

CAVITE GAZETTE

P U B L I S H I N G

VOL.2 NO.12

June 9-15, 2026

P20.00

PGC DELIVERS HEALTHCARE SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE OF NAIC



MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION
25 MAY 2026
MALAINEN BAGO INTEGRATED SCHOOL

SSS BEGINS EARLY JUNE ROLLOUT OF 2026 PENSION HIKE, CITING NEED FOR EARLY RELIEF FOR PENSIONERS

QUEZON CITY – The Social Security System (SSS) today begins the early rollout of the second tranche of the Pension Reform Program (PRP)

to 4.1 million pensioners, advancing the originally scheduled September pension increase to provide SSS pensioners with earlier financial relief.



SSS BEGINS EARLY JUNE ROLLOUT OF 2026 PENSION HIKE, CITING NEED FOR EARLY RELIEF FOR PENSIONERS



WORK | SAVE | INVEST | PROSPER
MYSSSPH

On May 26, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through its Medical and Dental Mission Team, participated in the People's Caravan organized by the National Housing Authority

(NHA) at Malainen Bago Integrated School, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the residents of Naic.

A total of 623 Naiceños received medical consultations from healthcare professionals from the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital, Naic Rural Health Unit, Philippine National Police, and Philippine Navy. In addition, 127 individuals underwent fasting blood sugar

our pensioners and their families as they continue to face every day financial challenges," de Claro said. He explained that SSS pensioners as of May 31, 2026, will be eligible to receive the pension hike beginning June 1, 2026, while those whose contingencies fall between June 1 and August 31, 2026, will receive their increased pension starting September 1, 2026.

Under the second tranche of the PRP, retirement and disability pensioners will receive a 10% increase in their monthly pensions, while death and survivor pensioners will receive a 5% increase.

"We recognize that rising prices and economic uncertainty continue to

testing, while 10 residents availed themselves of electrocardiogram (ECG) services for further health assessment and diagnosis. The Office of the Provincial Governor Team, under the supervision of Mr. Gerry Olaes, also distributed prescribed medicines and vitamin supplements to help address the health needs of the patients.

Eighth District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, Naic Mayor Rommel Magbitang and Punong Barangay Lito Catibayan attended the caravan and expressed their appreciation for the services extended to their constituents.

The People's Caravan offered a wide range of government services, transforming the venue into a hub of hope, assistance, and opportunities for the residents of Naic. — **OPIO**

DIGITAL SCIENCE LIBRARY WITHIN REACH: DOST CAVITE, MUNTING ILOG INHS SEAL STARBOOKS PARTNERSHIP



Digital Science Library Within Reach: DOST Cavite, Munting Ilog INHS Seal STARBOOKS Partnership
03 June 2026 | Silang, Cavite

In a major boost to local digital education, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cavite has officially partnered with Munting Ilog Integrated National High School (INHS) to deploy STARBOOKS—DOST's premier offline digital science library.

The partnership was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum

of Agreement (MOA) and an orientation, marking a milestone in bringing quality science and technology (S&T) resources directly to students' and teachers' fingertips.

The deployment went beyond just installing the software. Immediately following the signing ceremony, Ms. Jenica Krystel Nueva, STARBOOKS Deployment Officer, conducted an intensive orientation session for school personnel, key stakeholders, and students.

The hands-on training ensured that the faculty and students are fully equipped to navigate, maximize, and integrate the STARBOOKS platform into their daily curriculum. **DOST-CAVITE**

COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE BRINGS FREE SERVICES TO SILANGUENOS



MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION
31 JUNI 2026 | BRY. ADLAS, SILANG, CAVITE

A total of 399 residents of Brgy. Adlas, Silang benefited from the Medical and Dental Mission spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Cavite on June 1, at the barangay covered court.

The outreach provided place pressure on Filipino families and businesses," de Claro added. "Through the PRP, SSS ensures that our pensioners have access to timely, affordable and reliable financial support when they need it most."

The PRP is the first-ever multi-year pension increase in SSS history. Under the program, pensioners will receive annual increases in their pensions every September from 2025 to 2027. #

301 medical consultations, 51 dental services, 12 ECG procedures, and 25 fasting blood sugar tests, delivering essential healthcare services to the community. The activity was conducted by medical professionals from GEAMH and CarSiGMA District Hospital, with assistance from barangay health workers.

The event was graced and supported by 5th District Board Member Iyee Jayne Reyes and Punong Barangay Joelito A. Generoso, together with other local officials, underscoring strong collaboration between local leaders and health partners in bringing accessible healthcare services to residents of Silang. — **OPIO**

MPTC CONVENES MULTI-SECTORAL FLOOD MITIGATION FORUM TO BOOST RESILIENCE IN SOUTHERN METRO MANILA AND SURROUNDING PROVINCES

The Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPTS), the south arm of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, brought together stakeholders from national government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and host communities of CALAX and CAVITEX to strengthen collaboration in addressing perennial flooding concerns in Southern Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

This marks the first Flood Mitigation Forum conducted in the South, providing a platform for multi-sectoral dialogue, data sharing, and coordinated planning on flood mitigation efforts.

"This year's forum aims to solidify cooperation among government agencies and LGUs in addressing recurring flooding challenges across Metro Manila and nearby provinces," said MPTC Chief Tollways Development and Engineering Officer Gil F. Amilbangsa.

The MPTC Flood Mitigation Forum 2026 gathered key representatives from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and Provincial Environment

and Natural Resources Office (PENRO). Participants from the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), and PEA Tollway Corporation (PEATC) also took part in the discussions and the sharing of initiatives.

LGU representatives from Las Piñas, Parañaque, Pasay, Taguig, Cavite, and Laguna provided valuable insights during the forum, along with key leaders including Cavite Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Diaz Remulla, Office of Civil Defense Director Jose Harry M. Barber, Bifan City Councilor Titus Bautista, and Former Senator Cynthia Villar of Villar SIPAG Foundation.

Flood risk area data and assessments were provided by AMH Philippines, which was engaged by MPT South, to support evidence-based identification of critical flood-prone areas and inform mitigation planning.

Discussions highlighted the impact of improper waste disposal on flooding, particularly in low-lying communities. LGUs reiterated efforts to strengthen enforcement of anti-littering and solid waste management ordinances, alongside regular declogging of drainage systems and monitoring of critical waterways.

"Effective flood mitigation depends heavily on

good governance, which is a core principle in Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) implementation. Participation is essential, as community involvement strengthens ownership and improves the relevance of mitigation measures," said Office of Civil Defense Director Jose Harry M. Barber.

In partnership with barangays and volunteer groups, LGUs continue community-based environmental education campaigns in promoting proper waste segregation, infrastructure planning, and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

"We recognize that multi-sectoral collaboration creates a ripple of hope for communities in the South, especially during typhoon season. We, at MPT South, will continue to work closely with LGUs and national government agencies to translate discussions into action," said MPT South President and General Manager Andrew B. Pangilinan.

The forum concluded with commitments from stakeholders to improve drainage systems, strengthen flood control management, enhance disaster resilience, and reinforce inter-agency coordination.

The Flood Mitigation Forum 2026 underscores the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation Group's

CITY'S MOST WANTED SA KASONG ROBBERY, ARESTADO NG BACOOR PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – Isang Most Wanted Person sa antas ng lungsod ang naaresto ng mga operatiba ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa isinagawang manhunt operation sa Brgy. Poblacion, Bacoor City, Cavite noong Hunyo 4, 2026.

Kinilala ang akusado na si alyas "Herbert", 29 taong gulang, at residente ng Brgy. Poblacion, Bacoor City, Cavite. Siya ay nakatala bilang Most Wanted Person sa City Level.

Batay sa ulat, dakong alas-2:25 ng hapon nang magsagawa ng manhunt operation ang mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor Component City

Police Station. Nagresulta ang operasyon sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado na nahaharap sa kasong Robbery in an Inhabited House.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng Presiding Judge ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 116, Bacoor City, Cavite noong Mayo 28, 2026. Nagrekomenda ang hukuman ng piyansang nagkakahalaga ng Php72,000.00 para sa pansamantalang kalayaan ng akusado.

Matapos ang kanyang pagkakaaresto, ipinaalam sa kanya ang kanyang mga karapatan sa ilalim ng Konstitusyon sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan. Siya ay dinala at pansamantalang

inilagag sa Bacoor Custodial Facility para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Ang kopya ng Warrant of Arrest ay isasauli sa korte na naglabas nito para sa kaukulang proseso.

"Patuloy nating pinaigting ang ating operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak na ang mga indibidwal na may kinakaharap na kaso ay mairiharap sa hukuman. Ang matagumpay na operasyong ito ay nagpapakita ng ating matatag na pangako sa pagpapanatili ng kapayapaan at kaayusan sa lalawigan ng Cavite," sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

NO. 10 MOST WANTED SA CAVITE SA KASONG ROBBERY HOLD-UP, ARESTADO NG INDANG PULIS

CAMP BGEN PANTALEON GARCIA, IMUS CITY, CAVITE – Isang Most Wanted Person sa antas panlalawigan ang naaresto ng mga operatiba ng Indang Municipal Police Station katuwang ang Criminal Investigation and Detection Group Cavite

commitment to providing a platform for collaboration and sustained action to address flooding challenges in surrounding communities. ###

Provincial Field Unit sa isinagawang manhunt operation sa Brgy. Palico IV, Imus City, Cavite noong Hunyo 4, 2026.

Kinilala ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Norman" 47 taong gulang, at residente ng Anabu 2-B, Imus City, Cavite. Siya ay nakatala bilang Number 10 Most Wanted Person sa Provincial Level.

Alinsunod sa Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation, nagsagawa ng manhunt operation ang Warrant Section ng Indang Municipal Police Station sa ilalim ng pangangasiwa ni PMAJ IAN JASPER M MONTOYA, Chief of Police, katuwang ang mga operatiba ng CIDG Cavite PFU.

Nagresulta ang operasyon sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Robbery Hold-Up na inilabas ng Presiding Judge ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 22, Imus City, Cavite noong Marso 29, 2026. Inirekomenda ng hukuman ang piyansang

nagkakahalaga ng Php100,000.00 para sa pansamantalang kalayaan ng akusado.

Matapos ang kanyang pagkakaaresto, dinala ang akusado sa CIDG Cavite Provincial Field Unit Office para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at tamang disposisyon. Isasauli rin sa korte na naglabas nito ang kopya ng Warrant of Arrest, habang ang kaukulang spot report ay ihahain bilang bahagi ng mga kinakailangang dokumento kaugnay ng operasyon.

"Ang pagkakaaresto sa isang Provincial Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng Cavite PPO at ng ating partner law enforcement units na panagutin ang mga taong may kinakaharap na kaso sa batas. Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating manhunt operations upang matiyak na walang lugar na mapagtataguan ang mga taong umiiwas sa hustisya," sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.



MEKENI REINFORCES PHILIPPINE FOOD MANUFACTURING EXCELLENCE AT DTI TATAK PINOY EXPO 2026

Reinforcing the strength of Filipino manufacturing on the global stage, Mekeni Food Corporation is showcasing its world-class food manufacturing capabilities at the prestigious DTI Tatak Pinoy Expo 2026 currently taking place at the SMX Convention Center Manila. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry, the expo highlights the country's leading industries and enterprises under the government's Tatak Pinoy Strategy, an initiative designed to strengthen domestic industries, elevate local manufacturing, and position Filipino companies for global competitiveness. More than simply participating in the expo,

Mekeni is using the platform to demonstrate how Filipino food manufacturers can meet international standards in quality, innovation, food safety, and large-scale production. As one of the country's leading food manufacturers and exporters, the company is presenting its wide range of export-quality products that are already reaching international markets across Asia, the Middle East, North America, Europe, and Oceania. During the opening day walkthrough, government officials visited sector exhibits to witness firsthand the capabilities of Philippine industries, including the food and agro-processing sector identified

by the administration as a priority driver of economic growth and industrial development. Mekeni Food Corporation President Prudencio 'Pruds' Garcia emphasized that the company's participation reflects its commitment to proving that Filipino manufacturing can compete confidently on the world stage. "We are proud to showcase not only our products, but also the strength of Filipino food manufacturing," Garcia said. "From our roots in Pampanga, Mekeni has grown into a globally recognized brand because of our commitment to quality, innovation, and world-class standards. Through Tatak Pinoy, we hope to demonstrate that

Filipino companies have the capability to produce globally competitive products while creating meaningful opportunities for Filipino communities." Mekeni products are now available in more than 20 countries worldwide, a testament to the company's continuously expanding international footprint and adherence to globally recognized food manufacturing and safety standards. By participating in this landmark national initiative, Mekeni reinforces its role not only as a proudly Filipino brand, but also as a manufacturing company helping elevate the reputation of Philippine-made products in the global market.



1ST AGRICULTURE AND FISHERY PROVINCIAL FORUM STRENGTHENS SUPPORT FOR CAVITE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist headed by Engr. Anna Pamela Nova-Cruz, successfully conducted the 1st Agriculture and Fishery Provincial Forum with the theme, "Samasamang Paghabi ng Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran para sa Magsasaka at Mangingisda ng Cavite," on June 2, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The forum gathered farmers, fisherfolk, agricultural stakeholders, and representatives from various government and financial institutions to strengthen collaboration and provide information on programs and services aimed at improving the livelihood and productivity of Cavite's agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Present during the event were Governor Francisco Gabriel Remulla and 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista,

who both conveyed their messages of support and reaffirmed the Provincial Government's commitment to advancing the welfare of farmers and fisherfolk. They emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships among government agencies, financial institutions, and local communities to ensure sustainable agricultural and fisheries development in the province.

One of the highlights of the forum was the presentation of various programs, projects, and services available to farmers and fisherfolk from participating agencies. Resource representatives from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region IV-A, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture Region IV-A, Department of Trade and Industry-Cavite, Department of Labor and Employment - Cavite, Philippine Coconut Authority, Land Bank of the Philippines - San Agustin

Branch, Rural Bank of Angeles - Trece Branch, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist discussed their respective initiatives, technical assistance, financing opportunities, and support services designed to enhance agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities.

Following the presentations, participants were given the opportunity to directly consult with representatives from the concerned agencies. The consultation session allowed attendees to raise concerns, seek technical

guidance, inquire about available assistance programs, and establish connections with agencies that could support their agricultural and fisheries endeavors.

The forum served as a valuable platform for information sharing, collaboration, and stakeholder engagement, further reinforcing the Provincial Government of Cavite's dedication to empowering farmers and fisherfolk and fostering inclusive growth and development within the province's agriculture and fisheries sectors. — **OPIO**



EDITORIAL

Ang Karapatan at Proteksyon ng mga Hayop: Responsibilidad ng Bawat Isa

Ang patuloy na pagtaas ng mga kaso ng pananakit at pagpapabaya sa mga hayop sa ating bansa ay isa sa seryosong usapin na hindi dapat ipagwalang-bahala. Sa kabila ng pagkakaroon ng mga batas tulad ng Animal Welfare Act, malinaw na kulang pa rin ang kamalayan at disiplina ng marami sa tamang pag-aaruga. Ang mga hayop ay may buhay at pakiramdam. Ang pagpapanatili ng kanilang kaligtasan ay sumasalamin sa antas ng moralidad at pagmamalasakit ng ating lipunan.

Mahalagang maituro sa bawat komunidad ang tamang responsibilidad at disiplina. Kasabay nito, kinakailangan ang mas mahigpit at mabilis na pagpapatupad ng batas laban sa mga umaabuso upang magsilbing babala na ang bawat karahasan sa hayop ay may kaakibat na parusa.

CAVITE GAZETTE

PUBLISHING

Ang CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING ay inilalathala tuwing araw ng Martes na may tanggapan sa 217 Ligas 1, Bacoor City Cavite.
Contact #: 09387342688
Email: cavitegazette@gmail.com

Time Alliance of Publishers, Editors, and Reporters (TAPER) Inc.

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ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL -----P200/col.cm
LEGAL NOTICES --- P160/col.cm

CARD, INC., NAGLUNSA NG ESYSTEM NEXTGEN PARA SA MAS MABILIS AT MAS MAAYOS NA SERBISYO SA KLIYENTE

Inilunsad ng CARD, Inc., (A Microfinance NGO), ang bagong centralized digital system na tinatawag na eSystem NextGen upang mapabilis at mapahusay ang mga transaksyon ng kanilang mga kliyente. Nagsimula ang pagpapatupad nito sa mga lugar sa Luzon at Visayas, bilang tugon sa lumalaking pangangailangan para sa mas mabilis at maayos na serbisyo sa komunidad.

Layunin ng eSystem NextGen na pagsamahin sa iisang sistema ang mahahalagang impormasyon ng kliyente tulad ng savings, loans, at insurance records. Sa pamamagitan nito, ang mga transaksyon gaya ng pagbabayad, client registration, at paggawa ng ulat ay maaari nang maisagawa nang real time. Ibig sabihin, mas mabilis na natatapos ang mga proseso at mas nababawasan ang pagkakamali sa datos.

Ayon kay CARD, Inc. Executive Director Vicente P. Briones Jr., mahalaga ang hakbang na ito upang mas mapabuti ang karanasan ng mga kliyente. "Gusto naming unahin ang kaginhawaan ng aming mga kliyente sa pamamagitan ng mas maayos na operasyon. Isa sa mga paraan nito ay ang pagpapabilis ng loan processing at pagtitiyak na tama ang mga tala ng transaksyon," ani Briones.

Bago ang paggamit ng bagong sistema, manumanong pinoproseso ang karamihan sa datos sa iba't ibang area offices ng CARD, Inc. Dahil dito, hiwa-hiwalay ang impormasyon at hindi agad nakukuha ang mga ulat, na minsan ay nagdudulot ng pagkaantala at kakulangan sa koordinasyon. Sa ilalim ng eSystem NextGen, awtomatiko na ang maraming proseso, kaya nababawasan ang operational risks at mas nagiging maayos ang daloy ng trabaho.

Direktang nakakonekta ang mga area offices sa isang centralized platform na nakaugnay sa computerized accounting

system. Sa tulong nito, mas madali at mas mabilis ang pagbuo ng financial at accounting reports. Ang sistemang ito ay suportado ng CARD MRI Information Technology, Inc. (CMIT), na siyang technology provider ng organisasyon.

Bahagi rin ng eSystem NextGen ang paggamit ng Alternative Delivery Channels na tumutulong sa iba't ibang grupo sa loob ng organisasyon. Para sa operations staff, may mga mobile applications na nagpapadali ng trabaho sa field. Kabilang dito ang NextGen Mobile App para sa real-time collection at attendance tracking, GabayKONEK para sa kabuuang loan processing, at Member's Onboarding App para sa mas mabilis na pagrehistro ng mga bagong kliyente.

Samantala, para sa mga kliyente, inilunsad ang myCARD, Inc. app na nagbibigay ng direktang akses sa kanilang accounts. Sa pamamagitan nito, maaari nilang tingnan ang kanilang balanse, subaybayan ang kanilang mga transaksyon, alamin ang detalye ng kanilang loan, at kahit mag-apply ng loan anumang oras. Ang app ay available sa Google Play Store, kaya mas madaling maabot ng mga kliyente gamit ang kanilang mobile phones.

Para naman sa mga administrador at

management, may Data Platform dashboard na nagpapakita ng real-time na datos tungkol sa operasyon at pananalapi ng organisasyon. Dahil dito, mas nakagagawa sila ng mas maayos at batay sa datos na mga desisyon.

Ayon kay CARD MRI Founder at Chair Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, mahalagang bahagi ang eSystem NextGen sa layunin ng organisasyon na mapalawak ang financial inclusion. "Itinuturing namin ang sistemang ito bilang isang mahalagang hakbang sa pagyapakap sa digital na paraan, habang mas pinalalapit ang mga serbisyong pinansyal sa aming mga kliyente," ani Alip. Dagdag pa niya, ang sistema ay sadyang idinisenyo upang matugunan ang pangangailangan ng mga kliyente ng CARD.

Sa kasalukuyan, ganap nang ipinatutupad ang eSystem NextGen sa mga lugar sa Luzon at Visayas, at inaasahang palalawakin pa ito sa iba pang rehiyon sa mga susunod na panahon. Sa pamamagitan ng digital na pagbabagong ito, inaasahan ng CARD, Inc. na mas mapabilis ang serbisyo at mas mapalalakas ang ugnayan nito sa komunidad na kanilang pinaglingkuran.

NI JIREH PEARL CASIONAN



Sa pamamagitan ng CARD eSystem NextGen, mas napabilis ang mga transaksyon ng mga kliyente at mas nagiging malinaw at tama ang mga tala ng CARD, Inc. Dahil dito, mas nagiging maaasahan at mas maginhawa para sa mga kliyente ang mga serbisyong iniaalok ng institusyon.

NLEX AND PAMPANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT BOLSTER DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

NLEX Corporation and the Provincial Government of Pampanga have joined forces to strengthen the province's disaster resilience as the rainy season approaches.

Some 40 participants from key provincial departments, including the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and the Provincial Health Office, attended a two-day Policy-Making on Disaster Management Workshop facilitated by the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF). The primary goal of the session was to identify critical safety gaps and ensure that the province's disaster management protocols are robust enough to protect residents during a disaster. Pampanga has demonstrated resilience through various natural events in its history, including the 1990 earthquake and the 1991 Mt. Pinatubo eruption. As a rapidly growing economic hub, the province continues to strengthen its disaster preparedness and resilience efforts to help protect communities, sustain economic activity, and support long-term growth.

"Pampanga serves as one of the vital links between Metro Manila and Central and Northern Luzon. Through this initiative, we aim to help strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience, ensuring the safety and well-being of communities while maintaining the reliability of this vital transport corridor that supports regional growth and connectivity," said NLEX President and GM Luis S. Reñon.

Second District Board Member Atty. Claire Lim emphasized that the priority remains the safety of her constituents and the protection of their homes. "In situations where the lives and livelihoods of Kapampangans are at stake, we welcome this

help because even if we are resilient, we still need outside assistance," she said.

First District Board Member Cherry Manalo also expressed her gratitude for the collaboration and the dedication of the provincial staff. "We are grateful to NLEX and PDRF for helping us skill our frontliners. This workshop demonstrates our shared commitment to strengthening the province's disaster management and ensuring we are better prepared to protect every Kapampangan," she noted.

By ensuring seamless coordination between the government and NLEX, the

partnership aims to keep the province's main transit routes open for emergency services and the delivery of basic goods. PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili underscored that a proactive mindset is key to saving lives, stating that true disaster management must strike a balance between immediate response and long-term climate change adaptation.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

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Workshop participants posed for a photo with (L-R, front row) PDRF Center Director Arnel Capili, Pampanga PDRRM Officer Janica Mikhail Yambao, NLEX Government Relations Manager Kiko Dagohoy, and MPTC South Stakeholder Engagement Assistant Manager Mhanny Agosto.

DA SENDS OFF FIRST COMMERCIAL SHIPMENT OF PH MANGOES TO CANADA

MANILA – The Philippines’ iconic Carabao mangoes have now reached Toronto, Canada, the Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Thursday.

The agency conducted a send-off ceremony for the country’s first commercial shipment of fresh carabao mangoes to Canada at the Philippine Airlines cargo terminal in Pasay City on Wednesday.

In a statement, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the market expansion is one of the breakthroughs in the agricultural sector.

“This is another step toward our goal of widening and diversifying the global market for our farm products such as bananas, coconuts, and mangoes,” he said.

“It is time for other parts of the world to get a taste of the Philippines.”

The Philippines shipment covers 1 metric ton (MT) of fresh carabao mangoes to Toronto.

Philippine exporters Hila-Las Marketing Corp. and Castillo Import Export Ventures Inc. supplied the fresh mangoes, with Ontario-based TSI Tropicals Inc. serving as the importer.

Flagship carrier PAL will transport the fresh mangoes through commercial air freight.

For his part, High Value Export Crop, Agri Fishery Export Development

and Promotion Office, Agriculture Undersecretary Philip Young said the shipment showed the effect of the government’s collaboration with the private sector.

“The government is helping pave the way for the private sector to showcase to the world the products of Philippine farms. This is what happens when a nation works together,” he said.

The Philippine Agriculture Office in Washington, D.C. coordinated the shipment with the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto, Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Toronto, and mango industry stakeholders.

“Another shipment (is) planned mid-next week,” DA spokesperson Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa told the Philippine News Agency in a message, citing supply from Northern Luzon and Zambales.

The Philippines had earlier exported fresh Philippine mangoes to Rome.

Beyond mangoes, bananas and coconuts, the DA is aggressively promoting a portfolio of high-value crops.

These include Cavendish bananas, cardaba or saba bananas, cacao, pomelo, rambutan, dalandan, mango, pineapple, okra, asparagus, pili, durian, avocado, dragon fruits, calamansi and ube.

(PNA) **BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

DOE-BARMM TIES STRONG DUE TO ENERGY BOARD’S FOCUS

MANILA – Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) Secretary Mel Senen Sarmiento attributed the strong cooperation between the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Bangsamoro’s Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy (MENRE) to the efforts of the Intergovernmental Energy Board (IEB), which is also working to accelerate electrification in the region.

“IEB has quietly but effectively worked to reshape energy governance and policy in the Bangsamoro,” he said in a statement Thursday.

Sarmiento said this was highlighted by several major milestones, including the operationalization of the Joint Award Framework for Petroleum Service Contracts and Coal Operating Contracts and the conduct of the first Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Conventional Energy Bid Round; the signing of the first coal operating contract in the region; and the advancement of cooperation agreements on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and power and electrification.

These developments, he said, were the “result of years of sustained, focused, and collaborative work” by the IEB and other stakeholders.

Sarmiento credited the steadfast commitment of the Marcos administration to fostering peace and development in the Bangsamoro. He cited several milestones demonstrating the President’s determination to boost energy efficiency and security in the Bangsamoro.

These include the signing of the Information Education Campaign on the joint award of petroleum service contracts and coal operating contracts in the region, signed in July 2023, and the approval of the Chief Executive of the first

co-management petroleum service contracts in the region in October 2025.

“These are not merely ceremonial events but decisions that carry legal weight and institutional significance. They send a clear and strong signal of this administration’s commitment to the meaningful implementation of the Bangsamoro Organic Law,” Sarmiento said.

“Under the leadership of President Marcos, our office is committed to one goal: ensuring that peace in the Bangsamoro does not merely hold, but firmly takes root, flourishes, and most of all, is felt by every family in the region.”

On Wednesday, the DOE and MENRE formalized a partnership through the ceremonial presentation of the Memorandum of Cooperation on Energy Efficiency and Conservation (EEC) and the Transition Agreement for Power and Electrification.

The specific objectives of the memorandum include establishing cooperation mechanisms between the DOE and MENRE in implementing energy efficiency and conservation initiatives; supporting capacity-building, technical assistance, and policy alignment; and strengthening regional implementation of national EEC programs.

Meanwhile, DOE Undersecretary Giovanni Carlo Bacordo said that the agreement creates a strong collaborative framework to make sure that the region’s growth is “fueled by sustainability, by embedding energy efficiency, to the very fabric of the region’s development.”

Bacordo said a transition agreement has been formed to address “one of the most critical foundations of human dignity and economic progress – and that is reliable electricity.”

The agreement also establishes efficient coordination mechanisms between the DOE and

7 AIRLINES NOW CO-SHARING NEW PREMIUM LOUNGE AT NAIA

MANILA – At least seven airlines are now co-sharing a new premium lounge at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) Terminal 3, the airport

MENRE in overseeing the electric power industry; strengthens MENRE’s institutional and technical capacities through knowledge-sharing, training, and implementation support; and promotes the adoption of best practices that will help guide the development of BARMM’s energy policies and regulatory framework, including the Bangsamoro Energy Code.

It likewise ensures that electric power projects within the region comply with national laws, policies, regulations, and industry standards.

For her part, DOE Secretary Sharon Garin said that the forging of the Transition Agreement is a major win for the people of the Bangsamoro, “to the families in remote barangays waiting for the lights to finally come on; to the student hoping to study after dark; to the small business owner, dreaming of a reliable power supply.”

She emphasized that through the agreement, the DOE formally places the powers, functions, and responsibilities over power systems and electricity delivery into MENRE’s hands.

Garin added that the collaboration between DOE and MENRE ensures that electrification goes beyond connection.

“Bringing electricity to a community is only the beginning. Empowering that community to use energy wisely, affordably, and sustainably – that is the goal,” she said.

MENRE Minister Akmad Brahim said managing their own resources allows for more practical, responsive decisions that reflect the unique conditions of communities across the region. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

operator said on Thursday. More airlines are expected to use the First Meridian Lounge, a 2,600-square-meter privately operated third-party facility serving eligible business class and premium passengers.

Current users are passengers of Thai Airways, Emirates, Japan Airlines, Vietnam Airlines, Cathay Pacific, KLM and Qatar Airways.

“This shared lounge supports our effort to improve the passenger experience at NAIA while using terminal space more efficiently,” the New NAIA Infra Corp. (NNIC) said in a statement.

The First Meridian Lounge offers eligible travelers a larger common-use space to dine, work, rest and recharge before boarding.

The common-use model consolidates premium lounge services into one larger facility that can serve multiple airlines, instead of maintaining separate spaces that may only be active during certain airline flight windows.

Along with spacious seating areas, high-speed Wi-Fi, workstations, shower facilities and real-time flight information displays, the First Meridian Lounge features amenities such as infant care rooms, sleep pods, private rooms, children’s play rooms, game and golf simulators and quiet zones.

Its expanded food and beverage offering includes local and international selections, a bakery, teppanyaki station, halal section, full-service bar, and wine cellar.

Through this lounge, the NNIC aims to improve the passenger experience while making better use of limited terminal space.

This effort includes repurposing offices, former lounge areas and other spaces into amenities that can serve more passengers throughout the day. (PNA) **BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that I, **ROSANNA M. BENAVIDEZ** of legal age, Filipino with postal address 75 Trece Martirez St., Justinville Subd., Panapaan 5, Bacoor City, Cavite, after being sworn in accordance with law depose and state are the registered owner and holder of shares of **Meralco Stocks** details of which are as follows:

Stock Certificate Number: 469501

Date Issued: 30 June 1997

Number of Shares: 39

That despite diligent efforts having been exerted the same could not be located. That I am executing this affidavit to attest to the truth of the foregoing statements and for the Issuance of a new stock certificate in my name, executed on May 12, 2026 before Notary Public Atty. Mark Erwin W. Delos Reyes as per Doc. No. 209; Page No.43; Book III; Series of 2026.

Publication: CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING
June 2, 9 & 16, 2026

DENR-EMB SEEKS FASTER WASTEWATER ACTION AS BACUIT BAY SWIM BAN STAYS

EL NIDO, Palawan

— The Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) on Thursday urged local authorities in El Nido to accelerate and strengthen wastewater management as monitoring continues to show untreated discharges from drainage outfalls flowing into coastal waters, prompting a continued swimming ban, particularly in Bacuit Bay.

During the site inspection, DENR-EMB Mimaropa Regional Director Joe Amil Salino said field inspections have repeatedly detected black untreated wastewater emerging from municipal drainage systems, particularly through outfalls connected to upstream drainage canals from residential houses.

“Kahapon medyo malinis-linis pero ngayon ito maitim na naman. So ito ang process talaga na nagkakaroon tayo na untreated wastewater lumalabas sa (Yesterday it was somewhat clean, but today it's dark again. So this is the process where untreated wastewater is being released to the) Masagana outfalls,” he said.

To pinpoint the sources, Salino said the EMB has been conducting dye-tracing operations for months, using food-grade coloring to verify whether wastewater from establishments is properly reaching sewage treatment plants or bypassing treatment systems.

“Regular ang ginagawa natin para makita natin kung may mga bypass. So kami kasi based on facts tayo (We regularly do this to see if there are any bypasses. So we are only based on facts),” he said.

Salino explained that Notices of Violations (NOVs) have already been issued to establishments found bypassing wastewater systems, with cases potentially elevated to the Pollution Adjudication Board, which can impose penalties or closure orders under the Clean Water Act.

“Ang penalty ngayon under the Clean Water Act is PHP10,000 a day. So from the time na maglabas until hindi nila makorrect (The penalty now under the Clean Water Act is PHP10,000 a day. So from the time it is released until

they cannot correct it),” he said.

While EMB continues to monitor industrial and commercial compliance, Salino stressed that household wastewater and drainage management remain under the responsibility of the local government units, which he said must act more decisively.

“Ito talaga ang ano namin mga domestic waste na galing from household. Ito dapat talaga i-address ito (The domestic waste coming from households. This really needs to be addressed) with the local government,” he said.

He said that despite ongoing coordination and recommendations, and while acting on the issue, EMB finds current local government unit (LGU) interventions lacking and insufficient.

Meanwhile, El Nido Municipal Mayor Edna Gacot Lim clarified that the LGU is pushing for a cluster tank and treatment system to address the wastewater concerns.

She, however, cited that approvals and site issues have slowed implementation, especially since El Nido is a protected area.

She also noted the challenges in finding an appropriate area to build the tank.

“Sa side ng LGU recommendation yun ng DENR, so far may pondo na yan na magkakaroon ng cluster tank sa Masagana kasi yang outfall na yan ay part ng Barangay Masagana nagkataon lang na nahihirapan kami maghanap ng area (On the side of the LGU, that is the recommendation of the DENR, so far there is already funding for a cluster tank in Masagana because that outfall is part of Barangay Masagana, it just so happens that we are having difficulty finding an area),” she said.

She also requested the DENR for the fast approval of permits once the LGU submits them to the agency.

Lim said the LGU is now looking at building the cluster tank by the seashore, noting that other LGUs have done this as well.

“Alam naman ninyo ang El Nido ay protected area at panawagan ko naman sa mga taga-DENR na please naman

ito ay isang problema ng lokal na pamahalaan, sana pagdating dito hindi naman kami pahirapan (We all know that El Nido is a protected area, and my appeal to the DENR officials is, please, this is a problem of the local government, I hope when it comes to this, we won't be made to suffer),” Lim said, pertaining to the permitting and documentation requirements.

Meanwhile, due to persistently high coliform levels, Salino said swimming remains prohibited across Bacuit Bay, the only area affected by the untreated wastewater.

He added that warning signs have been placed and tourists are being advised to avoid swimming in the bay, while noting that water quality in island destinations remains generally good.

“Sa mga island destinations natin maganda ang water quality analysis (In our island destinations, the water quality analysis is good),” he said.

Salino emphasized that protecting El Nido's coastal waters requires faster action from all stakeholders, especially in addressing long-standing drainage and wastewater infrastructure gaps.

“Sayang ang ganda ng El Nido kung sirain lang natin (El Nido is too beautiful to I destroy),” he said. (PNA)

BY MARITA MOAJE

DA-XI PROVIDES P13-MILLION FINANCIAL RELIEF TO MARILOG FARMERS

DAVAO CITY — The Department of Agriculture recently distributed P13 million in cash assistance to 5,626 rice and corn farmers in the Marilog District of Davao City.

This program is under the Presidential Assistance for Farmers and Fisherfolk Program (PAFFP), where each eligible farmer registered under the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) receives P2,325 in financial assistance.

Department of Agriculture-XI Regional Executive Director Macario Gonzaga led the distribution which benefited 1,518 rice

MANILA— The Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) and the Home Development Mutual Fund (Pag-IBIG Fund) have led the formal turnover of newly built house-and-lot units in Lipa City, Batangas under the Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

In a news release on Thursday, the DHSUD said Pag-IBIG Fund housing loan borrowers officially received the keys to their new homes, marking the localized expansion of the national housing program.

The Lipa turnover on Wednesday follows a series of recent high-level government site inspections and similar handovers in Expanded 4PH projects across Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Bacolod, and other key areas.

Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, who also chairs the Pag-IBIG Fund Board of Trustees, said the turnover and site inspection underscore the administration's resolve to translate presidential directives into concrete residential structures for Filipino workers.

“We are pleased to report that the Expanded 4PH Program continues to benefit more Filipinos

by helping families gain access to safe, decent, and affordable homes,” he said.

“Through stronger collaboration between the public and private sectors, we are able to heed the directive of President [Ferdinand R.] Marcos [Jr.] to enable more Filipinos to move from aspiration to actual homeownership.”

Aliling maintained that the government remains focused on sustaining the momentum of the national housing program through stronger coordination with key shelter agencies, financing institutions, and private developers.

“The direction set by President Marcos is clear: build faster, deliver better, and make decent housing more attainable for Filipino families,” he added.

Nuvista Homes Lipa offers 1,160 ready-for-occupancy units, with over 2,000 additional units slated for construction.

The development features three house models—Marya, Yasmin, and Solida—with prices ranging from PHP950,000 to PHP2.2 million.

The project's socialized housing component is carried by the Solida house model, its most affordable option.

Priced at around PHP950,000, qualified borrowers can avail of

a 3-percent subsidized interest rate under the Expanded 4PH Program, lowering monthly amortizations to as low as PHP4,005.

Following the Nuvista turnover, housing officials inspected Idesia, another residential development by P.A. Properties in Lipa.

The site inspection highlighted the expanded scope of Pag-IBIG Fund's housing loan programs, which now cater to a broader range of homebuyers.

Idesia offers premier units priced from PHP3.5 million to PHP7 million. These properties can now be financed through Pag-IBIG Fund following the state insurer's recent policy adjustment, which increased the maximum housing loan cap from PHP6 million to PHP10 million per borrower while retaining low interest rates.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta said the twin approach of expanding housing availability and relaxing financial thresholds makes homeownership realistic across all income segments.

“Through our affordable housing loan programs, we help make monthly amortizations lighter and more manageable so that more members can move closer to owning a home of their own,” she said.

She said Pag-IBIG's mechanisms are calibrated to support low-income families requiring socialized housing as well as middle-income workers purchasing from the open market.

“Every peso saved from monthly housing payments matters to our members. It can help pay for food, education, utilities, health care, and other daily needs of the family,” she added.

Through affordable rates, long repayment terms, and monthly payments designed, Pag-IBIG Fund commits to providing more Filipino workers a real and practical path to owning a safe and decent home. (PNA) **BY MA. TERESA MONTEMAYOR**

to qualified farmers enrolled in the RSBSA and fisherfolk registered under the National Program for Municipal Fishing Boats and Gears or BoatR.

This assistance to the agricultural sector forms part of the national government's efforts to strengthen the agricultural sector following the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr to expand programs that will help farmers and fisherfolks affected by rising fuel costs. (PIA/RGA with reports from DA-XI) **BY RUDOLPH ALAMA**

PH '26 AUTO SALES NOW PROJECTED TO DECLINE BY 5% TO 8%

MANILA – An official of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines, Inc. (CAMPI) reduced its projection for the annual decline of vehicle sales this year to between 5 percent and 8 percent amid improvement in the situation in the Middle East.

Previously, the forecast was a drop of between 8 and 10 percent.

In an interview on the sidelines of the opening of a four-day Philippine International Motor Show in Pasay City on Thursday, CAMPI president Jose Maria Atienza said the latest projection, however, remains under study as it depends on several factors like fuel prices and the supply and demand.

This, amid the drop in global oil prices and the measures to address supply chain issues, which

can boost domestic car sales, he said.

Atienza said electric vehicles (EVs) posted a sales growth of around 20 percent last May, lower from 35 percent last April, due to the impact of supply chain issues.

For all vehicle types, sales in May rose to around 33,000, up from the previous month's 27,225 units, but lower than the 33,580 units in the same period last year.

Atienza said the growth of sales last May was tempered by supply issues, particularly on EVs.

"This fuel crisis is not planned. There was a big demand last March and April. We hope most of the brands are able to catch up (in) June, July and August," he said, citing the drop in fuel prices as a possible boost to car sales. **(PNA)**
BY JOANN VILLANUEVA

STOCKS END RALLY ON PROFIT-TAKING AS PESO GAINS VS. US DOLLAR

MANILA – Profit-taking ended the Philippine Stock Exchange index's (PSEi) three-day rally on Thursday but the peso gained against the greenback.

The local bourse's main index shed 0.69 percent to 5,911.93 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.49 percent to 3,323.08 points.

All the sectoral gauges also finished the day in the negative territory, except for Financials, which fell 1.29 percent.

Services posted the biggest drop at 2.23 percent and was trailed by Mining and Oil, 1.42 percent; Property, 0.76 percent; Industrial, 0.30 percent; and Holding Firms, 0.26 percent.

Volume is still low at 377.77 million shares, amounting to nearly PHP7 million.

Decliners led advancers at 105 to 68, while 70 shares

were unchanged.

"The Philippine market ended lower as profit-taking occurred following three consecutive days of gains. Investors remained selective in their positioning as they awaited the release of the latest inflation data tomorrow," Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, said.

"Cautious sentiment kept overall trading activity measured, with market participants looking for clues on the direction of interest rates and the broader economy."

On the other hand, the local currency recovered against the U.S. dollar and closed the day at 61.62 from its 61.74 close Wednesday.

This, even after it opened the day weaker at 61.75 compared to its 61.68 start

VISA, GARMIN BRING SECURE CONTACTLESS SMARTWATCH PAYMENTS TO PH

MANILA – Digital payments company Visa said cardholders of eligible Visa debit and credit cards issued by participating banks in the Philippines can now add their cards to Garmin Pay on compatible Garmin smartwatches.

In a statement on Wednesday, Visa said the new feature enables Garmin users to make secure, seamless payments from their smartwatch at any contactless-enabled terminal in the country.

Garmin Pay transactions are enabled by Visa's tokenization technology.

Visa said tokens are used to create seamless and secure payment experiences for consumers and businesses, helping to significantly reduce fraud by replacing actual card numbers with unique digital tokens and preventing cardholders' real account information from being shared with merchants or stored in devices.

It said more than 71 percent of consumers in the Asia and Pacific prefer using mobile or smart devices when making in-store or payment transactions.

Aside from the Philippines, Garmin Pay is currently available in Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, and

Malaysia.

Visa expects the launch of Garmin Pay to also boost the country's tourism sector, adding that across the Asia Pacific region, 97 percent of travelers said they want to use credit, debit, or prepaid cards on their trips, while only 17 percent intend to bring foreign currency.

Visa said its research found that in the Philippines, 44 percent of tourists report encountering various payment problems, including non-acceptance by merchants.

"Contactless payment platforms such as Garmin Pay amplify Visa's benefit to Filipinos, enabling speed, convenience, and security with every contactless transaction," Visa Philippines Country Manager Jeffrey Navarro said.

"With Garmin Pay, Visa provides Filipinos with safer, more convenient ways to pay across shops, public transport, and tourist destinations, empowering local merchants to embrace digital payments and supporting the government's push to become a cash-lite economy," Navarro added. **(PNA)**
BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES

CEMENT IMPORTS FROM CHINA, INDONESIA NOW COVERED BY IMPORT DUTIES

MANILA – Cement imports from China and Indonesia will now be taxed accordingly, following the increase in the volume delivered to the Philippines to over 3 percent of the total imports.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), pursuant to Department

in the previous session.

It traded between 61.75 and 61.54, bringing the day's average to 61.63.

Volume reached USD2.02 billion, up from day-ago's USD1.89 billion. **(PNA)**
BY JOANN VILLANUEVA

Administrative Order (DAO) No. 26-03 issued on May 20, 2026, said that only cement imports that account for less than 3 percent of the total volume are exempt from the definitive general safeguard measure.

Citing delivery reports for the whole of 2025 and in the first quarter of 2026, the DAO said around 6.02 metric tons (MT) of imported cement arrived in the country last year, and around 1.29 MT in the first three months this year.

It said the bulk of these deliveries came from Vietnam, at 79 percent for

BARGAIN HUNTING LIFTS PSEI; PESO WEAKENS VS. US DOLLAR

MANILA – Bargain hunting lifted the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) on Monday following the heavy sell-off at the end of last week, while the Philippine peso weakened against the U.S. dollar.

The local bourse's benchmark index rose 0.53 percent to 5,799.32 points, while the broader All Shares index gained 0.14 percent to 3,285.56 points.

Three of the six sectoral indices ended higher, led by Services, up 2.47 percent, followed by Financials, up 0.06 percent, and Industrial, up 0.009 percent.

Meanwhile, Mining and Oil posted the biggest decline at 0.97 percent, followed by Holding Firms at 0.80 percent and Property at 0.20 percent.

Trading volume remained thin at 564.26 million shares valued at PHP8.5 billion.

Advancers outnumbered decliners, 102 to 93, while 61 issues were unchanged.

Luis Limlingan, head of sales at Regina Capital

Development Corporation, attributed the market's gains to investors' "bargain-hunting mode."

"However, gains were capped in the afternoon session as participants remained cautious. Positioning

stayed defensive, with many maintaining short exposures ahead of the upcoming inflation data," he said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release the May 2026 inflation report on June 5.

Meanwhile, the local currency depreciated to 61.74 against the U.S. dollar from 61.59 at the close of trading last Friday.

The peso opened Monday's session at 61.65, weaker than its previous opening level of 61.42.

It traded within a range of 61.65 to 61.75, bringing the day's average exchange rate to 61.72.

Volume in the foreign exchange market declined to USD998.9 million from USD1.71 billion in the previous session. **(PNA)**
BY JOANN VILLANUEVA

their comments on the issue.

As a result, cement imports from China and Indonesia will now be subject to a safeguard duty of PHP14 per 40 kg. bag or PHP349/MT.

"The amount or rate of safeguard measures shall be subject to regular review to give DTI the opportunity to modify the same in accordance with Section 13 of RA (Republic Act) 8800," it said, referring to the Safeguard Measures Act aimed to protect local players from imported goods. **(PNA)**
BY JOANN VILLANUEVA



PH INDOOR VOLLEYBALL TEAMS QUALIFY FOR ASIAN GAMES

MANILA – The Philippines' men's and women's indoor volleyball teams have qualified for the Nagoya-Aichi 20th Asian Games this September.

"This is great news for our volleyball program," said Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino in a news release Monday.

He said the POC received the email from the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) on the country's qualification for the Asiad over the weekend.

The Philippines is at No. 10 (women) and No. 15 (men) on the FIVB rankings in Asia.

There will be 16 teams each in the men's and women's categories in the Asian Games volleyball to be played at the Aichi Prefecture from Sept. 27 to Oct. 3.

Competing in the men's division are Japan, Iran, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Qatar, Bahrain, Chinese-Taipei, India, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Hong Kong.

In the women's division are

Japan, Kazakhstan, Iran, China, Chinese-Taipei, Thailand, Vietnam, Qatar, South Korea, Kyrgyzstan, India, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Mongolia, and North Korea.

AVC president Ramon "Tats" Suzara confirmed the good news to Tolentino, whose POC is bound to be the "caretaker" of the country's volleyball affairs following the FIVB's suspension of the Philippine National Volleyball Federation.

The indoor volleyball teams' qualification completes the Philippine entries in the sport at the Asian Games after the beach volleyball squads led by Bangkok 2025

Southeast Asian Games champions Sisi Rondina and Bernadeth Pons made it to the 12-country competition.

They will face teams from China, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, Iran, Kazakhstan, Qatar, and Oman in the event to be held at the Hekinan Ryokuchi Beach Court in Hekinan City.

The POC is fielding at least 700 athletes to the Asian Games, with Tolentino hoping to have more qualifiers in esports, modern pentathlon and taekwondokyorugi (sparring). (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**



Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (Contributed photo)

GILAS WOMEN END FIBA 3X3 WORLD CUP RUN WITH HISTORIC WIN VS. ITALY

MANILA – Gilas Pilipinas Women saved their best for last as they wrapped up their 2026 FIBA 3x3 World Cup with a historic 17-13 victory over world No. 11 Italy in Warsaw, Poland on Wednesday.

Camille Clarin led the nationals with eight points and three rebounds to guide the Philippines in its first-ever win on the FIBA 3x3 World Cup stage.

National team veteran

Afril Bernardino added four points and six boards while Mikka Cacho and Kacey Dela Rosa chipped in three and two points, respectively, as the Philippines handed Italy its fourth straight loss in the group stage.

The Gilas Women, however, blew an early 6-1 lead against China in their first game of the day.

China showed composure en route to a 20-12 win

over the Philippines to advance to the knockout stages.

The Filipinas finished the group stage with a 1-3 record to finish fourth in Pool C of the tournament.

Only the top two teams of each pool automatically qualify for the knockouts, while the third-placed squads get another shot via play-in. (PNA) **BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**

PH AIMS FOR BETTER FINISH AT BEACH HANDBALL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANILA – Philippine Handball Federation Inc. (PHFI) president Dr. Ernesto "Jay" Adalem has expressed optimism on the campaign of the national women's team at the 12th IHF Beach Handball World Championships set June 23 to 28 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Croatia is hosting the prestigious event featuring 16 men's and 16 women's teams for the first time.

"We are hoping to do better than the last time. I'm very confident that we can flourish in this sport," Adalem said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the Philippine Sports Commission media room in Malate, Manila Tuesday.

Adalem said the team going to Croatia is well-prepared and is determined to improve on its 12th place performance in the 2024 edition held on Pingtan Island in Fuzhou, China, where Germany emerged champion.

This year, the Philippines is in Group D along with 2024 runner-up Argentina, Denmark, and Benin. The Philippines must finish in the Top 3 to advance to the next round.

"That's the goal. We want

to surpass our finish last time. Right now, we are ranked No. 12 in the world and No. 2 in Asia behind Vietnam," Adalem said.

Also present were head coach Joanna Franquelli, playing coach AA Adriano, and players Za Mateo, Joe Ong, and Shang Berte.

"Last time, we finished second in our group that included China, Portugal and Australia. We hope we can perform well and the results will be better than the last," Franquelli said.

Beach handball is a fast-paced sport similar to

basketball and football, but played on sand and consisting of two 10-minute sets. Each team can field four players on the field with one goalkeeper.

"Hopefully, handball will be known. Filipinos don't know it. But right now, our game is getting better, especially in beach handball," said Adalem, who also thanked PSC chairperson John Patrick Gregorio for allowing them to share the futsal venue at Philsports Arena for the indoor handball team. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**



HOPING FOR THE BEST. Head coach Joanna Franquelli (left) talks about the participation of the national women's team in the 12th IHF Beach Handball World Championships during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the Philippine Sports Commission media room in Malate, Manila on Tuesday (June 2, 2026). Joining Franquelli is Philippine Handball Federation, Inc. (PHFI) president Dr. Ernesto "Jay" Adalem. (Contributed photo)

PAPA, MADIS DOMINATE PALAWAN OPEN TENNIS

MANILA – Filipino-American Christopher Papa and local talent Tennielle Madis were crowned champions in their respective divisions at the inaugural Palawan Open late Sunday night at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center in Malate, Manila.

Papa pulled off a stunning 6-4, 6-4 victory over homegrown Alberto Lim, Jr. in the men's singles final to claim the PHP300,000 champion's purse in the event sanctioned by Philta and Universal Tennis Ranking (UTR) and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Gentry Timepieces, and Bagong Pilipinas.

Papa also annexed the men's double title, teaming up with Francis Casey Alcantara to conquer Eric Jed Olivarez and Nilo Ledama, 7-6(4), 6-3.

Meanwhile, 18-year-

old Madis of Philippine Tennis Academy earned PHP100,000 after prevailing over Marian Capadocia, 6-2, 7-6, in their women's singles title duel.

Madis and PTA teammate Stefi Marithe Aludo defeated siblings Kaye-

Ann and Mica Emama, 6-0, 6-2, for the women's doubles title.

Alcantara and Capadocia ruled the mixed doubles category, beating Madis and Ronard Joven, 6-2, 4-6, 16-14. (PNA) **BY JEAN MALANUM**



CHAMPION. Filipino-American Christopher Papa in action during the men's singles final against homegrown Alberto Lim Jr. in the inaugural Palawan Open at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center in Malate, Manila on Sunday (May 31, 2026). Papa won, 6-4, 6-4. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)