

CAVITE GAZETTE

P U B L I S H I N G

VOL.2 NO.14

June 23-29, 2026

P20.00

MARAGONDON LGU FAST TRACKS EDUCATION INFRA CONSTRUCTION

MARAGONDON, Cavite (PIA) — Construction works for improving school facilities in the Municipality of Maragondon are in full swing to continue providing quality education to its growing student population.

Last June 16, Mayor Lawrence Arca led the inspection of the new access road that will connect Gulod, Barangay Garita B and Barangay San Miguel B.

Arca said the road construction project aims to help ease traffic

especially, benefiting commuting students with a shorter and safer travel time.

“Layunin ng proyektong ito na mabawasan ang mabigat na daloy ng trapiko lalo na sa ras ng pasukan at uwian ng ating mga mag-aaral, upang mas maging ligtas at maginhawa ang kanilang pagbiyahe araw-araw.”

Accompanied by Mhigs Mangoba and Leo Cargullo of the Department of Education (DepEd) District office, the local chief executive also led the

inspection of the 5,000 m2 lot the municipal government will donate for the construction of the new Maragondon National High School building.

In a statement, Arca assured that the municipal government will continue to improve school facilities crucial to the delivery of education services for the youth. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, Mayor Lawrence “Umbe” Arca/ Facebook) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**



BOOSTER FOR SAFETY AND EFFICIENCY: DOST CAVITE CONDUCTS 7S WORKPLACE TRAINING FOR YAN HU FOOD MANUFACTURING INC.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cavite recently conducted a comprehensive training session on “7S on Workplace Organization, Safety, and Continuous Improvement” tailored for the workforce of Yan Hu Food Manufacturing Inc. This technical assistance initiative aims to empower local enterprises by instilling systematic workplace standards that directly enhance operational efficiency, minimize safety hazards, and foster a culture of productivity within the manufacturing sector.

The capability-building seminar was spearheaded by Mr. Reniel Jan L. Alvarado, Science Research Specialist II from DOST Cavite. Serving as the primary resource speaker, Mr. Alvarado thoroughly discussed the critical role that the 7S methodology plays in transforming industrial workspaces. By breaking down the framework that was built upon the traditional Japanese 5S by incorporating explicit dimensions for Safety and Spirit/Sustain, he underscored how structural organization and strict safety protocols serve as the bedrock for long-term continuous improvement. The dedicated employees from Yan Hu Food Manufacturing Inc. actively participated in the intensive learning program. To ensure a deep understanding of the concepts, the training featured a rigorous curriculum consisting

of detailed discussion proper, interactive forum, and practical workshop activities. The efficacy of the session was systematically measured through pre-tests and post-tests, allowing the organizers to evaluate the participants' knowledge gain and readiness to implement these standard operating procedures. Through interactive open forums, the participants engaged in meaningful dialogue with the DOST representative, discussing real-world applications and strategies to overcome specific housekeeping and safety challenges in their actual production lines. Moving forward, the knowledge acquired from this DOST Cavite training is expected to optimize Yan Hu Food Manufacturing Inc.'s daily operations, ensuring a safer working environment and higher-quality outputs. **DOST CAVITE**

NOVELETA PNP LAUNCHES E-VEHICLE FLEET

NOVELETA, Cavite (PIA) – Law enforcement and environment conservation go hand in hand, especially in the Municipality of Noveleta where local police launched its brand new electric vehicles.

Last June 11, the Municipal Government formally turned over two (2) units of brand new electric vehicles to the Noveleta Municipal Police Station. Aside from the new police vehicles, the package includes drone, ammunition, and bulletproof vests for its personnel.

Mayor Davey Chua and Vice Mayor Dino Chua personally handed over the donation for the local police station.

In a statement, Chua underscored the municipal government's commitment to aid the Noveleta Municipal Police in their efforts to keep their town safe. Through the donation of electric vehicles, community patrols will become less costly and more sustainable.



“Turnover Ceremony para sa donation ng dalawang (2) brand new electric car sa PNP Noveleta para maging mas matipid at efficient ang pag papatrol ng ating masisipag na kapulisan. Kasabay rin nito ang turnover ng Drone, Bulletproof Vest, Handheld Radios at Ammunitions upang mas lalo pang mapalakas ang Peace and Order sa ating Mahal na Bayan ng Noveleta.”

As part of their efforts to help improve the patrolling capacity of the Noveleta Municipal Police, the Municipal Government also turned over additional

equipment including drone, bulletproof vests, handheld radios, and ammunition to further strengthen peace and order within the municipality.

The new equipment for Noveleta Police was personally received by PLt. Col. Rafael Torres of the Police Regional Office CALABARZON Regional Logistics and Research Division, and PLt. Col. Willy Salazar, Deputy Provincial Director for Cavite Provincial Police. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, Municipality of Noveleta/ Facebook) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

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LALAKI NA WANTED SA KASONG SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES, ARESTADO NG CAVITE PMFC

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – Matagumpay na naisagawa ng Cavite Provincial Mobile Force Company, bilang lead unit, katuwang ang Tagaytay Component City Police Station, ang pagkakaaresto sa isang Other Wanted Person sa ilalim ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation noong Hunyo 18, 2026 bandang 4:30 ng hapon sa Brgy. Pasong Langka, Silang, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL REDENTOR GONZAL TIRAÑA, Force Commander ng Cavite PMFC, ang akusado na si alyas “Gelo”, 24 taong gulang, at residente ng Silang, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inilabas ng Presiding Judge, Municipal Circuit Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Silang-Amadeo, Cavite, para sa kasong

Serious Physical Injuries, na may inirekomendang piyansa na PHP 30,000.00, noong Hunyo 9, 2026.

Bago isinailalim sa kustodiya, ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal alinsunod sa R.A. 7438 at Anti-Torture Law sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay pansamantalang dinala sa Cavite Mobile Force Company para sa dokumentasyon at tamang turnover sa Tagaytay Component City Police Station, habang ang warrant of arrest ay ibabalik sa korte na pinagmulan para sa kaukulang proseso.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, “Patuloy ang ating maigting na kampanya laban sa mga wanted persons upang mapanatili ang kaayusan at seguridad sa lalawigan ng Cavite.”

TWO STREET-LEVEL INDIVIDUALS, ARESTADO SA BUY-BUST OPERATION; SHABU AT BARIL NASAMSAM SA GMA, CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite – Matagumpay na naisagawa ng Municipal Drug Enforcement Team ng General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station sa ilalim ng koordinasyon ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency ang isang buy-bust operation na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng dalawang street-level individuals at pagkakasamsam ng ilegal na droga at baril noong Hunyo 17, 2026 bandang 6:15 ng hapon sa Brgy. Salud, GMA, Cavite.

Kinilala ang mga naarestong suspek bilang alyas “Kerker”, 32 taong gulang, na residente ng Brgy. Elises, GMA, Cavite; at alyas “bryan”, 21 taong

gulang, na residente ng Brgy. Poblacion 4, GMA, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon sa bisa ng PDEA Coordination na nagresulta sa pagkakakumpiska ng apat na pakete na naglalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang bigat na 0.50 grams na nagkakahalaga ng PHP 3,400.00, isang improvised na baril, isang bala ng caliber 9mm, dalawang piraso ng PHP 100.00 buy-bust money, at isang coin purse.

Ang aktwal na imbintaryo ng mga ebidensya ay isinagawa sa lugar ng operasyon sa presensya ng mga naarestong suspek, isang media representative, at Barangay Kagawad bilang

REGIONAL MOST WANTED PERSON IN RAPE CASE NABBED IN CARMONA OPERATION

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

– A Regional Level Most Wanted Person, known by the alias “Jester”, a resident of General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite, was arrested by operatives of Carmona Component City Police Station under the leadership of PLTCOL RENE JOY L MOSQUIZA, OIC, during a warrant of arrest operation in Brgy. Cabilang Baybay, Carmona City, Cavite, at about 2:55 in the afternoon on June 18, 2026.

The arrest was implemented by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for the crime of Rape under Article 266-A (1) in relation to Article 266-B of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act No. 11648. The warrant was issued by Hon. Niven Redillas Canlapan, Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 109, Carmona City, Cavite, dated December 5, 2024, with no bail recommended. The accused was informed of the nature of his arrest and apprised of his constitutional rights in accordance with Republic Act No. 7438 and the Anti-Torture Act in a language known and understood by him. The operation was properly documented through the use of an Alternative Recording Device, ensuring transparency and adherence to established police operational procedures.

The accused is presently under the custody of

required witnesses.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, na “Patuloy ang ating mahigpit na kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga at kriminalidad sa lalawigan ng Cavite upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa komunidad.”

Carmona CCPS pending the return of the warrant of arrest to the issuing court for proper disposition.

“Ang pagkakaaresto sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng ating kapulisan sa pagpapatupad ng batas. Ipinakikita nito ang ating matatag na paninindigan na walang sinuman ang makapagtatago sa pananagutan sa batas. Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating kampanya laban sa mga wanted na indibidwal upang matiyak ang kaligtasan at kapanatagan ng mamamayan sa buong lalawigan ng Cavite,” sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

FOUR DRUG SUSPECTS, INCLUDING THREE HIGH-VALUE INDIVIDUALS, NABBED IN BACOR CITY; PHP 81,600 WORTH OF SHABU SEIZED

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

– Four drug suspects, including three identified as High Value Individuals, were arrested by operatives of Bacoor Component City Police Station during a successful buy-bust operation conducted at around 9:30 in the evening on June 17, 2026, in Brgy. Kaingin Digman, Bacoor City, Cavite.

The arrested suspects were identified as alias “Mara”, “Ronnie”, “Richard” all High-Value Individuals and “John” street-level individual. The operation was carried out by the Drug Enforcement Team of Bacoor CCPS in coordination with PDEA.

During the operation, authorities confiscated six heat-sealed transparent plastic sachets containing white crystalline

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

– Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga operatiba ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation noong Hunyo 17, 2026 bandang 4:30 ng hapon sa Brgy. Pinagtipunan, General Trias City, Cavite. Kinilala ang akusado bilang si alyas “Jay”, 32 taong gulang, na residente ng General Trias City, Cavite.

Ayon sa ulat, isinagawa ang operasyon kaugnay ng warrant of arrest para sa kasong Murder na may petsang Pebrero 27, 2018, na inilabas ng Assisting

Judge, Regional Trial Court (RTC), Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 23, Trece Martires City, Cavite. Walang inirekomendang piyansa para sa naturang kaso.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay nasa kustodiya ng General Trias Custodial Facility, Brgy. Bagumbayan, General Trias City, Cavite habang hinihintay ang pagbabalik ng warrant sa hukuman at ang pag-isyu ng commitment order.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, “Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating manhunt operations upang matiyak na walang lugar na mapagtataguan ang mga taong umiiwas sa hustisya.”

substance suspected to be shabu, with an estimated weight of twelve grams and a standard drug price amounting to Php81,600.00. Also recovered were one five hundred peso bill used as buy-bust money, one Samsung keypad cellular phone, and one coin pouch.

The arrested suspects were informed of the nature of their arrest and were apprised of their constitutional rights in a language known and understood by them. The inventory and documentation of the confiscated evidence were conducted on-site and witnessed by the required representatives in accordance with existing laws and procedures.

The confiscated drug-related evidence will be

submitted to the Provincial Forensic Unit in Imus City, Cavite for qualitative and quantitative examination, while the arrested suspects remain under the custody of Bacoor PNP pending the filing of appropriate charges.

“Ang matagumpay na operasyong ito ay patunay ng ating patuloy na kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga. Hindi natin hahayaang makabalik sa kanilang iligal na gawain ang mga dati nang nasangkot sa paglabag sa batas. Patuloy nating palalakasin ang ating operasyon upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaligtasan ng bawat mamamayan sa Cavite,” sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO.

PGC BRINGS BACK SMILES THROUGH LIBRENG PUSTISO PROGRAM ACROSS CAVITE

The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to promote better oral health and improve the quality of life of Caviteños through its Libreng Pustiso Program, which has been conducted in several municipalities and cities across the province since March 2026.

Implemented through the provincial government's health initiatives, the program provides free dentures to qualified beneficiaries, helping restore their confidence, oral function, and overall well-being. The initiative included the initial assessment and fitting procedures, followed by the awarding of customized dentures to recipients.

A total of 709 beneficiaries from various localities have benefited from the program, including 103 from Indang, 102 from Naic, 140 from Tanza, 104

from the Trece Martires City, 155 from Silang, and 105 from General Mariano Alvarez (GMA).

The successful implementation of the Libreng Pustiso Program was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Provincial Government of Cavite, local government units, healthcare personnel, and community partners dedicated to advancing public health services.

Beyond restoring smiles, the Libreng Pustiso Program highlights the provincial government's continuing commitment to providing inclusive and responsive healthcare services that address the needs of every Caviteño. Through the initiative, the province remains steadfast in its goal of fostering healthier communities and enhancing the quality of life of its residents. — **OPIO**

128TH PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT AGUINALDO SHRINE

The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), in partnership with the local government of Kawit, and the Provincial Government of Cavite, led the 128th Independence Day celebration with the theme "Kalayaan, Kinabukasan, Kasaysayan" at the Aguinaldo Shrine.

The celebration opened with a parade participated in by civil society organizations, non-government organizations, and various community groups.

A wreath-laying ceremony was led by guest of honor Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla at the tomb of General Emilio Aguinaldo. He was joined by Kawit Mayor

Armie Aguinaldo, officials from the Philippine Navy, Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, and Ms. Gina C. Batuhan, Chief Historic Sites Development Officer of the NHCP, along with other government and civic leaders.

The program continued with a flag-raising ceremony held at the balcony of the Aguinaldo Shrine, a symbolic venue tied to Philippine independence history. The ceremony served as a powerful reminder of Cavite's central role in shaping the nation's history and identity. It also reinforced the importance of preserving historical landmarks as living witnesses to the country's past.

In his speech, Governor

CAVITE SERVICE CARAVAN HOLDS 4TH LEG IN CAVITE CITY, EXPANDS ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES

The Provincial Government of Cavite continued its commitment to bringing accessible and responsive public service closer to communities as the Cavite Service Caravan rolled out its fourth leg today, June 18, at the Montano Hall in Cavite City.

Led by Governor Abeng Remulla, the service caravan further strengthened the provincial government's dedication to inclusive and people-centered governance through the delivery of various frontline services directly to Caviteños.

The one-stop caravan gathered provincial offices, national government agencies, and partner organizations to provide a comprehensive range of programs and assistance aimed at addressing the immediate needs of residents, particularly those with limited access to government services.

Among the key services offered were free medical consultations, dental and oral health care, laboratory services such as ECG and fasting blood sugar tests, pharmacy assistance, and fluoride varnish application for children. Emergency medical support was likewise made available to ensure prompt response to health-related concerns. Employment and livelihood

Remulla emphasized the importance of reflecting on the nation's past to better face the future, stating, "Ang araw na ito ay isang panawagan sa ating lahat na isapuso at isadiwa ang tunay na kahulugan ng kalayaan upang maging mas handa tayo sa pagharap sa kinabukasan gamit ang mga dalang aral ng ating kasaysayan."

The celebration reminded everyone that independence is not only part of our history but also a responsibility we continue to uphold today. — **OPIO**

opportunities were also highlighted through job matching activities, career coaching sessions, and assistance from participating agencies including PhilHealth, TESDA, PSA, DTI, Pag-ibig Fund and Land Bank of the Philippines. Entrepreneurship support, cooperative assistance, and the promotion of local products through a trade fair formed part of the caravan.

Agricultural support services, including the distribution of vegetable seeds and seedlings, educational materials, and technical assistance for farmers and fisherfolk, were likewise extended during the activity.

Meanwhile, social welfare assistance, family planning counseling, legal aid services, and specialized support for persons with disabilities were made accessible to residents. Veterinary services such as anti-rabies vaccination, deworming, and free consultations for pets were also provided.

Digital literacy programs, internet connectivity services, and information dissemination booths further promoted awareness and accessibility of government programs among participants.

Joining Governor Remulla in the fourth leg of the caravan were Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, and Board Members Jygs Gandia and Romel Enriquez. They were warmly welcomed by Cavite City officials headed by Mayor Denver Chua, Vice Mayor Raleigh Rusit and members of the Sangguniang Panglungsod.

As the Cavite Service Caravan continues its province-wide rollout, the Provincial Government of Cavite remains steadfast in its mission to make government services more accessible, efficient, and responsive to the needs of every Caviteño. — **OPIO**

EDITORIAL

Inspirasyon VS. Panggagaya

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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



ANABELLE K. DUMALI
Publisher / Editor in Chief

JOHN RENNIEL K. DUMALI
Circulation Manager

BRYAN V. DE LUNA
Editor Consultant

JO-ANN K. ALCANTARA
Lay Out Artist/Special Project Coordinator

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

PH, GERMANY INK LEASE DEAL FOR CLARK AVIATION MAINTENANCE FACILITY

MANILA – The Philippines and Germany on Tuesday signed an aviation partnership aimed at developing a major aircraft maintenance facility at Clark International Airport in Pampanga.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier witnessed the presentation and exchange of the signed agreement in a ceremony held at Malacañan Palace in Manila after their bilateral meeting.

The lease agreement was signed by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, the Luzon International Premier Airport Development Corporation, and Lufthansa Technik Philippines (LTP).

The agreement covers a 157,000-square-meter site within the Clark airport complex.

The area will be used for the development of a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) support facility for aircraft.

Lufthansa Technik Philippines is one of the

country's largest aircraft maintenance providers and a joint venture involving Germany's Lufthansa Technik.

The project supports Clark's goal of becoming a major aviation and aerospace hub in Southeast Asia, attracting high-value investments and jobs.

LTP earlier expressed its intent to invest around USD400 million in a Clark MRO complex capable of servicing large aircraft, including the Airbus A380.

Germany is the Philippines' largest trading and investment partner within the European Union, while Lufthansa Technik is one of the most prominent German investors operating in the country.

Steinmeier's state visit to the Philippines signals the two nations' commitment to deepening their long-standing friendship based on mutual respect, shared values, and cooperation.

The last visit by a German president to the Philippines was in 1963. **(PNA) BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

JAPAN EXTENDS SATELLITE SUPPORT TO PH QUAKE RESPONSE

MANILA – Japan is extending continuous support to the Philippines' post-earthquake response through the provision of satellite imagery, the Japanese Embassy in Manila said Tuesday.

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck Maasim, Sarangani on June 8, killing 65 and causing massive damage to properties in the province and nearby areas.

Since June 9, the Japanese Embassy said the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has been providing emergency observation and satellite images of the situation in southern Mindanao.

"Japan will continue to work closely with the Philippines to support its early recovery from the damages caused by the earthquake," it said.

The images provided were taken by JAXA's Advanced Land Observing Satellite-2/4 through the international cooperation framework of Sentinel Asia.

Sentinel Asia was established in 2006 by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum

(APRSF) as a global framework that allows the sharing of images from Earth observation satellites and other sources in the event of a disaster.

The APRSAF, led by Japan, with JAXA serving as the secretariat, is composed of 127 space and disaster management organizations. **(PNA) BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

NACC URGES PUBLIC TO CHAMPION LEGAL ADOPTION TO SAFEGUARD CHILDREN

MANILA – The executive director of the National Authority for Child Care (NACC), an attached agency of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), has called on the public to champion legal adoption to safeguard the best interest of neglected, abandoned, orphaned, and surrendered children.

"You need to go through that (legal adoption) process kasi nga ang ginagawa ng iba, ay dini-diretso sa birth certificate, pini-fake nila yung (because others are faking the) birth certificate by making it appear that they are the birth parents, but that process has nothing in it for the child. Kailangan talaga ampunin natin nang tama ang ating mga bata (They really need to adopt the child in the right way)," Undersecretary Maria Gabriela Concepcion said in a forum at the DSWD Central Office on Thursday. She explained that the

"We expect the situation in the Middle East and in the Persian Gulf will stabilize, which will have a positive effect, among others, on global energy and food markets," he said.

As ASEAN Chair, Marcos reiterated the Philippines' commitment to strengthening ASEAN centrality and ensuring that engagements with external partners contribute to regional peace, stability and prosperity.

The ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit also adopted a Joint Statement and Concept Paper on Energy Cooperation aimed at expanding collaboration in the energy sector between Russia and Southeast Asian nations. **(PNA) BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**

GSIS TO LAUNCH STEM GRANTS FOR MEMBERS' CHILDREN

MANILA – A new subsidy program for qualified children of active members pursuing college degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) will be launched this month, the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) said Tuesday.

The GSIS Subsidy for STEM Program will provide PHP15,000 per academic year to each qualified grantee to help

cover education-related expenses.

In a news release, GSIS said the program is open to children of active members with permanent employment status, Salary Grade 15 and below, and updated premium payments for the last three months.

Eligible nominees must be incoming first-time college freshmen with a general weighted average of at least 90 percent in senior high school and must be enrolled in identified STEM degree programs.

GSIS allotted 1,000 slots nationwide, with 20 percent reserved for applicants from special sectors, including Indigenous Peoples, solo parent families, persons with disabilities, and other qualified groups.

"Katulad ng Pangulo, naniniwala ang GSIS na ang edukasyon ay isa sa pinakamahalagang puhunan para sa kinabukasan ng ating bansa (Like the President, GSIS believes education is one of the most important investments for the future of our country)," GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso said.

Veloso said the program seeks to help children of GSIS members become the next generation of scientists, engineers, technologists, and innovators who will contribute to national development.

The GSIS will conduct a nationwide orientation for its assigned coordinators on program guidelines, requirements, application procedures, and the selection process to ensure smooth implementation. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

The law's enactment encourages individuals who resorted to birth simulation with the intention of protecting and providing for a child's welfare to come forward without fear of prosecution.

It establishes a legal process that allows them not only to correct the simulated birth record but also to formally recognize and legalize the existing parent-child relationship.

Concerned individuals may file a Petition for Administrative Adoption with Application for Rectification of Simulated Birth Record with their respective Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) until March 29, 2029. **(PNA) BY ZALDY DE LAYOLA**

MARCOS, PUTIN PUSH ENERGY SECURITY, DEEPER ASEAN-RUSSIA COOPERATION

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday underscored the importance of energy security, food security and economic cooperation as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Russia marked 35 years of dialogue relations during the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit.

Speaking at a joint press briefing after co-chairing the summit, Marcos said leaders discussed practical areas of cooperation that would benefit both Southeast Asia and Russia amid continuing global uncertainties.

"Today, ASEAN and the Russian Federation commemorate 35 years of dialogue relations and we affirm our shared commitment to a partnership that remains constructive, forward-looking, and responding to the evolving needs of our people," Marcos said.

He said ASEAN leaders and Putin exchanged views on strengthening

cooperation in peace and security, trade and investment, food and energy security, science and technology, and people-to-people exchanges.

The Philippine leader highlighted the adoption of key outcome documents, including the Kazan Declaration 2026 and the ASEAN-Russia Comprehensive Plan of Action 2026-2030, which will serve as the roadmap for future engagement between the regional bloc and Moscow.

"These documents provide a comprehensive roadmap for expanding practical cooperation and delivering tangible results and benefits to our peoples in the years to come," he said.

Energy cooperation emerged as one of the summit's major themes as leaders grappled with volatile global fuel markets and supply disruptions linked to geopolitical tensions.

Putin said ASEAN member-states and Russia agreed on the

need to deepen economic cooperation, diversify trade and strengthen energy partnerships.

"Russia offers increased exports in ASEAN states of products with high added value, including fertilizers and medicines. Naturally, we'll continue to supply our Asian friends with food and energy, which are very high in demand," Putin said.

He also highlighted Russia's readiness to cooperate with ASEAN countries in developing peaceful nuclear energy programs through state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom.

The summit comes as governments worldwide continue to monitor energy markets following tensions in the Middle East and disruptions affecting global oil supplies.

Putin said ASEAN and Russia welcomed efforts to ease tensions in the region amid the reported peace agreement between the United States and Iran, expressing hope that stability would help normalize global energy and food markets.

DA-ATI CALABARZON, TULOY ANG SUPOORTA SA ASPIRING PGS GROUPS TUNGO SA ORGANIC CERTIFICATION AT ACCREDITATION



Upang matiyak ang tagumpay ng mga lokal na magsasaka sa organikong agrikultura, muling nagsagawa ang DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON, katuwang ang DA-Regional Field Office IV-A, ng isang masinsinang Coaching and Mentoring (C&M) Sessions for Aspiring Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Groups noong Hunyo 10-11, 2026, sa pamamagitan ng online platform na Zoom.

Ang dalawang araw na gawin ay dinaluhan ng mga miyembro ng tatlong nagnanais na maging sertipikadong PGS Core Groups sa rehiyon: ang Samahan ng Magsasaka ng Tayabas sa Yamang Organiko (SAMATAYO) PGS Group mula sa Tayabas City, Quezon; ang Sto. Tomas-Tanauan PGS Group mula sa Sto. Tomas City at Tanauan City, Batangas; at ang MARIWSKA PGS Group mula sa Antipolo City, Rizal.

Bahagi ang hakbang na ito ng serye ng mga tuloy-tuloy na interbensyon ng DA-ATI CALABARZON at DA-RFO IV-A na nagsimula pa noong 2023 sa pamamagitan ng Training of Trainers (TOT) on PGS, at ang pagsailalim ng mga naturang grupo sa paunang C&M sessions noong nakaraang taon bilang paghahanda sa ginawang Pre-Inspection ng DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS).

Kasunod ng mga inilabas na findings at mga rekomendasyon ng DA-BAFS matapos ang kanilang pre-inspection, muling nag-organisa at tumugon ang DA-ATI CALABARZON sa pangangailangan ng tatlong grupo na magkaroon ng panibagong

C&M sessions upang tuluyan silang maihanda sa paparating na Final Inspection. Nagsilbing mga eksperto at gabay sa dalawang araw na sesyon sina G. Arnaldo Gonzales, RAGR, mula sa DA-RFO IV-A; at Bb. Karina Andrea Alforte mula sa ARTFarm Sustainable Solutions, na kasalukuyan ding Kalihim ng Samahan ng Organikong Industriya ng Laguna (SOIL)—isang matagumpay at akreditadong PGS Group sa Laguna.

Sa aktibidad, binigyang-diin ng mga mentor ang mga kritikal na aspeto ng paghahanda para sa pagbisita ng DA-BAFS tulad ng peer review and certification protocols, certification checklist, maayos na PGS recordkeeping at traceability, at ang pagpapatatag ng PGS group dynamics.

Samantala, ipinaabot naman ni Center Director Dr. Rolando Maningas, RAGR, ang kanyang taos-pusong pasasalamat sa mga kalahok at naghatid ng pagbati para sa tagumpay ng tatlong grupo. Binigyang-diin niya na naipagkaloob na ng pamahalaan ang lahat ng kinakailangang pagsasanay, kaalaman, at teknikal na paggabay, kaya naman katuwang ang DA-RFO IV-A, lubos ang pag-asa ng DA-ATI CALABARZON na bago matapos ang taong 2026 ay tuluyan nang makakamit ng SAMATAYO, Sto. Tomas-Tanauan, at MARIWSKA ang kanilang opisyal na sertipikasyon at akreditasyon bilang mga lehitimong PGS Core Groups.

Ang PGS ay isang inklusibo at abot-kayang mekanismo sa ilalim ng Republic Act 11511 na naglalayong bigyang-kapangyarihan ang mga

PH OPEN TO FUTURE VISITING FORCES-LIKE PACT WITH GERMANY

MANILA — President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Tuesday expressed openness to a future Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA)-like arrangement with Germany as Manila and Berlin continue to deepen defense and security cooperation.

Speaking during a joint press conference with visiting German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in Malacañang, Marcos said the Philippines would "very warmly" entertain such a possibility if both countries eventually decide it is necessary.

"Well, why not? We probably, in reality, we're still a long way off, but we are actually increasing our engagement, especially in the military, and in the defense and security areas," Marcos said.

"Perhaps when the time comes, certainly that would be something that the Philippines will be very, very open to. I cannot see any disadvantage to that."

Marcos said the increasingly volatile geopolitical environment highlights the need for countries to strengthen partnerships and broaden alliances.

"With the volatility that is happening in the geopolitical world right now, the best path to stability is to have partnerships, is to have a wide base of alliances," he said.

The President said no single country can shape global developments on its own, making multilateral cooperation increasingly important.

"If the VFA is, if we take to an agreement and we feel that it's time to have it, the Philippines will certainly entertain that possibility very warmly," Marcos said.

The remarks came as Marcos hosted Steinmeier during the German leader's state visit to the Philippines, the first by a German head of state in 63 years.

Both leaders discussed defense, maritime

maliliit na magsasaka sa Pilipinas sa pamamagitan ng aktibong partisipasyon ng komunidad sa pagpapanatili ng integridad ng mga organikong produkto.

ULAT NI : SOLEDAD E. LEAL

cooperation, trade and investment, renewable energy, climate action, and regional security issues.

The Philippines currently maintains visiting forces arrangements with key defense partners such as the United States, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, France and Canada.

Defense agreements like these provide the legal framework governing foreign troops temporarily conducting activities within Philippine territory.

The 1987 Philippine Constitution prohibits foreign troops from establishing permanent military bases in the country or conducting military activities without a treaty duly concurred in by the Philippine Senate. **(PNA) BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**

INFRA DAMAGE FROM SARANGANI QUAKE CLIMBS TO P1.36-B

MANILA — The amount of damage to infrastructure caused by the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that rocked Maasim, Sarangani and nearby provinces on June 8 has climbed to PHP1.36 billion, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Friday.

This is significantly higher than the PHP1.29 billion reported on June 17, according to the disaster response body's latest situation update.

The NDRRMC said these were incurred in Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, Soccsksargen, and the

Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

The earthquake damaged a total of 799 various infrastructure facilities.

Meanwhile, the number of damaged houses in all four regions was placed at 61,119, while 13,691 were destroyed.

Casualties being verified remain at 78 deaths, 1,339 injured, and 32 missing, all concentrated in the Davao Region and Soccsksargen.

The NDRRMC said these figures are still subject to change due to validation or verification. **(PNA) BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

PAGPAPAPATAAS NG KITA SA PAGPIPINYA, LAYON NG PAGSASANAY NG DA-ATI CALABARZON

Mas naging handa ang mga kalahok na tuklasin ang iba't ibang oportunidad sa industriya ng pinya matapos matagumpay na makumpleto ng 30 kalahok ang Training on Pineapple Production, Postharvest Handling, and Processing na isinagawa mula Hunyo 1 hanggang 4, 2026.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagsasanay, nabigyan sila ng mahahalagang kaalaman at kasanayan sa produksyon, wastong postharvest handling, at pagpoproseso ng pinya upang mapahusay ang

kalidad ng kanilang mga produkto, mabawasan ang pagkalugi, at makalikha ng mga produktong may mas mataas na halaga.

"Ang mga kaalamang naibahagi sa akin at sa aking mga kasama ay sobrang laking tulong. Dahil ang bawat kaalaman na aking napulot sa pagsasanay na ito ay maipapaabot ko pa sa ating kapwa mga magsasaka para mas mapaunlad ang produksyon at mas mapayabong pa ang pagproseso sa mga pinya, lalo na at ang aming bayan

ay talagang nakapag-umpisa na sa paggawa ng mga produkto na gawa sa pinya," ani Ronald Pujeda, kalahok na agricultural extension worker (AEW) mula sa Panukulan, Quezon.

Dumalo sa programa ng pagtatapos si Dr. Rolando Maningas, RAGR, Center Director ng DA-ATI CALABARZON, kung saan hinikayat niya ang mga kalahok na gamitin at ibahagi ang kanilang mga natutunan upang makatulong sa pagpapalawak ng mga oportunidad sa kabuhayan at pagpapaunlad ng industriya ng pinya sa kanilang mga komunidad.

Bilang pagkilala sa kanilang propesyonal na pag-unlad, ang mga rehistradong agrikultur na lumahok sa pagsasanay ay nakatanggap din ng siyam (9) na Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units. **ULAT NI: ARCHIE LINSASAGIN**



TAGUMPAY SA BAWAT SANDOK NG SORBETES

Isa ang sorbetes sa mga paboritong panghimagas ng maraming pamilyang Pilipino. Para sa iba, hindi lang ito simpleng matamis na pagkain kundi isang paraan para makapagpahinga at makagaan ng pakiramdam, lalo na tuwing mainit ang panahon.

Sa Valencia, Bukidnon, kilala sina Sherilyn at Mario Donque bilang mag-asawang nagtitinda ng sorbetes. Mula nang ikasal noong 2005, ang kanilang maliit na negosyo ang naging pangunahing pinagkukunan nila ng kabuhayan. Sa pagdaan ng mga taon, hindi lamang kita ang naibigay nito sa kanilang pamilya kundi pati tibay ng loob at pag-asang magpatuloy sa buhay.

Pagtatagpo na naging simula ng pangarap

Katatapos pa lamang ng hayskul ni Sherilyn nang magpasya siyang umalis ng kanilang bahay upang magtrabaho sa Cebu. Isang taon siyang naging kasambahay bago siya inimitahan ng isang malapit na kaibigan na magbakasyon sa Bukidnon.

Doon niya nakilala si Mario Donque, ang lalaking kalaunan ay naging kaniyang asawa. Habang tumatagal, mas lalong lumalim ang kanilang samahan hanggang sa tuluyan silang nagpakasal at bumuo ng sariling pamilya.

Bago pa man sila magkakilala, mayroon nang maliit na negosyong sorbetes si Mario. Natutuhan niya ito mula sa isang kamag-anak at kalaunan ay ginawa niyang hanapbuhay. Nang magsama sila ni Sherilyn, mas lalo nilang pinaghusayan ang negosyo hanggang sa ito ang naging sandigan ng kanilang pamilya.

Araw-araw, alas-nuwebe ng umaga nagsisimulang magtinda si Mario at kadalasan ay alas-sais na ng gabi kung umuwi. Pagdating niya sa bahay, naghahanda naman silang mag-asawa ng panibagong batch ng sorbetes para sa susunod na araw. Ito na ang naging bahagi ng kanilang pang-araw-araw

na pamumuhay.

Habang naglalako si Mario, si Sherilyn naman ang nag-aasikaso sa kanilang tahanan at naghahanda ng mga sangkap para sa kanilang mga produkto. Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan at sipag, unti-unti nilang naitaguyod ang kanilang kabuhayan at natustusan ang pangangailangan ng kanilang pamilya.

Tulad ng ibang negosyo, dumaraan din sila sa mga panahong matumal ang benta, lalo na kapag tag-ulan. Ngunit para kina Sherilyn at Mario, bahagi na iyon ng pagnenegosyo. May mga araw na maganda ang kita at mayroon ding mahina, pero hindi sila nawalan ng ganang magpatuloy.

“Para sa akin, importante talaga na may negosyo kasi magagamit mo yung income sa iba’t ibang pangangailangan ng pamilya mo,” ani Sherilyn. Dagdag puhunan, dagdag pag-asang

Noong 2019, naging kliyente si Sherilyn ng CARD, Inc. (A Microfinance NGO) upang magkaroon

ng dagdag puhunan para sa kanilang negosyo. Simula noon, nakatulong ang institusyon sa kanila tuwing kinakapos sila sa pondo para sa produksyon ng sorbetes.

Sa kasalukuyan, ginagamit ni Sherilyn ang kaniyang PhP 50,000 loan mula sa institusyon upang bumili ng mga pangunahing sangkap para sa kanilang negosyo. Bukod dito, nagamit din nila ang mga naunang loan para mapaayos ang kanilang bahay.

Sa mga susunod na taon, hangad ng mag-asawa na patuloy pang lumago ang kanilang negosyo. Hindi man nila inaasahang biglang lalaki ito nang husto, masaya sila na nakikita itong unti-unting umuunlad sa maayos at tuloy-tuloy na paraan.

Para kina Sherilyn at Mario, bawat sandok ng sorbetes ay hindi lamang dagdag kita kundi simbolo rin ng kanilang sipag, pagtutulungan, at pag-asang mabigyan ng mas magandang buhay ang kanilang pamilya. **NI JOSEPHINE RAMOS,**



Magkatabi at may pagmamalaking nakatayo sina Sherilyn at Mario Donque sa tabi ng kanilang simpleng ice cream cart, na nagsisilbing pangunahing pinagkukunan ng kanilang kabuhayan. Patunay ito na sa pamamagitan ng sipag at pagtutulungan, nagagawa nilang unti-unting iangat ang kanilang pamumuhay.

ENCHANTED KINGDOM CONTINUES TO CHAMPION EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY IN ITS 12TH YEAR OF SUPPORTING BRIGADA ESKWELA

Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, reaffirmed its longstanding partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) in its 12th year of supporting Brigada Eskwela through the turnover of its 15th adopted kindergarten classroom to Sinalhan Elementary School in Santa Rosa, Laguna on June 5.

Brigada Eskwela is an annual nationwide school maintenance program that mobilizes stakeholders to contribute their time, efforts, and resources in ensuring all public schools are prepared for the opening of classes. This year's theme is “Bayanihan Para sa Paaralan: Nagkakaisa Para sa Kaayusan at Kaalaman,” which also aligns with EK's Education Program that aims to provide a fun, safe, and magical learning environment for students.

As part of this initiative, EK tapped its maintenance team to repair and upgrade the adopted classroom's fixtures, while artists turned the walls into a vibrant mural featuring its Storyverse characters and the rich biodiversity of Philippines, including some of the endemic species highlighted in its award-winning attraction, AGILA The EKsperience: SARIBUHAY. The mural also highlighted EK's five core values and ways to promote environmental responsibility among young learners.

In addition to this, the Santa Rosa-based theme park revitalized the school garden, Taniman Para sa Paaralan, where they cultivated a variety of vegetables and ornamental plants.

EK Chairman and President Cesar Mario O. Mamon expressed EK's push to expand their reach in Brigada Eswela and deliver more enchanting and educational experiences through sustained partnerships and community engagement. “As Enchanted Kingdom celebrates its 30th year,

we continue to uphold our commitment to nurturing young minds as we extend our active participation in Brigada Eskwela in the years to come. We also look forward to further strengthening our partnership with DepEd and the City of Santa Rosa across their programs,” Mr. Mamon said.

The turnover ceremony was graced by Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas and Vice Mayor Arnold Arcillas, along with Schools Division Superintendent (SDS) for Santa Rosa, Hereberto Jose Miranda, CESO VI; Barangay Sinalhan Chairman Ladislao Alicbusan; Sinalhan Elementary School Principal II Benjamin Ongteco Jr.; teachers; parents; and

students.

Beyond this, EK further enriches its in-park experiences through experiential learning under its Education Program, which guests can enjoy alongside its signature rides and attractions during the Park's operating hours from Friday to Sunday, 1PM to 8PM. Starting June 29, EK will also return its magical park hours from 11AM to 8PM every Friday to Sunday.

For more information and updates on this and EK's other events and offerings, visit <https://www.enchantedkingdom.ph> and EK's official social media accounts @enchantedkingdom.ph for Facebook and TikTok, and @ek_philippines for Instagram.



MPTC PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE DRIVING THROUGH MISSION ROAD SAFETY BIYAHERO CARAVAN

Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), together with its subsidiaries NLEX Corporation and MPT South, reinforced its commitment to safer roads by bringing together national government agencies, local government units, transport groups, and private sector partners for the “Mission Road Safety BiyaHero Caravan.” The program aims to enhance the practical skills, safety alertness, and responsible driving culture of drivers and operators.

Held at One Ayala in Makati City and Victory Plaza in Caloocan City, the caravan brought together 284 jeepney, UV express, and bus drivers from 42 transport organizations and companies for learning sessions and interactive activities focused on road safety.

“At MPTC, safety remains at the core of everything we do. Through programs like the BiyaHero Road Safety Caravan, we aim to further equip drivers with the knowledge they need to make safer decisions on the road. While protocols and systems are in place to enhance road safety, achieving safer journeys requires the shared responsibility and cooperation of all road users,” said MPTC Chief Operations and Maintenance Officer West Dionisio.

Participants also benefited from free eye screenings and prescription eyeglasses, while Easytrip representatives provided on-site assistance for RFID installation and transaction concerns.

The road safety caravan was conducted in partnership with the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the Department of Health (DOH), the Road Safety Division of the Provincial Government of Cavite, the Public Safety and Traffic Management Department of the City Government of Caloocan, One Ayala, and Victory Plaza.

“Kami po sa government ay kaisa ninyo sa pag-maintain ng disiplinang at kaligtasan sa kalsada. Bilang mga professional drivers po, palagi po nating isipin na aalis tayo para maghanapbuhay para sa ating mga pamilya, kaya palagi nating siguraduhing ligtas tayong uuwang sa kanila. Para po masiguro ito, kailangan natin ng disiplinang, pasensyang, at awareness sa kalsada,” said TRB Regulation

Division Chief Joz Carlos Ordillano.

A key session facilitated by TRB Regulation Division Chief Joz Carlos Ordillano tackled common traffic violations among buses, trucks, public utility vehicles (PUVs), and motorcycles — these include speeding, improper lane use, unsafe overtaking, tailgating, distracted driving, and overloading. He also highlighted how some driving habits, while often considered routine, can create safety risks for motorists and commuters alike.

To make learning more engaging, participants took part in a driving simulator experience, drunk goggles challenge, and an interactive road safety quiz.

“Maraming salamat po sa pamunuan ng MPTC sa pag-oorganisa ng BiyaHero Caravan. Marami po kaming mga bagong natutunan at napaka-lively ng mga activities. Marami kaming natutunan sa mga lectures ng mga resource speakers,” said transport company United Twelve Corporation President Rizalino Villaraza.

Beyond the caravan, MPTC continues to promote road safety through its year-round Mission Road Safety program, which includes the Usapang Driver seminar for partner companies and transport groups, Kaligtasan sa Daan (KaSaDa) initiative for partner communities and neighboring barangays, and Cebu Cordova Link Expressway Corporation’s (CCLEC) Istorya Ta Bai! advocacy program, which encourages safe driving habits and awareness of CCLEX’s safety features.

MPTC also continues to amplify road safety messages through the digital platforms of NLEX Corp., MPT South, and CCLEC, reaching motorists with information on proper expressway driving, traffic regulations, vehicle roadworthiness, and travel preparedness.

Through the years, MPTC has institutionalized its multi-stakeholder road safety initiatives across its expressways network in Luzon and Visayas— NLEX, SCTEX, NLEX Connector, CALAX, CAVITEX, CAVITEX C5 Link, and CCLEX — earning recognition from both local and international organizations.

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PSEI REBOUNDS ON IMPROVED GLOBAL SENTIMENT; PESO WEAKENS

MANILA – The local stock market rebounded on Thursday amid improving investor sentiment over reports of a possible peace deal between the United States and Iran, while the Philippine peso weakened against the US dollar.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) gained 0.64 percent, or 39.09 points, to close at 6,153.66, while the broader All Shares index rose 0.35 percent to 3,393.41.

Three of the six sectoral indices ended in positive territory, led by Services, which surged 2 percent. Property advanced 1.72 percent and Holding Firms, 0.11 percent.

Meanwhile, Mining and Oil declined 2.87 percent, followed by Financials at 0.68 percent and Industrials at 0.27 percent.

Trading volume reached 447.17 million shares valued at PHP7.15 billion. Decliners outnumbered advancers, 100 to 82, while 56 issues were unchanged.

“The Philippine market ended in positive territory, recovering from yesterday’s broad-based sell-off, supported by improved investor sentiment following reports of a peace deal between the US and Iran,” said

Luis Limlingan, head of sales at Regina Capital Development Corp.

“Gains were sustained for most of the session, although selective profit-taking emerged in the afternoon, particularly among interest rate-sensitive stocks.”

Limlingan noted that the market’s performance came even as investors weighed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas’ (BSP) latest policy move and reassessed sectors vulnerable to higher borrowing costs.

Earlier in the day, the BSP’s policy-making Monetary Board raised the central bank’s key policy rates by 25 basis points, citing rising inflationary pressures driven by elevated fuel and food prices.

Meanwhile, the peso depreciated to 60.56 against the US dollar from 60.39 on Wednesday.

The local currency opened at 60.60 compared to the previous day’s opening level of 60.24, and traded within a range of 60.41 to 60.65, bringing the average for the day to 60.53.

Volume slipped to USD1.62 billion from USD1.65 billion a day earlier. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

GOV'T RECORDS BIGGEST SHARE IN 2025 HEALTH CARE FINANCING –PSA

MANILA – Government and compulsory contributory health care financing schemes accounted for the largest share of the country’s current health expenditure (CHE) in 2025, contributing 46.5 percent of the total, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In a report released Thursday, the PSA said household out-of-pocket payments made up 41.2 percent of CHE, while voluntary health care payment schemes accounted for 12.3 percent.

Meanwhile, the country’s total health expenditure

(THE) reached PHP1.87 trillion at current prices in 2025, up 15.1 percent from PHP1.63 trillion in 2024.

The PSA said THE was equivalent to 6.7 percent of the country’s gross domestic product in 2025.

Current health expenditure accounted for 92.5 percent of total health expenditure during the year, while health capital formation expenditure comprised the remaining 7.5 percent.

On a per capita basis, health spending rose to PHP15,223 in 2025, representing a 14-percent increase from PHP13,356 in 2024, the PSA added. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



MPTC NLEX SCTEX NLEX CONNECTOR CAVITEX CALAX





GINEBRA ENDS 'TNT CURSE,' WINS PBA COMMISSIONER'S CUP TITLE

MANILA – Ginebra ended the TNT curse, outlasting the Tropang 5G, 88-76, in Game 7 of the PBA Season 50 Commissioner's Cup finals in front of 24,617 fans at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City on Wednesday night.

It was the franchise's first title since a record 54,589-strong crowd at Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan watched Ginebra turn back Bay Area, 114-99, in the Commissioner's Cup finals Game 7 in January 2023.

Since that championship three years ago, the Gin Kings lost to the Tropang 5G thrice in the finals -- Season 49 Commissioner's Cup, and Season 47 and Season 49 Governors' Cup finals.

Best Import awardee Justin Brownlee led Ginebra with 30 points and 14 rebounds in the clincher, including 16 points in the second half to fuel a 48-29 run that erased a 49-47 halftime deficit.

Brownlee scored 54 (Game 5) and 52 (Game 6) points in earlier games.

"These beautiful fans, they gave us the energy to go out there and win," Brownlee said. "We were down and TNT gave us a battle. But as coach Tim kept telling us, 'this is our time.'"

"Stephen Holt said it before the series started, 'this is our time.' And it was our time."

The win gave Brownlee his seventh PBA championship.

"Ten years ago I would never have thought I'd be still playing at 38 years old and winning championships," Brownlee said. "But these fans, they give me the energy to go out there play for them, play for my family and give my best."

Scottie Thompson finished with 19 points, 11 rebounds and 8 assists and was named Finals Most Valuable Player (MVP) by the PBA Press Corps.

"Ito yata 'yung pinaka-emotional na panalo ko ng finals MVP kasi (This is probably my most

emotional finals MVP win because it is) unexpected. I've been battling through ups and downs," Thompson said.

Best Player of the Conference RJ Abarrientos added 13 points to win his first PBA title.

TNT was led by import Chris McCullough's 28 points. Jordan Heading scored 21 and RR Pogoy had 15.

The scores: GINEBRA 88 — Brownlee 30, Thompson 19, Abarrientos 13, Rosario 13, J. Aguilar 7, Pinto 6, Gray 0, Holt 0, Cu 0.

TNT 76 — McCullough 28, Heading 21, Pogoy 15, Oftana 5, Aurin 4, Nambatac 3, Galinato 0, Khobuntin 0, Williams 0.

Quarters: 18-16; 40-47; 68-63; 88-76 (**PBA/PNA**)



Barangay Ginebra, PBA Season 50 Commissioner's Cup champion (PBA Images)

CASUGA, PILAC MARCH TO ELITE JUNIOR PGT FINALS

MANILA – Jacob Casuga and Quincy Pilac advanced to the Elite Junior PGT Finals despite finishing second in their respective divisions at the ICTSI Eagle Ridge Junior PGT Championship in General Trias, Cavite Thursday.

Casuga and Pilac secured enough ranking points in the 11-17 category to claim

the fourth and final Luzon berths to the North vs. South Finals set Aug. 17 to 20 at Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club.

Casuga fired a 75 for a 151 total, behind Chan Anh, who won the title with a 148 total after a 76.

Ryuji Suzuki was third with a 74 for 153, while overnight leader Javie

Bautista shot an 83 for fourth at 154.

Casuga collected 30 points, tying Suzuki for fourth overall but claiming the last Finals seat via tiebreak. He joins Anh, Vito Sarines and Bautista on the North squad.

Meanwhile, Pilac delivered a clutch closing 72 for a 150 total in the girls

EALA STUNS WORLD NO. 2 RYBAKINA TO REACH BERLIN OPEN QUARTERFINALS

MANILA – Filipino wild card Alexandra Eala kept her winning form at the Berlin Open, pulling off a 7-5, 6-4 upset over World No. 2 Elena Rybakina to reach the quarterfinals of the WTA 500 event on the grass of the Steffi Graf Stadium in Germany on Thursday (Friday, Manila time).

"I'm still shaking, and I was shaking on match point, too. But I'm really happy with today, of course. It could have gone either way. I think there were really tight moments in both sets, and she's an amazing player. She's the one to beat, so I'm happy to have been able to share the court with her again," said the 21-year-old Filipino in a news release posted on the WTA website.

Eala, ranked No. 35 in the world, suffered a 4-6, 3-6 loss to 2022 Wimbledon

champion Rybakina at the Italian Open last month in their first WTA Tour meeting.

Eala, the 2025 Southeast Asian Games singles gold medalist, will next face No. 6 seed Ukrainian Elina Svitolina, who clobbered German Eva Lys, 6-3, 6-2. Eala, winner of the WTA 125 Birmingham Open on June 7, made it to the second round after beating HSBC Championships (Queen's Club Championships)

champion Donna Vekic, 7-5, 6-4.

Meanwhile, No. 1 seed Aryna Sabalenka downed Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-4, 6-4, to set up a duel with 2023 Wimbledon junior finalist Nikola Bartunkova, who ousted Elise Martens, 6-1, 6-4.

Also advancing were former champion Jessica Pegula, Paula Badosa, Madison Keys, and Linda Noskova. (**PNA**) **BY JEAN MALANUM**



Alexandra Eala (Olympics.com photo)

BOATWRIGHT NATURALIZATION OK'D AS SENATE SPECIAL SESSION BREAKS LOGJAM

MANILA—San Miguel Beer import Bennie Boatwright moved on the brink of becoming a naturalized Filipino after the Senate approved on third and final reading the bill seeking his naturalization during a special session on Wednesday.

Senators unanimously approved House of Representatives Bill 6639, or the measure granting Philippine citizenship to Boatwright, with all 13 lawmakers present voting in the affirmative.

Also approved on final reading was House Bill 6644, which seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Filipino-American wrestler Matthew James Ramos.

The naturalization bills were among the measures

caught in the prolonged Senate leadership impasse, which prevented the chamber from acting on pending legislation before going on a break on June 3.

Senator Francis Pangilinan, who sponsored the naturalization measures, welcomed the development and acknowledged the patience shown by the applicants throughout the process.

"They were here every day and witnessed the proceedings – or the lack of proceedings," Pangilinan said before the vote.

The measure will now be transmitted to Malacañang for the President's signature.

A versatile 6-foot-10 forward-center, Boatwright

has been identified by the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas as a potential addition to the Gilas Pilipinas pool of naturalized players.

He last suited up for San Miguel Beer in the PBA Commissioner's Cup, where he averaged 31 points, 9.8 rebounds, and 4.5 assists per game.

Once signed into law and after complying with the requirements of naturalization, Boatwright would join Justin Brownlee and Ange Kouame among the foreign-born players eligible to represent the Philippines in international basketball competitions.

(**PNA**) **BY DARRYL JOHN ESGUERRA**

place efforts.

In the girls' 7-10 division, Jaicee Cervantes fired an eagle-aided 71 to complete a 147 total and take an 11-shot victory over Tyly Bernardino, who carded a 77 for 158. Jehanne Mendoza placed third at 160 after an 83.

The victory capped Cervantes' remarkable

late-season surge, highlighted by her triumph in the fifth Luzon leg at Beverly Place. Despite playing only the minimum three tournaments required, she amassed 38 points and clinched a Finals berth alongside Winter Serapio, Andrea Dee and Mendoza. (**PNA**) **BY JEAN MALANUM**