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FOOD SECURITY GETS P1.42-M PUSH FROM DSWD'S SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM IN CAVITE

NAIC, Cavite (PIA)

— With a goal to help ensure food security in the region, three Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) Associations in Cavite Province received seed capital funding amounting to P1.42 million from the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to help kickstart their businesses.

Last August 19, each of the 70 members from San Miguel Dreamers SLP Association, Pag-unlad

SLP Association, and SMMED SLP Association received P20,000 as capital for their individual enterprises.

Dennis Silva, SLP Cavite Provincial Coordinator, said that these groups were organized as part of the Zero Hunger Program. In partnership with the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), these SLP associations will aid in the region's food production

and ultimately push for food security.

Meanwhile, Raymond Valenzuela, President of the San Miguel Dreamers SLP Association, vowed that they will work together to grow the funding they received

“Pagsusumikapan po naming palaguin at gamitin nang maayos ang pondong ipinagkaloob sa amin. Nawa'y maging simula ito ng pagbabago at pag-unlad ng aming buhay.”

Silva added that the three SLP associations plan to

use their seed capital fund to open agrobusinesses such as hog raising, vegetable farming, and fish trading and processing to provide their members with

a stable source of income. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from DSWD IV-A) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

PGC BRINGS FREE HEALTH SERVICES TO RESIDENTS OF TANZANG LUMA V

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) brought free medical and dental services closer to residents of Tanzang Luma V in Imus City through a medical and dental mission held on August 15, 2026, benefiting a total of 942 individuals.

The outreach activity provided residents with access to essential healthcare services, including medical consultations and dental services, helping address their immediate health concerns and promoting greater awareness of preventive healthcare.

Through the medical mission, beneficiaries were given the opportunity to consult with healthcare professionals and receive appropriate medical advice and assistance. Dental

services were likewise extended to residents as part of the provincial government's continuing efforts to make basic healthcare services more accessible to communities. The activity underscores the commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to bringing responsive and community-centered health services directly

to residents, particularly those who may face challenges in accessing healthcare facilities.

Through initiatives such as this, the PGC continues to strengthen its healthcare programs and advance its goal of ensuring that Caviteños receive accessible, timely and quality health services. — **OPIO**



AMADEO, Cavite (PIA) — Indigent residents of Amadeo, Cavite have received their 10-kilo rice benefits under the ongoing Local Government Support Fund – Financial Assistance to Local Government Units.

Mayor Jose “Jojo” Domingo, Jr. said the “Bawat Bayan Makikinabang” initiative was able to reach 26 barangays, where each

family received 10 kilos of rice.

Domingo assured an equitable delivery of the rice benefits where every household will receive the 10-kilo rice packs.

“Wala po tayong pinipili. Malaki man o maliit ang

bahay, simple man o malawak ang tahanan ay makakatanggap, bilang pagpapakita ng patas at pantay na serbisyo sa bawat Amadean.”

Funded through the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF), the program aims to strengthen food security for families in need and help ease the impact of rising living costs. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from Mayor Jojo Domingo, Provincial Government of Cavite) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**



Photo Credit: DEBSilva



PGC'S MEDICAL AND DENTAL MISSION
15 AUGUST 2026
TANZANG LUMA V, IMUS CITY

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P68,000 HALAGA NG PINAGHIHINALANG SHABU, BARIL AT BALA, NAKUMPISKA; 2 SUSPEK NAARESTO NG BACOR PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Dalawang Street Level Individuals ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa isang buy-bust operation na nagresulta sa pagkakasamsam ng humigit-kumulang 10 gramo ng pinaghihinalang shabu na nagkakahalaga ng ₱68,000.00, gayundin ng isang kalibre .38 na baril at apat na bala, bandang alas-3:00 ng madaling-araw noong Agosto 26, 2026 sa Barangay Niog, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kinilala ang mga naarestong suspek na sina alyas “Chard at Jorge,” na kapwa residente ng Barangay Niog, Bacoor City.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng buy-bust operation ang Drug Enforcement Team ng Bacoor Component City Police Station sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa PDEA, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa dalawang suspek at pagkakasamsam ng mga sumusunod: apat (4) na pakete na naglalaman ng puting mala-kristal na substansiyang hinihinalang

shabu, na may tinatayang timbang na 10 gramo at nagkakahalaga ng ₱68,000.00; isang (1) ₱500 bill na ginamit bilang buy-bust money; isang (1) coin pouch; at isang (1) kalibre .38 revolver na may laman na apat (4) na bala, na nakumpiska mula sa isa sa mga suspek.

Ang nakumpiskang mga ebidensiyang may kaugnayan sa ilegal na droga at baril ay dadalhin sa Provincial Forensic Unit sa Imus City, Cavite para sa kaukulang laboratory at ballistic examination.

Ang mga kaukulang dokumento ay inihahanda na para sa inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, “Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang mga operasyon laban sa ilegal na droga at mga loose firearm upang mapanatili ang kaligtasan at seguridad ng mga mamamayan. Ang bawat operasyon ay isinasagawa alinsunod sa batas at kaukulang proseso.”

RANK NO. 5 MUNICIPAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON NG BASUD, CAMARINES NORTE, NAARESTO NG ROSARIO PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Rosario Municipal Police Station, katuwang ang tracker team ng Basud Municipal Police Station ng Camarines Norte, ang Rank No. 5 Municipal Level Most Wanted Person ng Basud MPS sa isinagawang joint police operation bandang alas-11:40 ng umaga noong Agosto 26, 2026 sa Sitio San Lakas, Barangay Wawa 3, Rosario, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ARDIE O BAGAMAN, hepe ng Rosario MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si “Ped” na kasalukuyang residente ng Rosario, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, isinagawa ang operasyon bilang bahagi ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation ng Warrant/Tracker Team at patrol personnel ng Rosario Municipal Police Station katuwang ang Tracker Team ng Basud MPS-Camarines Norte. Nagresulta ang operasyon sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9165 o Comprehensive

Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, partikular sa Section 11, Article II (Possession of Dangerous Drugs).

Ang warrant ay inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Fifth Judicial Region, Branch 38, Daet, Camarines Norte, na walang inirekomendang piyansa at may kaugnayan sa pagpapatupad ng sentensiya.

Ipinaalam sa naarestong akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Dinala ang naarestong wanted person sa Rosario Municipal Police Station para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon, habang ang Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, “Ang matagumpay na pagkakaaresto sa isang wanted person mula sa ibang lalawigan ay patunay ng epektibong koordinasyon ng ating mga kapulisan. Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang SACLEO at iba pang operasyon upang matiyak na ang mga wanted person ay haharap sa kaukulang proseso ng batas.”

NAIC MOST WANTED PERSON SA PAGLABAG NG BATAS SA BARIL, NAARESTO 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 bilang bahagi ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation, bandang alas-10:05 ng umaga noong Agosto 26, 2026 sa Timalan Balsahan, Naic, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL LOUIE DC GONZAGA, hepe ng Naic MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas “Hipa” at residente ng Naic, Cavite.

Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng police operation ang mga Warrant Personnel ng Naic Municipal Police Station bilang bahagi ng SACLEO, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 28(A) ng Republic Act No. 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition

Regulation Act).

Ang warrant ay inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 132, noong Agosto 13, 2026, na may nakatakdang piyansa na ₱120,000.00.

Agad na ipinaalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal at dinala sa Naic Municipal Police Station para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon.

Ang Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito para sa kaukulang disposisyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, “Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang ating mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak na ang bawat akusado ay haharap sa kaukulang proseso ng batas. Sa pamamagitan ng SACLEO at koordinasyon ng ating mga tanggapan, sisiguraduhin nating walang lugar na pagtataguan ang mga wanted person.”

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA MGA KASONG ACTS OF LASCIVIOUSNESS AT SEXUAL ASSAULT, NAARESTO NG GENERAL TRIAS PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng General Trias Component City Police Station ang isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang operasyon bilang bahagi ng Simultaneous Anti-Criminality Law Enforcement Operation, bandang alas-7:45 ng gabi noong Agosto 25, 2026 sa Barangay Buenavista II, General Trias City, Cavite.

Kinilala ang naarestong akusado na si alyas “Felipe” na residente ng General Trias City, Cavite. Batay sa ulat, nagsagawa ng operasyon ang mga tauhan ng General Trias Component City Police Station, na nagresulta sa

pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa dalawang bilang ng Acts of Lasciviousness sa ilalim ng Article 336 ng Revised Penal Code at Sexual Assault sa ilalim ng Article 266-A ng Revised Penal Code.

Ang mga naturang warrant ay inilabas ng Family Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 5, Trece Martires City, noong Agosto 17, 2026. May nakatakdang piyansa na ₱108,000.00 at ₱200,000.00, ayon sa pagkakasunod ng mga kaso.

Ipinaalam sa akusado ang dahilan ng kanyang pagkakaaresto at ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal. Sa kasalukuyan, nasa kustodiya siya ng General

Trias Custodial Facility sa Barangay Bagumbayan, General Trias City, Cavite, habang hinihintay ang pagbabalik ng warrant sa hukuman na nagpalabas nito at ang kasunod na issuance ng Commitment Order.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, “Patuloy nating paiigtingin ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted person bilang bahagi ng ating kampanya para sa isang ligtas na komunidad. Walang lugar sa Cavite para sa mga lumalabag sa batas, at sisiguraduhin nating ang mga akusado ay haharap sa kaukulang proseso ng hustisya.”

REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG MURDER, NAARESTO NG MARAGONDON PULIS SA BOHOL

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Matagumpay na naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Maragondon Municipal Police Station, katuwang ang Candijay Municipal Police Station ng Bohol Police Provincial Office, ang isang Regional Listed Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang joint police operation bandang alas-7:50 ng gabi noong Agosto 25, 2026 sa Barangay Poblacion, Candijay, Bohol.

Kinilala ni PMAJ JERALD V MUYA, hepe ng Maragondon MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyan “Dio na residente ng Candijay, Bohol.

Batay sa ulat, isinagawa

ang joint police operation ng mga tauhan ng Maragondon Municipal Police Station, katuwang ang mga tauhan ng Candijay Municipal Police Station, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Murder, na inilabas ng Regional Trial Court, Branch 15, Naic, Cavite, noong Mayo 26, 2023.

Walang inirekomendang piyansa para sa nasabing kaso. Pinaalam din sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Matapos ang pagkakaaresto, ang akusado ay itinurn-over

sa Maragondon Municipal Police Station para sa kaukulang dokumentasyon at disposisyon. Ang kopya ng Warrant of Arrest ay isasailalim sa kaukulang proseso ng hukuman na nagpalabas nito.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director ng Cavite Police Provincial Office, “Ang pagkakaaresto sa isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person sa labas ng Cavite ay patunay ng matatag na koordinasyon ng ating mga kapulisan. Patuloy nating tutugisin ang mga wanted person saanman sila magtungo upang matiyak na haharap sila sa batas at sa kaukulang proseso ng hustisya.”

PGC EMPLOYEES MONTH CELEBRATION KICKS OFF WITH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ISO CERTIFICATION AWARDING, AND NEW BRANDING LAUNCH

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) officially kicked off its celebration of Provincial Employees Month, bringing together provincial government employees in a series of activities aimed at recognizing their valuable contributions, promoting employee well-being, and strengthening camaraderie in public service.

The highlight of the opening celebration was the PGC Employees General Assembly, which served as a venue for employees to come together, reflect on their shared commitment to public service, and celebrate important milestones of the provincial government.

One of the major highlights of the program was the launching of the new PGC branding, symbolizing the provincial government's continuing efforts to strengthen its identity and present a unified image across its various offices, programs, and services. The new branding reinforces the PGC's vision of a progressive, service-oriented, and people-centered provincial government while fostering a stronger sense of unity among its employees.

The activity also featured the ceremonial awarding of the ISO 9001:2015 Certification, marking another significant milestone in the PGC's continuing pursuit of quality, efficiency, and excellence in government service. The certification reflects the provincial government's commitment to maintaining effective systems and processes that promote consistent, responsive, and quality public service for the people of Cavite.

Beyond the formal program, the celebration placed equal importance on the health, wellness, and overall well-being of provincial employees. A stress management

seminar was conducted to provide employees with practical ways to manage workplace pressures, maintain a healthy mindset, and achieve better balance in their professional and personal lives. The activity underscored the importance of taking care of employees who, in turn, play a vital role in delivering efficient and responsive services to the public.

Employees were likewise encouraged to stay active and healthy through a lively Zumba activity, providing an enjoyable opportunity for physical exercise, relaxation, and interaction with colleagues. The energetic session brought employees together in a fun and engaging atmosphere, promoting both physical wellness and workplace camaraderie.

As part of the celebration's Personnel Care activities, employees were also treated to various personal wellness services, including haircuts, massage, and manicure and pedicure services. These activities provided employees with an opportunity to relax, recharge, and enjoy a well-deserved break from their daily work responsibilities. Adding excitement to the celebration were various games and recreational activities designed to encourage teamwork, friendly competition, and stronger relationships among employees. The games provided a venue for employees from different offices and departments to interact outside their usual work environment, strengthening cooperation and camaraderie within the provincial government workforce.

The kick-off activity was attended by Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla, Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, and members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, who joined

CAVITE STRENGTHENS CHILD PROTECTION ADVOCACY THROUGH SCHOOL-BASED INFORMATION CAMPAIGN

The Provincial Government of Cavite, through the Provincial Council for the Protection of Children (PCPC), strengthened its advocacy for the protection and promotion of children's rights through a school-based information campaign on laws protecting children held in selected schools across the province from August 3 to 5, 2026.

The advocacy campaign was participated in by Grade 10 students of Imus National High School, Trece Martires City National High School, and Carmona National High School. The sessions focused on key issues affecting children and adolescents, including school safety, the safe and responsible use of media and the internet, anti-bullying, mental health, and preventing child abuse.

Serving as resource speakers were PMSG Angelie Cruza of the Women and Children Protection Desk (WCPD) of Imus City Police Station; PMSG Aileen Peal Gonzalez of the Cavite Provincial Police Office (Cavite CPPO); PMSG Ma. Cristina Pere of the WCPD of Trece Martires City Police Station; Ms. Jessie Rose Cruto, PCPC Focal Person; and Ms. Danica Shaira Pontimar, PCAT-VAWC Focal Person.

The speakers provided students with practical information

provincial employees in celebrating their important role in advancing the programs and services of the provincial government.

The Provincial Government of Cavite continues to recognize its employees as essential partners in advancing the province's development and in delivering programs and services that respond to the needs of the Caviteño community. — **OPIO**

on recognizing unsafe situations, protecting themselves from abuse and exploitation, and seeking help from trusted adults and appropriate authorities. Discussions also highlighted the importance of maintaining a safe school environment and promoting respect, responsibility, and kindness among students.

The campaign likewise addressed the responsible use of social media and the internet, emphasizing the need for students to protect their personal information, practice safe online behavior, and be mindful of the possible risks associated with online interactions and content.

Anti-bullying was also given emphasis, encouraging students to understand the impact of bullying and to take an active role in preventing and reporting bullying incidents. The sessions further underscored the importance of taking care of one's mental health, recognizing emotional and psychological concerns, and seeking support when needed.

The advocacy also reinforced the message of "No to Child Abuse," reminding students that every child has the right to protection from physical, emotional, and other forms of abuse. Participants were encouraged to speak up, report incidents, and seek assistance from trusted adults, school authorities, law enforcement agencies, and other appropriate service providers.

Through the initiative, the PCPC emphasized that child protection is a shared responsibility among children, parents, schools, government agencies, law enforcement authorities, and communities. Strengthening awareness among young people was identified as an important step toward preventing abuse, violence, bullying, and other threats to children's safety and well-being. — **OPIO**

EDITORIAL

Kaligtasan sa Paaralan, Pananagutan ng Lahat

Ang kaligtasan sa paaralan ay hindi lamang usapin ng pagprotekta sa mga estudyante, kundi pati na rin sa mga guro at school personnel na gumagabay sa kanila araw-araw.

Sa panahon ng panganib o krisis, mahalagang may sapat silang kaalaman, malinaw na mga protocol, at kinakailangang suporta upang maayos nilang magampanan ang kanilang tungkulin.

Dahil dito, makatuwiran ang panukalang School Safety Act ni Sen. Bam Aquino na naglalayong palakasin ang paghahanda at proteksiyon para sa buong komunidad ng paaralan.

Hindi sapat na asahan lamang ang mga guro at kawani sa pagharap sa mga banta kung wala silang sapat na pagsasanay at institusyonal na suporta.

Dapat ding magtulungan ang mga paaralan, pamilya, barangay, lokal na pamahalaan, law enforcement, at mga health professional upang mapanatili ang ligtas na kapaligiran para sa lahat. Sa huli, ang ligtas na paaralan ay bunga ng sama-samang pananagutan at konkretong hakbang upang maprotektahan kapwa ang mga mag-aaral at mga taong naglilingkod sa kanila.



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CARD Bank
A Microfinance-Oriented Rural Bank

Bukas, para sa lahat

SA BAWAT KILO NG GULAY

Saisang bahagi ng lungsod ng Iloilo, isang babae ang nagsisikap na maitaguyod ang kanyang pamilya sa pamamagitan ng pagtitinda ng bawat kilo ng gulay sa kanyang puwesto sa palengke. Ngunit bago siya magkaroon ng ganitong pagkakataon sa hanapbuhay, dumaan muna siya sa iba't ibang pagsubok at pagsusumikap.

Si Rieze Joy Ebuena, ngayon ay 31 taong gulang, mula sa bayan ng Oton, Iloilo, ay humarap na ng iba't ibang hamon ng buhay. Dahil sa kakulangang pinansiyal ng kanilang pamilya, hindi niya natapos ang hayskul at umabot lamang siya sa ikatlong taon nito ng pag-aaral. Nang siya ay 18 taong gulang, nagkaanak siya matapos pumasok sa isang relasyon. Makalipas ang isang taon, noong 2014, lumuwas siya sa Maynila at nagtrabaho bilang tindera. Habang nagtatrabaho, pinagmasdan niya ang paraan ng pamamalakad ng kanyang amo at natutuhan niya kung

paano magpatakbo ng negosyo.

Noong 2019, lumipat sila ng kanyang partner sa Jaro, sa lungsod ng Iloilo. Habang ang kanyang partner ay nagsimulang magtrabaho bilang drayber ng isang kumpanya, si Reize naman ay nag-isip ng iba pang paraan para kumita. Gamit ang mga natutuhan niya mula sa kanyang dating amo, nagbukas siya ng isang sari-sari store sa kanilang bahay.

Subalit noong 2020, napilitan silang isara ang kanilang sari-sari store dahil sa pandemya. Gayunpaman, ayaw ni Reize tumigil sa paghanapbuhay. Nagsimula siyang mag-isip ng iba pang negosyo na wala pa sa kanilang barangay.

Taong 2021, nakilala ni Reize ang CARD Bank, Inc., isang microfinance-oriented rural bank, sa pamamagitan ng isang kapitbahay. Naging interesado si Reize sa paghihikayat nito ng pag-iipon. Naging interesado rin siya sa isa

sa mga benepisyo nito para sa mga kliyente na awtomatikong nagiging miyembro ng CARD MBA upang mabigyan ng life insurance. Dahil sa trabaho ng kanyang partner bilang drayber at sa hangarin niyang makapag-iipon, nagpasyang maging kliyente ng CARD Bank si Reize sa parehong taon. Ang pagiging kliyente ni Reize sa nasabing bangko ay nagbigay-daan sa kaniya upang magsimula sa negosyong nais niyang buksan nang magsara ang kaniyang sari-sari store noong pandemya. Noong 2023, nagsimula siyang magtinda ng mga gulay gamit ang PHP 5,000 na kaniyang hiniram mula sa CARD Bank bilang kapital. Sa dating espasyo ng kaniyang sari-sari store, pinasimulan niyang magdisplay at mag-alok ng iba't ibang uri ng gulay. Bilang isang kliyente, nakapag-iipon si Reize sa kabila ng limitadong badyet paminsan-minsan. Napapanatag rin siya dahil sa life insurance na mayroon siya bilang isang miyembro at kliyente ng CARD.

Kasabay ng bagong simulang negosyo ni Rieze, ang kanyang ina ay nagtinda rin ng mga gulay sa palengke. Sa mga araw na hindi ito nakakapagtinda, si Rieze ang humahali sa puwesto, dala ang sarili niyang mga gulay. Kalaunan, nagkasundo silang magkaroon ng magkahalinhina ng iskedyl ng pagtitinda sa puwesto sa palengke. Sa ngayon, apat na araw sa loob ng isang linggo kung magtinda si Rieze sa palengke, at sa mga natitirang araw naman ay sa kanilang bahay.

Araw-araw, matiyagang iniaalok ni Reize ang

kanyang mga gulay sa mga naglalakad, mamimili sa palengke, at sa mga kapitbahay. Alam niyang ang mga bentang ito ang magtatawid sa kanilang pang-araw araw na pangangailangan at magbibigay sa kaniya ng pagkakataon upang patuloy pang magsumikap sa mga susunod pang araw. Kapag nasa palengke, ang kanyang dalawang anak naman ang tumutulong magbantay sa kanilang tindahan sa bahay.

Sa ganitong negosyo, nakararanas pa rin siya ng mga suliranin, katulad ng pangungutang ng mga customer at hindi pagbabayad kaagad ng mga ito. Bagaman mahirap ito para kay Reize, patuloy pa rin niyang pinakikitunguhan ang mga ito at magalang na pinapaalalahanan sa pagbabayad sa kanilang mga utang.

Sa ngayon, kumikita siya ng PHP 3,000 hanggang PHP 4,000 araw-araw sa pagtitinda sa palengke, at PHP 1,000 naman sa kanilang bahay. Hindi man ito kasinglaki ng kinikita ng iba, subalit para kay Reize, mas mabuti ito kaysa noong siya ay walang-wala. Sa pamamagitan ng kaniyang kinikita, patuloy niyang nasusportahan ang pag-aaral ng kaniyang mga anak kung saan ang isa ay kasalukuyang nasa hayskul, at ang isa naman ay nasa kindergarten.

Sa kasalukuyan, may sarili nang sidecar si Rieze na nakatutulong sa pagbibiyaha ng kanyang mga gulay. Patuloy siyang nagsusumikap at nananatiling nakatutok sa pagpapalago ng kanyang negosyo habang pinag-aaral ang kanyang mga anak.

Sa lahat ng kaniyang

DBM: P45.67-B NDRRMF IN 2027 TO CUSHION EL NIÑO, DISASTERS

MANILA—The government has earmarked around PHP45.67 billion for the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF) under the 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP) to serve as a fiscal buffer for El Niño and other disasters.

The proposed NDRRMF for 2027, which is 14.68 percent higher than this year's allocation, aims to strengthen the country's disaster preparedness and resilience, Budget Acting Secretary Kim Robert de Leon said during the presentation of the 2027 NEP to the Senate Finance Committee on Thursday.

De Leon said the proposed budget could be tapped when existing government resources, such as the Department of Agriculture's (DA) available budget to ensure food and water security, are depleted.

"But we also have on standby the NDRRM Fund for any possible shortfall that may arise if the regular funding sources under DA would not be enough," he said, noting that the fund for the current year may be utilized to strengthen the

government's capacity to prepare for and respond to the effects of disasters and extreme weather events.

The existing Risk Resiliency Program, which contains comprehensive data on climate and disaster risks, is crucial in determining the specific amount needed for government interventions to cushion the impact of El Niño, De Leon said.

He, nevertheless, assured the public that the government is ready for the possible effects of El Niño, citing the activation of government interventions under the Unified Package for Livelihoods, Industry, Food, and Transport (UPLIFT) framework to help the agriculture sector prepare early for potential disruptions caused by the phenomenon.

Senator Risa Hontiveros emphasized the need for early government action amid warnings on the potential severity of El Niño, particularly its possible impact on farmers and food security.

Hontiveros raised the potential food-security implications of adjustments in farmers' planting calendars, noting the need for the government to anticipate the effects of delaying planting by one to two months.

De Leon said the government has provided additional funding for agricultural inputs, including support for fertilizer and farmers' fuel requirements, as part of efforts to help the sector adjust to changing weather conditions and planting schedules.

He added that the National Food Authority is utilizing its existing budget for rice buffer stocking, while available Department of Public Works and Highways resources may be used to repair or rehabilitate damaged rainwater collection facilities. (PNA) **BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**



Si Rieze Joy Ebuena mula sa Jaro, Iloilo City, sa kanyang stall kung saan bumibili ng gulay ang mga kapitbahay at mga kalapit na komunidad.

You can make many plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail

Proverbs 19:21

pinagdaanan, ang payo ni Reize sa kaniyang kapwa negosyante ay pag-isipang mabuti ang kanilang negosyo. "Maging matiyaga lang," sabi niya, "dahil marami kang makasalamuhang iba't ibang uri ng tao."

Ang karanasan ni Rieze ay isang halimbawa ng kung paano naitatawid ng patuloy na pagtiyaga ang isang tao mula sa walang-wala hanggang sa patuloy na pagpupursigi. Natutuhan ni Reize na pahalagahan ang bawat benta ng gulay, kung saan ang bawat kilo nito ay may dalang pag-asa, bawat kilo ay hakbang patungo sa panibagong bukas. **BY JIREH PEARL CASIONAN, JUNIOR WRITER**

SAFEGUARDS IN PLACE AS GOV'T EYES HIGHER INFRA SPENDING IN 2027

MANILA — The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) on Thursday assured the public that safeguards are in place to prevent abuse and irregularities in the proposed higher allocation for government infrastructure projects in 2027.

In a statement, the DBM said infrastructure proposals underwent evaluation and validation before their inclusion in the 2027 National Expenditure Program (NEP).

"The higher infrastructure allocation is accompanied by safeguards beginning at the budget preparation stage," the DBM said, noting that agencies were required to submit complete documentary requirements for infrastructure projects.

"These safeguards form part of the government's effort to ensure that infrastructure projects entering the proposed national budget are necessary, properly supported, aligned with national and regional priorities, implementation-ready, and capable of delivering measurable benefits to the public," the department added.

The DBM said proposed projects were assessed based on their alignment with national and regional development priorities, implementation readiness, project maturity, absorptive capacity and past utilization performance, expected outcomes, and overall value to the country.

The assessment, it noted, was consistent with the 2027 Budget Call and Budget Priorities Framework.

"Depending on the nature and stage of the project, these may include feasibility studies and detailed engineering requirements, procurement plans, right-of-way requirements, necessary clearances and permits, proof of coordination with concerned LGUs and implementing entities, and certification against project duplication, among other requirements," the DBM said.

It also considered

the implementing agency's absorptive capacity and budget utilization performance in determining whether additional appropriations can realistically be implemented and disbursed within the fiscal year.

It stressed that projects funded under the national budget remain subject to applicable procurement, budgeting, accounting, auditing, monitoring, and transparency requirements throughout implementation.

"Region-specific programs and projects also undergo the Regional Development Council (RDC) process, where applicable, to ensure that proposed investments are aligned with regional development plans and priorities and have undergone consultation and coordination at the regional level," the DBM said.

"RDC endorsements form part of the supporting requirements considered during the evaluation of agency budget proposals." Flagship projects

The DBM noted that the proposed PHP643.95 allocation for the Department of Public Works and Highways' (DPWH) infrastructure projects was part of the PHP1.47 trillion government-wide funding proposal for 2027 to support priority infrastructure investments nationwide.

Equivalent to 4.4 percent of the gross domestic product, the proposed government-wide infrastructure budget is PHP178 billion, or 13.8 percent higher than the PHP1.29 trillion provided under the 2026 General Appropriations Act.

The DBM said higher public infrastructure spending in 2027 is expected to help sustain economic growth, generate jobs, reduce logistics and travel costs, and improve connectivity across the country.

"The objective is not higher infrastructure spending for its own sake, but better infrastructure spending that produces measurable economic and social returns — from faster

movement of people and goods and lower logistics costs to stronger regional economies, more jobs, and improved access to essential services," it said.

Among the major infrastructure flagship projects supported under the proposed 2027 allocation are the Laguna Lakeshore Road Network Project; Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project; Davao City Bypass Construction Project, Package I; Cebu-Mactan Bridge and Coastal Road Construction Project; and Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project, Phase IV.

Under the 2027 NEP, the Laguna Lakeshore Road Network Project received the largest allocation among the five, amounting to PHP35.21 billion.

Supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), and Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund, the project involves the construction of a 37.6-km. primary road from Lower Bicutan to Calamba and is targeted for completion in 2028.

About PHP22.49 billion was allotted for the Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge Project, a 32.15-km., four-lane bridge across Manila Bay linking Mariveles, Bataan, and Naic, Cavite.

The project, also supported by the ADB and AIIB, has been approved for implementation.

In Mindanao, about PHP11.96 billion was earmarked for Package I of the Davao City Bypass Construction Project, an ongoing Japan-assisted project involving a 45.5-km., four-lane bypass road in Davao City targeted for completion in 2028.

In Central Visayas, PHP8.57 billion was provided for the Cebu-Mactan Bridge and Coastal Road Construction Project, covering a 3.34-km. bridge and the 5.34-km. Mandaue Coastal Road.

The Japan-supported project has been approved for implementation and is targeted for completion in 2030.

LAWMAKER URGES LGUS TO 'RESCUE BUY' FARMERS' SURPLUS CROPS

MANILA — A member of the House of Representatives committee on local government urged local government units to explore "rescue buy" operations for farmers' crops to prevent produce dumping due to oversupply.

This as reports of dumping of crops once again circulate, with truckloads of carrots and cabbage reportedly being dumped by the roadside in Tublay, Benguet, with farmers blaming an oversupply and lack of buyers.

"Bilang frontliner at pinakamalapit na unit ng pamahalaan sa komunidad, maganda siguro kung tayo na rin ang manguna sa pagsalba sa ating mga magsasaka

para hindi masayang ang pinagpaguran nila (As a frontliner and the nearest local government unit to the community, it would be best if we take the lead in rescuing our farmers so that the fruits of their labors won't go to waste)," Abra Lone District Rep. JB Bernos said in a news release.

The lawmaker said that purchased crops could then be distributed to help struggling families meet their food needs.

"May mga model LGUs na tayo na bumibili ng mga produkto ng ating mga magsasaka't mangingisda at ipinamimigay ito lalo na sa panahon ng sakuna (We already have some model LGUs that buy

produce from farmers and fisherfolk and distributed them, especially during calamities)," he noted, citing efforts to save both crops and animal produce during typhoons and other disasters.

He also backed Education Secretary Sonny Angara's proposal to use surplus vegetables in the government's expanded school feeding program.

Angara recently said the Department of Education is exploring ways to use surplus fresh vegetables in school feeding programs, which now reaches 4.6 million beneficiaries, including Kindergarten and Grade 1 learners. (PNA) BY JOSE CIELITO REGANIT

GSIS OPENS P4.4-B EMERGENCY LOAN FACILITY FOR CYCLONE-HIT MEMBERS

MANILA — More than 166,000 government workers and pensioners in nine cyclone-hit areas in Luzon may avail of a PHP4.4-billion emergency loan facility of the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), with application deadlines running until September or November depending on the locality.

In a news release Wednesday, the GSIS said the assistance is available to active members and old-age and disability pensioners affected by recent tropical cyclones and the southwest monsoon.

"The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS)

has earmarked nearly P4.4 billion in emergency loans for 166,789 active members and old-age and disability pensioners in nine areas in Luzon affected by recent [cyclones] and the southwest monsoon," the agency said.

The longest application periods are in Cavite and Rodriguez, Rizal, where a combined 94,750 eligible members and pensioners may apply until Nov. 12 and Nov. 16, respectively.

Meanwhile, 65,737 qualified borrowers in Pampanga; Calumpit, Bulacan; and Mangaldan and Dagupan City, Pangasinan have until Sept. 13 to apply.

Another 1,964 members and pensioners in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan may apply until Sept. 18, while applications in Hagonoy,

Bulacan and Masinloc, Zambales will remain open until Sept. 20.

Qualified borrowers without an existing emergency loan may borrow up to PHP20,000, while those with an outstanding balance on a previous emergency loan may avail of up to PHP40,000, subject to GSIS policies.

The loan is payable in 36 equal monthly installments at an annual interest rate of 6 percent, and is covered by loan redemption insurance.

Applications may be submitted through the GSIS Touch mobile application. Approved loan proceeds will be credited directly to the borrower's GSIS eCard or UMID card. (PNA) BY WILNARD BACELONIA

EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF GERARDO SACNAHON PAUG

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late **GERARDO SACNAHON PAUG**, a resident of **Section 1, Block 34 Lot 10 Sunny Brooke II Subdivision, Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias, Cavite 4107** who died on August 04, 2024 at Las Pinas General Hospital & Satellite Trauma Center, Diego Cera Avenue, Bernabe Compound, Pulang Lupa I, Las Pinas City, Metro Manila, 1742 Philippines left one (1) parcel of land located in Sunny Brooke II, San Francisco City of General Trias Cavite, covered by **TCT No. 057-2025046977** of the Registry of Deeds Province of Cavite was extra-judicially settled by the legitimate heirs, executed before Notary Public Atty. Emmie C. Sanchez as per Doc.No.89; Page No. 18; Book No. XIV; Series of 2026. Publication: **CAVITE GAZETTE PUBLISHING** September 1, 8 & 15, 2026

The proposed 2027 budget also earmarked PHP8.54 billion for the Pasig-Marikina River Channel Improvement Project, Phase IV, an ongoing Japan-assisted water resources project covering the National Capital Region and Region 4-A (Calabarzon).

It involves channel improvement works for the Middle Marikina River, including the Manggahan Control Gate Structure and two floodgates where the Cainta and Taytay rivers join the Manggahan Floodway. (PNA) BY RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS

TESDA SCHOLAR TURNS PASSION INTO A PATH FOR EMPLOYMENT

BANGUED, Abra (PIA) — Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) scholars enrolled in the Bread and Pastry Production program at the Noble Technical Assessment and Training Center in Abra look forward to gaining employment or starting their own livelihood ventures.

Adlai Jan Kieo Casia said his interest in baking encouraged him to enroll in the program, hoping to obtain a National Certificate (NC) that could help him secure employment, including possible opportunities abroad.

"Baking has become my hobby, which is why I enrolled to obtain a certificate that could help me gain employment opportunities, possibly abroad. I am thankful to TESDA for the allowance and for the new knowledge I gained from the Bread and Pastry training," Casia said.

The trainees recently received their stipends under the Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) of TESDA, to support them with their expenses while undergoing technical-vocational training and acquiring skills that can improve their opportunities for employment and livelihood.

TESDA-Abra Provincial Director Belmar Angoling explained that STEP is designed to provide accessible skills training and assistance, particularly to marginalized communities.

"STEP as a scholarship program is intended for marginalized communities. The STEP package includes an allowance, free training, and starter toolkits. It can also be community-based," he said.

Angoling shared that training slots for STEP in Abra were expanded through the recommendation and initiative of the Office of Representative JB Bernos, allowing more Abrenians to access technical-vocational training and scholarship assistance.

Through STEP, TESDA provides beneficiaries opportunities to acquire industry-relevant skills that may lead to employment, entrepreneurship, or livelihood activities.

The program forms part of the government's efforts to expand access to technical-vocational education and equip individuals, particularly those from disadvantaged communities, with skills that can improve their economic opportunities. (JDP/CAGT – PIA CAR, Abra) **BY CHRISTIAN ALLISTER G. TUBADEZA**

NEGOCC OTOP STORES LOG P663-M SALES IN FIRST HALF OF 2026

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (PIA) — The 11 "One Town, One Product" (OTOP) retail stores have generated ₱663.03 million in sales from January to June 2026, reflecting continued growth in market opportunities for local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

This outcome supports President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s initiative in promoting entrepreneurship, strengthening MSMEs, and expanding market opportunities for local products as part of its efforts to foster inclusive economic growth.

The sales performance was highlighted during the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)-Negros Occidental midyear assessment, which reviewed program accomplishments, shared good practices, identified challenges, and aligned priorities and activities for the remainder of the year.

DTI-Negros Occidental Provincial Director Engineer Lynna Joy Cardinal credited the continuing partnership between the agency and local government units (LGUs), to sustain the OTOP Program and creating opportunities for

local enterprises.

"OTOP coordinators and LGU partners play an important role in sustaining the program and creating opportunities for local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to grow, improve their products and become more competitive," Cardinal said.

The 11 OTOP retail stores composed of nine LGU-managed and two privately operated outlets, currently support 616 MSMEs.

LGU-managed stores launched in 2025 are located in the cities of Kabankalan, Sipalay, Cadiz, and Hinigaran. Stores that opened this year are from the cities of Sagay, Bacolod, Bago, and towns of Calatrava and Isabela.

DTI-Negros Occidental Trade Industry Development Specialist and OTOP focal person Gabriel Advincula said five more LGU-managed stores and three privately operated outlets are expected to open within the year.

Advincula added that the agency will also hold the 1st OTOP Siklaban 2026 in November, featuring awards, recognition, and competitions among participating OTOP retail stores.

DOST CAVITE STRENGTHENS MONITORING OF SETUP-ASSISTED PROJECTS THROUGH EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

To ensure transparency and maximize government assistance, the Department of Science and Technology, Provincial Science and Technology Office (DOST PSTO) Cavite, in partnership with the DOST CALABARZON SETUP Regional Project Monitoring Office (RPMO), led an equipment tagging and inventory drive on August 19, 2026. The joint monitoring team, led by PSTO Cavite

Provincial Director Gilda S. De Jesus, alongside DOST CALABARZON SETUP RPMO representatives Alaiza Marie D. Loretizo, Science Research Specialist I, and Michelle R. Orbeta, Administrative Aide IV, inspected project equipment across six local micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to verify machinery condition, update documentation, and enforce strict asset accountability.

During the activity, the team visited Amicitia Technologies Corp., Yubhel General Fabrication and Engineering Services, Uniform Kingdom Tailoring Services, Fine Mechanics Trading and Engineering Services, MR Hacks Creatives Co., and VA Ernis Outdoor Advertising. The representatives conducted physical inspections, applied official equipment tags, and reviewed project compliance records directly with enterprise owners and managers.

This initiative underscores DOST's commitment to rigorous project monitoring and the effective use of public funds. Through sustained collaboration between DOST PSTO Cavite and DOST CALABARZON SETUP RPMO, the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) continues to empower Cavite MSMEs by enhancing their technical capabilities, operational efficiency, and overall productivity. **DOST CAVITE**

Through the OTOP Program, the DTI provides MSMEs with assistance in product development, branding, marketing, and market access, strengthening their capacity to grow and compete in wider markets. (AGP/PSP/PIA NEGROS OCCIDENTAL) **BY PAULO S. PAJARILLO**

PRICE FREEZE STILL IN EFFECT, DTI REMINDS RETAILERS AS STATE OF CALAMITY CONTINUES IN CAVITE

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) — With the Province of Cavite under a state of calamity following the onslaught of the southwest monsoon and tropical cyclones Luis and Maymay, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is reminding all consumers and retailers that basic necessities are placed under price control.

Pursuant to Sangguniang Panlalawigan Resolution No. 5059-2026 which placed the entire province under a state of calamity, the price of basic commodities in local retailers are automatically frozen or placed under price control.

This includes basic food products such as canned sardines, milk, coffee, bread, instant noodles, and drinking water.

Household items, including iodized salt, detergent and laundry soap, and candles also remain in their previous prices.

In its price bulletin, DTI Cavite clarified that the price freeze applies to all

basic commodities being sold in supermarkets and groceries in the entire province.

Following Section 6 of Republic Act 7581, more commonly known as the Price Act, the prices of basic necessities in an area under a State of Calamity are automatically frozen at their prevailing prices until otherwise declared by the President. This includes localities declared a disaster area and under an emergency.

According to the DTI, the price freeze will continue for 60 days since the declaration of the State of Calamity.

To recall, Governor Francis Gabriel Remulla announced the declaration of a State of Calamity in the entire province due to the enhanced effects of the southwest monsoon and the recent tropical cyclones last August 11. (PB-PIA CALABARZON, with reports from DTI Cavite) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

STARBOOKS REORIENTATION HELD FOR STE STUDENTS AT LUIS AGUADO NHS

The DOST Cavite recently conducted a reorientation session on STARBOOKS (Science and Technology Academic- and Research-Based Openly Operated KioskS) for selected students from its Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) class.

The activity aimed to refresh the students' knowledge of STARBOOKS and familiarize them with its available science, technology, and research-based learning resources. Throughout the session, the participants were

guided on how to access and make the most of the learning kiosk's materials and features.

The reorientation provided the STE students with an opportunity to strengthen their research and independent-learning skills while encouraging them to make better use of digital educational resources. The activity also highlighted the importance of STARBOOKS as a valuable tool in supporting science and technology education at Luis Aguado NHS. **DOST CAVITE**

PSA: 18 REGIONS RECORDED DROP IN POVERTY INCIDENCE AMONG FAMILIES

MANILA – The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) said all 18 regions in the country recorded significant decrease in poverty incidence among families between 2023 to 2025.

The updated results of the 2025 full year official poverty statistics based on the preliminary results of the Family Income and Expenditure Survey (FIES) showed that the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao recorded the most notable improvement, as its poverty incidence dropped from 26 percent to 12.8 percent.

The National Capital Region, meanwhile, remained the least poor among the regions with poverty incidence among families of 0.6 percent in 2025.

In contrast, the Bicol Region recorded the highest poverty incidence among families at 16.8 percent.

Preliminary results of the FIES released by the PSA on Aug. 21 showed that the country recorded its lowest-ever poverty incidence of 9.7 percent in 2025.

This means that the single-digit target under the Philippine Development Plan was already achieved three years ahead of schedule.

The latest data shows that 6.5 million Filipinos were lifted out of poverty between 2023 and 2025.

The number of Filipinos living below the poverty threshold likewise fell from 17.5 million in 2023 to 11 million in 2025.

Department of Economy, Planning, and Development (DEPDev) earlier said the government's social assistance programs such as the 4Ps and social pension, helped bring down the number of poor Filipinos.

To further bring down the poverty incidence especially in some

areas in Mindanao, DEPDev Undersecretary Rosemarie Edillon said the government will ramp up the implementation of the Trabaho Para sa Bayan plan.

"Ginawa naming komprehensibo na plano ito, na kasama dito iyong kailangan siguraduhin ng LGU kunwari iyong ease of doing business, maayos iyong infrastructure nila para makapag-attract sila ng investments. Kasi itong investments na ito ang magdadala ng trabaho (We crafted a comprehensive plan, LGUs need to ensure there's ease of doing business and adequate infrastructure to attract investments. After all these investments will generate jobs)," Edillon said during an interview at Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

TIME DEPOSITS NOW AMONG ELIGIBLE INVESTMENT PRODUCTS UNDER PERA

MANILA – Time deposits are now among the eligible investment products under the Personal Equity and Retirement Account (PERA), the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said.

PERA is the country's voluntary retirement savings program that enables Filipinos to build funds for retirement while enjoying government tax incentives.

In a statement Tuesday, the BSP said PERA-qualified products now include unit investment trust funds, stocks, real estate investment trusts, government securities, and time deposits.

The central bank said the inclusion of time deposits gives Filipinos another option for retirement

MANILA – The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is targeting more than PHP1 billion in sales from national trade fairs this year, up from about PHP700 million in 2025, as it seeks to expand market opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

DTI Assistant Secretary Nylah Rizza Bautista made the announcement Wednesday during the opening of the five-day Coconut Philippines Trade Fair at the SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City.

She said the DTI spearheaded 13 national trade fairs last year, benefiting around 2,000 MSMEs.

"And this year, we are aiming even higher. We

savings.

Under the latest PERA guidelines issued on Aug. 20, 2026 by the BSP, banks that meet applicable BSP prudential requirements may offer PERA-eligible time deposits.

Banks must also obtain accreditation from the Bureau of Internal Revenue and enter an arrangement with an accredited PERA administrator before accepting placements.

Unlike regular time deposits, a PERA time deposit forms part of a contributor's PERA and may qualify for applicable tax incentives.

PERA time deposits remain bank deposits and are subject to applicable banking regulations and Philippine Deposit

target over PHP1 billion in sales and it's only on the national level, excluding the regional trade fairs," she said.

The Coconut Philippines Trade Fair is being held as part of the celebration of National Coconut Week.

Around 300 exhibitors are participating in the event, showcasing market- and export-ready products including coconut oil, sugar, vinegar and other food items, as well as home décor and fashion products.

Bautista said the trade fairs form part of the administration's efforts to help Filipino entrepreneurs strengthen their businesses and tap opportunities in both domestic and international markets through various government programs.

Overseas Filipino workers are likewise being encouraged to consider entrepreneurship, with government financing programs providing access to capital for those who want to start or expand small businesses.

The DTI's lending arm, the Small Business Corporation (SBCorp), is targeting to extend around PHP12 billion in loans to borrowers this year. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

Insurance Corporation deposit insurance rules.

"Retirement planning should be simple, accessible, and within reach of every Filipino. By introducing PERA time deposits, we are providing another practical option for individuals who want to build their retirement savings through a product they already understand and trust," BSP Deputy Governor Lyn Javier said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

PESO RISES VS US DOLLAR; STOCKS DOWN ON SELLING PRESSURES

MANILA – The Philippine peso strengthened against the US dollar Wednesday, but the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) weakened due to selling pressure as investors took note of the latest credit rater's outlook on the domestic economy.

The local currency gained against the greenback after closing the day at 61.65 from 61.73 on Tuesday.

It opened the day stronger at 61.63, from day-ago's 61.77, and traded between 61.67 and 61.52. The average for the day stood at 61.58.

Volume reached USD1.90 billion, up from day-ago's USD1.57 billion.

On the other hand, the local bourse's main index shed for the second consecutive day, down by 0.86 percent to 6,137.23 points, and the broader All Shares by 0.52 percent to 3,394.57 points.

Half of the sectoral gauges

followed, led by Services after it fell 2.47 percent. Property slipped by 0.45 percent and Holding Firms by 0.21 percent.

Financials, Mining and Oil, and Industrial, meanwhile, rose by 0.30 percent, 0.14 percent, and 0.2 percent, respectively.

Volume reached 862.4 million shares, amounting to PHP5.35 billion.

Luis Limlingan, Regina Capital Development Corporation head of sales, said selling pressure ruled equities trading during the day.

"Market sentiment turned cautious following Moody's forecast that Philippine GDP (gross domestic product) growth will remain below 6 percent over the medium term. Investors stayed on the sidelines as concerns over the country's growth outlook continued to weigh on risk appetite," he said. **(PNA) BY JOANN VILLANUEVA**

BIR CRACKS DOWN ON UNREGISTERED COCKFIGHT BETTING SYSTEMS

MANILA – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) sealed and confiscated 297 betting machines, computerized betting units, servers, and other devices without the required Permit to Use (PTU) during simultaneous enforcement operations on 11 cockpit arenas on Aug. 8.

In a statement Wednesday, BIR said the operations were conducted in coordination with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

BIR Commissioner Charlito Martin Mendoza reminded cockpit operators that they must ensure that machines and equipment used to record betting transactions comply with BIR requirements.

"Betting transactions must be properly recorded, and the machines used for them must be properly registered with the BIR. We will continue checking cockpit

operations nationwide and take appropriate action when we find violations," Mendoza said.

BIR said following the operations, cockpit operators began registering previously unregistered machines and settling the corresponding penalties and taxes as part of the process for their unsealing or release.

The BIR is also validating machine readings and transaction records to determine whether additional taxes are due.

"We are expanding these operations nationwide. I have directed all Revenue Regions and Revenue District Offices to identify and verify operational cockpit arenas in their areas," Mendoza said. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**



PH YOUNG FENCERS EYE ASIAN, WORLD MEETS

MANILA – After dominating the Southeast Asian Fencing Federation (SEAFF) Junior and Cadet Championship in Malaysia, the country's young fencers are hoping to join the World and Asian championships in junior and cadet levels next year.

The Philippines garnered 25 medals – five golds, seven silvers, and 13 bronzes – in the tournament held from Aug. 6 to 14.

Oscar Del Castillo led the team, winning the men's epee gold (U17 cadet) and silver (U21 junior).

"It's not just the medals, but equally important is the points we'll get from the SEAFF, because points we earned will be added to our overall ranking points," the 16-year-old Del Castillo said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association Forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila on Tuesday.

Willa Galvez, a bronze winner in junior women's foil, was also present, along with silver medalist Hagia Del Castillo (women's foil), and bronze medalists Yuna Canlas and Victoria Ebdane (women's foil), Papina Torre (women's epee), Jethro Chan (men's foil), and Don Reyzel Geronimo (men's epee) in

the cadet category.

The points they earned in the SEAFF will be added to other international events they joined, such as the Asian Cadet Cup and the Philippine Fencing Association (PFA) Junior and Cadet tournament.

"It's important as an athlete to compete in as many international competitions as we can, especially in a competition that allows me to have the exposure. Playing against players from other countries (are) things that will push me to be better (as a fencer), both locally and internationally," said the 16-year-old Ebdane, a Grade 11 student at Home

School Global.

The third and final leg of the PFA Junior and Cadet tournament is set to be held at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum from Aug. 29 to 30.

"It's going to be an exciting third leg because it's the final leg, and the points every fencer will get is very crucial," said 15-year-old Galvez, a Grade 10 student at the University of the East.

The top four fencers in cadet and junior categories will see action in the Asian Championships in China and the World Championship in Estonia in March and April next year, respectively. **(PNA)**



PROMISING. Some members of the national team who won medals at the Southeast Asian Fencing Federation (SEAFF) Junior and Cadet Championships join the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate on Tuesday (Aug. 25, 2026). The country's young fencers hope to join the World and Asian championships at the junior and cadet levels next year. **(PNA)**

GONZALES BANNERS PH TEAM IN PICKLEBALL WORLD CUP

MANILA – Ruben Gonzales will banner the national team in the Pickleball World Cup in Danang, Vietnam.

Also competing in the 70-nation tournament scheduled on Aug. 30 - Sept. 6 are Nik Isagan, Kelsey Laurente and Fatima Amirul.

"It's an honor to represent the Philippines in pickleball now. I've been with the national tennis team since 2010 and this is my first time playing for our country in pickleball," Gonzales said during the Philippine Sportswriters Association

Forum at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate, Manila on Tuesday.

Gonzales won the men's doubles gold medal at the Southeast Asian Games in Vietnam (with Fil-American Treat Huey) and Cambodia (with Francis Casey Alcantara).

Pickleball is currently the world's fastest-growing sport and the Philippines is definitely in the mix, experiencing a local boom that can be compared to that of badminton years ago.

"That is why eyes are on

us. They want to see what we can bring. And many will be surprised," Philippine Pickleball Federation President Shery Cu said.

The Philippines will field a total of 38 players vying in the Open division, Under-18, Under-14, Kids and Seniors divisions of the event that drew over 4,000 participants.

According to Cu, the team was formed after almost six months of local competitions, and while some slots were openly selected based on the players' current standings,

MANILA – The Philippines bowed to host Chinese Taipei, 2-8, Thursday in the group stage of the World Baseball Softball Confederation (WBSC) Women's Baseball World Cup in Tainan.

The loss gave the Filipina batters a 2-2 win-loss record in the Group B standings.

After losing to Japan, 0-3, last Tuesday, the Philippines won over Cuba (6-0) and Great Britain (6-2) the following day.

The Philippines will next face Venezuela, which is tied for second place with Chinese Taipei at 2-1.

Meanwhile, defending champion Japan clobbered Cuba, 13-0, to keep the lead with a 4-0 slate.

Cuba prevailed over Great Britain, 7-4, for its first win in four games.

Great Britain, on the other hand, absorbed its fourth straight loss.

The top three teams from the Tainan Group will advance to the Finals next

year in Rockford, Illinois, alongside the United States, Australia and Canada. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



BASEBALL WORLD CUP. The Philippine team wins over Great Britain, 6-2, in the WBSC Women's Baseball World Cup in Tainan, Chinese Taipei on Wednesday (Aug. 26, 2026). The Philippines, however, dropped its next game against host Chinese Taipei, 2-8, to move to a 2-2 record. **(WSBC photo)**

HOSTING FUTURE BIGGER OPEN WATER SWIMMING MEETS NOW POSSIBLE

BORACAY – The country's staging of the just-concluded 4th Southeast Asia Open Water Swimming Championships presented by the Philippine Sports Commission here has opened opportunities to host similar yet bigger international events in the future.

"We are grateful that we staged this international open water swimming showcase smoothly. It has opened up chances in hosting similar but bigger events in the future," Philippine Aquatics Inc. (PAI) Secretary General Eric Buhain, who was hands-on in staging the meet from start to finish, said in a news release on Monday.

"The opportunities are there now that we have laid the foundation in organizing and hosting

bigger international events because of the lessons learned and experiences we've had here," Buhain noted.

He said the National Sports Tourism Interagency Committee, led by PSC Chairman Patrick Gregorio, along with the Aklan provincial and Malay municipal governments, also supported the overall positive feedback from participants in the three-day meet.

Among those who gave high marks for the staging of the three-day competition organized by the PAI and sanctioned by the Southeast Asian Swimming Federation was World Aquatics (WA) evaluator Damian Van de Berg of Australia.

"For this event to be approved by World Aquatics, it must have WA evaluator for referees, so basically that is why I am here," Van de Berg said. "And I could see overall the joy and pride of those who are involved in the hosting. It has been an honor and privilege to witness that."

Asked if possible bigger international open water swimming meets could be staged in the Philippines, Van de Berg replied: "Absolutely. The infrastructure needs to be

2023, said.

"We will do our best and bring that gold medal back home," added Laurente. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**

on a bigger scale but all the core parts are there."

"From what I have seen, there is a basis for the future of staging Asian open water championships and World Cups. They come with significant costs for the hosts and your government, but all you need to do is to scale up," explained the veteran international open water swimming referee of four world championships.

"As I told (PAI secretary general) Eric, your local organizing committee should be congratulated for what has been a first-rate hosting. It was done pretty well. Sky is the limit for the Philippines in hosting future bigger open water meets," he said.

Those encouraging words were music to the ears of Gregorio, whose sports tourism advocacy has become a byword for local sports and tourism industries.

"First of all, I would like to congratulate sec-gen Eric Buhain and all the people behind the hosting of the 4th Southeast Asia Open Water Swimming Championships for a job well done," Gregorio said during his visit here during the event's last day over the weekend.

"Indeed, this competition serves as a test run, a dress rehearsal for hosting bigger international open water in the future not only in Boracay but in our other attractive beach destinations," he added. **(PR)**