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US IMMIGRATION CRACKDOWN HAS “NO IMPACT” ON PH MIGRATION - CFO

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) – The United States continues to welcome Filipino visa holders and is looking to expand its non-immigrant visa program to cater individuals participating in work and

study-based exchange visitor programs. In an interview, Secretary Dante Ang II said Filipinos are welcome holders of the US J-1 visa as they remained compliant with the program's guidelines.

“When we met with the US embassy in 2024, they were very happy with the J-1 program. In fact, the directive remains that they want to expand the program in the Philippines, meaning more

As part of its continuing efforts to identify opportunities for community development through Science and

Technology (S&T), DOST-Cavite conducted a project visit to the LGU Bacoor-assisted fisherfolks association, Nagkakaisang

Mandaragat ng Bacoor City.

The activity was attended by Provincial Director (PD) Gilda, representatives from the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Bacoor, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and members of the association. Through the initiative and coordination of LGU Bacoor, the visit provided an opportunity for stakeholders to engage directly with the fisherfolk community and gain a better understanding of their current situation, challenges, and needs.

During the visit, DOST-Cavite conducted interviews with several members of the association to gather relevant information and assess possible areas where Science and Technology interventions could be introduced. The discussions focused on identifying technologies, programs, and innovations that could help improve their livelihood, enhance productivity, and contribute to the sustainable development of the local fishing community.

The project visit served as an important step in determining appropriate assistance and support mechanisms that DOST-Cavite may provide in collaboration with LGU Bacoor and other partner agencies. Through these efforts, the agencies aim to empower the fisherfolk sector and promote inclusive community development through the application of science, technology, and innovation. **DOST-CAVITE**



J-1 visa holders from the Philippines on exchange programs. Evidently, the US is happy because our Filipinos are complying with the contractual obligations.”

Although the United States is welcoming to visitor visa holders from the Philippines, Ang warned that Filipinos must still follow the legal migration pathways if they intend to permanently live in other countries.

“The advice of the Philippine government is that we should follow the rules of the US. We have been telling segments of the migrant community, not just those bound to the US but including the au pairs.”

The au pair visa is a specialized exchange visa that allows young adults, ages 18 to 30, to live with a host family in a foreign country. It applies for individuals applying for visas with an intention to help with childcare and light housework in exchange for room, board, and weekly pocket money.

Although the United States has tightened its immigration laws, Ang said President Donald Trump's move to clamp down migration had not affected Filipinos.

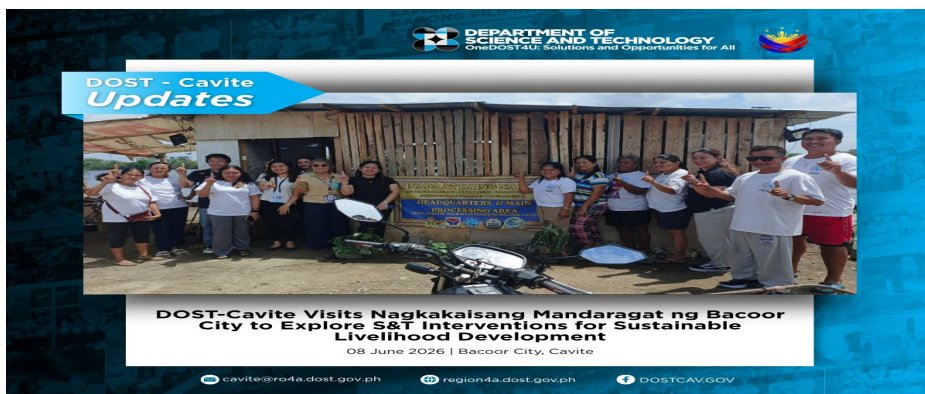
“The Philippine embassy in Washington has done very well in communicating to the Filipino-Americans that every migrant or visitor to the United States, especially Filipinos should follow the rules and laws of the United States. The alarming statements during the campaign period are not what we are seeing now,”

“Despite these pronouncements from president trump about clamping down migration, our data suggests that it does not seem to have an impact on Filipinos migrating. The US remains to be the top destination for Filipinos migrating abroad.”

In a 2024 report to the Congress, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) noted around 10,804,958 Filipinos overseas. Of this, around 50.13 percent or 5,416,536 were residing in the Americas, which includes the United States.

(PB-PIA CALABARZON) BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ

DOST-CAVITE VISITS NAGKAKAISANG MANDARAGAT NG BACOR CITY TO EXPLORE S&T INTERVENTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT



STREET-LEVEL INDIVIDUAL ARRESTED; SUSPECTED MARIJUANA SEIZED IN MAGALLANES BUY-BUST OPERATION

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – A Street-Level Individual (SLI) involved in illegal drug activities was arrested by operatives of the Drug Enforcement Unit of Magallanes Municipal Police Station under the supervision of PMAJ RAYMOND T BALBUENA, COP, during a successful buy-bust operation conducted at around 10:30 PM on June 11, 2026, in Brgy. Cabulusan, Magallanes, Cavite.

The operation, conducted in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, resulted in the arrest of the suspect identified only by his alias "RYSON" for violation of Section 5, Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Confiscated from the possession of the suspect were one (1) small-sized zip lock plastic sachet containing suspected marijuana with an estimated weight of more or less 1.0 gram and a standard drug price of Three Hundred Pesos (Php300.00); two (2) pieces of One Hundred Peso bills amounting to Two Hundred Pesos (Php200.00) bearing

Serial Numbers FJ894432 and GH015299 used as buy-bust money; and one (1) unit of Redmi 9C cellular phone.

The suspect was informed of his constitutional rights in a dialect known and understood by him. The entire operation was properly documented and conducted in accordance with existing laws, rules, and procedures.

Thereafter, the arrested suspect and the confiscated pieces of evidence were brought to Magallanes Municipal Police Station for proper disposition. Pertinent documents are being prepared for the filing of appropriate charges through inquest proceedings.

"Even the smallest quantity of illegal drugs fuels the chain of addiction and criminality that threatens our communities. The Cavite PPO remains relentless in its intensified anti-illegal drug operations to ensure that those engaged in the illegal drug trade are held accountable before the law. We call on the public to continue supporting our efforts by reporting unlawful activities in their communities," said PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

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

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,

THREE HIGH-VALUE INDIVIDUALS NABBED; PHP 1.36-MILLION WORTH OF SHABU SEIZED IN DASMARINAS CITY BUY-BUST OPERATION

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – Three High-Value Individuals (HVIs) involved in illegal drug activities were arrested by operatives of the Cavite Police Provincial Office during a joint anti-illegal drug operation conducted in Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

The arrested suspects were identified only through their aliases as "MONYO," "RYAN," and "ANGEL," all residents of Brgy. Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite. They were apprehended for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

At about 6:15 PM on June 9, 2026, personnel of the Provincial Drug Enforcement Unit (PDEU), Cavite PPO, under the supervision of PMAJ SANDIE D CAPARROSO, Chief, PIU, together with personnel of Dasmariñas City Component Police Station, in coordination with the Philippine Drug

Enforcement Agency (PDEA), conducted a joint buy-bust operation at Mabuhay City, Brgy. Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

The successful operation resulted in the arrest of the suspects and the confiscation of the following pieces of evidence: two (2) knotted transparent plastic ice bags and three (3) heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing white crystalline substance suspected to be shabu, with an estimated total weight of more or less 200 grams and an estimated Standard Drug Price of Php1,360,000.00; one (1) Five Hundred Peso (Php500.00) bill bearing serial number BG505167 used as buy-bust money; and one (1) Android cellular phone.

The actual physical inventory and marking of the seized pieces of evidence were conducted by the seizing officer at the place of arrest in the presence of the arrested suspects, a media representative from Lampara Batikan Pahayagan ng Katotohanan, and an elected Barangay Councilor of Brgy. Paliparan 3, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, in compliance with the requirements of Republic Act No. 9165.

Further, the arrested suspects were properly informed of their constitutional rights in a dialect known and understood by them.

The arrested suspects and the confiscated pieces of evidence were brought to the appropriate office for documentation and

FOUR STREET-LEVEL INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED; ILLEGAL DRUGS AND UNLICENSED FIREARMS SEIZED IN BUY-BUST OPERATION

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – Four Street-Level Individuals (SLIs) involved in illegal drug activities were arrested by operatives of the Drug Enforcement Unit of General Trias Component City Police Station, under the supervision of PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, Chief of Police and in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) during the successful anti-illegal drug operation in General Trias City, Cavite at around 5:45 in the morning on June 10, 2026, in Brgy. Pasong Camachile I, City of General Trias, Cavite.

The arrested suspects were identified through their aliases as "BALOT," "KEVIN," "RYAN," and "PRINCESS," all residents of General Trias City, Cavite. They were apprehended for violation of Sections 5 and 11, Article II of Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, and Republic Act No. 10591, or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

The operation resulted in the arrest of the suspects and the confiscation of the following pieces of evidence: ten heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets

inquest proceedings.

"Illegal drugs continue to threaten the safety and future of our communities. This successful operation demonstrates our unwavering commitment to intensify our campaign against the proliferation of dangerous drugs. We will relentlessly pursue those who engage in the illegal drug trade and ensure that they are brought before the bar of justice," said PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

containing white crystalline substance suspected to be shabu, with an estimated total weight of more or less 40 grams and an estimated Standard Drug Price of Php272,000.00; seven heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing dried leaves suspected to be marijuana kush, with an estimated total weight of more or less 40 grams and an estimated Standard Drug Price of Php60,000.00; one five hundred peso (Php500.00) bill used as buy-bust money; one thin metal can; one caliber .45 Armscor pistol without serial number seized from suspect alias "BALOT"; one caliber .45 magazine; seven caliber .45 live ammunitions; one black sling bag; one caliber 9mm small sub-machine gun-type firearm without serial number seized from suspect alias "KEVIN"; one caliber 9mm magazine; five caliber 9mm live ammunitions; and one black backpack.

The arrested suspects were informed of their constitutional rights in a dialect known and understood by them.

The confiscated drug evidence and seized firearms will be brought to the Cavite Provincial Forensic Unit, Imus City, Cavite, for laboratory and ballistic examinations. Pertinent documents are now being prepared for inquest proceedings before the Office of the City Prosecutor.

"Our intensified anti-illegal drug operations remain focused on dismantling the distribution of dangerous drugs at every level while ensuring that loose firearms are removed from our communities. The arrest of these individuals sends a clear message that Cavite PPO will continue to pursue offenders relentlessly and uphold the rule of law to protect the public from the threats posed by illegal drugs and unlicensed firearms," said PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

DALAWANG OPISYAL NG CARD MRI, GINAWARAN BILANG NAMUMUKOD TANGING SAN PABLENOS 2026

Kinilala sina Dr. Edzel A. Ramos at Ginoong Frederick Nicasio M. Torres, kapwa opisyal ng CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), bilang mga "Namumukod Tanging San Pableños 2026" sa ginanap na Gawad ng Namumukod Tanging San Pableño noong Mayo 7 sa San Pablo City Convention Center.

Iginawad ng lokal na pamahalaan ng San Pablo ang pagkilala sa dalawang opisyal dahil sa kanilang pamumuno at ambag sa pagpapaunlad ng komunidad sa pamamagitan ng mga institusyong kanilang pinagilingkurang. Layunin ng parangal na kilalanin ang mga indibidwal na nagbigay ng mahalagang kontribusyon sa pag-unlad ng lungsod at nagsisilbing huwaran sa kani-kanilang larangan.

Makabagong edukasyon ginawaran si Dr. Ramos bilang Namumukod Tanging San Pableño para sa Transformative Education. Ang naturang kategorya ay para sa mga indibidwal na nagsusulong ng dekalidad at abot-kayang edukasyon sa pamamagitan ng mga makabuluhang programa, proyekto, at pakikipagtulungan.

Si Dr. Ramos ay kasalukuyang Presidente ng CARD-MRI Development Institute Inc. (CMDI), ang learning at training institute ng CARD MRI na nag-aalok ng tertiary education, senior high school, at iba't ibang capacity-building program. Isa siya sa mga pangunahing personalidad na tumulong sa paglago ng CMDI mula sa isang training unit noong taong 2000 hanggang sa maging ganap na institusyong pang-edukasyon.

Nagsimula si Dr. Ramos sa CARD MRI noong 1996 bilang Technical Officer ng CARD, Inc. (a microfinance NGO). Sa kaniyang mga unang taon sa organisasyon, naging malapit siya sa mga komunidad at personal niyang nakita ang mga hamon na kinahaharap ng mga pamilyang kulang sa oportunidad. Dahil dito, mas tumibay ang kaniyang paniniwala sa kahalagahan ng edukasyon at people development.

Habang lumalawak ang mga training initiative ng CARD MRI, lumipat siya sa mga tungkuling may kaugnayan sa training at development. Noong maging pormal na training institution ang CMDI

noong 2005, nagsilbi siyang Training Director at tumulong sa pagpapatupad ng mga programang nagturo ng financial education sa mahigit 300 empleyado para maibahagi rin ito sa mga estudyante at miyembro ng komunidad.

Sa mga sumunod na taon, lalo pang pinalawak ng CMDI ang mga programang nakatuon sa edukasyon ng komunidad. Noong 2013, inilunsad nito ang kursong Microfinance Technology NC II sa ilalim ng Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) at kalaunan ay naging accredited assessment center para rito. Noong 2015 naman, nabigyan ito ng pahintulot ng Commission on Higher Education (CHED) upang mag-operate bilang tertiary education institution. Nitong 2024, naging presidente si Dr. Ramos ng paaralan at pinangunahan ang pagbubukas ng senior high school program.

Sa kasalukuyan, may apat nang campus ang CMDI sa San Pablo City at Bay, Laguna; Tagum City, Davao del Norte; at Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. Nakatuon ang mga programa nito sa pagbibigay ng praktikal at values-driven education para sa mga mag-aaral mula sa iba't ibang komunidad.

"Naniniwala kami na ang edukasyon ay mahalagang kasangkapan sa paghubog ng kinabukasan ng kabataan. Malaking karangalan para sa akin na maging bahagi ng paglalakbay ng CMDI," ani Dr. Ramos. Dagdag pa niya, magsisilbing inspirasyon ang pagkilalang ito upang maabot pa ng institusyon ang mas maraming estudyante, empleyado, at komunidad na limitado ang access sa dekalidad na edukasyon.

Pagpapalawak ng oportunidad sa kabuhatan Samantala, kinilala naman si Ginoong Torres bilang Namumukod Tanging San Pableño para sa Social Entrepreneurship. Iginagawad ang parangal na ito sa mga indibidwal na nagtataguyod ng mga negosyo at programang lumilikha ng kabuhatan at oportunidad para sa komunidad.

Si Torres ay kasalukuyang Chairman ng Mga Likha Ni Inay, CARD-Business Development Services Foundation Inc. (CARD-BDSFI), at CARD Leasing and Finance Corporation (CARD LFC). Siya rin ang Executive Vice President

ng CARD Indogrosir at Ottokonek.

Nagsimula siya bilang management trainee sa mga financial institution ng CARD MRI, kabilang ang CARD, Inc. at CARD SME Bank. Sa paglipas ng panahon, humawak siya ng iba't ibang posisyon sa operasyon at pamamahala, bagay na nagbigay sa kaniya ng mas malalim na pag-unawa sa kalagayan ng mga nasa laylayan ng lipunan at sa pangangailangan ng mga ito sa oportunidad para sa negosyo at kabuhatan.

Noong 2013, tumulong si Torres sa pagtatatag ng CARD LFC upang mapalawak ang support services para sa mga kliyente sa pamamagitan ng leasing, business assistance, at housing finance program.

Sa ilalim ng kaniyang pamumuno, tinulungan ng CARD-BDSFI ang mga microentrepreneur na makapasok sa mas malawak na merkado sa pamamagitan ng pagsusulong ng mga lokal na produkto. Mula rito ay nabuo ang Mga Likha Ni Inay, isang social enterprise na ginagawang mas marketable ang mga produktong gawa ng mga rural microentrepreneur.

Patuloy ding pinalalakas ng CARD Indogrosir at Ottokonek ang maliliit na negosyo sa komunidad sa pamamagitan ng wholesale at retail ng grocery products sa presyo ng distributor. Nakatutulong din ang mga ito sa mga may-ari ng mobile store, carts, at sari-sari store sa iba't ibang lugar.

Ayon kay Torres, ang pagkilalang natanggap niya ay para sa mga "Nanay" na patuloy na inaangat ng

misyon ng CARD MRI. "Mas nagiging makahulugan ang entrepreneurship kapag nagbibigay ito ng oportunidad at pag-asa sa komunidad. Kapag natutulungan nating umunlad ang mga microenterprise, napatutunayan nating maaaring maging sustainable ang negosyo," pahayag niya.

Sa likod ng kanilang ambag Sa likod ng pagkilala kina Dr. Ramos at Ginoong Torres ay ang iisang layunin ng CARD MRI na makatulong sa pag-angat ng kalagayan ng mga komunidad na kulang sa oportunidad at mabawasan ang kahirapan sa lipunan.

Sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon, enterprise development, at mga programang nakatuon sa komunidad, patuloy na pinalalawak ng CARD MRI ang mga serbisyong nagbibigay ng oportunidad sa mga estudyante, microentrepreneur, at pamilyang nangangailangan ng suporta.

Ipinakita rin ng pagkilalang natanggap ng dalawang opisyal ang naging epekto ng kanilang mga programa sa larangan ng edukasyon at social entrepreneurship, gayundin ang kanilang patuloy na malasakit sa pagbuo ng mas inklusibo at mas matatag na mga komunidad.

Dumalo rin sa programa sina CARD MRI Founder and Chairman Emeritus Dr. Jaime Aristotle B. Alip, CARD MRI Managing Director Aristeo A. Dequito, at mga CARD MRI Senior Adviser na sina Aniceta Alip, Dr. Lorenza dT. Bañez, at Dr. Dolores Torres bilang suporta sa mga ginawaran. **JIREH PEARL CASIONAN, JUNIOR WRITER**



Pinarangalan si Dr. Edzel A. Ramos (kaliwa), Presidente ng CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) Inc., bilang Outstanding San Pableño for Transformative Education, habang kinilala naman si Frederick Nicasio M. Torres (kanan), Chairperson ng iba't ibang enterprise development institutions ng CARD MRI, bilang Outstanding San Pableño for Social Entrepreneurship. Ang pagkilalang ito ay patunay ng kanilang patuloy na kontribusyon sa pagpapaunlad ng edukasyon at kabuhatan sa mga komunidad.

EDITORIAL

Pride Month

Ang pagdiriwang ng Pride Month tuwing Hunyo ay hindi lamang isang makulay na parada, kundi isang mahalagang paalala sa patuloy na laban para sa pantay na karapatan at pagtanggap sa komunidad ng LGBTQIA+. Sa kabila ng mga nakamit na progreso sa mga nakaraang taon, marami pa ring miyembro nito ang humaharap sa diskriminasyon, panghuhusga, at kawalan ng sapat na proteksyon sa ilalim ng batas.

Ang buwang ito ay nagsisilbing panawagan sa lipunan na higit pang maging bukas, makatao, at inklusibo. Sa huli, ang diwa ng Pride ay pagkilala na ang bawat indibidwal, anuman ang kanilang kasarian ay may karapatang mabuhay nang may dignidad, kaligtasan, at tunay na kalayaan.

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DHSUD ORDERS HOUSING LOAN MORATORIUM IN QUAKE-HIT MINDANAO

MANILA – In response to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive for the immediate mobilization of government assistance following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that struck parts of Mindanao on June 8, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) has ordered the implementation of a moratorium on housing amortization payments and the activation of its regional shelter clusters.

DHSUD Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling said he directed the Department's key shelter agencies (KSAs)—the Pag-IBIG Fund, National Housing Authority (NHA), Social Housing Finance Corporation (SHFC), and National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation (NHMFC)—to undertake the necessary steps for the imposition of a moratorium on housing loan amortization for qualified affected beneficiaries.

The respective guidelines of each of the KSAs on the implementation of the moratorium and its coverage will be announced soon.

The directive forms part of the Marcos administration's whole-of-government response, following the strong earthquake that reportedly killed dozens of people.

Apart from the moratorium on housing amortization, Pag-IBIG Fund and NHA

immediately deployed teams to assist quake victims.

Two Pag-IBIG on Wheels Mobile Branches were deployed to General Santos City and Dipolog City to assist affected members, while NHA teams were dispatched to conduct ground assessments to process emergency shelter assistance.

"Alinsunod sa utos ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. na agarang maghatid ng tulong sa ating mga kababayang naapektuhan ng lindol, inatasan natin ang ating mga key shelter agencies na simulan ang pagpapatupad ng moratorium sa housing amortization para sa mga kwalipikadong benepisyaryo (In accordance with President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s order to immediately deliver assistance to our countrymen affected by the earthquake, we have directed our key shelter agencies to begin implementing a moratorium on housing amortization for qualified beneficiaries," Aliling said in a news release Wednesday.

"Sa panahon ng sakuna, importanteng mabawasan ang alalahanin ng ating mga kababayan. Ang prayoridad ay ang kanilang kaligtasan (In times of disaster, it is important to reduce the concerns of our countrymen. The priority is their safety).

At the same time, Aliling directed the Regional Offices to activate their shelter clusters to ensure preparedness and facilitate the immediate delivery of shelter-related interventions should the situation warrant further response measures.

The activation calls for close coordination with local government units, the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), and other agencies to assess damage to houses and identify families requiring immediate shelter assistance.

Aliling also directed the DHSUD Regional Office XII to conduct rapid ground assessment of affected communities, particularly in areas placed under the state of calamity.

"Patuloy tayong nakikipag-ugnayan sa mga lokal na pamahalaan at iba pang ahensya ng gobyerno upang matiyak na agad nating matugunan ang pangangailangan lalo na sa aspeto ng pabahay nang mga pamilyang apektado ng lindol (We continue to coordinate with local governments and other government agencies to ensure that we immediately meet the needs, especially in the housing aspect, of the families affected by the earthquake)," he said. (PNA)

PH URGED TO PROTEST CHINESE DECLARATION VS HIGH SEAS IN SCS

MANILA – The Philippine government must issue a counter-declaration to China's statement denying the existence of high seas in the South China Sea, former Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the French Embassy-Stratbase Institute forum on advancing ocean governance in Makati City, Carpio said Manila must lodge a protest at least within a year or two or risk China claiming that the

country had acquiesced to this claim of jurisdiction there.

"There is this principle in international law, the doctrine of acquiescence, that a state's silence or inaction to a situation or claim that reasonably calls for an objection implies consent to the situation or claim," he said.

"If we do not protest this declaration of China, we are deemed to have impliedly accepted it. So we must protest. Up to today, we have not protested, no

state has protested," he said.

China ratified the landmark Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, also known as the High Seas Treaty, in December 2025.

In signing the pact, Carpio said Beijing, which had long laid claims over the South China Sea and basically the high seas it covers, said the agreement and its implementation "shall under no circumstances" affect its territorial sovereignty.

LTFRB BEGINS STRUCTURAL INSPECTION OF TERMINALS IN QUAKE-HIT AREAS

MANILA – The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) on Tuesday began the structural inspection of public transportation hubs in Davao Region and Soccsksargen in response to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit the area on Monday.

In a statement, LTFRB Chair Vigor Mendoza II ordered the Regional Franchising and Regulatory Offices (RFROs) in these areas to coordinate with local authorities in conducting these inspections.

"The earthquake was so strong and with the Phivolcs (Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology) warning of more aftershocks, we just want to ensure that

everybody is safe for worst-case scenarios," Mendoza said.

In particular, the heads of the RFROs in the two regions were tasked to coordinate with the local government units, through the engineering offices and the Department of Public Works and Highways to check on all bus terminals and other public utility vehicle (PUV) stations in the two regions.

In addition, he ordered the mandatory inspection of the two LTO offices in Davao Region and Soccsksargen.

He also ordered coordination to be made with transportation terminal owners and operators.

"We want to ensure the safety of both the passengers and our

partners in the PUV sector through a thorough inspection on the structural integrity of bus terminals and other land transportation hubs," he said.

Aside from building inspections and coordinations, he asked RFROs to check on the condition of all their personnel, monitor the current situation and to come up with contingency plans to avoid service interruptions.

"On my part as the LTFRB chairman, I assure all our personnel of all the necessary assistance if you need them. We are one with you in this time of challenge," Mendoza said. (PNA) **BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

SCARBOROUGH STRUCTURE AN ASEAN BREACH IF CONFIRMED - CARPIO

MANILA – Former Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio on Tuesday said reports of a suspected Chinese structure on the Scarborough Shoal are "disturbing" as any new construction there is a "precursor" to occupation – a clear violation of the 2002 Declaration of Conduct (DOC).

"That's very disturbing

because that could be a precursor. Parang Mischief Reef iyan, naglagay sila ng mga huts doon, so that means they are starting to occupy (That would be like the Mischief Reef, they constructed huts there, so that means they are starting to occupy)," he said in an interview on the sidelines of a Stratbase Institute forum in Makati City.

"We have to monitor and find out exactly what it is and file a protest," he added.

Under the 2002 DOC, Carpio said states have agreed not to occupy unoccupied features.

"If they put up a platform there, that's occupation," he pointed out.

In a separate text message, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Analyn Ratonel confirmed that the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) has already "undertaken appropriate diplomatic action", including several demarches and issuance

of a formal protest against the reported structure.

"We are unable to discuss the specific contents of the demarches and the diplomatic protest any further as these are confidential communications," she told reporters.

Earlier reports claimed that a "small reflective object" was spotted near the lagoon entrance of Scarborough Shoal last month.

The Philippine government has declared Bajo de Masinloc as a longstanding and integral part of the Philippines over which it has sovereignty and jurisdiction.

Last year, the Chinese government publicized its State Council's "approval" of a Chinese Ministry of Natural Resources' request to establish the reserve in the Scarborough Shoal, which it plans to call the Huangyan Dao National Nature Reserve. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

TESDA TOUTS RECENT DIGITAL UPGRADES

MANILA – The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on Tuesday highlighted recent digital modernization efforts that aim to reach more Filipinos.

TESDA Secretary Jose Francisco Benitez toured members of the media in some of the agency's facilities, and also shared ongoing modernization and digital transformation.

"Access is the first step to opportunity. By strengthening our digital systems like the eKYC (electronic know-your-customer)-enabled TESDA Skills Passport and expanding e-TESDA offerings, we are removing barriers so Filipinos can immediately access training, and reskill and upskill anytime, anywhere, even without traditional requirements slowing them down," he said.

The TESDA Skills Passport mobile app was launched in February 2026 and can be downloaded on Android and iOS devices. Its eKYC feature was designed to streamline learner registration as it strengthens identity verification by allowing users to validate their identity through multiple secure options, including matching personal information against PhilSys with a liveness check, or verifying via National ID number or QR code.

It also supports alternative government-issued IDs such as passport, driver's license, Social Security

System ID, Government Service Insurance System e-Card, unified multipurpose ID, postal ID, voter's ID and PhilHealth ID.

"The app is a secure digital portfolio that lets users store verified certifications and access location-based training centers. Additionally, it features built-in tools for job matching, online learning, and scholarship applications, all protected by PhilSys identity validation," TESDA Public Affairs Executive Director Floramel Joy Songsong told the Philippine News Agency.

Songsong also noted that TESDA continues to expand and upgrade its TESDA Online Program (TOP), accessible through e-tesda.gov.ph.

Through TESDA's partnership with UNEVOC Network, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) global network of technical and vocational institutions; and the HP Foundation under UNESCO's Global Skills Academy, selected HP LIFE Program courses are now available for free on the TESDA Online Program.

These help learners gain industry-relevant information and communication technology, entrepreneurship and artificial intelligence (AI) skills for better employment and livelihood opportunities, Songsong

LTO REVOKES, SUSPENDS OVER 800 LICENSES IN CRACKDOWN VS. ROGUE DRIVERS

MANILA – Over 800 erring drivers had their licenses suspended or revoked by

said.

"TESDA has also introduced new qualifications and online learning modules on the TOP including Early Childhood Care and Development Services NC III and Bookkeeping for Sangguniang Kabataan Financial Transactions NC II. These are designed to strengthen competencies in early childhood education management and local financial administration through practical, industry-relevant training," he said.

Meanwhile, TESDA also cited its partnership with STI College, and the launching of the Artificial Intelligence Readiness Training Program last May.

The initiative introduces courses including Data Collection and Annotation (Data Science/Artificial Intelligence) Level II, AI Prompting for Automation Level III, and Data Analytics Level III, designed to prepare learners for careers in the digital and AI-driven economy.

"Initially, the AI training is expected to benefit a total of 3,273 learners nationwide (until) December 2026," Songsong added. **(PNA) BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

the Land Transportation Office (LTO) since October last year.

In a statement on Friday, LTO chief Assistant Secretary Markus Lacanilao said 434 driver's licenses have been revoked while 396 have been suspended since his appointment to the LTO.

The crackdown, Lacanilao said, aims to improve road discipline, prevent accidents, and ensure public safety.

"Bahagi ng aming tungkulin ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng mga umiiral na batas-trapiko, at isa lamang ito sa mga konkretong tagumpay ng LTO (It is part of our responsibilities to enforce traffic laws, and this is just one of the concrete achievements of the LTO)," he said.

Of the 434 revoked driver's licenses, 325 were canceled for two years, 15 for four years, and 94 permanently revoked.

On the other hand, the 396 suspensions consist of 23 with one-month, 290 with three-month, seven with six-month, one with seven-month, and 75 with one-year suspensions.

"Ito ay patunay na patuloy na ginagawa ng ahensya ang mga hakbang upang matiyak na ang publiko ay mananatiling

MALACAÑANG WARNS VS. ATTEMPTS TO SOW CHAOS IN SENATE

MANILA – Malacañang on Tuesday warned individuals allegedly attempting to sow disorder in the Senate that they would face legal consequences if found liable.

In a press briefing, Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said the alleged security threats to the Senate have been referred for investigation.

Castro stressed that those responsible for activities that could threaten public order would not escape accountability under the law.

"Sa mga nagtatangka dahil nga may mga nauulinigan po na ganitong mga security threat -- kayo man ay senador o ordinaryong taong nagsasagawa nito -- hindi po kayo makakaligtas sa kamay ng batas (To those who are attempting because there have been reports of such security threats -- whether you are a senator or an ordinary

responsableng mga driver at mahigpit na susunod sa mga umiiral na batas-trapiko upang mapanatili ang kaligtasan sa lansangan (This demonstrates the agency's continued efforts to promote responsible driving and strict compliance with traffic laws in the interest of road safety)," he said. **(PNA) BY RAYMOND CARL DELA CRUZ**

person doing this -- you will not escape the hands of the law)," she said.

The security threats, which have been described as "clear, present and very serious," have prompted serious considerations and possible adjustments to security protocols.

The Senate is coordinating with the National Bureau of Investigation and other intelligence agencies to ensure the safety of all senators and around 2,000 employees.

The development comes amid a leadership impasse in the Senate involving Senator Alan Peter Cayetano and Senate President Pro Tempore Sherwin Gatchalian.

Cayetano, who has continued to assert his claim to the Senate presidency, earlier said there are "two Senates" -- "the Senate of the Philippines and the Senate of Malacañang."

Asked whether the Palace considers Cayetano an obstructionist or a purveyor of fake news peddler, Castro echoed President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call against the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

"Ito po ang sabi ng Pangulo: Fake news is flying around. Those into it should cease and desist. Iyan po ang malinaw na sinabi ng Pangulo (That is what the President clearly said)," she said. **(PNA) BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that I, **ROSANNA M. BENAVIDEZ** of legal age, Filipino with postal address 75 Trece Martinez 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

PNP, MERALCO FORGE STRONGER PARTNERSHIP VS. ELECTRICITY THEFT

MANILA – The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Manila Electric Company (Meralco) have reinforced their partnership in combating theft and pilferage of electricity distribution facilities and materials.

The partnership was formalized through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at Camp Crame in Quezon City on Monday.

"The renewed agreement between the PNP and Meralco is driven by the need to address the rising incidents of electricity theft

and the pilferage of power distribution materials, which directly affect public safety, economic stability, and service reliability," PNP chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. said in a news release Tuesday.

The agreement reinforces coordination, information sharing and joint law enforcement operations in implementing Republic Act No. 7832, or the Anti-Electricity and Electric Transmission Lines/Materials Pilferage Act.

It also updates and strengthens an earlier accord signed in December

2024 following a review ordered by the PNP leadership.

Nartatez said the partnership is a response to persistent cases of illegal connections, meter tampering and the theft of electrical materials in several communities, which both institutions said undermine critical infrastructure and disrupt essential services.

"We have directed all regional and provincial offices to closely coordinate with Meralco field units, intensify case build-up against offenders, and

immediately act on reports involving tampering, illegal connections, and stolen electrical materials," he said.

The MOU was signed by Nartatez; Brig. Gen. Matthew Baccay, Acting Director of the Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management; Ronnie Apercho, Meralco executive vice president and chief operating officer; and Jerry Lao, Meralco first vice president and head of Facilities Safety and Security Management. (With a report from Christopher Lloyd Caliwan/**PNA**)

LGUS, BUSINESS LEADERS HIGHLIGHT CALAX SUBSECTION 3'S ROLE IN DRIVING GROWTH

The economic landscape of Cavite is poised for greater growth following the opening of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) Subsection 3, extending the expressway to Governor's Drive Interchange in General Trias City.

With CALAX now spanning 26 kilometers from Mamlasan, Biñan, Laguna to General Trias, Cavite, local government officials and business leaders cited the project's role in improving connectivity, attracting investments, and creating new opportunities for businesses and communities.

Florencio Ayo, President of the GenTri Business Club, said the new subsection is a long-awaited development that cuts travel time between Laguna and Cavite's industrial hubs to just 26 minutes.

"We are no longer a destination that is hard to reach — we are now a city that is impossible to ignore. Infrastructure is not just about roads; it is about opening doors for every Filipino entrepreneur. General Trias is now better positioned than ever to attract investments, generate employment, and build a more resilient economy," Ayo stated.

General Trias City Mayor Luis "Jon Jon" Ferrer IV described the new interchange as 'a gateway to greater opportunities' that positions the city as a thriving center of industry. "Habang patuloy na lumalago ang General Trias bilang sentro ng industriya at kaunlaran, mahalaga ang proyektong tulad nito upang mas mailapit ang mga oportunidad sa ating mga kababayan," said Mayor Ferrer.

The positive outlook was echoed by Dasmariñas City Mayor Jennifer Barzaga, who emphasized that the expressway enhances access to commerce, education, and tourism.

"Ang proyektong ito ay hindi lamang tungkol sa bagong kalsada, ito ay tungkol sa mas magandang kalidad

ng buhay. Ang CALAX ay simbolo ng patuloy na progreso at ng ating sama-samang pangarap para sa isang mas maunlad, mas konektado, at mas maaliwalas na kinabukasan para sa bawat mamamayan," Mayor Barzaga noted.

Barangay Adlas (Silang) Captain Joelito Generoso highlighted the project's impact on local development.

"Napakalaking benepisyo ng pagbubukas ng CALAX Governor's Drive. Nagkaroon ng oportunidad sa negosyo, pagbubukas ng mga bagong trabaho, at pagtaas ng presyo ng lupa. Pinalakas din nito ang turismo at transportasyon ng mga kalakal," Barangay Capt. Generoso said.

Meanwhile, Barangay San Francisco (General Trias) Captain Ryan Santor pointed to the long-term benefits of improved accessibility. "We believe

that the opening of CALAX SS3 will bring lasting benefits to nearby communities through improved connectivity, increased investments, and easier transportation of goods and services," said Barangay Capt. Santor.

Beyond improving travel, the opening of CALAX Subsection 3 is expected to strengthen trade, support business expansion, and enhance Cavite's competitiveness as an investment destination.

CALAX is an MPCALA Holdings Inc. project with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) as project grantor.

MPCALA Holdings Inc., the developer and operator of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).

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ENDURING LEGACY FROM THE ASHES: MEKENI LEADS BUSINESS SECTOR IN UNVEILING MT. PINATUBO COMMEMORATIVE MARKER

CLARK FREEPORT ZONE, Pampanga, June 9, 2026 —

A commemorative marker honoring the 1991 eruption of Mt. Pinatubo was unveiled at the Clark Parade Grounds, marking the 35th anniversary of one of the most defining natural disasters in Philippine history and highlighting a shared story of resilience, recovery, and regional transformation.

The marker was jointly initiated by the Holy Angel University—Center for Kapampangan Studies (HAU-CKS), the Clark Development Corporation (CDC), the Department of Science and Technology—Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (DOST-PHIVOLCS), and Meken Food Corporation, which represented the business sector of Central Luzon during the ceremonial unveiling.

Former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led the guests of honor, alongside CDC President and CEO Agnes VST Devanadera, representatives from the local governments of Angeles City and Mabalacat City, and partners from academia, science, and the private sector.

Meken Food Corporation President Pruds Garcia represented the business

community, underscoring how the Pinatubo eruption reshaped not only the landscape of Central Luzon but also the trajectory of businesses that would later become drivers of its recovery.

Founded as a small backyard enterprise in Pampanga, Meken was among the many local businesses severely affected by the eruption and its aftermath. However, the crisis also became a turning point that redefined its mission, transforming survival into service, and rebuilding into purpose-driven growth. From these beginnings, Meken evolved into a nationally recognized food manufacturing company, while maintaining deep roots in community development and regional pride.

In his statement, Garcia emphasized that the story of Mt. Pinatubo is inseparable from the story of Central Luzon's resilience, noting that the disaster "became both a test and a catalyst" for businesses that chose to rebuild not only operations but also lives and communities.

Today's unveiling of the commemorative marker serves as a collective remembrance of the eruption's impact,

while also recognizing the enduring legacy of recovery efforts that followed, anchored on collaboration between government, academia, science institutions, and the private sector.

Beyond remembrance, the initiative also highlights renewed opportunities for collaboration in heritage tourism, public education, and strategic communications, as Clark continues to position itself as a hub for history, innovation, and sustainable development.

For Meken, participation in the project reinforces its continuing commitment to be more than a business success story. It stands as a living example of how adversity can shape long-term purpose, where growth is measured not only in scale, but in contribution to community rebuilding and regional identity.

As Central Luzon reflects on 35 years since Mt. Pinatubo's eruption, the commemorative marker stands as a lasting symbol: from the ashes of devastation rose a shared legacy of resilience, with stories like Meken's serving as enduring proof that rebuilding can become a foundation for legacy.



GOV'T ACTIVATES 5MW GENSETS TO STABILIZE CATANDUANES SUPPLY

MANILA— The Department of Energy (DOE) and the National Power Corporation (NPC) have activated 5-megawatt (MW) generator sets in Catanduanes to boost supply and reduce rotational brownouts.

In a statement Friday, the DOE said this is in response to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to address power supply deficiencies and strengthen the country's energy security.

Energy Secretary Sharon Garin and NPC President and Chief Executive Officer Jericho Jonas Nograles led the ceremonial switch-on of the generator set on Thursday.

The activation of the NPC generator is part of the government's immediate response to the power supply challenges in Catanduanes.

According to the DOE, Catanduanes has been experiencing recurring supply shortages due to generation constraints and delays in planned capacity additions, leading to rotational brownouts.

The newly activated 5-MW facility will provide immediate additional capacity while other power interventions are being completed, the DOE said.

It will be complemented by generator sets supplied by Isla Dagayab Energy Corporation under the Emergency Power Supply Agreement 2 (EPSA 2), which was awarded by the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative, Inc. on May 29.

Once fully operational, the EPSA 2 units are expected to deliver an additional 8 MW of power to the province.

Testing and commissioning

activities are currently underway and are targeted for completion by June 14, with full commercial operations expected the following day.

"The activation of additional 5MW NPC generator set is a significant step toward improving power reliability in Catanduanes and providing immediate relief to consumers affected by recurring outages," Garin said.

"Together with the additional capacity being brought online through EPSA 2, these measures demonstrate the national government's commitment to addressing the energy needs of Catanduanes and ensuring that residents, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other vital institutions receive a more stable electricity service," she added. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PHILHEALTH, PINALALAWIG ANG YAKAP AT GAMOT PROGRAM

Mas pinalakas pa ang Philhealth Regional Office IV-A ang kampanya nito para sa malawakan at abot kayang kalusugan sa pamamagitan ng puspusang pagpapatupad ng dalawang pangunahing programa: ang Yaman ng Kalusugan Program (YAKAP) at ang Guaranteed and Accessible Medications for Outpatient Treatment (GAMOT).

Ang hakbang na ito ay alinsunod sa pagsusulong ng Universal Health Care (UHC) Act upang matiyak na ang bawat Pilipino ay protektado laban sa mataas na gastusing medikal nang hindi na kinakailangan pang maospital.

Sa ilalim ng PHILHEALTH YAKAP, ang mga miyembro at kanilang mga dependents ay makakatanggap ng mga sumusunod na benepisyo sa kanilang napiling YAKAP clinic:

- Primary Care Check-up at assesment mula sa isang Primary Care Doctor ng napiling YAKAP Clinic.
- 13 Basic Outpatient Laboratory Tests:
 - 1.Complete Blood Count (CBC) with Platelet Count
 - 2.Lipid Profile
 - 3.Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS)
 - 4.Oral Glucose Tolerance Test (OGTT)
 - 5.Hemoglobin Test (HbA1c)
 - 6.Creatinine
 - 7.Chest X-Ray
 - 8.Sputum Microscopy
 - 9.Electrocardiogram (ECG)
 - 10.Urinalysis
 - 11.Pap Smear
 - 12.Fecalalysis
 - 13.Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT)

- 6 Uri ng Anti- Cancer Screening Test (para sa maagang pagtuklas ng sakit):

- 1.Breast Ultrasound
- 2.Mammography
- 3.Alpha Fetoprotein
- 4.Liver Ultrasound
- 5.Colonoscopy
- 6.Low-dose Chest CT-Scan

Sa ilalim naman ng programang GAMOT, may hanggang ₱20,000.00 halaga ng pangunahing gamot

Kada taon ang bawat miyembro, Sakop nito ang 54 na klase ng mahahalagang gamot Kabilang ang:

- 1.Anti-Infectious
- 2.Anti-Hypertensive & Cardiology

Saan maaaring magamit ang YAKAP at GAMOT sa Cavite, Laguna at Quezon?

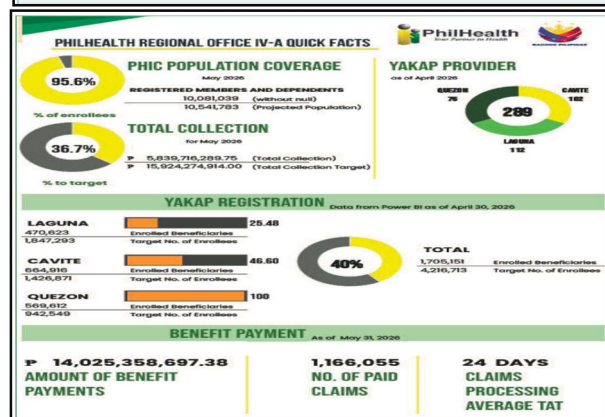
Narito ang lokasyon ng mga accredited YAKAP Clinics at GAMOT Package Provider sa Cavite, Laguna at Quezon:

YAKAP SERVICES MAPPIING

OTHER YAKAP SERVICES MAPPIING

I-check ang listahan ng mga gamot na maaari mong makuha sa GAMOT Provider sa inyong lugar:

CAVITE LAGUNA QUEZON



- 3.Nervous System
 - 4.Anti-Thrombotics
 - 5.Anti-Asthma & COPD
 - 6.Anti-Diabetics
 - 7.Anti-Dyslipidemia
- Samantalang ang 21 essential medicines ay makukuha sa napiling YAKAP clinic.

Upang masiguro na mararamdaman ng mga mamamayan sa Cavite, Laguna, at Quezon ang alaga ng Philhealth, patuloy ang proseso ng akreditasyon ng mga pasilidad sa buong rehiyon.

Sa kasalukuyan, mayroong 296 YAKAP providers sa Region 4A, kung saan 265 ay YAKAP-ready facilities na nakapag-comply na sa mga strict readiness requirements ng Philhealth.

Samantala, pinalawak na rin ang network ng mga partner pharmacies kung saan mayroon ng 223 Philhealth GAMOT Providers sa buong rehiyon na rehistrado at handang mag-dispense ng mga libreng gamot sa mga miyembro.

Para sa mapakinabangan ang programa, narito ang apat na Simpleng Hakbang:

- 1.Assignment: Magpa-Pumili at magpatala sa isang YAKAP Provider gamit ang eGovPH mobile app o sa pinakamalapit na Philhealth Local Health Insurance Office (LHIO).
- 2.First Patient Encounter

(FPE): Bumisita sa napiling YAKAP clinic para sa pagsusuri at pagtukoy ng tamang pangangalaga ng kalusugan.

3.Empanelment: Pagpirma ng YAKAP Empanelment Slip (YES) para sa pagtataguyod ng pormal na ugnayan o relasyon sa pagitan ng miyembro at ng napiling Primary Care Clinic (PCC).

4.Konsultasyon: Magpatingin sa YAKAP doktor ng clinic para mabigyan ng e-prescription kung kinakailangan gamot at laboratoryo/test.

5.Dispensing sa GAMOT Provider: Dalhin ang reseta sa alinmang accredited GAMOT pharmacy

Ang patuloy na pagdami ng mga Philhealth YAKAP at GAMOT facilities sa Region IV-A ay patunay ng dedikasyon ng ahensya na ilapit ang serbisyong medikal sa mga komunidad upang abawt pamilyang Pilipino ay manatiling "malayo sa sakit".

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon at listahan ng mga accredited YAKAP at GAMOT facilities sa inyong lugar, maaaring bisitahin ang opisyal na website ng Philhealth sa www.philhealth.gov.ph o magsadya sa pinakamalapit na Philhealth Local Health Insurance Office sa inyong lalawigan. **###(JDB)**

BIR GEARS UP FOR PROPOSED GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX REGIME

MANILA – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) has begun preparations for the possible implementation of the proposed Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax (QDMTT).

In a social media post on Thursday, the BIR said the QDMTT is a measure being pushed by the Department of Finance (DOF) to ensure that large multinational enterprise groups pay a minimum level of tax on income earned in the Philippines.

As part of its preparations, BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza met with the DOF's QDMTT team and the Fiscal Incentives Review Board on June 3 for a presentation of the key features and framework of the draft "Qualified Domestic Minimum Top-Up Tax of 2026" bill.

Discussions focused on tax administration considerations for the measure's implementation, including compliance, reporting, audit readiness and institutional capacity.

Among the key action points identified during the meeting were the conduct of specialized training programs for BIR personnel, the development of new tax forms and compliance mechanisms, and the establishment of organizational arrangements to support the administration of the proposed QDMTT.

"As global tax rules evolve, we have to make sure that income earned in the Philippines remains taxable in the Philippines. At this stage, our immediate priority is to build the capability of our personnel and prepare the systems, processes, and organizational structures needed to administer the proposed regime effectively," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said the BIR remains committed to working closely with the DOF in preparing for the proposed QDMTT regime as part of its Revenue Collection

and Revenue Base Protection agenda under BIR DARES, ensuring that the country's taxing rights are protected amid ongoing developments in international taxation.

Finance Assistant Secretary Euvimil Nina Asuncion said the DOF is pursuing the measure after receiving feedback from multinational enterprises operating in the Philippines.

"We have been informed that many of our multinationals would rather comply with the GMT domestically rather than comply with unfamiliar rules of other jurisdictions or pay top-up taxes abroad," Asuncion said.

"The primary considerations are simplifying domestic compliance and ensuring that implementation is strictly in accordance with the international standards," she added. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



EALA LOSES AGAIN TO JOVIC AT QUEEN'S CLUB

MANILA – Filipino Alexandra Eala bowed out of the WTA 500 HSBC Championships after a 2-6, 2-6 loss to sixth seed American Iva Jovic in the second round Wednesday night (Philippine time) at The Queen's Club in London.

The 21-year-old Eala defeated Chinese Zhang Shuai, 6-3, 6-2, in the first round.

She failed to sustain the momentum against Jovic, who is now 2-0 against the Filipino star, whom she defeated in the first round, 6-4, 6-2, at the French Open.

The world No. 19 Jovic, a quarterfinalist at this year's Australian Open, will

face the winner between second seed Amanda Anisimova and German Laura Siegemund.

Eala improved to WorldNo. 33 from No. 37 when she won the Birmingham Open last week. It was her first title on grass court and second WTA 125 crown



The Philippines' Alexandra Eala (WTA photo)

after the 2025 Guadalajara Open in Mexico.

In December last year, she bagged the gold medal at the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand, the Philippines' first in women's singles in 26 years. **(PNA)**

BY JEAN MALANUM

GOBOTHIA, RODA RETAIN STEEPLECHASE CROWNS IN TARLAC ATHLETICS MEET

MANILA – National steeplechasers Junel Gobothia and Jessa Mae Roda showed marked improvement from their previous meet to keep their titles at the ICTSI Philippine Athletics Championships at New Clark City Athletics Stadium in Capas, Tarlac on Independence Day Friday.

Gobothia took control in the last three laps of the men's 3,000-meter division en route to victory in nine minutes and 8.35 seconds.

Not to be outdone, Roda ran a tactical race before surging past national teammate Edna Magtubo in the last 100 meters to clinch top spot on the distaff side in 10:38.57.

Their times were faster than the 9:15.39 that Gobothia booked in securing silver and the 11:18.86 of Roda, who finished fifth, at the recent New Taipei City Athletics Open in Chinese Taipei.

Sharing the spotlight was national teammate Rica Balderama, carrying the colors of Far Eastern

University, who was eyeing a six-meter jump but had to settle for a personal best of 5.89 meters in the women's long jump.

"Buti mas maganda ito kaysa sa last takbo ko sa Taiwan kasi hinahabol namin ni coach Vertek (Buenavista) 'yung qualifying time para sa Asian Games na (It was better than my race in Taiwan because me and coach Vertek were after the qualifying time for the Asian Games of) 8:36.57," Gobothia said after securing his third gold in the country's premier trackfest organized by the Philippine Athletics Track and Field Association and co-presented by Philippine Sports Commission, Bases Conversion and Development Authority, and New Clark City.

Buenavista, a one-time Southeast Asian Games steeplechase winner and champion marathon runner, said he will endorse Gobothia and Roda for the 20th Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in September.

"Malakas din si Magtubo kaya nung makakita ako ng opportunity in the last 100 meters at may lakas pa, saka ko binuhos (Magtubo was strong so when I got an opportunity in the last 100 meters and I still felt strong, I went all out)," Roda, who clinched her third gold in the trackfest, said.

It was mixed emotions for the 22-year-old Balderama.

She rued that she was unable to leap at least six meters because she was seeking to represent the country in the inaugural Asian Under-23 Championships slated July 9 to 12 in Ordos, China. The qualifying distance is 6.30 meters.

Still, she was proud that she defended her title despite strong foreign opposition.

Singaporean Enya Chee settled for silver (5.79) while Malaysian Aliya Nasaruddin got bronze (5.76). **(PSC MEDIA/PNA)**

HEADING HEADS TNT FIGHTBACK VS. GINEBRA; FINALS SERIES TIED 2-2

MANILA – Jordan Heading came alive for TNT as he spearheaded a 106-98 win against Barangay Ginebra in Game 4 of the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals in front of 16,823 fans at Smart Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City on Wednesday night.

Heading nearly doubled his total output in the first three games of the best-of-seven series with 29 points off the bench, including 16 in the second quarter, on 11-of-20 field goals with 5-for-7 on threes. He also had six rebounds and eight assists.

"Jordan had a good shooting night and he really kept us in the ball game in the first half when (Chris) McCullough was struggling," coach Chot Reyes said after the Tropang 5G knotted the best-of-seven series anew at 2-2.

"It was a big game. We needed to come out and win this. That's really it," Heading added.

The rest of the Tropang 5G banked on their defense in the third quarter, holding the Gin Kings to just 15 points, to seize control.

"The combination of Jordan's shooting and the scoring of the local players outside McCullough, with our defense, kept us in the ball game," Reyes said.

Just like the prevalent pattern in the first three games, Ginebra had its chances in the clutch, especially when RJ Abarrientos drew them to within 98-104 through two free throws, 31 seconds left.

However, TNT got past Ginebra's full-court press, and Calvin Oftana iced the game with two free throws,

only 18 seconds to go.

McCullough added 24 points, 14 rebounds, five assists and two blocks.

Justin Brownlee, fresh from winning his fourth Best Import award, led the Gin Kings with 32 points on 10-of-17 shooting, five rebounds and five assists. Abarrientos, earlier named the Best Player of the Conference (BPC), added 21 points on 8-for-14 field goals, one rebound and four assists, but he was held to just four points in the second half.

Vote sweep

Brownlee and Abarrientos won the individual awards, primarily based on media and player votes.

The 6-foot-6 Brownlee stood taller again over his bigger opponents, winning his third Best Import award in the Commissioner's Cup via a landslide with 1,264 points, way ahead of second-placer Jaylen Johnson (888).

Brownlee was ranked number one in statistical points (SP) with 593.

At the same time, the media and players unanimously chose him as the top foreign recruit.

McCullough, despite

coming in for TNT only in Game 4 of the semifinals, was third with 690 points, while Pat Gardner, who was also brought in for Game 4 by Meralco, was fourth with 534.

Abarrientos won his first BPC also after securing a huge chunk of votes.

He gained his first BPC award after winning Rookie of the Year honors the previous year. He also became the fastest to achieve the feat (after five conferences) since Danny Seigle of San Miguel clinched the plum in just his third conference during his rookie season in 1999.

Despite placing third in the SP race, Abarrientos swept the first-place votes from the media and got a supermajority of first-place votes from the players, ending up with 1,147 points.

Robert Bolick of NLEX, who led the SP race, was second with 840 points, while 13-time winner June Mar Fajardo of San Miguel Beer was third with 573.

Phoenix's Ricci Rivero was fourth with 431 points, while Terrafirma's Jerrick Ahanmisi finished fifth with 421. **(PNA) BY IVAN STEWART SALDAJENO**



Barangay Ginebra's Best Import Justin Brownlee and Best Player of the Conference RJ Abarrientos (PBA Images)

UBAS DEFENDS HIGH JUMP TITLE AT ICTSI PH OPEN

MANILA – Janry Ubas defended the men's long jump title in the ICTSI Philippine Open at the New Clark City Athletic Stadium in Capas, Tarlac on Wednesday.

Ubas, a gold medalist at the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, registered a season best of 7.61 meters.

National teammate Francis Kent Jardin, who hails from Iloilo, bagged the silver on his last attempt at 7.41m.

"I got the season best on the first jump, so I'm happy because I only got 6.40 on my last jump in Singapore," said Ubas, who was born and raised in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental. He holds the national record of 8.08m in the long jump of the men's decathlon at the

2023 SEAG.

Earlier, Fil-Am runner Yacine Guermali clocked 14 minutes and 15.34 seconds to rule the men's 5000m for the third straight year.

"I was not really going for my record in the 5,000, but I think I made by best performance in the event since 2024, so I am glad," said Guermali, who set the national record of 13:33.43 at the Virginia Challenge in Charlottesville, Virginia last April 18.

The former Gonzaga University varsity standout said the main goal is a podium finish at the 20th Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in Japan in September before he decides on running in the 5,000m or his other pet event, the 1,500m.

"It all depends on the way how my body is doing because I am also good in the 1,500m. The two events are similar, but the Asian competition is very strong. Whether we go all in on one or compete in two events, we'll see," said Guermali.

National teammate Sonny Wagdos placed second (14:45.59) followed by Alfrenc Braza (14:58.06) of Spectrum Runners.

The other gold medalists were Sarah Dequinan (45.59m, women's javelin throw), Ilocos Norte's Arianna Dawn Rabi (10.89m, women's U18 shot put), and FEU's Anna Bianca Espenilla (45.96m, women's U20 javelin throw). **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**