

CAVITE LOCAL PRODUCTS
FEATURED AT DTI'S OTOP
NEXT GEN TRADE FAIR



CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) – Cavite, together with the Provincial Government of Cavite and the City Government

of Dasmariñas, recently launched the OTOP (One Town, One Product) Next Gen Trade Fair and Exhibit 2025 at SM City Dasmariñas, showcasing local craftsmanship and

entrepreneurship. Themed “Showcasing Cavite’s Homegrown Excellence,” the event brings together a diverse array of products from micro, small, and medium



Tagaytay City, CAVITE (PIA)—Ten outstanding children beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in Calabarzon showed their achievements and community involvement during the regional screening of the Search for the Exemplary 4Ps Children held on October 3 in Tagaytay City.

The annual search aims to recognize the 4Ps children who excel in good values, academic excellence, and active participation in the communities.

Joseph Arceo, Regional Information Officer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), said the activity serves as proof that the 4Ps program continues to make an impact to better the lives of the family beneficiaries and children.

“The exemplary children are the living testimonies in their communities that the program works because of their positive involvement with the help of the program [4Ps],” he said.

“Their life journey can

be an inspiration to other children, and as a role model in the community, they can influence others that it is possible to achieve a better life,” he added.

Among the provincial nominees was Marah Kris Daniel, 13, from Alitagtag, Batangas. A consistent academic achiever, she earned a scholarship through her outstanding performance and dedication to her studies.

Her teacher, Rosel Jusay, described her as a compassionate leader. “What I admire about her is that she values the feelings of others, and she acts as a leader and peacemaker among her classmates,” Junsay said.

Another exemplary child nominee, Jenille Ann L. Bornaes, 12, from Cavinti, Laguna, shared how perseverance and the help of 4Ps motivated her to pursue education and never give up.

“Before we needed to walk for one hour just to go to school, but because of the help of 4Ps, we now live closer to the community. This inspires me to study hard and to achieve and dream big,” Bornaes said.

Arceo highlighted that DSWD is continuing to monitor and support beneficiaries to help them make use of the assistance they receive and improve their living conditions.

The search for exemplary 4Ps children was institutionalized in 2020 through the Memorandum Circular No. 37. Klouie Susosco of Lobo, Batangas, will represent Calabarzon in the National Children’s Congress and join other child champions from across the country. (KA, PIA4A) **BY KRISTIANNE ANDRADE**

enterprises (MSMEs) across the province.

The trade fair is a joint effort between DTI Cavite, the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives and Development Officer (OPCDO), and the Dasmariñas City Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions Office (LEDIPO).

Running until October 10, 2025, the exhibit invites the public to experience Cavite’s best offerings across categories such as food delicacies, smoked and marinated delights, spreads and snacks, health and wellness, coffee creations, arts, crafts and lifestyle, and pet products.

The opening ceremony was attended by key provincial and city leaders, including Cavite Governor Francisco Gabriel “Abeng” D. Remulla, Board Members Nickol Austria Jr. and Jun Dela Cuesta, Dasmariñas Vice Mayor Elpidio “Third” A. Barzaga III, members of the City Council, SM City Dasmariñas Assistant

Mall Manager Charles L. Yap, and DTI Cavite Business Development Division Chief Rebecca S. Tarasona. Their presence signaled unified support for local enterprises and ongoing efforts to drive economic growth in the region.

The OTOP Next Gen program is a flagship initiative of the DTI that enhances the competitiveness of local products and supports innovation among Filipino entrepreneurs. (RBF/DTI-Cavite) **BY RUEL FRANCISCO**

CITY LEVEL RANK NO. 2 MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG TAGAYTAY CITY PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tagaytay Component City Police Station ang isa sa kanilang Most Wanted Person Rank No. 2 (City Level) dakong 9:30 ng umaga ng Oktubre 9, 2025 sa Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL RYAN L MANONGDO, hepe ng Tagaytay CCPS, ang suspek na si alyas “Alex,” residente ng Tagaytay City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay pinangunahan ng mga tauhan ng Intelligence/ Warrant Section at Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) ng Tagaytay CCPS bilang lead unit, katuwang ang mga tauhan ng 401st A MC RMFB4A. Sa pamamagitan ng Alternative Recording Device (ARD), matagumpay nilang naaresto ang suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Rape by

Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng Art. 266-A (2) ng Revised Penal Code kaugnay ng Sec. 5(B) ng RA 7610 (2 counts), at Acts of Lasciviousness kaugnay ng Sec. 5(B) ng RA 7610.

Ang warrant ay may inirekomendang piyansa na nagkakahalaga ng Php36,000.00 para sa kasong Acts of Lasciviousness, samantalang walang kaukulang piyansa naman para sa dalawang bilang ng kasong Rape by Sexual Assault.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang tagumpay ng operasyon na ito ay bunga ng mahusay na koordinasyon at dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pagdakip sa pinaghahanap ng batas upang matiyak ang hustisya para sa mga biktima.”

REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG DASMARINAS PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person dakong 8:30 ng gabi ng Oktubre 11, 2025 sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, Acting Chief of Police ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas “ron,” residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng Warrant Personnel at MP Salawag ng Dasmariñas CCPS sa pamamagitan ng Body Worn Camera

(BWC) at Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Rape in relation to RA 7610. Ang nasabing warrant ay may petsang Mayo 17, 2021 at walang inirekomendang piyansa.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang pag-aresto sa mga Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng walang humpay na pagtutok ng ating kapulisan upang matiyak na ang katarungan ay mananaig sa ating lalawigan.”

ISANG MOST WANTED PERSON SA CAVITE, ARESTADO HABANG KUMUKUHA NG POLICE CLEARANCE

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 (Provincial Level) dakong 4:55 ng hapon ng October 08, 2025 sa General Trias City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang akusado na si @Samuel, residente ng General Trias City, Cavite. Naaresto ng mga warrant personnel ng General Trias CCPS ang isang akusado matapos kumuha ng National Police Clearance at nang mapag-alaman na siya ay may pending na kaso sa paglabag sa Contempt in Court na

inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, National Capital Judicial Region, Branch 255, City of Las Piñas, noong August 30, 2016 na ito ay walang kaukulang piyansa.

Kasalukuyang nakapiit ang akusado sa kustodiya ng pulisya 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 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.”

CAVITE PNP, PINAIGTING ANG KAMPANYA LABAN SA BANTA NG BOMBA

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap na mapanatili ang kaligtasan at kapayapaan ng publiko, pinalalakas ng Cavite Police Provincial Office (PPO) ang Bomb Threat Awareness and Preparedness Campaign upang mapataas ang kamalayan ng mamamayan sa tamang pagtugon sa mga sitwasyong may banta ng bomba.

Layunin ng kampanyang ito na maturuan ang publiko—mga paaralan, tanggapan ng pamahalaan, at mga pribadong establisimyento—kung paano makikilala ang mga posibleng senyales ng banta, umiwas sa panic, at agad na makipag-ugnayan sa mga awtoridad sa pamamagitan ng mga opisyal na hotline o sa Unified Emergency Hotline 911.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL

R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang kaligtasan ng publiko ay pananagutan nating lahat. Sa pamamagitan ng pagiging mapagmatyag at maagap na pag-uulat, maiiwasan natin ang anumang kapahamakan. Nananawagan kami sa lahat na manatiling kalmado, sumunod sa mga itinakdang protocol, at kumuha lamang ng impormasyon mula sa opisyal na pinagmumulan.” Muling pinaalalahanan ng Cavite PPO ang publiko na ang pagpapakalat ng mga pekeng banta ng bomba ay isang mabigat na paglabag sa batas at may kaukulang parusa alinsunod sa Revised Penal Code at iba pang umiiral na batas.

Sa pamamagitan ng kampanyang ito, binibigyang-diin ng Cavite PNP ang kahalagahan ng pagiging handa,

MOST WANTED PERSON SA CAVITE, NAARESTO NG GENERAL TRIAS PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Personnel ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person dakong 9:50 ng gabi ng October 3, 2025 sa General Trias City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang akusado na si @Niño, residente ng 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 Acts of Lasciviousness in Relation to R.A. 7610 na

inisyu ng Family Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 5, Trece Martires City, Cavite noong July 21, 2025 na may inirekomendang piyansa na Php180,000.00.

Kasalukuyang pansamantalang nakapiit ang akusado sa kustodiya ng pulisya para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang pagkakaaresto sa Most Wanted Person na ito ay malinaw na patunay na walang makakatakas sa kamay ng batas. Patuloy ang ating kampanya laban sa kriminalidad upang mapanatiling ligtas, payapa at maayos ang pamumuhay ng bawat Caviteño.”

TOP 4 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG KAWIT PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Kawit Municipal Police Station ang isang Municipal Level Rank No. 4 Most Wanted Person dakong 4:45 ng hapon ng Oktubre 10, 2025 sa Capas, Tarlac.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL RESTY E SORIANO, hepe ng Kawit MPS, ang suspek na si alyas “Jem,” residente ng Tanza, Cavite.

Ang operasyon ay isinagawa ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng

Kawit MPS katuwang ang Intelligence Section ng Capas MPS at Tarlac PPO. Sa pamamagitan ng Alternative Recording Device (ARD), matagumpay na naaresto ang suspek sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Murder sa ilalim ng Article 248 ng Revised Penal Code.

Ang warrant ay may petsang Enero 30, 2025 at inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Imus City, Cavite, na walang inirekomendang piyansa.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, “Ang patuloy na tagumpay sa pagdakip ng mga Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa paghahatid ng hustisya at seguridad sa ating komunidad.”

mahinahon, at maayos na koordinasyon sa panahon ng banta. Magpapatuloy rin ang mga pagsasanay, safety drills, at information drives sa buong lalawigan upang higit pang mapalakas ang kahandaan ng komunidad laban sa anumang panganib.

DTI, NAGPAALALA SA PUBLIKO NA MAGING MAPANURI AT MATALINONG MAMIMILI

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS (PIA)- Nagpaalala ang Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Batangas sa publiko upang maging mapanuri at matalino sa pamimili.

Sa panayam kay Leila Cabrerros, Provincial Director-DTI Batangas, sinabi nito na tuwing buwan ng Oktubre ay ipinagdiriwang ang Consumer Welfare Month kung saan isa sa mahigpit niyang tagubilin ang pagiging mapanuri at matalinong mamimili.

“Taon-taon tuwing buwan ng Oktubre ay ipinagdidiwang natin ang Consumer Welfare Month kung saan sa taong ito ay may temang, Bida ang Consumers sa Bagong Pilipinas.” Ang aming ahensya ay patuloy din ang pagsasagawa ng mga information campaigns upang mapanatili at makapagbigay pa ng dagdag kaalaman sa mga kunsumidores kung ano ang kanilang mga karapatan gayundin ang responsibilidad upang maging matalinong mamimili, ani Cabrerros.

Naging bahagi ng kick off ang paglalagay ng information kiosk sa tanggapan ng DTI Batangas at nagsagawa ng releases tulad ng Konsumer Ala Eh, Konsumer, Alam Mo Ga Are? Sa official FB page ng ahensya.

Mayroondingkoordinasyon na isinagawa sa isang malaking supermarket sa bayan ng Lemery kung saan ang mga mamimili att maninindahan ay makakakuha ng malaking diskwento kapag sila ay

namili dito ng mga produkto na paninda o sariling gamit ng kunsumidores.

Alinsabay din nito ang Product Standards Week kung saan magsasagawa ang DTI ng seminar para sa mga manininda ng mga produktong nasasakop ng DTI tulad ng mga hardwares, nagbebenta ng mga appliances, electrical materials, construction materials at marami pang iba na nasasakop ng Philippine National Standard. Ang mga produktong nabanggit ay hindi dapat ilabas sa merkado kung walang kaukulang lisensya ng PS o ICC mark.

Kaugnay nito, patuloy din ang pagsasagawa ng mga surprise visitations sa iba’t-ibang establisimyento na nagtitinda ng mga produktong nasa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ng DTI. Ang sinumang mapatunayang lumabag dito ay may nakalaang karampatang parusa naaayon sa batas.

Ang DTI ay nagpapalabas din ng Suggested Retail Price o SRP na siyang maaaring gawing batayan ng manininda sa paglalagay ng presyo sa kanilang produkto, sakaling may mga paglabag dito ay maaaring makipag-ugnayan sa naturang ahensya para sa kaukulang aksyon.

Samantala, mariin ang pagpapaalala ni Cabrerros kaugnay ng walong karapatan ng mga mamimili kabilang ang basic needs,safety, information, choose, representation, redress, consumer education at health environment.

Dagdag pa nito na dapat alam ng isang mamimili

DOLE, UNIVERSITY OF BATANGAS TEAM UP TO OPEN JOB PLACEMENT HUB FOR STUDENTS, GRADUATES

LIPA CITY, Batangas — The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) IV-A and the University of Batangas (UB) Lipa City signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to set up a Job Placement Office (JPO) dedicated to linking students and graduates with employment opportunities. According to DOLE IV-A Assistant Regional Director Nicanor V. Bon, the initiative will strengthen employment facilitation and enhancing youth employability in the province.

“I am confident that this partnership will bring long-term impact not only to the University of Batangas and its students, but also to the overall development goals of Region IV-A. Together, let us build a more skilled, competitive, and empowered workforce for the future,” Bon said. He added that the newly established JPO will serve as a career gateway

ang kanyang karapatan upang magamit niya ito sa isang matalino at mapanuring pamimili.

Kaakibat ng mga karapatang ito ay may limang responsibilidad din ang isang kunsumidores kabilang ang pagiging mapanuri, alistong pagkilos, social concern, environmental awareness at pagkakaisa.

Sa huli, sinabi nito na ang tamang kaalaman ang magbibigay sa mga mamimili at kunsumidores upang maging mapanuri at matalinong mamimili. (MPDC-PIA Batangas) **BY BHABY DE CASTRO**

for UB students and graduates, bridging the gap between education and employment.

“It will offer career development programs, conduct labor market information drives, and strengthen industry linkages for referrals and job placements,” he noted. The University of Batangas welcomed the partnership, describing it as a continuation of its legacy of excellence, ensuring that more students receive the same level of guidance and opportunities.

Acoording to DOLE IV-A, the university has a strong track record in employment facilitation, with its main campus in Batangas City earning the title of Best Job Placement Office in the Philippines for three consecutive years.

“This initiative also reflects DOLE IV-A’s commitment to building stronger academe-industry partnerships. With this MOU, the University of Batangas Lipa City stands not only as a center of learning but also as a hub of opportunity, helping shape the future workforce of Calabarzon and beyond,” Bon added.

The ceremonial signing held on Oct. 3, was attended by key officials, including DOLE IV-A Assistant Regional Director Nicanor V. Bon, DOLE Batangas Provincial Director Predelma M. Tan, UB President Lily Marlene Hernandez-Bohn, and UB officers Vincent Alcantara and Milette De Torres. (DOLE 4A) **BY DOLE CALABARZON**

EDITORIAL

Ang Epekto ng mga Palpak na Proyekto

Nakuhanan sa isang bidyo ang magkayakap na magkapatid sa gitna ng rumaragasang tubig sa ilog na pauwi na sana mula sa paaralan nang mawalan ng balanse ang mga ito. Isinisi naman ng kapitana ang nangyaring insidente sa proyektong spillway ng DPWH na hindi natapos.

Nakakabahala na dahil sa mga lumabas na palpak na proyekto, nailalagay sa bingit ng kamatayan ang mga taong bayan. Nakakalungkot isipin na nagmumula sa atin ang perang kanilang pinakikinabangan ngunit tayo rin mismong mamamayan ang nakakaranas ng epekto ng kanilang kalupitan at kasakiman.

Sana ay magawan ito ng paraan gayong hindi ang mga nasa itaas ang napeperwisyo rito bagkus ay ang mga taong nasa laylayan na naghihikahos at pinipilit lumaban sa hirap ng buhay.

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NO FILIPINO IN US DEPORTED TO ESWATINI – EMBASSY

MANILA – No Filipino national was among the 10 deported by the United States to the southern African state of Eswatini, the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. said Saturday.

“After verification with the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Embassy was able to confirm that no Filipino citizen has been involved in any third-country deportation from the United States,” it said in a statement.

The embassy said one individual was unable to establish Philippine citizenship and could not be deported to the Philippines.

A US lawyer for two Vietnamese nationals was earlier quoted as saying by reports that the group included “three

Vietnamese, one Filipino, one Cambodian and four [to] six others.”

“The Embassy continues to engage with relevant US authorities to ensure the well-being of its citizens in the United States and maintains its readiness to receive all Filipino citizens under final order of removal,” it said.

The Eswatini government earlier confirmed that 10 foreign nationals arrived in the African Kingdom on Monday, saying they would be kept “in a secured area separate from the public, while arrangements are made for their return to their countries of origin.”

The Trump administration had been striking deportation deals with third countries as it ramps up its immigration crackdown. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

AMLC SECURES 6TH FREEZE ORDER VS. FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT-RELATED ASSETS

MANILA – Thirty-nine bank accounts are included in the sixth freeze order secured by the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) from the Court of Appeals (CA) Friday, in line with the investigation on irregularities in government flood control projects.

In a statement, AMLC said the other assets in the latest freeze order are four insurance policies, and 59 real estate properties such as residential, commercial and agricultural.

“Several of these properties are linked to a former high-ranking government official suspected of playing a central role in the procurement process of the questioned flood control project contracts,” it said.

A total of 1,671 bank

accounts, 58 insurance policies, 163 motor vehicles, 99 real properties, and 12 e-wallet accounts have been ordered frozen since the first freeze order was issued by the CA last Sept. 16.

“The total estimated value of frozen assets has reached PHP4.67 billion, with the figure expected to rise as additional orders are secured and new leads are uncovered,” AMLC said in the statement.

“We are taking deliberate actions to preserve assets potentially linked to unlawful activity,” AMLC Executive Director Atty. Matthew M. David said. “Our focus remains on ensuring that public funds are protected and that those involved are held accountable through

MANILA – Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin has recognized the role of the United Nations (UN) and the United Kingdom (UK) in helping advance the country’s human rights roadmap, a Malacañang statement said Friday.

Bersamin made the acknowledgment after the UN and UK formally presented to the Philippine government PHP2.3 million worth of promotional materials for the 4th Philippine Human Rights Plan (PHRP4).

UK Embassy Political Counsellor Andrew Bowes and Signe Poulsen, senior human rights adviser to the UN in the Philippines, turned over to Bersamin the materials in a ceremony at the Presidential Guest House on Oct. 6.

“The PHRP4 is not

merely aspirational, it lays out concrete programs, measurable targets, and timelines, even as it provides for mechanisms of monitoring and accountability, ensuring that human rights commitments are implemented and sustained at all levels,” Bersamin said.

The PHRP4 serves as the Marcos administration’s human rights roadmap that focuses on championing the rights of the vulnerable and marginalized groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples, migrant workers, and persons deprived of liberty. It was developed through extensive consultations with nearly 500 organizations from civil society, the private sector, academe, media, and grassroots communities nationwide.

Bersamin said this process ensures that the plan is owned by the people and responsive to their lived realities.

Meanwhile, he reaffirmed the government’s commitment to the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), noting that the administration has already delivered on three key pledges made during its 75th anniversary in December 2023 — developing a new national human rights plan, creating a special body for inter-agency coordination on human rights, and establishing a national forensics institute.

“We committed, and we delivered,” Bersamin said. “The PHRP4 reflects our resolve to translate human rights into concrete action that improves people’s lives.” (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

PALACE CITES UN, UK ROLE IN ADVANCING PH HUMAN RIGHTS PLAN

DBM COORDINATING WITH AGENCIES FOR DAVAO QUAKE ASSISTANCE

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is coordinating with other national government agencies to facilitate necessary emergency assistance to individuals affected by the magnitude 7.4 offshore earthquake in Davao Oriental on Friday. Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said the DBM will continue to monitor the situation and respond accordingly.

The tremor hit Manay town at 9:43 a.m. A tsunami threat was issued but lifted at 1:43 p.m.

“Kami naman po sa DBM, sa utos po ni Pangulong Bongbong Marcos, we will make sure na sa oras ng emergencies o kalamidad, maglalabas po ang pamahalaan ng sapat at kinakailangang tulong para walang patid po ang serbisyo ng frontline agencies na nagpapatupad ng relief and recovery efforts (We at the DBM, on orders of President Bongbong Marcos, will make sure that in times of emergencies or calamities, the government will release sufficient and

necessary assistance so that the services of frontline agencies implementing relief and recovery efforts remain uninterrupted),” she said in a news release.

She instructed all DBM offices to get in touch with the Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and Office of Civil Defense to identify how to extend support to the response efforts.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised another tsunami alert at 7:12 p.m. following a magnitude 6.8 aftershock.

Residents in the coastal areas of Surigao del Sur, Davao Oriental and Surigao del Norte were ordered to evacuate to higher grounds.

Reports citing Davao Oriental Governor Nelson Dayanghirang said at least three were confirmed dead in Mati City.

Local authorities also monitored destruction of houses, bridges and other structures. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

NBI NABS DAVAO CITY WOMAN FOR TRAFFICKING OF MINORS

MANILA – The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Southern Mindanao office has arrested a woman who operated a spa that exploited minors in Davao City.

In a news release on Friday, the NBI-Southern Mindanao Regional Office said alias “Madam Ram” was arrested at the Heaven Personal Massage Spa on Oct. 7.

The mother and grandmother of a 15-year-old sought help from the NBI after discovering that the massage parlor used sex workers of minor age for PHP3,500 per illicit service.

An operation was conducted, resulting in the arrest of the suspect and the rescue of the victim.

The suspect was charged for violation of Republic Act (RA) No. 10364, otherwise known as the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act in relation to RA 7610 or the Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation, and Discrimination Act.

The rescued minor was turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development for debriefing and medical examination. (BENJAMIN PULTA/PNA)

2026 BUDGET CRAFTED WITH FULL TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY – DY

MANILA – Speaker Faustino Dy III on Friday assured the public that the 2026 national budget is being crafted with full transparency and accountability, as the House of Representatives has put in place new systems to open the budget process to public scrutiny and strengthen oversight during implementation.

In a radio interview, Dy said one of his first reforms he instituted as Speaker of the 20th Congress was the creation of the Budget Amendments and Revisions Sub-Committee (BARSc) -- the body tasked to review and realign appropriations -- and the decision to livestream all its proceedings so that every Filipino can see how lawmakers deliberate and realign funds.

"Isa na po rito ang ginagawa po natin, meron po tayong livestream habang ginagawa po itong BARSc... at doon ho makikita at maririnig ng ating mga kababayan kung papaano isinasayos ang budget (One of these is already being implemented, we livestream the deliberations of the BARSc... and our countrymen could see and hear how the budgets is being crafted," Dy said.

He said this ensures that adjustments in the national budget are aligned with the Marcos administration's priority programs, including the reallocation of recovered funds from flood-control projects to initiatives that directly benefit communities. The Speaker added that the 2026 General Appropriations Bill (GAB) is also being deliberated in open, livestreamed plenary sessions, allowing citizens and civil society organizations to follow the process.

Beyond transparency during deliberations, Dy said the House is working with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) to develop a system for monitoring how agencies implement the budget once enacted.

"Nakikipag-ugnayan tayo sa DICT na kung saan baka merong mga sistema

na namo-monitor. Kasi po iba rin po 'yung naipasa nga natin 'yung budget, papaano naman po 'yung implementation (We are coordinating with the DICT for a monitoring system. We may have passed the budget, but how about the implementation)," he said, underscoring the need to monitor how programs are implemented on the ground.

He said the system will help prevent substandard projects and ghost spending by allowing real-time tracking of projects nationwide.

He also cited the importance of cooperation of all citizens and civil societies in safeguarding and monitoring government projects.

The House will take up the 2026 national budget on second reading Friday afternoon in a session to be livestreamed for the public.

The livestreamed deliberations, Dy said, are intended to allow citizens and civil society groups to observe how lawmakers scrutinize and refine the government's spending plan. (PNA) **BY ZALDY DE LAYOLA**

PCW CALLS FOR FAIR PROBE OF MANILA COUNCILOR'S ALLEGED HARASSMENT

MANILA – The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) on Friday reiterated zero tolerance for sexual harassment following reports that a member of the Manila City Council allegedly harassed a fellow councilor during a regular session of the Sangguniang Panlungsod. In a statement, the PCW expressed deep concern over the incident and reminded all public officials that sexual harassment and other gender-based offenses have no place in government institutions. "Such acts become even more reprehensible when committed by public officials, as they violate not only the rights of women but also the ethical standards that all public servants are sworn to uphold," the PCW said.

Councilor Eunice Castro alleged that Councilor Ryan Ponce committed multiple acts of harassment, including lewd comments about her clothing and unsolicited text messages with sexual undertones. Ponce apologized and said that he did not intend to offend.

Manila Vice Mayor Chi Atienza said the issue has been referred to the City Council's Committee on Ethics for investigation and

pledged support for Castro. The PCW said proven cases of sexual harassment involving public officials may be treated as grave administrative offenses, punishable by suspension, dismissal, or other sanctions, aside from criminal penalties under existing laws.

Under Republic Act (RA) 11313 or the Safe Spaces Act, all forms of gender-based sexual harassment in workplaces, educational settings and government offices -- including unwelcome remarks, gestures or advances that demean, intimidate or objectify women -- are punishable.

Such conducts also violate RA 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees, which mandates officials to uphold professionalism, respect and integrity.

The Civil Service Commission said any form of harassment is a grave administrative offense, whether between colleagues or subordinates. The PCW urged the local government Manila to ensure that the allegations are investigated promptly and fairly. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

KEY POLICIES ADOPTED AT LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND MANILA MEET

MANILA – The seventh board meeting of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) concluded on Thursday, with stakeholders reaching a milestone and marking a decisive step toward making the Fund fully operational and ready to deliver aid to climate change-vulnerable nations. In a press briefing on Friday, FRLD executive director Ibrahim Cheikh Diong described the meeting as "a turning point" in the global effort to assist countries suffering the most from climate-induced disasters.

Diong said pledges to the Fund are now at USD788 million, of which about USD400 million has been released or converted to cash.

He said the meetings held Oct. 7 to 9 in Pasay City resulted in the adoption by the board of critical policies as the Fund moves forward.

"Our board realized that out of the money that has already been pledged and converted into money, into cash flow rate, they wanted to basically set up what they call a standard phase of two years for a USD250 million grant only, USD5 to USD20 million per initiative, and focusing on extreme weather conditions," he said.

Other key milestones Diong cited other significant outcomes of the Manila meeting, including the finalization of the eligibility, accreditation and access modalities, ensuring that developing countries can directly apply for grants without the need for lengthy or complex procedures, which has been the biggest challenge in climate finance.

He said the targeted allocation of the USD250 million start-up phase will prioritize the most exposed countries.

The board also approved the project cycle and funding criteria, which establish a clear and transparent route for countries to apply for grants.

Diong said the grants are intended to cover both extreme weather

housing development, giving thousands of informal settler families not just homes but also stability, dignity, and hope for a secure future. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

conditions, such as severe floods and other extreme weather events, as well as slow-onset impacts.

"Now, the keyword here for us is rapid response. In other words, it's not about just supporting those two areas. When and how the response comes to the country is as important as it is," he said.

"If we come too late, it's not important that we support the country and that's why we are diligently doing our processes so we can be actually efficient, less bureaucratic, accessible, so the money can get back to where it's needed, and that's where we're working," Diong said. Swift, human-centered action

In his message to the board read by Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Raphael Lotilla, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. urged that the Fund's operations remain "swift, accessible, and human-centered."

Lotilla explained that the President's call reflects the dual nature of the climate challenge, that is, preparing for the future while repairing the past.

"Both are necessary because it recognizes that while there is a need to continuously adapt to the adverse impact of climate change, we also need to be able to address the damage that has already been caused. So these two are complementary and that's why the President's call that it should be accessible, those that are in the least position to be able to raise the funds, to address the damage that has been caused, must have access to the funds," he said.

COP30

With the policy frameworks in place, Diong said the FRLD Secretariat will finalize operational templates and launch its first call for funding proposals during the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or COP30 in Brazil in November.

The COP30 is the world's most important annual climate summit, where governments negotiate actions to address climate change.

"COP30 will be the COP of implementation. After years of negotiations, we are now ready to deliver," Diong said. (PNA) **BY MARITA MOAJE**

OVER 5K FAMILIES GET HOUSING COES UNDER 4 PROCLAMATIONS

MANILA – More than 5,000 families long waiting for land tenure security are set to receive Certificates of Entitlement (COEs) under four presidential proclamations, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said on Friday.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said a total of 5,700 families are expected to benefit from the distribution of COEs covering Presidential Proclamations (PP) 550, s.2004 (Los Baños, Laguna); 463, s.2003 (Lucena City, Quezon); 1538, s.2008 (Iloilo City); and 397, s.2003 (Caloocan City).

"Ang utos ng Pangulong Marcos Jr. ay bigyan ng kapanatagan at mas may dignidad na pamumuhay ang ating mga kababayan (President Marcos Jr.'s directive is to provide our

fellow Filipinos with a more secure and dignified way of life)," he said.

"Yan ang hangad natin sa pagbibigay ng mga COEs sa mga pamilyang matagal nang naninirahan sa mga lupang hindi titulado sa kanila (That is what we aim for through the distribution of COEs to families who have long been living on land that is not titled in their name)," he added.

After decades of uncertainty, these families will finally gain formal recognition of their right to occupy and eventually own the land they have lived on for generations.

The DHSUD targets the distribution of COEs for Iloilo City, Lucena City, and Los Baños as part of the National Shelter Month 2025 celebration, themed "Build Homes, Build Happiness." Beneficiaries under PP397 in Caloocan City are slated

to receive their certificates within the year.

Initially, 840 family-beneficiaries are scheduled to receive their COEs before year-end. Aliling emphasized that the move is a "big step" toward the dreamland title of many Filipinos.

The distribution of COEs is among the new modalities under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay Para sa Pilipino or 4PH Program, which seeks to provide security of tenure for families occupying untitled or government-proclaimed lots.

Other modalities include rental and incremental housing, vertical (condominium-type) and horizontal (subdivision-type) developments, and an enhanced community mortgage program.

The initiative underscores the Marcos administration's commitment to inclusive

PNP-HPG STRENGTHENS ROAD SAFETY DRIVE ACROSS NEGROS ISLAND

DUMAGUETE CITY, Negros Oriental (PIA) — The Philippine National Police-Highway Patrol Group (PNP-HPG) in the Negros Island Region (NIR) is set to launch a comprehensive road safety and courtesy campaign to educate motorists, students, and private sector employees on responsible road use and accident prevention.

HPG NIR Officer in Charge (OIC) Police Lt. Col. Ma. Delia Pedrezuela, said the campaign aims to address persistent road safety issues by focusing on the '3Es' of traffic management — education, enforcement, and engineering.

"We will educate them on the importance of getting a driver's license and reviewing of vehicles, as well as to train them about traffic management and educate them about the 3Es," said Pedrezuela.

She noted that road infrastructure plays a major role in ensuring safety, pointing out that congestion and accidents often occur in developing areas with narrow roads and inadequate parking spaces.

"Even though some places are still developing, traffic is still rampant because of the imbalance between the number of vehicles and the width of the roads. There are no parking lots designated in these areas, and that's the reason why engineering is significant," she added.

The Department of Public Works and Highways will also be engaged in the campaign, as the installation and maintenance of road safety signs fall under its mandate.

Pedrezuela said the campaign will extend to remote areas, where many motorists remain unaware of traffic regulations, the importance of licenses, and the need for regular vehicle inspections.

Multi-sector involvement Police Executive Master Sgt. Aurelio Bodo, of

the Regional Highway Patrol Unit Special Operations Team (RHPU SOT) in Negros Oriental, emphasized that effective traffic management requires multi-stakeholder collaboration.

"Recently, we were able to issue 32 Temporary Operator's Permit (TOPs) in one day. Despite all of the operations we've conducted, marami pa rin pong na-iinvolve sa road crash incidents. And we don't deny naman na recurring din yung problema. Gagawa tayo ng holistic approach na yung lahat ng stakeholders will have to do their own part," Bodo said.

[Recently, we issued 32 Temporary Operator's Permits (TOPs) in one day, yet road crashes continue to occur. We need a policy-driven approach where all stakeholders take part in promoting road safety.]

The regional HPG plans to hold a stakeholders' meeting with local government officials, the Negros Oriental Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NOCCI), and the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to strengthen partnerships, roll out education campaigns, and craft measures to prevent road accidents.

Bodo underscored that road courtesy and responsible driving practices should start at home.

"Ang akala po kasi nila 'pag sinabing highway eh yung national roads lang. So even sa barangays sinisimulan namin (ang campaign) kasi coming from their houses, they will first see the barangay (road). Eventually pagdating sa national road 'pag malalaki na yung mga sasakyan, kung hindi sila nasanay na sumunod sa traffic rules sa barangay palang, madadala nila yung nakasanayan nila sa national road," Bodo said.

(Many people think highways only refer to national roads. That's why we started our campaign

CAMIGUIN VENDORS GO DIGITAL THROUGH DICT'S DIGIPAY, FREE WI-FI PROGRAM

CAMIGUIN(PIA)—Market vendors and residents in Sagay town are now using digital tools after the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)-Camiguin launched the DigiPay Initiative, and Free Wi-Fi for All program at the Sagay Public Market on Oct. 3.

The program supports micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), market vendors, and consumers by promoting digital payments and providing internet access in public spaces.

"Kami sa DICT mandato gyud namo nga mapa-fast track ang pag-implement sa digitalization sa mga lugar ug mga munisipyo sa bisan asang lugar diri sa atong region," said DICT Camiguin Provincial Officer Engr. James Kevin Sagocsoc.

(It is our mandate in DICT to fast-track the implementation of digitalization in different areas and municipalities in our region.)

Sagocsoc said the DigiPay Initiative has four main components: connectivity, e-commerce and digital payments, the setting up of an e-kiosk, and a hub for freelancers and researchers.

"Mao na ang purpose gyud sa atong DigiPay initiative, ang atong i-mainstream ang digital payment (That is really the purpose of our DigiPay initiative—to mainstream digital payment)," he said.

He added that all public schools and local government units in the province are expected to be connected to the free Wi-Fi service by the end of the year.

in barangays. If motorists practice traffic discipline on smaller roads, they will carry that same habit onto national highways.) (RAL/PIA7-Negros Oriental/with reports from Dhynzzhyllle Ciano, NORSU Intern)**BY ROI LOMOTAN**

Mayor Joseph Uayan said the municipal government supports the program, emphasizing that digital adoption is vital for Sagay's local economy. "Libre siya, 24/7 siya. Maghangyo ko nga mag-come up og ordinansa nga mandatory na sa inyo nga mga tindahan nga mudawat mo og GCash, pwede mo mag-PayMaya," he said.

(It's free and available 24/7. I will request the passage of an ordinance requiring stores to accept digital payments such as GCash or PayMaya.)

Uayan also urged vendors and tricycle drivers to adopt the system for more efficient transactions.

Residents say the service is already having an impact. Sandy Baylin of Bonbon, Sagay, said the availability of free Wi-Fi has helped them connect more easily.

"Ang benepisyo aning free Wi-Fi dako kaayo ni og ikatabang kay bisan asa sa Camiguin naa'y free Wi-Fi kung gusto namo nga makakonek," he said.

(The benefit of this free Wi-Fi is really big because wherever we are in Camiguin, we can connect whenever we need to.)

Caitlyn Bonachita of Poblacion said the responsible use of digital tools is important. "Kung imong gamiton ang technology sa maayo, okay kaayo siya, wala'y problema."

(If you use technology properly, it's really good, and there's no problem.)

The launch included training sessions on digital literacy, e-commerce, and cyber hygiene. DICT Camiguin worked with the Department of Trade and Industry-Camiguin and the Sagay local government in implementing the program. Sagocsoc said the DigiPay Initiative is paving the way for a more connected, cashless, and digitally empowered community. (RTP/PIA-10/Camiguin)

BY RECTHIE T. PACULBA

DA-PRDP, EU CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF AF2-EU SUPPORT PHASE IN MINDANAO

DAVAO CITY — The Department of Agriculture –Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) Mindanao Cluster, through its Project Support Office in Davao, recently hosted the culminating event for the Second Additional Financing and European Union Co-Financing Grant (AF2-EU) in Davao City.

This milestone gathering brought together local government units (LGUs), community representatives, and development partners to acknowledge the impact of the AF2-EU grant in remote and conflict-affected areas across Mindanao.

Since its launch, the AF2-EU facility has lowered the financial barrier for marginalized LGUs to implement vital agri-fishery projects. By August 2025, 224,000 smallholder farmers and fishers, nearly half of them women, benefited from infrastructure upgrades and enterprise support. Indigenous communities, including those in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), figured prominently among the grant's direct beneficiaries.

Economic outcomes have been impressive. Household incomes of AF2-EU participants soared by 65 percent, climbing from an average of ₱113,587 to ₱188,000 annually, while micro-enterprise stakeholders reported a remarkable 128 percent boost in earnings. Farmers and fishers also doubled the value of their marketed products through improved market linkages and value-adding activities like coffee consolidation and coco-coir processing. Physical interventions under the grant included the construction of 98.8 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, nine potable water systems, and 19 additional community facilities. These investments slashed travel time to markets by over

half, cut transportation expenses by a quarter, and virtually eliminated household medical costs tied to waterborne diseases—dramatically enhancing local well-being. In her keynote address, World Bank Co-Task Team Leader Maria Theresa Quiñones lauded the European Union's role in amplifying PRDP's reach.

"We are very happy and thankful that the European Union is one of our key partners in joining us in reaching out to our PRDP beneficiaries. To MinDA, which is always on their toes trying to help in the processing and being our champion and advocate, and to PSO Mindanao and the Regional Project Coordination Offices for rising up to the challenge," Quiñones said.

Meanwhile, Marco Gemmer, Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation, reaffirmed this commitment: "Our objective has always been to reach the most remote areas in Mindanao — the 5th and 6th class municipalities, BARMM, conflict-affected zones, and areas with Indigenous Peoples."

"In Mindanao, there is a wealth of ideas, local knowledge, and wisdom. What our farmers need is not to be taught how to farm, but how to strengthen the enterprise side," Gemmer added.

DA-PRDP Mindanao Director Macario D. Gonzaga echoed these sentiments, emphasizing the evolution of PRDP from a time-bound initiative into a sustainable platform for climate-smart, market-oriented agri-fishery development.

He noted that cooperatives are now more robust, rural infrastructure has been modernized, and private sector engagement has expanded, laying the foundation for inclusive growth. (PIA/FRG, with reports from DA-PRDP Mindanao) **BY FERLIE GUMBOK**

PH PESO CLOSES WEEK SIDEWAYS VS. US\$; PSEI SLIPS ANEW

MANILA – The Philippine peso ended Friday sideways against the US dollar, but its general weakness affected investors' sentiment and was traced as among the factors for the negative close of the local bourse's main index this week.

The local currency ended the day's trading at 58.24 from its 58.23 close a day ago.

It opened the trade weaker at 58.4 from its 57.87 start. It strengthened to as much as 58.16 but was also pulled to 58.43, bringing the day's average to 58.26. Volume went down to USD1.41 billion from the previous session's USD1.92 billion.

On the other hand, the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) shed for the second consecutive day, by 0.32 percent to 6,037.79 points, and the All Shares by 0.23 percent to 3,658.44 points.

Most of the sectoral gauges also finished the week in the red, led by Mining and Oil which slipped by 2.92 percent.

Holding Firms followed with a 0.78 percent drop, along with Property, 0.56 percent; Financials, 0.43 percent; and Services, 0.05 percent.

Only the Industrial index gained during the day and rose 0.26 percent. Volume reached 1.51 billion, amounting to PHP6.34 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 97 to 79, while 65 shares were unchanged.

"The PSEi continued its decline today despite the recent rate cut from the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)," Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales Luis Limlingan said, referring to the 25-basis points reduction in the central bank's key rates on Thursday.

"The depreciation of the peso against the US dollar likely dampened investor sentiment and contributed to the cautious outlook of market participants, leading to subdued trading activity overall." (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

DTI CHIEF CITES COMPLIANCE OF TAGUIG CITY BIZ ON SRPS

MANILA – Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Cristina Roque on Thursday said businesses in Taguig City People's Market are compliant with the government's suggested retail prices (SRPs).

This, after teams from the DTI and the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted price monitoring activity in the said market during the day to ensure that prices of basic necessities and prime commodities (BNPCs) remain low and affordable.

Among the items checked are canned goods, processed milk, coffee, noodles, and condiments. Items in the wet market were also checked, including two Timbangan

ng Bayan public weighing scales.

Roque, chair of the National Price Coordinating Council (NPCC), said prices of these items in the Taguig City People's Market "were lower by PHP0.05 to PHP10.05 than the suggested retail price."

"Our monitoring is non-negotiable, especially when we see positive outcomes like this. The DTI is closely coordinating with manufacturers to ensure there will be no price increases on BNPCs," she said.

"We are intensifying our price monitoring efforts now to guarantee that affordable goods are accessible to every Filipino household, especially as the holiday season is

BSP DELIVERS ANOTHER 25 BASIS POINTS RATE CUT

MANILA – The Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) further reduced policy rates by another 25 basis points on Thursday, noting that inflation will remain within target range while growth outlook weakened.

The BSP has so far reduced policy rates by a total of 175 basis points since last year.

The latest cut brings the BSP's Target Reverse Repurchase (RRP) to 4.75 percent and the interest rates on the overnight deposit and lending facilities to 4.25 percent and 5.25 percent, respectively.

In a briefing, BSP Governor Eli Remolona Jr. noted that the outlook for inflation is benign and well within the target range but the outlook for economic growth weakened.

Remolona said the decision reflects the BSP's latest reading of economic conditions as well as adjustments to its model which now reflect the new importance of business sentiment in light of the issues related to government infrastructure spending.

"We now find the inflation outlook to be quite benign. Inflation expectations remain well-anchored but adjustments to electricity rates and possible increases in tariffs on rice imports pose some risks, but these risks look limited," he said.

The BSP projects inflation to settle at 1.7 percent this year.

The forecast stands at 3.1 percent for 2026, down from the earlier 3.3 percent while the projection for 2027 was also revised downward to 2.8 percent from 3.4 percent. Remolona, however, said that the outlook for growth has softened in the near term.

fast approaching." (With a report from Joann Villanueva/PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

"Governance concerns on public infrastructure spending have weighed on business sentiment. The stock market has declined and there are now fewer companies with expansion plans. Weaker growth means lower demand and lower inflation," Remolona said.

"As the extent of the issues related to infrastructure spending became clear, our estimates of the output gap needed to be calibrated. We now think the gap is wider than we thought," he added.

BSP Deputy Governor Zeno Abenoja said that during the previous assessment, the BSP is looking at growth rates close to the low end of the government's target.

The previous growth projection was at least 5.5 percent for 2025 and at least 6 percent for 2026.

"Right now, we're looking at the near term outlook to be lower than we initially anticipated. There's greater probability that we will be slightly below those targets set by the government. Of course, a lot of this depends on what the governor has mentioned, the infrastructure spending. How will it evolve in the end of the year and into next year," Abenoja said.

"So we're looking at this very closely. There could be some adjustments later on. But we want to better understand the response of the national government and also the business sentiment, how it evolves during this process," he added.

The Monetary Board sees scope for a more accommodative monetary policy stance.

"All in all we see more scope for a more accommodative monetary policy. The favorable inflation outlook and moderating domestic demand provide room for monetary policy to further support economic growth and employment," Remolona said. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

LANDBANK ROLLS OUT NEW LENDING PROGRAM TO EMPOWER MSMES

MANILA – State-run Land Bank of the Philippines (LandBank) rolled out a new lending program to empower micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and their partner financial institutions with accessible financing and capacity-building support.

In a statement on Thursday, the bank said LandBank's Innovative Financing Thrust Towards Inclusive National Growth thru Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, or the LIFTING MSMEs Lending Program, allows eligible borrowers to use loan proceeds for working capital, business expansion, equipment purchase or upgrade, renovation, digitalization, franchising, export and trade finance, and green or sustainable projects.

The program offers three loan packages.

The start-up loan, ranging from PHP100,000 to PHP500,000, is designed for start-ups and microenterprises with less than one year of operation. It comes with free financial literacy training, minimal collateral requirements, and low welcome interest rates.

For micro and small enterprises with at least one year in operation, LandBank said the step-up loan provides between PHP500,000 and PHP5 million in financing, with added benefits such as free training, interest rate reductions, provision of Point-of-Sale (POS) terminal, and eligibility to transition to higher financing.

The level-up loan, meanwhile, which is available to small and medium enterprises with more than three years of operations, offers up to

PHP500 million.

It provides strategic funding to scale businesses further, coupled with lower interest rates and access to a LandBank corporate credit card.

Under the program, LandBank also extends a rediscounting line to credit cooperatives, rural banks, and microfinance institutions (MFIs) that provide loan services to MSMEs to boost their lending capacity, covering up to 85 percent of outstanding receivables.

"MSMEs are the backbone of the Philippine economy, making up 99.6 percent of total business establishments and employing 65% of the total workforce. Every loan extended to an MSME creates a ripple effect — sustaining jobs, uplifting families, and strengthening communities. Through the LIFTING MSMEs Lending Program, LandBank is fueling this multiplier effect to accelerate inclusive and sustainable growth across the nation," said LandBank President and CEO Lynette Ortiz.

Interested borrowers may apply for the LIFTING MSMEs Lending Program through the bank's Business Loan Application portal, an online platform where loan applicants can directly submit their applications without the need for manual intervention.

The portal allows applicants to complete application forms, upload required documents, track the status of their application, and is accessible 24/7 through the LandBank website at <https://www.landbank.com>. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



ADAMSON ADVANCES TO SSL UNITY CUP SECOND ROUND

MANILA – Adamson University defeated Arellano University, 25-21, 25-17, 25-19, on Thursday to advance in the second round of the 2025 Shakey's Super League (SSL) Unity Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum in Malate, Manila.

Joy Aseo finished with 12 points off eight attacks and four aces as the Lady Falcons notched their second straight win to join Far Eastern University (FEU) in the next round.

"We were just patient with each other and worked as a team. Coach told us to do our best to win. Win or lose, it's okay, as long as we push our best," said

Aseo, who took charge in the absence of Shaina Nitura.

Red Bascon chipped in eight points while Abegail Segui and Frances Mordi added six points apiece for Adamson, winner of the National Invitationals Cebu leg two months ago. Adamson will face the Invitationals Batangas leg champion FEU in the last day of the preliminary round on Friday.

Jazmine Palalon scored seven points while Jayde Dela Cruz had six points for Arellano, which had a 1-2 win-loss record.

Meanwhile, College of Saint Benilde survived Ateneo de Manila

University, 18-25, 25-13, 25-23, 33-31, to sweep Pool D.

Zamantha Nolasco led the four-time NCAA champion Lady Blazers with 19 points off 15 kills and four kill blocks, while Shahanna Lleses and Rhea Densing scored 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Ana Hermosura delivered 19 points, Zey Pacia had 17 points and Faye Nisperos added 14 points for Ateneo.

The Blue Eagles (1-1) must beat the San Sebastian College-Recoletos Lady Stags (0-2) on Friday to advance. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

BULLPUPS ROLL TO 5TH STRAIGHT WIN IN UAAP BASKETBALL

MANILA – Clark Khobutin registered the first triple-double in the UAAP Season 88 junior basketball tournament Wednesday, leading National University Nazareth School to a 93-82 victory over Adamson University at the SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay. He posted 17 points, 12 rebounds, 11 assists, three steals and one block as the Bullpups rolled to their fifth straight win.

Khobutin's triple-double performance was the tournament's fourth after UST's Andwele Cabañero delivered 20 points, 15 rebounds and 10 assists in a 105-71 victory over Ateneo de Manila University on Nov. 27, 2024.

"We still need to improve

our defense. For us, it all starts with the defense. That's what we have to polish heading into the next game," said NUNS head coach Leo Pujante.

The score was tied at 23-all at the end of the first quarter before Khobuntin, Mark Arzola, Nick Peña and Dean Tria joined hands to give NUNS a 60-40 lead at halftime.

Allison Jordan sank a triple and Vengs Vengco scored on a layup as the Baby Falcons cut the lead to 65-79, six minutes remaining in the third quarter.

But the Bullpups pulled away at 87-68, with Moussa Diakite scoring six straight points, four minutes left to play.

Diakite led NUNS with 20 points and rebounds

followed by Arzola with 18 points, six assists, five steals and two rebounds. David Sabareza made 15 points, two steals and two rebounds while Peña had 10 points, four rebounds and three assists.

"Basketball is a team game, it shouldn't be just one person to win. Moussa (Diakite) still really needs a backup like him. Not only Clark, but all of them have to perform. That's what I'm telling them, don't rely on Moussa," Pujante said.

Kieff Iledan had 24 points, 10 rebounds, three assists and two steals, while Fran Flores chipped in 14 points, eight rebounds, five assists, five steals and two blocks for Adamson, which placed third in the standings with a 3-2

LADY FALCONS SECURE V-LEAGUE CROWN

MANILA – Adamson University clobbered Far Eastern University, 25-19, 25-19, 25-14, in the 2025 Women's V-League Collegiate Challenge finals at the Filoil EcoOil Center on Friday.

The Lady Falcons bounced back from a 13-25, 22-25, 25-15, 23-25 loss in Game 2 on Wednesday to claim their fourth overall crown. Adamson bagged its third V-League title after winning in 2008 and 2010 under coach Dulce Pante with standouts Pau Soriano and Lizlee Gata-Pantone.

The Lady Falcons, bannered by Trisha Genesis, also pocketed the 2019 PVL Collegiate Conference crown with coach Lerma Giron.

"First of all, we praise God for the win because in the hectic games the Lord sustained the strength of the kids, so maybe the first thing that happened that

made Game 2 different is that they stuck to the plan from the beginning. What we talked about last night, what we studied last night, they stuck to it," Adamson head coach JP Yude said after the one-hour and 23-minute match.

"Then they have joy, they are focused, and they have happiness. That's all, that's what we lacked in Game 2, the application that we wanted to be champions at that time, but the application was lacking on the court. Everything we studied last night really worked."

Tournament MVP Shaina Nitura stood at the center of the Lady Falcons' onslaught, delivering 17 points alongside 13 digs and 10 receptions, and claimed Finals MVP honors after dominating the best-of-three series with an average of 23.33 points.

"First of all, thank you, Lord.

Because the learnings that the Lord is giving us are great, as a team, He is really strengthening us. And I'm really grateful for our loss because I don't think we would have learned anything if we had won there," Nitura said.

Nigerian outside spiker Frances Mordi scored 19 points, 18 from attacks, while Eloí Dote had 11 points, including three aces. Best Setter Fhei Sagaysay made 23 perfect sets, three points, and seven digs.

Adamson finished the tournament with an 11-1 record.

Jaz Ellarina had 11 points on four attacks, four blocks, and three aces for FEU, which placed second for the third consecutive time, losing to College of St. Benilde in 2023 and University of Santo Tomas in 2024. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

FINNEGAN GOES ALL OUT TO SUPPORT JUNIOR WORLD TOURNEY

MANILA – Paris Olympian Aleah Finnegan believes that the 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships will further boost the popularity and development of the sport in the country.

The prestigious event will be held on Nov. 20-24, 2025 at the Manila Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom inside the Newport World Resorts in Pasay City.

"I really think it is really important that our young girls will see high level gymnastics in the Philippines," Finnegan said Friday.

record, behind defending champion University of the East and Far Eastern University-Diliman, who have identical 3-1 cards.

In the other game, Ateneo de Manila clobbered University of the Philippines Integrated School, 87-40, to secure its second win in five outings for sixth place.

The Fighting Maroons are winless after five games. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**

"Most of these young girls who may want go into gymnastics just watch the athletes on TV or social media. But now we are actually bringing in high-level athletes to inspire and push them. It is the junior worlds, after all, so the athletes competing will be very talented," added the double gold medalist at the 2023 Cambodia Southeast Asian Games.

Last year, Carlos Edriel Yulo made history by winning two gold medals at the Paris Olympics.

"So, the goal is that these Filipino athletes and gymnasts will be inspired once the gymnastics showcase gets going. We want to show the world that the Philippines is here to play. We don't want to be overlooked and show we really are pushing for the sports of gymnastics," explained Finnegan, who is in Manila training for the world seniors next month in Jakarta, Indonesia and the Thailand SEA Games this December.

"I am actually really surprised that it lined up well and that I am here. I am really excited to be a part of it and help out the federation with whatever

they need so we can get the needed support to host this," said the former Louisiana State University varsity member.

"I am excited that this is happening and will do everything I can in supporting the world juniors so that all goes according to plan," Finnegan added.

Yulo's younger brother Karl Eldrew (boys division) and Elisabeth Antone (girls division) will banner the country's campaign at the 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships, which is supported by Senators Pia Cayetano and Christopher "Bong" Go.

The 2023 edition, held in Antalya, Turkey, drew 283 athletes from 64 countries.

"We have had a tremendous response to our hosting of this event and as of now there over 70 countries and close to a thousand athletes who will be competing in this event," said Gymnastics Association of the Philippines president Cynthia Carrion, who also thanked Finnegan for supporting the blue-ribbon event. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**