

CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN BRINGS JOB OPPORTUNITIES TO TANZA



MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

CAVITE HONORS FRONTLINERS OF EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

The Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), proudly spearheaded the Child Development Workers (CDW) Week Provincial Celebration with the theme “Child Development Workers sa Bagong Pilipinas: Mapagkalinga, Makabayan at Makabata,” on October 24, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City. The event brought together

CDWs from various cities and municipalities across the province to honor their dedication and compassion in shaping the minds and values of Cavite’s young learners.

Mr. Aries Panganiban of the OPSWDO acknowledged the participants, followed by a warm welcome from Ms. Precyl Ramos, Board Member Romel R. Enriquez, Chair of the Committee on Social Services, Family,

Women, Children, and Elderly, expressed deep appreciation through a video message to all CDWs for their vital role in advancing early childhood care and education in their communities.

Adding vibrance to the celebration were special presentations from selected CDWs representing Magallanes, Cavite City, and Tanza, highlighting their creativity and passion in nurturing

young children. The event also showcased the ECCD Best Practices Video Presentation featuring exemplary programs from Amadeo, Carmona, Dasmariñas, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Gen. Trias, Imus, Indang, Magallanes, Mendez, Noveleta, Silang, Tanza, and Trece Martires City, each exemplifying innovation and compassion in promoting holistic child development.

During the awarding

ceremony, plaques and certificates of recognition were presented to outstanding CDWs and LGUs for their excellence and service. Retirees, former federation officers, and members were likewise honored for their invaluable contributions to the province’s early childhood programs. Among the top honorees were the City of Dasmariñas, recognized as the Promising City on Early Childhood Education; the Municipality of Mendez, hailed as the Promising Municipality on Early Childhood Education; and the City of Carmona, which received the Early Childhood Innovation Award for its exemplary efforts in advancing innovative approaches to early learning.

The event concluded with an inspiring message from Ms. Ekeiko Paola Haida P. Sadang, RSW, Head of the Community-Based Operations Division, who lauded the dedication of every Child Development Worker and encouraged them to continue their mission of fostering a nurturing, child-centered, and empowered community.

Through the annual celebration, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its steadfast commitment to supporting Child Development Workers, the compassionate pillars of early learning whose service truly embodies the values of mapagkalinga, makabayan, at makabata, building a brighter Bagong Pilipinas. ---R. Dones/ Cavite PIO

The Cavite Career Caravan rolled into the municipality of Tanza on October 27, bringing with it a wide array of local and overseas employment opportunities for jobseekers in the province.

A total of 40 companies participated in the event – 34 local and 6 overseas employers – offering 9,164 job vacancies across various industries. The activity attracted 382 applicants, with 63 hired on the spot (HOTS), underscoring the province’s commitment to helping Caviteños find gainful employment.

The event was spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM), led by Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, in collaboration with the local government of Tanza.

Aside from job placement opportunities, the event also gathered nine national government agencies – PSA, PNP, DTI, SSS, BIR, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, OWWA, and TESDA – to provide frontline services, assistance, and career guidance to applicants.

The Cavite Career Caravan is part of the provincial government’s sustained employment facilitation initiative aimed at connecting Caviteños with decent and sustainable job opportunities. It continues to reflect the province’s commitment to fostering economic growth and improving the quality of life of its citizens through inclusive and collaborative labor programs. ---R. Dones/ Cavite PIO



MULA SA BAYAN, PARA SA BAYAN

CHILD DEVELOPMENT WORKERS WEEK PROVINCIAL CELEBRATION
24 OCTOBER 2025 | JUNCTION HALL, NEW PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT CENTER, TRECE MARTIRES CITY, CAVITE

DALAWANG CARNAPPER NG MOTOR, HULI NG TAGAYTAY AT SILANG PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tagaytay PNP at Silang PNP ang dalawang suspek na sangkot sa kaso ng motornapping, illegal pag-aari ng baril and illegal possession of weapon na naganap sa Tagaytay City, Cavite noong Nobyembre 5, 2025.

Batay sa ulat, ang insidente ay naganap dakong alas-2:30 ng madaling araw sa Tagaytay City kung saan ang biktima ay nagpapahinga sa kanilang bahay nang marinig niyang umandar ang kanyang motorsiko. Paglabas niya ng bahay, nakita niyang tangay na ng mga kawatan ang kanyang motor kaya hinabol niya ito.

Habang nagsasagawa ng mobile patrolling ang mga pulis ng Tagaytay PNP noong madaling araw na yon, kanilang namataan ang biktimang humihingi ng tulong habang patakbo niyang hinahabol ang tumatakas ng mga kawatan. Itinuro ng biktima ang mga patakas na suspek sakay ng motorsiklong ninakaw kaya agad itong hinabol ng mga pulis.

Sa kanilang paghabol, nahulog ang suspek na naka angkas sa likuran mula sa motorsiklo dahilang upang ito ay maaresto, ngunit nakatakas ang kasabwat nitong nagmamaneho tangay ang ninakaw na motorsiklo.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL RYAN L MANONGDO, hepe ng Tagaytay PNP ang suspek na si alias Jef, 41 taong gulang, tindero ng gulay at naninirahan sa Brgy Buro 1, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Narekober mula sa pag-iingat ng suspek ang isang piraso ng balisong, isang cellphone, at mga dokumento ng naturang motorsiklo. Agad na dinala ang suspek sa Tagaytay PNP at sinampahan ng kasong paglabag sa RA 10883 o ang Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016 at Illegal Possession of

Deadly Weapon.

Habang ang mga pulis naman ay patuloy ang hot pursuit at dragnet operation sa mga kalapit na bayan para sa pagkakakilanlan at pagkakaaresto ng isa pang tumakas na suspek.

Ang naturang motorsiklo ay kinilalang isang Honda Click na pagmamay-ari ng biktima.

Samantala, sa pagpapatuloy ng hot pursuit operation dakong alas-8:30 ng umaga, kung saan nasakote naman sa dragnet operation ng mga tauhan ng Silang PNP ang kasamahang suspek na kinilalang si alyas "Rod", 43 taong gulang, residente ng Brgy Sampaloc 2, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Mabilis ang pagtugon ng Silang PNP sa koordinasyon ng Tagaytay PNP matapos makumpirma ang pagpasok ng suspek sa kanilang nasasakupan. Sa isinagawang dragnet operation, namataan ng mga pulis ang suspek na sakay ng asul at puting Honda Click na walang plaka. Nang tangkain nitong tumakas, hinabol agad ng mga pulis kaya nawalan ng kontrol ang motorsiklo at bumagsak sa kalsada na dahilang kaya ito nagtamo ng mga sugat sa katawan.

Narekober sa lugar ng insidente ang isang improvised firearm na kargado ng isang bala ng 12-gauge ammunition at ang nakaw na motor na kalauna'y positibong kinilala ng biktima. Agad na dinala ang suspek sa ospital para sa agarang lunas.

Ang suspek na si Alis Rod ay mahaharap sa kasong kriminal para sa paglabag sa PD 1612 (Anti-Fencing Law) at RA 10591 (Illegal Possession of Firearms and Ammunition) na isinampa ng Silang PNP samantalang kinasuhan din siya ng kasong paglabag sa RA 10883 o ang Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016 ng Tagaytay PNP.

Ang magkahiwalay na operasyon ay maituturing na tagumpay sa maagap

WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG MAGALLANES POLICE SA CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Magallanes Municipal Police Station ang isang Other Wanted Person sa San Agustin, Magallanes, Cavite dakong 11:45 ng umaga ng Nobyembre 5, 2025.

Kinilala ni PMAJ RAYMOND T BALBUENA, hepe ng Magallanes MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Jovel," residente ng Magallanes, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng warrant personnel ng Magallanes MPS ang operasyon laban sa akusado sa pamamagitan ng

Alternative Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto nito sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Adultery, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱36,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagkakaaresto ng mga wanted person ay bunga ng tuluy-tuloy na operasyon at dedikasyon ng Cavite Police sa paghahatid ng hustisya at pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan sa ating lalawigan."

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG BACOR POLICE SA OPERASYON LABAN SA CARNAPPING

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa Brgy. Zapote 1, Bacoor City, Cavite dakong alas-10:30 ng umaga ng Nobyembre 6, 2025.

na pagtugon ng mga kapulisan ng Tagaytay PNP sa pangunguna ni PLTCOL RYAN L MANONGDO, Chief of Police ng Tagaytay PNP at PLTCOL LOUIE DC GONZAGA, Chief of Police ng Silang PNP.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang mabilis na koordinasyon at aksyon ng ating kapulisan sa Tagaytay at Silang PNP ay patunay ng epektibong pagpapatupad ng batas at pagkakaisa upang sugpuin ang krimen at panatilihin ang kapayapaan."

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, Chief of Police ng Bacoor CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Tuldok," residente ng Bacoor City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng mga tauhan mula sa Warrant Section at Mobile Patrol 1 ng Bacoor CCPS ang Manhunt Charlie Operation gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 3 ng Republic Act 10883 o New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱300,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang patuloy na pagkakaaresto ng mga Most Wanted Person sa ating lalawigan ay patunay ng mas pinaigting na operasyon ng Cavite Police upang maipatupad

RANK 10 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG TANZA POLICE SA CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tanza Municipal Police Station ang isang Rank No. 10 Municipal Level Most Wanted Person sa Tanza, Cavite dakong alas-6:45 ng gabi ng Nobyembre 5, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JOVEN T BAHIL, Officer-in-Charge ng Tanza MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Tony," residente ng Tanza, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng warrant personnel ng Tanza MPS katuwang ang Cavite MARPSTA ang operasyon gamit ang Alternative Recording Device (ARD), na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng

dalawang (2) Warrants of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 5(i) in relation to Section 6(f) at Section 5(e)(2) and Section 6(c) ng Republic Act 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004), na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱72,000.00 at ₱36,000.00.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang pagkakaaresto ng mga Most Wanted Person sa ating lalawigan ay patunay ng walang tigil na kampanya ng Cavite Police sa pagpapanatili ng kaayusan at hustisya para sa mamamayan ng Cavite."

REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARESTADO NG DASMARINAS POLICE SA CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas Component City Police Station ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite dakong 4:10 ng hapon ng Nobyembre 4, 2025.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REGINO L OÑATE, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Cheenee," residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng warrant personnel ng Dasmariñas CCPS ang operasyon laban sa nasabing akusado sa pamamagitan ng Body-Worn Camera (BWC) at Alternative

Recording Device (ARD) na nagresulta sa matagumpay na pagkakaaresto nito sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 5 (Selling of Dangerous Drugs) at Section 11 (Possession of Dangerous Drugs) ng Republic Act 9165. Ang warrant ay inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 101, Sta. Rosa City, noong Setyembre 23, 2025 para sa Service of Sentence.

Sa kanyang pahayag, sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Acting Provincial Director ng Cavite PPO, "Ang matagumpay na operasyon laban sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng mas pinaigting na kampanya ng Cavite Police laban sa iligal na droga at mga wanted sa batas."

ang batas at mapanatili ang katahimikan sa ating komunidad."

PGC CONDUCTS RETOOLING SEMINAR WORKSHOP FOR PGC-QMS INTERNAL AUDITORS

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Cavite Quality Management Office, successfully hosted two sessions of Retooling Seminar Workshop for PGC-QMS Internal Quality Auditors, bringing together existing and aspiring internal auditors to strengthen their grasp on quality management system at the New Provincial Government Center, on September 25 and October 27.

Ms. Anne Minnette Dastas, head of OPG-Office of the Provincial Internal Audit Service (OPG-OPIAS), together with Mr. Niko Montenegro and Mr. Mark Lester Carada, enthusiastically shared their knowledge and insights on Internal Audit, tackling the clauses, standards,

and requirements of the Quality Management System.

The participants actively engaged in the activities, reinforcing collaboration and teamwork for an effective internal audit.

The highlight of the event was the mock internal audit wherein participants were grouped and took the role as auditors and auditees, applying the learnings into a real scenario. The workshop-presentation was then evaluated by invited PGC internal auditors composed of Dr. Eva Defiesta of OPG-OPIAS, Ms. Evelyn Reyes of the Office of the Provincial Information Officer, and Ms. Nancy Lontoc of the Office of the Provincial Administrator.---**J. REYES/ Cavite PIO**

CARMONA RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION IN BRGY. MILAGROSA

A total of 482 residents of the City of Carmona received free medical consultations, dental check-ups, X-ray and ECG services in the Medical and Dental Mission conducted by the Provincial Government of Cavite in Barangay Milagrosa on October 24, 2025.

The vital healthcare services were provided by health professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital. Patients also received free prescribed medicines from the Office of the Provincial Governor-Medical mission team, ensuring they could continue their recovery and treatment even after

consultation.

Carmona City Mayor Dahlia Loyola and 5th District Board Member Ivey Jayne Reyes graced the activity together with City Councilors, expressing their support and appreciation for the continuing health initiatives of the provincial government that aim to uplift the well-being of Caviteños.

The program underscores the Provincial Government of Cavite's unwavering commitment to bringing essential healthcare services closer to the people, especially in local communities that need them most.---**R. TANAEL/ Cavite PIO**

EDITORIAL

Earthquake Alert System, Na-Develop na

Earthquake Alert System na kayang mag-abiso bago maramdaman ang lindol, na-develop na at maaari nang gamitin ng mga android phone users.

Ang ganitong mga imbensyon ay malaking tulong lalo na at patuloy ang pagyanig ng mga lindol sa iba't-ibang bahagi ng bansa. Hindi ito basta malalaman kung saang lugar maaaring tumama ito at kung gaano kalakas kaya naman karamihan sa mga mamamayan ang hindi nakakapaghandanda sa ganitong uri ng sakuna.

Kaya naman, ang pagkakaroon ng mga ganitong system ay malaking tulong upang maiwasan ang mga aksidente maging alerto sa anumang oras ang bawat tao. Mahirap man matukoy kung gaano kalaking pinsala ang maging dulot ng mga ganitong sakuna ay makakapaghandanda naman ang bawat Pilipino upang maging ligtas kasama ang kanilang mga pamilya

STRENGTHENING ENTERPRISE- BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In a collaborative effort to enhance workforce competencies and strengthen the link between education and industry, the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), successfully conducted the seminar on "Strengthening Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) for Sustainable Growth and National Development" on October 28, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The program formally opened with a welcome message from TESDA Provincial Director Gerardo R. Marasigan, who underscored the importance of partnerships between the government, private sector, and training institutions in cultivating a competitive workforce. This was followed by a message from Engr. Jovencio M. Ferrer, Jr., TESDA Regional Director, highlighting the role of enterprise-based training in bridging education and real-world industry needs.

Governor Francisco Gabriel D. Remulla, Jr. also graced the event and expressed his full support for initiatives that promote

skills development and sustainable employment for Caviteños.

The discussion on the Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) Framework was facilitated by Mr. Joel M. De Guzman, Senior TESD Specialist, while Engr. Jerry Webb E. Muhi, President and Executive Director of Dualtech Training Center, presented insights on "Bridging Skills and Industry: A TVI Perspective on Education for Employment." Both sessions were followed by open forums, allowing participants to share perspectives and raise inquiries on implementation

and collaboration opportunities.

To conclude the program, OPPEM Head Ms. Rizalie P. Ereno delivered the closing message, emphasizing the continued partnership between the government and private sector in advancing enterprise-based education and training programs.

The event was attended by human resource personnel from various private companies across Cavite, reflecting a shared commitment to developing industry-ready workers and supporting national growth through education and skills development.---**JDP/ Cavite PIO**



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NFA'S PRICERS SET AS GOV'T'S PALAY FLOOR PRICE TO AID PH FARMERS

MANILA — The government's new floor price for palay (unhusked rice) will follow the National Food Authority's (NFA) flexible Price Range Scheme (PRICERS) to protect Filipino farmers from unscrupulous traders, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday.

Under the PRICERS, the government's buying price for fresh and wet palay is set between PHP17 and PHP23 per kilogram, while clean and dry palay will be bought at PHP23 to PHP30 per kilogram.

"Executive Order (EO) 100 basically tells everyone that this should be the price we follow since this is what the government implements," DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said during a press briefing after meeting with the Department of Agrarian Reform, lawmakers and local government units (LGUs).

EO 100 sets a national floor price for palay, while EO 101 directs government entities to procure agricultural products directly from accredited local producers under the Sagip Saka Act.

"As of the moment, we've seen that prices have started to increase. I think it's a combination of the EO 100 and the other interventions on the ground, with the PHP20 rice, procurement of LGUs, and import ban," Tiu Laurel said.

According to NFA Administrator Larry Lacson, the current government buying price stands at PHP17 per kg for wet palay and PHP23 per kg for clean and dry.

Earlier, the DA reported that farm-gate prices had already risen to PHP14-16 per kg in some areas — a significant jump from the PHP8-10 per kg range during the peak of the wet season harvest.

Influencing traders' prices Tiu Laurel expressed confidence that the palay floor price will help influence traders'

pricing, particularly for the upcoming dry season harvest in February.

"Definitely, this will help. This also signals actions to all local government offices, LGUs, the national government to no longer buy imported rice," Tiu Laurel said.

He noted that LGUs play a crucial role in both local palay procurement and storage capacity expansion.

The national and local government procurement of rice may influence traders' prices in each area and protect Filipino rice producers from unreasonable buying amounts.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government will also join the steering committee to ensure proper implementation nationwide. (PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

'BBM NA' P20 RICE PROGRAM NOW IN 427 SITES NATIONWIDE

MANILA — The government's PHP20 per kilogram rice program under the "Benteng Bigas Meron (BBM) Na" is now available in 427 Kadiwang Pangulo (KNP) sites and accredited stalls nationwide, according to the Department of Agriculture (DA) on Thursday.

DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said the program fulfills President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s promise to make rice more affordable for Filipinos.

"When we launched the program in May, our modest target was 136 sites in 13 provinces. Today, we have 427 sites nationwide—with two months still to go," Tiu Laurel said in a press statement.

Beneficiaries include members of the vulnerable sectors like Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino program

PCW LAUDS UAAP MOVE TO EQUALIZE MEN, WOMEN REFEREES' PAY

MANILA — The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) has hailed the University Athletic Association of the Philippines' (UAAP) decision to standardize the pay of referees officiating both men's and women's basketball divisions as a step toward gender equality in Philippine sports.

In a statement Thursday night, the PCW said the UAAP's decision aligns with the Philippine laws and policies that mandate equal pay for equal work, emphasizing that it is the "right and lawful action" under the Magna Carta of Women (Republic Act 9710).

The policy shift came after advocacy efforts from several groups, including the female athlete advocacy organization "Go Hard Girls," which raised concerns about the pay disparity between referees assigned to women's and men's games.

The campaign also drew

support from women leaders, among them Sen. Pia Cayetano.

The agency reminded UAAP officials that there is no place for discrimination against women and girls in the country, as the government is committed to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was signed in 1980 and ratified in 1981.

It said that UAAP's swift response to address the issue demonstrates its openness to constructive criticism and commitment to improving its systems, an example other sports organizations are urged to follow.

It also emphasized that the decision is a powerful reminder that gender equality strengthens institutions as it affirms fairness and respect, which are the true foundations of athletic excellence.

As the government's primary policymaking and coordinating body on gender equality and women's empowerment, the PCW recognized the collective efforts of athletes, advocates, lawmakers and sports organizations who pushed for fairness and inclusivity.

It added that gender equality is "not merely a women's concern but a shared responsibility that strengthens institutions and communities alike". (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

GOV'T EXECS EXPRESS HIGH HOPES FOR PH START-UPS

MANILA — Philippines-based start-ups remain small relative to their counterparts around the world but authorities are optimistic that with the right boost, these companies will eventually grow and contribute to the domestic output.

Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan, in an interview after the 2025 Presidential Filippinovation Awards in Pasig City Thursday, said the 5 winners of the first innovation awards of the government already got a boost through their cash awards and grants that amount to a few hundred thousand to over a million pesos as well as the recognition of their business plans.

He said innovation is the key to ensuring the sustainability of businesses.

While Philippine start-ups or newly formed companies targeted to have a saleable business model remain relatively small, Balisacan said the government is firm on helping them become unicorns, or those that have a valuation of USD1 billion and above and have a global market.

"Yun ang gusto nating mangyari sa mga start-ups natin (That's what we want to happen to our start-ups). They would be able to access capital. They would be able to develop a network with other start-ups, venture capitalists, (and) funders. Yun ang

dapat na maitutulong natin (That's what we should be able to help with)," he said. Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Henry Aguda, in his closing speech during the event, challenged the winners to become unicorns and even do an initial public offering (IPO) after three years of profitability.

He said DEPDev has provided the winners mentorship and recognition, and DICT will, in turn, help them have market access through the use of the procurement law.

He said the businesses will be provided with artificial intelligence-based solutions that can be used for their operations, which are focused on several sectors such as agriculture, health and environment.

"Sa dami pong kailangang i-automate sa gobyerno at sa polisiya po ng President na tangkilikin ang gawa sa atin dapat po meron kayong access sa market (With the need to automate a lot of government processes as well as the policy of the President to prioritize locally-made products, you should have market access)," he said.

He vowed to help the business on "how to deal properly, how you can pass the qualification, and hopefully win a contact in government." "Panahon na para mag-invest tayo sa (It's time to invest in) Filipino innovators," he said. (PNA) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

TOP PH, US DEFENSE LEADERS EXPLORE WAYS TO BOOST COOPERATION

MANILA — The highest-ranking official in the United States military has met with the top Philippine defense and military officials to discuss ways to further boost the defense cooperation between the two nations.

US Joint Chiefs of Staff chair Gen. Dan Caine on Wednesday separately met with Department of Defense (DND) Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) chief Romeo Brawner Jr. during a courtesy call in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. In a statement on

Thursday, the AFP said Caine and Brawner "explored avenues to strengthen cooperation and further operationalize their shared strategic defense objectives."

Brawner expressed the Philippines' gratitude for the US's support in humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HADR) operations during periods of calamities.

Meanwhile, Caine and Teodoro discussed the "progress of the alliance and explored ways to further operationalize bilateral strategic defense objectives," a

DND statement said on Wednesday.

"Among the topics covered were operationalizing multilateral cooperation with regional partners, expanding cooperation and information sharing to deepen interoperability between the Armed Forces of the Philippines and US military forces, and exploring ways to enhance Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) efforts in view of Typhoon Tino," it added. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

JAPAN ENVOY: ASEAN-CHINA SEA CODE MUST UPHOLD RIGHTS OF NON-PARTIES

MANILA – Japan has called for a Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea that is both substantive and respectful of the rights of nations not directly involved in the dispute.

“We believe that the COC should be effective, substantive, and consistent with the UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea),” Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Endo Kazuya said during a panel discussion at the Manila Dialogue on the South China Sea in Taguig City on Thursday.

He said “it would be very important for the COC to respect the legitimate rights and interests of all stakeholders involved.”

While Japan is not a party to the COC negotiations, Endo said the situation in the South China Sea is “directly related” to the peace and stability of the region.

The proposed COC hopes to build on the 2002 Declaration of Conduct in the South China Sea and seeks to provide a set of rules to manage tension in the South China Sea.

As the 2026 chair of ASEAN, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. said the Philippines will advance the COC discussions toward its conclusion next year.

Several coastal states, including the Philippines and China, are locked in a maritime dispute over the South China Sea. Over the past year, countries such as Japan have called out Beijing over its increasingly aggressive actions to assert its claims over the vital sea lane.

ASEAN 2025 Chair and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim earlier said ASEAN wants the South China Sea issue to be resolved internally, “within ASEAN and with regional partners” and noted “things are still under control” as far as the bloc is concerned.

“[A]s is the case with all issues, we want it to be resolved within ASEAN, and ASEAN with our partners in the region [sic] because the moment it’s seen to be imposed and dictated by outside forces, things become more problematic and tense,” he said. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

700 CALOOCAN FAMILIES GET LAND TITLES UNDER 4PH PROGRAM

MANILA – About 700 families from Caloocan City received their land titles on Thursday under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

In a news release, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said the event reflected the strengthened public housing delivery of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s administration. He added that the National Housing Authority’s (NHA) title distribution, held at the Caloocan Sports Complex, was part of the government’s continuing commitment to help Filipino families achieve dignified living conditions.

The land titles were distributed under Presidential Proclamation 366, covering the Tala Development Project, a 149-hectare site in Caloocan City.

About 120 hectares of the area were designated for bona fide leprosy patients, censused families, and qualified residents, while the remaining 29 hectares cover low-rise residential units and barracks.

The Tala Project began in 1995 through Republic Act 7999 signed by then-president Fidel Ramos, declaring portions of the Tala Estate as alienable and disposable lands. The NHA was tasked to implement the program

LTO SUSPENDS DRIVER'S LICENSE OF COP FILMED RIDING WITHOUT HELMET

MANILA – The Land Transportation Office (LTO) suspended for 90 days the driver’s license of a police officer caught on video riding a motorcycle erratically while on a bicycle lane and not wearing a helmet.

In a statement on Thursday, the LTO said the suspension is in line with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.’s order to keep discipline on the road and to follow traffic laws for the safety of all road users.

In a show cause order, the LTO summoned the driver and the registered owner of the motorcycle to appear before the LTO on November 14 to explain why their license should not be further suspended or revoked due to being an “improper person to operate a motor vehicle.”

“Posible rin silang maharap sa mga kasong paglabag sa mandatory use of motorcycle helmet at disregarding traffic sign (They may also face cases of violating the mandatory use of motorcycle helmet and disregarding traffic sign),” it said.

In a video that went viral on social media, the uniformed police officer was seen riding a motorcycle on the bicycle lane while not wearing a helmet and driving erratically.

“Walang pakundangan kahit maka-perwisyo ito sa ibang mga motorista. Ang bicycle lane ay nakalaan lamang para sa mga bikers at hindi para sa mga motorcycle riders (This person did not care about inconveniencing other motorists. The bicycle lane is exclusive for bikers and not for motorcycle riders),” it said.

In addition to their suspension, the motorcycle involved in the incident, a Honda WW150AM with plate number 442UHV, has been placed on alarm to prevent all transactions with the LTO while the investigation is ongoing. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

PALACE: PBBM WON'T BLOCK ANY REQUEST FOR SALN RELEASE

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. will not prevent anyone from requesting a copy of his Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN), Malacañang said on Thursday.

This, after the Akbayan Party, along with civil society groups, submitted a letter to the Office of the Ombudsman, requesting the release of SALNs of Marcos, Vice President Sara Duterte, and other top government officials.

“Hintayin na lang po. Hindi naman po pipigilan ng Pangulo iyan (Just wait.

The President will not stop that),” Palace Press Officer Claire Castro told reporters, when sought for reaction.

“Hintayin na lang po nila kung ano magiging tugon ng Ombudsman (Let them wait for the Ombudsman’s response).”

The letter was transmitted to Ombudsman Jesus Crispin Remulla following the issuance of Memorandum Circular 3, which lifts restrictions on public access to government officials’ SALNs.

Castro earlier said Marcos

DICT, SM LAUNCH TECH UPSKILLING PROGRAM FOR SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS

MANILA – The Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) has partnered with SM Supermalls for a job immersion program aimed at boosting senior high school (SHS) students’ digital skills.

During the launch of the Job Opportunities Building Skills (JOBS) Immersion Program in Quezon City on Thursday, DICT Secretary Henry Aguda and SM Supermalls vice president Junias Eusebio signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) towards boosting the experience of students through work immersion opportunities.

“Sa pamamagitan ng work immersion opportunities, mapapaigting ang digital skills ng mga mag-aaral kabilang na sa larangan ng information technology (IT), e-commerce, hospitality, manufacturing, at creative sectors, mga industriya na patuloy na lumalago sa panahon ng digital economy (Through these work immersion opportunities, we’ll improve the digital skills of students in the IT, e-commerce, hospitality, manufacturing, and creative sectors, industries that are continuing to grow in the digital economy),” Aguda said.

The Private Sector Advisory Council (PSAC) – Education and Job Cluster (E&J) is also a partner in

the program, with PSAC – E&J head secretariat Josephine Romero serving as a witness in the signing. The partnership is part of the DICT’s “Trabahong Digital” (Digital Jobs) program that seeks to create over 8 million digital jobs by 2028.

“Sa ilalim ng programang ito, isinusulong ang digital upskilling upang matulungan ang mga Pilipino na makapasok sa freelancing, e-commerce, online services, at tech-based careers na patuloy na lumalago sa bansa (The program promotes digital upskilling to help Filipinos get jobs in freelancing, e-commerce, online services, and tech-based careers that are continuing to grow in the country),” he said.

Through the JOBS program, he said, students will be empowered to “build their own digital future.”

“Para sa ating mga kabataang Pinoy, tandaan po ninyo ito, ang kinabukasan ay hindi hinihintay, ginagawa ito ngayon (To the Filipino youth, remember that the future should not be awaited, it is created today). Every time you learn a new skill, try something new, or take a bold step, you’re already building your future,” he said.

During the program, the DICT also launches the Digital Corner learning booth that seeks to help students and their parents learn important digital skills, from basic computer use to coding, cybersecurity, and online entrepreneurship.

These learning booths will be available at every JOBS fair and immersion events. During the event, an SHS job immersion launch and career and job readiness talks were also held, which allowed experts to share insights in career planning, using AI in job search, and digital readiness.

The DICT, SM Supermalls, and PSAC – E&J were joined in the program launch by representatives from the Department of Education (DepEd), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and the Private Sector Jobs and Skills Corporation. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

Several senators and congressmen have begun releasing their SALNs. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

'PAGTUGYAN' MARKS SACRED TRANSFER OF ANTIQUE'S REVOLUTIONARY LEGACY

SAN JOSE, Antique (PIA)

— The 127-year-old 1898 Philippine Revolutionary Flag, believed to be the first national flag raised outside Luzon, was formally turned over to the Provincial Government of Antique.

This significant event held at the Patnongon Covered Court on October 27 was dubbed as "Pagtugyan"—a Kinaray-a term which means "to entrust a belonging to someone"—which the organizers considered a sacred transfer of revolutionary legacy.

The historic turnover was made by Danny Abellon-Elizalde, great-grandson of Col. Ruperto Abellon Sr. who kept the flag after the revolution led by Gen. Leandro Fullon in 1898.

Col. Abellon, during that time, handed the flag to his son, former Patnongon Mayor Juan Abellon, continuing its stewardship within the family.

Governor Paolo Javier and the Abellon family signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to ensure the flag's preservation.

"Our family carried the responsibility of guarding this revolutionary flag, not as owners, but as humble stewards of a legacy that is greater than ourselves. This flag was hidden, protected, and passed on because we believe it belong not to one of us in the family but to the entire people of Antique," Abellon-Elizalde said in his message.

Javier expressed his appreciation to the steward's family for the revolutionary flag.

"This flag symbolizes equality, purity, and the Filipino spirit. Together with other local officials, we pledge our commitment to this principle, echoing historical oaths of loyalty to our nation's banner," the governor said.

Meanwhile, on behalf of Mayor Johnnyflores S. Bacongallo, Vice Mayor Thomas Bacaoco expressed how honored they felt that the event was held in Patnongon.

"This flag is not only a cloth, it is a living proof

of our unity, bravery, and never-ending love for our country," Bacaoco said.

Senator Loren Legarda, in her message read by Sangguniang Panlalawigan member Vincent Piccio, also extended 'heartfelt gratitude to the family of 2nd Lieutenant Ruperto Abellion, represented by Danny Abellion-Elizalde, the family of General Leandro Fullon, and other revolutionary members from the year 1898 for their effort that led to another milestone of the province.'

"When we understand where we came from, what we built, what we lost, and what we survive, we begin to understand who we are; this gives us strength and it gives us direction," Legarda said in her message.

Legarda also noted that as author and co-sponsor of RA No. 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009 and principal author and sponsor of RA No. 11961, which strengthens cultural heritage and protection through cultural mapping and heritage education, she strongly believed that 'preservation of our past is the foundation of our nation's future.'

The ceremony also included the presentation of the "Ang Nahauna nga Bandera: The Dawn of the Visayan Freedom" which was led by Errol P. Santillan, a local historian and a former Sangguniang Panlalawigan member of the province. The narratives presented the chronicle of the revolutionary flag.

The Provincial Government announced that the flag will be displayed at the Old Casa Tribunal in Patnongon, serving as a symbol of Antique's enduring role in the country's fight for independence.

In honor of Col. Abellon, there are schools in Antique named after him: the Col. Ruperto Abellon Memorial School in Patnongon and Col. Ruperto Abellon National High School in Laua-an, Antique. (AGP/PSM/PIA Antique with reports from RMB/DOLE/GIP) **BY PILAR S. MABAQUIAO**

DA URGES FILIPINOS TO VALUE EVERY GRAIN, SUPPORT EVERY FARMER

DAGUPAN CITY (PIA)

— "Anak, ubusin ninyo ang kanin. Maraming nagugutom."

For Delia Caoile, a mother of three from Malasiqui, Pangasinan, this gentle reminder to her children during mealtime is more than a household rule—it is a lesson in gratitude and responsibility.

Every grain of rice, Caoile said, is a blessing that should never go to waste. This timeless Filipino value is what the government aims to promote through the "Be Riceponsible" campaign.

Launched in 2023 and running until 2028, the campaign supports the National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) every November to raise public awareness on the value of rice—not only as a staple food but also as a symbol of life, livelihood, and sustainability.

This year's celebration strengthens the call for mindful rice consumption and stronger support for Filipino farmers.

Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center I (DA-ATI-RTC 1) Information Officer III Maricel Dacapias said the initiative aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

"According to reports, the Philippines wastes around 650,000 tons of food annually, including about 300,000 tons of rice, which is enough to feed 5.5 million Filipinos for a year," Dacapias said.

Each saved grain, she emphasized, could save a life.

With this, the DA encourages Filipinos to start a simple but powerful habit: serve only what you can finish, or order half a cup of rice if that's enough. In the Ilocos Region, one of the country's major rice-producing areas, promoting responsible consumption is crucial to ensuring that every grain harvested by local farmers counts.

Dacapias noted that being "riceponsible" starts with small, mindful actions—finishing one's meal,

choosing healthier rice varieties, and supporting locally produced rice.

To make the message easier to remember, DA introduced the ABKD of Be Riceponsible:

A – Adlai, mais, saba at iba pa ihalo sa kanin to diversify meals and lessen rice dependence.

B – Brown rice ay kainin for better nutrition and less processing waste.

K – Kanin ay huwag sayangin to value farmers' hard work and contribute to food security.

D – Dapat bigas ng Pilipinas ang bilhin to support Filipino farmers and the local economy.

As families like the Caoiles continue to value every grain of rice, the Be Riceponsible campaign reminds everyone that the journey toward food security and sustainability begins right at home.

Meanwhile, throughout November, ATI-RTC 1 spearheads a series of activities under the NRAM celebration, including school orientations, brown rice distributions, social media campaigns, and the recitation of the Be Riceponsible Pledge. (CCMT/JCDR, PIA Pangasinan) **BY JENRIE C. DEL ROSARIO**

ARMY UNVEILS FIRST MOBILE KITCHEN IN SULTAN KUDARAT

ISULAN, Sultan Kudarat (PIA)

— The 7th Infantry (Tapat) Battalion of the Philippine Army has introduced the first military mobile kitchen in this province, operating under the 6th Infantry (Kampilan) Division.

The unit, located in Barangay Kapaya, Bagumbayan, is dedicated to supplying freshly cooked meals to soldiers stationed in remote areas and during disaster response operations.

Lt. Col. Tristan Rey Vallescas, the battalion commander, said the new facility will aid in sustaining troops and enhancing their welfare during extended operations.

"This innovation demonstrates our commitment to improving

DHSUD TURNS OVER MODULAR SHELTER UNITS TO QUAKE-AFFECTED DAVAO RESIDENTS

TARRAGONA, Davao Oriental (PIA)

— The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) XI has started turning over modular shelter units to residents of Davao Oriental whose houses were totally damaged by the series of earthquakes that struck the province on 10 October 2025.

DHSUD XI program monitoring and evaluation officer Prince Arce said the turnover kicked off in Tarragona town with the first batch of 28 units under the Bayanihan Village project. These units form part of the total 50 modular houses, mostly completed. The shelter assistance aims to provide comfortable and safe temporary housing for affected residents as rebuilding and recovery efforts continue.

Arce said that DHSUD is also fast-tracking the establishment of Bayanihan Villages with 50 modular shelter units each in the municipalities of Manay, Caraga, and Baganga, which were among the hardest-hit areas with most displaced families.

"We have four sites for modular houses in Davao Oriental, Manay, Tarragona, Caraga, and

Baganga. We have already identified the areas where the units will be built, while the Department of Public Works and Highways is handling the land preparation," he explained. In Manay, foundation works have been completed, and the installation of modular houses is expected to begin soon.

When asked about the completion timeline, Arce said that they have yet to determine the completion dates of the rest of the units, but he assured that they are expediting the construction to finish the shelters as soon as possible.

The modular houses are prefabricated housing units built from ready-made sections or modules. These serve as temporary yet durable shelters designed for quick installation to provide immediate housing for displaced families during calamities.

During the recent turnover ceremony, DHSUD assistant secretary Johnson Domingo shared that the modular shelter units in Tarragona are the first of its kind in Mindanao. "This is the very first modular resettlement built here in Mindanao. To the beneficiaries, I hope you will take good care of it," Domingo stated.

Meanwhile, Tarragona Mayor Kaka Bulaong expressed gratitude to the national government for providing the modular houses, saying they represent more than just physical structures—they are symbols of resilience and unity.

"It's not just a house, not just a simple shelter, but a symbol of recovery and unity where you can see the true character, culture, and tradition of the people of Tarragona. No matter how difficult things may be, as long as we work together, nothing is impossible to achieve for the good of our community," Bulaong said.

The shelter assistance efforts were pursuant to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s specific directive to install modular shelters in the affected communities during his visit in Davao Oriental immediately after the doublet earthquakes. (ASO/PIA Davao Oriental with photos from DHSUD XI) **BY ANTONINO S. OBLIANDA**

ARMY UNVEILS FIRST MOBILE KITCHEN IN SULTAN KUDARAT

the living conditions of our personnel and serving our countrymen more efficiently," Vallescas explained.

The mobile kitchen features modular stoves, sanitation units, and food storage facilities tailored for field conditions.

The initiative bolsters the Army's modernization program, enhancing both operational readiness and field support.

The 6th Infantry Division is responsible for military operations in Central Mindanao, which includes the provinces of Maguindanao, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, and portions of Lanao del Sur. (ORVR, PIA Sultan Kudarat) **BY OLIVER ROSS RIVERA**

BPI EYES 5M VYBE USERS BY 2026

MANILA – Acceptance of more Filipinos, especially the younger generation, of the use of digital payments makes an official of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) optimistic for a sustained rise in its mobile payment application users to about 5 million by 2026.

To date, the number of users of BPI's digital wallet, VYBE, has reached about 2.3 million.

Eric Faustino, head of Digital Partnerships and Ecosystems of BPI, said they target to end 2025 with 2.5 million users and to double this by next year. "We also have a good number of new banks that we have gained through the years. So, there's a good number (of account holders), and we hope we continue to grow that one because it's also aligned with our vision for financial inclusion," he said in a briefing Thursday.

BPI has teamed up with self-service kiosk operator, Pay&Go, to allow VYBE app users to cash in for

free at more than 3,400 kiosks nationwide.

"Digital banking must serve not only the tech-savvy but also the overlooked. As we expand VYBE's access through Pay&Go, we are building a more inclusive financial landscape where every Filipino has the tools to move forward," Faustino added.

Dan Ibarra, chief executive officer of BTI Payments Philippines, the provider of Pay&Go machines, said most of their machines are in the National Capital Region and Luzon, while about 12 percent are in Mindanao and 8 percent in the Visayas.

He said they aim to have about 4,500 units nationwide by next year, with a focus on the Visayas and Mindanao, partly through their partnership with BPI.

"It's really our intention to reach out to the broader market, especially in the segment that is hardly provided with financial access," he added. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

METROBANK REPORTS 4% JUMP IN NET INCOME IN 1ST 9 MONTHS OF 2025

MANILA – Strong expansion in loans, along with improved trading income, among others, boosted Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.'s net income by 4 percent in the first nine months of 2025 to a record PHP37.3 billion.

In a disclosure with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) on Tuesday, the bank reported a 12.1 percent annual rise in pre-provision operating profit to PHP59.2 billion.

Metrobank president Fabian Dee said their "prudent approach" in boosting core businesses drove the rise in their performance as of end-September.

"We're confident that the Philippines' long-term growth story remains strong," he said.

"We continue to be committed in helping our clients seize opportunities for growth as we navigate together any challenges and uncertainties on our journey ahead." Specifically, Metrobank's net interest income rose 7.1 percent to PHP91.8 billion as of September, attributed to "broad-based gains across business segments and sustained quarterly margin improvement." Total loans grew 10.8 percent to PHP1.9 trillion, led by consumer loans after it increased by 15.8

percent. Total deposits rose 7.6 percent to PHP2.5 trillion, with low-cost current and saving account (CASA) accounting for PHP1.5 trillion. Service fees and trust income backed the 5.3 percent rise in non-interest income to PHP25.4 billion, while trading and foreign exchange gains went up 18 percent to PHP6.6 billion. Expansion in operating cost rose by 1.7 percent on an annual basis, while the cost-to-income ratio slipped to 49.8 percent from 52.2 percent in end-September last year. (With a report from **JOANN VILLANUEVA/PNA**)

PHINMA CORP. POSTS LOWER REVENUES IN END-Q3

MANILA – The education segment boosted Philippine Investment Management (PHINMA) Corp.'s consolidated revenues of PHP16.31 billion in the first nine months of 2025, allowing the listed firm to book a net income of PHP376.04 million.

These, however, are lower compared to the consolidated revenues of PHP16.98 billion in the same period last year, and consolidated net income of PHP609.13 million.

"PHINMA Education's strong performance offset weaker results in other business units, which frontloaded investments for expansion and operational efficiency improvements to better uplift more underserved families and communities," the company said in a disclosure with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) Thursday.

The disclosure said the education business registered revenues of PHP5.27 billion and consolidated net income of PHP1.42 billion, due mainly to record-high enrollment of 177,851 students for the first semester of school year 2025-2026.

Among the schools that

the company runs are the Araullo University, University of Pangasinan, University of Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro College, and Saint Jude College.

On the other hand, the PHINMA Construction Materials Group registered combined revenues of PHP9.47 billion and a net loss of PHP122.09 million "amid soft construction demand and rising input costs."

PHINMA Property Holdings Corp., in turn, posted revenues of PHP936.17 million and a net loss of PHP484.22 million "amid lingering headwinds in the Metro Manila market."

"PHINMA Properties continued focusing on its developments outside the capital region, particularly its Bacolod township Saludad, in response to favorable market demand. PHINMA CoHo Corporation (PHINMA Community Housing) will also break ground on its first project in Davao this November, a major step in the Group's commitment to addressing the country's massive housing backlog," the disclosure said.

The firm's hospitality arms, which include the Coral Way City Hotel Corp., PHINMA Hospitality, Inc., and PHINMA Microtel Hotels, Inc., registered combined revenues of PHP374.51 million and a net loss of PHP21.06 million, due partly to lower occupancy rates amid the ongoing expansion works in its Microtel Mall of Asia and fewer tourist arrivals in other areas.

"The Group will continue to leverage our strong track record of attracting institutional partners who enhance our capacity to serve the needs of Filipinos more effectively. Our sustained success in Education, reflected in rising enrollment numbers, demonstrates the power of collaboration with partners who share our values and long-term vision," PHINMA chairman and chief executive officer Ramon del Rosario Jr. said. (With a report from **JOANN VILLANUEVA/PNA**) **BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

PSEI RISES ON POSITIVE EARNINGS REPORTS; PESO TOUCHES 59-LEVEL

MANILA – Positive earnings reports of publicly-listed firms lifted the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) on Thursday, but the peso weakened further and even touched the 59-level against the U.S. dollar anew.

The main stocks gauge rose 0.30 percent to 5,835.59 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.26 percent to 3,543.43 points. Most of the sectoral indices also gained during the day, led by the Mining and Oil after it rose 4.46 percent. It was trailed by the Financials, 1.03 percent; Holding Firms, 0.29 percent; Property, 0.16 percent; and Services, 0.16 percent.

Only the Industrial index

finished in the red after it dipped 0.16 percent. Volume reached 891.42 million shares, amounting to PHP5.42 billion.

Advancers led decliners at 98 to 68, while 72 shares were unchanged.

Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, attributed the improvement in the PSEi to more earnings releases during the day.

He, however, noted that "traders remain cautious ahead of the GDP (gross domestic product) figures to be released tomorrow, while the PHP (Philippine peso) continues to depreciate against the USD, reaching the 59 level again. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

BSP EXPECTS INFLATION TO REMAIN MANAGEABLE UNTIL 2027

MANILA – Lower rice prices are seen to help ensure the rate of price increases in the Philippines will remain manageable until 2027, with the figure expected to stay within the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' (BSP) 2-4 percent target band.

On Wednesday, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported an unchanged inflation rate for October 2027 at 1.7 percent relative to the previous month, which is lower than year-ago rate of 2.3 percent.

Average inflation in the first 10 months this year stood at 1.7 percent, and BSP, in a statement, said the forecast is for the full-year average to be at "the low end of the target range" largely because of the easing prices.

"The outlook for inflation is generally benign, remaining well within the target range over the policy horizon. For 2026 and 2027, inflation is expected to settle within the 3.0% ± 1.0 ppt target range," the BSP statement on Wednesday read.

BSP said "inflation expectations also remain well-anchored."

"Potential electricity rate adjustments and possible increases in tariffs on rice imports could add some upward pressures. Nonetheless, the risks to the inflation outlook are limited as price pressures are expected to ease amid stabilizing global commodity prices," it noted.

The statement noted the BSP's policy-making Monetary Board has "noted that the outlook for domestic economic growth has weakened."

This outlook, it said, "reflects in part the impact on business confidence of governance concerns about public infrastructure spending."

"Indications of slowing demand also reflect lingering uncertainty from the external environment," it said.

"Going forward, the Monetary Board will continue to review newly available information and reassess the impact of prior monetary actions in light of evolving economic conditions and their implications for inflation and growth," it added. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



MINDANAO-BASED NAT'L BOXERS TO TRAIN AT BUKIDNON SPORTS COMPLEX

MANILA – The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) has realized its vision of establishing a regional training center for national boxers.

In a landmark move, the PSC and the Bukidnon provincial government signed a memorandum of agreement on Wednesday designating the Bukidnon Sports and Cultural Complex in Malaybalay as the premier training ground for elite Filipino boxers in Mindanao.

Boasting world-class amenities, the 13-hectare complex features an eight-lane track and field oval, football field, Olympic-size swimming and diving pools, 15,000-seat stadium, and a 3,000-seat indoor gymnasium for basketball, badminton and martial arts, according to a news release on Thursday.

The Philippine boxing team will be the first of several national squads to train at the facility.

"I am very happy to open this facility because it is the right thing to do for Philippine sports and it all starts in Bukidnon," PSC Chairperson Patrick Gregorio.

Other national sports federations that will utilize the complex are the Pilipinas Sepak Takraw Association Inc., Karate Pilipinas Sports Federation Inc. and PhilCycling.

Proposed developments are the construction of four tennis courts, a softball/baseball diamond, open field for outdoor events, auditorium for cultural performances, and a museum.

Bukidnon Governor Rogelio Neil Roque and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri witnessed the signing.

"Imagine if we put regional centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, we will attract the best of the best," Zubiri, who hails from Bukidnon and was a key proponent of the initiative, said.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to decentralize athlete development and tap into regional talents.

"Hindi optimal na ang batang atleta ay aalisin mo sa kanilang tahanan para mag-train at a high level sa isang lugar na hindi nila (It is not an optimal move to pluck out a young athlete from home and implement high-level training away from the) hometown," Association of Boxing Alliances in the Philippines secretary general Marcus Manalo said.

Karate Pilipinas president Ricky Lim, Pilipinas Sepak Takraw president Karen Caballero, Philippine Amateur Baseball Association deputy secretary general Francis Diaz and PSC chief of staff Loujaye Sonido were also present during the signing. In August, Zubiri led a tour of the complex with Gregorio and other officials.

"The PSC's role goes beyond supporting national athletes. If we work harder and collaborate with LGUs (local government units), we can develop regional training centers," Gregorio said at the time, referring to the directive from the Office of the President to establish hubs outside Metro Manila.

"We promised the President that we would develop regional training centers, provided we receive support from the government and LGUs, with each LGU adopting a

specific sport they wish to promote." (PSC MEDIA/PNA)

PSC-LED SPORTS TOURISM BODY PULLS ALL THE STOPS FOR FIG JR GYMNASTICS

MANILA – The 3rd FIG Artistic Gymnastics Junior World Championships will greatly benefit from the new National Sports Tourism Inter-Agency Committee (NST-IAC) formed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Philippine Sports Commission Chairperson Patrick Gregorio said the NST-IAC is supporting the event, slated at Manila Marriott Hotel Grand Ballroom in Pasay City on Nov. 20 to 24, all throughout.

A total of 762 participants from 72 countries signed up for the world juniors.

"In bidding for the hosting of international meets, both private sector represented by national sports associations (NSAs) and the government will be on the same page," Gregorio said during the PSC-organized inter-agency coordination meeting at the event venue on Nov. 3, as stated in a news release Wednesday.

"With the NST-IAC, both sectors can now work together without overlapping, how to maximize the brands, like the junior world championships, and maximize the support of the government agencies involved."

Gymnastics Association of the Philippines (GAP)

FRAYNA BEATS MONGOLIAN FOE AT ASEAN CHESS TOURNEY 5TH ROUND

MANILA – Filipino Woman Grandmaster Janelle Mae Frayna defeated Mongolian Batpelden Buyankhishig after 38 moves of a Reti duel Thursday in the fifth round of the 6th ASEAN Individual Chess Championships-Gov. Henry Oaminal Cup at Misamis Occidental Resort and Aquamarine Park in Ozamiz City.

The win sent Frayna to the No. 2 spot with four points, in a tie with fellow WGMs Nguyen Thi Mai Hung and Hoang Thi Bao Tram of Vietnam, who settled for a draw after 18 moves of a London System.

Russian IM Evgenija Ovod prevailed over Vietnamese WGM Nguyen Thi Thanh

An after 42 moves of a Caro-Kann Defense, is ahead by half a point.

"I had an advantage early and grabbed the opportunity when I saw one," the 28-year-old Frayna, who was battling Hoang in the sixth round at press time, said.

Meanwhile, reigning national champion Ruelle Canino from Cagayan de Oro stunned top seed Anna Zhurova of Russia in 41 moves of a Nimzo-Indian encounter to increase her total to 3.5 points.

She is tied with Indonesian WIM Laysa Latifah and Russian Ekaterina Smirnova at No. 5.

In the men's division, four Filipinos led by Paul

Bersamina and Christian Gian Karlo Arca hurdled their respective rivals to join two others in third place, half a point behind co-leaders Mongolian IM Munkhdalai Amilal and Indian IM V S Raahul.

Bersamina downed Vietnamese FM Dinh Nho Kiet in 25 moves of the Sicilian Defense while Zamboanga City-based Arca conquered compatriot GM Darwin Laylo in 57 moves of a Reti to earn 3.5 points each.

Also with 3.5 points are Filipinos IMs Kim Steven Yap and Jem Garcia, who settled for a draw in 27 moves of a Scotch. (PNA)

BY JEAN MALANUM

PH'S ARCA SHARES LEAD IN ASEAN SOLO CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANILA–Filipino Christian Gian Karlo Arca defeated compatriot Tyrhone James Tabernilla in the third round Wednesday to gain a share of the lead

in the 6th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Individual Chess Championships-Gov. Henry Oaminal Cup at the Misamis Occidental Resort and Aquamarine Park in Ozamiz City.

The 16-year-old Arca of Panabo, Davao del Norte won after 57 moves of a

explained.

"It is not unlike before when the NSA would ask the PSC or the Department of Tourism for money for the hosting. Now we have a systematic and all-encompassing process when we as a country bids for the hosting of international sporting events."

Carrion reported getting positive feedbacks from the foreign contingents, especially with the athletes and participants just walking from their hotels to the competition arena.

"Newport World Resorts hotels has really rolled out the welcome mat for our delegates," Carrion said of the meet's major supporter. (PSC Media/PNA)

Catalan encounter to join Vietnamese Grandmaster Tran Tuan Minh, Indian International Master (IM) V S Raahul, and Mongolian IM Munkhdalai Amilal on top with 2.5 points.

Raahul and Tran split the point, while Munkhdalai downed Indonesian FIDE Master Fabien Glen Mariano.

Filipinos GM John Paul Gomez and IMs Pau Bersamina, Jem Garcia, Michael Concio Jr. and Kim Steven Yap have 2.0 points each along with GM Nguyen Van Huy, IM Dang Hoang Son and FM Dinh Nho Kiet of Vietnam, IM Kamotra Soham of India, and FM Wong Vinh Long of Malaysia.

Meanwhile, WFM Ruelle Canino lost to WGM Hoang Thi Bao Tram of Vietnam, sliding to No. 6 with 2.0 points in a tie with 10 others, including Olympiad teammates WGM Janelle Mae Frayna and WIMs Bernadette Galas, and Jan Jodilyn Fronda and World Youth bronze medalist Jemaica Yap Mendoza.

Winners in the men and women divisions of the nine-round tournament will get an outright GM title. (PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM