

HANEP

Basahin Mo Ito!

Taon 9 Blg. 37

January 13-19, 2025

P10.00



TRASLACION NAZARENO 2025
ANG Andas ng Poong Nazareno na inakyat ng mga deboto upang magpahid ng tuwalya sa pagiging sumisimbulo sa makasaysayang debosyon bilang sagisag ng pananampalataya, sakripisyo, at pag-asa ng bawat Pilipino. Na sinimulan ang Traslacion 2025 sa Quirino Grandstand sa ganap na ika 04:41 ng umaga (Enero 9) at nagtapos 1:26 ng madaling araw (Enero 10) sa Basilika Menor at Pambansang Dambana ni Jesus Nazareno. Dakong ibabang larawan makikita ang apat na kapulisan ng Comembo substation 10 taguig city police station sa pangunguna nila Pepl obejas, Pat pantig, Pat estifano at Pat guzman na ilan lamang sa mga umalalay ng kaayusan sa pilihan para sa misa ng simbahan ng Quiapo kaugnay ng kapistahan ng Poong Hesus Nazareno 2025. (REYMUNDO NILLAMA)

P2M-WORTH OF ILLEGAL FIRECRACKERS SEIZED IN CALABARZON

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(Larawan mula sa PIA)



(Larawan mula sa PIA)

DBM taps PCO, media groups to back 'Open Government Partnership' initiative- story p.8



(Cover photo courtesy: PDRF)

PDRF kicks off new year with \$4.5M in grants- story p.9



U/Sec Bacordo, graced the Closing Ceremony of the 21st Century Leadership Seminar- story p.2



(Larawan mula sa PIA)

LANDBANK maintains top GOCC status, bags multiple governance awards- story p.5



(Larawan mula sa PIA)

PHL hits record high tourism revenue in 2024- story p.9



PBGen Lucas, led; Traditional New Year's Call- story p.2

ACCEPTING ADS, PLEASE CALL : 0977-7844136/ 0968-7122927

P2M-WORTH OF ILLEGAL FIRECRACKERS SEIZED IN CALABARZON

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Around 43,000 assorted illegal firecrackers in the Calabarzon region, with an estimated value of P2 million were seized during the Holiday season, the Police Regional Office-4A reported.

In a statement posted on Facebook, PRO-4A Regional Director, Police Brig. Gen. Paul Kenneth Lucas attributed the confiscation to its anti-firecracker drive and the public's cooperation. "Our heightened vigilance during this yuletide season, public information campaigns, and strict enforcement of firecracker regulations contributed to this remarkable achievement, and I thank our personnel and the public for their cooperation," Lucas stated.

Meanwhile, firecracker-related injuries recorded at 271 from December 1, 2023 to January 1 2024 dropped compared to only 160 injuries during the same period from December 1, 2024 to January 1, 2025.

In Laguna, an executive order was released to

support the anti-illegal firecracker campaign and directed police forces to tighten security and ensure public safety.

In an interview with the Philippine Information Agency – Laguna, Vice Governor Karen Agapay said they collaborated with the PNP to curb the use of illegal firecrackers to prevent accidents and injuries. "This is a reiteration on the strict implementation of prohibition on firecrackers, especially the use of boga here in Laguna," Agapay said.

However, nine cases of illegal discharge of firearms were recorded by PRO-4A covering the period December 18, 2024 to January 1, 2025. Those behind the illegal discharge will face criminal charges under Republic Act No. 10591 or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulations Act.

The PNP said administrative cases will likewise be filed against law enforcement or military personnel involved in the illegal act. **(CO/PIA-4A)**

U/Sec Bacordo, graced the Closing Ceremony of the 21st Century Leadership Seminar

UNDERSCRETARY Giovanu Carlo Bacordo of the Department of Energy graced the Closing Ceremony of the 21st Century Leadership Seminar, held at the PRO 4A MPC Hall in Camp Vicente P. Lim, Brgy. Mayapa, Calamba City, Laguna.

The event was attended by PRO 4A, including the Chief of Regional Staff, members of the Regional Staff, Chiefs of the Regional Headquarters Support Units (RHSU), Regional Pastoral Office (RPO), Regional Public Information Office (RPIO), Directors of all Provincial Offices, the Force Commander of the Regional Mobile Force Battalion 4A (RMFB 4A), and other Police Commissioned Officers.

A highlight of the ceremony was the awarding of excellence

to outstanding participants who demonstrated exceptional leadership throughout the training. The awardees include:

1. PCOL Julius C. Suriben, Chief of Regional Staff
2. PCOL Ivy C. Mallo, C, RCADD
3. PCOL Verna L. Cabuhat, C, RIDMD
4. PLTCOL Dennis L. De Leon, C, RLDDD
5. PLTCOL Milany E. Martinez, Deputy RLDDD

These officers were recognized for their exemplary performance and commitment to leadership excellence during the seminar, which aimed to enhance their skills and knowledge in modern policing and leadership strategies.

The 21st Century Leadership Seminar plays a crucial role in developing the future leaders of the PNP, ensuring they are

SC approves family mediation rules

MANILA – The Supreme Court (SC) has approved court rules on mediation of cases involving family disputes.

In a news release on Wednesday, the SC said the Rule on Family Mediation was approved on Nov. 5, 2024 and took effect on Dec. 29, 2024.

Family mediation is a process in which a mediator, acting as an impartial third party, facilitates the resolution of family disputes and helps the parties in reaching voluntary agreements.

"This initiative aims to address the emerging need for family mediation, both domestic and international, enhance the efficiency of family courts, reduce court backlogs, and promote the best interests of the child. The Rule also introduces innovations in dealing with family cases," it said.

The rule is limited to suits between spouses; parents and children; other ascendants and descendants; siblings; relatives within the fourth civil degree of consanguinity (by blood) or affinity (by marriage); and parties in a common-law, dating or sexual relationship, former or present.

"Family mediation, a non-adversarial process, should include children and give them a chance to share their thoughts on issues that impact them. The process must focus on what is best for the child and the family," the SC said.

Family mediation includes compromise agreement, such as support, custody, visitation, property relations, and guardianship under the Family Code; settlement of intestate estates (estates without a will); cross-border disputes in international child abduction, support, custody and visitation, guardianship, and other civil cases involving children filed in the Philippines between a Filipino resident and a citizen of a member-country of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ); and other civil cases or civil aspect of

equipped with the skills to lead effectively in today's dynamic law enforcement environment. **(Mula sa Police Regional Office 4A fb)**

criminal cases where mediation is allowed by law, rules, and international conventions or agreements between parties covered by the Rule.

Under the rule, parties, except those in cross-border disputes, must first undergo a dispute resolution process and attempt to reach an amicable settlement before filing any court action.

If the parties do not reach a settlement and a case is filed, the court, after the pre-trial conference and once the issues have been joined, shall direct the parties to undergo mandatory family mediation as a final attempt to settle the dispute.

Statements made during family mediation cannot be used as evidence in court unless otherwise agreed upon.

Additionally, recording in any form by the family mediator is prohibited.

Support services may be provided to parties or minors while undergoing family mediation, including physical or psychological services and counseling.

The mediation period of 30 days must be strictly observed unless the court approves an extension of not more than 30 days.

Parties and their counsel shall personally appear for mediation unless a duly authorized representative appears with a special power of attorney (SPA).

The court may allow video conference mediation, following the videoconferencing guidelines approved by the SC.

The following cases, are not subject to family mediation:

Civil cases that cannot be the subject of a compromise, such as the civil status of persons, validity of a marriage or legal separation, grounds for legal separation, future support, a court's jurisdiction, and future legitimate, or the portion of an estate reserved by law for heirs;

Habeas corpus, unless it relates to custody of minors;

Violations under the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act; and

All cases involving issues under the Family Code with applications for protection/restraining orders or preliminary injunctions. **(PNA)**

PBGen Lucas, led; Traditional New Year's Call

PRO CALABARZON Regional Director, PBGen Paul Kenneth T Lucas, led the Traditional New Year's Call held at the PRO 4A Covered Court, Camp BGen Vicente P. Lim, Calamba City.

The New Year's Call is a long-standing tradition in the uniformed service, symbolizing courtesy, loyalty, and respect as police personnel reaffirm their commitment to their unit commander and key officials.

Meanwhile, RD Lucas expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the members of PRO

CALABARZON for their unwavering support and loyalty to his leadership as Regional Director.

He also highlighted that the New Year is a time for new beginnings, renewed hope, and strengthened commitment to public service, urging everyone to sustain their dedication to duty and remain steadfast in their commitment to serving the community with integrity and excellence. **(Mula sa Police Regional Office 4A fb)**

2 Chinese nabbed for alleged kidnapping of fellow nationals in Cavite

MANILA – Police authorities have arrested two Chinese nationals in Cavite for the alleged kidnapping of their two fellow Chinese citizens.

In a report on Wednesday, Philippine National Police-Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG) Director Brig. Gen. Nicolas Torre III identified the two suspects only as Zhou and Juncheng, while the victims were known as Yuanjie and Yuanhao.

Torre said the police operation was launched following a complaint from a certain "Mak" who revealed that two of his friends were illegally detained and extorted by the two suspects.

He said the suspects were arrested on Monday around 11:15 p.m. in Brgy. Pascam 1, General Trias, Cavite leading to the successful rescue of the

victims.

Confiscated from the suspects were two genuine PHP1,000 bills, 300 pieces of PHP500 boodle money, 298 pieces of PHP1,000 boodle money, a pistol, a magazine for a .45 caliber, and ammunition.

The arrested suspects are facing kidnapping and serious illegal detention charges under Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code, as amended by Republic Act (RA) 1084, and for Violation of the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act under RA 10591.

The case has been referred for inquest proceedings.

"This operation reflects our resolve to uphold justice and ensure that perpetrators of such heinous crimes are held accountable," Torre said. **(PNA)**

PNP-ACG nabs 65 in 2024 crackdown on illegal SIM card sale

MANILA – Operatives of Philippine National Police Anti-Cybercrime Group (PNP-ACG) have arrested 65 persons for illegal online sale of registered subscriber identity module (SIM) cards in 2024 that resulted in six court convictions, a police official said Thursday.

In a statement, PNP-ACG acting Director Brig. Gen. Bernard Yang said they conducted 55 operations that resulted in the confiscation of over 6,200 SIM cards, including more than 3,000 registered and 29 linked to e-wallet accounts.

Yang said the arrested suspects faced charges for violation of Republic Act 12010, also known as the Anti-Financial Account Scamming Act (AFASA), and Section 7 (Subsequent Sale of Registered SIM Cards) of RA 11934 (SIM Registration Act) in relation to Section 6 of RA 10175 (Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012).

"Let us strengthen our cyber patrols and intensify online investigations to broaden our reach and enhance our

achievements in 2025," Yang said as he commended PNP-ACG for their successful operations in 2024.

On Jan. 6, the Cyber Financial Crime Unit (CFCU) of the ACG conducted entrapment operation in Cubao, Quezon City, that resulted in the arrest of one alias Jose for the illegal online sale of registered SIM cards

The investigation revealed that these registered SIM cards were sold for prices ranging from PHP400 to PHP1,500. The cost is higher for SIM cards linked to verified accounts with payment service providers.

"This arrest demonstrates our firm commitment to safeguarding the public from individuals engaged in fraudulent schemes, particularly those exploiting pre-registered SIM cards for illegal activities," Yang said.

The PNP-ACG chief urged the public to report any information regarding the illegal online sale of registered SIM cards to the ACG office, hotlines, Facebook page, or via email for immediate action. **(PNA)**

1 PATAY, 1 SUGATAN; DAHIL SA VIDEOKE

DAHIL sa umano'y nakakabulahaw na tunog ng videoke, patay ang isang lalaki habang sugatan ang pinsan nito matapos nauwi sa mainitang pagtatalo at pananaksak ang paninita ng Bantay Bayan member sa General Trias City, Cavite.

Isinugod sa General Trias Medical Center ang mga biktima na sina James Bryan Luna y Sumpay, 34, ng Block 30, Lot 14, LRTA, Brgy. Santiago Gen. Trias City; at Aldrin Toribio y Sumpay, 19, ng Malagasang, Imus City subalit namatay habang ginagamot si Luna dahil sa saksak sa tagiliran.

Pinaghahanap ng pulisya ang suspek na si alyas Johnson, miyembro ng Bantay Bayan, ng B68 L9 LRTA Subdivision Brgy Santiago, Gen. Trias City. Nag-iinuman ang magpinsan at ilang kasama

sa Block 330 Lot 14 LRTA Subdivision, Brgy Santiago, at dumating ang suspek.

Sinita sila ng suspek dahil sa malakas na tunog ng videoke at nakakabulahaw na umano sa mga residente sa nasabing subdibisyon bandang alas-11:00 ng gabi.

Imbes na sumunod sa Bantay Bayan ay nakipagtagalo ang mga biktima na humantong sa mainitang pagtatalo at umano'y tinangkang atakehin ng dalawa ang una kaya nagkaroon ng labu-labo hangang sa nasaksak sa tagiliran si Luna habang likod at leeg naman si Toribio.

Matapos ang insidente ay isinugod ang dalawa sa ospital subalit namatay habang ginagamot si Luna habang tinutugis naman ang tumakas na Bantay Bayan. **(Gene Adsuara)**

'Motornapper, naperder'

ARESTADO ang umano'y motornapper na tumangay ng motorsiklong iniwang nakaparada sa Silang, Cavite.

Hawak ng Silang Municipal Police Station ang suspek na si alyas Vladimir na naharap sa kasong paglabag sa RA 10883 (New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016) dahil sa reklamo ng may-ari ng motorsiklo na si Arjhel Uy Fornilo.

Sa ulat, ipinarada ng biktima ang kanyang itim na motorsiklong Euro Daang Hari 150 sa Brgy

Banada, Silang, bandang alas-9:00 ng umaga.

Sinamantala ng suspek ang pagkakataon at tinangay ito pero isa sa mga kaibigan ng biktima ang nakakita habang sakay ang una sa motorsiklo kaya ipinaalam sa huli.

Nakipag-ugnayan ang biktima sa pulisya kung saan nagkaroon ng follow up operation at naaresto ang suspek habang narekober ang motor bandang alas-5:30 ng hapon. **(Gene Adsuara)**

LABAS-MASOK NG KULUNGAN 'KUMANA' SA SABDIBISYON

SINIMOT ang laman ng refrigerator at tinangay ang laptop pati mga groceries ng mga hinihinalang akyat-bahay, isa rito ay labas-masok na sa kulungan, sa loob ng subdibidyon sa Naic, Cavite.

Arestado ang isa sa mga suspek na si alyas Lily, 36, vendor, ng Brgy Calubcob, Naic, habang pinaghahanap ang kasama nito na may mga alyas bilang Frederick, Lablab, 27, ng Brgy Calubcob, Naic.

Sa reklamo ng biktima na si Mary Joyce Tayongtong, 28, dumating siya mula sa pagsisimba bandang alas-

3:15 ng hapon sa kanilang bahay sa Diosmito Subdivision, Brgy Ibayao, Silangan, Naic, at napansin ang nagkalat sa loob.

Napansin din niyang bukas ang kanilang refrigerator na simot na ang laman at nawawala rin ang kanyang lapotod at mga biniling grocery items.

Nagpatulong siya sa kanyang kapatid na nakatira sa katabing subdibidyon at pinanood ang footage ng Closed Circuit Television. Sa CCTV ay nakita ang isang lalaki na nakasuot ng brown na bull cap, itim na t-shirt at kumbinasyon

Kelot, tinepok ng tanod?

BARANGAY tanod ang itinuturong suspek sa umano'y pagpatay sa isang lalaki na nag-krus ang kanilang landas sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Ang suspek ay kinilalang si alyas Gregorio, ng Brgy Luzviminda 2, Dasmariñas City, na umano'y responsable sa pagpatay kay Lawrence Paulino Palma y Bagon, 33, binata, walang trabaho, ng Block 70 Lot 15 Phase 4 City Homes, Brgy Sampaloc 4, Dasmariñas City.

Sa ulat, nagkasalubong ang biktima at suspek sa iskinita sa Block 2

Extension, Brgy Luzviminda 2, at walang sabi-sabing nagbunot ng baril ang huli at pinaputukan ang una na nagresulta sa agarang kamatayan bandang alas-12:00 ng tanghali.

Matapos ang pamamaril ay kaswal din lang na naglakad ang suspek at tumakas papalayo.

Nakipag-ugnayan ang pulisya sa mga opisyal ng barangay kung saan tanod ang suspek para sa kanyang pag-aresto habang patuloy ang isinasagawang dragnet operation. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Tumangay ng LPG gas stove, timbog

SWAK sa kulungan ang hinihinalang akyat bahay makaraang nakilala na siyang tumangay ng Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) gas stove sa loob ng canteen sa General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.

Hawak ng GMA Municipal Police Station ang suspek na si alyas Ramir matapos namukhaan bitbit ang LPG gas stove.

Sa ulat, bandang alas-7:00 ng umaga ay nadiskubre ng may-ari ng canteen na nawawala ang gas stove na gagamitin sana sa pagluluto sa kanilang canteen sa Block CIA Lot 1, Brgy Nicolasa Virata, GMA.

Nagtanung-tanong siya sa labasan kung saan nabanggit ng

kanyang bayaw na may nakasalubong lalaking may bitbit na LPG habang naglalakad sa lugar.

Dahil sa nasabing impomasyon ay ipinagbigay-alam ng biktima sa mga brgy officials at natunton ang suspek na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto.

Nabawi naman ang tinangay na gas stove sa San Pedro City, Laguna kung saan doon ibinenenta ng suspek.

Batay sa imbestigasyon, umakyat ang suspek sa loob ng canteen at pagkapasok ay kinuha ang nasabing LPG gas stove na nagkakahalaga ng P22,000.00. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Pagpapakamatay ng lalaki sa cut-off machine grinder

ITINUTURING na trauma sa isang empleyado at may-ari ng signage shop makaraan nasaksihan ang pagsugod sa kanilang shop ng lalaki na nagpakamatay sa pamagitan ng paghiga sa cut-off machine grinder sa Imus City, Cavite.

Halos maghiwalay ang leeg ng biktima na si alyas

Emil na pinaniniwalaang dumaranas ng depresyon at pagkabalisa.

Sa ulat, naglalakad ang biktima sa kahabaan ng Aguinaldo Highway bandang alas-4:00 ng hapon.

Pagsapit sa harapan ng A Signmaker sa Brgy Tanzang Luma 3, Imus City, ay bigla umanong pumasok ang biktima at itinulak ang isang empleyado na noon ay gumagawa ng signage. Humiga sa cut-off machine grinder ang biktima at pinaandar kung saan nahiwa ang kanyang leeg na nagresulta sa agarang kamatayan.

Sa imbestigasyon ng pulisya, dumaranas umano ng depresyon at pagkabalisa ang biktima na hinihinalang dahilan ng pagpapakamatay nito. **(Gene Adsuara)**

Editorial

'Atat' sa maagang pagpapakilala

ENERO 12 ng kasalukuyang taon ang pagsisimulangelection period sa ating bansa. Ang campaign period ay magsisimula sa darating na Pebrero 12 para sa national posts habang sa Marso 28 naman ang sa lokal na posisyon. Noong nakaraang taon pa lamang ay halata o kitang-kita na ang premature campaigning dahil sa naglipanang mga poster o tarpaulin kasama ang mga mukha ng ilang kandidato sa iba't ibang lansangan. Kaya nakaramdam ng pagkadis-maya rito ang Commission on Elections na hindi naman maiwasang punahin at batikusin ng publiko. Ang naturang premature campaigning ayon sa komisyon ay hindi nila naaakusahan dahil sa paliwanag na ang mga mukha sa poster o tarpaulin ay hindi pa itinuturing bilang kandidato ng Supreme Court. Kikilanin lamang bilang ganap na kandidato sa mismong pagsisimula ng panahon ng kampanyahan. Nakakalitong panuntunan o batas na kahit magpaulit-ulit sa pagpa-paalala ang komisyon ay mababale-wala lalo pa at nakararami ang kumakandidato na 'atat' o sabik sa maagang promosyon o pagpapakilala.

ADVERTISING RATES

COMMERCIAL - - - - - P200/col.cm
LEGAL NOTICES - - - P160/col.cm



ROMEO S. SANTOS
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

Ang 'HANEP Basahin Mo Ito!' ay inilalathala tuwing lunes ng **HANEP Publication** na may tanggapan sa B10 L9 The Veraneo Brgy. San Sebastian Kawit, Cavite
Contact#: 0977-7844136/09687122927
<https://hanepnewspaper.com>
Email: ronejed@yahoo.com/
haneppublication@yahoo.com

PAUNAWA: Sariling pananaw o opinyon ng mga kolumnista ang nilalaman ng kanilang mga artikulo kaya wala pong kinalaman at pananagutan dito ang pamunuan ng publication

Member: Publishers Association
of the Philippines, Inc.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
NAIC, CAVITE
rtc1naocc@judiciary.gov.ph
0915-620-0438

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL
FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND),

Mortgagee,

-versus-

FNC – 2024-173

For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure
of Real Estate Mortgage under
Act 3135, as Amended by Act 4118

MICHAEL REY AZORES DIZON,
Mortgagor.

X----- X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial foreclosure sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118, filed by Mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act No. 9679 with principal office and place of business at The Petron Mega Plaza Building, No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Loan and Mortgage Agreement ("MORTGAGE") executed and notarized on May 26, 2023 by Mortgagor, MICHAEL REY AZORES DIZON, single, of legal age, Filipino citizen, with postal residence and postal address at 7A FORBES HOBART VILLAGE, BRGY. KALIGAYAHAN, NOVALICHES, QUEZON CITY in favor of the Mortgagee, over a real estate property including improvements thereon, described in and covered by TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2023022919 of the Registry of Deeds for Province of Cavite, in order to satisfy the outstanding loan obligation of the Mortgagors in the amount of ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY ONE PESOS & 74/100 (P 1,147,141.74), inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges, as of June 3, 2024, the undersigned Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff of the Regional Trial Court of Cavite thru his deputy, Leonelle E. Mendoza, will sell at public auction on February 19, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning or soon thereafter at the Office of the Ex-Officio Sheriff at the Hall of Justice formerly Mayor Macario B. Pena Memorial Hall, Naic, Cavite, to the highest bidder, for Cash or Manager's Check and in Philippine Currency, the following property with all its improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2023022919
Registry of Deeds for Province of Cavite

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in BARANGAY TIMALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF NAIC, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON, bounded and described as follows:

LOT NO: 44, BLOCK NO. 5, PLAN NO: PCS-04-031665
PORTION OF: 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041 & 3042 ALL OF
NAIC ESTATE (VS-04-000597)

LOCATION: BARANGAY OF TIMALAN MUNICIPALITY OF
NAIC, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, ISLAND OF LUZON

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SE	LOT 43, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-031665
2-3	SW	ROAD LOT 27, PCS-04-031665
3-4	NW	LOT 45, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-031665
4-1	NE	LOT 37, BLOCK 5, PCS-04-031665

TIE POINT: MON. NO. 17, NAIC ESTATE, PROVINCE OF
CAVITE

TO CORNER	LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
	1	S.55° 58' E	3502.81 M.
	1-2	S.31° 18' W	9.00 M.
	2-3	S.58° 42' W	6.00 M.
	3-4	N.31° 18' E	9.00 M.
	4-1	N.58° 42' E	6.00 M.

AREA: FIFTY FOUR SQUARE METERS (54), MORE OR
LESS

DESCRIPTION OF CORNERS: ALL POINTS REFERRED
TO ARE INDICATED ON THE PLAN BY P.S. CYL. CONC.

ERRATUM

NOTICE is hereby given that the notice of extra-judicial sale re HDMF vs JOHANNES MAE S. VALLEJO, married to GEORGE A. VALLEJO under FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-278-23 was erroneously published in this newspaper "HANEP", dated July 31, August 7 & 14, 2023, as "LOT 31, BLOCK 57, PCS-04-028455" should be read as "LOT 31, BLOCK 57, PCS-04-028445" as the correct entry.

Publication: HANEP January 13, 2025

ERRATUM

NOTICE is hereby given that the notice of extra-judicial sale re HDMF vs JOSEPHINE P. FAJUTNAO married to DARIUS T. FAJUTNAO under FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-1308-24 was erroneously published in this newspaper "HANEP", dated December 2, 9 & 16, 2024, as "P402,968.76" should be read as "P402,969.76" as the correct entry.

Publication: HANEP January 13, 2025

**EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE AMONG
HEIRS OF THE LATE ARMANDO M. AZURIN**

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ARMANDO M. AZURIN who died on September 15, 2024 at De La Salle University Medical center, Gov. D Mangubat Avenue City of Dasmariñas Cavite was the co-owner of real properties with residential building described as TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. T-766123 containing an area of FORTY-THREE (43) SQUARE METERS; and bank deposit account at BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS branch 0096-E Aguinaldo Hi-way with account number: 0963-1389-38 was extrajudicially settled by the surviving heirs, executed before Notary Public Atty. Marezza G. Ambat last January 4, 2025 as per Doc No. 4; Page 1; Book 1; Series of 2025.

Publication: HANEP January 13, 20 & 27, 2025

MON. 15X40 CMS.

BEARINGS: TRUE

DECLINATION:

DATE OF ORIGINAL SURVEY: JAN. 1906-FEB.1907

DATE OF SUBD/CONS SURVEY: SEPT 1-15, 2018

DATE OF APPROVED SURVEY: NOVEMBER 19, 2018

GEODETIC ENGINEER: ELMERITO C. ROBLES

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on February 26, 2025 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning without further notice.

Prospective bidders or buyers are hereby enjoined to investigate and verify for themselves the TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2023022919, the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

Naic, Cavite, Philippines, December 10, 2024.

REUEL SANTOS JIMENEZ
Clerk of Court & Ex-Officio Sheriff

LEONELLE E. MENDOZA
Sheriff-In-Charge

WARNING:

IT IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED TO REMOVE, DEFACE OR DESTROY THIS NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE ON OR BEFORE THE DATE OF THE AUCTION SALE UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW.

Copy furnished:

MARIA VICTORIA D. CAPIRAL
c/o ATTY. CLARENCE LEE B. EVANGELISTA
LEGAL COUNSEL
PCCS (Panlilio's Credit and Collection Services)

MICHAEL REY AZORES DIZON
7A Forbes Hobart Village, Brgy. Kaligayahan.
Novaliches, Quezon City 1100 and/or
Lot 44, Block 5, Pagsibol Village, South Timalan, Naic,
Cavite 4110

Publication: HANEP January 13, 20 & 27, 2025

**PBBM JOINS FILIPINO CATHOLICS
IN CELEBRATING THE FEAST
OF THE BLACK NAZARENE**

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. joined Filipino Catholics in celebrating the Feast of the Black Nazarene.

In his message, President Marcos cited the observance as one of the "greatest reflections of the depth of Filipino devotion." "As thousands walk

barefoot in prayer and sacrifice, we are reminded that no burden is too heavy when carried with faith," the President said.

"May this day inspire us to care for one another and hold firm in the belief that our better days are ahead," he added. / PND

Republic of the Philippines
Fourth Judicial Region
Regional Trial Court
BRANCH 120
Imus City, Cavite
E-mail Address: rtc1imu120@judiciary.gov.ph
Cellphone No: 09692172848

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE JUDGE

IN RE: PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT
AS NOTARY PUBLIC FOR AND IN THE
JURISDICTION IMUS CAVITE,

NP Case No. 00361-24

ATTY. KENNETH RAY A. ODAK,
Petitioner,

x----- x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Relative to petitioner's compliance filed on December 6, 2024 and in pursuant to Section 5 (b) Rule III of the 2004 Rules on Notarial Practice (A.M. No. 02-8-13-SC), notice is hereby given that a summary hearing on the petition for notarial commission of ATTY. KENNETH RAY A. ODAK shall be held on February 4, 2025 at 8:30 a.m., at Branch 120, Imus City, Cavite. Any person who has any cause or reason to object to the granting of the petition may file a verified written opposition thereto, received by the undersigned before the date of the hearing.

Atty. Odak is hereby directed to publish the notice of hearing once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Province of Cavite, as may be chosen by raffle. The Clerk of Court, Office of the Clerk of Court-Regional Trial Court, Imus City, Cavite, is directed to post this notice in a conspicuous place in the offices of the Executive Judge and of the Clerk of Court. The cost of the publication shall be borne by petitioner.

SO ORDERED.

December 13, 2024, Imus City, Cavite.

EMMANUEL S. OCSING
Executive Judge

Copy Furnished:

Atty. Kenneth Ray A. Odak – Grand Parkplace Village,
Lot 4, Block 22, Imus City, Cavite
Atty. Armie A. Francisco – Clerk of Court VI,
Office of the Clerk of Court,
Regional Trial Court, Imus City, Cavite

Publication: HANEP January 13, 2025

LANDBANK maintains top GOCC status, bags multiple governance awards

MANILA — LANDBANK was named the top government-owned and controlled corporation (GOCC) for the second consecutive year, earning the highest rating for corporate governance in 2023 from the Governance Commission of GOCCs (GCG).

The state-run Bank garnered an unprecedented rating of 104% on the GCG's Corporate Governance Scorecard (CGS), exceeding the rating ceiling of 100%. The CGS is an evaluation tool that assesses the corporate governance practices of GOCCs, using a methodology aligned with international standards.

"Being recognized anew as the top GOCC for corporate governance reflects LANDBANK's steadfast commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in public service. This recognition drives us further to continuously foster a culture of good governance, ensuring that we remain a reliable and trusted partner in promoting inclusive and sustainable growth across the nation," said LANDBANK President and CEO Lynette V. Ortiz.

Executive Secretary Lucas P. Bersamin, alongside GCG Chairperson Atty. Marius P. Corpus and Commissioners Atty. Brian Keith F. Hosaka and Atty. Geraldine Marie Berberabe-Martinez, conferred the award to LANDBANK during the 2024 GCG Awards Ceremony at the PICC Complex in Pasay City.

LANDBANK Director Virginia N. Orogo received the award on behalf of the Bank, along with Executive Vice President Liduvino S. Geron, Senior Vice President Atty. Roderick P. Sacro, and Vice Presidents Atty. Myra-Lyn S. Peñalosa, May D. Arizabal, and Atty. Nikkolas G. Tolentino.

LANDBANK also ranked among the top-ranking GOCCs in the 2023 GCG Performance Evaluation System (PES), which measures the achievements of GOCCs based on performance criteria, targets, and weighted indicators outlined in the Performance Scorecard.

In addition, LANDBANK received a Sustainability Award for its outstanding commitment to sustainability values and practices. The Bank was further lauded for consistently achieving high scores in the "Responsibilities of the Board" section of the Corporate Governance Scorecard and for adhering to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Standards in its Sustainability Reporting for calendar years 2021 to 2023. LANDBANK has long been committed to upholding the

highest ethical standards while faithfully fulfilling its role in nation-building. In 2024, the Bank remitted a record-setting P32.119 billion in cash dividends to the National Government—the highest in the Bank's history and among all GOCCs—to support the country's priority infrastructure projects and socio-economic programs.

From governance to sustainability, LANDBANK continues to set benchmarks for excellence in the public sector, solidifying its role as a key and reliable partner in empowering the country's drive toward inclusive progress. (**LANDBANK**)

'Martial Law, term extension not on PBBM's mind – ES Bersamin

MANILA — Malacañang stood firm on Tuesday, Jan. 7, that neither martial law nor term extension is part of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s agenda following the reorganization of the National Security Council (NSC).

The President earlier issued Executive Order 81 which reorganized the National Security Council (NSC). In a press briefing, Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said the Marcos administration is focused on advancing the country's economic prosperity, improving the health and welfare of the Filipino people, and completing his legacy projects.

"What he has in mind is the

PH meets 2024 inflation target, gov't to continue measures against sharp-rising prices — NEDA

MANILA — The Philippines closed 2024 on a high note as it recorded a 2.9 percent inflation rate in December, bringing the year-to-date average to 3.2 percent — well within the government's target range of 2 to 4 percent, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said today (January 7).

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the decline in the annual average inflation rate was primarily driven by significantly lower inflation for food and non-alcoholic beverages, which fell to 4.4 percent in 2024 from 7.9 percent in 2023. Rice inflation,

economic prosperity of the country, the health and welfare of the people, especially those who are in the lower classes, and the prioritization of his legacy projects," Bersamin said.

"It's not about martial law. It's not about extending himself in power. No, he has no thinking about that. He does not even think in those terms," he added.

Bersamin made the remarks in response to critics questioning Executive Order 81 that reorganized the NSC.

He said the power falls within the President's responsibility to ensure that "whoever advises him is within his fullest trust and confidence." (**PND**)

La Niña condition is present in the Tropical Pacific

QUEZON CITY — Periods of cooler than average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the equatorial Pacific Ocean that started in September 2024 continue to persist and further strengthened reaching La Niña conditions threshold in December 2024, as shown by the recent oceanic and atmospheric indicators. La Niña condition exist if a one-month sea surface temperature anomalies (SSTAs) of -0.5°C or less is observed and an expectation that the 3-month SSTA (Oceanic Niño Index) of -0.5°C or less will be met (i.e., December-January-February (DJF), January-February-March (JFM)). It is likely that this La Niña condition will continue at least until JFM 2025 season as suggested by several climate models. With this development, higher chances of above normal rainfall in January

– February -March 2025 season is expected, which may cause floods, flashfloods and rain-induced landslides. Furthermore, increased chance of tropical cyclone activity within the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR) during the period is likely.

PAGASA will continue to monitor the country's weather and climatic conditions. Meanwhile, the public and all concerned agencies are advised to monitor relevant PAGASA information regularly.

For more information, you may call at (02) 8284-0800 local 4801 (Weather Forecasting Section) and 4920/4921 (Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section) or email at information@pagasa.dost.gov.ph and pagasa.climps@gmail.com. (**DOST-PAGASA**)

Gov't reduces hike in monthly rent for residential units

MANILA — The National Human Settlements Board (NHSB) has set a maximum of 2.3-percent increase in rental for residential units with monthly rate of P10,000 or less—down from last year's four percent cap.

Based on NHSB Resolution No. 2024-001, the maximum increase in monthly rentals for subject residential units is effective Jan. 1, 2025 up to Dec. 31, 2025.

The NHSB, as the sole policy-making body responsible for providing overall policy directions and program development to various key shelter agencies, acting upon the recommendation of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), passed the new resolution last December.

Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Rizalino Acuzar is the chair of NHSB. Undersecretary Henry Yap, who represents the housing chief in the board, signed the resolution for DHSUD.

The rental cap is being implemented to safeguard housing tenants in lower-income brackets and other beneficiaries from excessive rent increases. The measure

Economic Development Group recommended that the Department of Agriculture facilitate the timely and continuous withdrawal of frozen pork stocks in cold storages and for the Food and Drug Administration to fast-track the approval of African Swine Fever vaccines for commercial use.

Furthermore, the Energy Regulatory Commission directed all private distribution utilities, including the Manila Electric Company or Meralco, to refund unspent regulatory reset fees collected from consumers. The total refund is estimated at PHP1.18 billion.

"As we enter 2025, we remain optimistic about curbing inflation through strategic, timely, and proactive measures. At the same time, we are intensifying efforts to improve productivity, encourage innovation, and build resilience toward ensuring food security and protecting consumers' purchasing power. This will enable us to foster stronger and more inclusive economic growth, allowing Filipinos to move closer to realizing a matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay," Balisacan concluded. (**NEDA**)

was enacted pursuant to Republic Act No. 9653, commonly known as the Rent Control Act of 2009.

The rental cap applies to residential units currently occupied by the same tenants as of 2024, who pay P10,000 or less per month, and who will continue to occupy or renew their lease in 2025. Units with rents exceeding P10,000 per month are exempted from this restriction.

Residential unit refers to "an apartment, house and/or land on which another's dwelling is located and used for residential purposes and shall include not only buildings, part or units thereof used solely as dwelling places, boarding houses, dormitories, rooms and bedspaces offered for rent by their owners, except motels, motel rooms, hotels, hotel rooms, but also those users for home industries, retail stores or other business purposes if the owner thereof and his or her family actually live therein and use it principally for dwelling purposes."

If the unit becomes vacant in 2025, the lessor may increase the rent of a new tenant beyond the set limit. This increase is permitted because the new tenant is not covered by the aforementioned resolution. However, in the case of boarding houses, dormitories, rooms, and bedspaces, only one rent adjustment is allowed within the 2025, even if the increase limit has not been reached.

New residential units built and/or leased out in 2025, on the other hand, may set their own rent.

A new limit of one percent shall apply to units occupied by the same tenants as of 2025, paying P10,000 or less per month, and who will continue to occupy/renew their lease in 2026. Residential units with rents above P10,000 per month in 2025 are excluded from the 2026 rental cap.

The tenant is encouraged to seek alternative dispute resolution with his landlord or lessor through the Barangay Justice System's mediation/amicable settlement process. Only if the same cannot be settled will it be adjudicated before the court.

Eventually, if the lessor is found guilty, he could face a fine of not less than P25,000 nor more than P50,000 or imprisonment of not less than one month and one day to not more than six month or both, depending on the court's decision. (**DHSUD**)

Saturnino Mejia named new NDC chief

MANILA – Saturnino Mejia is the new General Manager of the National Development Company (NDC), replacing Antonio Mauricio who has moved to the private sector. In a statement Thursday, the NDC said Mejia was sworn in as the new General Manager on Dec. 16, 2024. Mejia served as Assistant General Manager for Special Projects Group in the state-owned enterprise for 25 years prior to his appointment as NDC chief. The Special Projects Group is responsible for the development of new businesses in joint ventures with the NDC. It is also involved in project evaluation as well as due diligence and detailed analysis of the viability, technical study, and economic and social

desirability of the projects. “With extensive experience in joint ventures, corporate finance, project evaluation and management, feasibility studies, public-private partnerships, and macroeconomic analysis, Mr. Mejia helped promote investments in areas such as renewable energy, industrial estate development, and health and technology innovations,” the NDC said. Mejia holds a Master of Science in Policy Science from the International Graduate School of Policy Science at Saitama University in Japan through Monbusho Scholarship Grant and a Bachelor of Science in Management Engineering from Ateneo de Manila University. (PNA)



NEW GM. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Cristina Roque (left) swears in Saturnino Mejia, joined by his family, as the new General Manager for the National Development Company at the DTI Office in Makati City on Dec. 16, 2024. Mejia was Assistant General Manager for Special Projects Group in the state-owned enterprise for 25 years prior to his appointment as NDC chief. (Courtesy of NDC)

National Museum now open every day starting 2025

QUEZON CITY, (PIA) — In its bid to improve the welfare of Filipino seafarers, the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), in collaboration with the Maritime Industry Authority and the Maritime Industry Tripartite Council, has convened to finalize

the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) for Republic Act No. 12021, also known as the Magna Carta of Filipino Seafarers. According to a Facebook post by the DMW, the meeting was held at the DMW Central Office on

(Photo: DMW)



Senator Loren Legarda has called for the strict and transparent implementation of recent increases in the benefit package provided by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) to its members. These increases cover several medical services, including treatments for ischemic heart disease (coronary heart disease), emergency outpatient services, kidney transplants, and adjustments to 50% of select case rates. While the senator welcomes these reforms, she expressed concern over PhilHealth's inconsistent execution. “Although these reforms are welcome, we still need to see how PhilHealth will implement them effectively,” Legarda said. “For instance, while there's a 50% increase in select case rates, PhilHealth has not clarified which cases will be covered and how much will be allocated. This uncertainty only contributes to the lack of trust among PhilHealth members, who often delay seeking medical treatment until emergency situations arise.” Legarda also pointed out that despite having PhilHealth coverage, many ordinary Filipinos feel insecure about going to the hospital. “An ordinary Filipino, despite being covered by PhilHealth, feels insecure to go to the hospital because the amount PhilHealth will cover is often unidentified and, when provided, is often low,” she explained. “As a result, their out-of-pocket expenses consume a substantial part of the

Legarda urges strict and transparent implementation of PhilHealth's

bill. Poor patients, despite universal healthcare coverage, are forced to seek assistance from other government programs, such as Guarantee Letters, or resort to loans just to cover the remaining healthcare costs.” The senator emphasized that PhilHealth's success should be measured by the confidence of patients in seeking treatment, knowing that the public health insurer will meet their needs. “True universal healthcare cannot exist if the coverage remains insufficient and uncertain,” she said. Legarda also addressed the broader issue of PhilHealth's priorities. She reminded the government corporation that its core mission should focus on providing accessible healthcare for all Filipinos, not on making financial investments. “PhilHealth must reassess its organizational values and invest in our most valuable asset—our people's health and trust,” she said. “Up to the extent allowed by law and prudent corporate health, every centavo should go towards healthcare services for Filipinos. Investments can be secondary and incidental, used to generate returns on unused funds, but the priority must always be spending on services that directly benefit the people.” The senator emphasized that while the recent reforms are a step in the right direction, PhilHealth has yet to provide clear explanations on how the increases in benefits will lead to real improvements.

She acknowledged the need for adjustments due to inflation and rising healthcare costs but stressed that these increases must be grounded in data. “While a 50% increase may seem like a significant boost, for certain conditions, the actual costs of treatment should be a key consideration,” she noted. She further called for evidence-based decisions, urging PhilHealth to ensure that these reforms are not simply across-the-board increases but rather targeted to where they are truly needed. Legarda also raised concerns about the financial burden on regular PhilHealth contributors, particularly with the ongoing mandatory deductions from workers' salaries. “The monthly contributions taken from the salaries of workers are significant, but we have yet to see a substantial increase in PhilHealth coverage,” she noted. “Put yourself in the shoes of a person who has been paying PhilHealth for years, or even decades, and then when they finally need to use it, only 10 to 20% of their bill is covered? That person could have saved that amount and paid for their hospital expenses themselves — and for sure, the money they saved would have been more than what PhilHealth covered. It's plain injustice, and it needs to be addressed.” As the principal author and co-sponsor of Republic Act No. 10606, or the “National Health Insurance Act of 2013,” which expanded health coverage to indigents and the informal sector, Legarda expressed concern over the projected impact of the 2025 budget cut for PhilHealth. “The government's decision to cut PhilHealth's budget will affect coverage for informal sector workers who depend on funding from the General Appropriations Act (GAA). With this funding now cut, we hope that regular contributors should not bear the burden of subsidizing

health insurance for the informal sector. PhilHealth should ensure that other sources will be used to cover the costs,” Legarda emphasized. Legarda also focused on the urgent need to address delayed reimbursements to hospitals and healthcare professionals, which continue to undermine the agency's ability to serve its stakeholders effectively. “Delayed payments demoralize medical practitioners and hospitals and can lead to increased costs for patients,” she said.

“PhilHealth must streamline its claims processing to ensure timely payments and reduce the financial burden on healthcare providers and patients alike.” The four-term senator recommended several measures, including increasing the number of case officers to expedite claims, digitizing the application and reimbursement systems, and establishing a transparent reporting mechanism to track liabilities and improve operational efficiency. Legarda also underscored the importance of improving the accessibility of healthcare services, particularly the PhilHealth Konsulta program. This primary care benefit package, which covers the cost of free annual check-ups, selected diagnostics, and medicines, is vital in ensuring that Filipinos have access to essential health services. “Konsulta can greatly reduce the burden on hospitals and clinics, especially in underserved areas, but the current registration process is overly complex,” she noted. Legarda called for the digitalization of registration processes and full integration of Konsulta with PhilHealth's existing systems, eliminating redundant layers of registration and ensuring that services are easily accessible to all Filipinos. Finally, the senator stressed the need for a comprehensive overhaul of PhilHealth's operations to fulfill its mandate of universal healthcare. “We must prioritize the health and well-being of our people over financial growth, streamline processes to improve service delivery, and ensure that the funds we allocate for healthcare are used effectively,” Legarda concluded.

of the Magna Carta, which aims to provide Filipino seafarers with the necessary protections and opportunities to thrive in the global maritime industry. (JCO/PIA-NCR)



POC PRESIDENT ABRAHAM BAMBOL TOLENTINO WITH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICIAL MATAPOS ang ginanap na pagpupulong sa Makati para sa international calendar ng mga atletang Pilipino ngayong taon. Isang group photo ops sa pangunguna ni Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino (nakaupo, gitna) kasama ang iba pang miyembro ng Executive Board.



Remolino at Alcoceba sasabak sa 2025 Triathlon na lalarga sa Subic Bay

MULING makikitaan ng maaksyong tagpo upang ipagtanggol ang kanilang men's at women's elite titles para sa 2025 National Age Group Triathlon na itinakda mula Enero 25 at 26 sa Subic Bay Freeport. Matatandaan sa nakaraang taon, inangkin ni Remolino ang kanyang unang korona sa NAGT sa loob ng 56 minuto at 56 segundo, habang si Alcoceba ay gumawa ng isang three peat sa women's elite sa 1:03:55 sa sprint distance na 750 meter swim, 20km bike, at

5km bike. Asahan dito ang pakikipag tagisan ng iba pang mga malahok sa kompetisyon ngayong buwan dahil sa dalawang araw na NAGT ay magsisilbing qualifying tournament din para sa darating na Southeast Asian Games na magaganap sa Thailand sa Disyembre. Samantala kalahok din ang iba pang mga kataguriang tulad ng mga sumusunod super tri-kids, U15 youth, at standard para sa age group.



ALCOSEBA AT REMOLINO SA NATIONAL AGE GROUP TRIATHLON 2025

MAGIGING tampok para sa nalalapat na 2025 National Age Group Triathlon na itinakda mula Enero 25 at 26 sa Subic Bay Freeport. Ang paglahok nila Raven Faith Alcoceba at Kim Remolino parang kilan lamang ng mag kampeon si Kim at napag tagumpayan naman ni Raven ang 3 peat women's elite. (REY NILLAMA)

International calendar para sa mga atletang Pilipino ngayong 2025

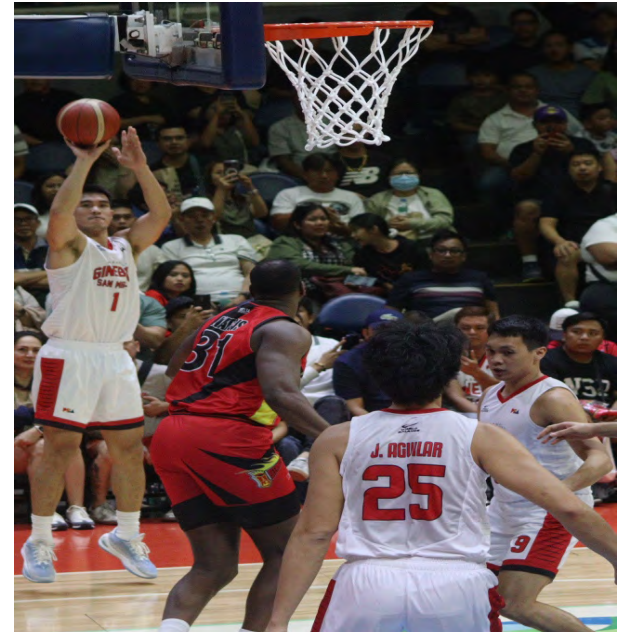
Magiging abala ang mga atletang Pilipino ngayong taon, simula sa 9th Asian Winter Games sa Harbin, China sa Feb. 7 hanggang 14. Ang iba pang malalaking torneo na nakapila para sa Team Philippines ay ang 12th World Games sa Chengdu, sa China (Aug. 7 - 17), 3rd Asian Youth Olympics Games sa Bahrain (Oct. 22-31) at 33rd Thailand Southeast Asian Games sa mga lungsod ng Bangkok, Chonburi at Songkhla (Dec. 9-20). "It's a busy year marked with major international competitions," pahayag ni Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) president at PhilCycling chief Abraham Tolentino matapos makipagpulong sa kanyang bagong executive board sa Makati City. "Naglalayong magpadala kami ng maraming may kakayahang at kwalipikadong atleta hangga't maaari sa mga larong ito at pinupuntirya namin ang pinakamahasay na posibleng mga resulta." Nauna nang sinabi ni Tolentino na ang Harbin Games ang magiging springboard ng paghahangad ng bansa para sa kauna unahang Winter Olympics medal nito. Ang Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games ay gaganapin sa kabiserang Saudi Arabia ni Riyadh sa unang bahagi ng 2026. Unang bise presidente Al Panlilio (basketball), treasurer Dr. Jose Raul Canlas (surfing), auditor Donald Caringal (volleyball), at mga board members Leonora Escollante (canoe kayak), Alvin Aguilar (wrestling), Ferdinand Agustin (ju jitsu), Alexander Sulit (judo), Leah Gonzales (fencing) at Jessie Lacuna (Athletes Commission) ang nakipagkita kay Tolentino. Dumalo rin sa pulong si Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines, habang hindi naman nakarating si second vice president Leyte 4th District Rep. Richard Gomez ng modernong pentathlon Muling inorganisa ng Executive Board ang mga mahahalagang post, kabilang na si Wharton Chan na nanatiling kalihim heneral, Marcus Andaya (legal), Billie Sumagui (membership), Alberto Agra (arbitrasyon), Michael Vargas (international affairs), Escollante (pagkakapantay pantay ng kasarian), Canlas (medical at anti doping), Sulit (safe sports), at Marcus Jarwin Manalo (technical).

AGM Bernardino magsasagawa ng chess simul sa Santo Tomas, Pangasinan sa Pebrero 10, 2025

Magsasagawa ng simultaneous chess exhibition si Arena Grandmaster (AGM) Almario Marlon Bernardino Jr. na binansagang Mayor Dickerson Dauz Villar chess festival sa Santo Tomas, Pangasinan sa Pebrero 10, 2025, alinsunod sa anibersaryo ng pagkakatatag nito. Si Bernardino ay ang 2005 Arlington, Virginia, USA kampeon at dating nangungunang manlalaro ng Rizal Technological University - Mandaluyong City varsity team. "It's an honor to be invited to this kind of rare simultaneous chess exhibition. Hopefully, I can share my knowledge with the residents of Santo Tomas, Pangasinan, especially the youth," sabi ni Bernardino na tubong Binalonan, Pangasinan. Ang mga estudyante at residente ng Santo Tomas, Pangasinan ay sabik na makipagkita at makalalaro pa kay Bernardino, ayon kay Mayor Dickerson Dauz Villar, isang awardee ng Asia's Golden Icon Awards bilang Asia's Exceptional Public Servant in Good Governance. Ang bayan ng Santo Tomas ay nahahati sa 10 mga barangay. Bawat barangay ay binubuo ng mga purok at may mga sitio. La Luna, Poblacion East, Poblacion West, Salvacion, San Agustin, San Antonio, San Jose, San Marcos, Santo Domingo at Santo Niño. Kamakailan lang si Bernardino as naging ika-7 pangkalahatang pagtatapos sa 16th Penang Heritage City International Chess Open 2024 Chess Championship na ginanap sa UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College (Georgetown) sa Penang, Malaysia. Napag tagumpayan ni Bernardino na siyq RH ang coach delegation head ng PH chess team na nanalo ng 2 ginto at 1 bronze medal sa 32nd FIDE World Senior Chess Championship na ginanap sa Hotel Baleira, Porto Santo Island, Portugal mula Nob. 16-29, 2024. Matatandaan na nakamit ni Bernardino ang isa pang kahanga-hangang tagumpay sa pagkapanalo ng unang puwesto sa 3rd Laos International Chess Open 2024 na ginanap sa 2nd floor Parkson@ Naga Mall sa Vientiane, Laos mula Setyembre 1 hanggang 6, 2024. Kabilang sa mga sumusuporta sa kanyang kampanya sa chess dito at sa ibang bansa ay sina ALC Group of Companies Chairman at CEO D. Edgard Cabangon, International Billiard and Snooker Champion Marlon Manalo at Mr. Jessie Villasin. Ang 47-anyos na si Bernardino, isang sportswriter at isang radio commentator ay nakatakdang lumaban sa Sydney International Open 2025 na gaganapin sa Abril 23-27 sa Novotel West, Rooky Hill sa Sydney, Australia. (Marlon Bernardino) Pahayag ni Senador Alan Peter Cayetano Kaugnay ng Pagpanaw ni Mervin Guarte Lubos akong nalulungkot sa malagim na pagpanaw ni Mervin Guarte. Isa siyang minamahal na kabataan na nagbigay ng karangalan sa ating bansa bilang gold medalist sa Southeast Asian Games at nagsilbi nang buong puso bilang Airman First Class sa Philippine Air Force. Dahil lamang sa isang walang sagsay na karahasan, nawala sa atin ang isang talentadong atleta at dedikadong serviceman. Sa isang iglap, ninakaw sa kanya ang karangalan sa ating bansa bilang gold medalist sa Southeast Asian Games at nagsilbi nang buong puso bilang Airman First Class sa Philippine Air Force. Dahil lamang sa isang walang sagsay na karahasan, nawala sa atin ang isang talentadong atleta at dedikadong serviceman. Sa isang iglap, ninakaw sa kanya ang pagkakataong magpatuloy sa pag-abot ng kanyang mga pangarap at maglingkod pa sa kanyang pamilya, komunidad, at sa ating bayan. Nakikiisa ako sa pamilya Guarte, sa buong sports community, at sa Philippine Air Force sa pagdadalamhati sa pangyayaring ito. Taos-puso kong ipinapanalangin ang kapanatagan ng kanilang mga puso sa gitna ng matinding pagsubok na ito. Bigyang-pugay natin ang alaala niya hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng pagdiriwang sa kanyang mga nakamit kundi sa paghahanap ng hustisya para sa karumal-dumal na krimeng kanyang sinapit. Sa ating mga tagapagpatupad ng batas, mariin kong ipinapanawagan ang pagsasagawa ng agaran at masusing imbestigasyon upang masigurong mapananagot ang nasa likod ng krimeng ito. Walang puwang sa ating lipunan ang karahasan, at tungkulin nating lahat na tumulong sa pagkamit ng isang mas ligtas na Pilipinas para sa lahat. Sumalangit nawa ang kaluluwa ni Mervin. Magsilbi nawang inspirasyon sa mga kabataang Pilipino at sa mga susunod pang henerasyon ang naging buhay niya bilang atleta at tagapagsilbi ng bansa. Sa tulong ng ating Panginoon, umaasa tayong mamamayani ang nararapat na hustisya para sa kanya.

Rosario ng Barangay Ginebra Best player of the game

Nagpamalas ng kagalingan si Troy Rosario para sa kanyang pinakamagandang performance na nagawa sa Ginebra sa pag tala ng 93 - 81 panalo kontra San Miguel sa kanilang PBA Commissioner's Cup clash sa Smart Araneta Coliseum sa Quezon City. Tinulungan ni Rosario na mapanatili ang kontrol ng Gin Kings sa laro matapos ang paputok na second quarter sa pamamagitan ng pagpuntos ng 16 sa kanyang 22 puntos sa second half habang pinapanatili nila ang Beermen sa bay sa huling 24 minuto kasunod ng 31 point blast sa second period na sinira ang laro. Naglagay din si Rosario ng 10 rebounds at isang block nang mabawi ng Ginebra ang slok fourth place sa standings sa 5 - 3, isang laro sa likod ng NorthPort para sa top spot bago ang kanilang clash sa PhilSports Arena sa Pasig. Nagdagdag si Justin Brownlee ng 19 puntos, pitong rebounds, dalawang assists, isang steal, at tatlong blocks, habang si Scottie Thompson sa triple double na may hindi pangkaraniwang double na 12 rebounds at 11 assists at walong puntos kasama ang isang steal. Nagtala si Jabari Narcis ng 17 puntos, 10 rebounds, at dalawang blocks, habang nag ambag naman si June Mar Fajardo ng 12 points 23 rebounds, tatlong assists, at dalawang blocks para sa SMB na bumagsak sa 3 4.



TROY ROSARIO BEST PLAYER OF THE GAME

Pahayag ni Senador Alan Peter Cayetano Kaugnay ng Pagpanaw ni Mervin Guarte

Lubos akong nalulungkot sa malagim na pagpanaw ni Mervin Guarte. Isa siyang minamahal na kabataan na nagbigay ng karangalan sa ating bansa bilang gold medalist sa Southeast Asian Games at nagsilbi nang buong puso bilang Airman First Class sa Philippine Air Force. Dahil lamang sa isang walang sagsay na karahasan, nawala sa atin ang isang talentadong atleta at dedikadong serviceman. Sa isang iglap, ninakaw sa kanya ang karangalan sa ating bansa bilang gold medalist sa Southeast Asian Games at nagsilbi nang buong puso bilang Airman First Class sa Philippine Air Force. Dahil lamang sa isang walang sagsay na karahasan, nawala sa atin ang isang talentadong atleta at dedikadong serviceman. Sa isang iglap, ninakaw sa kanya ang pagkakataong magpatuloy sa pag-abot ng kanyang mga pangarap at maglingkod pa sa kanyang pamilya, komunidad, at sa ating bayan. Nakikiisa ako sa pamilya Guarte, sa buong sports community, at sa Philippine Air Force sa pagdadalamhati sa pangyayaring ito. Taos-puso kong ipinapanalangin ang kapanatagan ng kanilang mga puso sa gitna ng matinding pagsubok na ito. Bigyang-pugay natin ang alaala niya hindi lamang sa pamamagitan ng pagdiriwang sa kanyang mga nakamit kundi sa paghahanap ng hustisya para sa karumal-dumal na krimeng kanyang sinapit. Sa ating mga tagapagpatupad ng batas, mariin kong ipinapanawagan ang pagsasagawa ng agaran at masusing imbestigasyon upang masigurong mapananagot ang nasa likod ng krimeng ito. Walang puwang sa ating lipunan ang karahasan, at tungkulin nating lahat na tumulong sa pagkamit ng isang mas ligtas na Pilipinas para sa lahat. Sumalangit nawa ang kaluluwa ni Mervin. Magsilbi nawang inspirasyon sa mga kabataang Pilipino at sa mga susunod pang henerasyon ang naging buhay niya bilang atleta at tagapagsilbi ng bansa. Sa tulong ng ating Panginoon, umaasa tayong mamamayani ang nararapat na hustisya para sa kanya.

DBM taps PCO, media groups to back 'Open Government Partnership' initiative

The Department of Budget Management (DBM) has tapped the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) and key local media organizations to enhance communication efforts and promote the principles of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Aside from the PCO, the DBM also established strategic partnerships with the Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation, Inquirer Interactive Inc., DZRH Manila Broadcasting Company (MBC), and Digital Out-of-Home Philippines (DOOH PH).

According to DBM Secretary Amenah Pangandaman, the move is in preparation for the Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting (APRM) organized by the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP).

"Since President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' R. Marcos Jr. appointed me to lead the DBM, aligning our national fiscal policies with the principles of open government has been one of our foremost advocacies," she said.

"Sa Bagong Pilipinas, gusto ng ating mahal na Pangulo na pagbutihin pa ang trabaho ng gobyerno para mas maayos at mas mabuting mapagsilbihan ang bawat Pilipino. Ang sagot sa hamong ito ay open governance," she added.

The official emphasized the critical role of the media, describing them as "co-architects" in the mission to expand the reach of open government principles.

"You [the media] ensure these principles are not confined to closed rooms but are broadcast across various mediums, reaching every corner of our region. Through your lenses, through your words, we connect with the public, garner support, and most importantly, ensure accountability," she said.

The ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) took place at the DBM Central Office, Boncodin Hall, marking

a significant milestone in the administration's commitment to transparency and inclusive governance.

SMC Asia Car Distributors Corp. (SMAC) has been designated as the official transportation service provider for the OGP-APRM, ensuring seamless mobility for delegates of the APRM.

Present during the event were senior officials from each partner organization. They were PCO Senior Undersecretary Emerald Anne R. Ridao, Manila Bulletin Publisher and EVP Herminio "Sonny" B. Coloma Jr., Inquirer Interactive Inc. COO Imelda C. Alcantara, DZRH MBC VP for AM Operations Atty. Rudolph Steve E. Jularbal, DOOH PH CEO Alvin M. Carranza, and SMC Asia Car Distributors Corp. (BMW Philippines) President Spencer Yu.

The upcoming OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Meeting is scheduled for February 5-7, 2025, at the Grand Ballroom of the Grand Hyatt Hotel. It marks the first major regional OGP meeting in the Philippines since 2017. The occasion will gather high-level government representatives, civil society leaders, policymakers, and global and regional partners. It aims to serve as a dynamic platform for exchanging best practices and experiences, thereby enhancing open government initiatives across the region.

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP) plans to complete several interconnections and upgrading projects this year, including those in Misamis Oriental and other areas in Mindanao.

In a statement Monday, NGCP said it anticipates finishing the 230-kilovolt (kV) substation in Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental, within the year. The substation is part of

SSS pushes contribution subsidy program

MANILA — The Social Security System (SSS) is pushing for a new program to help finance its members' contribution.

In a press briefing in Malacanang on Tuesday, SSS President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Robert Joseph M. de Claro even invited lawmakers for a discussion over what he called 'Contribution Subsidy Program' or CSP. De Claro said the CSP needs to be disseminated for public information.

"So, actually, I take this opportunity sa ating mambababatas na gustong tumulong sa SSS. Kaysa ipasuspend natin itong increase na ito, bakit hindi tayo umupo at pag-usapan kung papaano n'yo matutulungan ang ating manggagawa by entering into an agreement with SSS on a contribution subsidy program, which is open to all," De Claro said. Some lawmakers are opposed to the hike and called on SSS to suspend its implementation.

De Claro said through CSP, funds from well-off private individuals can be solicited to help low-income earning Filipino segments pay contribution for their social protection.

"Private individuals, 'yung mga nakakaluwag sa buhay. We encourage you also to work with SSS na baka may specific segments of our society na matutulungan natin," De Claro said.

"Kasi iyon yung aming programa na hindi masyadong nadi-disseminate sa ating mga

mas nakakaluwag sa buhay na puwede kayong tumulong for people that you wouldn't know towards their social protection," De Claro added.

Meanwhile, the SSS assured the 15 percent increase on mandatory contribution will be the last. De Claro underscored that a contribution that is more than 15 percent is already irrational, considering the 25-30 percent income tax already deducted from workers' regular salaries.

"What I can assure the public is that the Social Security Commission and its management team is committed to working on that 15 percent as the last increase," he said.

"Because it doesn't also make sense when you have to pay more than 15 percent from your salary — considering that you have to pay your income tax which is around 25-30 percent and liliit talaga 'yung take home," De Claro said. **(PND)**

MANILA – Local governments and police have been given the green light to inspect commercial buildings covered by business permits as well as residences in their jurisdiction to check for compliance with the government's total ban on POGOs (Philippine Overseas Gaming Operations), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) said on Friday.

Project in Sultan Kudarat and several other grid improvement projects.

The MVIP, inaugurated in January 2024, is a key initiative to enhance power connectivity between Mindanao and Visayas.

NGCP renewed its call for the swift resolution and approval of pending applications with the Energy Regulatory Commission, noting that delays affect the company's operations and project timelines. **(PNA)**

PHLPost's good governance practices cut fuel price, expenses

MANILA – The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) has reduced its fuel consumption and adjusted its fuel price costs. In a news release on Monday, Postmaster General Luis Carlos said the PHLPost is keen to observe good governance practices to meet the needs of the mailing public. The state-run postal agency relied heavily on fuel for its fleet of mail delivery vehicles and motorcycles nationwide in the previous years.

"That is why I immediately reviewed the contract and negotiated directly with the gasoline provider to reduce the cost," Carlos said.

"We are happy to say that from PHP107 per liter, we have reduced the pumped price to an average of PHP67 per liter. PHLPost has also reduced the fleet's overall operating cost in order to continuously meet the needs of the mailing public in terms of reliability, efficiency, and transparency," he added.

Reduced fuel prices would impact the sustainability of affordable services for the public. Hence, the PHLPost now monitors and controls fuel expenses by setting up spending limits and tracking spending patterns on fuel, fueling frequency, and time of fueling.

"We have revised our contract with the supplier. Our vehicles now carry fleet cards and follow the pumped price in the market. PHLPost will now monitor the fuel consumption and impose a certain limit of gasoline on fuel tanks. The mail vehicles have dashboards while these fleet cards are now bonded to their plate numbers," Carlos said.

"PHLPost no longer uses its oil depot at CMEC (Central Mail Exchange Center) motor pool in Pasay City, which has added to the cost of fuel. Now, drivers can easily load to any gasoline station without going to CMEC's motor pool to fill up their gas tank," he added. **(PNA)**

DILG directs LGUs to submit 'No POGO' certificates end of January

Speaking to reporters after meeting with Justice officials, DILG Secretary Juanito Victor "Jonvic" Remulla said local government units (LGUs) are required to submit "No POGO" certificates in their localities by the end of the month.

"LGUs are responsible for checking all the buildings, (and utilize) the occupancy permits, the electric permits, the fire safety permits so they would have full capacity to enter all the buildings," Remulla explained.

Aside from commercial and residential building inspections, LGUs may also check if owners are paying correct real property taxes.

Remulla noted that POGOs operate where there is available bandwidth.

"They cannot operate in remote areas because there would be no Internet there. They have a high bandwidth requirement to be able to operate," he said.

Remulla also clarified that special economic zone

areas or SEZAs are not exempt from the ban under President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s Executive Order No. 74.

"It is very clear that with EO 74, CEZA, PEZA zones are not exempted. We have no boundaries. There are no walls high for us to climb. All these areas, we can inspect," he said.

"The government's anti-POGO campaign is an ongoing thing, (it's) forever. We will continue to be vigilant about it," Remulla stressed.

He added that the DILG will enforce a "zero tolerance" policy on erring local government officials in the campaign against POGOs. "If you commit a mistake, pasensyahan tayo (you've been warned)," Remulla said.

Meanwhile, Remulla said the 11,000 foreign POGO workers that remained unaccounted for will be the subject of a manhunt by the Bureau of Immigration (BI), while those involved in illegal activities will be pursued by police. **(PNA)**

NGCP targets completion of Mindanao substations, upgrades

the ongoing Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project (MVIP), which began in January 2024.

"These achievements reflect NGCP's strong commitment to advancing our grid infrastructure to ensure a more stable and resilient power supply for households, businesses, and industries," NGCP said.

The company also aims to complete the Tacurong-Kalamansig 69-kV Transmission Line

Project in Sultan Kudarat and several other grid improvement projects.

The MVIP, inaugurated in January 2024, is a key initiative to enhance power connectivity between Mindanao and Visayas.

NGCP renewed its call for the swift resolution and approval of pending applications with the Energy Regulatory Commission, noting that delays affect the company's operations and project timelines. **(PNA)**

PHL hits record high tourism revenue in 2024

MAKATI CITY — Department of Tourism (DOT) Secretary Christina Garcia Frasco announced on Sunday, Jan. 5, that the Philippine tourism sector has firmly established its position as a vital economic pillar, achieving an all-time high tourism revenue of approximately P760 billion in 2024.

According to the agency's data, the Philippines garnered about P760.50 billion in tourism revenue from inbound tourism expenditures—representing the total amount spent by non-resident visitors—from January 1 to December 31, 2024. This marks a notable increase of 9.04% compared to the P697.46 billion recorded in 2023.

Moreover, the current figures surge past pre-pandemic levels, exceeding the estimated P600.01 billion in 2019 by an impressive 26.75%. This remarkable performance translates to a recovery rate of 126.75% for the local tourism economy, highlighting the sector's resilience and vitality.

"With these figures, it is clear that the Philippine tourism industry is not only bouncing back but also evolving and expanding, contributing significantly to the nation's economic stability and growth. In the past year, we have witnessed remarkable growth in tourism revenue, which has surpassed previous records. This achievement is not just a statistic; it translates to thousands of jobs created for Filipinos, fostering economic resilience and enabling families to thrive. The tourism sector has become a crucial engine for economic development, providing livelihood opportunities for many, especially in our rural and underserved areas," Secretary Frasco said.

She noted that the Marcos administration's support of the DOT has been instrumental in this achievement.

"The Marcos Administration has implemented pro-tourism policies that prioritize the sustainable development of our tourism resources while ensuring the welfare of our communities. These policies focus on enhancing infrastructure, promoting heritage conservation, and investing in skills development programs for our workforce, among others. We believe that the growth of tourism should be inclusive and equitable, empowering local entrepreneurs and communities," she said.

"I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone involved in this success—our tourism stakeholders and workers, local government units, and most importantly, our guests. As we move forward, our commitment to advancing

Philippine tourism remains steadfast. We will continue to work hand-in-hand with industry stakeholders to innovate and promote the many reasons to Love the Philippines," the Secretary added.

Citing data from the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), Secretary Frasco revealed international tourists coming into the country spend at least 2,073 USD per capita. Also, compared to the average of 9 nights in 2019, tourists are now staying an average of over 11 nights in the country, while 70 percent of tourists coming to the country are repeat visitors. The continued collaboration with the stakeholders from the private sector garnered about 63.18 percent repeat visitors in 2023.

More tourists visited the Philippines in 2024 than in 2023.

The DOT also reported that more tourists set foot in the Philippines from January 1 to December 31, 2024 compared to the same period in 2023.

According to the agency's data on visitor arrivals, a total of 5,949,350 international visitors arrived in the country by the end of the year 2024. From the figure, 91.42 percent are predominantly foreigners which accounts for 5,438,967, while the remaining 8.58 percent or 510,383 were Filipinos living overseas. The total in 2024 was higher by 9.15 percent when compared to data of visitor arrivals in 2023, recorded at 5,450,557 foreign guests.

South Korea maintained its position as the top source of foreign tourists, with arrivals increasing to 1,574,152 from 1,455,977 in 2023, garnering more than 26.46 percent of the total market share. According to Frasco, "The growth of Korean tourists to the Philippines can be attributed to the effective strategic marketing initiatives, enhanced air connectivity, and strengthened cultural exchanges, particularly as the two nations marked the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. Furthermore, the Philippines' growing reputation as a prime destination for incentive travel has played a key role in this positive trend, attracting an increasing number of Korean companies hosting their reward trips for their employees in the Philippines' world-class tourist destinations."

The United States ranked second, with 1,076,663 visitors in 2024, increasing from 1,041,305 in 2023. American travelers continued to flock to the Philippines, drawn mainly by the country's pristine beaches, world-class hospitality, the opportunity to spend time with family and

friends, and new experiences. DOT's development of authentic cultural attractions and indigenous tourism experiences under the Philippine Experience Program, the market development initiatives for cruising, culinary tourism, diving, wellness, and adventure travel, plus enhanced connectivity—including nonstop flights from San Francisco to Manila by United Airlines and from Seattle to Manila by Philippine Airlines—have contributed to the growth of the US market.

Japan, meanwhile, emerged as a standout market with a 22.84 percent growth in arrivals, reaching 444,528 visitors from its previous year's 361,862. This surge was attributed to aggressive tourism campaigns and strategic partnerships with Japanese travel agencies that paved further awareness and interest in the Philippines as a travel destination.

Though significantly lower than the pre-pandemic figures, China showed signs of recovery with 313,856 arrivals compared to 264,922 in the previous year. This can be attributed to the increased number of flights from 2023, both commercial and chartered, including the first half of 2024, connecting China directly to Cebu, Bohol, and Davao. Cruise ships, carrying loads of visiting tourists, also started to arrive during the second half of 2024, with the new cruise visa waiver program becoming an important factor for such improved numbers.

Other consistent contributors included Australia (299,286) and Canada (269,300). Emerging markets like Taiwan and Singapore demonstrated strong growth momentum, with arrivals reaching 213,833 and 198,471, respectively. The introduction of direct flights to Kalibo and Puerto Princesa, as well as the growth of niche markets such as English as Second Language (ESL) learning and diving contributed greatly to the visits of guests from Taiwan. These markets highlight the country's growing appeal as a convenient, culturally rich, and accessible destination.

The United Kingdom also sustained its position among the top contributors with 178,656 visitors, driven by a keen interest in heritage tourism and adventure activities.

Meanwhile, Malaysia emerged 10th in rank with 99,881 registered arrivals in 2024. The Middle Eastern market also showed promising signs of recovery in 2024. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) posted a remarkable 668.34% recovery rate from its 2019

figures, reflecting increased air connectivity and a surge in interest in the Philippines as a leisure destination. Qatar followed closely, with an impressive 832.87% recovery rate. Saudi Arabia registered a recovery rate of 66.54%, signifying a steady return of visitors from the Gulf region. Likewise, Oman and Bahrain registered more than 200% recovery rates from the 2019 number of arrivals.

Those in the Top 25 source markets which have fully recovered as compared with 2019 data included Australia (102.63%), Canada (109.26%), Hong Kong (106.79%), UAE (668.34%), Italy (143.02%), Spain (111.08%), Guam (200.19%), New Zealand (100.50%), and Switzerland (102.01%).

"The growth in our visitor arrivals and receipts in 2024 underscores the resilience of the Philippine tourism industry and the collective efforts of our stakeholders. This success is a testament to our unwavering commitment to showcasing the beauty, culture, and hospitality that make the Philippines truly unique on the global stage," Frasco said as the Department welcomes the 2024 foreign arrival numbers.

Surge in Returning Filipinos
More overseas Filipinos came home to the Philippines in 2024 than in 2023, with an increase of 14.15 percent.

Meanwhile, data from DOT in 2019 and 2024 showed that more overseas Filipinos were able to visit the Philippines, from only 72,436 in 2019 to 510,383 in 2024. It was an over seven fold surge of overseas Filipinos coming back to the Philippines, or equivalent to 704.60 percent, based on DOT estimates. However, the same DOT data also saw a need to recover more tourists from the top tourist markets, particularly, China. Based on comparison of data of visitor arrivals in 2019 and 2024, the Philippines suffered a huge loss of tourists from China.

During her year-end briefing with the media recently, Secretary Frasco acknowledged the "headwinds" or challenges that were beyond the DOT's control.

"Over the course of the past year, we have faced many adversities, from the headwinds of economic, environmental, and geopolitical forces beyond our control, to budgetary constraints and visa liberalization delays vis-à-vis our competitors," she said.

Despite the said issues, the Tourism Chief remained optimistic and maintained the DOT has "graduated from measuring tourism merely on the number of people arriving but rather on the more important numbers." (**DOT**)

PDRF kicks off new year with \$4.5M in grants

MANILA, (PIA) — The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) has announced it secured approximately \$4.5 million in grants from various international organizations as it commenced the new year.

This achievement, along with other significant milestones, was presented at the recent PDRF Board Meeting.

The new funding, received from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and PepsiCo, will bolster initiatives in disaster preparedness, recovery, private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction (DRR), and gender-inclusive DRR.

During the meeting, co-chaired by Manuel V. Pangilinan and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, PDRF President Butch Meily highlighted the organization's numerous accomplishments throughout 2024. In the past year, PDRF's disaster response initiatives have reached over 500,000 individuals across 12 regions, mobilizing P47 million in cash and in-kind aid.

Meily also outlined progress in flagship programs such as airport readiness, energy security, area-wide business continuity, forecast-based early action, and emergency communications.

Under the Climate Resilient Cities Project, PDRF successfully installed six Emergency Operations

Center (EOC) packages and launched a Private Sector Engagement Playbook, marking a significant step forward in disaster management practices.

Meily further announced new partnerships with organizations and agencies including UNICEF, Deloitte, GSMA, and Direct Relief. He noted PDRF's international recognition through participation in forums and benchmarking visits, including a notable visit from an Ecuadorian delegation in August 2024, which aimed to learn from PDRF's private sector engagement strategies.

Additionally, Meily reported on PDRF's presentation of DRR strategies to the Private Sector Advisory Council of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

PDRF Chief Resilience Officer Guillermo Luz emphasized the renewal of the PDRF EOC lease in Clark, Pampanga, with plans for facility upgrades.

This renewal underscores a strengthened partnership between PDRF, the Clark Development Corporation, and the Bases Conversion Development Authority, paving the way for more impactful disaster resilience programs.

Board members recognized these developments as part of PDRF's ongoing commitment to enhancing disaster resilience and fostering collaboration across various sectors. (**JCO/PIA-NCR**)

Local orgs, businesses, file complaint against La Union electric coop power rate hike

Quezon City, Philippines — San Juan Resort Restaurant Hotel Association, Inc. (SJRRHASS), and Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ)'s member organization Koalisyon Isalbar ti Pintas ti La Union (KIPLU), filed a complaint at the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), January 8, 2025, to seek the nullification of the almost a hundred percent power rate increase imposed by La Union Electric Company, Inc. (LUECO). From Php 3.5530 per kilowatt-hour (kwh), the power rate increased to Php 6.9255 per kwh as announced by LUECO through Public Advisory No. 2024-67. LUECO justified the generation rate hike due to ERC's failure to act on their Joint Motion for Adjustment of Electricity Fees with Masinloc Power Corporation, Ltd. (MPCL).

According to LUECO, this led to MPCL's suspension of power supply; and left it with "no other option but to undertake an Emergency Power Supply Agreement (EPSA)" with MPCL. LUECO admitted that the EPSA rate is higher than the present generation price.

"The continuous increase in power rates constantly burdens the people of La Union for years," Crisanto Palabay of KIPLU said. Palabay emphasized how the plight of the residents against fossil fuels are interconnected, as the current energy industry fails to effectively cater its people in terms of power generation, distribution, and even protection from negative health impacts from these dirty energy resources.

"LUECO and MPCL attempted to maneuver the public opinion with this anomalous track of power contracting. The issue

being raised by the consumers is the overwhelming rate hike at almost 100% through a manifestly onerous EPSA. EPSA circumvents relevant procurement laws as it avoids the competitive selection process (CSP). Without CSP, electric consumers are forced to accept LUECO's imposition hook, line, and sinker without the benefit of public scrutiny," PMCJ Luzon Coordinator Erwin Puhawan said.

The complainants seek to nullify the EPSA between LUECO and MPCL, asserting that PSAs should undergo CSP. In a dialogue last December 2024, among LUECO, SJRRHASS, KIPLU, and other consumers, it was revealed that MPCL is the sole bidder.

The complainants also seek the imposition of penalties for the non-conduct of CSP, and refund the overbillings. They hope that the ERC would take action on the complaint, as the Supreme Court recently reiterated that electricity generation is still subject to the commission's regulation.

According to recent data provided by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the Philippines has one of the highest electricity prices per kwh in Southeast Asia, second only to Singapore. According to the Department of Energy, coal-fired power plants provide 62 percent of power generation.

"Not only did fossil-fueled power generation cause power rate increases, as it also causes frequent power outages that disrupt consumers' lives and livelihood. This is only one of the many proofs that fossil fuels are unreliable, costly, and deadly," Puhawan stressed.

5M near-poor Pinoys natulungan ng AKAP ng DSWD nitong 2024

LUNGSOD NG QUEZON — Halos limang milyong “near-poor” na mga Pilipino ang natulungan ng Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Ayuda para sa Kapos ang Kita Program (AKAP) mula January hanggang December 2024.

“The AKAP program has demonstrated strong impact with Php26.157 billion in funds, or 99.31 percent utilization rate, from the total Php26.7 billion budget allocation for 2024,” sabi ni DSWD Assistant Secretary Irene Dumlaog. Ang AKAP funds ay naka-allocate sa halos lahat ng rehiyon sa bansa kung saan higit sa 99 percent ng fund obligations ay nagamit sa Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Davao Region (Region 11) and Caraga (Region 13).

Ang AKAP ay nagbibigay ng cash assistance na Php5,000 sa mga eligible beneficiaries ng programa na may kita ng mababa sa poverty threshold at nakakatanggap ng tulong mula sa gobyerno.

Kabilang sa mga tulong sa ilalim ng AKAP ay ang medical, funeral, food, at cash relief na ibinibigay ng direkta sa pamamagitan ng Crisis Intervention Units/Sections (CIU/S) ng DSWD sa Central at Field Offices maging sa Social Welfare and Development (SWAD) at Satellite Offices sa bansa.

Dahil na rin sa nilagdaang 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA), inaasahang nasa 5 million minimum wage earners at mga mahihirap na Pilipino ang makikinabang sa AKAP program ng DSWD.

Batay na rin sa direktiba ni Pangulong Marcos, ang DSWD, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) at National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) ay nakatakdang bumalangkang ng AKAP guidelines, bilang isa sa mga kondisyon ng Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

Tiniyak naman ni DSWD Secretary Rex Gatchalian na ang AKAP, bilang isa sa social protection programs ng ahensya ay hindi magagamit sa pulitika. Ito ay kasunod ng mga ulat na ang Php26 billion budget ng programa ay gagamitin umano para sa 2025 midterm elections.

“The DSWD will not be used by anybody for their political gains not next year, not ever,” paglilina ni Secretary Gatchalian.

Nilinaw din ng Kalihim na dumadaan sa masusing pagsisiyasat ng mga social workers ang mga kliyente na nagnanais na makakuha ng tulong pinansyal. May

referral man o wala mula sa mga mambabatas at local government unit (LGU) officials.

“Our social workers, and not politicians, determine the beneficiaries. DSWD social workers also process the AKAP applications and determine how much the qualified beneficiaries will get,” sabi pa ni Secretary Gatchalian.

Dagdag pa ni Secretary Gatchalian, kinakailangan aniya ang verification at assessment ng mga social workers upang maiwasan na ang pagkakaroon ng overlapping of assistance sa iba pang mga social protection programs ng ahensya.

Ayon pa kay Secretary Gatchalian, ang AKAP funds ay mula sa budget ng ahensya batay sa nakasaad sa General Appropriations Act na nilagdaan ni President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr nitong December 30.

“There is no GAA line item that entitles any congressional district or LGU to have an allocation in any amount and lodged this with the DSWD that could benefit their constituents. Referrals from legislators and local executives are entertained pursuant to existing DSWD guidelines,” paliwanag pa ni Secretary Gatchalian. **(DSWD)**

LUNGSOD NG BATANGAS — Nananatiling nakaalerto at handa ang Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) Calabarzon kasunod ng minor phreatomagmatic eruption ng Bulkang Taal noong Lunes ng gabi, Enero 6, 2025.

Sa mensahe ni RDRRMC Chairperson at Office of Civil Defense (OCD) IV-A Regional Director Carlos Eduardo Alvarez III, pinaalalahanan niya ang mga lokal na pamahalaan sa paligid ng Bulkang Taal na paigtingin ang kanilang kahandaan kaugnay ng patuloy na aktibidad ng bulkan.

Ayon kay Alvarez, dapat maging alerto ang mga komunidad sa paligid nito at isaayos ang mga kaukulang contingency plans bilang paghahanda na rin sa ibang panganib na dulot ng aktibidad ng Bulkang Taal.

Isang minor phreatomagmatic eruption ang naganap sa main crater ng Bulkang Taal bandang 7:34 ng gabi noong Enero 6, 2025. Nagdulot ito ng 600-metrong taas ng plume na may kasamang volcanic tremor na tumagal nang tatlong

Gawing inspirasyon ang buhay at kabayanihan ni Rizal sa pagsulong ng Bagong Pilipinas – PMA Supt.

BAGUIO CITY (PIA) — “Sa ating ipinagdiriwang na ika-128 ng pagkabayani ni Rizal nawa’y maging inspirasyon sa atin ang kanyang buhay at sakripisyo. Ang pagmamahal ni Rizal sa bayan ay paalala sa bawat isa sa atin ay may kakayahang bayani sa ating mga sariling paraan.” Ito ang mensahe ni Philippine Military Academy Superintendent Vice Admiral Caesar Bernard Valencia na siyang panauhing pandangal ng City Government of Baguio sa kanilang paggunita sa Rizal Day nitong Lunes (Dec. 30).

Binigyan din ni Valencia na sa kabila ng kadakilaan ang ating Pambansa Bayani, si Dr. Jose Rizal, ay isang ordinaryong tao tulad natin na nagtatagumpay sa kanyang mga pangarap sa pamamagitan ng tiyaga, malasakit at sakripisyo.

“Minsan iniisip natin ang pagiging bayani ay para lang sa mga taong may natatanging katangian o sikat na pangalan ngunit ipinakita ni Rizal na ang pagiging bayani ay para sa ating lahat. Sa simpleng mga hakbang na ginawa natin araw-araw

sa pagtulong sa kapwa, sa pagiging tapat sa ating trabaho at sa pagpapakita ng malasakit sa ating Komyunidad, maaari nating mataglay ang diwa ni Rizal,” paliwanag ni Valencia.

Para sa mga kabataan naman, hinikayat sila ni Valencia na tularan si Rizal sa pagpapahalaga sa edukasyon at kaalaman para kabutihan ng bansa at mga kawa Pilipino.

“Sa pamamagitan ng edukasyon mai-a-angat natin ang ating bansa at maipapasa ang pagmamahal sa bayan sa mga susunod na henerasyon. Tulad ng kanyang sinabi na ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan. Kaya’t sa mga kabataang narito ngayon hinihikayat ko kayo na pahalagahan ang inyong pag-aaral at maging mga tagapagtanggol ng kaalaman at katotohanan,” aniya.

Sa paggunita ng ika – 128 taon ng kabayanihan ni Rizal, pinangunahan nila Mayor Benjamin Magalong, Vice Mayor Faustino Olowan at Congressman Marquez Go na kinatawan ng kanyang maybahay na si Soledad Go ang

at nakahanda ang kanilang ahensya para sa anumang health-related incidents kaugnay ng aktibidad ng Bulkang Taal.

Nakahanda rin ang Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) IV-A na mag-deploy ng mga interconnectivity support at communications box kung kinakailangan.

Sa sektor ng edukasyon, ipinaalala ng Department of Education (DepEd) ang DepEd Order No. 22 na naglalaman ng direktiba ukol sa pagkakansela ng klase at trabaho sa mga paaralan sa panahon ng kalamidad at emergencies. Ayon dito, nasa desisyon ng mga local chief executives, sa pakikipag-ugnayan sa kanilang Schools Division Supervisors, ang pagsususpende ng face-to-face classes.

Samantala, ipinahayag ng Batangas Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (PDRRMO) na may anim na mobile kitchen ang lalawigan, pati na rin isang mobile clinic na maaaring gamitin sakaling magkaroon ng kalamidad. **(BPDC, PIA BATANGAS)**

CDO, meron din Traslacion tulad sa Maynila

QUEZON, (PIA) — Alam mo ba na ipinagdiriwang din ang Traslacion sa Cagayan de Oro nang tulad sa Maynila ngayong Enero?

Sa ginanap na Impormasyon at Aksyon sa Bagong Pilipinas radio program nitong Lunes, ika-6 ng Enero, sinabi ni Shaun Alejandrae Y. Uy, Information Officer ng Philippine Information Agency Cagayan de Oro na nagsimula ang pagdiriwang ng Traslacion sa Cagayan de Oro, na nagtatampok sa debosyon sa Hesus Nazareno, kasunod ng pagdating ng replica ng Black Nazarene mula sa Quiapo noong 2009.

Ang naturang replica, ayon kay Uy, na orihinal na hiniram mula sa Basilica Minore sa Quiapo para sa malaking selebrasyon, ay naging permanenteng bahagi ng Hesus Nazareno Parish sa lungsod.

Nag-request daw si Senior Raymond Santos, ang kanilang parish priest,

pag-aalay ng bulaklak at simplemng programa sa Bantayog ni Jose Rizal sa may Burnham Park.

Samantala, sa kanilang mga mensahe, binigyan din din Magalong at Go ang kahalagahan na gunitain at magsilbing inspirasyon ang buhay at kadakilaan ni Rizal, sa pagsusulong ng maunlad at bagong Pilipinas.

“Sa araw – araw ng ating pamumuhay at sa ating bawat pagkilos nawa’y laging manaig ang malasakit sa kapwa, ang pagpursige par sa kabutihan, katarungan at katotohanan. Huwag nating sayangin ang sakripisyon iniukit ni Rizal sa kasaysayan, bagkus gawin natin siyang huwaran at gabay tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas na inaasam natin para sa ating mga anak, para sa ating mga susunod pang mga henerasyon,” sabi ni Magalong.

“Habang ginugunita natin si Rizal ngayon, huwag nating kalimutan ang kanyang mga sakripisyo at hangarin para sa bayan. Sa halip, ito dapat ang ating dahilan upang mas lumagablab ang ating pagiging makabayan. Yakapin natin ang kanyang hamon na hindi lamang mahalin anf Pilipinas kundi paglingkuran ito nang may malinaw na bisyon at determinasyon,” ayon kay Go. **(CCD/PIA CAR)**

na dalhin ang replica sa kanilang simbahan matapos ang isang panaginip.

Mula noon, naging sentro ang replica ng debosyon sa mga deboto sa Cagayan de Oro.

Pagkakaiba at pagkakatulad ng Traslacion sa Manila at CDO Ikinwento ni Uy na matapos ang pagdating ng replica noong Enero 5, 2009, ito ay agad na dinala sa Cagayan de Oro Metropolitan Cathedral bago ang pagtungo nito sa Shrine of the Black Nazarene.

Aniya, bagamat may pagkakapareho sa ruta ng Traslacion sa Intramuros patungo sa Basilica Minore, ang distansya sa Cagayan de Oro ay humigit-kumulang 2.5 kilometro lamang.

Ayon sa mga larawan mula sa City Information Office, pinanatili ang kaayusan ng prusisyon na may mahigpit na seguridad.

Pagbabago sa nakaraang Pista ng Nazareno Ani Uy, noong 2023, ang Cagayan de Oro ang tanging lungsod na nagdaos ng Traslacion. Sa kabila ng mahigpit na implementasyon ng mga health at safety protocols matapos ang pandemya, tinatayang 110,000 deboto ang dumalo sa okasyon.

Sa taong ito, ayon kay Uy, na sa tantiya ng pamunuan ng kanilang simbahan ay inaasahang 18,000 deboto lamang ang makikisalo, dahil sa mga pag-aalinlangan ng ilan na pumunta, lalo na’t ang Traslacion ay magaganap sa isang weekday at hindi ito idineklarang holiday.

Iba pang aktibidad sa CDO Matapos ang Traslacion, ang mga residente at bisita ay inaanyayahan ding makisaya sa Kuyamis Festival sa kalapit na Misamis Oriental, na magsisimula sa Enero 13.

Ang Kuyamis ay isang pagdiriwang na nagtatampok sa bunga ng niyog.

Pagsunod sa health protocols Pinayuhan naman ng opisyal ang mga dadalo ng Traslacion na sumunod sa mga health protocols upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng lahat.

Ang prusisyon ay tumatagal ng 30 minuto hanggang isang oras, kaya’t kinakailangan ang pag-iingat at pagsunod sa mga ipagbabawal ng lokal na pamahalaan. **(JCO/PIA-NAR)**

Legarda welcomes Fourth Installation of IFI Antique Bishop Estrella

In a heartfelt address at the Fourth Installation of Reverend Father Leon T. Estrella as the new Bishop of Antique, Senator Loren Legarda reaffirmed her deep connection to her hometown and the Iglesia Filipina Independiente (IFI). Speaking at the historic St. Jude Cathedral in Sibalom, the Senator expressed her support for the church's mission to promote faith, unity, and social justice.

"As a daughter of Antique, I am deeply humbled by the grace of this moment. Today, I join you in this divine invitation as a renewal of our shared mission to serve, uplift, and unite," said Legarda during her speech.

Legarda, a proud daughter of the province, highlighted her family's deep historical ties to the IFI and their contributions to its growth and development. As a member of the esteemed Gella clan, she underscored the legacy of service and leadership passed down through generations.

The four-term Senator paid tribute to her ancestors, Pedro and Baltazara Gella, whose contributions to the province remain etched in its history. Pedro Gella, who served as the municipal president of Sibalom during a critical transitional period in the country's history, was a significant figure in Antique's governance.

She also paid homage to Ariston Gella, a delegate of the 1898 Malolos Congress, who advocated for sovereignty and justice during the pivotal periods in Philippine history. She also recognized Vicente Gella, the founder of Colegio de San Vicente Ferrer in San Jose, Antique, for his efforts in awakening the minds and spirits of prominent Antiqueños through education.

"Today, their resolve continues to echo, inspiring both me and my brother, Congressman AA Legarda, to uphold the transformative power of education, good governance, and faith to improve the lives of our beloved kasimanwa," remarked Legarda.

Legarda also highlighted her advocacy for peace and social reform,

recounting her work with the late Bishop Maximo Tomas Millamena. She underscored the role of faith leaders in addressing societal challenges, particularly in promoting peace, justice, and community well-being.

"Bishop Millamena and I have walked paths of peace, courage, and faith —advocating for social reforms, education campaigns, and policies that sought to uplift our communities. Together, we answered the call for peace negotiations," as she recalled talking with insurgents for the release of captives.

"Our work, at its heart, is about building communities, especially right here at home—to serve the least, the last, and the lost. These acts of service were more than just gestures of kindness; they were expressions of faith, anchored in the truth that every life holds immeasurable worth and potential," she continued.

As Bishop Estrella embarks on his new mission, Senator Legarda pledged her continued commitment to serving the people of Antique. Together with her brother, Congressman AA Legarda, she vowed to support initiatives that address poverty, hunger, and inequality in the province.

"Bishop Estrella, as you take on this sacred mission, know that you do not walk this path alone. My brother, Congressman AA Legarda, and I, along with the rest of Antiqueños, stand with you. Together, we continue the work for Antique, with faith guiding our way. We will fight hunger, alleviate poverty, and build a future where all our kasimanwa have equal opportunities to grow, thrive, and succeed," Legarda concluded.

The installation ceremony, held at St. Jude Cathedral on January 6, drew parishioners, local officials, and community leaders. Bishop Estrella's appointment marks a new chapter for the IFI in Antique, continuing the church's long-standing advocacy for social justice and inclusivity.

DENR promotes proper segregation to effectively collect, dispose solid waste in communities

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – As the proper solid waste management remains a major challenge in the country, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) has urged the public to practice proper waste segregation at home.

Through this initiative, a greater impact on the environment, public health, and limited capacity of sanitary landfills and dumpsites will be addressed, as it is seen as a key measure to reduce pressure on landfills and alleviate the environmental burden of waste accumulation.

Nilo Tamoria, Regional Executive Director of DENR Calabarzon, emphasized during the Kapihan sa DENR Calabarzon program by the Philippine Information Agency, that the mandate for landfills lies under the jurisdiction of local government units (LGUs), and given the rising challenges brought by limited availability of sanitary landfills and dumpsites, DENR is conducting further studies on waste-to-energy solutions.

"Since the mandate for landfills lies with the local government, more than 50% of the local governments in Quezon province have them. However, due to the limited space, especially in highly populated area, there is continuous research on waste-to-energy and other methods on how we can manage all of this. Because when the population grows, the waste also increases," Tamoria said.

Based on the data presented by Forester Corazon Gasapos, chief of the DENR-EMB Solid Waste Management Section, the Calabarzon region generates approximately 8,000 tons of waste per day.

While this may seem few, given that 40 of them are LGU-owned and 10 are privately owned, that also accommodate waste from Metro Manila, the proper waste segregation by the public could make this number sufficient, Gasapos believes.

"When we look at the

capacity of the 50 sanitary landfills, they can accommodate around 7,300 tons of waste per day. At first, we might say that this is insufficient but we are talking about mixed waste. The 7,300 includes all types of waste and given the large volume, half of it is biodegradable, while 35% is recyclable. Our long term goal is to really educate our fellow

citizens to practice waste segregation at source," the environment official explained.

Although the strict implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 falls under the responsibility of LGUs, public cooperation plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of waste management, the Environment Department

Comelec identifies 403 'areas of concern' for May 2025 polls

MANILA – The Commission on Election (Comelec) on Thursday announced that 403 areas nationwide have been identified as areas of concern for the May mid-term elections.

In a press conference at Camp Crame, the Comelec said 38 areas were placed under the red category (areas with serious armed threats and history of election-related incidents), 177 under orange category (areas with serious armed threats), and 188 under yellow category (areas with a history of election-related incidents).

Meanwhile, 1,239 areas were placed under the green category (areas with no election-related security concerns).

According to Comelec data, 32 of the areas under red category are in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) while there are two each in Cagayan Valley and the Bicol Region.

Under the orange category, 48 areas are in the Bicol Region, 22 in BARMM, 17 in Caraga, 16 in Central Visayas, 15 in Cagayan Valley, 13 in Eastern Visayas, 12 in Mimaropa, 11 in Soccsksargen, nine in Western Visayas, eight in Northern Mindanao, three in Zamboanga Peninsula, and one each in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Most areas under yellow category are in BARMM at 49, followed by Northern Mindanao (22), Ilocos (19), Zamboanga Peninsula (18), Central Luzon and Eastern Visayas (13 each), Caraga (11), CAR (10), Cagayan Valley (nine), Calabarzon, Western Visayas, and Central Visayas (seven each), Soccsksargen (two), and Mimaropa (one).

While there are 38 cities and municipalities under red category, Comelec Chairman George Erwin Garcia said they are hoping the security

situation in these areas would finally be properly addressed in order to do away with Comelec intervention.

He then urged local politicians and candidates to cooperate with the security measures in order to ensure peaceful and orderly conduct of elections.

"Siyempre yung mga nasa kulay pula kalimitan yan yung mga possible candidates sa tinatawag na areas of Comelec control. Sana wala lalo na sa mga pulitiko, incumbent man sila or hindi incumbent, basta pulitiko or kandidato, sana huwag niyo isipin na malagay ang inyong lugar sa under Comelec control sapagkat hindi niyo gugustuhin yun. It will make the lives of our people there in the area at least a little difficult at ayaw natin ng ganun (Those areas under red category are likely to end up under Comelec control. I hope the politicians, whether incumbent or otherwise, including the candidates, would do something to avoid this because it will make the lives our people in the area a little difficult, and we don't like that)," said Garcia.

Garcia said the declaration of areas of concern is being made to guide the poll body, along with the security forces, in ironing out their preparations and security deployment before, during and after the elections.

Garcia, however, said they are also keeping an eye on the areas under green category since there is no 100-percent assurance that the elections would be peaceful in those places.

"Green means there is no threat of any election-related violence but we are also on guard since there are some cases that those under green suddenly become red as the election day nears," the poll chief said.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) reported 120 possible election-related incidents (ERI) in 2024, but Garcia said only 12 of them have so far

stressed.

Meanwhile, to support LGUs in the said implementation of a more stringent ordinances related to solid waste management programs, Gasapos reiterated that the DENR is committed to providing technical assistance to ensure the effective enforcement of solid waste management across the region. **(CO/PIA4A)**

been confirmed to be related to the upcoming polls. He said investigation is still ongoing regarding the other cases reported by the PNP.

"Maybe we could also come up with the proper definition (of election-related incidents) so that even the members of the media would be guided. For instance, if a barangay captain was held up or the house of a mayor was robbed, could they be classified as ERI?" Garcia said.

For his part, PNP chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil said they have consistently intensified the operations and other campaigns to ensure the peaceful conduct of elections, particularly in running after private armed groups and loose firearms.

Marbil also said the PNP will further beef up its cybersecurity efforts to make the coming polls more secure. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, on the other hand, is looking at the possibility of conducting intelligence operations to determine the background of candidates running for the midterm elections, according to its chief of staff, Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr.

The press briefing was held following the activation of the PNP's National Election Monitoring Action Center, which would allow real-time monitoring of polling centers across the country.

Under Resolution No. 10999, the Comelec en banc set the election period from January 12 to June 11, 2025.

During this period, a gun ban will be imposed nationwide except for security forces and other individuals declared as exempted, among them prosecutors and judges.

The 90-day campaign period for senators and party-list representatives will start from February 11 until May 10. Local candidates will be allowed to campaign from March 28 to May 10. **(with Priam F. Nepomuceno, PNA)**

LEGARDA: BAWASAN ANG PAGGAMIT NG SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Sa pag-observe ng National Zero Waste Month, muling nanawagan si Senador Loren Legarda sa mga Pilipino na tangkilikin ang mga materyales na puwede pa muling magamit, pati na ang mas pagiging responsible sa pagtatapon ng basura.

Ayon kay Legarda, na nagtataguyod ng climate justice, mahalagang umpisahan na ang aktibidad na ito upang maiwasan ang permanenteng pagkasira sa kalikasan.

"Laging nababansagan ang Pilipinas bilang isa sa pinakamalaking ocean polluters sa mundo, dahil sa ating paggamit ng single-use plastics," ani Legarda.

"Dapat nating wakasan ang paggamit nito, at maging malikhain upang makagawa ng mga pangmatagalang gamit," dagdag niya.

Inoobserba ang National Zero Waste Month kada Enero sa bisa ng Proclamation No. 760, s. 2014, na pinirmahan ni dating Pangulong Benigno S. Aquino III.

Lahat ng ahensiya ng pamahalaan ay hinihikayat na suportahan ito at makilahok sa mga aktibidad ukol dito.

"Nawa ay manguna ang ating pamahalaan sa pagbibigay ng mga makabagong paraan para sa mga pang-araw-araw na kagamitan," wika ng senadora.

"Dito natin makakamit ang

Buko vendor, nagpanggap na HPG

NAKA hospital arrest ang buko vendor na nagpanggap na miyembro ng Highway Patrol Group (HPG) at umano'y nangongotong sa mga motorista matapos nabaril sa pakikipambuno sa awtoridad sa Gen. Trias City, Cavite.

Ginamot sa ospital ang suspek na si alyas Lawrence, binata, ng Phase 1 Parklane Subd., Brgy San Francico, Gen Trias City, dahil sa tama ng bala sa kanyang katawan mula sa service firearm ni Police Chief Master Sergeant Elan Demate, 45, ng PHPT-Cavite Camp Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City. Sa ulat, nabatid na ang



pangarap nating maging circular economy sa pagdating ng taong 2030." Kabilang sa mga pinakamahalagang batas ukol sa kalikasan ay ipinasa ni Legarda — ang Republic Act 9003, o ang Ecological Solid Waste Management Act. Ipinagbabawal ng batas ang pagsusunog ng basura at nagtakda ito ng mga mas mabisa at environment-friendly na mga paraan ng pagtatapon ng basura, kabilang ang pagse-segregate, pati sa pagtatakda ng mga programang katulad nito sa local na pamahalaan.

suspek ay nasa surveillance ng HPG dahil sa umano'y papanggap nito na miyembro ng HPG at pagsusuot ng uniporme para umano'y makapangotong sa mga dumaraan na motorista. Naaktuhan siya na naka-uniporme ng HPG at naka-jacket ng NBI sa Phase Parklane Subd., Brgy San Franciasaco, Gen Trias City, bandang alas-10:30 ng gabi. Pagkasita ay pumalag ang suspek at umano'y sinuntok sa mukha si Demante at humantong sa pambubuno sa baril nito na nauwi sa pagkakabaril sa kanyang dibdib. **(Gene Adsuara)**

HANEP

Basahin Mo Ito!

Ikatlong pinakamataas na posisyon sa PNP, naitalaga

NAITALAGA ang ikatlong pinakamataas na posisyon o third highest post sa Philippine National Police kamakailan.

Ang naitalagang acting Deputy Chief for Operations ng PNP ay si Maj. Gen. Robert Rodriguez na dating hepe ng Area Police Command Visayas.

Ito ay matapos maabot ang mandatory retirement age na 56 noong Disyembre 20, 2024 ni dating PNP Deputy Chief for Operations Lt. Gen. Michael John Dubria.

Nagsagawa rin ng balasahan sa hanay ng iba pang matataas na opisyal si PNP chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil.

Si Brigadier General Jericho Baldeo ay naitalaga

bilang officer-in-charge ng Directorate for Information and Communications Technology Management.

OIC naman si B/Gen Christopher Abrahanog ng Police Regional Office-Caraga; habang OIC ng Aviation Security Group si B/Gen. Christopher Abecia.

Dalawa pang heneral, si B/Gen Roy Parena ay iniupo na acting Deputy Director for Police Community Relations; at si B/Gen. Dionisio Bartolome Jr. bilang deputy Director for Administration ng PRO-Central Visayas.

Si Col. Mariano Rodriguez naman ay naitalaga bilang Deputy Director for Administration ng PRO-Davao. **RUBEN LACSA**

Retiradong parak 'swak' sa kaso

SINAMPOLAN ng retiradong pulis matapos arestuhin dahil sa paglabag sa batas trapiko at kawalan ng plaka ng kanyang sasakyan na umano'y nanutok pa ng baril sa traffic enforcer saka tumakas sa Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kasong paglabag sa Threat, Direct Assault at Art. 151 ng Revised Penal Code and R.A. 10591 ang kinaharap ng suspek na si alyas Regino, 62, ng 44 Tallacen, Luna, La Union.

Ayon sa nagreklamong si Marvin Salas y Era, 30, miyembro ng Bacoor Traffic Management Division, pinara niya ang sasakyan ng suspek sa kahabaan ng Molino Boulevard dahil sa paglabag

sa obstruction, disregarding traffic sign at walang plaka ang behikulo pero imbes na tumalima ay itinutok ang baril saka tumakas sa direksiyon ng Maynila.

Humingi ng assistant ang biktima kung saan nahuli ang suspek sa Molino Boulevard, Brgy Niog, Bacoor City, bandang alas-1:45 ng hapon subalit muling pinalagan ang arresting officer dahilang upang posasan.

Nakuha sa suspek ang isang kalibre 45 pistol (Rock island,) dalawang magazine at limang bala.

Nasa kustodiya ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang nasabing retiradong police officer. **(Gene Adsuara)**

'Siga-sigaan' direktso sa kulungan

DIRETSO sa kulungan ang lalaki na umastang siga habang may sukbit na baril sa tagilirin matapos damputin sa Bacoor City, Cavite.

Nasa kustodiya ng Bacoor Component City Police Station ang suspek na si alyas Roberto at naharap sa kasong paglabag sa RA 10591 (Comprehensive Law on Firearms and Ammunitions.) Ayon sa biktima na si Analiza, napansin niya ang suspek na palinga-linga at naglakad sa kahabaan ng Sitio Aroma, Brgy. Zapote 3, Bacoor City, habang may nakasukbit na baril sa tagilirin.

Tinangka ng suspek na lumapit sa biktima na agad tumakbo at huimngi sa saklolo sa kanyang tiyahin kung saan ipinagbigay alam sa pulisya na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa una at narekober ang nasabing baril.

Walang naipakitang dokumento ang suspek sa hawak nitong baril. **(Gene Adsuara)**

KALIBRE

ROMY SANTOS
0977-7844136



Aso't pusa

ASO na biglang sumulpot papatawid ng lansangang dinaraan ng iba't ibang uri ng sasakyan.

Sa hindi inaasahang pangyayari ay nasagasaan ang aso ng paparating na traysikel. Bumaligtad ang traysikel dahilang pagkakasugat ng ilang indibidwal.

Pusa nakatali o itinali sa umaandar din na traysikel na sa una ay 'patay-malisyas' pa ang tsuper.

Walang habag sa pusa na nakakaladkad habang tumatakbo ang traysikel.

Aso't pusa na kabilang sa mga hayop na paboritong inaalagaan sa tahanan.

Sabi nga ng iba ay mas mainam pa raw na maging malapit ang kalooban sa mga ganitong hayop kumpara sa kapwa tao.

Mayroon silang kanya-kanyang paliwanag o dahilang kung bakit mas nais pa nilang kupkupin o pakisamahang ang aso o pusa.

Aso't pusa, ganito naman kinukumpara o tinatawag ang dalawang tao na magkaaway o hindi magkasundo.

Iyon bang tiyo na away-bati na minsan ay okey naman subalit bigla ay magbabangayan.

Ang aso at pusa kapag madalas pinagsama

katagalan ay nagiging close na rin sa isa't isa.

Hindi man sa kulungan bagkus kahit sa bakuran lamang na pinagsasama ang aso at pusa ay unti-unting natitigil na ang kanilang pag-aaway.

Ganyan sila na hindi kagaya sa tao na magkasama nga at halos iisa ang ginagalawan subalit mas madalas ang pagiging animo'y aso't pusa.

Sa madaling salita para hindi mahalata ang tila istilong aso't pusa ay kanya-kanyang plastikan na lamang.

Bakit kaya hindi gayahin na lamang ang aso at pusa na natitigil ang pag-aangilan o pagbubulyawan kapag pinagsama na.

Hindi nga naman pwedeng ipagkumpara dahil sila ay mga hayop na napakalayo ng diprensiya o pagkakaiba sa tao.

Kung hindi man sa puntong paghahambing ay bakit sa mga tao ay hindi magawa ang pagiging aso't pusa.

Sabi nga na tayo ay tao na kung tutuusin ay mayroong sapat na pag-iisip subalit tila natatalo pa ng mga hayop sa pagkakawala sa aso't pusa na kataga.

(L-R) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) IV-A Regional Executive Director Nilo Tamoria, Environmental Management Bureau IV-A Regional Ecological Solid Waste Management Coordinator and Chief of the ESWM Section, Forester Corazon Gasapos, and Mines and Geosciences Bureau IV-A Regional Director Edgardo Castillo during the Kapihan sa DENR Calabarzon. (AM/PIA-4A)- story p.11

