

CAVITE GAZETTE

P U B L I S H I N G

VOL.2 NO.20

August 4-10, 2026

P20.00

TAGAYTAY HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY-GROWN HARVESTS, HONORS CHAMPIONS OF NUTRITION

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite

Community-grown harvests, healthy local food, and the dedication of grassroots nutrition workers took center stage as the City Government of Tagaytay culminated its 52nd Nutrition Month celebration with a Food Festival and Gawad Nutrisyon on July 24 at Sigtuna Hall, reaffirming its commitment to building healthier families through community participation and sustainable nutrition practices.

Anchored on the theme “Sa PPAN: Sama-sama sa Nutrisyong Sapat Para sa Lahat,” and sub-theme

“Nutrisyon at Kalikasan, Ating Pangalagaan,” the celebration highlighted the vital role of proper nutrition, environmental stewardship, and community action in improving the health and well-being of Tagaytayeños.

A highlight of the event was the Pista ng Masustansyang Pagkain, where participants showcased nutritious dishes made from locally available ingredients in the main dish, dessert, snack, and beverage categories. The activity promoted healthy eating while encouraging the use of

indigenous food resources and community-grown produce as affordable and sustainable sources of nutrition.

The city also recognized outstanding Barangay Nutrition Committees (BNCs), Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNSs), and Barangay Nutrition Action Officers (BNAOs) for their invaluable contributions to implementing nutrition programs and improving the nutritional status of families at the barangay level.

City Nutrition Action Officer Emilma Pello emphasized that the celebration was more than recognizing

nagtatanim, at sa batang dati ay payat, ngayon ay masigla na,” said Pello.

She likewise paid tribute to the dedication of barangay nutrition workers, describing them as the backbone of the city’s nutrition programs.

“BNS, kayo ang paa at kamay ng nutrisyon. Naglalakad kayo sa malalayong parte ng bawat barangay. Kabisado ninyo ang bawat bahay at bawat bata. Ang bawat timbang na nire-record ninyo at bawat nanay na inyong natutulungan, buhay ang inililigtas ninyo,” she added.

The culmination program also featured the search for Lakan at Lakambini ng Nutrisyon at Kalikasan, where contestants wore gowns made from recyclable materials, promoting environmental awareness and demonstrating how sustainability can complement nutrition advocacy.

Meanwhile, Theresa Rivas, Information Officer of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON, reminded participants that every award represents years of dedication and

protection and sustainable development by promoting greener and healthier communities. The activity gathered representatives from various national government agencies, private sector organizations, environmental volunteers, local government officials, and community stakeholders who joined hands in planting tree seedlings along the identified provincial road.

Ternate Mayor Llamberto Bambao graced the activity and actively participated in the tree

planting, expressing the Municipal Government of Ternate’s full support for the initiative. In his message, he underscored the importance of collective action in protecting the environment and emphasized that collaborative efforts among government agencies, the private sector, and local communities are essential in ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for the municipality and the province.

The tree planting activity aims to establish greenbelts along selected provincial roads to promote ecological awareness, enhance roadside landscapes, and encourage active community participation in environmental conservation initiatives. The newly planted trees are expected to contribute to cleaner air, provide natural shade, reduce soil erosion, and support local biodiversity in the years to come.

By observing Cavite Arbor Day through meaningful environmental initiatives, the Provincial Government of Cavite reaffirms its commitment to preserving natural resources while fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among Caviteños. The collaborative undertaking highlights the vital role of partnerships among the provincial government, local government units, national government agencies, the private sector, and environmental advocates in building a greener, more resilient, and sustainable Cavite. —

CECILIA MALOLES

OPIO



winners—it was a tribute to the people whose daily efforts have transformed lives.

“Hindi lang tungkol sa tema, banner at poster. Tungkol ito sa nanay na gumigising para magluto ng gulay, sa tatay na



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REGIONAL MOST WANTED PERSON, SINILBIHAN NG GEN. MARIANO ALVAREZ PULIS NG WARRANT OF ARREST PARA SA KASONG RAPE

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naipatupad ng mga tauhan ng Gen. Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station ang service of warrant of arrest laban sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person na kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Custodial Facility, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite bandang alas-12:15 ng tanghali noong Hulyo 30, 2026. Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXANDER S ALVAREZ, hepe ng GMA MPS, ang akusado na si alyas "Cris" na residente ng Calamba City, Laguna.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng service of warrant of arrest ang Warrant Section ng Gen. Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station, laban sa akusado para sa kasong Rape. Ang warrant of arrest ay inilabas ng Regional Trial

Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 37, Calamba City, Laguna, na walang inirekomendang piyansa.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang akusado ay nananatiling nakapiit sa Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Custodial Facility, Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite, habang ang warrant of arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at legal na proseso.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang tuloy-tuloy na pagpapatupad ng mga warrant of arrest ay nagpapakita ng ating matatag na dedikasyon sa paghahatid ng hustisya. Patuloy nating paigingtingin ang koordinasyon at operasyon upang matiyak na ang mga akusadong may mabibigat na kaso ay mananagot sa batas."

MUNICIPAL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG KAWIT PULIS SA KASONG ALARM AND SCANDAL

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Kawit Municipal Police Station ang isang Municipal Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang police operation sa Barangay Pulborista, Kawit, Cavite bandang alas-7:30 ng gabi noong Hulyo 29, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL KRISTINE V PARAS, hepe ng Kawit MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Mark" na kasalukuyang residente ng Kawit, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng operasyon ang Warrant Personnel ng Kawit Municipal Police Station na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng warrant of arrest para sa paglabag sa Article 155 ng Revised Penal Code.

Ang akusado ay inaresto sa bisa ng warrant of arrest na inilabas ng Metropolitan Trial Court, National Capital Judicial Region,

Branch 3, Manila, noong Hulyo 24, 2026, para sa service of sentence.

Agad na ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang lubos na nauunawaan. Sa kasalukuyan, siya ay nasa kustodiya ng Kawit Municipal Police Station habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang dokumentasyon at ibinabalik ang warrant sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa tamang legal na proseso.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang tuloy-tuloy na operasyon laban sa mga wanted person ay nagpapakita ng ating matatag na paninindigan sa pagpapatupad ng batas at pagtiyak na ang mga nahatulan o may pananagutan sa batas ay maihaharap sa hustisya. Patuloy na magsisilbi ang Cavite PNP nang may integridad, propesyonalismo, at malasakit sa mamamayan."

MUNICIPAL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARESTADO NG TANZA PULIS SA KASONG PAGLABAG SA SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Tanza Municipal Police Station ang isang Municipal Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang police operation sa Brgy. Amaya II, Tanza, Cavite bandang alas-7:35 ng gabi noong Hulyo 29, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHESTER NOEL R BORLONGAN, hepe ng Tanza MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Mike" at residente ng Tanza, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang Warrant Personnel ng Tanza Municipal Police Station, katuwang ang Cavite MARPSTA, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng akusado sa bisa ng warrant of arrest para sa kasong Violation of Section 10(a) of Republic Act No. 7610 (Special Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act). Ang akusado ay inaresto sa bisa ng warrant of arrest, na inilabas ng Regional

Trial Court, National Capital Judicial Region, Branch 114, Makati City, noong Hulyo 29, 2026, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱80,000.00.

Agad na ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang lubos na nauunawaan. Dinala siya sa Tanza Municipal Police Station para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon, habang ang warrant of arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa tamang legal na proseso. Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Ang ating kampanya laban sa mga wanted person ay nananatiling isa sa mga pangunahing prayoridad ng Cavite PNP, lalo na kung ang mga kaso ay may kinalaman sa pang-aabuso sa mga bata. Patuloy nating pananagutin ang mga lumalabag sa batas at sisiguruhing maihaharap sila sa hustisya upang maprotektahan ang kapakanan ng bawat mamamayan."

LALAKI, ARESTADO SA BUY-BUST OPERATION; P42,000 HALAGANG HINIHINALANG KUSH NASAMSAM NG GENERAL TRIAS PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang Street Level Individual ang naaresto ng mga operatiba ng General Trias Component City Police Station, matapos ang matagumpay na buy-bust operation na nagresulta sa pagkakasamsam ng humigit-kumulang 28 gramo ng hinihinalang marijuana (Kush) na may tinatayang standard drug price na ₱42,000.00 sa Brgy. Pasong Kawayan I, General Trias City, Cavite bandang alas-8:30 ng gabi noong Hulyo 29, 2026. Kinilala ni PLTCOL BISMARCK S MENDOZA, hepe ng General Trias CCPS, ang naarestong suspek na si alyas "Rich" at residente ng General Trias City, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang Drug Enforcement

Unit ng General Trias Component City Police, sa koordinasyon ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency. Ang operasyon ay nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng suspek at pagkakakumpiska ng mga sumusunod na ebidensya:

Isang maliit at isang katamtamang laki ng pakete na naglalaman ng hinihinalang marijuana (Kush) na may kabuuang timbang na humigit-kumulang 28 gramo at standard drug price na ₱42,000.00; tatlong (3) piraso ng ₱100.00 bills na ginamit bilang buy-bust money; at dalawang piraso ng ₱1,000.00 boodle money.

Ang mga nakumpiskang hinihinalang ilegal na droga ay isusumite sa Cavite Provincial Forensic Unit sa Imus City para sa

laboratory examination, habang ang mga kaukulang dokumento ay inihahanda para sa pagsasampa ng kaso sa pamamagitan ng inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Patuloy na pinaigting ng Cavite PNP ang kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga sa pamamagitan ng mas pinaigting na intelligence-driven operations. Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa mga sangkot sa bentahan ng ilegal na droga ay patunay ng ating matatag na paninindigan na protektahan ang ating mga komunidad laban sa banta ng ipinagbabawal na gamot."

ANIM NA STREET LEVEL INDIVIDUAL, ARESTADO SA BUY-BUST OPERATION; P34,000 HALAGANG HINIHINALANG SHABU NASAMSAM NG BACOR PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Anim na Street Level Individuals ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor Component City Police Station matapos ang matagumpay na buy-bust operation na nagresulta sa pagkakakumpiska ng humigit-kumulang limang (5) gramo ng hinihinalang shabu na may tinatayang standard drug price na ₱34,000.00 sa Brgy. Molino I, Bacoor City, Cavite bandang alas-3:30 ng madaling araw noong Hulyo 30, 2026.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, hepe ng Bacoor CCPS, ang mga naarestong suspek bilang sina: alyas "Kuya," "Jose," "Rob," "Charlie," "Maricel," at "Mac," na kapwa residente ng Bacoor City,

Cavite;

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang Drug Enforcement Team ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa koordinasyon ng Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto ng mga suspek at pagkakakumpiska ng mga sumusunod na ebidensya: pitong (7) piraso pakete na naglalaman ng hinihinalang shabu na may kabuuang timbang na humigit-kumulang limang (5) gramo at standard drug price na ₱34,000.00; isang (1) piraso ng ₱500.00 bill na ginamit bilang buy-bust money; at isang (1) itim na pouch.

Ang mga nakumpiskang hinihinalang ilegal na droga ay isusumite sa Cavite

Provincial Forensic Unit sa Imus City, Cavite para sa laboratory examination. Samantala, inihahanda na ang mga kaukulang dokumento laban sa mga naarestong suspek para sa inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

Sinabi ni PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, "Patuloy ang ating pinaigting na kampanya laban sa ilegal na droga sa pamamagitan ng tuloy-tuloy na operasyon laban sa mga sangkot sa pagbebenta at distribusyon nito. Ang bawat matagumpay na operasyon ay bahagi ng ating hangarin na mapanatili ang ligtas at mapayapang komunidad para sa mga mamamayan ng Cavite."

NUTRITION IN MOTION: PGC PROMOTES HEALTHIER WORKPLACE THROUGH ZUMBA

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Workplace Organization Committee, promoted active and healthy living among its employees through a lively Nutrition Month Zumba Activity held on July 28, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Ceremonial Grounds in Trece Martires City.

The wellness initiative highlighted the importance of pairing proper nutrition with regular physical activity as essential components of a healthy lifestyle. More than an exercise session, the gathering provided employees with an opportunity to stay active, foster camaraderie, and take a meaningful break from their daily work routines.

The program commenced with an invocation led by Ms. Ma. Grace G. Galang from the Provincial Housing Development and Management Office, followed by an inspirational message from Ms. Michelle F. Alcida, Quality Management Representative, who underscored the value of maintaining a healthy mind and body. She encouraged employees to incorporate healthier habits into their daily lives, recognizing that personal wellness contributes to a more productive and effective workforce.

Employees from various provincial government offices enthusiastically joined the energetic Zumba session, filling the ceremonial grounds with movement, enthusiasm, and positive energy. The lively gathering reinforced the message that staying physically active can be both enjoyable and beneficial to overall well-being.

Adding to the celebration, employees participated in photo-op activities with their colleagues, and photobooth was also provided, allowing participants to capture fun and memorable moments with their co-workers.

The program concluded with closing remarks from Ms. Luzviminda S. Amparo, Chairperson of the Workplace Organization Committee, who thanked everyone who participated in and supported the celebration. She encouraged employees to continue practicing healthy habits and staying active beyond Nutrition Month.

The celebration highlighted the importance of staying active and making healthy choices. Through activities like this, the Provincial Government of Cavite continues to encourage its employees to practice healthy habits and maintain a healthy and productive workplace. — **OPIO**

CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN BRINGS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO JOBSEEKERS IN INDANG

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), successfully conducted the Cavite Career Caravan on July 22, 2026, at the Indang Municipal Covered Court, providing jobseekers with convenient access to employment opportunities from various industries.

The one-day recruitment activity featured the participation of 22 companies, offering a total of 6,724 job vacancies for applicants with diverse skills, qualifications, and

work experience. The caravan served as a venue where jobseekers could directly interact with employers, submit applications, and undergo initial screening and interviews.

A total of 144 jobseekers participated in the recruitment activity, demonstrating the continued interest of Caviteños in employment opportunities. Of these, 34 applicants were hired on the spot (HOTS), allowing them to immediately begin the next steps toward employment.

FEDERATION OF THE DEAF- CAVITE PROVINCE, INC. HOLDS OATHTAKING CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS

The Federation of the Deaf – Cavite Province, Inc., a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)-registered disability organization, formally inducted its newly elected officers during an Oath-Taking Ceremony held on July 21, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

Leading the organization is its newly inducted President, Mr. Mark Kelvin Marcial, together with the federation's officers who pledged their commitment to advancing the rights, welfare, and inclusion of the Deaf community across the Province of Cavite. The oath-taking was administered by Governor Abeng Remulla, whose presence underscored the Provincial Government's continued support for programs and initiatives that promote accessibility,

empowerment, and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

The ceremony was also graced by Ms. Marie Shiela Antenor, Head of the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disabilities (OPG-OPDAO), whose steadfast advocacy and partnership continue to strengthen programs that foster inclusivity and meaningful participation of persons with disabilities in community development.

The event marked a significant milestone for the Federation as it embarks on a new chapter of leadership, dedicated to serving the Deaf community through collaboration, advocacy, and sustainable programs that uphold the principles of equality, accessibility, and empowerment. —

OPIO

PGC BRINGS HEALTHCARE TO GMA

the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Governor and Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO) brought essential healthcare closer to the community during the successfully conducted Medical and Dental Mission in Barangay

Memije, benefiting 597 residents.

The outreach delivered 425 medical consultations, 49 dental services, 100 Fasting Blood Sugar (FBS) tests, and 23 Electrocardiogram (ECG) examinations, providing residents with accessible healthcare services that support prevention, early detection, and overall well-being.

The activity was carried out with the support of 5th District Board Members Ivey Jayne Reyes and Aidel Paul Belamide, and Punong Barangay Laudimer R. Dela Cruz, with the assistance of Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) and volunteer caregivers.

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) continues to bring responsive healthcare services closer to Caviteños, guided by its commitment to ensuring that quality healthcare is accessible to every community. — **OPIO**

EDITORIAL

Ang Nakatagong Panganib ng Online Gambling sa Likod ng Social Media

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy ang pagdami ng mga kilalang influencer na hayagang nag-eendorso ng iba't ibang anyo ng online gambling o sugal sa kanilang mga personal na social media platforms.

Ang gawaing ito ay nakakalungkot dahil sa panghihikayat sa mga tao lalo na sa kanilang mga tagasubaybay, lalo na ang mga taong madaling matukso sa sugal.

Dahil sa mataas na antas ng pagtitiwala ng publiko sa mga personalidad na ito, marami ang nahuhulog sa bitag ng adiksyon at pagkalugi sa pananalapi nang hindi namamalayan ang tunay na panganib. Ang mga content creator/influencer ay dapat nagsisilbi din ng magandang impluwensiya sa mga tao.

CAVITE
GAZETTE
PUBLISHING

Ang CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING ay inilalathala tuwing araw ng Martes na may tanggapan sa 217 Ligas 1, Bacoor City Cavite.
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ADVERTISING RATES
COMMERCIAL - - - - P200/col.cm
LEGAL NOTICES - - - P160/col.cm

TAKAFUL PRODUCTS PARA SA ISLAMIC COMMUNITY NG CARD MRI, INILUNSA NG CARD MBA

CARD MBA
Panatag Ka.

Pormal nang ipinatupad noong Marso 23, 2026 ang Takaful Products ng CARD Mutual Benefit Association, Inc. (CARD MBA) para sa mga kliyente ng CARD, Inc. Paglambo at CARD Islamic Bank, bilang bahagi ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng CARD Mutually Reinforcing Institutions (CARD MRI) na magbigay ng inklusibo at angkop na serbisyong pampinansyal sa iba't ibang komunidad, lalo na sa mga kliyenteng Muslim. Layunin ng programang ito na maghatid ng proteksyon na sumusunod sa prinsipyo ng Shariah o Islamic law. Sa pamamagitan nito, nagkakaroon ng pagkakataon ang mga miyembro na makakuha ng insurance na hindi lamang praktikal kundi naaayon din sa kanilang paniniwala at pamumuhay. Isa itong mahalagang hakbang upang mas mapalawak ang akses sa serbisyong pampinansyal para sa mga sektor na may partikular na pangangailangan. Binubuo ang Micro Takaful Products ng tatlong pangunahing produkto: Family Takaful, Basic Takaful Extension, at Golden Takaful. Ang mga produktong ito ay idinisenyo upang matugunan ang iba't ibang pangangailangan ng mga miyembro sa iba't ibang yugto ng kanilang buhay. Ang Family Takaful ang nagsisilbing pangunahing polisiya ng mga kliyente. Saklaw nito ang miyembro at ang kanyang mga kwalipikadong legal dependents. Sa ilalim ng programang ito, may

benepisyong matatanggap sakaling magkaroon ng pagkamatay o total and permanent disability ang miyembro o alinman sa kanyang dependents. Mayroon din itong hospitalization benefit kung sakaling maaksidente sa sasakyan ang miyembro o ang kanyang legal na asawa. Bukod dito, may kasama ring Retirement Fund component ang Family Takaful. Ito ay isang pondo na unti-unting binubuo upang magsilbing ipon ng miyembro para sa kanyang pagreretiro. Sa ganitong paraan, natutulungan ang mga kalahok na magkaroon ng mas maayos na paghahanda para sa kanilang kinabukasan. Samantala, ang Basic Takaful Extension ay inilaan para sa mga miyembrong magreretiro mula sa Family Takaful pagsapit ng edad na 70. Sa pamamagitan ng produktong ito, patuloy pa rin silang magkakaroon ng basic protection kahit hindi na sila ay retirado na. Layunin nitong masigurong tuloy-tuloy ang proteksyon sa panahon na mas nangangailangan ng seguridad ang mga kliyente. Ang Basic Takaful Extension ay inaalok bilang package kasama ang Golden Takaful, isang 10-pay whole life insurance plan. Nangangahulugan ito na maaaring makuha ang Golden Takaful kung ang miyembro ay kukuha rin ng Basic Takaful Extension. Ang dalawang produktong ito ay

nagbibigay ng benepisyo sa oras ng pagkamatay ng miyembro, upang matiyak na may maiwang tulong pinansyal para sa kanyang pamilya. Noong Agosto 1, 2025, inilunsad din ng Asosasyon ang Financing Takaful, isang microtakaful product na nagbibigay ng proteksyon sa pinansyal ng obligasyon ng Takaful participants at sa mga accredited Islamic Financing Institutions ng CARD MBA. Tinitiyak nito ang 100% koleksyon na halagang ipinagkaloob ng participant sakaling magkaroon ng pagkamatay, Total and Permanent Disability (TPD), o Motor Vehicular Accident Hospitalization (MVAH). Sa ilalim ng programang ito, saklaw ng Financing Takaful ang participant sa buong panahon ng kontrata sa financing. Sa pagpapatupad ng Microtakaful Products ng CARD MBA, inaasahang makikinabang ang maraming kliyente ng CARD, Inc. Paglambo at CARD Islamic Bank. Ang programang ito ay nagbibigay ng proteksyon laban sa mga hindi inaasahang pangyayari tulad ng aksidente, pagkakasakit, at pagkawala ng mahal sa buhay. Sa kabuuan, ang paglulunsad ng Takaful Products ay nagpapakita ng patuloy na pagsisikap ng CARD MBA at ng buong CARD MRI na maghatid ng serbisyong pampinansyal na may malasakit, inklusibo, at tumutugon sa iba't ibang pangangailangan ng komunidad. Inaasahan na sa mga susunod na buwan, mas marami pang miyembro ang makikinabang sa Takaful Products at magkakaroon ng mas matibay na proteksyon para sa kanilang kinabukasan.

JIREH CASIONAN, PEARL JUNIOR WRITER

PAGPAPALAKAS SA INDUSTRIYA NG UBE SA PAMAMAGITAN NG MGA PAGSASANAY, SUPORTADO NG DA-ATI CALABARZON

Bilang pagsuporta sa pagsusulong ng pamahalaan na mas paunlarin ang industriya ng ube at makatugon sa lumalaking demand, patuloy na pinalalakas ng Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON ang paghahatid ng makabagong kaalaman at teknolohiya sa produksyon at pagpoproseso ng ube.

"Maganda at malaki ang potensyal ng ube. Patok na patok ito bilang sangkap sa iba't ibang pagtaas ng demand—hindi lamang locally kun'di pati na rin globally. Ito ay isang malinaw na oportunidad para sa ating mga magsasaka, agripreneurs, at iba pang stakeholders sa industriya ng ube," ani Dr. Rolando V. Maningas, RAgr, Center Director ng DA-ATI CALABARZON.

Kaugnay nito, 33 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) mula sa iba't ibang bayan sa rehiyon ang sinamay sa Training on Ube (Purple Yam) Production, Postharvest, Handling, and Processing, na isinagawa noong Hulyo 20-23, 2026, sa Ouan's Worth Farm and Family Resort Corporation, isang Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Provider (PAF-ESP) ng ahensya sa Lucena City, Quezon.

Sa pamamagitan ng kanilang re-entry action plan na bahagi ng pagsasanay, magsisilbing daan ang mga AEW upang maibaba ang mga teknolohiya at kasanayan sa mga magsasaka ng ube sa kani-kanilang mga bayan tungo sa mas masaganang produksyon at mas mataas na kita.

Kabilang sa mga pamamaraang kanilang natutuhan at ibabahagi sa mga magsasaka ng ube ang soil testing, land preparation, wastong pagpili ng planting materials, pagpaparami, replanting, pamamahala sa mga sakit at peste, pag-ani, at postharvest handling and storage. Sa tulong ito ng mga tagapagsanay na sina Bb. Kimberly R. Reyes, RAgr (Provincial Agriculture Office - Quezon), Bb. Ma. Almira C. Silva (Mira's Food and

Agriventure, Inc.), at Bb. Sierralyn S. Sandoval, RAgr (DA-Regional Crop Protection Center IV-A).

Bahagi rin ng pagsasanay ang aktuwal na pagpoproseso ng ube at lakbay-aral sa BeeGood Agri Ventures OPC, isang Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) ng DA-ATI CALABARZON sa Tiaong, Quezon. Mula rito, natutuhan ng mga AEW ang wastong pagpaparami ng ube, gayundin ang tamang pagpili at paghahanda ng planting materials.

"Ako po ay naipadala dito sa training sa ube dahil sa amin po ay may isang barangay na exclusively ube ang itinatanim. Ang naging practice po doon sa amin ay ang traditional way. Ngunit sa training na ito, nalaman ko na may iba pa palang paraan ng cultural management upang makatipid sa gagamiting planting materials. Natutunan ko rin ang kahalagahan ng postharvest dahil kadalasan, ang naging practice ay pagka-harvest, ilalagay na agad sa sako at diretso benta na. Ito po 'yung mga ibabahagi at gagawin namin sa aming bayan pagbalik ko," pahayag ni Andrian Paul William Luna, AEW mula sa Talisay, Batangas.

Bilang suporta sa propesyonalisasyon at pagpapatibay ng mga kaalaman at kasanayang pang-agrikultur, nakatanggap ang mga kalahok na rehistradong agrikultor ng 7.5 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units mula sa pagsasanay.

Bukod dito, nauna na ring nagsagawa ang DA-ATI CALABARZON ng malawakang webinar

sa produksyon at pamamahala ng ube sa pamamagitan ng regular na programa nitong Agricultural Technologies thru Internet at Home (ATI@Home) para sa Best Purple Harvest: Ube Production and Management noong Abril 30, 2026. Nakibahagi sa webinar ang 848 na kalahok mula sa iba't ibang sulok ng bansa, kung saan 700 rehistradong agrikultor ang nakatanggap ng 1.00 CPD credit unit.

Aktibo rin ang DA-ATI CALABARZON sa pamamahagi ng information, education, and communication (IEC) materials tungkol sa ube sa mga pagsasanay at Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers at FITS Kiosks sa iba't ibang bayan sa rehiyon upang mas gawing aksesible ang mga kaalaman at teknolohiya sa produksyon at pamamahala ng ube. Nakaplano na rin para sa susunod na taon ang iba pang mga pagsasanay na may kaugnayan sa industriya ng ube bilang patuloy na pakikiisa ng ahensya sa hangaring mapaunlad pa ang industriya.

"Patuloy nating pagtutungan ang pagpapalakas ng industriya ng ube sa pamamagitan ng inobasyon, pakikipagtutungan, pagbabahagi ng kaalaman, pagpapanday ng kasanayan. Sa ganitong paraan, makapag-aambag tayo sa pag-unlad ng kabuhayan ng ating mga magsasaka at sa paglago ng sektor ng agrikultura," ani Dr. Maningas.

ULAT NI : ARCHIE C. LINSASAGIN



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CALAX EARNS THREE GREEN AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

MPCALA Holdings Inc. (MPHI), a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC) and the concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), has been recognized by the City Government of Santa Rosa, Laguna, for its unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability. This marks the fourth consecutive year the company has been honored by the local government. The Guarantee the



From L-R: Santa Rosa City Councilor Hon. Carmela Rosa Gonzales-Colmenar; MPCALA Holdings Inc. Facilities Management and MEPF Senior Engineer Dhale Angelo D. Santos; MPTC Assistant Vice President for Central Quality, Environment, Safety and Health (QESH) Allan Jeffrey N. Ang; MPTC Vice President for Stakeholder Engagement Arlette V. Capistrano; Santa Rosa City Mayor Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas; Santa Rosa City ENRO Head Engr. Maria Amor A. Salandanan, EnP.; and Santa Rosa City Councilor Hon. Mythor C. Cendaña. Photo credit: Santa Rosa City Environment and Natural Resources Office



Aerial view of the MPT South Hub, featuring 1,184 solar panels that generate about 97% of the building's energy needs. The facility also has a rainwater harvesting system that reduces water use by 10%, along with EV charging stations for company electric vehicles.



Restoration of the Environment & our Ecological Niche (GREEN) Awards is the city's annual recognition program that honors organizations, institutions, and individuals for their significant contributions to environmental protection and sustainability. This year, CALAX received three major awards in recognition of its green initiatives:

- Sustainable Development Partner: Recognizing M P C A L A ' s contributions to environmental sustainability through its active participation in various coastal clean-up initiatives that help preserve ecosystems, reduce pollution in Laguna Lake, and support climate change mitigation efforts.
- Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partner: Awarded for the company's excellence in reducing energy consumption, promoting renewable energy solutions, and implementing energy efficiency initiatives across its offices, toll plazas, and facilities.
- Earth Hour Advocate: Presented for the company's active participation in the annual global Earth Hour movement and its continued efforts to promote energy conservation and environmental awareness.

The awards were presented by the City Government of Santa Rosa and received by representatives of MPCALA. "We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from the City Government of Santa Rosa. These awards reflect our commitment to integrating sustainability into every aspect of our operations, from building greener infrastructure to adopting environmentally responsible practices. As we continue to expand CALAX, we remain dedicated to proving that infrastructure development and environmental stewardship can go hand in hand," said MPHI President and General Manager Andrew B. Pangilinan. CALAX is a 44.6-kilometer expressway connecting the provinces of Cavite and Laguna. Once completed, it is expected to serve approximately 95,000 motorists daily. Currently, its operational segments span from Biñan, Laguna to General Trias, Cavite, significantly reducing travel time from an hour to just 26 minutes. Beyond improving mobility, CALAX also advances environmental sustainability by helping reduce fuel consumption and vehicle emissions through shorter travel times. Its green initiatives include the integration of solar power systems, rainwater harvesting facilities, and the progressive transition of its corporate fleet to electric vehicles (EVs), reinforcing the company's commitment to responsible and sustainable expressway operations. ###

MAHIGIT 500 MAGNINIYOG, NAKINABANG SA IMPORMASYON AT SERBISYO NG CFIDP

Inilapit sa mahigit 500 magniniyog sa rehiyon ang mahahalagang impormasyon, programa, at serbisyo ng Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) na makatutulong sa pagpapaunlad ng kanilang kabuhayan.

Sa pangunguna ng DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON, katuwang ang iba't ibang ahensyang tagapagpatupad ng CFIDP, isinagawa ang limang pangkat ng Information Drive on Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP): Impormasyon at Serbisyong Abot-Kamay sa mga bayan ng Burdeos at Jomalig, Quezon; Rodriguez, Rizal; Kalayaan, Laguna; at Mataasnakahoy, Batangas.

Naging tampok sa programa ang pagbabahagi ng iba't ibang serbisyo at interbensyon mula sa mga ahensyang nagtutulong-tulong upang matiyak na naaabot ng CFIDP ang mga magniniyog sa iba't ibang sulok ng rehiyon.

DA-Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) - nangungunang ahensya para sa pangkalahatang programang pangkaunlaran at social protection sa mga magniniyog; DA-Agricultural Training

Institute (ATI) at Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) - pagbibigay ng mga pagsasanay at pagpapalakas ng kakayahan ng mga magniniyog; DA-High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) - mga programang nakasuporta sa produksyon ng niyog gaya ng pag-intercrop sa kakaw at kape; DA-Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) - integrasyon ng paghahayupan sa niyugan; DA-National Dairy Authority (NDA) - pag-aalaga ng mga gatasang kambing, kalabaw, o baka sa ilalim ng niyugan; DA-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) - konstruksyon ng mga shared processing facilities; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) - pagnenegosyo, value-adding, at akses sa merkado; Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) - pagpapaseguro sa niyugan at mga magniniyog; at Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) IV-A para sa pagbuo at pagpapalakas ng kooperatiba. Commission on Higher Education (CHED) - scholarship programs para sa mga anak at malapit na



kaanak ng magniniyog; D O S T - P h i l i p p i n e Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) - pananaliksik at pagsusuri sa mga teknolohiya sa pagniniyog gaya ng coconut hybridization; Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) at Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) - pagpapautang sa abot-kaya at maliit na interes; at Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) - konstruksyon ng mga farm-to-market road sa niyugan. Nagkaroon din ng bukas na talakayan kung saan nasagot ang mga katanungan ng mga kalahok hinggil sa mga serbisyong maaari nilang mapakinabangan at sa mga hakbang upang

maging aktibong kabahagi ng mga programa sa ilalim ng CFIDP.

Sa pamamagitan ng information drive, pinagtittbay ng mga ahensyang magkakatuwang sa CFIDP ang kanilang sama-samang hangarin na mailapit sa bawat magniniyog ang mga programa at serbisyong magpapalakas sa industriya ng niyog.

Ang pagkakaisa ng iba't ibang tanggapan ng pamahalaan ay nagsisilbing mahalagang hakbang tungo sa isang mas masagana, matatag, at progresibong industriya ng niyog, na magbibigay ng mas maraming oportunidad at mas maunlad na kinabukasan para sa mga magniniyog sa CALABARZON.

ULAT NI: HANS CHRISTOPHER FLORES, RAGR C.

GSIS POSTS P94.7-B FIRST-HALF INCOME, EXPANDS MEMBER BENEFITS

MANILA — The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) posted a net income of PHP94.75 billion in the first half of 2026, up 27.78 percent from the same period last year, attributing its stronger financial performance to sustained benefit payouts and expanded assistance programs for government workers and retirees.

In a news release on Friday, the GSIS said its gross income rose 15.03 percent to PHP195.38 billion from PHP169.9 billion in the same period last year, while total assets reached PHP2.05 trillion as of June 30, up from PHP1.98 trillion at the end of 2025.

Administrative expenses amounted to PHP5.53 billion, with an administrative loading of 2.55 percent — well below the statutory ceiling of 12 percent.

The state pension fund said 94 centavos of every peso it spent during the period went directly to members' and pensioners' claims and benefits.

"What is the use of higher net income if we have not improved the lives of government workers and retirees?" GSIS President and General Manager Wick Veloso said.

"Numbers on the income statement mean nothing until they become pensions paid on time, claims released without delay, or financial assistance a family can actually use."

The GSIS said its financial gains also supported several "Ginhawa" programs launched following President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s declaration of a national energy emergency.

These include Balik Ginawa, which has refunded nearly PHP18.3 billion in loan amortizations to more than one million members and pensioners; the Ginawa Solar Energy Loan that has released

PHP7.3 billion to more than 23,000 members; the Ginawa Bike and E-Mobility Loan with more than PHP1.7 billion in approved financing; and the newly launched Ginawa Health Assistance Loan, which offers zero-interest financing for health maintenance organization premiums.

Veloso said the pension fund's latest actuarial study showed GSIS remains financially sustainable until 2058, allowing it to continue delivering benefits while safeguarding the retirement security of future generations of government workers.

"Financial sustainability allows the GSIS to deliver social dividends today while protecting the benefits of future generations," he said. **(PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA**

DOLE SADDENED OVER TRO VS NCR WAGE HIKE

MANILA — Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Francis Tolentino on Thursday expressed sadness over the temporary restraining order (TRO) issued against the implementation of the wage increase in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Tolentino, however, said he respects the court's decision.

"Malungkot ako para sa mga manggagawa pero susunod tayo sa utos ng husingado (I feel sad for the workers, but we will abide by the court's order)," he said in a statement posted on the DOLE's Facebook page.

"Kung anuman ang naging basehan ng husingado ng paglalabas ng TRO, hayaan na po natin na sila ang magpaliwanag, (As for the basis behind the court's issuance of the TRO (Temporary Restraining Order), let us leave it to them to explain)," he said.

He, meanwhile, said the

MANILA — Abra lone district Rep. JB Bernos backed the impending release of an order mandating compliance with updated seismic-grade steel standards.

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has announced that it expects to issue this August an order to comply with updated standards released by the Bureau of Philippine Standards in May. These standards remain voluntary pending the issuance of the memorandum.

"Safety first, especially when we are talking about thousands of lives that could be at stake because of sub-par construction materials. Hindi tayo dapat magtipid o kaya gumamit ng sub-par materials sa mga imprastruktura dahil maraming buhay ang maaaring mawala pag

DOLE continues to fulfill its mandate of safeguarding the welfare of workers in accordance with existing laws.

On Thursday, Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 152 Judge Marie Joyce Manongsong issued a TRO against the implementation of Wage Order No. 27 issued by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board-National Capital Region.

This came after two construction firms, Readycon Trading and Construction Corporation and R-II Builders Inc., filed a petition seeking to bar the implementation of the PHP85 daily wage increase for Metro Manila private sector workers.

The first tranche of the wage hike took effect on July 25, raising the daily minimum pay in the region by PHP60. Meanwhile, the additional PHP25 pay increase will take effect on Jan. 20, 2027. **(PNA) BY FERDINAND PATINIO**

LAWMAKER BACKS MANDATORY COMPLIANCE WITH SEISMIC-GRADE STEEL STANDARDS

nagkataon (We should not scrimp or use sub-par construction materials in infrastructure as lives may be lost in case something happens)," Bernos said in a news release on Friday.

"Thus, the impending order for mandatory compliance with updated seismic-grade steel standards is necessary."

Following the magnitude 7.8 earthquake that hit Mindanao in June, the lawmaker had called for a review of all major infrastructure, including roads, bridges, ports, schools, and other government buildings, to ensure that they are structurally sound and can withstand disasters.

Bernos also underlined the need to update construction standards in the country, urging the passage of the new Philippine Building Act, which seeks to revise the 1977 National Building Code of the Philippines.

He said the upcoming order is a step in the right direction toward the use of higher-grade construction materials and eventually the phasing out of induction furnace (IF) facilities that continue to manufacture non-seismic-grade reinforcing bars.

"We have already seen IF-produced steel being banned in public infrastructure projects across the Southeast Asian region over quality and environmental concerns. Given our vulnerability to earthquakes and other disasters, there is no alternative for us but to do the same," Bernos said.

Indonesia and Thailand have prohibited the use of IF-produced steel in public infrastructure projects, while Singapore and Malaysia have imposed tighter controls on its use.

Bernos, however, also urged the government to give companies to be affected by a ban on IF-produced steel time and support to transition towards producing higher-grade materials. **(PNA) BY JOSE CIELITO REGANIT**

US PLEDGES P11.8-B TO BACK PH FIGHT VS. HIV, TB

MANILA — The United States is set to provide more than PHP11.8 billion (USD193 million) to support a USD42-billion five-year joint health program with the Philippines in the fight against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and tuberculosis (TB), the US Embassy in Manila said Friday.

The Philippines and the US signed on July 22 the Health Strategic Objective Agreement, which contains a jointly funded plan to improve and sustain the country's capacity to detect, treat and prevent HIV and TB.

Of the USD42 billion, the Embassy said the Philippines will co-invest more than PHP30 billion (USD492 million) in the country's health systems over the next five years.

"The United States Government, working with the US Congress, intends to provide more than PHP11.8 billion (USD193 million) over the five-year life of the Agreement to advance shared global health goals, fight the spread of infectious diseases before they spread internationally, and build greater autonomy and self-reliance in its health systems," it said.

The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 59th

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and Related Meetings, where State Secretary Marco Rubio was among the attendees.

"The timing of US Ambassador Lee Lipton's signature on the Agreement, alongside Secretary Rubio's visit to the Philippines, is a milestone in the Trump Administration's America First Global Health Strategy," the embassy said.

"The Agreement will save American and Filipino lives, increase the resiliency of the Philippine health system through coordinated co-funding, and promote innovations to slow the spread of infectious diseases, like TB and HIV, that threaten both the United States and the Philippines," it added.

The embassy said the program will focus on enhancing the surveillance, detection and response to HIV or TB outbreaks.

For five years, the two countries will support the integration of health service delivery across disease programs and strengthen domestic capacity to finance and manage the health sector. **(PNA) BY JOYCE ANN L. ROCAMORA**

PAL DEBUNKS ARTICLE CLAIMING 'FORMER PILOT' BECAME HOMELESS IN BANGKOK

MANILA — Flag carrier Philippine Airlines (PAL) on Friday debunked a Thai article that claimed that its "former pilot" became homeless on the streets of Bangkok.

A Thai PBS World article claimed that a "former PAL and AirAsia pilot" lost all his savings, divorced his wife, and became homeless, and was later rescued by a foundation, which took him to a hospital to be treated for his diabetes.

The article, which was shared on the Thai PBS World social media platform, has become viral.

PAL, in a statement, said the article incorrectly identifies an individual named Larry Malpaya as a former pilot of the flag carrier.

"The information is false.

Capt. Larry Malpaya is an active Philippine Airlines pilot and is not the individual referred to or depicted in the article," it said.

The airline said it has formally requested Thai PBS World to immediately correct the article and all related social media posts to prevent the further spread of false information.

"We remain committed to protecting the reputation and welfare of our employees and ensuring that accurate information is shared with the public," PAL said, adding that it values responsible journalism and appreciates the prompt correction of factual inaccuracies. **(PNA) BY MA. CRISTINA ARAYATA**

BSP: BANK LENDING STANDARDS TO STAY UNCHANGED IN Q3 2026

MANILA — Most Philippine banks expect to maintain their lending standards in third quarter of 2026, indicating the banking system's stability and capacity to support the economy through credit despite persistent geopolitical uncertainty, results of a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) survey showed.

Results of the Senior Bank Loan Officers' Survey (SLOS) released Thursday showed 75.5 percent of respondents indicated no change in credit standards for enterprise loans and 8 percent expect stable standards for household loans.

For those expecting credit standards to tighten, survey responses suggest a moderation in the tightening bias among banks for loans to both enterprises and households.

A few banks anticipate lending standards to ease in the third quarter for loans to enterprises.

The BSP said the results are based on the modal method, which gauges the direction of banks' credit standards—whether banks will tighten, ease, or maintain their credit standards.

Results based on the modal method indicate that 64.2 percent of respondent banks expect demand for enterprise loans to remain unchanged in the third quarter, while 30.2 percent expect it to increase and 5.7 percent expect it to decline.

Compared with the second quarter of 2026, fewer banks expect demand to remain unchanged or decline, while more expect it to increase.

The central bank said the expected increase in enterprise loan demand may be attributed to higher customer inventory financing needs, higher accounts receivable financing needs, and an improved customer economic outlook.

"Overall, the results point to broadly stable credit conditions reflecting continued prudence in credit risk assessment

amid an evolving economic environment," the BSP said.

The BSP said the diffusion index is another method used in the survey.

It is the difference between the percentage of respondents that expect to tighten (positive) and the percentage of those that expect to ease (negative).

The BSP said the corresponding diffusion index for both businesses and households remained positive, indicating a net tightening bias.

"Respondents cited a less favorable or more uncertain economic outlook, reduced risk tolerance, and a deteriorating borrower profile as factors that could lead them to tighten credit standards," the BSP said.

The SLOS consists of questions on loan officers' perceptions relating to the overall credit standards of their respective banks, as well as the factors affecting the supply of and demand for loans to enterprises and households.

The BSP said a total of 56 banks responded to the survey. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PH EXTERNAL TRADE IN GOODS UP 21% IN JUNE

MANILA — The Philippines' total external trade in goods rose by 21.3 percent to USD22.48 billion in June from USD18.53 billion in the same month last year, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Data released Thursday showed that of the total external trade in goods during the month, 61 percent were imports, while the remaining 39 percent were exports.

The balance of trade in goods, or the difference between the value of exports and imports, meanwhile, recorded a deficit of USD4.94 billion.

The total value of exports reached USD8.77 billion, the highest recorded since the PSA series began in 1991.

It was also 24.1 percent higher than the USD7.07 billion total export sales in the same month of 2025.

Electronic products recorded the highest increase in export value at USD1.37 billion, followed by gold and electronic equipment.

By commodity group, electronic products

continued to be the country's top exports with total earnings of USD5.25 billion, accounting for 59.9 percent of the total export value.

This was followed by other mineral products with an export value of USD414.85 million and other manufactured goods with USD401.37 million.

The United States, Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China, Japan, and Singapore were the top export destinations in June.

Imports, meanwhile, also recorded a double-digit growth of 19.6 percent to USD13.71 billion from USD11.46 billion.

Imports of electronic products recorded the highest import value of USD4.77 billion, followed by mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials, and transport equipment.

China was the biggest source of imported goods in June.

Other top sources of imports are South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, and the US. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PAGCOR REPORTS LOWER REVENUES IN H1 2026

MANILA — The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation's (PAGCOR) revenues fell by 26.64 percent in the first half of the year as lower earnings from gaming operations weighed on the agency's financial performance.

In a statement Thursday, PAGCOR said revenues during the period amounted to PHP43.32 billion, down from PHP59.05 billion in the same period last year.

Gaming operations, which continued to be the primary revenue source, declined 27.11 percent to PHP38.92 billion from PHP53.40 billion a year earlier.

PAGCOR Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Alejandro Tengco said the decline was largely driven by weaker revenues from the electronic gaming segment.

Revenues from eGames, eBingo and bingo grantees fell 41.85 percent to PHP18.60 billion from PHP32 billion in the first half of 2025, while revenues from licensed casinos and PAGCOR-operated casinos also declined 3.85 percent and 8.67 percent, respectively.

"Our first-half revenue results reflect the continuing impact of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, which dampened consumer spending during the first quarter and affected overall industry performance," Tengco said.

"While market conditions improved in the second quarter, uncertainties remain, particularly with

the recent uptick in global fuel prices. Nevertheless, we remain focused on strengthening industry performance through sound regulation and close collaboration with our stakeholders to ensure that the gaming sector continues to generate meaningful revenues for nation-building," he added.

PAGCOR's net operating income went down by 35.05 percent to PHP31.75 billion, while net income likewise fell 85.29 percent to PHP1.58 billion.

"The steeper decline in net income was due to PAGCOR's higher mandated remittances to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) following the Supreme Court's ruling requiring the state gaming agency to remit five percent of its gross income to the PSC, instead of the previously adopted computation," Tengco said.

PAGCOR remitted PHP2.01 billion to the PSC, higher by 58.68 percent than the PHP1.26 billion in the same period last year.

It also remitted PHP18.49 billion to the national government; PHP1.94 billion franchise tax; PHP7.36 billion for socio-civic projects; PHP340.05 million as host cities' share; PHP9.87 million corporate income tax; and PHP4.47 million sports incentives and benefits for winning athletes, coaches and trainers under Republic Act 10699. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

BIR READY TO IMPLEMENT PBBM'S TAX REFORM AGENDA

MANILA — Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Charlito Mendoza said on Thursday the agency is ready to implement President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s tax reform agenda.

In his fifth State of the Nation Address earlier this week, Marcos said the government will pursue tax relief measures that promote growth, generate revenue, and advance equity toward socio-economic sustainability.

These include expanding income tax exemption and exempting small businesses from minimum corporate income tax.

"The BIR supports this direction and stands ready to faithfully and efficiently implement the measures that Congress may enact," Mendoza said in a statement.

"Our responsibility now is to ensure that the

Bureau is fully prepared once these measures are signed into law, while sustaining our ongoing initiatives to strengthen tax administration and enhance taxpayer experience," he added.

Mendoza assured that while the legislative process is underway, the BIR will advance reforms within its authority.

These include sampling compliance, improving its services, modernizing its system, and reviewing processes and regulations no longer responsive to taxpayers' needs.

Mendoza also vowed to continue consultation with stakeholders to ensure measures being implemented by the BIR are responsive to taxpayers' concerns.

"Through these efforts, we will help ensure that tax relief measures are implemented efficiently,

encourage greater voluntary compliance, and continue generating the revenues needed to fund essential public services," he said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

STOCKS DOWN ON PROFIT-TAKING, PESO UP VS. US DOLLAR

MANILA — Profit-taking again ruled the local bourse's trading on Tuesday, resulting in the main index's negative close, but the Philippine peso managed to gain against the US dollar.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) declined by 0.17 percent to 6,304.03 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.24 percent to 3,427.04 points.

Most of the sectoral gauges, however, ended on a positive note — Mining and Oil, 0.50 percent;

Financials, 0.35 percent; Services, 0.18 percent; and Holding Firms, 0.01 percent.

Industrial and Property, meanwhile, went down by 1.24 percent and 0.73 percent, respectively.

Volume reached 790.2 million shares, amounting to PHP6.67 billion.

Decliners led advancers at 89 to 78 while 68 shares were unchanged.

"Last-minute profit-taking sent the local bourse lower, with investors still worried over the uncertainties

between the US and Iran," Philstocks Research said in a commentary.

On the other hand, the local currency finished the day at 61.61, up from its 61.67 finish on Monday.

It opened the day at 61.70, better than the previous session's 61.76, and traded between 61.76 and 61.6. The day's average stood at 61.67.

Volume rose to USD1.16 billion from the previous session's USD990.68 million. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**



PRECIOUS CABUYA TO REPRESENT PH AT 2026 OCR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

MANILA – World-renowned Filipino athlete Precious Cabuya is set to compete against the world's best 100-meter obstacle athletes as she joins Team Philippines at the 2026 OCR World Championships in Limerick, Ireland on Aug. 6-9. Cabuya has become one of the most accomplished athletes in obstacle

course racing (OCR), having shattered the 100m obstacle world record five times and holding a Guinness World Record. These achievements have helped elevate the Philippines' reputation in obstacle sports while inspiring the next generation of Filipino athletes to dream bigger and compete at the highest level.

As she prepares for another world championship campaign, the 32-year-old Cabuya remains focused on proudly carrying the Philippine flag and showcasing the heart, resilience, and world-class talent of Filipino athletes on the global stage. Cabuya won a gold medal in the OCR women's individual event in the 2023 Southeast Asian Games. **(PR/PNA)**

EALA DETHRONES FERNANDEZ TO MAKE MUBADALA DC OPEN QUARTERS

MANILA – Filipino tennis star Alexandra Eala dethroned defending champion and No. 7 seed Leylah Fernandez, 6-1, 7-6 (2), Friday to reach the WTA 500 Mubadala Open in Washington, USA. The win avenged Eala's 1-6, 4-6 loss to the Canadian in the first round of the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix on clay in Stuttgart, Germany last April 14. "I know that she was playing a little better, and maybe my level dropped a little bit," said the 21-year-old Eala of her second-set comeback during the post-match interview. "Those are very tricky moments, when you know your level has dropped and you want to do better, but things for one reason or another just aren't coming out. I think patience was key there, just trying to work it out, and a strong mentality in terms of trying to find solutions," added Eala, who also dethroned Iga Swiatek in the Wimbledon third round

four weeks ago. Eala will next face the winner between Ukrainian second seed Elina Svitolina and Uzbek qualifier Polina Kudermetova. Svitolina had a first-round bye while Kudermetova rallied past Spanish Cristina Busca, 5-7, 7-6 (4), 6-0. Meanwhile, 2022 champion Liudmila Samsonova marched to the quarters after beating Wang Xinyu 6-2, 6-2. The tournament has a total of USD1,637,982 in prize money. The breakdown of

ranking points and prize money for each round: Singles: First round: 1 | USD17,440; Second round: 60 | USD24,474; Quarterfinal: 108 | USD47,750; Semifinal: 195 | USD90,900; Finalist: 325 | USD155,000. Champion: 500 | USD252,000. Doubles: First round: 1 | USD9,210; Quarterfinal: 108 | USD15,140; Semifinal: 195 | USD29,490; Finalist: 325 | USD50,790; Champion: 500 | USD83,500. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



Alexandra Eala (Mubadala DC Open photo)

PH HUMILIATED BY MYANMAR IN HYUNDAI CUP DEBUT

CAPAS, Tarlac – The Philippine Men's National Football Team (PMNFT) suffered its worst defeat against Myanmar in a long while after dropping a 1-4 decision in the ASEAN Hyundai Cup at New Clark City Athletics Stadium here Tuesday night. Kyaw Min Oo delivered an early silencer to the 3,104-strong crowd by drawing first for the Burmese side in the seventh minute. Than Paing then made it 2-0 in the 28th minute. The PMNFT appeared to have forced a penalty late in the first half, but the referee, following a confirmation from the video assistant referee, overturned his initial foul call, keeping the count at 2-0 before halftime. The PMNFT then got the goal back from Jarvey Gayoso in the 68th

minute, but Win Naing Tun staggered the squad with Myanmar's third goal in the 81st. Paing completed his brace with an 83rd-minute goal that capped Myanmar's goalfest on the road. The victory, a huge bounce-back from its 1-5 defeat during a June friendly, put Myanmar

on the board in Group B following a tough 1-2 loss at home to Malaysia. The Philippines, on the other hand, is just ahead of fellow winless squad Laos on goal difference, although they are at the bottom of the table. **(PNA) BY IVAN STEWART SALDAJENO**



File photo

SBP SUBMITS SHORTLIST TO ASIAD ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

MANILA – The Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP) has submitted its shortlist of players who will comprise the national team that will defend the men's basketball gold in the Asian Games in Nagoya, Japan. SBP executive director Erika Dy said the roster had been forwarded to the Asiad Organizing Committee, although the list doesn't comprise the final 12-man roster of Gilas Pilipinas coach Tim Cone yet. She said changes, including for the women's squad, can still be made leading to the Sept. 10 to 20 Games. "There was already a shortlist that was submitted. But it's not yet the final (list) because just like in the Southeast Asian Games, there can still be changes in the end," Dy said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum Tuesday at the Philippine Sports Commission media room in Manila. Dy assured that the core of the current national squad will be representing the country in its bid to retain the championship. "Out of that 30-plus, the mainstays of Gilas are

there," Dy said. The roster was based on an earlier 30-member long list also submitted by the SBP. Some are not eligible as locals, like Brandon Bates and Sedrick Barefield, since the Asiad is not sanctioned by the sports' world governing body FIFA. Gilas regulars Dwight Ramos and AJ Edu are likewise not going to the Asiad as they will play in Japan's B.League Manila Games on Sept. 9 and 10. Ramos is with the Levanga Hokkaido and Edu with the Gumma Crane Thunders.

"I think it's safe to say that Dwight and AJ won't be available because they're playing in the B. League Manila Games. So that's a conflict in the schedule," Dy said. Gilas Pilipinas ended the country's 61-year wait at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China in 2023, beating Jordan in the finals, 70-60. The late great Carlos "Caloy" Loyzaga led the Philippine team that won in Jakarta in 1962, the last of four straight gold medals for the country. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



ASIAN GAMES TEAM. Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas executive director Erika Dy talks about the national team for the Asian Games during the Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum at the Philippine Sports Commission media room in Manila on Tuesday (July 28, 2026). The shortlist for both men's and women's teams was already submitted to the Asiad organizing committee. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)