXEC SAYS TIE-UP WITH PH TO CONTINUE FOR POLICY, INFRA PROJECTS

MANILA – The Philippine government can rely on continued policy improvement and infrastructure project support from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) to boost the country's expansion.

ADB Country Director for the Philippines Andrew Jerries, in an interview on the sidelines of the Arangkada Philippines investment forum in Marriott Manila in Pasay City on Thursday, said the Philippines is a shareholder of the multilateral institution, "so our role is to help" amidst any situation. "Our role is to try to help our developing member countries-governments solve problems," he said.

"We've been working with this government and all of our developing member country-governments for

58 years or so. It doesn't stop our work, but it makes the processes we have in place all the more important."

Among others, ADB currently has a proposed USD400 million financing proposal for the Philippines, dubbed Business Environment Strengthening with Technology Program (subprogram 1), to be extended through the Department of Finance.

This aims to support and strengthen measures to enhance the business environment and is aligned with the government's Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023–2028 and the 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda.

"This will boost competitiveness and private sector development, stimulating job creation and expanding economic opportunity.

The program will reduce regulatory burden and increase transparency, facilitate investment in sectors with strong development impacts, and advance the transition to digital government," according to the program's concept note as posted on the ADB website.

In terms of infrastructure projects, Jerries said they currently have, among others, two river basin projects in Northern Luzon and in Mindanao.

He is referring to the integrated flood resilience and adaptation project - phase 1, specifically the Abra River Basin Package that will be implemented in the municipalities of San Quintin, Langiden, Pidigan, Bangued, and Tayum; and the Ranao (Agus) and Tagum-Libuganon River basin in Mindanao.

The project has a budget of around USD303.24 million (PHP17.6 billion), and construction is targeted to start within the second half of this year.

"We're working on a larger one that's a few years away. So, we will be likely supporting flood protection more in the future," Jerries added. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

AMRO: PH ECONOMY STEADY BUT POLICY SHIFTS NEEDED TO ADDRESS HEADWINDS

MANILA – The Philippine economy continues to grow at a steady pace but policy shifts need to address structural headwinds, the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) said.

In a report released Thursday, AMRO said Philippine economic growth was mainly driven by strong domestic consumption and a stable labor market.

Inflation also eased while global trade tensions have had a limited impact due to the economy's domestically oriented structure and diversified export markets.

The latest assessment was made during AMRO's Annual Consultation Visit to the Philippines from Sept. 2 to 19.

The mission was led by Principal Economist Jinho Choi, with policy discussions involving AMRO Director Yasuto Watanabe and Chief Economist Dong He.

Choi said the Philippine economy is expected to grow by 5.6 percent this year and 5.5 percent in 2026 despite external headwinds.

"Growth will be driven mainly by robust private consumption, while private investment and exports will face challenges from US

tariff policies. If sustained, the tariff impact—partly offset by front-loaded export orders this year—could weigh more heavily in 2026," said Choi.

AMRO is also expecting inflation to remain low and stable and settle at 1.8 percent this year and 3.2 percent in 2026 supported by softer supply-side pressures, tariff cuts on rice, and streamlining of non-tariff barriers.

According to AMRO, the near-term macroeconomic and financial outlook remains stable, underpinned by solid domestic demand and healthy financial indicators, including strong profitability, low non-performing loan (NPL) ratios, and ample liquidity and capital buffers.

AMRO noted, however, that sustaining momentum and lifting medium-term growth would require refinement to the country's growth strategy, including more effective investment by both the public and private sectors to prepare for climate shocks and the upskilling of the labor force for the age of artificial intelligence (AI).

"Fiscal policy should continue balancing fiscal consolidation with

development priorities, particularly infrastructure and human capital investment. Monetary policy, after aggressive rate hikes to curb high inflation, has become more accommodative. The BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) should proceed cautiously with further rate adjustments, given the near-zero output gap and potential supply shocks," AMRO said.

In the medium-to-long term, AMRO cited the need to accelerate fiscal consolidation while upgrading infrastructure and strengthening the financial stability framework.

To improve resilience against climate and disaster shocks, raise competitiveness, and enhance long-term growth potential, AMRO urged the Philippines to refine its growth strategy with streamlined targets and a well-established performance evaluation framework for public spending.

"To embrace the rapid advancement of AI, the authorities should prioritize upgrading sectors with comparative advantages, improving the business environment, continuing upskilling and re-skilling of labor, and encouraging private investment," AMRO said. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PAGCOR DONATES PATIENT TRANSPORT VEHICLES TO 9 LGUS

MANILA – The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) on Wednesday turned over nine patient transport vehicles (PTVs) to various local government units (LGUs) to boost healthcare delivery in remote and disaster-affected areas.

In a statement, PAGCOR said beneficiaries include the municipalities of Mataasnakahoy in Batangas; Paniqui in Tarlac; Bolinao in Pangasinan; Norzagaray in Bulacan; and Bangui, Carasi, Dumalneg, Pagudpud, and Adams in Ilocos Norte.

PAGCOR Chairperson and CEO Alejandro Tengco said the initiative is part of the agency's commitment to bring critical services closer to Filipinos in need as ordered by President

Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

"Through these vehicles, we help ensure that people living in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas can receive timely medical care," Tengco said.

The donation comes in the wake of Super Typhoon Nando, (international name Ragasa) which heavily battered Ilocos Norte, leaving widespread flooding, prolonged power outages, and displaced families.

Each PTV unit is fitted with a GPS navigation system, stretcher, medical oxygen, wheelchair, and first aid kit to ensure safe and efficient patient transfer.

Since February, PAGCOR has distributed 60 PTVs to LGUs, public hospitals, frontline agencies, and military units nationwide. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



VOLLEYBALL WORLD CONFIRMS 'CLEAN BROADCAST FEED' OF MEN'S WORLD TILT

MANILA – Volleyball World (VW) confirmed to local organizers about the clean broadcast feed to the host broadcaster (HB) for the 2025 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship (MWCH) in relation to issues on a global betting platform that does not have a legal permit to operate in Philippine territory.

"On behalf of Volleyball World, I would like to confirm that the television feed of the 2025 FIVB MWCH, being delivered for broadcast to the appointed host broadcaster, Cignal TV Inc., is clean and free of any virtual overlays, graphics, animations, ticker-texts, logos, or other visible elements that promote, advertise, or reference any unlicensed or unauthorized betting, gambling, wagering or gaming operator," Ugo Valensi, chief executive officer of the Lausanne-based VW, said in a letter obtained by the Philippine News Agency.

The clarification letter was dated Sept. 24, 2025, and addressed to the FIVB

MWCH Local Organizing Committee (LOC) co-chair, presidential son William Vincent Araneta Marcos and Senator Alan Peter Cayetano.

VW is the official commercial partner of the FIVB (Fédération Internationale de Volleyball) which is in charge of volleyball's world-governing body's digital and live events, news and information, match coverage, rankings and profiles and analysis.

"This confirmation is given in recognition of regulatory obligations relating to betting/gambling advertising and sponsorship," Valensi said. "We take very seriously our responsibility to provide a high-quality and compliant signal for the enjoyment of volleyball fans, and we remain attentive to supporting Cignal TV in meeting all applicable regulatory requirements and to ensuring that no unauthorized content is included in the feed."

VW sealed a five-year partnership deal with 1xBet under a global sponsorship

agreement.

"This groundbreaking collaboration, a first for the sport, will encompass both volleyball and beach volleyball events," the FIVB announced in its website on June 25, 2025.

"The partnership will see 1xBet fully leverage Volleyball World's digital platforms as well as branding featured throughout live events. It encompasses major volleyball tournaments such as the Volleyball Nations League (VNL), Volleyball World Championships and Club World Championships, as well as marquee beach volleyball events like the Beach Pro Tour (BPT) and the Beach Volleyball World Championships."

Cignal TV Inc., as host broadcaster of the ongoing world championship, owns the right to broadcast in any or all of its digital and TV platforms the event in Philippine territory and operating under all broadcast regulations. **(JEAN MALANUM/PNA)**

CZECHIA ADVANCES TO FIVB MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIS

MANILA – Czechia recovered from a first-set loss to prevail over Iran, 22-25, 27-25, 25-20, 25-21, Thursday and secure a semis berth in the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship at the SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City.

Czechia will face the winner between USA and Bulgaria for a spot in the finals.

Opposite Patrik Indra finished with 22 points (20 attacks and two aces) while outside hitter Lukas Vasina had 21 points (19 attacks, one block and one ace) in leading the Czech side to victory after one hour and 56 minutes.

"From the start of the game, we were under big pressure. We were about to lose the second set, too, but the guys from the bench came in and decided that set to keep us alive. We did much better in the third and the fourth

sets," Indra said.

Middle blocker Antonin Klimes chipped in eight points (seven attacks and one ace) while outside hitter Jan Galabov and skipper Adam Zajicek scored seven points each. Indra and Vasina scored seven points each in the fourth set where the Iranians rallied behind opposite Ali Hadjipour and outside hitter Hussein Khanzadeh Poriya to make it 20-23, but the Czechs played steadier to wrap up the match.

Poriya scored 18 points (15 attacks and three aces) while Hadjipour also had 18 points (15 attacks and three blocks).

Captain Morteza Sharifi had 11 points (nine attacks and two aces) while middle blockers Yousef Kazemi Poshtpan and Mohammad Valizadeh added eight points apiece.

Meanwhile, Brazilian icon Leila Barros has arrived in

the country and will hold a press conference and a meet-and-greet with media and fans on Friday.

The 53-year-old Barros, who is now a senator, will serve as the guest of honor during the tournament's semifinals and finals over the weekend.

Barros first visited the country in 2000 for the FIVB World Grand Prix and helped spark the rise of Philippine volleyball as many Filipinos were inspired to take up the sport because of her skill and charisma.

The opposite spiker won two bronze medals in the 1996 (Atlanta) and 2000 (Sydney) Olympics and four gold medals in the FIVB World Grand Prix.

Brazil also won the bronze medal in the Manila leg of the Grand Prix in 2000. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

PANTINO EARNS WILD CARD ENTRY AT PCA OPEN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANILA – Davis Cupper Arthur Craig Pantino received a wild card Thursday in the 42nd Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) Open Tennis Championships, which kicks off this weekend at the PCA indoor shell court in Paco, Manila. The other wild cards are locals Miguel Lagac, Rap Teng, Al Zayeed Baid, Christian Balang, Raymond Padigos, and Tanakorn Srirat of Thailand.

Pantino, born and raised

in Cebu, is a member of the team that defeated Kyrgyzstan, 2-0, in the Asia Oceania Group IV playoff in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia last July to gain one of two promotional spots to Group III of the Davis Cup.

His teammates are Albert Lim Jr., Eric "Jed" Olivarez, Francis Casey Alcantara, and Ruben Gonzales.

Lim won the PCA Open singles title last year, beating Olivarez, 6-3, 6-1, 6-1, in the final.

"I'm not expecting at the

PCA Open. I just want to enjoy and we'll see how it goes," said the 24-year-old Pantino, a sociology graduate from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

The qualifying round is ongoing with eight players moving to the 64-man main draw.

Lim and Angeline Alcala are the reigning mixed doubles champions, pulling off a 6-2, 6-3 win over Rolly Saga and Joanna Tan.

Marian Capadocia downed Khim Iglupas, 6-2, 6-4, to claim her 10th consecutive singles crown.

The women's doubles title went to Rovie Baulate and Elsie Abarquez, who prevailed over Bambi Zoleta and Aileen Rogan, 6-3, 6-2. **(PNA)BY JEAN MALANUM**

PADEL PILIPINAS' ASIA PACIFIC TRIUMPH EARNS SENATE COMMENDATION

MANILA – The Senate on Wednesday adopted resolutions congratulating the Philippine National Padel Team, or Padel Pilipinas, for its historic championship win at the 2025 Asia Pacific Padel Cup in Malaysia from Aug. 28 to 31.

The chamber approved Proposed Senate Resolution (PSR) No. 120, taking into consideration PSR Nos. 122, 123, 124, 126, 129, and 130, commending the team for emerging as champion

against some of the region's strongest padel squads.

The resolution was principally sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri and backed by Senators Pia Cayetano, Vicente Sotto III, Joel Villanueva, Loren Legarda, Christopher Lawrence Go, and Ronald "Bato" dela Rosa.

The Senate adopted PSR No. 131 and PSR No. 132, authored by Cayetano, honoring Joanna Tao Yee Tan and Johnny Arcilla

for being named Most Valuable Players (MVPs) in the women's and men's categories, respectively. During the plenary session, Cayetano, who founded Padel Pilipinas, expressed deep pride in the team's triumph.

"I rise with immense national pride in my heart. Today, we are here to honor the historic achievement of our National Padel athletes... to witness their victory, to see our flag raised on the international stage, is to see the vision

fulfilled," she said.

Villanueva, author of PSR No. 124, commended the athletes' perseverance and skill against Malaysia, Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea, Pakistan, Singapore, and India.

He congratulated the entire roster, including Argil Lance "LA" Cañizares, Abdulqohar "Qoqo" Allian, Bryan Saarenas, Derrick Santos, Raymark "Mac" Gulfo, Fritz Chris Verdad, Mariam "Yam" Garsin, Jed Aquino, Danna Abad, and Joshea Malazarte, as

well as head coach Bryan Casao and officials of Padel Pilipinas.

Senator Jinggoy Estrada highlighted the team's 24-2 win-loss record and praised Cayetano's leadership in building the national federation and opening padel courts nationwide.

He recalled that the team finished runner-up at the inaugural cup in Indonesia last year, showing clear progress in 2025. Go, chair of the Senate Committee on Sports, described the victory as

a testament to Filipino resilience and excellence.

"This exceptional performance is not a victory for the team but a sounding testament to the Filipino athletes' resilience and excellence," he said. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**