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CAVITE LGUS TO INCLUDE NUTRITION IN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLANS



TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Cavite Province will soon integrate nutrition strategies in local disaster preparedness plans, highlighting that proper health and nutrition remain crucial in crisis recovery.

To ensure proper public nutrition, especially during disasters and emergencies, local Nutrition Action Officers in Cavite Province completed a three-day capacity-building activity focused on delivering essential interventions.

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) in CALABARZON led the Training on Nutrition in Emergencies and Information Management

from July 15 to 17. Held in partnership with the Cavite Provincial Nutrition Office, the session gathered personnel from City and Municipal Action Officers and Coordinators, Barangay Nutrition Scholars, Nutrition Office staff, and local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Offices across the province.

In a statement, the NNC CALABARZON emphasized the importance of ensuring proper nutrition as part of the four core pillars of DRRM: Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Disaster Rehabilitation and Recovery.

“By strengthening the

capacities of local nutrition and disaster response personnel, the training reinforced the province’s readiness to integrate nutrition into the four core thematic areas of DRRM.”

The NNC also highlighted the vital role of local government units in allocating resources to guarantee that nutrition interventions will continue even during emergencies.

“Cavite LGUs are expected to develop their respective DRRM-H-NiE Plans and integrate them into their Local Nutrition Action Plans (LNAPs) and LDRRM Plans to facilitate the allocation of appropriate resources and ensure the implementation of nutrition interventions

IMUS LGU FAST TRACKS DISTRIBUTION OF BBM RICE BENEFITS



IMUS CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The City Government of Imus assured the speedy distribution of rice subsidies for the beneficiaries of the Bigay Bigas sa Masa program.

Last July 22, the city government led the distribution of rice benefits for Informal Settler Families (ISF) and Solo Parents in the city. This is part of the 30,000 sacks of rice that the National Government

bought directly from local farmers under the Sagip Saka Act.

To guarantee fair rice distribution, Mayor Alex Advincula said the city government skipped ceremonial distributions and instead installed weighing scales to accurately measure the rice packs for residents.

“Upang mapabilis ang pamamahagi, come and go na lamang at wala nang kahit anong programa o seremonya. Naglagay rin ang lokal na pamahalaan ng mga timbangan upang matiyak na tama ang timbang ng bigas na matatanggap ng mga benepisyaryo.”

Earlier this month, the city government received 14,000 packs of rice allocated for Imus City.

“Ito po ay first batch pa lamang at marami pang darating. Mahigit 30,000 po

ang inaasahan nating darating para ipamigay sa ating mga kababayan. Ito pong bigas ay binili na natin sa kooperatiba. ‘Yan po ay pondo galing sa pamahalaang nasyunal at binili ng ating lungsod sa kooperatiba.’”

Advincula noted that purchasing the rice from local cooperatives such as the Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC) also directly benefits local farmers.

“Nais ko pong magpasalamaat sa ating Pangulo. Maraming maraming salamat po sa mahal na Pangulong [Ferdinand] Marcos [Jr.] sa inyong suporta at tulong.” (PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from City Government of Imus) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

DPWH ORDERS FAST-TRACKING OF STALLED NOVELETA ROAD PROJECTS

NOVELETA, Cavite (PIA) — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has ordered the timely construction of the long-delayed road rehabilitation and drainage improvement projects in Noveleta, Cavite.

This follows the inspection of Secretary Vince Dizon of various projects here last July 21. The inspection focused on key infrastructure projects, including the Manila-Cavite Road Rehabilitation

during emergencies.”

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), malnutrition, illness, and even death spike during emergencies. Without access to diverse and healthy diets, crises can severely disrupt breastfeeding and infant feeding practices that are crucial for child nutrition. (PB-PIA CALABARZON with reports from National Nutrition Council-CALABARZON) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

Project and the Manila-Cavite Bypass Road Project (NOVELEX).

Addressing motorists and commuters affected by the stalled road rehabilitation and drainage upgrade project, Dizon assured them that the DPWH will fast-track completion of the construction project.

“Aayusin natin ito. Bibilisan natin ito. Magtutulung-tulong kami dito.”

Likewise, Mayor Davey Chua expressed his optimism that the DPWH inspection will finally resolve their town’s traffic and flooding issues.

“Nandito na si Sec. Vince ng DPWH para maiayos na

po natin ito.”

Connecting Noveleta and Cavite City to Manila, the NOVELEX stretches about two kilometers with six (6) lanes, and is expected to reduce travel time.

Residents and local officials have long been pushing for the completion of the road rehabilitation and drainage improvement project, which is seen as critical in solving transport burdens in the area. (PB-PIA CALABARZON/ with reports from ANC, Cavite Press Corps, photo courtesy of DPWH Region IV-A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**



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MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG THEFT, ARESTADO NG BACOR PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang isang City Level Wanted Person sa isinagawang manhunt operation bandang 5:20 ng hapon noong Hulyo 23, 2026 sa Barangay Molino IV, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, Hepe ng Bacoor Component City Police Station, ang akusado na si alyas "Juan", 48 taong gulang, at residente ng Barangay Molino IV, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng Manhunt Charlie Operation ang Warrant Section ng Bacoor CCPS na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Theft.

Ang nasabing warrant ay inilabas ng Presiding Judge ng Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC),

Branch 3, Bacoor City, na may petsang Disyembre 16, 2025, at may inirekomendang piyansa na nagkakahalaga ng ₱10,000.00.

Ang akusado ay kasalukuyang nakapiit sa Bacoor Custodial Facility Center habang hinihintay ang kaukulang disposisyon. Ang kopya ng Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na pagmulan nito para sa nararapat na aksyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang patuloy na pagtugis at pagkakaaresto sa mga wanted persons ay bahagi ng ating mas pinaigting na kampanya upang matiyak na ang mga lumalabag sa batas ay mananagot sa kanilang mga ginawa. Ang Cavite PPO ay mananatiling determinado sa pagpapatupad ng batas at pagpapanatili ng ligtas na komunidad para sa mamamayan."

RANK NO. 3 CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG TRECE MARTIRES PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Trece Martires Component City Police Station ang City Level Rank No. 3 Most Wanted Person bandang 2:45 ng hapon noong Hulyo 23, 2026 sa Barangay Cabuco, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL BRYIAN D MERINO, Hepe ng Trece Martires Component City Police Station, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Darren", 47 taong gulang, at residente ng Barangay Cabuco, Trece Martires City, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang Warrant Section ng Trece Martires CCPS na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Attempted Murder.

Ang nasabing warrant ay inilabas at nilagdaan ng Presiding Judge ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 130, Trece Martires

City, Cavite, na may petsang Hulyo 17, 2026, at may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱120,000.00. Kaagad na ipinaalam sa akusado ang dahilan ng kanyang pagkakaaresto at ang kanyang mga karapatang naaayon sa Konstitusyon sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay nakapiit sa Trece Martires Component City Police Station Custodial Facility habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang proseso. Ang kopya ng Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa nararapat na disposisyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa mga wanted person ay patunay ng patuloy na dedikasyon ng Cavite PPO sa pagpapatupad ng batas at pagpapanagot sa mga taong may kinahaharap na kaso. Mananatili tayong masigasig sa pagtugis sa mga nagtatago sa batas upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at kaayusan sa ating lalawigan."

LALAKI, ARESTADO SA MATAGUMPAY NA BUY-BUST OPERATION NG NOVELETA PULIS; ILEGAL NA BARIL AT MGA BALANG NASAMSAM

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Arestado ang isang lalaki matapos mahuli sa isinagawang buy-bust operation ng mga tauhan ng Noveleta Municipal Police Station laban sa ilegal na pagbebenta ng baril bandang 3:10 ng hapon noong Hulyo 22, 2026 sa Barangay San Rafael IV, Noveleta, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PMAJ MARK ANTHONY D SARNO, Hepe ng Noveleta MPS, ang suspek na si alyas "John", 34 taong gulang, at residente ng Bagong Pook, San Antonio, Cavite City, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng operasyon ang mga tauhan ng Noveleta MPS Drug Enforcement Unit at Intelligence Section laban sa suspek dahil sa umano'y ilegal na pagbebenta ng baril. Nauwi ito sa pagkakaaresto matapos itong mahuli na aktong nagbebenta ng isang hindi lisensyadong baril sa isang pulis na nagsilbing poseur-buyer, kapalit ng halagang ₱1,000.00.

Nakumpiska mula sa suspek ang mga sumusunod na ebidensya: Isang Colt revolver na walang serial number; Anim na piraso ng caliber

.22 live ammunition; Isang piraso ng holster ng baril;

Dalawang piraso ng tig-₱500.00 na ginamit bilang buy-bust money; at Dalawang piraso ng tig-₱100.00 na nakumpiskang pera mula sa suspek.

Ang naarestong suspek ay kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Noveleta MPS habang inihahanda ang mga kaukulang dokumento para sa pagsasampa ng kaso sa Imus City Prosecutor's Office dahil sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10591 o Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating kampanya laban sa ilegal na pagbebenta, pag-iingat, at paggamit ng mga baril upang maiwasan ang pagkakasangkot ng mga ito sa anumang uri ng krimen. Hinihiyay natin ang publiko na makipagtulungan sa kapulisan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng impormasyon upang mapanatili ang kapayapaan at seguridad sa buong lalawigan ng Cavite."

MOST WANTED SA KASO NG ACTS OF LASCIVIOUSNESS, ARESTADO NG NAIC PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Naic Municipal Police Station ang isang Municipal Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang operasyon bandang 9:41 ng umaga noong Hulyo 22, 2026 sa Barangay Ibayo Silangan, Naic, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL LOUIE DC GONZAGA, Chief of Police ng Naic MPS, ang naaresto na si alyas "Jes", 33 taong gulang, at residente ng Taytay, Rizal. Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang mga warrant personnel ng Naic MPS na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest dahil sa kasong Acts of Lasciviousness na inilabas ng Municipal

Trial Court, Naic, Cavite, 4th Judicial Region. Ang naturang warrant ay inilabas at nilagdaan noong Hulyo 15, 2026, na may inirekomendang piyansa na nagkakahalaga ng ₱36,000.00.

Agad na ipinaalam sa naarestong akusado ang kanyang mga karapatan alinsunod sa batas at agad itong dinala sa Naic PNP para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating kampanya laban sa mga nagtatangkang umiwas sa batas. Ang bawat pag-aresto sa mga wanted persons ay nagpapakita ng ating matibay na

DALAWANG INDIBIDWAL ARESTADO MATAPOS MAUWI SA ARMADONG KOMPRONTASYON ANG BUY-BUST OPERATION SA GMA, CAVITE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, City of Imus, Cavite

— Nauwi sa isang armadong komprontasyon ang isinagawang buy-bust operation ng Drug Enforcement Team ng GMA Municipal Police Station ngayong gabi ng Hulyo 21, 2026, sa kahabaan ng F. De Castro, GMA, Cavite, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng dalawang hinihinalang sangkot sa iligal na droga at paglabag sa batas sa armas.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXANDER S ALVAREZ, Acting Chief of Police ng GMA Municipal Police Station, ang pagkakakilanlan ng dalawang naarestong indibidwal na kilala sa mga alyas na "Biboy" at "Reca." Nahaharap sila sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9165 o Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 at Republic Act No. 10591 o Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Ayon sa ulat, nagsasagawa ng lehitimong buy-bust operation ang mga operatiba ng GMA MPS sa ilalim ng Coordination sa PDEA nang matapos ang transaksyon sa pagitan ng poseur-buyer at ng mga suspek. Gayunman, napansin umano ng mga suspek ang presensya ng mga operatiba kaya agad silang tumakas sakay ng kanilang sasakyan at nagpapatok ng baril sa mga humahabol na pulis.

Dahil sa agarang banta sa kanilang kaligtasan, napilitan ang mga operatiba na gumanti ng putok habang nagpapatuloy ang pagtugis. Kalaunan ay naharang ang sinasakyang Hyundai Starex ng mga suspek sa Mayor's Drive, Barangay F. De Castro, na naging dahilan ng kanilang pagkakaaresto.

Sa kabila ng insidente, walang nasugatan sa panig ng mga pulis, mga suspek, o mga sibilyan. Nakumpiska sa operasyon

ang humigit-kumulang limang (5) gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang Standard Drug Price na PHP34,000, 15 gramo ng hinihinalang tuyong marijuana na nagkakahalaga ng PHP1,800, dalawang hindi lisensyadong baril na may mga bala at fired cartridge cases, marked buy-bust money, isang Hyundai Starex na ginamit ng mga suspek, at iba pang personal na kagamitan na may kaugnayan sa operasyon.

Isinagawa ang imbentaryo ng mga nakuhang ebidensya sa mismong lugar ng pag-aresto sa presensya ng mga suspek, kinatawan ng media, at Barangay Officials, alinsunod sa itinakdang proseso ng batas. Ipinaalam din sa mga naaresto ang kanilang mga karapatang nakasaad sa Konstitusyon sa wikang kanilang nauunawaan.

Sinabi ni PBGEN DOMINIC L BACCAY, Acting Regional Director na hindi titigil ang PRO CALABARZON sa pagsugpo sa iligal na droga at sa mga armadong lumalabag sa batas. Ang matagumpay na operasyong ito ay patunay na nananatiling matatag ang ating kampanya laban sa iligal na droga.

Samantala, pinuri naman ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ang naging maingat at propesyonal na pagresponde ng mga operatiba sa kabila ng mapanganib na sitwasyon. Ipinapakita ng operasyong ito ang katatagan at disiplina ng ating mga pulis sa pagtupad ng kanilang tungkulin.

Patuloy na nananawagan ang inyong kapulisan sa publiko na maging mapagmatyag at makipagtulungan sa pamamagitan ng agarang pagbibigay ng impormasyon laban sa anumang ilegal na gawain. Sa pagkakaisa ng pulisya at komunidad, mas epektibo nating mapapanatili ang kapayapaan, kaayusan, at kaligtasan ng bawat Caviteño.

paninindigan na tiyaking makakamit ang hustisya at mapanatili ang seguridad ng ating mga komunidad sa Cavite."

SP HOLDS PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE STRENGTHENING ANTI - HAZING MEASURES IN CAVITE

In a move to reinforce the Province of Cavite's commitment to protecting students and promoting safe educational environments, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan conducted a public hearing on Proposed Ordinance No. 092-2026, which seeks to strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 11053 or the Anti-Hazing Act of 2018, on July 21, 2026, at the Conference Room of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

Authored by 4th District Board Member Nickanor N. Austria, Jr. and co-authored by 1st District Board Member Juan Ysmael R. Gandia and 2nd District Board Member Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, the proposed ordinance aims to establish stronger preventive measures, monitoring mechanisms, and local coordination among educational institutions, local government units, and covered organizations to curb hazing incidents in the province.

The public hearing was presided over by BM Alde-Joselito F. Pagulayan, who underscored the significance of the initiative in strengthening youth protection and public safety.

"This is the first step in the right direction," BM Pagulayan said, emphasizing the importance of collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, and organizations in preventing hazing and protecting the welfare of students.

One of the highlights of the hearing was the presentation by the Cavite Provincial Investigation and Effective Management Unit of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Cavite, which provided participants with data and updates on

fraternity-related incidents in the province. The discussion of the proposed ordinance was facilitated by Provincial Board Secretary Michelle F. Alcid, allowing stakeholders to share their insights and recommendations to further enhance the measure.

The public hearing was attended by representatives from the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-Cavite, Department of Education (DepEd)-Cavite, Association of Private Schools in Cavite, State Universities and Colleges, Office of the Provincial Information Officer, Office of the Provincial Legal Officer, Sangguniang Panlungsod/ Bayan Committees on Peace and Public Safety, youth representatives, and officers of covered organizations across the province.

The activity reflects the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing efforts to strengthen local policies that promote safer communities, uphold the rule of law, and protect the rights and welfare of the youth through proactive governance and multi-sectoral collaboration. —

OPIO

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: DOST CAVITE BRINGS OFFLINE SCIENCE LIBRARY TO PASTORELLE-JESUS GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cavite officially introduced STARBOOKS—the country's premier offline digital science library—to the faculty and staff of Pastorelle-Jesus Good Shepherd School during an orientation held on July 23, 2026.

Leading the orientation and hands-on session, STARBOOKS Deployment Officer, Ms. Jenica Krystel

DOST CAVITE SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT THROUGH MRF AND MRS TRAINING

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Cavite participated in the Training on the Establishment and Operation of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Material Recovery System (MRS) in Compliance with Republic Act No. 9003, held at the Provincial Capitol of Cavite. The training gathered representatives from local government units of Imus City Cavite City and Rosario to strengthen their understanding of sustainable solid waste management practices and promote compliance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000.

Serving as one of the resource speakers, Ms. Gilda S. De Jesus, Provincial Director of DOST Cavite, discussed the DOST programs that support local government units and communities. She highlighted key DOST initiatives, including the DOST Scholarship Program, the Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Program, and the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), emphasizing how these programs contribute to human resource development, research and

innovation, and enterprise competitiveness. She also introduced various DOST-developed technologies and equipment that may be adopted by local government units to enhance their Material Recovery Facilities and Material Recovery Systems, particularly benefiting the participating localities of Cavite City, Imus City, and Rosario.

The activity concluded with an interactive open forum where participants actively exchanged ideas and raised questions regarding the implementation of DOST programs and the possible adoption of appropriate technologies for their respective localities. The discussion reflected the participants' strong interest in leveraging science, technology, and innovation to strengthen their solid waste management initiatives.

Through activities such as this, DOST Cavite continues to promote collaborative partnerships with local government units in advancing sustainable environmental management and supporting community development through science and technology.

DOST CAVITE

EDITORIAL Ang Pananagutan sa Likod ng Katutubong Lupa

May illegal dumpsite na nadiskubre sa loob ng isang Aeta ancestral domain sa Sitio Tibag, Barangay Naugsol, Subic, Zambales.

Bagaman kailangan ang mabilis na pagtugon sa krisis noong panahon ng pandemya, hindi dapat ginagawang dahilan ang mga ganitong pagkakataon upang isantabi ang tamang proseso sa paggamit ng ancestral domain ng mga Ayta/Aeta.

Ang kawalan ng opisyal na dokumentasyon sa libre at paunang pahintulot ng katutubong pamayanan ay nagpapakita ng pagkukulang sa paggalang sa kanilang batayang karapatan at kapakanan.

Kahit ipinag-uutos na ang rehabilitasyon ng itinigil na dumpsite, nananatiling bitin ang hustisya habang hindi pa nagsasagawa ng siyentipikong pagsusuri upang tiyakin ang kalinisan ng tubig at kalikasan sa paligid.

Narapat lamang na magsilbing aral ito sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na ang tunay na pampublikong serbisyo ay hindi kailanman dapat nagmumula sa pagpapakasakit ng kapaligiran at ng mga katutubong pamayanan.

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CARD MRI, NAKIISA SA KAUNA-UNAHANG YAKAP LAWA FESTIVAL SA SAN PABLO CITY



Nakibahagi ang CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) sa kauna-unahang Yakap Lawa: City of Lakes Festival ng lungsod ng San Pablo, Laguna sa pamamagitan ng isang simbolikong fish lantern na itinampok sa parada noong Mayo 9, 2026.

Layunin ng naturang kapistahanna kilalanin at ipagdiwang ang pitong lawa ng San Pablo City at ang mayamang yamang-tubig nito. Ito rin ang unang taon ng pagdiriwang na inilunsad ng lokal na pamahalaan bilang bagong tradisyon ng lungsod upang higit na mapalalim ang pagpapahalaga ng mamamayan sa kalikasan at mapatatag ang koneksyon ng komunidad sa kanilang kapaligiran.

Pinangunahan ng CARD MRI Hijos Tours ang paglahok ng organisasyonkatuwang ang CARD-MRI Development Institute (CMDI) San Pablo Campus. Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang fish lantern entry, ipinakita ng CARD MRI ang suporta nito sa adbokasiya ng lungsod para sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan at pagpapanatili ng kultura at pagkakakilanlan ng San Pablo.

Ayon kay Marilyn M. Manila, Presidente ng CARD MRI Hijos Tours, espesyal ang kahalagahan ng San Pablo City sa organisasyon. "Bago namin binuksan ang aming tour services sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa, dito muna nagsimula ang Hijos Tours sa San Pablo. Ang pagsali namin sa pagdiriwang ay paraan ng pagbabalik-tanaw at pasasalamat sa lungsod at sa mayamang kultura nito na naging bahagi ng pagbuo ng tour company ng CARD," ani Manila.

Karamihan sa mga lantern entry sa parada ay gumamit ng disenyo ng tilapia, ngunit pinili ng CARD MRI Hijos Tours at CMDI na gamitin ang isdang biya bilang pangunahing simbolo ng kanilang likha. Ang biya ay isang maliit na isdang likas na matatagpuan sa Laguna at kilala sa pagiging matatag at madaling makaangkop sa kabila ng simpleng anyo nito.

Ipinaliwanag naman ni Dr. Edzel Ramos, Presidente ng CMDI, na ang pagpili

sa biya ay kaugnay ng isa sa mga pangunahing pagpapahalaga ng CARD MRI. "Sa pamamagitan ng biya, nais naming bigyang-diin ang isa sa core values ng CARD MRI, ang pagpapakumbaba," saad ni Dr. Ramos.

Dagdag pa niya, ang isda ay sumisimbolo rin sa lakas at tibay ng mga komunidad na patuloy na umaangat sa kabila ng iba't ibang hamon. Para sa CARD MRI, mahalagang maipakita na ang simpleng bagay ay maaari ding maging simbolo ng pagkakaisa, pag-unlad, at malasakit sa komunidad.

Ibinahagi rin ni Manila na naging inspirasyon nila ang kahalagahan ng biya sa kabuhayan ng mga mamamayan sa lugar. "Ang biya ay sumasalamatin sa lakas at simpleng katangian na malapit din sa pagkakakilanlan ng CARD. Naniniwala kami na ito ang tamang simbolo upang katawanin ang CARD habang nagbibigay-pugay rin sa San Pablo," dagdag niya.

Mahigit 20 mag-aaral mula sa performing arts group ng CMDI San Pablo Campus ang nagtulungan upang buuin ang fish lantern. Samantala, pinangasiwaan naman ng CARD MRI Hijos Tours ang koordinasyon at pagsasagawa ng aktibidad. Nasa school break noon ang mga estudyante bago magsimula ang susunod na taong panuruan. Nang malaman nila ang pakikipagtulungan ng CMDI at Hijos Tours para sa festival, boluntaryo silang tumulong sa paggawa at pagpapakita ng lantern sa parada.

Ang lantern ay pinintahan ng kulay asul, kahel, at dilaw upang kumatawan sa makulay na kultura ng San Pablo at sa yaman ng mga lawa nito. Upang higit pang maipakita ang tibay

at katatagan ng biya, anim na magkakaparehong fish lantern ang ginawa ng mga estudyante sa salit-salitang kulay asul at kahel. Pinagdugtong-dugtong din ang mga lantern sa buong parada bilang simbolo ng pagkakaisa at sama-samang pag-unlad ng komunidad.

Ayon kay Dr. Ramos, higit pa sa isang dekorasyon ang layunin ng kanilang fish lantern. "Ang biya fish lantern na ito ay sumisimbolo sa aming paninindigan sa CARD para sa pangangalaga sa kalikasan at pagpapanatili ng kulturang Pilipino. Sa pamamagitan nito, nais naming hikayatin ang komunidad ng San Pablo na magpatuloy sa pag-unlad habang pinahalalagahan ang kanilang pinagmulan," aniya.

Itinampok ang fish lantern sa parada mula Rizal Avenue hanggang sa boardwalk ng Sampaloc Lake sa city plaza. Habang bitbit ng mga estudyante ang lantern, gumalaw sila nang tila alon upang gayahin ang paglangoy ng mga isda sa lawa. Matapos ang parada, nanatili ring naka-display ang lantern sa ginanap na evening celebration sa lake boardwalk.

Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang paglahok sa kauna-unahang Yakap Lawa Festival, ipinakita ng CARD MRI ang suporta nito sa mga programang nagpapahalaga sa kalikasan, kultura, at pagkakaisa ng komunidad. Inaasahan ding magpapatuloy ang ganitong mga aktibidad upang higit pang mapalakas ang ugnayan ng mga institusyon at mamamayan sa mga susunod na taon. **JIREH PEARL CASIONAN, JUNIOR WRITER**



Bitbit ng mga mag-aaral ng CMDI San Pablo ang fish lantern habang nakikilahok sa parada, kasama sina CMDI Principal Lorelie Aguilar (kaliwa) at Hijos Tours Tour Manager Ruben Cuervo (kanan). Tampok ang fish lantern entry ng CARD MRI na itinanghal sa Sampaloc Lake Boardwalk bilang bahagi ng pagdiriwang.

ENCHANTED KINGDOM UNVEILS A MONTH FILLED WITH MAGIC FOR ELДАР THE WIZARD'S BIRTHDAY



Enchanted Kingdom, the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, is set to make the entire month magical as it announces the spectacular lineup of enchanting gifts from its iconic Storyverse character, Eldar the Wizard, in celebration of his birthday this July.

Kicking off its Love Saribuhay campaign this quarter, EK is showering guests with magical treats both inside and outside the Park as it counts down to Eldar's Birthday Bash on July 25 at the Spaceport Grounds. The highly anticipated celebration, which coincides with the soft opening of the Park over 30 years ago, will feature enchanting parades, shows, games, appearances, giveaways, and other surprises perfect for guests of all ages.

Eldar the Wizard has been the heart of EK's vibrant Storyverse and has brought magic, wisdom, and inspiration to generations of Filipinos for the past three decades. He embodies EK's core values and inspires everyone to embrace love of God, respect, loyalty, integrity, and innovation.

Ahead of his grand birthday celebration, the beloved wizard is currently extending the magic and fun of the festivities beyond the park through Eldar's Birthday Bash Community Outreach Program. As part of this initiative, Eldar heads to selected foundations and orphanages in Laguna to share enchanting treats, special performances, and memorable experiences with the beneficiaries.

EK will launch its newest seasonal show featuring all of the Storyverse characters in a surprise dance party, as they give back to Eldar the magic and joy he has shared with the kingdom and the Filipino people over the years.

Guests can also savor his special food selections, including the family feast bundle of Eldar's Meal exclusively offered at Amazon Grill and LaunchTime restaurants. Alternatively, everyone can try the meal's chicken

inasal, which is available for solo orders at Snaptooth Snack Station, Parkside, and Diggers Treat. Tropical Coolers' standout drink, Eldar's Purple Brew, will also remain available as a refreshing grab-and-go treat to enjoy while exploring the Park.

EK has also introduced its latest addition to its lineup of Eldar merchandise, adding everyday items such as pillows, purses, and bags in a variety of kinds and styles.

Meanwhile, the photo outlet in Rialto 4D and Eldar's Photo Hub in Victoria Park have rolled out its new Face Recognition feature, allowing parkgoers to easily access all their photos in one place.

In-park tenant partners are also taking part in the festivities, with Dairy Queen becoming the first to announce its offerings, including the exclusive in-park Eldar's Hat Dilly Bar and the Purple Yam Blizzard as the Blizzard of the Month.

As the ultimate gift for Eldar's big day, EK is

bringing back its regular park hours of 11AM to 8PM every Friday to Sunday until August 30, before shifting to Thursdays to Sundays starting September 1.

Everyone can grab the chance to visit the Park on July 24 to 26 through Eldar's Birthday Bundle, which includes one (1) Regular Day Pass, a mixture of free treats from various in-park retail and food outlets, and participation in seasonal in-park activities, all for Php 1,400 only. Plus, it offers reserved seating to Eldar's Birthday Bash, exclusively guests visiting on July 25. Promo is available for walk-in purchase or through the EK Online Store until July 26 only.

For more information and updates on Eldar's Birthday Bash 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.



MYANMAR RETURNING TO ASEAN OFFICIAL MEETINGS 'STILL FAR OFF'— LAZARO

MANILA — The re-engagement of Myanmar leaders into Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meetings is "still far off" and is unlikely to happen within 2026 or Singapore's chairship next year.

At a press conference following the 59th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Pasay City on Thursday, Lazaro noted that there were still "questions" on the Myanmar government's compliance to the Five-Point Consensus (5PC), which stays as the bloc's "primary reference" in addressing the crisis there. "I guess, right now I can say it's still far off. At this point of time, it's still the Five-Point Consensus that is still being the foundational document that we are looking at," she said.

"During the discussions with the foreign minister of Myanmar, there have been a lot of questions on their compliance with the Five-Point Consensus. It may not happen yet, but let's see the compliance that they can give," she added. But she noted that ASEAN is "patient" and will wait and look "for whatever they can give" in terms of

5PC implementation.

"If there is compliance, then that means it will change. There's no view whether there's a number of countries who doesn't like Myanmar to sit on their seat. So, it's really the compliance to the 5PC," she said.

On humanitarian assistance, Lazaro confirmed that she will lead a delegation to Myanmar on the fourth quarter of 2026, and visit certain areas occupied by ethnic organizations.

"The impact here is really trying to reach out to the vulnerable communities in Myanmar," she said.

"Of course, permits will be asked from the junta government, and that now talks about their ability to really reach out to us," she added.

The mission, she said, will be in coordination with the ASEAN Humanitarian Center based in Jakarta and several other international humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Médecins Sans Frontières, and the World Food Programme. **(PNA) BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

DOJ PREPARES DIRECTIVE TO ADDRESS BULLYING

MANILA — The Department of Justice (DOJ) is preparing a directive mandating local prosecution offices to receive complaints related to bullying.

In a news briefing on Thursday, DOJ Undersecretary Ian Norman Dato said the department order will be issued in line with Secretary Frederick Vida's commitment to strengthen the government's response to bullying by giving victims and their families assistance.

"Schools are reopening, so the plan of the Department of Justice is to issue a department order tasking or mandating our local prosecution offices or the Department of Justice Action Center to receive complaints for bullying," he said.

Local prosecution offices and the DOJ Assistance Center (DOJAC) will assess complaints, mediate disputes when appropriate, or refer cases to schools, which have primary jurisdiction over the incidents.

When appropriate, schools may also endorse complaints to the Philippine National Police's (PNP) Women and Children Protection Desk or formally

docket cases.

Dato said the initiative reflects the DOJ's commitment to protecting children under both the Constitution and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

"The position of the DOJ is that anti-bullying is a commitment under the Constitution and international law, primarily the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child," he said.

"This is a serious commitment of the department, and this department order will be issued by next week."

He said the order intends to give victims and their parents easier access to government assistance and ensure they are not limited to seeking relief through schools alone.

"I just need to emphasize that this is a way for the victim and the parents to have access, that aside from the school, they have other agencies that will approach and investigate," Dato said. **(PNA) BY BENJAMIN PULTA**

DA TO 'DOUBLE' AGRI SUPPORT AHEAD OF SEVERE EL NINO

MANILA — The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Thursday said it will double support in select areas to cushion the impact of the looming super El Niño in the Philippines.

In an interview on the sidelines of the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines' (EJAP) food security forum, DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said they will

as provided for by the UNCLOS and settled by the 2016 Arbitral Award.

"As a low-tide elevation, Ayungin generates no maritime entitlement of its own and cannot be claimed by any other state. The Philippines alone holds the sovereign right to authorize any structure there, and Philippine vessels do not require permission to sail to Ayungin," it said. **(PNA) BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

GOV'T CALLS FOR WATER CONSERVATION AS ANGAT DAM HITS LOWEST SINCE 2010

MANILA — The public is encouraged to conserve water as Angat Dam — which supplies 98 percent of potable water in Metro Manila through the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System — is at critical level, and has breached its lowest water level recorded since 2010.

The dam's normal water level is 210 meters. As of 8 a.m. Thursday, its water level stood at 151.45 meters, down 0.67 meter in the past 24 hours.

In a radio interview on Thursday, National Water Resources Board Executive Director Sevilla David Jr. said the current level is already 5 meters below the lowest water level of 157.57 meters recorded in 2010.

"The effect of El Niño is huge. The dam's water level has been decreasing due to reduced rainfall," he said.

In a press conference

on Thursday, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration hydrologist Jofren Habaluyas said the rainfall from tropical cyclone Kiyapo is not expected to significantly contribute to the dam's reservoir.

David said that although the dam's water level primarily relies on rainfall, responsible use of water would still help.

"Every drop counts," David said.

Thus, he called for public support and urged everyone to conserve water.

Aside from utilizing rainwater, David suggested the reduction of "non-essential" use of water.

"If your car is not too dirty, you could postpone the carwash. You could also use rainwater for toilet flushing," he added. **(PNA) BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

'PROVISIONAL' DEAL ON AYUNGIN DOES NOT CONCEDE PH SOVEREIGNTY, RIGHTS

MANILA — The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said its "provisional understanding" with China on the Ayungin Shoal does not in any way concede the Philippines' sovereignty and rights over the West Philippine Sea.

In a statement on Thursday, the department explained that it was a "set of principles and approaches" meant to avoid misunderstanding and miscalculation in resupply missions to the BRP Sierra Madre.

"It is not a grant of or a request for permission to any foreign government, it does not recognize any foreign jurisdiction over

Philippine waters, and was agreed on the express understanding that it does not prejudice national positions," it said.

The DFA added that the understanding likewise does not require the Philippines to get any permission to undertake resupply missions to Ayungin Shoal.

The set of principles, it said, also does not allow boarding or inspection of Philippine vessels.

"The Philippines' legal position, grounded in UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea) and vindicated by the Arbitral Tribunal, remains unchanged and

non-negotiable," it said.

"The Philippines continues to conduct rotation and resupply missions, including normal shipboard activities in BRP Sierra Madre, as a matter of routine government function within Philippine jurisdiction and in the exercise of its sovereign rights under international law, particularly UNCLOS and the 2016 Arbitral Award, and will continue to do so for as long as necessary in line with the national interest."

The DFA repeated that Ayungin Shoal forms part of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) and continental shelf of the Philippines,

drought, the agriculture chief said support to farmers is crucial.

"Those areas we just have to support the farmers, whatever way possible — that's the whole of government and local government units," Tiu Laurel said.

These include rice farms in the Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Western Mindoro, among others.

To date, the DA has projected about 700,000 metric tons (MT) of potential production losses in palay output due to strong El Niño, possible weather disturbances and the effects of the recent global fuel and fertilizer price spikes.

This is slightly higher than the 500,000 MT to 600,000 MT historical average production losses in palay harvest per year. **(PNA) BY STEPHANIE SEVILLANO**

AFP, NTF-WPS JUNK CHINESE PERMISSION CLAIMS ON WPS MEDICAL EVACUATION

MANILA – The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS) on Wednesday strongly rejected claims made by the China Coast Guard that the latter gave permission for the medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) of two military personnel aboard the BRP Sierra Madre (LS-57), who were injured following a clash with CCG personnel last July 20 in Ayungin Shoal.

"The AFP rejects the CCG claim that it permitted the recent medical evacuation near BRP Sierra Madre at Ayungin Shoal. The mission, conducted on July 21 by the AFP and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), was successfully conducted solely under Philippine authority in the exercise of our sovereign rights," the military said in a statement.

The Filipino naval personnel were injured after being attacked by CCG members whom they accosted after spotting the Chinese taking close-range photos and videos of BRP Sierra Madre in Ayungin Shoal last July 20.

The CCG earlier claimed that the medical evacuation was conducted with China's authorization or as an act of humanitarian goodwill.

The AFP emphasized that the Philippines "does not ask for, nor does it require, the permission of any foreign nation" to conduct operations within its own exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

It also said that Ayungin Shoal lies well within the Philippines' 200-nautical-mile EEZ, as affirmed by the 2016 Arbitral Award under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"Any claim by the CCG that it 'permitted' the operation is a false narrative intended to project illegitimate authority where none exists," the AFP said.

It also stressed that the BRP Sierra Madre is a commissioned Philippine Navy ship, and the sustainment and humanitarian care of its personnel are sovereign responsibilities.

It likewise said continued presence, interference and harassment by Chinese vessels in the area are

unlawful and inconsistent with international law.

"The AFP commends the PCG for its professionalism, coordination, and swift response in ensuring the success of the mission. The injured PN personnel have since received the necessary medical care," it said.

Likewise, AFP calls on the People's Liberation Army Navy, CCG and its maritime militia to cease their illegal activities and respect international law.

"We remain steadfast in fulfilling our constitutional mandate to protect Philippine sovereignty and sovereign rights, and we will continue to conduct lawful operations throughout the WPS without seeking the approval of China or any other foreign state," it added.

Familiar pattern of illegal, coercive behavior

In a separate statement, NTF-WPS said the humanitarian goodwill claims by the CCG "are false and seek to distort the facts" since CCG rigid-hull inflatable boats repeatedly executed dangerous blocking maneuvers that hindered the safe transfer of the wounded servicemen during the MEDEVAC operation.

These actions, it pointed out, unnecessarily increased the risks to a time-critical humanitarian mission.

"China's subsequent assertion that it 'permitted' the operation is contradicted by the conduct of its own personnel on the scene. Humanitarian medical evacuations are urgent, life-saving operations that should never be obstructed or exploited to advance unlawful maritime claims," it said.

NTF-WPS also stressed that the Philippines does not require China's permission to conduct lawful activities within its maritime domain consistent with national and international law.

"Ayungin Shoal lies within the Philippines' EEZ, where the Philippines exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction under the 1982 UNCLOS. These rights were reaffirmed by the final and binding 2016 South China Sea Arbitral Award, which declared that China's expansive maritime claims have no legal basis under

PH RAISES AYUNGIN INCIDENT BEFORE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS

MANILA – The Philippines has raised before a gathering of Southeast Asian foreign ministers the recent developments in the South China Sea, specifically a maritime incident near the Ayungin Shoal that resulted in a Filipino Navy member sustaining injury.

In a press huddle after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Pasay City, Foreign Affairs Secretary Ma. Theresa Lazaro said she personally brought up the subject but it did not elicit a response from the attending top diplomats, likely because "everything is still being discussed" between the parties.

"I was the one who presented it as part of the discussion because everybody has read it. It's all in the newspapers. But the foreign ministers did not respond to that position that I made, because I think everything is still being discussed between the two parties," she said.

A Philippine Navy member earlier sustained a head injury after being struck with a wooden baton by Chinese Coast Guard personnel near Ayungin Shoal in the West

international law," it added.

NTF-WPS said the latest incident reflects a familiar pattern of illegal, coercive, aggressive, and deceptive behavior—combining dangerous actions at sea with disinformation designed to obscure responsibility and legitimize unlawful conduct.

"False narratives cannot alter the facts, international law, or the Philippines' lawful exercise of its sovereign rights," it emphasized.

Also, NTF-WPS said the Philippines remains committed to professionalism, restraint, and the peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law.

"We call on the People's Republic of China to cease its illegal and coercive activities, respect humanitarian operations, and comply with its obligations under international law," it concluded. (PNA) **BY PRIAM NEPOMUCENO**

Philippine Sea.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said a CCG rigid hull inflatable boat carrying eight personnel from CCG Vessel 21560 unlawfully approached BRP Sierra Madre at close range and began taking photos and videos of the outpost.

The Philippine side, in response, deployed two rubber boats to direct the unauthorized vessels away in a measured and non-confrontational manner.

The CCG personnel, however, "reacted violently and aggressively," causing injury and damaging the PN rubber boat operating within the area where the country "enjoys sovereign rights under international law," the AFP said.

At the retreat, Lazaro said various ministers have also taken certain positions on the broader South China Sea issue, but most have touched on progress in the ongoing negotiations on a Code of Conduct (COC) in the sea lane.

"I think what (they were) really very emphatic about is the Code of Conduct. All the foreign ministers, almost all, have really focused themselves on the development that is happening on the Code of Conduct between ASEAN and China on the South China Sea," she added.

The United States, Japan, and the European Union (EU) have earlier backed Manila in flagging the latest Chinese actions near the Ayungin Shoal.

US Department of State Spokesperson Tommy Pigott said Washington, DC, stands by Manila as its ally and commended the "professionalism and restraint" shown by Philippine Navy personnel in the incident.

"The United States condemns China's dangerous and aggressive actions against Philippine Navy personnel at Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea on July 20, 2026, and calls on China to immediately cease its destabilizing conduct," he said.

"China's troubling pattern of provocation against lawful Philippine maritime operations undermines regional peace and stability and directly contradicts China's repeated commitments to resolve

CFO: MIGRATION EDUCATION KEY TO PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

MANILA—The Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) underscored the importance of migration education and public awareness in preventing human trafficking, saying informed and coordinated action is key to protecting vulnerable Filipinos from exploitation.

In a news release Wednesday, the CFO highlighted its message during the first provincial and regional anti-human trafficking summit in Cebu, where government agencies and partner organizations worked on a provincewide action plan aligned with the country's anti-trafficking framework.

Organized by the Province of Cebu and the Regional Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, the summit also opened the country's observance of National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Awareness Month this July, which culminates in World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30.

The CFO and the Department of Migrant Workers led a workshop on the prevention pillar of the anti-trafficking framework, focusing on stopping trafficking before it occurs through migration education and public awareness.

"The prevention pillar

disputes peacefully."

Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Endo Kazuya, for his part, said Tokyo is "seriously concerned" about what he described as "aggressive actions" near the feature and that it "stands with countries in maintaining and enhancing the free and open international order based on the rule of law."

The EU Delegation in Manila, meanwhile, said it "firmly opposes any unilateral actions that endanger the safety of personnel at sea and threaten to undermine regional stability and the international rule-based order."

"The EU Delegation to the Philippines expresses its concern regarding the incident that took place on 20 July 2026 near Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, which resulted in the injury of a Philippine Navy Servicemen," it said. (PNA) **BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

focuses on addressing the root causes of trafficking, including poverty, lack of education, unsafe migration and other vulnerabilities. It also promotes sustained public awareness campaigns, community education, responsible migration, and initiatives to reduce demand for exploitative labor and sexual services," the CFO said.

As the lead agency for the Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar and other migration information programs, the CFO said it equips Filipinos with information on safe and legal migration, helping them recognize recruitment scams, trafficking schemes and other forms of exploitation before leaving the country.

Cebu Gov. Pamela Baricuatro, in her keynote address, called for a united response to human trafficking.

"Protection goes beyond healthcare, education or livelihood—it means ensuring that every Cebuano, especially our children, women, migrant workers and vulnerable sectors, can live without fear of exploitation," she said.

Baricuatro said addressing trafficking requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

The summit featured discussions on victim rescue, prosecution of traffickers and survivor reintegration, as well as presentations on the continuing threat of online sexual abuse or exploitation of children (OSAEC) in Central Visayas, one of the regions considered vulnerable to human trafficking and technology-facilitated child exploitation.

The CFO cited data from the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, the Department of Justice and international partners showing that Central Visayas remains among the regions with a significant number of trafficking investigations, rescue operations and prosecutions involving OSAEC.

The Philippines also continues to face serious challenges in combating online child sexual exploitation, the CFO said. (PNA) **BY MARITA MOAJE**

347 PPP PROJECTS WORTH P3 TRILLION FORTHCOMING

MANILA – More than 340 projects are currently in the pipeline to be undertaken by the government and the private sector, data from the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center showed.

Latest data from the PPP Center showed that the total cost of the 347 projects in the pipeline is PHP3.07 trillion.

Of the total, 164 projects worth PHP2.94 trillion will be implemented by the national government while the remaining 83 projects valued at PHP124.16 billion will be undertaken by local government units.

Railways continued to account for the biggest chunk with total projects amounting to PHP1.97

trillion.

Property development followed with PHP281.3 billion, and education, PHP107.92 billion.

Majority of these projects will be located in the National Capital Region, Central Luzon and Ilocos Region.

Meanwhile, PPP data showed that 303 projects worth PHP3.56 trillion are already under implementation.

Of the total, 196 projects costing PHP2.50 trillion are being implemented by the national government, while 107 projects worth PHP1.05 trillion are being implemented by local government units.

(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES

DTI CHIEF: CLOSER STAKEHOLDER TIE-UP TO FURTHER PUSH LOGISTICS SECTOR

MANILA – The domestic logistics industry is seen to grow further this year as more players join the Department of Industry's (DTI) Supply Chain and Logistics Center (SCLC), boosting not only the sector but the economy in general.

On Tuesday, the DTI announced the inclusion of eight additional logistics firms in the SCLC, a centralized platform where real-time and actionable logistics and supply chain information may be accessed by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), exporters, importers, and consumers in general.

The new entrants are AC Logistics Holding Corp., AP Cargo Logistics Network Corp., Crystal Cold Storage, Inc., DSV Contract Logistics, Inc., Magsaysay Logistics and Transport Corp., Orient Freight International, Inc., Robinsons Logistix and Industrial, Inc., and United Parcel Service Philippines, Inc.

Officials of SyCip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV) also attended the event, and the law firm, according

to its website, is helping the government and industry stakeholders in collaborating with the development of effective policies, industry standards, and support mechanisms for the country's wholesale, retail, and logistics sectors.

Trade Secretary Ma. Cristina Roque told journalists after the event that this tie-up with all the stakeholders is expected to bolster the sector's growth, with an estimated 7 percent rise in cargo throughout 2025 due to higher order book for raw materials for construction, petroleum, and raw goods.

She explained that the DTI has seen what's lacking for the industry, such as information on the logistics firms, rates, and other information, thus, the establishment of the SCLC to allow stakeholders to have a centralized site where they can access what they need.

In her speech during the event, Roque noted a rise in the country's exports, with the May 2026 level up by 7.6 percent on an annual basis to USD7.87 billion, sustaining its growth

BSP ISSUES GUIDANCE ON RISKS LINKED TO CASINO JUNKET OPERATIONS

MANILA – The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) on Tuesday reminded BSP-Supervised Financial Institutions (BSFIs) to strengthen anti-money laundering and counter terrorism and proliferation financing measures for customers engaged in casino junket operations (CJO).

CJOs are companies and persons who arrange gaming-related services for high-value patrons, including travel arrangements, credit extension and gaming room bookings.

In a guidance paper titled "Risk Management Practices for Customers Engaged in Casino Junket Operations," the BSP provides safeguards to prevent BSFIs from being used as channels for money laundering, terrorism financing, proliferation financing such as funding the development and spread of weapons of mass destruction, and other illicit activities.

The guidance paper identifies red flags associated with CJOs, such as unusual cash movements, complex ownership structures of corporate clients and layered transactions.

"Financial transactions linked to CJOs can pose elevated money laundering risks," said Deputy Governor Lyn Javier.

"We identify the best practices and red flags BSFIs need to watch out for to be strong partners in our shared goal of curtailing crime and safeguarding the integrity of the financial system," Javier added.

for the 17th month.

"And we're competing with our ASEAN neighbors. We're competing globally. And the fact that we're up, in spite of a Middle East crisis, says a lot of things... that our products are being accepted globally," she added. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

Measures to strengthen risk management include board and senior management oversight, money laundering and terrorism financing prevention program, client acceptance and identification, ongoing monitoring and suspicious transaction reporting and self-assessment and training.

The BSP also urged BSFIs to maintain existing good practices such as enhanced due diligence for high-risk clients, automated transaction monitoring, client link analysis, independent verification with regulatory agencies and participation in information-sharing initiatives.

The paper emphasizes that information sharing among supervising authorities, particularly the BSP and the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation and BSFIs remains critical in risk management. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

BIR: ELECTRONIC TAX CLEARANCE SYSTEM NOW AVAILABLE NATIONWIDE

MANILA – The Bureau of Internal Revenue's electronic tax clearance system (eTCS) is now available nationwide.

In a statement Thursday, BIR said the eTCS is now available to taxpayers registered under Revenue Regions Nos. 1 to 19, pursuant to Revenue Memorandum Circular No. 76-2026.

The web-based system enables taxpayers to conveniently apply for, pay and download their Tax Clearance Certificate online.

The eTCS streamlines the tax clearance application process by allowing taxpayers to register, submit documentary requirements, monitor the

MANILA – Profit-taking ruled the local bourse on Tuesday after several days of bargain-hunting, resulting in its negative close, and the Philippine peso again weakened against the US dollar.

After several days of rally, the PSEi shed 1.28 percent to 6,333.80 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.32 percent to 3,439.58 points.

Most of the sectoral indices also finished the day in the red, led by Services, which dipped 2.50 percent.

Trailing behind were Financials, 1.10 percent; Holding Firms, 0.82 percent; and Property, 0.49 percent.

On the other hand, Mining and Oil rose by 3.51 percent and Industrial, by 1.26 percent.

Volume remained tepid at 702.8 million shares amounting to PHP7.94 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 107 to 91, while 52

shares were unchanged.

"The local bourse ended lower as investors took profits after a four-day winning streak, with the benchmark index still looking for catalysts to stabilize above the 6,400 level," said Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corp. head of sales.

He explained that "the pullback was viewed as a healthy correction as the market neared overbought territory."

"Sentiment was also weighed down by the peso's depreciation against the US dollar and the threat of the sharp increase in local oil prices," he added.

Relatively, the local currency depreciated anew against the greenback, ending the day at 61.74 from its 61.68 close a day ago.

It opened the day sideways at 61.69 from the previous session's 61.65 and traded between 61.75 and 61.68, bringing the day's average to 61.71.

Volume rose to USD752.5 million, up from the previous day's USD670.5 million. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

services, simplifying tax compliance, and providing taxpayers with faster, more convenient, and accessible tax clearance services," BIR said.

DARES stands for Digital and Data Transformation, Audit Reform and Accountability, Revenue Collection and Base Protection, Employee Empowerment and Welfare Promotion, Service Excellence and Stakeholder Engagement.

The bureau urged taxpayer-applicants to refer to the eTCS user's manual, which is available through the eTCS homepage. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



PH TO JOIN ASIAN YOUTH AND JUNIOR WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANILA – The Philippines will send 13 athletes to the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships on Aug. 7-14 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Leading the country's campaign is Zamboanga City's Albert Delos Santos, who is entered in the Youth 70kg category.

He won the 71kg title and set a new world record in clean and jerk at the IWF World Junior Championships in Ismailia, Egypt last May.

Also joining the Uzbekistan trip are Zamboanguenos Althea Bacaro (W45kg, Youth), Alexsandra Ann Diaz (W49, Youth and Junior), Angeline Colonia (W49, Junior), Jhodie Peralta (W53, Youth and Junior), Rosalinda Faustino (W57, Junior), M55 Jay-r Colonia (M55, Youth), Kirby Kent Alas-as (M60, Youth) and Mango Prince David Tarro (M65, Junior).

Others in the roster are Jea Mae Palagtiw (W69, Youth), Rhianne Cabalida (W77, Youth) and of Cebu City; and Jerick Icon Castro (M60, Youth) and Prince Keil Delos Santos (M60, Junior) of Angono, Rizal.

In the coaching staff are Gregorio Colonia, Patrick Cielo Lee, Allen Jayfrus Diaz, Diwa Delos Santos and Kelle Kay Rojas. Samahang Weightlifting ng Pilipinas president Monico Puentevella will serve as head of the delegation that

is scheduled to leave on Aug. 3.

Last week, the Philippines won 16 medals at the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) World Youth Championships in Cali, Colombia.

The medalists were Diaz (3 golds), Colonia (1 gold, 2 silvers), Peralta (2 silvers), Palagtiw (2 silvers), Bacaro (1 silver, 1 bronze), Cabalida (2 silvers, 1 bronze) and Alas-as (1 silver). **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



ZAMBOANGA CITY PRIDE: Albert Delos Santos leads the country's campaign at the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan next month. He ruled the 71kg category and set a new world record in clean and jerk at the IWF World Junior Championships in Ismailia, Egypt last May. (IWF photo)

DIAZ POSTS SECOND WIN IN HILADO WORLD TENNIS J60 TOURNEY

MANILA – Filipino Jana Jelena Nicole Diaz boosted her chances of reaching the quarterfinals after posting two victories in the first leg of the Oscar J. Hilado J60 World Tennis Championship at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center Wednesday.

Diaz downed compatriots Kathlyn Ann Bugna, 6-0, 6-1, and Zacci Elyce Yuipco, 6-3, 6-0, to share the Group A lead with Korean Yerin Lee.

Lee, ranked No. 394 in the world, clobbered Bugna, 6-0, 6-0, and Yuipco, 6-0, 6-0.

Under the World Tennis (formerly International

Tennis Federation) rules, J60 events use a round-robin format where the top player from each four-player group advances to the single-elimination quarterfinal stage.

In Group C, Louraine Jallorina defeated American Sofia Bartolata, 4-6, 7-5 (10-5) to stay in contention for a quarterfinal berth in the annual tournament held in honor of the late PHINMA Corp. Chairman Emeritus Oscar J. Hilado in recognition of his lifelong support for and contributions to Philippine tennis. Jallorina has a 1-1 record behind Indonesian Gwen Emily Kurniawan (2-

0).

Taylah Lessue of Australia also has 2-0 slate in Group B.

Meanwhile, SEA Games medalist Stefi Maritthe Aludo whipped Chinese Mengxi Sun, 6-0, 6-1, for her first win in Group E, while wild card Maristella Torrecampo demolished Pin-Tsen Chou of Chinese Taipei, 6-0, 6-1, in Group H.

In the boy's division, John Kendrick Bona beat Yo-Chi Chen of Chinese Taipei, 6-4, 7-5, to secure his first victory after bowing to Ryu Kotikula of Thailand, 4-6, 3-6, in Group B.

In other results, qualifier

LETRAN COMPLETES SHAKEY'S COLLEGIATE INVATIONALS SEMIS CAST

MANILA – Letran College turned back Enderun Colleges, 21-25, 25-21, 25-14, 14-25, 15-4, Thursday to secure the last semis berth in the 2026 Shakey's Collegiate National Invitationals at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Reeza Abayon and Judiel Nitura took charge in the fifth set as the reigning champion Lady Knights finished the elimination round with a 2-3 win-loss slate.

Letran faces top seed University of Santo Tomas while College of Saint Benilde meets Australian guest team Southern Storm Melbourne on Friday.

Hizki Flores tallied 16 excellent sets to help the Lady Knights pound 57 attack points.

"All I tell them is that we need to do and follow exactly what the coach

teaches. We made gradual adjustments, and that's how we secured the win," Flores said.

Abayon scored 17 points on 15 attacks and two aces, followed by Joralyn Panangin with 15 points and Nitura with 14 points in the two-hour and 10-minute encounter.

Althea Botor led Enderun Colleges with 24 points on 18 attacks, three blocks

and three aces.

Aurea Alvero contributed 14 points while Jasmine Salvani and Ederlyn Alba added eight and seven points, respectively.

Enderun Colleges, which closed the eliminations with a 1-4 record, battles Vietnamese squad Ho Chi Minh City Volleyball Club in the classification round. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



SEMIS CAST. The Letran College Lady Knights celebrate their victory in the Shakey's Collegiate National Invitationals at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium on Thursday (July 23, 2026). Letran beat Enderun Colleges, 21-25, 25-21, 25-14, 14-25, 15-4 to complete the semifinals cast. (Contributed photo)

PHISGOC WELCOMES SCRUTINY OF P2.08B 2019 SEA GAMES FUND

MANILA – The Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (PHISGOC) welcomed scrutiny on the PHP2.08 billion fund for the country's hosting of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games (SEAG).

PHISGOC also released a certification from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) confirming that it has fully liquidated the amount.

PHISGOC President and Chief Operating Officer Ramon Suzara said the organization's records have long been completed, submitted and independently examined, and that it stands ready to cooperate with any legitimate inquiry.

"The 30th edition of the Southeast Asian Games was staged from

Stephen Yu Fuertes outplayed Rafaello Xavier Munozco of Australia, 6-4, 6-4, in Group C; wild card Miguel Ricaro Lagac III triumphed over Aum Hiren Thakkar of Thailand, 2-6, 6-2 (10-3), in Group D; and Kenzo Marcus Brodeth won over qualifier Lakshya Bidhuri of Australia, 6-3, 6-2, in Group H. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

November 30 to December 11, 2019, and although post-Games obligations and responsibilities were delayed by the pandemic, the PHISGOC, according to PSC chief accountant Erik Mayores, was fully liquidated in March 2022," Suzara said in a news release Wednesday.

The PSC certification, dated July 20, 2026 reads: "This is to certify that based on the records of the Accounting Division of the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), the PHISGOC Foundation has submitted all (100%) of the liquidation reports covering the financial assistance granted by the PSC in connection with the hosting of the 30th SEA Games amounting to PHP2.082 billion."

Suzara said all PHISGOC financial documents were audited by independent auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers / Isla Lipana & Co.

Beyond the paper trail, PHISGOC said the record of the hosting itself stands as the organization's strongest testament.

The Philippines finished as overall champion of the 2019 SEA Games with 149 gold, 117 silver, and 121 bronze medals — a total of

387 — making it the most successful SEA Games campaign in the country's history.

"It was a multi-agency, multi-department organization whose main purpose was for a successful hosting by the Philippines. We achieved this and the entire country rejoiced," Suzara said.

He also pointed to the New Clark City (NCC) facilities, which continue to benefit Filipino athletes and remain the country's only internationally certified athletics (World Athletics — certified Class 1) and aquatics (World Aquatics — formerly FINA) venues capable of hosting competitions up to the regional level.

"The NCC sports facilities were a milestone project built by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) in a record 18 months and were built in time for the Games," Suzara said.

PHISGOC said it is prepared to address any specific allegation through the proper channels as and when it is formally raised, and to make its records available to any legitimate inquiry. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**