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DENR CALLS TO PROTECT CAVITE WATERSHEDS AMID EL NIÑO THREAT

TRECE MARTIRES CITY, Cavite (PIA) —

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has called for the protection of watersheds which act as natural shields during dry spells.

Hernan Curod, Forester III at the DENR's Cavite Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), emphasized the importance of healthy watersheds during periods of reduced rainfall.

"Alam natin na kapag kulang ang pag-ulan, ang puno po ay kailangan nating itanim para mapakapal o mapaganda

ang ating watershed, pero may tamang management at pagpapalano ng pagtatanim."

Prolonged dry spells caused by El Niño lead to a significant drop in water levels. During these times, watersheds act as temporary water reservoirs that filter pollutants as the water flows downstream.

"Ang mga watershed ay nagsisilbing pansamantalang imbakan ng tubig bago dumaloy sa mga sapa at iba pang daluyang tubig. Nagsisilbi itong filtration system at pinapanatili ang kalidad ng tubig kung saan nasasala na 'yung mga basuri o

dumi bago dumaloy sa ating kapaligiran."

However, land use changes and increased human activities have negatively affected forest and agricultural areas over the years and threatened watershed health. Curod acknowledged that rapid urbanization in developing provinces such as Cavite has become a reality.

To safeguard the province's remaining watersheds, Curod suggested regulating tourism, especially in protected areas, to minimize human activities that can sometimes lead

DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS FROM CAVITE PROVINCE SHINE AT 2026 RSTW, EARN MULTIPLE AWARDS



The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) CALABARZON recognized outstanding micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), schools, and institutions during the 2026 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) held at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City, Quezon, celebrating excellence in technology adoption,

robotics, science, mathematics, and innovation.

The awards highlighted the achievements of local enterprises supported by DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), as well as students who demonstrated their skills in robotics and scientific knowledge through regional competitions. Participating organizations were also recognized for their creativity and presentation of products and services.

The following were among the awardees during the event:

Recognition of SETUP Graduates

Francheska Enterprise
Bio-Vermilla Organique Enterprise
Alpha Tecno Precision Tooling
Rosy Chicks Farm
JM Purification
Aijun Enterprises
Fish2go Corp.

JTEC Machine Shop and Engineering Works
Dough Pro Manufacturing and Trading Corp.

Regional Robotics Tournament: Roboclash Line Tracing Category

Beginner – 1st Place: Elizabeth Seton School South
Advanced – 1st Place: De La Salle Santiago Zobel – Vermosa

RoboSoccer Category

Beginner – 1st Place: Felipe Calderon Elementary School
Beginner – 2nd Place: Saint Gregory Academy, Inc.

Sumobot Category

Beginner – 2nd Place: Saint Gregory Academy, Inc.
Intermediate – 1st Place: Cavite Science Integrated School

Intermediate – 2nd Place: Baco National High School Main

Intermediate – 3rd Place: Baco National High School Main

Advanced – 1st Place: Tanza National Comprehensive High School

Advanced – 2nd Place: Cavite Science Integrated School

Sumobot Category Regional Science and Math Quizz Bee: Kaysipag

Champion: Sunny Brooke Elementary School

Best Booth Design and Visual Appeal

Yakap at Halik Multipurpose Cooperative

The achievements of the awardees underscored the vital role of science, technology, and innovation in strengthening

government units and national government agencies to implement proactive measures to cushion its human impact.

"Sa panahon ng El Niño, importante po ang monitoring and patuloy po na prevention measures na ginagawa ng lahat ng stakeholders kabilang ang local and national government."

(PB-PIA Cavite, with reports from Cavite PDRMO) BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ

local enterprises, nurturing young innovators, and promoting scientific literacy across CALABARZON. Through the annual celebration, DOST CALABARZON continues to provide a platform for showcasing innovation, recognizing excellence, and encouraging collaboration toward sustainable regional development.

#2026RSTW
#DOSTCavite
#OneDOST4U



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IMUS PNP ARRESTS CITY-LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON FOR QUALIFIED THEFT

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — The Cavite Police Provincial Office continues to intensify its campaign against wanted persons following the arrest of a City-Level Most Wanted Person during a warrant service operation conducted by the Imus Component City Police Station at around 9:30 in the morning on October 15, 2026, at the Satellite Hub of Imus CCPS, CityMall, Barangay Anabu 1B, Imus City, Cavite.

The accused, identified by the alias name as "Jordz," a resident of Trece Martires City, Cavite, was arrested by personnel of Imus CCPS under the direct supervision of PLTCOL CHEY CHEY I SAULOG, Chief of Police, by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for Qualified Theft issued by the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 109, Fourth Judicial Region, Carmona, Cavite, dated March 11, 2026, with recommended bail fixed at ₱120,000.00.

The accused was informed of his constitutional rights in a language known to him and opted to remain silent in the absence of his chosen counsel. He is currently detained at the Imus CCPS detention facility pending the return

of the warrant to the issuing court and further legal proceedings. PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director of Cavite PPO, commended the operating personnel for their efforts in locating and apprehending the wanted individual, emphasizing that the service of warrants is a vital part of the police force's commitment to upholding the rule of law and ensuring accountability through due process.

"Every successful arrest of a wanted person reflects our determination to enforce the law and support the judicial process. I commend our personnel for their vigilance and dedication in carrying out this operation. We will sustain our focused efforts against wanted individuals while ensuring that every police action respects constitutional rights and follows established legal procedures," PCOL Red stated.

The Cavite PPO urges the public to continue cooperating with law enforcement authorities by providing credible information that may assist in locating wanted persons and maintaining peace and order throughout the province.

REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARRESTED IN NAIC FOR ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

—In a major breakthrough against online child exploitation, intelligence operatives of the Indang Municipal Police Station successfully captured a Regional Level Most Wanted Person during a targeted manhunt operation in Barangay Halang, Naic, Cavite, at around 2:00 in the afternoon on October 14, 2026.

The accused, identified as alias "BRYLL," was arrested by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for two (2) counts of violating

Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11930, also known as the "Anti-Online Sexual Abuse or Exploitation of Children (OSAEC) and Anti-Child Sexual Abuse or Exploitation Materials (CSAEM) Act."

The warrant was issued on October 12, 2026, by the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 22, Imus City, Cavite, with no bail recommended.

The operation was conducted by Indang MPS intelligence personnel under the direct supervision of PMAJ IAN

CAVITE PPO ARRESTS PROVINCIAL-LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON IN TAGAYTAY CITY FOR STATUTORY ACTS OF LASCIVIOUSNESS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— The Cavite Police Provincial Office reported the arrest of a Provincial-Level Most Wanted Person during a manhunt operation conducted by personnel of the Tagaytay City Component Police Station on October 14, 2026, at around 9:40 in the morning in Barangay Kaybagal North, Tagaytay City, Cavite.

The arrested accused, identified by his alias "ZIAN," is a resident of Tagaytay City, Cavite, and was apprehended by intelligence and warrant personnel of Tagaytay CCPS under the direct supervision of PLTCOL DANIEL L CAMPOSO, Officer-in-Charge.

The operation was carried out by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for Statutory Acts of Lasciviousness under Article 336 of the Revised Penal Code, issued on September 21, 2026, by the Presiding Judge of the Family Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 3, Tagaytay City. The warrant indicated a recommended bail of ₱144,000.00 for four counts.

The arrested accused was brought to the Tagaytay PNP Custodial Facility

for documentation while warrant will be returned to the issuing court.

PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director of Cavite PPO, emphasized that the arrest demonstrates the commitment of Cavite police to pursue wanted persons and ensure that those facing criminal charges are brought before the proper judicial authorities.

"Let this serve as a clear reminder that our personnel remain committed to tracking down wanted individuals and implements lawful court processes. We will continue to strengthen our intelligence efforts and operational coordination to help ensure the protection of our communities, particularly the safety and welfare of vulnerable individuals. We also urge the public to cooperate with authorities by providing credible information that may help locate wanted persons," PCOL Red stated.

The Cavite PPO reiterates its commitment to sustained law enforcement operations, accountability, and the protection of the public through lawful and professional police service.

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON, ARRESTED BY DASMARINAS PNP

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— A Provincial Level Most Wanted Person was arrested by warrant personnel of the Dasmariñas Component City Police Station, in coordination with the Cavite Provincial Cyber Response Team, at around 6:00 in the evening on October 13, 2026, in Barangay Saint Peter 1, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

The accused, identified as alias "Daniela", a resident of Dasmariñas City, Cavite, was arrested by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for violation of Section 4(a)(1) of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

The warrant was issued on October 6, 2026, by the presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Tenth Judicial Region, Branch 38, Cagayan de Oro City,

Misamis Oriental, with no bail recommended.

The arrested individual is currently detained at the Dasmariñas Component City Police Station Custodial Facility for proper documentation and disposition. The warrant will be returned to the court of origin in accordance with established procedures.

PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director of Cavite PPO, emphasized that the arrest demonstrates the importance of coordination among police units in pursuing wanted individuals, including those facing charges involving cybercrime. He reiterated the commitment of Cavite PPO to strengthen law enforcement efforts, uphold due process, and ensure that individuals with standing warrants are brought before the proper courts to answer the charges against them.

CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON ARRESTED FOR QUALIFIED THEFT IN BACOR CITY

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite

— A City Level Most Wanted Person was arrested by personnel of the Warrant Section of the Bacoor Component City Police Station, in coordination with the National Police Clearance and the 401st A MC, RMFB 4A, during a manhunt operation at around 3:30 in the afternoon on October 14, 2026, in Barangay Molino 4, Bacoor City, Cavite.

The accused, identified as alias "May", a resident of Bacoor City, Cavite, was arrested by virtue of a Warrant of Arrest for Qualified Theft in relation to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 10175, otherwise known as the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012.

The warrant was issued on October 13, 2026, by the Presiding Judge of the Regional Trial Court, Branch 296, Parañaque

City, with recommended bail of PHP 30,000.00 for three counts.

The accused was informed of her constitutional rights in a language she understands. She will be turned over to the Bacoor Component City Police Station Custodial Facility for proper documentation and disposition, while the warrant will be returned to the court of origin.

PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director of Cavite PPO, commended the operating personnel for their coordinated efforts in locating and apprehending wanted individuals.

"Cavite PPO remains steadfast in pursuing wanted individuals, strengthening inter-unit coordination, and ensuring that the law is enforced with utmost professionalism, respect for human rights, and adherence to due process."

DAP-RLDP BAGANI BRINGS
KIDLAT TAHIMIK'S ART, FILIPINO
CULTURE, AND DEVELOPMENT
TO DAPCC

TAGAYTAY CITY — What can Filipino culture teach us about development? The Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), through its Rising Leaders Development Program (RLDP) BAGANI, invites the public to explore this question through DAP-Ayan ng Sining: INDIOTENIUS, an art exhibition featuring the works and creative world of National Artist Kidlat Tahimik at the DAP Conference Center (DAPCC) in Tagaytay City. Mounted in conjunction with the BAGANI Rising Leaders Development Program, the exhibition highlights indigenous cultural identity, artistic expression, and national heritage, while creating a space to reflect on the connections among culture, leadership, identity, community, and development.

Running until October 31, 2026, the exhibition brings together portraits, installations, and other works that offer visitors a deeper look into Filipino identity, indigenous knowledge, creativity, heritage, and the cultural dimensions of development.

For more than five decades, artists have created portraits and caricatures of Kidlat Tahimik. The collection, however, offers more than representations of one artist. For Kidlat, it also presents an opportunity to examine how artists choose to see, interpret, and represent their subject.

“At the center of that is this kubo,” Kidlat said, referring to his installation “Kubo ng isang babaylan o mumbaki,” which draws from the traditional role of the mumbaki or healer and incorporates indigenous forms and symbols. The installation also serves as a metaphor for creativity and the ability to continue creating despite the blocks and challenges that artists may encounter.

Beyond the individual artworks, the exhibition

opens a wider conversation: How much of who we are as Filipinos do we carry into the way we understand and pursue development?

For Kidlat, one answer lies in kapwa—a Filipino value centered on recognizing and relating to others as fellow human beings and part of a shared community. He describes kapwa as an “embracing culture” that encourages people to help one another and work toward a shared destination.

“We have to go back to the Kapwa culture because it can be a strong ingredient in development,” Kidlat said.

This perspective connects culture with the broader work of development. The values, knowledge, traditions, and narratives that shape communities also influence how people understand their place in society, relate to one another, and envision the future they want to build.

It also provides a meaningful context for DAP-RLDP BAGANI, a leadership development initiative of the Academy that seeks to develop young leaders for public service and nation-building. Through the exhibition, BAGANI creates another space for reflection on the relationship among leadership, identity, culture, community, and development.

For emerging leaders, understanding development also means understanding the people and communities they seek to serve. It means recognizing that progress is shaped not only by policies, institutions, and technical solutions, but also by the values, histories, identities, and knowledge systems of communities.

Kidlat likewise emphasizes the importance of “rediscovering” rather than simply “discovering” Filipino cultural knowledge.

“Rediscover is a better word than to discover,” he

MEDICAL MISSION SERVES
519 PATIENTS IN
BUROL II, DASMARIÑAS CITY

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) and the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), conducted a medical mission in Barangay Burol II, Dasmariñas City, on October 9, 2026, providing essential healthcare services to 519 patients.

The medical team of the General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) provided medical consultations and diagnostic screening services, while OPG staff distributed maintenance medicines to beneficiaries. Of the total patients served, 405 received medical consultations, 36 underwent electrocardiogram (ECG) examinations, and 78 availed themselves of fasting blood sugar (FBS) testing.

Barangay Chairperson Edwin C. Unlayao graced the activity and expressed his support for the initiative, highlighting the importance of collaboration between the provincial and barangay governments in bringing essential healthcare services closer to the community.

The medical mission reaffirmed the Provincial Government’s commitment to promoting accessible healthcare, encouraging early detection of potential health concerns, and supporting the well-being of Caviteños through community-based medical outreach. — **OPIO**

He points to the many talents, knowledge, beliefs, and traditions that have been obscured over generations, including indigenous knowledge and practices that reflect communities’ relationships with one another and with the natural environment.

Ultimately, the exhibition invites visitors to look beyond the artist himself and reflect on how culture shapes the way Filipinos see themselves, understand their communities, and imagine their future.

The DAP Conference Center provides a fitting venue for this encounter. As a space for learning and development, DAPCC brings together the exhibition’s artistic and cultural reflections with DAP’s broader work of developing people and institutions.

Through the exhibition, DAP-RLDP BAGANI underscores that culture is not separate from development. The stories people tell, the knowledge they preserve, the values they uphold, and the identities they carry can all shape how communities define progress and envision a better future.

As visitors encounter Kidlat Tahimik’s portraits, installations, and reflections, the exhibition leaves a question worth carrying beyond the gallery:

In a rapidly changing world, how do we move forward without losing sight of who we are?

Visit DAP-Ayan ng Sining: INDIOTENIUS

The public is invited to experience Kidlat Tahimik’s installation artworks in person at the DAP Conference Center in Tagaytay City.

Exhibition: DAP-Ayan ng Sining: INDIOTENIUS
Featured Artist: National Artist Kidlat Tahimik
Venue: DAP Conference Center, Tagaytay City
Exhibition Period: Until October 31, 2026
Viewing Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Admission: Free, with RSVP required
Walk-ins: Not allowed
Reserve your spot: RSVP Form

For further details, contact 0912 834 5769 or dapccsales@dap.edu.ph.

-Ellinor T. Santos | Development Academy of the Philippines

EDITORIAL

Respeto, Hindi Pangungutya

Mahalaga ang kalayaan sa pagpapahayag, ngunit hindi ito dapat gamitin upang mang-insulto ng ibang tao.

Ang naging pahayag ng mga host ng isang podcast tungkol kay Joshua Aquino ay nagdulot ng batikos mula sa mga netizen dahil sa tila pangungutya sa kaniya.

Narapat lamang na tratuhin ang bawat isa nang may paggalang at pag-unawa.

Dapat maging responsable ang mga podcaster sa kanilang mga sinasabi.

Sa huli, ang tunay na sukatan ng pagiging responsable sa pagpapahayag ay hindi lamang ang kakayahang magsalita, kundi ang paggalang sa dignidad ng bawat tao.

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Contact #: 09387342688
Email: cavitegazette@gmail.com



ANABELLE K. DUMALI
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

JOHN RENNIEL K. DUMALI
Managing Editor

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PBBM APPOINTS FINANCE VETERAN LIMLINGAN AS NEW SSS CHIEF

QUEZON CITY – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has appointed today finance and investment veteran Victor Alfonso A. Limlingan as the new President and Chief Executive Officer of the Social Security System (SSS).

Limlingan succeeded Robert Joseph Montes de Claro, who was appointed Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

As the new SSS Chief, Limlingan will prioritize the enhancement and expansion of member loan programs, the improvement of the investment portfolio's risk-adjusted returns, and the relaunch of the Pension Booster Program.

Limlingan previously served as a Member of the Social Security Commission (SSC), the SSS' policy-making governing body, representing the employers' group. He was appointed to the SSC on 19 November 2024 and took his oath on 25 November 2024.

As a Commissioner, Limlingan chaired the SSC's Risk Management and Actuary Committee and sat on its Investment Committee, Contribution and Collection Committee, and Corporate Governance Committee. The SSC oversees SSS policy, provides policy direction, supervises management actions and exercises quasi-judicial functions in cases involving social security coverage,

benefits, contributions and penalties under Republic Act No. 11199 or the Social Security Act of 2018.

Experience in finance and public service

Limlingan brings experience in finance, investments, risk management, entrepreneurship and public service. He is managing director of Regina Capital Development Corp. and previously served on the board of state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, where he chaired the Risk Oversight Committee.

He also served as senior vice president at Small Business Corp., where he worked on financial-recovery initiatives for small enterprises and treasury-investment optimization.

Earlier in his career, Limlingan provided consultancy services to the National Economic and Development Authority and the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, which is now known as the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

Limlingan holds a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, is a Chartered Financial Analyst, and earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, majoring in history and humanities, from the Ateneo de Manila University. #

SENATORS PUSH PWD RIGHTS BILLS AFTER JOSH AQUINO MOCKERY

MANILA – Senators Risa Hontiveros and Erwin Tulfo said Thursday that the public ridicule of Joshua "Josh" Aquino underscores the need to protect persons with disabilities (PWDs) through greater respect, understanding, and stronger policies that promote inclusion and equal opportunities.

The lawmakers condemned offensive remarks made about Aquino, who is on the autism spectrum, during an episode of the Machong Chismisan podcast, stressing that disabilities must never become a source of entertainment.

"They are not a punchline, and their lives should not be fodder for ridicule, whether on air, online, or in private conversation," Hontiveros said in a statement.

Hontiveros emphasized that the country already has laws protecting the dignity of PWDs, alongside pending legislation intended to strengthen their access to essential services.

She cited the National Autism Care, Support, and Inclusion Act, which she sponsored and which the Senate unanimously approved on third reading in March.

The measure, embodied in Senate Bill No. 1822, seeks to establish a comprehensive national plan for persons with autism, covering early detection, healthcare, therapy, inclusive education, and social protection.

It was transmitted to the House of Representatives following its approval by the Senate.

Hontiveros maintained that public personalities and content creators have a responsibility to treat vulnerable members of

society with dignity.

Beyond condemnation

Tulfo, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, questioned how ordinary Filipinos with disabilities are treated if even those belonging to prominent families are subjected to public ridicule.

"Kung nagagawa ito sa mga PWD na mula sa mga kilalang pamilya, paano pa kaya ang diskriminasyon sa mga ordinaryong Pilipino na PWD? (If this can happen to PWDs from prominent families, how much more discrimination do ordinary Filipino PWDs face?)" he said.

Tulfo stressed that disability is not something individuals choose and must never be used to humiliate them.

He cited Senate Bill No. 1405, which proposes lifetime validity for identification cards issued to persons with permanent disabilities, eliminating the burden of repeated renewals.

The senator also pointed to his Senate Bill No. 1830, which was incorporated into a consolidated measure promoting accessible tourism facilities for PWDs and senior citizens.

The resulting Senate Bill No. 1988, or the proposed Barrier-Free and Inclusive Tourism Act, seeks to ensure that tourism destinations are accessible to individuals with disabilities and older persons.

Tulfo said the controversy underscores the continuing need to advance policies that make inclusion a reality rather than merely condemn discriminatory behavior.

The remarks followed widespread criticism of the podcast's hosts, who

DEPED BOOSTS MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT, HIRES SCHOOL COUNSELOR ASSOCIATES

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday announced plans to expand green mobility hubs nationwide to promote electric vehicles (EVs), encourage clean energy use, and support more sustainable and affordable public transportation.

Marcos made the announcement during an inspection of the newly completed Balanga Green Mobility Hub in Balanga City, Bataan, which is expected to serve up to 24 vehicles and 1,394 passengers daily.

"Kung maalala ninyo, mula sa umpisa, tinutulak na namin 'yung modernization ng mga public utility vehicles. Mayroon tayong mga nakita mga challenges kaya dahan-dahan ay ginawan natin ng paraan (If you recall, from the very beginning, we have been pushing for the modernization of public utility vehicles. We encountered some challenges, so we gradually worked out ways to address them)," he said after the inspection.

"Ngayon, ito na nga ang ating ikakalat sa buong Pilipinas. Nauna lang ito (Now, this is what we will roll out throughout the Philippines. This is just the first one)." Marcos said the initiative builds on the government's

apologized after clips of their discussion about Aquino circulated online. On Thursday, The Pod Network announced that it had terminated its contract with Machong Chismisan and removed the program from its roster effective immediately.

Republic Act No. 9442, which amended the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities, already prohibits public ridicule and vilification based on disability, with corresponding penalties for violations. (WILNARD BACELONIA/PNA)

public utility vehicle (PUV) modernization program, which promotes the adoption of EVs as an alternative to conventional fuel-powered public transportation.

He highlighted the potential cost savings from operating EVs, particularly those charged using solar energy, saying lower energy expenses could translate into higher take-home earnings for drivers and operators while helping ease the financial burden on commuters.

"Napakalaki ang savings para sa mga driver, para sa mga operator. At napakaganda ang magiging scheme na ito. Kaya kailangan talaga ikalat natin (The savings for drivers and operators are substantial. This scheme will be very beneficial, so we really need to roll it out nationwide)," Marcos said. He estimated the monthly electricity cost for operating an electric minibus under the solar-powered system at PHP9,100, compared with PHP78,000 in fuel expenses for a diesel-powered vehicle.

The difference could translate into monthly savings of nearly PHP69,000, he said. For electric tricycles, Marcos cited estimated daily energy costs of PHP900, compared with PHP6,800 in gasoline expenses, based on a daily travel distance of 80 km.

Marcos said the projected savings could help ease the financial burden of drivers and operators, noting that financing arrangements could include assistance with the initial payment and coverage of repair costs.

He also presented estimates showing that an electric minibus operator could take home about PHP36,000 monthly while paying off the vehicle through financing.

The monthly take-home pay could increase to PHP97,700 after the financing period ends, Marcos said. (PNA) BY RUTH ABBEY CARLOS



CONGRATULATIONS!

VICTOR ALFONSO A. LIMLINGAN
SSS President and CEO

ANG RESIPE NG DI-MALILIMUTANG PAMANA

CARD RBI
Ito ang bangko natin.

Bawat luto ay may sariling resipe. Ang kakanin, sa partikular, ay nangangailangan ng ilang oras na matiyagang paghahalo at maingat na paghahanda. Hindi ito puwedeng madaliin. Lalabas lamang ang perpektong tekstura at lasa nito ayon sa hangad ng nagluto kung ito ay inihahanda nang walang pagmamadali sa sarili nitong paraan.

Alam na alam ito ni Armando Japones o mas kilala sa kanilang bayan bilang Tatay Manding. Sa ilang taon niyang paggagawa ng mga kakanin, maingat siyang naghahalo at matiyagang binabantayan ang tagal ng pagluluto ng kaniyang bibingkang kanin, kalamay, puto, at kutsinta upang mapalabas ang nais niyang lasa sa mga ito.

Ang sining ng pagluluto nito ay hindi natutuhan ni Tatay Manding mula sa textbook o sa paaralang kulinarya. Lumaki sa bayan ng Saguday, Quirino, at ang paggagawa ng kakanin ay isang pamanang-kulinarya na ipinasa sa kaniya ng kaniyang mga magulang, na tinutulungan na niya sa paghahanda mula pa noong bata pa siya.

Taong 1990 nang mag-asawa si Tatay Manding. Isang hapon habang minemeryenda ang kanilang sariling gawang bibingkang kanin, napag-isipan nilang ibenta ang ilang piraso nito sa kanilang mga kalapit-bahay. Dahil sa magandang pagtanggap sa kanilang paninda, agad din silang nagtinda sa buong kapitbahay kinabukasan.

Habang si Tatay Manding ay nagluluto, bahay-bahay namang naglalako ang kaniyang asawa, bitbit ang isang bilao ng bibingkang kanin. Dahil sa natatangi nitong lasa, mabilis itong naging kilala sa kanilang komunidad, at ang kanilang simpleng

meryenda ay naging paborito ng mga lokal. Nagbigay ito ng oportunidad sa kanila na isama pa ang iba nilang kakanin sa pagtitinda, tulad ng kalamay, puto, at kutsinta.

Ngunit upang mapag-aral ang kanilang limang anak, nagtrabaho sa ibang bansa ang asawa ni Tatay Manding. Sapagkat wala siyang katuwang, pansamantala munang natigil ang kanilang pagtitinda. Nang makauwi ang kaniyang asawa taong 2010, ang kanilang naipon ay nailaan lahat sa pag-aaral ng kanilang mga anak, kaya't wala na silang naiwang puhunan upang muling magsimula.

Sa kaparehong taon, naging kliyente ang mag-asawa ng CARD MRI Rizal Bank, Inc. (CARD RBI), isang microfinance-oriented rural bank, na nakatulong sa kanila upang muling makapag-ipon. Taong 2011, kumuha sila ng kanilang unang loan dito na kanilang ginamit bilang bagong puhunan upang muling simulan ang nais nilang negosyo ng pagluluto at pagtitinda ng mga kakanin. Nang muling makabangon ang kanilang negosyo, opisyal nilang ipinarehistro ito sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) noong taong ding iyon.

Ang kanilang mga na-loan mula sa CARD RBI ay nagsilbing pinansiyal na tulong para sa mag-asawa. Sa panahong sila ay gipit, kumukuha muna si Tatay Manding ng short-term loan para sa mga kinakailangan sa pag-aaral ng kaniyang mga anak, at agad din itong nababayaran gamit ang kaniyang kita sa araw-araw. Mula sa kanilang disiplina, patuloy silang inaalo ng kanilang account officer ng mas malalaking halaga ng loan. Ginamit nila ang mga ito upang maipagpatuloy ang kanilang negosyo hanggang sa makapagtinda na rin sila

sa iba't ibang bayan ng Quirino.

Habang nakilala ang kanilang kakanin sa masarap nitong lasa, naging simbolo naman ito ng kulturang kulinarya ng kanilang bayan sa Saguday. Taong 2024, nailathala sa Spectrum, ang opisyal na pahayagan ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Saguday, ang kuwento at produktong kakanin ni Tatay Manding, at naitampok ito bilang awtentikong lasa ng kanilang bayan, bilang lasa ng tahanan at pamana, at simbolo ng kanilang pagkakaisa at tagumpay. Ang kaniyang sariling gawang kakanin ay nagwagi na rin sa iba't ibang paligsahan ng kakanin sa kanilang probinsiya at naging bahagi na ng pagkakakilanlan ng kanilang bayan.

Subalit dahil sa pagiging popular ng kanilang kakanin, may ilang nagtatangkang manggaya nito. Mayroong mga bumibili sa kanila, pagkatapos ay tatanggalin ang etiketa nito, at ipakilala bilang sarili nilang gawa. Mayroong ding mga gumagawa ng sarili nilang kakanin ngunit

ibebenta ito bilang kay Tatay Manding. Subalit hindi kailanman nalinlang ang mga tao pagdating sa tunay na lasa ng mga kakanin ni Tatay Manding. Agad na natutukoy ng mga suking mamimili ang kaibahan ng lasa at tumutulong sa paglalantad ng mga nanggagaya lamang. "Haan met ken Tatay Manding dito (Hindi naman ito kay Tatay Manding)," kanilang sinasabi.

Isang beses, mayroong negosyanteng nag-alok sa kaniya ng PHP 50,000 upang ituro sa kaniya ang kanilang resipe para i-mass produce ito. Ngunit maring tumanggi si Tatay Manding. Ito ay isang pamana mula sa kaniyang mga magulang na nais niyang ipagpatuloy at ipamana rin sa kaniyang mga anak. Sa halip, kaniyang inalok na lamang ang negosyante na maging wholesale na supplier nito upang masiguradong maibebenta ang kaniyang mga kakanin habang nanatili pa rin ang kaniyang sariling brand dito.

Aminado si Tatay Manding na nahihirapan sila sa paggawa ng kanilang

kakanin. Sapagkat pinapanatili nila ang kanilang tradisyonal na pamamaraan sa pagluluto, nangangailangan ito ng matrabahong proseso. Kung kaya, kapag mayroong maraming order na nakatakdang kunin kinabukasan, nagsisimula na sila ng paghahanda nito bago ang nakatakdang araw upang matiyak ang pagkakaluto sa mga ito. Bagama't nahihirapan sila paminsan, ipinagpatuloy lamang nila ang ganitong proseso pagkat alam nilang ito ang dahilan ng masarap na lasa ng kanilang mga kakanin.

Sa kasalukuyan, patuloy silang nakatatanggap ng maraming order mula sa mga kooperatiba, malalaking kumpanya, at maging mga internasyonal na mamimili na nagbebenta rin ng kanilang produkto sa Macau at Hong Kong. Mula sa paglalako lamang sa kanilang mga kapitbahay, ang kanilang kakanin ay nakararating na rin sa mga karatig na lalawigan ng Quirino, kung saan kumikita sila ng halos PHP 30,000 kada buwan.

Ang paglago ng kanilang negosyo ay nagpaunlad din ng buhay ng kanilang pamilya. Sa ngayon, lahat ng kanilang anak, maliban sa kanilang bunso, ay may mga sarili nang pamilya. Mayroon na ring sariling e-bike ang mag-asawa na kanilang ginagamit sa pagde-deliver ng kanilang mga produkto.

Naniniwala si Tatay Manding na ang pagpapanatili ng kanilang tradisyunal na kakanin habang pinapalago ang negosyo

ay nangangailangan ng istriktong disiplina sa pera. Para sa kaniya, ang serbisyong microfinance ay tulong upang mapayabong pa nila ang kanilang sining at kasanayan. "Nu ag-loan ka, siguraduen nga pampalawaem ta negosyom (Kapag maglo-loan ka, siguraduhin mong mapapalago mo ang negosyo mo)," aniya. Binigyang-diin din niya ang kahalagahan ng pagiging good payer at palagiang pagsama sa badyet ng panghulog sa ini-loan.

Para sa hinaharap, plano ni Tatay Manding na magkaroon ng mas matibay at magandang packaging ng kanilang mga produktong kakanin upang lalo pang mapagtibay ang kanilang brand at pagkakakilanlan. Nais din nilang makapagtayo ng food cart upang magsilbing pormal nilang puwesto at kalaunan ay gawing available ang kanilang negosyo para sa franchising.

Tulad ng kanilang kilalang slow-cooked na bibingkang kanin, ang kanilang tagumpay ay hindi minadali. Binuo ito ng malalim na tiyaga, buong-pusong pagsusumikap, at pananatili sa kung ano ang tunay na nagpakilala sa kanila. Higit pa sa negosyo ang itinayo ni Tatay Manding at ng kaniyang asawa. Pinayabong at naprotektahan nila ang kanilang pamana. At ngayon, patuloy nilang ginagawa at niluluto ang masasarap nilang kakanin, sa kaparehong tunay na lasa na nag-iwan ng hindi malilimutang pamana sa kanilang bayan.



Si Armando Japones at ang kaniyang asawa hawak ang kanilang special bibingkang kanin na ipinagmamalaki ng kanilang bayan.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him."

Psalm 28:7

PGC CONVENE 2026 CTEC CONGRESS TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Provincial Government of Cavite brought together key stakeholders in technical-vocational education and training (TVET) and employment services during the 2026 Cavite Community Training and Employment Coordination (CTEC) Congress on October 8, 2026, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

With the theme, "Empowering Local Communities Through Stronger CTEC Partnership for Quality, Inclusive, and Future-Ready TVET," the congress aims to strengthen collaboration among local government units, industry partners, training institutions, and employment service providers to expand access to skills development and employment opportunities for Caviteños.

TESDA Cavite Provincial Director Gerardo R. Marasigan formally opened the program followed by opening messages by TESDA IV-A Regional Director Engr. Jovencio M. Ferrer Jr., and Deputy Director General for Special Concerns DDG Felizardo R. Colambo will provide the inspirational message.

The congress featured discussions on the future of local TVET governance, community-based training, and the role of stronger partnerships in delivering skills development programs responsive to local needs.

Among the key sessions were "CTEC and the Future of Local TVET Governance," and "Train LOKAL – Bringing TVET Opportunities Closer to Communities." Both sessions were handled by Wendell P. Lalong-Isip, TESDA Specialist II and Regional Personal Focal Person for Community-Based Training Programs of TESDA IV-A.

The event also highlighted the LGU success stories and CTEC best practices, demonstrating how local initiatives and inter-agency cooperation can help bring training opportunities closer to communities and improve access to employment.

In the afternoon session, participants discussed the industry-driven TVET and the matching of local skills with employment opportunities. The session was led by Angel Riz Venneze A. Balleta, Regional Planning Focal of TESDA IV-A. A panel discussion followed focusing on strengthening partnerships among TESDA, local government units, and industry stakeholders.

The congress likewise explores digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) in local TVET and public service, with Roehel Ramon Gurango, Executive Secretary of the National ICT Confederation of the Philippines (NICP), serving as resource speaker.

To translate the discussions into concrete initiatives, participants took part in the CTEC Action Planning Workshop, where they developed proposed local TVET actions and identify commitments for implementation. The activity culminated in the presentation of CTEC action plans and commitments, followed by the signing and adoption of the Provincial CTEC Commitment.

The program concluded with a closing message from Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, Provincial PESO Manager and CTEC President, followed by a photo opportunity and fellowship.

The initiative underscores the importance of collaborative governance in bringing quality technical-vocational education and employment services closer to local communities. — **OPIO**

CAVITE SERVICE CARAVAN IN MARAGONDON

Maragondon Municipal Plaza transforms into a hub of opportunities today, October 13, as the Cavite Service Caravan brings essential provincial government services closer to the residents of Maragondon.

Governor Abeng Remulla personally engages with residents during the caravan. He is joined by Vice Governor Ram Revilla

Bautista, 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, and members of the Sangguniang Bayan, together with Acting Municipal Mayor Miguel Arca.

The Cavite Service Caravan continues to bring government services closer to communities, making public service more accessible and convenient for every Caviteño. **OPIO**

111 SMALL BIZ OWNERS IN ILOCOS NORTE GET CASH AID TO SUSTAIN LIVELIHOOD

LAOAG CITY – Ilocos Norte's provincial government, through its Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise Office (MSMEO), continues to empower businesses with the rollout of a stimulus package to help improve the lives of entrepreneurs and their families.

On Thursday, 111 MSMEO beneficiaries received PHP5,000 each, for a total of PHP555,000, as part of the final tranche of the ongoing livelihood assistance program to help small business owners and start-ups grow their operations this year. On July 24, the same beneficiaries received their initial release of PHP5,000, intended to support their operations amid rising living costs.

For Ronalyn Valdez, a sari-sari store owner from Sarra-town, the cash assistance she received from the provincial government was a "big help" in keeping her business going. She said her small business had been "on and off" due to lack of capital. "Thank you to the provincial government of Ilocos Norte for this big help to small business owners," she said, adding that it is becoming more difficult to sustain a small sari-sari store these days.

"The amount I received will be used to add more capital to my daily business operation," said Lilibeth Acosta, a snack vendor in Bacarra town. In 2025, MSMEO supported 569 beneficiaries.

Since the program's rollout during the pandemic, MSMEO head Elma Gabriel said the program continues to prioritize small-scale businesses engaged in manufacturing,

handicrafts, retail, and services, owned by women, poverty-stricken individuals, the elderly, and physically challenged individuals.

Interested applicants can apply for cash aid at the Ilocos Norte MSMEO Incubation Center on the second floor of La Tabacalera, or through their local government coordinator. (PNA) **BY LEILANIE G. ADRIANO**

MEAT SUPPLY TO REMAIN SUFFICIENT FOR HOLIDAYS DESPITE EL NINO

LEGAZPI CITY – The National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) in Bicol assured the public on Thursday that meat supply will be sufficient for the upcoming holiday season, despite concerns that the very strong El Niño is affecting livestock production.

During a media forum marking the 33rd Meat Safety Consciousness Week and the 54th NMIS Founding Anniversary, Dr. Alex Templonuevo, regional technical director of the NMIS Bicol, said the agency monitors the number of animals slaughtered in Bicol through daily and monthly reports submitted to the Department of Agriculture's central office.

"As of now, the situation remains stable. I have just come from our large slaughterhouses, and they reported that slaughtering activities are increasing, which means our supply remains sufficient," he said.

He said the DA implements mitigation measures to

STRONG SECONDARY GROWTH CENTERS VITAL TO DEV'T OF NEGROS ISLAND REGION

BACOLOD CITY – Strengthening secondary growth centers is vital to sustaining the development of the Negros Island Region (NIR) after its economy expanded by 5.7 percent in 2025.

This was among the highlights discussed during the 2025 Economic Performance of the Province of Negros Occidental and City of Bacolod: Provincial Product Accounts Dissemination Forum of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) held at Acacia Hotel here Thursday.

"The NIR is the third-fastest growing economy in the entire Philippines. We have sustained that from the previous year. Let's continue to sustain it," Ma. Goretti Novilla, chief statistical specialist of the PSA-NIR Statistical Operations and Coordination Division, said during the open forum.

Data showed the region's gross domestic product (GDP) grew from

PHP635.47 billion in 2024 to PHP671.68 billion in 2025.

The NIR, formed through Republic Act 12000 in June 2024, comprises Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, Siquijor, and the highly urbanized Bacolod City, which is the region's primary business, finance, and services hub.

OIC-Assistant Regional Director Marlon Jinon of the Department of Economy, Planning, and Development - NIR, underscored the need to strengthen secondary growth centers by accelerating investments in infrastructure, connectivity, and economic support services in emerging provincial hubs.

"This would promote a more balanced spatial distribution of economic activity, reduce development disparities, and broaden the sources of regional growth," he added.

Jinon said the NIR enters the 2026-2028 planning period with strong economic fundamentals, sustained growth, and increasing regional output. "However, long-term competitiveness will depend on achieving a more balanced development pattern that strengthens agriculture and industry while sustaining the dynamism of the services sector," he added.

Jinon pointed out that addressing productivity gaps, improving connectivity, and expanding opportunities beyond existing growth centers will be critical to achieving inclusive and resilient regional development.

PSA data showed the economy of Bacolod City expanded by 6.8 percent in 2025, although slower than the 7.6 percent growth it posted in 2024.

The city's GDP grew from PHP157.22 billion in 2024 to PHP167.92 billion in 2025.

Negros Occidental posted an economic growth of 4.2 percent in 2025, also slower than its 4.9 percent growth in the previous year. The province's GDP was estimated at PHP288.27 billion in 2025, up from PHP276.68 billion in 2024. (PNA) **BY NANETTE GUADALQUIVER**

NLEX-C5 NORTHLINK SECTION NEARS COMPLETION, ENHANCING ROAD CONNECTIVITY



Motorists from North and Central Luzon and western Metro Manila can look forward to faster, more convenient access to Quezon City as the NLEX-C5 Northlink Mindanao Avenue to Quirino Highway section nears completion, with construction now at 96% on the 2-kilometer section.

The new all-weather elevated expressway is designed to give motorists with a safer and more convenient travel experience. It will be equipped with CCTV and speed management systems; advanced RFID readers and Neology antennas for toll collection; roadway lighting, traffic signs, pavement markings, and protective barriers and reflective safety devices to enhance road safety, visibility, and traffic management. The segment will extend NLEX eastward to Quirino Highway, providing motorists with a direct

alternative to Mindanao Avenue.

With construction now in its final stages, work is focused on finishing the installation of concrete barriers and expansion joints along the mainline, completing the westbound and eastbound Quirino Highway on- and off-ramps, and carrying out the remaining civil works needed to prepare the new segment for operations. Once operational, the new segment will operate 24/7, accommodate all vehicle classes, and serve approximately 11,000 vehicles daily. It will provide motorists from Quirino Highway access to NLEX via the NLEX-C5 Northlink, with onward connections to the NLEX Connector toward Manila, the University Belt, and Makati, or northbound on NLEX toward Central and North Luzon. The new segment will provide an additional route option for motorists traveling

between Quezon City and these destinations.

NLEX President and General Manager Luis S. Reñon said the company is accelerating construction to deliver infrastructure that will help motorists save both time and travel costs amid unpredictable fuel prices.

"We want to give motorists greater freedom not only in how they travel, but also in how they spend their time and money. While fuel prices and other travel-related costs are beyond our control, we can provide reliable road infrastructure that helps people reach their destinations more

efficiently. That is the value we aim to deliver through this project," Reñon said.

The 2-kilometer Segment 8.2 Section 1A is part of the 11.3-kilometer NLEX-C5 Northlink Project, which will connect Mindanao Avenue to C5/C.P. Garcia near Katipunan Avenue, strengthening links between Metro Manila and Central and North Luzon through the NLEX network.

NLEX Corporation is a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the toll road arm of the Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC).
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PALACE: GOV'T STUDYING MEASURES TO EASE IMPACT OF PESO DEPRECIATION

MANILA — Malacañang said Thursday the administration is studying additional measures to cushion the impact of the peso's continued depreciation. PHP63-per-dollar level.

During a Palace press conference, Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro cited the ongoing crisis in the Middle East and the effects of El Niño as among the factors affecting the Philippine economy.

She said drought conditions in some areas had already affected farmers and fisherfolk, adding to the economic

challenges faced by Filipinos.

Castro also warned that political noise and the spread of fake news could damage the country's image and undermine efforts to attract investors.

"Parte ito ng maaaring makapagdulot ng pagtaas ng dolyar o pagbaba ng value ng peso, plus the political noise na intensyong isinasagawa para masira ang ginagawang pagsisikap na ginagawa ng administrasyon (These are among the factors that could drive up the dollar or weaken the peso, along with political noise that is deliberately being stirred up to undermine the administration's efforts)," she said.

Castro said foreign exchange policies and the peso's performance fall under the mandate of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

She nevertheless assured the public that President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and his administration remain focused on assessing the situation and identifying possible interventions to ease its impact on Filipinos.

"Ang Pangulo at ang administrasyon ay nakatutok po rito para mas magawan ng paraan at the same time para mapag-aralan pa kung ano pa ang maaaring epekto nito sa ating mga kababayan at kung ano pa ang puwedeng gawin ng ating administrasyon para 'yung nadaranas ng ating mga kababayan ay ma-lesser, ma-mitigate 'yung hirap ng ating mga kababayan (The President and the administration are closely monitoring the situation to find ways to address it, assess its potential impact on Filipinos, and determine what additional measures the government can take to ease their difficulties)," Castro said. (PNA) **BY: RUTH ABBEY GITA-CARLOS**



SSS ASSURES MEMBERS THAT THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE MANAGED PRUDENTLY TO SUSTAIN PENSION FUND

QUEZON CITY— The Social Security System (SSS) assures its members, pensioners, and the public that their contributions are managed with care to protect the pension fund and ensure the continued payment of benefits.

SSS invests only in companies with strong earnings track records and stable business

performance and does not place members' money in risky or speculative investments. Its portfolio is diversified across different asset types, helping reduce risk as gains in some investments can offset declines in others. While stock prices may fluctuate, SSS continues to receive dividend income from its equity holdings, adding an estimated ₱9

billion to its net income annually.

Dividends are part of the earnings distributed to stockholders. SSS clarified that a paper loss is an unrealized decline in the market value of an investment that has not yet been sold. No cash is actually lost unless the asset is sold below its purchase price. It does not mean members'

contributions have been used or that pensions are at risk; market prices may recover over time. SSS' strong financial performance has enabled higher benefit payouts. From January to June 2026, benefit payouts rose 19% to ₱173.45 billion from ₱145.73 billion in the same period in 2025. SSS also implemented the second tranche of

the Pension Reform Program, releasing ₱7.4 billion in additional pension benefits to 4.1 million pensioners to help them cope with inflation and higher energy costs. SSS regularly reviews its investment strategy and strictly complies with the Social Security Act of 2018 and its internal policies to safeguard the pension fund. **PR**



BATION'S PENALTY CARRIES UP TO VICTORY

MANILA – Ramil Bation III converted a penalty to lift defending champion University of the Philippines past the University of the East, 1-0, in the UAAP Season 89 men's football at the UP Diliman Football Stadium on Thursday night.

The fourth-year forward broke the deadlock in the 36th minute.

Carlo Gomez brought down Josh Garces, earning the Fighting Maroons a penalty kick that Bation calmly converted.

UP head coach Popoy Clarino said his team fell short of expectations, particularly in decision-making and teamwork.

"We didn't play to the standards that we wanted. We were very selfish in our decisions and our actions. We need to learn how to be more, to be selfless to be of service to others first to make sure that, every action I make,

my teammate can get better. If we play like that against FEU (Far Eastern University), we will have a hard time," Clarino said. "We need to be more conscious of making sure that every action that we make, my teammate will benefit from it."

UP remained in third place with seven points and a goal difference of plus-two. Meanwhile, Adamson University shocked FEU, 2-0, in the other game.

The victory marked the first time the Soaring Falcons had beaten the Tamaraws since returning to the league in Season 77 in 2015.

Team captain Christian Ricario scored just 3 minutes into the second half. Goalkeeper CJ Lauron warded off FEU midfielder Karl Absalon's penalty for a corner kick before rookie Fritz Chua sealed the breakthrough victory with a

strike on the counterattack. "We organized every time on our defense," said deputy Lemuel Unabia, who guided the Soaring Falcons while head coach Darlton Digha attended to personal matters. "We focused most of all on defending their personnel. And then, we're just lucky — we scored two goals against them. But our main objective is to defend against them, because we already know how strong FEU is. And thank you, Lord, He gave us two goals."

With the victory, Adamson moved to the top of the standings with 12 points and a plus-seven goal difference. De La Salle University ranked second with nine points and a plus-six goal difference. FEU remained at three points despite maintaining a plus-seven goal difference. **(PNA)**

Santos, and middle blocker Cherry Nunag each contributed 10 points. "First of all, I'm happy because they're showing the fight and the fire that we had been building since we started in Capital1. But since we have more members, really good ones that we added, I'm really happy coming off our last match," Capital1 coach Jorge Souza de Brito said. Fifi Sharma topscored with 20 points, followed by Ivy Lacsina with 18 points and 26 excellent receptions for Akari, which took its second straight loss. Eli Soyud added 17, including two aces, while Mars Alba dished out 32 excellent sets — three more

were in the lead)," Belen said after the two-hour and 33-minute match.

Capital1 bounced back from their first game loss to Choco Mucho in Cebu over the weekend.

"Masayang maglaro sa mga ganung situations, yung kumbaga yung challenge talagang nandun. Ang iniisip ko lang kung ano pa yung pwede kong maitulong at kung ano yung kaya kong gawin para sa team (It's fun to play in situations like that — where the challenge is truly present. My only focus is on how else I can contribute and what I can do for the team)," Belen said. Vanie Gandler, Erika

MANILA — Bella Belen scored 35 points in leading Capital1 to a 28-26, 22-25, 25-15, 23-25, 21-19 victory over Akari in the PVL All-Filipino Conference Siklab Series at the Ynares Center in Antipolo on Thursday. The former three-time UAAP Most Valuable Player also had 20 excellent digs and 19 receptions.

"Napag-usapan kasi naming during the fifth set na nandun na kami, so may chance na kaming ipanalo at hindi naman nagkakalayo ang score kahit lamang ang kalaban (We talked about it during the fifth set — we were already there, so we had a chance to win, and the score wasn't that far apart, even though the opponents

LETRAN, SAN BEDA FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL IN SSL UNITY CUP

MANILA — Letran and San Beda University fight for survival in the race for the last playoff berth in Pool A of the 2026 Shakey's Super League (SSL) Unity Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum on Friday.

Defending champion National University (NU), with a 3-0 slate, has advanced to the next round, leaving four other squads scrambling for the last slot.

The Lady Knights and Lady Red Spikers square off at 1 p.m.

Reigning NCAA champion Letran lost to NU, 21-25, 14-25, 19-25, last week and fell into a tie with the University of Perpetual Help System DALTA at 1-1. San Beda, on the other hand, bowed to Perpetual, 30-28, 19-25, 25-23, 17-25, 14-16, for its second straight loss last Saturday. Head coach Norman

Miguel is not taking the Lady Altas lightly.

"Honestly, that's the No. 1 thing I always remind the team about: never underestimate the skills of NCAA teams. I always tell them that these teams also train hard to win. The level of competition in the NCAA is rising," he said.

Meanwhile, NU goes for a sweep of the group stage against Perpetual at 5 p.m. In Pool B action, College of Saint Benilde battles Jose Rizal University at 3 p.m. Both have 0-1 cards.

The top two teams in each pool will advance to the next phase of the tournament. **(PNA)**



TOUGH DEFENSE. Gia Maquilang of Letran (left) goes against Alexa Mata and Cris Navarro of National University in the Shakey's Super League (SSL) Unity Cup at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum on Oct. 9, 2026. Letran lost, 21-25, 14-25, 19-25. (SSL photo)

NU BULLPUPS NAIL 25TH STRAIGHT WIN IN UAAP SINCE SEASON 88

MANILA — Defending champion National University-Nazareth School extended its winning run to nine after prevailing over the University of Santo Tomas, 86-75, Thursday in the UAAP Season 89 U16 basketball at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Arnold Flores Jr. finished with 18 points and five rebounds for the Bullpups, who registered a historic 25 consecutive wins dating back to Season 88.

"There are actually a lot of pressures; we just don't think about them," Flores said when asked about the team's title defense and winning streak.

Jesse Arellano chipped in 13 points and 17 rebounds, Dwayne Enriquez and Andrei Lopez scored 12 points each while Aaron Dalanan and Ron Mayor contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively, for NUNS, which trailed 34-43 at halftime.

"Like I said at halftime, we could do it. Even though we were playing poorly, the deficit was only nine

than counterpart Jules Coronel. **(PNA)**

points. We just had to chip away at it, possession by possession. And sure enough, the guys pulled it off," NUNS head coach Leo Pujante said.

Miguel Austria delivered 19 points and 16 rebounds, followed by Dustin Keith Bathan with 17 points and Wayne Anggot with 15 for the Junior Tiger Cubs, who took their fifth loss against three wins.

In the other game, De La Salle Zobel defeated University of the Philippines Integrated School, 79-64, to improve to 6-3.

Mikko Noel led the Junior Archers with 20 points,

seven rebounds, and four steals, while Ice Purugganan added 13 points and four rebounds.

Despite Zandro Lugatiman's explosive 20-point first half, the Junior Archers maintained a slim 43-39 halftime lead through balanced scoring.

Zandro Lugatiman finished with 29 points, six rebounds, and six steals, while Hubert Bautista and Dominic Labao added 11 and 10 points, respectively, for UPIS, which suffered its seventh loss in nine outings. **(PNA) BY JEAN MALANUM**



UNSTOPPABLE. Arnold Flores Jr. of National University-Nazareth School (left) eludes defense of Santo Tomas' Wayne Anggot in this UAAP Season 89 U16 basketball action at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium on Thursday (Oct. 15, 2026). The Bullpups prevailed, 86-75, for their 25th win dating back to Season 88. (UAAP photo)