

# CAVITE GAZETTE

P U B L I S H I N G

VOL.2 NO.17

July 14-20, 2026

P20.00

## CAVITE RAMPS UP HEALTH SERVICES WITH 500-M HOSPITAL UPGRADE

**TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA)** – To better serve its population of over 4.3 million, the Provincial Government of Cavite is further strengthening its public health services through modernized healthcare facilities and enhanced support for healthcare workers.

Following his inspection of local health facilities last May, Governor Francisco Gabriel Remulla announced that the Provincial Government has allotted a total of Php 500 million to upgrade the General Emilio Aguinaldo Hospital (GEAMH) and the Cavite Center for Mental Health.

In a statement, Remulla said the provincial government will allot Php 300 million to GEAMH and the remaining Php 200 million to the Cavite



Center for Mental Health. The funds will cover the rehabilitation and improvement of hospital infrastructure as well as the procurement of modern medical equipment.

“Naglaan ang p a m a h a l a a n g panlalawigan ng Cavite ng Php 300 milyon para sa pagpapagawa ng mga ospital, at masuportahan

ang ating healthcare workers upang mas maayos at mas mabilis ang serbisyong natatanggap ng bawat Caviteño.”

The local chief executive added that the province will continue to modernize local hospitals and provide support to medical frontliners as part of its continuous bid to improve the local healthcare

**TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA)** — Law enforcers and the judiciary emphasized the importance of technology

and digital evidence in the effective

investigation and prosecution of child abuse and exploitation cases.

Last June 29 to 30, 2026, judges, prosecutors, and personnel from the Women and Children Protection Desks (WCPD) in Tagaytay, Silang, Alfonso, and General Emilio Aguinaldo underwent a two-day capacity building for the Management of Child Abuse and Exploitation Cases through the Effective Utilization of Technology and Digital Evidence.

Composed of lawyers and law enforcers, the capacity building activity focused on handling cases violating Republic Act No. 11930, particularly Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) cases in the face of digitalization.

The participants also included judges, prosecutors, and Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) personnel from Imus, Tagaytay, Silang, Alfonso, General Emilio Aguinaldo, and Amadeo, as well as members from the Regional Committee Against Exploitation and Trafficking Task Force (RCAETTF).

In a statement, the city government of Tagaytay underscored

its commitment in protecting children from abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.

“We continue to strengthen collaboration, build capacity, and uphold our shared commitment to protecting every child from abuse, exploitation, and trafficking.”

Led by the Tagaytay City Justice Zone, through its Committee on Youth and Children the two-day training aimed to strengthen the justice sector’s response to child abuse and exploitation in the digital age.

“Their invaluable expertise provided participants with practical strategies for the effective investigation and prosecution of child abuse and exploitation cases using technology and digital evidence.”

Meanwhile, key agencies of the Inter Agency Council Against Trafficking including the National Coordination Center Against OSAEC and CSAEM (NCC-OSAEC-CSAEM), Department of Justice-Office of the Cybercrime (DOJ-OOC), Child Rescue Coalition, and the Police Regional Office CALABARZON’s Regional Anti-Cybercrime Unit (RACU-4A). (PB-PIA Cavite, with reports from Tagaytay City Economic Tourism Justice Zone/ Facebook) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

## CAVITE STRENGTHENS RESPONSE AGAINST ONLINE CHILD EXPLOITATION



## RANK 2 PROVINCIAL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG STATUTORY RAPE AT SEXUAL ASSAULT, NAARESTO NG SILANG PULIS

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Matagumpay na naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Silang Municipal Police Station, Cavite Provincial Intelligence Team, at Regional Intelligence Unit 4A, ang Rank 2 Provincial Level Most Wanted Person ng Ilocos Sur Police Provincial Office at Rank 1 Municipal Level Most Wanted Person ng Burgos Municipal Police Station sa isinagawang law enforcement operation sa Barangay Lucsuhin, Silang, Cavite bandang alas-1:30 ng hapon noong Hulyo 10, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL JOSEPHD MACATANGAY, hepe ng Silang MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Jong," na residente ng Silang, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng law enforcement operation ang Warrant Personnel ng Silang Municipal Police Station bilang lead unit, katuwang ang Cavite PIT at RIU 4A, bilang bahagi ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operations. Nagresulta ito sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng mga Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Statutory Rape sa ilalim ng Article 266-A, No. 1(d) in relation to Article 266-B ng Revised Penal Code

at walang inirekomendang piyansa, at Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng Article 266-A, Paragraph 2 ng Revised Penal Code, na inamyendahan ng Republic Act No. 8353, kaugnay ng Republic Act No. 7610, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱180,000.00. Ang mga warrant ay inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Family Court, Branch 9, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur, noong Hunyo 1, 2022.

Saisinagawang operasyon, ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Sa kasalukuyan, isasailalim ang akusado sa kaukulang legal na proseso habang ibinabalik ang mga Warrant of Arrest sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa tamang disposisyon.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa isang high-ranking wanted person ay bunga ng mahusay na koordinasyon at pagtutulungan ng iba't ibang yunit ng PNP. Patuloy nating hahabulin ang mga taong may kinakaharap na mabibigat na kaso upang maipagkaloob ang hustisya sa mga biktima at mapanatili ang kapayapaan sa ating mga komunidad."

## REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, NAARESTO NG CAVITE PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Matagumpay na naaresto ng pinagsanib na puwersa ng Provincial Intelligence Unit, Cavite PPO at Tagaytay Component City Police Station ang isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang police operation sa Barangay Paliparan III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite bandang alas-6:00 ng gabi noong Hulyo 9, 2026.

Kinilala ni PMAJ SANDIE CAPARROSO, hepe ng Provincial Intelligence Unit, Cavite PPO, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Ricky" na residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang Provincial Intelligence Unit, katuwang ang Warrant Personnel ng Tagaytay Component City Police Station. Ang operasyon ay nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 13, Article II ng Republic Act No. 9165 (Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002). Ang warrant ay inisyu at nilagdaan ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 134, Tagaytay City,

Cavite, noong Setyembre 25, 2024, na may walang inirekomendang piyansa.

Sa isinagawang operasyon, ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan. Ang operasyon ay maayos ding naidokumento sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng Alternative Recording Device (ARD), alinsunod sa umiiral na mga alituntunin.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay nakatakdang ilipat sa custodial facility ng Tagaytay Component City Police Station habang ang Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa kaukulang disposisyon at legal na proseso.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ay sumasalamin sa matatag na koordinasyon at dedikasyon ng ating mga operatiba. Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating manhunt operations upang matiyak na walang sinumang lumalabag sa batas ang makaiwas sa pananagutan."

## DALAWANG STREET LEVEL INDIVIDUALS TIMBOG SA BUY-BUST OPERATION NG GENERAL TRIAS CCPS; P30K HALAGA NG SHABU, DALAWANG BARIL AT LABINDALAWANG BALA, NASAMSAM

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Dalawang Street Level Individuals ang naaresto habang aabot sa ₱30,192.00 halaga ng hinihinalang shabu at dalawang baril ang nakumpiska sa isinagawaang anti-illegal drug buy-bust operation ng General Trias Component City Police Station sa Barangay Navarro, General Trias City, Cavite bandang alas-1:30 ng madaling araw noong Hulyo 9, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang mga naarestong suspek na sina alyas "Jay," na residente ng General Trias, Cavite at alyas "Wil," na residente ng Navotas City.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang mga operatiba ng Drug Enforcement Unit, bilang bahagi ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operations. Ang operasyon ay isinagawa sa koordinasyon ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa

dalawang suspek.

Nakumpiska sa kanilang posesyon ang apat na heat-sealed transparent plastic sachet na naglalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may kabuuang timbang na humigit-kumulang 4.44 gramo na may standard drug price na ₱30,192.00, isang pirasong tunay na ₱500 bill na ginamit bilang buy-bust money, isang black coin pouch, isang caliber .45 Colt pistol, dalawang magasin ng caliber 9mm, pitong bala ng caliber .45, isang black sling bag, isang caliber .22 revolver na walang serial number, at limang bala ng caliber .22.

Ang lahat ng nakumpiskang droga, bala at mga baril ay isasailalim sa laboratory at ballistic examination sa Cavite Provincial Forensic Unit sa Imus City, habang inihahanda ang kaukulang dokumento para sa inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang matagumpay na operasyong ito ay patunay ng ating patuloy na kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga at ilegal na pag-iingat ng mga baril. Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating law enforcement operations upang maprotektahan ang ating mga komunidad laban sa kriminalidad at mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa lalawigan ng Cavite."

pagpapatupad ng batas upang matiyak na ang mga taong may pananagutan ay naiharap sa hustisya at mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa ating mga komunidad."

## RANK 1 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SAPAGLABAG SA COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT, NAARESTO NG NAIC PULIS

**Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite** — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga operatiba ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang Rank 1 Municipal Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang police operation sa Barangay Ibayo Silangan, Naic, Cavite bandang alas-9:16

ng umaga noong Hulyo 10, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL LOUIE DC GONZAGA, hepe ng Naic MPS ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Wyn" na residente ng Naic, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang Warrant Officers ng Naic Municipal Police

Station na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 28(E)(1) ng Republic Act No. 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act. Ang warrant ay inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 132, Naic, Cavite,

noong Hulyo 8, 2026, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱120,000.00.

Saisinagawang operasyon, ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay nasa kustodiya ng Naic Municipal Police Station para sa kaukulang

dokumentasyon at iba pang legal na proseso.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang patuloy na pag-aresto sa mga most wanted person ay patunay ng ating walang humpay na kampanya laban sa kriminalidad. Mananatili tayong masigasig sa

## CAVITE JOINS REGIONAL LAUNCH OF 2026 NUTRITION MONTH, STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO NUTRITION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Provincial Nutrition Committee (PNC), joined the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON and the Municipal Government of Tanza in the successful staging of the Regional Launch of the 2026 Nutrition Month Celebration held in Tanza, Cavite on July 6.

Anchored on this year's theme, "Sa PPAAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat: Nutrisyon at Kalikasan, Ating Pangalagaan!", the joint launch highlighted the interconnectedness of proper nutrition, food security, and environmental sustainability while reinforcing the shared responsibility of government agencies, local government units, development partners, and communities in achieving the goals of the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023–2028.

The celebration commenced with a symbolic tree-planting activity in Barangay Tres Cruces, Tanza, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship in ensuring sustainable food systems and better nutrition for future generations. The activity was participated in by

members of the Regional Nutrition Committee, Cavite Provincial Nutrition Committee, Tanza Municipal Nutrition Committee, and barangay officials, with the active support of Tanza local leaders headed by Mayor Archangelo "SM" Matro, together with Health Committee Chairperson Councilor Alexis Dones, Councilor Derek B. Matro, OIC MENRO Engr. Ernesto Toledo, Municipal Nutrition Action Officer Dorothy Ramirez, and members of the Barangay Nutrition Committees and Barangay Nutrition Scholars.

The program continued at the Tanza Convention Center, where nutrition stakeholders from across CALABARZON gathered for the formal opening of the month-long celebration. Representing Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" D. Remulla, Provincial Board Member Jasmin Angelli Maligaya Bautista, Co-Chairperson of the Cavite Provincial Nutrition Committee, encouraged all sectors to actively participate in Nutrition Month activities, emphasizing that achieving food and nutrition security requires collective action from every stakeholder.

Messages of support were likewise delivered by Tanza Mayor Archangelo "SM"

Matro, National Nutrition Council Deputy executive Director III Atty. Rosalina U. Bascao through a video message, representatives from the Regional Nutrition Committee and partner organizations including Presidents of the Regional Nutrition Associations, Communicators Network for Nutrition - 4A represented by its President Emil Jun Delos Santos, and Regional SUN Business Convenor represented by Ms. Shiela Marie Chavez. Collectively, they reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening nutrition programs, promoting climate-responsive and sustainable food systems, and fostering stronger collaboration among stakeholders to address the growing challenges of climate change and food insecurity.

One of the highlights of the technical session was the presentation of the 2026 Nutrition Month talking points by Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Lourdes Bulante-Orongan, who underscored that improving nutrition goes beyond health interventions and requires a whole-of-society approach. She encouraged individuals, families, schools, communities, policymakers, and the

private sector to embrace nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart practices, including reducing food waste, supporting local food production, investing in resilient food systems, and protecting the environment to ensure adequate nutrition for present and future generations.

The participants also took part in a Pledge of Commitment led by DILG Cavite OIC Provincial Director Marcial A. Juangco and expressed their commitments by placing written pledges on a symbolic "Tree of Life," serving as a reminder of the shared responsibility of every individual and institution in advancing nutrition and environmental stewardship.

The celebration also featured the ceremonial opening of the Nutrition Month Marketplace, featuring locally produced agricultural goods, nutritious food products, and livelihood initiatives from communities across CALABARZON. The exhibit highlighted the importance of supporting local farmers and producers while promoting healthy food choices, sustainable food systems, and local economic development.

The Tanza Municipal Nutrition Committee also recognized outstanding nutrition program implementers in the municipality by honoring the Top 15 Outstanding Barangay Nutrition Committees, with Barangay Daang Amaya II emerging as the top awardee, and the Top 6 Best HAPAG Gardens, where Barangay Paradahan I received the highest recognition.

As one of the convenors of the regional launch, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirmed its commitment to advancing nutrition-sensitive and climate-responsive programs through strengthened partnerships, empowering communities, and sustaining initiatives that contribute to healthier and more resilient Caviteños. — **OPIO**

## EDITORIAL

### Proteksyon sa Mag-aaral

Ang bullying sa mga paaralan ay nagdudulot ng matinding pinsala sa emosyonal at mental na kalusugan ng mga mag-aaral. Ang mga biktima ng ganitong karahasan ay madalas na nakakaranas ng matinding takot, mababang tiwala sa sarili, at nakakaapekto rin sa kanilang mga marka. Nagdudulot ito nang hindi magandang imahe hindi lang sa estudyante kundi pati sa imahe ng mga guro at paaralan. Kaya naman, higit na kinakailangan ang mahigpit na pagpapatupad ng mga patakaran at paggabay ng komunidad upang tuluyang wakasan ang siklong ito ng pang-aapi. Ang paaralan ay dapat nagsisilbing ligtas para sa mga kabataan.

## HEALTHCARE SERVICES EXTENDED AT AMIGA DISTRICT HOSPITAL'S ANNIVERSARY

As part of the 2nd Founding Anniversary celebration of AMIGA District Hospital in Mendez-Núñez, the Provincial Government of Cavite brought essential healthcare services closer to Mendezños and residents from nearby communities on July 3, benefiting a total of 489 patients.

Healthcare professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) and AMIGA District Hospital worked hand in hand in providing free medical

consultations, dental check-ups, and tooth extractions. Meanwhile, the Office of the Provincial Governor—Medical Mission Team conducted fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests and electrocardiogram (ECG) procedures to assist physicians in the further assessment of patients' health conditions.

Following the consultations, patients also received free prescribed medicines and vitamin supplements distributed by the Office of the Provincial Governor—Medical Mission Team.

Eighth District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista joined the activity and underscored the importance of making healthcare services accessible, especially to underserved communities. "Isa po ang kalusugan sa dapat tutukan," she emphasized.

Through the medical and dental mission, the provincial government continues to strengthen its commitment to bringing quality and accessible healthcare services closer to every Caviteño. — **OPIO**

## 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*

**PAUNAWA:** Ang dyaryong ito ay natanggap ng kontribusyon na balita, artikulo sariling pananaw o opinyon ng mga kolumnista ang nilalaman ng kanilang mga artikulo ay wala pong kinalaman at pananagutan dito ang pamunuan ng publishing

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

## SANDIGAN RULING MAY MOOT SENATE PLEA ON DETAINED JUDGES – LACSON

**MANILA** – Senator-judge Panfilo Lacson on Friday said the Sandiganbayan's denial of detained Sen. Jinggoy Estrada's request to attend the impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Duterte could render unnecessary the impeachment court's action on a separate proposal seeking the anti-graft court's permission for detained senator-judges to participate in the proceedings.

Lacson said the ruling effectively spares the impeachment court from acting on Senator-judge Alan Peter Cayetano's pending motion asking the court to communicate with the Sandiganbayan to allow Senators Estrada and Rodante Marcoleta to attend the trial.

"That would spare the Impeachment Court from acting on the pending motion of Senator-Judge Alan Cayetano for us to 'ask the Sandiganbayan to allow Senators Estrada (and Marcoleta) to participate in the impeachment trial', which

may impliedly suggest that we are interfering with an ongoing judicial process," Lacson said.

He added, however, that the matter should still be discussed by the senator-judges, stressing that his view was only his "humble opinion."

The Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division earlier denied Estrada's motion for temporary leave from detention for "lack of merit."

Estrada had argued that serving as a senator-judge in the impeachment trial constituted a compelling reason to allow him to attend the proceedings.

Cayetano asked the impeachment court to communicate with the Sandiganbayan to seek the participation of Estrada and Marcoleta, both of whom are facing plunder and graft charges before the anti-graft court.

The request came after presiding officer Francis Escudero reiterated that 16 votes are required to convict in the impeachment trial. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

## HONTIVEROS WANTS POWER KEPT ON DURING MERALCO BILL DISPUTES

**MANILA** – Meralco customers questioning unusually high electricity bills should not lose power while their complaints are being investigated, Senator Risa Hontiveros said Friday.

In a statement, Hontiveros called on the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to impose a temporary disconnection freeze for consumers with legitimate billing disputes, particularly those involving alleged erroneous meter readings.

"Consumers who were erroneously charged should not be forced to pay disputed charges just to keep their lights on. Hindi nila kasalanan na mali ang meter reading. Hindi konsumers ang dapat mag-adjust (It is not their fault that the meter reading was wrong. Consumers should not be the ones

forced to adjust)," she said.

The proposal followed complaints from households that received unusually high electricity bills, including one family that was charged for electricity consumption despite having switched off the circuit breakers while away on vacation.

Meralco later acknowledged that the bill resulted from a meter reader's error.

Under the current process, however, consumers contesting their bills are advised to pay the disputed amount under protest to avoid disconnection while complaints are being resolved.

Hontiveros said the arrangement unfairly shifts the burden of a possible utility error to consumers before their complaints have even been decided.

"Kung lehitimo ang

## CPD: WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY EFFORT TO HELP FILIPINO YOUTH ACHIEVE GOALS

**MANILA** – The Commission on Population and Development (CPD) has urged a whole-of-society approach to allow young Filipinos to reach their full potential and turn their aspirations into reality. At the opening of the World Population Day 2026 Youth Aspirations Forum held at the Rizal Technological University in Mandaluyong City on Thursday, CPD Deputy Executive Director Lolito Tacardon said this year's event underscores the need to look beyond population figures and focus on the challenges and opportunities facing Filipino youth of today.

"Public policy is often guided by numbers. But behind every statistic is a young person with hopes, relationships, decisions to make, and a future to build," he said.

Tacardon said the event is an opportunity to actually listen to young people, noting that every generation faces its own set of opportunities and challenges.

"Today's young people

are growing up in a world shaped by rapid technological change, economic uncertainty, climate risks, evolving family structures, and changing social expectations. Yet despite these realities, one thing remains remarkably constant: young people continue to dream," he said.

He said families, schools, communities, government, and development partners should come together and create the conditions that would allow those aspirations to flourish.

Tacardon stressed that while young Filipinos continue to dream of completing their education, finding meaningful work and improving their lives, many encounter obstacles that make those goals increasingly difficult to achieve.

Citing the findings of the Longitudinal Cohort Study on the Filipino Child, he said that while Filipino children maintain strong ambitions from childhood through adolescence, the research shows that their opportunities often narrow over time.

"What changes is not the dream. What changes is the pathway toward achieving it," he said.

The study, he said, found that financial hardship, the need to work, mental health concerns, bullying, violence, early pregnancy, and early unions often limit young people's educational and life opportunities.

He said the findings reinforce the need for sustained investments in education, health, nutrition, mental health, decent work opportunities and safe communities, adding that

at risk of losing electricity.

She said she would file a resolution directing the Senate Committee on Energy to investigate the reported cases of erroneous meter readings, review existing consumer protection mechanisms, and identify legislative reforms to prevent unjust billing practices. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

## PALACE REJECTS POLITICAL PERSECUTION CLAIMS, INSISTS ON TRANSPARENCY

**MANILA** – Malacañang on Friday rejected allegations that the Marcos administration is weaponizing the law against political opponents, maintaining that the government is merely enforcing existing laws and upholding transparency and accountability.

Palace Press Officer Claire Castro made the remarks in response to Davao City Mayor Sebastian "Baste" Duterte's accusation that the administration was using the law and government bureaucracy to punish critics and dissenters.

Duterte made the comments in The Hague, Netherlands, following the arrest of Senator Rodante Marcoleta and former House Rep. Mike Defensor, who are among those facing a non-bailable plunder case before the Sandiganbayan.

Castro, in response, questioned whether critics expected the government to refrain from taking action against individuals accused of perpetrating crimes.

"Gusto ba nila na hindi kikilos ang gobyerno, hindi susundin ang sinasabi ng batas at hayaan na makaalpas at makaligtas ang mga naaakusahang

these should be viewed as interconnected efforts rather than stand-alone programs.

Tacardon also emphasized that supporting young people is a shared responsibility among families, schools, communities, government agencies, civil society, and development partners.

"Investing in young people is not simply a social responsibility. It is a strategic investment in our country's future," he said.

"If we truly want the Philippines to become more prosperous, more resilient, and more inclusive, then we must work together to ensure that every young Filipino has the opportunity—not merely to dream and aspire—but to realize those dreams," he added. **(PNA) BY MARITA MOAJE**

gumagawa ng krimen laban sa bayan (Do they want the government to do nothing, ignore what the law requires, and allow those accused of committing crimes against the nation to escape accountability)?" she asked.

Castro challenged those making allegations of political persecution to address the accusations against them directly instead of claiming that they were politically persecuted.

She noted that under the watch of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., government authority is "being exercised properly and in accordance with the law."

"Bakit hindi sagutin ng direktso ang pag aakusa at hindi puro bintang na pinupolitika sila (Why don't they respond directly to the accusations instead of constantly claiming that they are being politically targeted)?" she said.

Castro also cited allegations hurled at the Davao City mayor's sister, Vice President Sara Duterte, saying she has yet to deny accusations related to the alleged misuse of public funds and remarks she had previously made, including her alleged conversation with a killer.

"Nadinig na ba nila na itinatangi ng Bise Presidente ang isyung paglulustay ng pondo ng bayan at ang pag-amin niyang kumakausap siya ng killer para pumatay (Have they heard the Vice President deny the allegations of misusing public funds or deny her own admission that she had spoken to a killer about carrying out a killing)?" she said.

She likewise mentioned the 2011 incident when the Vice President punched a sheriff, pointing out that assaulting an official constitutes a "real abuse of power."

Castro said the administration remains committed to the rule of law and reminded that legal processes should be allowed to proceed in accordance with the Constitution and existing laws. **(PNA) BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**

## STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY STANDARDS: DOST-CAVITE CONDUCTS HACCP TRAINING FOR eHARVEST CORPORATION

To strengthen local food safety standards and support enterprise growth, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cavite conducted an intensive, two-day face-to-face Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) seminar for eHarvest Corporation in Indang, Cavite. The training, held from June 30 to July 1, was facilitated by the DOST Cavite team spearheaded by Mr. Reniel Jan L. Alvarado, Science Research Specialist II, Mr. Arpee Rolando Jr. G. Palomo, Project Technical Aide, Geline Mae Bertuldo & Kristine Yvonne Suiza, GIPs of DOST Cavite. Throughout the sessions, the eHarvest team demonstrated exceptional focus and eagerness to learn, actively and enthusiastically engaging in interactive discussions

and workshop activities.

The seminar was structured to provide both foundational knowledge and actionable technical insights. Day one, which was held on June 30, focused on the fundamentals of food safety, offering a comprehensive introduction to HACCP principles and highlighting their critical role in safeguarding consumer health and driving the company's market competitiveness. On day two, held on July 1, delved

deeper into the technical mechanics of the system, covering the specific regulatory requirements, documentation, and operational standards necessary for eHarvest Corporation to successfully achieve formal HACCP certification.

This collaborative initiative underscores DOST-Cavite's ongoing commitment to empowering local food manufacturers with the technical expertise needed to meet global quality and safety standards. **DOST-CAVITE**



## FROM OVERSEAS TO OPPORTUNITIES: DOST CAVITE INTRODUCES S & T PROGRAMS TO CARMONA OFWs

The DOST Cavite, in partnership with the Public Employment Service Office (PESO)-Carmona, successfully conducted a DOST Services Orientation for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) today, July 7, 2026, at the Carmona City Hall. The orientation introduced participants to the various programs, services, and technology-based assistance offered by DOST that can support OFWs and their families, particularly those interested in entrepreneurship,

business development, and technology adoption. During the activity, Ms. Anna Marie S. Daigan, Supervising Science Research Specialist of DOST Cavite, introduced the iFWD PH (Innovation for Filipinos Working Distantly from the Philippines) Program. She discussed how the initiative empowers OFWs and their families by providing access to DOST's innovation-driven programs, technologies, and entrepreneurial support, enabling them

to establish sustainable, technology-based enterprises upon their return or even while working overseas.

Through this collaborative initiative with PESO-Carmona, DOST Cavite reaffirmed its commitment to making science, technology, and innovation more accessible while equipping OFWs with the knowledge and opportunities needed to build resilient and future-ready livelihoods. **DOST CAVITE**

## PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAVITE HOLDS MEDICAL MISSION IN NOVELETA

On July 2, the Provincial Government of Cavite successfully conducted a medical mission in Barangay San Rafael I, Noveleta, serving 540 patients through medical

consultations, fasting blood sugar (FBS) tests, and ECG procedures. The services were provided by doctors and healthcare professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo

Memorial Hospital (GEAMH).

In addition, free prescribed medicines and multivitamins were also distributed by the Office of the Provincial Governor

## BOTICARD, NAGDIWANG NG IKA-15 TAONG PAGHAHATID NG ABOT-KAYANG SERBISYONG PANGKALUSUGAN SA KOMUNIDAD



Ipinagdiwang ng BotiCARD ang kanilang ika-15 anibersaryo sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan tulad ng konsultasyong medikal, blood pressure monitoring, bunot ng ngipin, at pamamahagi ng libreng bitamina.

Nagdiwang ang BotiCARD, isang parmasya sa ilalim ng CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI), ng kanilang ika-15 anibersaryo noong Mayo 20, 2026 sa Paulino Branch nito sa San Pablo City, Laguna. Isinagawa ang selebrasyon sa pamamagitan ng paghahatid ng mga libreng serbisyong pangkalusugan tulad ng konsultasyon sa doktor, bunot ng ngipin, at pagmo-monitor ng blood pressure.

Bukas ang mga serbisyong ito para sa mga kliyente ng mga financial institution ng CARD MRI, kanilang mga anak, pati na rin sa mga residente ng komunidad. Namahagi rin ang BotiCARD ng libreng bitamina tulad ng B-complex, multivitamins, ascorbic acid, non-acidic supplements, at vitamin C para sa mga bata. Patuloy ding nakatatanggap ng 20 hanggang 28 porsiyentong discount sa pagbili ng mga

gamot sa mga sangay ng BotiCARD ang mga kliyente ng CARD MRI. Bahagi ang mga libreng serbisyong ito sa layunin ng BotiCARD na maghatid ng abot-kaya at de-kalidad na gamot sa mga komunidad. Ayon kay BotiCARD CEO Florife T. Reynido, pinili nilang ipagdiwang ang anibersaryo sa pamamagitan ng mga ganitong aktibidad upang mahikayat ang komunidad na pangalagaan ang kanilang kalusugan. "Para kapag senior citizen na tayo, malalakas at masisigla pa rin tayo," saad niya sa mga kliyente ng CARD at residente ng komunidad na dumalo sa programa.

Sa loob ng 15 taon, ang BotiCARD ay lumawig sa 27 sangay sa iba't ibang lalawigan sa Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao. Patuloy rin itong nagsasagawa ng mga programa upang mas mapalapit ang mga gamot at serbisyong pangkalusugan sa mga komunidad, kabilang rito ang over-the-counter (OTC) medicine counseling kung saan binibigyang gabay ng mga pharmacist ang mga mamimili sa tamang paggamit ng gamot.

Nagpatupad din ang BotiCARD ng mga programang tulad ng

BotiCARD Health Plus (BH Plus), na nagsusuplay ng bitamina, maintenance medicine packages, at emergency medicines para sa mga kliyente ng CARD bilang bahagi ng kanilang insurance. Mayroon din itong Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) na sistema para sa pagbili ng gamot at iba pang pangunahing pangangailangan ng mga empleyado ng CARD MRI. Nagpasalamat naman si BotiCARD Chairman Rosenda P. Aquino sa patuloy na suporta sa BotiCARD sa loob ng 15 taon. Aniya, mananatili silang nakatuon sa paghahatid ng abot-kaya at de-kalidad na serbisyong pangkalusugan at patuloy na maghahanap ng mga bagong paraan upang matugunan ang mga makabagong pangangailangan sa kalusugan ng mga komunidad.

Naging bahagi rin ng pagdiriwang ang libreng gupit, free taste ng herbal coffee, at mga raffle promo. Dumalo rin sa programa sina CARD MRI senior advisers Grace Contreras at Dr. Lorenza dT. Bañez, kasama ang mga empleyado ng BotiCARD at mga kliyente ng CARD.

**JIREH CASIONAN, WRITER**

**PEARL JUNIOR**

**OPIO**

## CAVITE STRENGTHENS LGU PLANNING CAPACITY THROUGH AIP TRAINING-WORKSHOP

Reinforcing its commitment to responsive governance and strategic local development, the Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator (OPPDC), successfully conducted the Training-Workshop on the Formulation of the Annual Investment Program (AIP) for the Local Planning and Development Offices in the Province of Cavite on July 1-2, 2026, at the 2nd Floor Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The two-day capacity-building activity gathered representatives from the Local Planning and Development Offices of the province's cities and municipalities, along with selected personnel from the OPPDC. The workshop aimed to strengthen the technical knowledge and skills of local planners in preparing responsive, compliant, and results-oriented Annual Investment Programs (AIPs) that effectively translate development priorities into implementable programs, projects, and activities (PPAs).

Provincial Administrator Engr. Gilbert V. Gandia graced the activity and delivered an inspirational message, emphasizing the Provincial Government's continued commitment to strengthening the capabilities of local government personnel through capacity development initiatives. He underscored the vital role of sound planning and investment programming in ensuring efficient public service delivery and sustainable development across the province.

Meanwhile, Engr. EnP Lorna R. Leyran, Head of the OPPDC, presented an overview of the training-workshop, highlighting the significance of the Annual Investment Program as the operational link between planning and budgeting. She emphasized that a well-formulated AIP ensures that priority interventions identified

in the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and the Local Development Investment Program (LDIP) are effectively translated into fundable and implementable projects that address the evolving needs of Caviteños.

The training featured technical discussions on key components of local investment programming by OPPDC staff. Engr. Gretzel Bea Ganaba discussed the National Mandated Appropriations on Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (LDRRM), providing participants with guidance on complying with statutory requirements for disaster preparedness and resilience. Engr. Alisxander Joshua P. Babaan tackled the integration of Peace and Order and Public Safety initiatives into local investment programming, emphasizing their importance in fostering safe, secure, and resilient communities.

Engr. Florelet Dimapilis, on the other hand, discussed the utilization of the 20% Development Fund, highlighting the policies and guidelines that ensure strategic allocation of resources for priority development programs and projects.

Adopting a participatory and output-based approach, the workshop combined lectures, technical presentations, hands-on exercises, open forums, and critiquing sessions. By the end of the activity, participants successfully developed initial AIP outputs, including prioritized lists of PPAs and partially accomplished AIP forms, which will serve as key references in the finalization of their respective local government units' Annual Investment Programs.

Concluding the two-day workshop, Engr. Leyran encouraged the participants to apply the knowledge and skills they acquired in crafting strategic and responsive Annual Investment Programs that are aligned with national policies and responsive to the

## ENCHANTED KINGDOM MARKS ENCHANTING JUNE WITH ITS PRIDE MONTH AND FATHER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, celebrated inclusivity, togetherness, and strong family ties among Filipinos through its back-to-back Pride Month and Father's Day festivities last June.

Concluding this quarter's Forever Enchanted Summer campaign on a high note, EK brought to life a series of seasonal activities and popup experiences that created even more quality bonding moments for families and communities throughout the month.

The festivities kicked off with Magic of EKquality: A Celebration of Pride Talents, which showcased world-class Filipino talent through performances by exceptional members of the LGBTQIA+ community last June 7, 13 and 14 at the Bandstand.

Among the featured acts were Magic of EKquality Talent Competition 2024 grand winner Alquin Gutierrez, World World

Supremacy BattleGrounds International 2023 finalist Vivacious, OPM indie-pop singer-songwriter Rhodessa, and Asia's Trans Dual Diva Sephy Francisco.

The theme park also paid a heartfelt tribute to all devoted dads who bring magic into every home with the return of its Forever Enchanted Father's Day specials on the third and fourth weekends of June. Beloved EK Storyverse paternal figures, Faerie King and Balasik, offered exclusive treats for fathers, such as body care and relaxation services situated at Eldar's Theater.

While the fathers enjoyed the pampering sessions, they were serenaded by special performances from rising Viva Records artists Dana Pauline and Jehramae. EK's very own P-pop girl group were also there to cap off the more than two-month run of its seasonal musical show, SMS Summer Blast, with a high-energy finale. Meanwhile, the all-male

vocal group, Kingsmen, also honored all dads through their weekend show at the Bandstand. Other exciting Father's Day activities were rolled out around the Park, including the Fun Kart's Rev Up Speed Showdown, High Striker's Dad's Ultimate Strike, and a car display and test drive experience. The magic continues this July as EK announces the return of its regular operating hours from 11AM to 8PM every Friday to Sunday until August 30. Starting September 1, the Park will be open Thursdays to Sundays, also from 11AM to 8PM. Guests can secure passes for their next EK visit as early as today and enjoy a



refreshing experience with Sip the Magic! Promo, in collaboration with Coca-Cola. Bundle includes one Regular Day Pass and a free magical drink featuring the newest drinks from Coca-Cola, all for Php 1,400. This offer is available for walk-in purchase and through the EK Online Store until August 9 only.

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. ###



development priorities of their respective local government units. As Cavite continues to experience rapid urbanization, industrial growth, and increasing demand for public services,

the Provincial Government remains steadfast in investing in capacity development initiatives that enhance institutional effectiveness and improve public service delivery. — **OPIO**



## BIR'S INTERACTIVE DIGITAL TAX CALENDAR BAGS INTERNATIONAL AWARD

**MANILA** – The Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) 2026 BIR Interactive Digital Tax Calendar won the Philippines Digital Initiative of the Year – Finance Award at the GovMedia Conference & Awards at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center in Singapore on Thursday.

The bureau said Friday the GovMedia Conference & Awards recognizes outstanding government projects and initiatives across Asia that demonstrate excellence in digital transformation, innovation, governance, sustainability and citizen-centric public service.

All entries undergo independent evaluation by a panel of industry experts based on their innovation, impact and contribution to public-sector excellence.

"To our BIR revenueurs, who work on our digital projects and assist our taxpayers on the front lines, this award is yours," BIR Commissioner Charlito Mendoza said in his acceptance speech.

"To our taxpayers: This Interactive Digital Tax Calendar, together with

every digital project and streamlining initiative we have rolled out, is for you—to make your tax compliance easier, our rules clearer, and your transactions with the BIR faster and simpler," he added.

The Interactive Digital Tax Calendar is an in-house-developed digital platform that transformed the BIR's traditional printed tax calendar into an interactive online resource.

It allows taxpayers to conveniently access tax deadlines, filing requirements and compliance information in one place.

Mendoza said the BIR will continue to develop digital innovations that will improve the taxpayer experience, simplify tax compliance and support the government's digital transformation agenda.

"We will continue to do this work in support of the vision of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for a more modern and more responsive government," Mendoza said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

## STOCKS, PESO DOWN ON CUT IN PH'S GROWTH FORECASTS

**MANILA** – Lower growth forecasts by multilateral agencies for the Philippine economy this 2026 was partly attributed to the negative close of both the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) and the peso on Thursday.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) slashed its growth forecast for the domestic economy from 4.1 percent to 3.9 percent on account of the impact of the Middle East crisis on prices and activities, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB), from 4.4 percent to 3.8 percent, due to "delayed investments, softer private consumption amid higher commodity prices, and climate-related risks."

This made investors more wary, resulting in the 0.83 percent slide of the PSEi to 6,223.87 points, and the broader All Shares by 1.02 percent to 3,370.56 points.

The main index was trailed by most of the sectoral gauges, except for Services, which gained by 0.85 percent.

Financials posted the biggest drop among the

sectoral indices at 2.14 percent. It was followed by Holding Firms, 2.06 percent; Industrial, 1.44 percent; Mining and Oil, 1.39 percent; and Property, 1.31 percent.

Volume reached 1.49 billion shares amounting to PHP6.2 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 111 to 68, while 62 shares were unchanged.

Also, the peso weakened against the US dollar and closed the day at 61.60 compared to 61.50 close Wednesday.

It opened the day at 61.61, a depreciation from its 61.55 opening level in the previous session.

The local currency traded between 61.64 and 61.53, bringing the average to 61.58.

Volume reached USD1.26 billion, up from the USD1.16 billion a day ago.

Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation chief economist Michael Ricafort, in a report, said the IMF and ADB's reduction of their growth forecasts for the domestic economy tempered investors' sentiment, along

## POWER SECTOR EXEC HOPES FOR SUPPLY STABILIZATION

**MANILA** – An official of the Independent Electricity Market Operator of the Philippines (IEMOP) on Thursday expressed hope for the stabilization of the power supply, especially in the Visayas, noting that changes in capacities have affected prices.

In recent years, the yellow and red alert status in power grids is a normal occurrence during the summer months given the increase in demand amid the decline in capacity due to regular maintenance works for several power plants as well as forced outages of some.

However, the situation has lingered until June this year, and IEMOP vice president for trading operations Engr. Isidro Cacho, in an online briefing, said this has resulted in price volatility until this month.

"June 2026 was a volatile month for the WESM (Wholesale Electricity

with the latest clashes in the Middle East, which also resulted in the uptick of crude oil prices.

He said prices of crude oil rose for the third consecutive trading to its new two-week high at almost USD79 per barrel against the USD76 per barrel in the previous session.

Despite the peso's depreciation, Ricafort said it remains stable against the greenback "amid possible intervention/smoothing of market volatility at 61.60-61.70 levels/range highs recently."

He also cited as positive factors expectations for "possible future BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas) rate hikes especially on the next rate-setting meeting on August 27, 2026 to help stabilize the peso exchange rate, importation costs, and, in turn, also better manage inflation and inflation expectations."

Ricafort expects the local currency to trade between 61.50-61.70 levels against the US dollar on Friday. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

Spot Market). While the country had sufficient supply overall, outages, reserve shortages, and transmission limitations created tighter conditions in some regions. Market prices reflected these conditions and showed where additional supply, reserves, and transmission capacity were most needed," he said.

EIMOP data show that for the Visayas alone, average supply declined by 178 megawatts (MW) so far this month relative to the May level, while demand went down 12MW during the same period.

As a result of a larger drop in supply relative to demand, the average price of electricity in the Visayas rose 41.7 percent, from PHP10.20 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to PHP14.45/kWh.

The same data show that the highest average regional price was PHP21.68/kWh, recorded last June 22.

It also showed that recurring deficiencies in the grid's reserves added to the uptick in market prices.

Cacho, thus, expressed hope for the resolution of the issue soon, noting government interventions, which include tapping battery storage facilities and power barges to boost supply.

"Hopefully, this July, our prices will go down in the market because of improved supply," he added.

Meanwhile, Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) officials, in a briefing during the day, said measures are being implemented to address the situation, and Visayas power generating firms have been tasked to explain the issue and to come up with a solution immediately.

ERC Director Sharon Montaner said ERC and Department of Energy (DOE) officials have met with the generation companies' officials and the regulator is now evaluating the latter's responses on the issue.

"Hopefully, they will be able to get back on track to improve the power situation," she added. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

## SCIENCE, TECH, INNOVATION TO HELP BOOST GROWTH – DEPDEV

**MANILA** – Science, technology and innovation (STI) will help boost economic growth and accelerate progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) said.

In a statement Friday, DEPDev said Secretary Arsenio Balisacan highlighted the role of STI in the country's development during his speech at the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) on July 8.

Balisacan cited the need to strengthen the link between STI and policymaking to address the country's development challenges.

"Science is not separate from development. Innovation is not an optional complement to policy. Rather, they are increasingly becoming the principal means through which countries solve complex development problems, strengthen resilience, and sustain long-term prosperity," he said.

While the Philippines has made significant gains in recent years, Balisacan said economic growth alone will not be enough to achieve the country's development aspirations and commitments under the SDGs, the global development agenda adopted by United Nations member states in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that everyone enjoys peace

and prosperity for all by 2030.

"Achieving the SDGs requires a broader development strategy—one grounded in sound public policy, capable institutions, and strong partnerships among government, the private sector, the academe, and civil society. Most importantly, it requires science, technology, and innovation—not as ends in themselves, but as the means by which we translate sound policy into higher productivity, stronger institutions, greater opportunities, and better lives for our people," Balisacan said.

Balisacan said institutions such as NAST will play a crucial role in ensuring that policymaking is informed by science, and that research

and innovation should be directed toward solving real-world problems faced by communities.

He assured that DEPDev is committed to advocate for stronger innovation ecosystems, increasing investments in research and development, supporting scientists and researchers and promoting sustainable and resource-efficient innovations.

"As we look toward 2030 and beyond, our challenge is therefore not simply to generate more knowledge. It is to ensure that knowledge is translated more quickly into practical solutions, productive enterprises, effective public policies, and better lives for every Filipino," Balisacan said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



## COACH ALAPAG MAKES PBA DEBUT AS GOVERNORS' CUP KICKS OFF

**MANILA** – The spotlight is on coach Jimmy Alapag and how his system will transform the NLEX Road Warriors as the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) Season 50 Governors' Cup fires off Friday.

The Road Warriors will face the Macau Giant Pandas in the 7:30 p.m. main game at Ynares Center in Antipolo.

In the opening game at 5:30 p.m., Titan Ultra and Terrafirma will square off, both determined to move on from disappointing campaigns in the previous Commissioner's Cup.

Alapag spent almost six years in the National Basketball Association, first as assistant coach of the Stockton Kings, Sacramento's G League affiliate, in 2021. After three years, he was promoted to the Kings' mother club as player development coach. He retired for good from the PBA in 2016, then handled Alab Pilipinas, which ruled the 2017 ASEAN Basketball League.

Alapag inherits the squad that topped the Commissioner's Cup elimination round before squandering its twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals against TNT Tropang 5G.

Returning import DeQuan Jones is expected to again provide a major offensive boost after averaging more than 28 points during the 2024 Governors' Cup, when NLEX, under coach Jong Uichico, suffered the same fate -- losing to TNT in the first round of the playoffs.

Attention will also be on how Alapag will maximize the talents of the local players, led by Robert Bolick and Kevin Alas.

The Macau Giant Pandas will make their Governors' Cup debut with new import De'Vondre Perry, a 6-foot-6 swingman who recently played in Germany's ProA league.

Perry is one of eight new imports in this conference.

In the previous conference as the Black Knights, guest team Macau managed only three wins in 12 games and failed to qualify for the playoffs.

NLEX, Macau, defending champion TNT, San Miguel Beer, Converge, Titan Ultra and Terrafirma are in Group A.

Group B is composed of Barangay Ginebra, Rain or Shine, Magnolia, Meralco, Phoenix Super LPG and Blackwater.

Teams will face each other twice within their groups during the elimination round. The top four teams in each group will advance to the crossover quarterfinals.

The Dyip finished with a 4-10 record for 10th place, while the Giant Risers ended with a 2-10 mark for 12th place in the Commissioner's Cup.

"Bakbakan sigurado iyon (It will be a real fight)," Dyip coach Ronald Tubid said. "We want to win, they

want to win also so tingnan na lang natin kung sino maka-una. Sa matchup naman tingin ko makakamatch up naman kami sa kanila. Siguro kung sino mas determined, mas gustong manalo (we'll see who makes it first. In terms of matchup, I think we're even. I guess the more determined team, the one who wants it more [will win])."

Fans will also be watching how Tirrell Brown leads Titan Ultra's offense alongside locals Joshua Munzon, Fran Yu, Cade Flores and JB Sajonia.

The same is expected of Terrafirma import Justin Strings, who will get help from locals Juami Tiongson, Maverick Ahanmisi, Joseph Eriobu, Geo Chiu and Brent Paraiso.

Brown, 32, played professionally in leagues in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Uruguay.

In his most recent stint with Caimanes del Llano in the Colombian Liga Basket, he averaged 13.8 points, 6 rebounds, and 1.4 assists, while shooting 68.5 percent from the two-point area. **(PBA Media/PNA)**



NLEX coach Jimmy Alapag with import PBA Governors' Cup import DeQuan Jones (Photo courtesy of NLEX Road Warriors Facebook)

## LIM REPLACES PANLILIO AS HEAD OF MISSION TO 20TH ASIAN GAMES

**MANILA** – The Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) on Thursday appointed Ricky Lim as chef de mission (CdM) to the Aichi-Nagoya 20th Asian Games following the resignation of Al Panlilio.

POC president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino made the appointment during the organization's General Assembly at the East Ocean Restaurant in Pasay City.

"Al (Panlilio) admitted to us that it would be unfair to everyone if he cannot give his 100 percent commitment as chef de mission for our Filipino athletes and delegates in the Asian Games,"

Tolentino said in a news release. "We accepted his resignation."

Panlilio, who was elected president of the golf association last April, tendered his resignation last Monday.

Tolentino said Panlilio's involvement in major businesses—including his appointment as chairman of cryptocurrency company BlockShoals Technologies last July 1—led him to give up the CdM role in Japan.

Lim, who heads Karate Pilipinas, will have as deputy CdMs Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Erika Dy, Jarryd Bello of Curling

Pilipinas, Alexander Sulit of Philippine Judo Federation and Jop Malonzo of vovinam.

"Ricky Lim is already familiar with the job after serving as chef de mission to the Harbin Asian Winter Games in China last February 2025 and as deputy chef de mission to the Bahrain Asian Youth Games last year," Tolentino said.

A total of 430 Filipino athletes—led by Paris Olympics double-gold medalist gymnast Carlos Yulo—will compete in 40 of the 43 sports at the Aichi-Nagoya Asiad, scheduled from Sept. 19 to Oct. 4. **(PR)**

## TENNIS WORLD'S RESPECT, ADMIRATION AT ALEX EALA'S FEET

**MANILA** – The standing ovation, despite her fourth-round exit from the most revered among tennis' four Grand Slams, said it all: Alexandra "Alex" Eala has earned global respect and admiration.

The girl who dared to dream big and put the Philippines on the world tennis map lost to Italian 13th seed Jasmine Paolini, 4-6, 6-4, 3-6, on Centre Court at London's All England Club on Monday.

However, she exited like a champion, the crowd behind the 21-year-old whom the match commentator described as a player who is "very easy to like."

The PhilSports Arena in Pasig City hosted a free live screening of Eala's match.

Eala was bidding to become the first Filipino to reach a singles Grand Slam quarterfinal since Felicísimo Ampon at the 1953 French Open.

She beat Paolini in the round of 32 of the Dubai Tennis Championships in February, 6-1, 7-6(5). But the 30-year-old runner-up in 2024 got the better of Eala this time, inspired by her idol, eight-time champion Roger Federer,

who was among the guests in the Royal Box.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. posted a message on social media for Eala after the two-hour, 22-minute match.

"This remarkable Wimbledon run may have come to an end. But after what you have accomplished, I believe the world has only begun to see what Filipinos are capable of," Marcos posted.

"Thank you, Alex Eala, for proving that no dream is beyond the reach of a Filipino who dares to dream and works for it. The whole nation is proud of you. You will always be our champion!"

It was Paolini's first time on Centre Court since losing to Czech Barbora Krejčíková in the finals two

years ago.

"Stepping on this court is something special, and I was looking forward to it," Paolini said in her on-court interview.

"Here there is an amazing atmosphere. It's something else to play tennis here, you know, and I feel so lucky to have this opportunity. I feel lucky to get the win as well, and I want to thank you as well, Roger, because (you're) my idol."

Paolini, the world No. 17, became the first Italian woman to reach multiple Wimbledon quarterfinals.

In the last eight, she will face 12th seed Ukrainian Marta Kostyuk, who advanced earlier Monday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over American Ashlyn Krueger in one hour and 23 minutes. **(PNA)**



Alexandra "Alex" Eala (Photo from Wimbledon)