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# MILYONG DEBOTO, INAASAHAN SA NAZARENO 2026

## TRASLACION: 'HIJOS-PULIS' HANDA SA SEGURIDAD

*pahina*  
**2**



**PORMAL** ng pinaliliwanag ni Alex Irasga Irasga Technical Adviser Quaipo Chuch, ang mga saradong kalye at rutang daraanan ng Andas kung saan ay wala namang nabago sa mga nakaraang mga taon. Binanggit din dito na inaasahan na tatagal ng humigit-kumulang 15 oras ang Traslacion, ayon sa iskedyul ng nakaraang taon na kaganapan. Kasama sa larawan sa ginanap na Nazareno 2026 press briefing sa 5th flr. Pope Benedict Bldg., Evangelista St., Quiapo, Manila (beside Quiapo Church) sina Rev. Fr. Robert Arellano LRMS Parochial Vicar, PLT. Col. Manila Police District June Abrazado, at PMajor Manila Police District PIO Phipp Ines. **(REY NILLAMA)**



**PINAHAYAG** ni Rev. Fr. Robert Arellano LRMS Parochial Vicar na sundin ang mga nararapat gawin sa pagdaraos ng Nazareno 2026 Traslacion kaugnay ng ginanap na press briefing sa 5th flr. Pope Benedict Bldg., Evangelista St., Quiapo, Manila (beside Quiapo Church) kasama sa larawan sina PLT. Col. June Abrazado, Assistant Chief, District Operations Division, Manila Police District (MPD).at PMaj. Philipp Ines, tagapagsalita ng MPD. **(REY NILLAMA)**

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - CALABARZON

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## MILYONG DEBOTO, INAASAHAN SA NAZARENO 2026 TRASLACION: 'HIJOS-PULIS' HANDA SA SEGURIDAD

Natapos na ng Simbahan ng Quiapo at ng Philippine National Police (PNP) ang mga paghahanda sa seguridad at lohística para sa selebrasyon ng Nazareno ngayong 2026, kung saan nagpakilala sila ng isang espesyal na yunit ng "hijos-pulis" upang pamahalaan ang milyun-milyong debotong inaasahang dadalo sa taunang Traslacion.

Sa isang press briefing, kinumpirma ng mga opisyal mula sa Minor Basilica at National Shrine of Jesus Nazareno na daan-daang pulis na mismong mga deboto ay isasama sa balangkas ng seguridad.

Ang mga opisyal na ito, na tinaguriang "hijos-pulis," ay hindi magsusuot ng tradisyonal na uniporme ng pulis. Sa halip, magsusuot sila ng espesyal na idinisenyong kasuotan na may larawan ng Ilim na Nazareno upang itaguyod ang damdaming pagkakaisa sa mga kalahok.

"Ang layunin ay maramdaman ng mga tao ang presensya ng pulisya para sa seguridad at kapayapaan nang hindi nag-iwan ng impresyon ng militarisasyon sa pagdiriwang," sabi ni PLt. Col. June Abrazado, Assistant Chief para sa District Operations Division ng Manila Police District (MPD).

Naghahanda ang mga awtoridad para sa napakalaking dadalo, kung saan tinatayang maaaring lumahok ang hanggang 8.1 milyong deboto sa 5.8-kilometrong prusisyon mula sa Quirino Grandstand hanggang sa Quiapo Church.

Upang pamahalaan ang madla, magpapadala ang PNP ng humigit-kumulang 14,000 na tauhan, kasama ang mga karagdagang pwersa mula sa mga kalapit na rehiyon.

Ang "hijos-pulis" ay magsisilbing tulay sa pagitan ng mga tradisyonal na tagapag-ayos ng simbahan, ang Hijos del Nazareno, at ng mga yunit ng pagpapatupad ng batas.

Kabilang sa kanilang tungkulin ang pagtulong

sa paggalaw ng andas (kariton) at pagpigil sa mga menor de edad o mga mahihinang indibidwal na pumasok sa mga lugar na mataas ang panganib malapit sa mga lubid, kung saan madalas mangyari ang mga pinsala.

Naglabas ang Manila Police District ng mahigpit na listahan ng mga ipinagbabawal na bagay upang matiyak ang kaligtasan ng publiko. Mahigpit na kokolektahin ng pulisya ang mga payong at basong bote ng tubig upang maiwasan ang sagabal at posibleng pinsala sa masiksikang tao.

Bukod pa rito, ipinagbawal ng mga awtoridad ang mga matatalim na bagay, baril, at pirotekniks, dahil sa mataas na panganib ng aksidente sa panahon ng 5.8-kilometrong martsa.

Upang mapanatili ang kakayahang makita at seguridad, ipinatutupad din ng mga opisyal ang Anti-Balacava Ordinance ng Maynila, na nagbabawal sa pagsusuot ng mga sumbrero at hooded jacket na nagtatakip ng mukha.

Higit pa rito, pagbabawalan ang mga nagtitinda sa kalye na magtayo ng mga panindahan sa loob ng itinalagang mga kontroladong lugar upang panatilihin malinis ang ruta ng prusisyon para sa parehong mga deboto at mga rumespondeng pang-emergency.

"Kami ay magiging mahigpit ngunit may puso," sabi ni PMaj. Philipp Ines, tagapagsalita ng MPD, na binanggit na habang ipatutupad ang mga ordinansa, ang mga opisyal ay sinanay upang pangasiwaan ang emosyonal at espirituwal na tindi ng kaganapan nang may pasensya.

Inaasahan na tatagal ng humigit-kumulang 15 oras ang Traslacion, ayon sa iskedyul ng nakaraang taon na kaganapan.

Angpagpasok sa Simbahan ng Quiapo tuwing pista ay mahigpit na gagabayan sa pamamagitan ng itinalagang mga ruta sa kahabaan ng Quezon Boulevard, Carriedo, at kalye Villalobos.

## Presidente ng TODA, hinuli ng babaing 'lespu

**HINDI** nakaporma ang presidente ng Tricycle Operators and Drivers Association (TODA) matapos hulihin ng isang babaing pulis kamakailan sa Dasmariñas City, Cavite. Ang suspek ay nakilalang si alyas Jerry, na residente ng Dasmariñas City.

Bago ang pagkakaaresto ay dumating ang suspek sa terminal ng tricycle sa Barangay San Nicolas 2, Dasmariñas City nitong Disyembre 30, 2025.

Galit umano ang suspek at pinagsisigawan ang mga miyembro ng TODA.

Isang biktima ang sumagot at habang nasa pagkokomprontahan ay

biglang bumunot ng baril ang suspek.

Nagawa naman itong mapigilan ng biktima at nakuha sa sispek ang baril ng suspek.

Nabatid na nataong may isang policewoman mula sa Dasmariñas Component City Police Station malapit sa nasabing lugar kaya ipinagbigay alam ang pangyayari.

Mabilis naman ang naging tugon ng babaing pulis na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa suspek at makuha ang isang Cal. 30 Revolver na walang serial number na may apat na live ammunitions.

## Wanted, timbog sa sanib pwersang operasyon ng pulisya

**TIMBOG** sa magkasanib na puwersa na ikinasang operasyon ng Imus Component City Police Station at ng CIDG Manila DFU at PNP AVSEU – NCR ang isang Rank 8 Regional Level Most Wanted Person kamakailan sa Pasay City. Kinilala ni PLtCol Chey Chey I. Saulog, hepe ng Imus CCPS, ang akusado na si alyas Juvy, residente ng Imus City, at naaresto sa NAIAT Terminal 3, Pasay City nitong Disyembre 30,

2025.

Ang pagkakaaresto ay sa bisa ng warrant of arrest para sa kasong Kidnapping and Failure to Return a Minor (RPC Art. 270) in relation to R.A. 8369 (Family Court Act of 1997) na inilabas noong December 22, 2025 ng Presiding Judge ng Fourth Judicial Region, Family Court Branch 4, Imus, Cavite na walang pyansang inirekomenda.

## Kelot 'dinampot sa pananakot at sa baril

**DAHIL** sa mabilis na aksiyon ng kapulisan ay arestado ang isang lalaki bunsod ng umano'y pananakot at may kaugnayan pa sa baril kamakailan sa Magallanes, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PMaj Raymond T. Balbuena, hepe ng Magallanes Municipal Police Station, ang biktima na si Rommel, habang ang suspek ay nakilala sa alyas Khel, kapwa residente ng nasabing bayan.

Batay sa ulat, ang insidente ay naganap sa Barangay Medina, Magallanes dakong alas-6:30 ng umaga nitong Disyembre 31, 2025. Nabatid na dakong alas-12:15 ng tanghali ay tumawag ang biktima sa himpilan ng pulisya at iniulat ang umano'y insidente ng gun-toting sa naturang barangay.

Maagap namang tumugon

ang pulisya at nagpadala ng mga operatiba dakong alas-12:20 ng tanghali para sa beripikasyon ng nasabing tawag.

Pagdating sa naturang lugar ay positibong kinilala ng biktima ang suspek.

Dakong alas-12:30 ng tanghali ay naisagawa ng mga rumespondeng pulis ang pag-aresto sa suspek. Sa pagkakaaresto ay narekober mula sa pag-iingat ng suspek ang isang Smith & Wesson caliber .38 revolver, walang serial number, na may markang "NA" sa cylinder, barrel, at frame, na kargado ng dalawang (2) live ammunition na may markang NA1 at NA2.

Mga kasong Grave Threat at paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10591 (Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act) ang kinaharap ng suspek.

## 5 katao, 1 pulis; sugatan sa pananaga

**LIMA** katao at isang rumespondeng pulis ang sugatan sa naganap na pananaga kamakailan sa Silang, Cavite.

Ang suspek na si alyas Ronnie, residente ng Silang, na responsable sa pananaga ay naaresto naman dakong alas-6:30 ng umaga nitong Disyembre 28, 2025.

Batay sa ulat, apat sa mga biktima na kinilala sa mga alyas na Aileen, Angelica, Raymond at Amalia ay papunta sa Basketball Court ng Barangay Ulat, Silang upang tumanggap ng tulong mula sa pamahalaan o ang tinatawag na ayuda.

Biglang sumulpot ang suspek na noon ay nagtatago sa ilalim ng tulay at agad inatake ang apat na biktima.

Sa hindi malamang dahilan ay isinagawa ang pananaga na nagresulta sa mga sugat sa iba't ibang bahagi ng mga katawan ng apat.

Pagkatapos ay nagpunta naman ang suspek sa bahay ng isa pang biktima na kinilalang si alyas Richard na pinagtataga rin dahilan ng pagkakasugat sa kanan at kaliwang kamay.

Isinugod ng mga kaanak ng mga biktima, sa tulong ng ambulansya ng Barangay Ulat, ang mga sugatan sa

iba't ibang ospital upang mabigyan ng karampatang lunas medikal.

Sa pangyayari ay mabilis na nagsagawa ng follow-up operation ang Silang Municipal Police Station.

Gayunman, sa halip na sumuko ay nanlaban ang suspek at naghagis pa ng bato sa mga rumespondeng pulis katuwang ang barangay tanod.

Dahil sa kagustuhang makaalpas ay nadagdagan pa ang biktima matapos na isa sa mga rumespondeng pulis ang tinaga ng suspek. Tinangka pa ng suspek na tagain din ang isang pulis kaya nagpasya na magpapatok na ng baril upang i-neutralize ang agarang banta at maiwasan ang karagdagang pinsala sa hanay ng mga rumespondeng alagad ng batas.

Nabatid na nagtamo ng tama ng bala ang suspek sa kanang braso at kaliwang binti.

Isinugod ang suspek ng Silang Rescue sa Tagaytay Medical Center at kalaunan ay inilipat sa General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital sa Trece Martires City, Cavite, para sa karagdagang gamutan.

Kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Silang PNP ang suspek.

## Isnatsar 'naperder

**DAHIL** sa maagap na

## MWP 'nadakma sa Tanza

**ISANG** Most Wanted Person (MWP) ang naaresto matapos ang isinagawang anti-criminality operation ng mga tauhan ng Cavite Component City Police Station kamakailan sa Tanza, Cavite.

Naaresto ng warrant personnel ng Cavite CCPS ang akusadong si alyas Jann, residente ng Dasmariñas, dakong alas-7:00 ng gabi nitong Disyembre 27, 2025 sa Tanza.

Ikinonsiderang wanted si Jann kaugnay ng kasong paglabag sa Section 10(A), Article VI ng Republic Act 7610.

Inisyu ang warrant of arrest ng Presiding Judge ng Family Court, Fifth Judicial Region, Branch 12, Sorsogon na may petsang Disyembre 17, 2025 na may kaukulang P80,000.00

pagtugon ng kapulisan ay himas-rehas ang isang snatcher matapos madakip kamakailan sa Silang, Cavite. Ang suspek na si alyas Jay, residente ng Silang, ay nadakip dakong alas-9:40 ng gabi nitong Disyembre 29, 2025.

Batay sa ulat, ang biktima ay sakay sa unahan ng pampasaherong jeep.

Habang hinihintay na mapuno ng pasahero ang dyip ay biglang sumulpot ang suspek mula sa likuran at inagaw ang cellphone ng biktima na Redmi Note 11, kulay itim, na may tinatayang halagang Php 15,000.00 at mabilis na tumakas.

Minabuti ng biktima na agad magtungo sa himpilan ng pulisya upang ipagbigay alam ang naturang pangyayari.

Naging mabilis naman ang responde ng mga tauhan ng Silang Municipal Police Station dahilang ng pagkakaaresto sa suspek at pagkakabawi sa naturang cellphone.



Editoryal

Prediksiyon

KASABAY ng pagpapalit sa bawat tao ay ang pagsulpot ng iba't ibang prediksiyon mula sa ilang kilalang manghuhula. Tila nararamdaman at nakikita nila ang mga posibilidad na pangyayari o mangyayari sa paglakad ng buong taon. Kalimitan nakasentro ang hula sa mundo ng showbiz o palakasan, sa larangan ng pulitika, at iba pa. Masasabing isa sa nakakahindik na hula ay ang pagpapalit sa liderato ng gobyerno sa paglakad ng 2026. Hindi nabanggit sa hula ang dahilan sa pagpapalit ng pamunuan ng pamahalaan. Ang hula ay hula na kung minsan sakaling nangyayari ay nasa atin na ang interpretasyon kung ito ba ay totoo o nagkakataon lamang.

Investments over momentary luxury is Delia's philosophy. Whenever she receives resources or earns an income, she treats it as a seed she can grow into another income-generating opportunity. This discipline, combined with her hard work and competence, has enabled her to own and operate multiple stores in Manila. Delia took up a Bachelor of Science in Commerce and reached her third year in college. A natural risk-taker, she left her home province in Bicol and braved the fast-paced life of Manila. Her first jobs ranged from saleslady to security guard and later ship loader at a petroleum company. First try While being employed, she decided to run a small-scale vending business. From a modest PHP 4,000 capital, she began selling slippers and placed her goods along busy streets and sidewalks. Her beginning reflected the same: far from a wide, comfortable road to success, it was more like a narrow sidewalk that demanded her patience and persistence with every step. While she continued selling, she was able to rent her own space to sell her goods and eventually a second space. During that time, she noticed the growing trend in beauty products. So in 2017, using the savings she had accumulated, she opened another space dedicated to cosmetics and personal care items, bringing her

total number of stores to three. While others might celebrate their early success with small luxuries, Delia chose to keep saving and reinvesting. But as her business continued to grow and require more of her time, she eventually left her job to focus on it entirely. Embracing growth and competition A year after opening her new space, a peer invited her to attend their CARD center meeting. It paved the way for her to become one of CARD, Inc.'s pioneering clients in Paco, Manila. As a client, she took a PHP 50,000 loan, her first, which she used to help purchase a pick-up truck to support her business operations. She kept her stores thriving with this. CARD, Inc. later offered her bigger loans. It allowed her to expand her stores, opening one for baby care products, another for ready-to-wear clothing, and one for groceries. But maintaining and growing these businesses was never easy. With the rise of online shopping and the emergence of competitors, her ready-to-wear store, baby care products, and beauty goods were heavily affected. Still, she embraced the competition. She searched for low-cost suppliers of her items to stay competitive and focused on high-quality yet affordable goods. And when competitors copied her products, she adjusted her prices. She

## Street sidewalks to success

shifted prices and product selections strategically to stay competitive. She believes that even if her profit decreases, what matters is that she keeps her capital moving and continues earning each day. "Para kahit maliit ang tubo ko, lumalaban ako. Kasi sabi ko, kung ako'y magpapatalo o susuko, talunan ako." (Even if my profit is small, I keep fighting because I tell myself, if I let others beat me or if I give up, then I'm a loser.) For her, such challenges show her how much farther she can go. Keeping forward It goes like this every time: her competitiveness and reinvestment ensure that, whenever she earns and saves, she is also building something. At present, Delia operates six rental apartments totaling eight residential units and has six commercial spaces for her stores with six salesladies assisting her. This discipline and hard



Delia A. Cenderio, 58, a proud CARD, Inc. client and a multi-business owner from Paco, Manila, stands happily fulfilled in one of her stores.

Kalibre

Romy Santos  
0977-7844136

'Wag agad puna lalo husga

KAPAG nagpapalit ng taon ay hindi maikakaila na kalimitan ay mayroong kaakibat na pangako sa sarili. Bago na ang taon kaya marami o may mga iniisip na pagbabago na isasakatuparan. Pagbabago sa iba't ibang aspeto kagaya sa pananamit, pakikitungo sa tao, may kinalaman sa bisyo, pag-uugali at kung anu-ano pa. Kadalasan ay nagagampanan ang pagbabago subalit sa umpisa lamang. Kunsabagay, ganyan naman tayo na sa simula lamang magaling pero katagalan ay nakakalimot na. Bakit nga ba hindi natin panghawakan at panindigan ang bawat pangako? Katwiran kasi ay tao lamang na kumbaga sa bahagi ng isang kanta ay kaydaling lumimot. Halimbawa na isa sa mga pangako mo ngayong Bagong Taon ay hindi ka na basta-basta manghuhusga ay kailangang tuparin. Batid naman natin na marami tayong pangyayari na nakikita o napapanood sa social media. Kung dati ay super bilis at wagas sa pagbibigay ng komento ay kailangang may baguhin na. 'Wag agad puna lalo na sa paghuhusga sa basta na lamang nakita o napanood sa social media. Maging mapanuri at mapanaliksik dahil ang maling puna at husga ay sumasalamain sa ating kredibilidad lalo sa pagkatao. Hindi lahat ng agarang nakikita ay tutugon na sa katotohanan o tunay na pangyayari.

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ROMEO S. SANTOS  
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

JUNE K. BILLONES  
Managing Editor

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## SC INVITES FILIPINOS TO CELEBRATE ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY THROUGH PHOTO CONTEST

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

The Supreme Court (SC) invites professional photographers, hobbyists, and enthusiasts to be part of its 125th Anniversary Photo Contest with the theme "Accessible and Inclusive Justice."

Capture stories of hope, struggle, and resilience – moments that show what justice looks like in everyday Filipino life.

Submit entries in Digital or Film categories and get a chance to be featured in the special SC Photo Exhibit, win cash prizes

of up to P125,000, and be recognized at the SC awards ceremony.

Photos must be taken from January 1, 2026 onward.

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2026, with the full contest mechanics to be announced soon.

Let your lens tell the story of justice.

The SC will commemorate its 125th anniversary in 2026—a historic milestone in our nation's enduring commitment to justice and the rule of law. *(Courtesy of the SC Office of the Spokesperson)*

## As VIRES drops 900-MW fossil gas project in Batangas, CABATANG, Batangas communities win against LNG anew

**Batangas, Philippines**

— The Clean and Healthy Air for All Batangueños (CABATANG), Philippine Movement for Climate Justice (PMCJ), and the people of Batangas celebrate another victory before the year's end. On Dec. 23, 2025, VIRES Energy Corporation (VIRES) announced the suspension of the 900-megawatt (MW) liquefied natural gas (LNG) power project in Batangas due to grid and supply challenges. It can be recalled that A Brown Company, Inc. released its decision to withdraw the fossil gas regasification unit last August 2024.

CABATANG and PMCJ have long been fighting against the fossil gas project. In Sept. 2023, PMCJ and CABATANG held a climate emergency and community consultation in Brgy. Simlong, Batangas City. The forum was conducted to strengthen the position of the affected communities against this fossil fuel project.

The consultation concluded with an action directed against all fossil gas projects in the pipeline, which include the VIRES gas plant.

"This is the best gift that we received this Christmas, and we celebrate this step away from dirty energy, which follows years of collective action by

communities in Batangas and across the country," said Restituto Bobadilla, a resident of Brgy. Simlong, and president of CABATANG, a community-led movement on climate justice and the right to health.

"We have been waiting for VIRES to pull its plug against gas. We stepped up the pressure against the plant after it suspended the construction of its import terminal last August 2023. We know that this is coming," Bobadilla continued.

The withdrawal protects the ecologically critical Verde Island Passage and addresses public health concerns, as Batangas City Health Office reported that the most common illnesses in the City were respiratory infection (10,650 cases) and hypertension (10,315 cases). The communities claim this is due to the high concentration of methane, which communities link to the area's heavy concentration of fossil gas facilities.

PMCJ and CABATANG urge all fossil gas developers to follow this example by abandoning LNG projects and redirecting investments toward clean, renewable, and community-sustaining initiatives that protect both the people and the environment.

"This withdrawal is a testament to the power of

people's movements to defend our right to a safe and healthy environment," said Larry Pascua, senior energy program officer of PMCJ.

"For too long, fossil fuel corporations have prioritized profit over people and planet, putting vulnerable communities and irreplaceable ecosystems at risk. We urge A Brown Corp to fully abandon plans for any new fossil gas infrastructure and instead invest in genuine clean energy solutions," Pascua added.

PMCJ welcomes the withdrawal but warns against replacing it with another fossil fuel project. The group urges the Department of Energy and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to enforce strict regulations, uphold environmental and health laws, and prioritize community rights in energy planning.

"We will continue to push for a just transition away from all fossil fuels—one that centers the needs of workers, women, fisherfolk, and communities most impacted by the climate crisis.

Batangas and the Philippines deserve energy systems that protect our ecosystems, create dignified jobs, and ensure no one is left behind," Pascua ended.

## Cavite PPO Reiterates Zero Tolerance on Indiscriminate Firing Under One-Strike Policy

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — The Philippine National Police remains steadfast in its commitment to protect lives and maintain public safety by strictly enforcing the One-Strike Policy against indiscriminate firing. This policy underscores the PNP's zero-tolerance stance on the irresponsible use of firearms, especially during celebrations and special occasions when public safety is most at risk.

Under this directive, any police personnel found to be involved in indiscriminate firing shall be dealt with swiftly and decisively. There will be no second chances—violators will face appropriate criminal, administrative, and internal disciplinary actions

in accordance with existing laws and PNP regulations. This firm approach reflects the PNP's dedication to discipline, accountability, and professionalism within its ranks.

In support of this policy, the Cavite Police Provincial Office reaffirmed its full commitment to strict and consistent implementation. The Acting Provincial Director, PCOL ARIEL R RED, emphasized that maintaining peace and order requires both firm

leadership and personal accountability among police personnel.

"The Cavite PNP will not tolerate any form of indiscriminate firing. Our police officers are expected to be models of discipline and responsibility at all times. Any violation of this policy will be met with swift and appropriate action. The safety of the public will always come first," the Acting Provincial Director said. The Cavite PNP further reminds the public that

## RD Lucas Leads Destruction of Confiscated Illegal Firecrackers in CALABARZON

**Camp BGen Vicente P. Lim, CALABARZON**

— Police Regional Office CALABARZON Regional Director, Police Brigadier General Paul Kenneth T. Lucas, led a media presentation and the destruction of confiscated illegal firecrackers, highlighting the intensified efforts and collaboration of various police operating units in the region.

During the press briefing, PBGen Lucas presented updates on the ongoing campaign against the sale, manufacture, and distribution of illegal firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices. He reported that from December 16 to the present, PRO CALABARZON conducted a total of 238 police operations, resulting in the arrest of 12 suspects and the confiscation of assorted illegal firecrackers valued at ₱4,803,398.00.

PBGen Lucas also shared data on firecracker-related incidents, noting that five individuals are currently undergoing medical treatment due to injuries caused by firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices. Additionally, one incident involving the illegal discharge of a firearm was recorded. The suspect is now in custody and facing charges for violation Republic Act No. 10591, or the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Following the press briefing, members of the media witnessed the destruction of confiscated illegal firecrackers at the PRO CALABARZON covered court. The destroyed items included piccolo, five-star, whistle bombs, kwitis, sawa, assorted pyrotechnics, goodbye contractor, and improvised cannons or

"boga," all confiscated by various Provincial Police Offices across the region. Additionally, the Regional Explosive and Canine Unit 4A safely disposed of confiscated illegal firecracker through controlled detonation at the PRO 4A Grandstand. PBGen Lucas expressed his gratitude to police operatives and the community for their cooperation in the successful operations against illegal

celebrations should be moments of joy, not sources of danger. Every careless gunshot place innocent life at risk and erodes public trust. Through the strict enforcement of the One-Strike Policy and continuous community engagement, the Cavite PNP aims to ensure a safe, peaceful, and orderly province.

With this policy in full force, the Philippine National Police and the Cavite PPO call on everyone to promote a culture of safety and responsibility, reinforcing the shared duty of protecting lives and upholding the rule of law.

firecrackers. He also reiterated his call for public support in ensuring a safe and orderly celebration.

"I urge the public to refrain from patronizing illegal firecrackers and pyrotechnics. Let us use fireworks only in designated areas and report any information that can help stop the illegal trade of these dangerous items," PBGen Lucas said. *(RPIO)*

## DILG Pushes Full Digital Shift in Barangays Through Nationwide LGUSS-BIMS Adoption

In a major push to accelerate digital transformation at the grassroots level, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) has mandated the nationwide adoption of the Local Government Unit Support System – Barangay Information Management System (LGUSS-BIMS).

Through a Memorandum Circular, the DILG now requires all barangays to adopt and operate the BIMS, a web-based platform that enables the systematic recording, updating, and management of critical barangay data. These include resident profiles, barangay properties, financial transactions, ordinances, and disaster response information. Composed of 11 interconnected sub-systems, LGUSS-BIMS enables real-time monitoring, reporting, and data sharing between barangays and higher-level local government units (LGUs). The system is designed to standardize data management across barangays while improving efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the digitalization of barangay records and services.

The initiative forms part of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s broader directive to digitize government services across all agencies and

LGUs to ensure faster, more responsive, and citizen-centered public service through strengthened frontline and back-end operations.

Beyond administrative functions, the system also supports evidence-based governance by enabling barangays to utilize system-generated data for development planning, budget preparation, peace and order programs, and disaster risk reduction initiatives.

As of the latest DILG report, 9,774 out of 42,011 barangays, or 23 percent, are actively using the system, while 14,008 barangays, or 33 percent, have already undergone orientation on the use of BIMS.

The DILG assured the public that data privacy and security remain a top priority. Access to barangay websites under the system is limited and strictly complies with the Data Privacy Act, particularly given the sensitive nature of the information being handled.

With the implementation guidelines now in place, the DILG expects increased adoption of LGUSS-BIMS nationwide, marking a significant step toward more transparent, efficient, and data-driven barangay administration across the country. *(DILG)*



## DOST-CALABARZON COMES TOGETHER TO RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE, STRENGTHEN UNITY, AND ENJOY A MEANINGFUL HOLIDAY GATHERING

Marking an important moment of reflection and appreciation, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - CALABARZON convened on December 18, 2025, at the Regional Office for the Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Honor Awards and General Assembly. The gathering served as a meaningful pause to formally recognize service, dedication, and the collective efforts that defined the agency's

achievements in 2025. The recognition underscored the value of honoring people behind the work. Celebrating excellence strengthens morale, reinforces accountability, and affirms that every contribution matters. Holding this gathering each year allows the organization to reflect on shared goals, align values, and strengthen professional bonds across offices, ensuring that collaboration remains at the core of public

service.

The program also created a warm and engaging atmosphere through raffle prizes and performances from newly onboarded staff, adding a sense of camaraderie and shared joy to the celebration. Beyond the festivities, the gathering reaffirmed unity within DOST CALABARZON, recognizing that strong connections among people sustain excellence and carry the institution forward. **(DOST CALABARZON)**

## DOST CALABARZON engages Siniloan LGU to strengthen smart agriculture initiatives

The Department of Science and Technology CALABARZON (DOST CALABARZON) strengthened its collaboration with the Municipality of Siniloan, Laguna, through a courtesy visit on November 26, 2025, to introduce the SARAI CeNTRO program and explore collaborative opportunities for advancing climate-smart and data-driven agriculture in the locality. The visit marks an important step in

preparing for the regional rollout of Project SARAI's science-based decision-support systems and technologies. During the meeting, Hon. Patrick Ellis Go, together with key officials from the MPDO, MDRRMO, and MENRO, warmly welcomed the DOST CALABARZON team led by Ms. Janice Irene Berris, Supervising Science Research Specialist and Provincial Science and Technology Office, Laguna's Provincial Director, Ms. Agnes Morales.

The discussion focused on aligning SARAI CeNTRO's objectives with Siniloan's agricultural development priorities and climate adaptation initiatives, ensuring that local farmers benefit from science-based solutions. DOST CALABARZON SARAI CeNTRO team,

through Engr. John Carlo Micaya (Project Technical Specialist III) presented the program's key components, including real-time weather monitoring, crop forecasting, and decision-support tools designed to help LGUs and farmers make informed agricultural decisions. The LGU expressed particular interest in the CL-SEAMS, noting its value for remote monitoring for agriculture and disaster risk management.

The visit also included an ocular inspection of the established Automated Weather Station (AWS) within the municipality, which provides localized weather data to support precision farming and disaster preparedness. Both parties agreed to move forward with the drafting and signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to formalize the partnership.

This collaboration underscores the shared commitment of DOST CALABARZON and LGU Siniloan to promote sustainable, resilient, and technology-enabled agriculture in the region. To learn more about SARAI CeNTRO and other DOST programs, follow DOST CALABARZON and Project SARAI. The SARAI Centralized National Hub for Regional Operations (SARAI CeNTRO) is one of DOST's innovative agricultural initiatives, funded by the agency and monitored by DOST-PCAARRD. SARAI CeNTRO is currently being deployed nationwide through the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in partnership with the DOST Regional Offices. We are rolling into your region—ready to serve, support, and sow solutions. **(DOST CALABARZON)**

## DOST CALABARZON pays courtesy visit to Lucena LGU to explore climate-smart agriculture collaboration

The Department of Science and Technology CALABARZON (DOST CALABARZON) paid a courtesy visit to the City Government of Lucena on November 28, 2025, to explore opportunities for collaboration in advancing climate-smart and data-driven agriculture.

The delegation was composed of the DOST CALABARZON SARAI CeNTRO technical working group, led by Ms. Janice Irene Berris, Supervising Science Research Specialist together with PSTO Quezon Provincial Director Ms. Maria Esperanza Jawili, Supervising Science Research Specialist, Ms. Precious Monedera, and Science Research Specialist II Ms. Sydney Mae Tadosa.

They were warmly welcomed by Ms. Julieta Aparicio, EnP, City Planning and Development Officer (CPDO), along with representatives from the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), City Agriculturist Office (CAO) Mr. Dexter Landicho, and the City Administrator, Mr. Anacleto Alcala Jr.

During the meeting, the DOST CALABARZON team presented the SARAI systems and

technologies, highlighting how these tools can support the city in implementing climate-smart and data-driven agricultural practices.

The Lucena City officials expressed interest in using CL-SEAMS to manage information on farmlots and monitor crop beneficiaries.

They also recognized the value of SPIDTECH for pest management, noting how both tools can enhance agricultural productivity and resilience.

The potential sites for the installation of Automated Weather Stations (AWS) were also discussed and later visited by the team to assess suitability. Both parties expressed commitment to formalizing the partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which is currently undergoing initial approvals at the LGU, further strengthening the city's capacity for climate-smart, technology-enabled agriculture.

To learn more about SARAI CeNTRO and other DOST programs, follow DOST CALABARZON and Project SARAI. The SARAI Centralized National Hub for Regional Operations (SARAI CeNTRO) is one of DOST's innovative

agricultural initiatives, funded by the agency and monitored by DOST-PCAARRD. SARAI CeNTRO is currently being deployed nationwide through the University of the

## 10 Years of Hope: DOST Rizal Spreads Holiday Joy at BJMP Antipolo City Female Dormitory

**ANTIPOLO CITY, Rizal** — Reaffirming its commitment to inclusive service, the DOST Rizal Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO) hosted an early holiday celebration for the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP) Antipolo City Female Dormitory on December 16, 2025.

Now in its landmark 10th year, this annual CSR initiative carried the theme: "Bringing Light, Spreading Hope, and Sharing Joy with the BJMP Community." The day was filled with festive energy, featuring heartwarming performances by the residents, exciting raffles, and a gift-giving program for 82 female Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs).

This celebration was fueled by the generosity of DOST-assisted MSMEs and cooperatives across

Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) in partnership with the DOST Regional Offices. We are rolling into your region—ready to serve, support, and sow solutions. **(DOST CALABARZON)**

Rizal. Their support highlights the spirit of Bayanihan, proving that collaboration can truly inspire change. Special thanks to our partners:

ABD Prime Concepts Corp.  
Aspilla's Rice Milling  
Biba Cakes and Pastries Shop  
Double E Car Care Center  
E&L Delicatessen  
Goldros Corporation  
Good Heart Food and Industrial Corporation  
Gramworth Enterprises Inc.  
J&A Woodcraft  
JJ Agriventures Inc.  
Josefina's Homemade Bicol Food Products  
Kaizen Industrial Services and Trading Corporation  
Mardak Global Export Inc.  
Melendres Agricultural Farm  
MK Sushi Bar  
Momilo Mio Food Ventures Corporation

Moolk Creamery  
Prime Innov8 Manufacturing Company  
Rizal Cacao Growers Industry and Development Council  
Sealtite Co. Inc.  
Tropical Palm Herb Manufacturing  
OIC-Provincial S&T Director Una Grace M. Dollete expressed her gratitude to the BJMP and the MSMEs for their unwavering support. In response, Atty. Jessela L. Tariman (Jail Chief Inspector, BJMP Antipolo) emphasized that these gestures are vital to the rehabilitation and personal growth of the women PDLs.

As 2025 wraps up, DOST Rizal remains dedicated to serving all sectors—from MSMEs and the academe to IPs and the underprivileged—proving that the true spirit of Christmas is in giving back. **(DOST Rizal)**



## SSS marks 2025 with pension reform and program upgrades; Looks forward to 2026

### Quezon City, Philippines

– The Social Security System (SSS) closes 2025 with implementation of the Emergency Loan Program (ELP) capping off achievements that strengthened social protection for millions of Filipinos highlighted by successful implementation of the Pension Reform Program, loan program enhancements, expanded membership coverage, and significant strides in digital transformation. SSS President and CEO Robert Joseph Montes De Claro said, “This year was a turning point for SSS. From the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and with guidance from former Finance Secretary Ralph G. Recto and current Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go, we delivered on our promise to provide better benefits and programs, faster services, and wider coverage for our members. These milestones reflect our unwavering commitment to social security protection for all Filipino workers and their beneficiaries.”

### Key Achievements in 2025

1. 2025 SSS Pension Reform Program featuring annual pension increases for all 3.8 million pensioners every September from 2025 to 2027 – 10% increase for retirement and disability pensioners and 5% increase for survivor pensioners;

2. Salary Loan Program enhanced with reduced interest rate to 8% (from 10%) for more than 600,000 member-borrowers;

3. Calamity Loan Program enhanced with reduced interest rate to 7% (from 10%) and with faster activation for about 630,000 member-borrowers;

4. Pension Loan Program for SSS Retiree and Surviving Spouse Pensioners implemented featuring loanable amount up to P300,000 for retiree pensioners and P150,000 for survivor pensioners for more than 30,000 pensioner-borrowers;

5. Issued MySSS Card with 2-in-1 functionality, a valid SSS ID and automatic enrollment as a disbursement account with almost 10,000 cards received already by SSS members and almost 100,000 disbursement accounts enrolled;

6. Emergency Loan Program implemented with low interest rate of 7% and 6-month moratorium on loan repayment for more than 26,000 member-borrowers;

7. Contribution Subsidy Provider Program rolled out led by Double Dragon Corporation paying P18.2-M to fully subsidize SSS contributions for 2,000 informal sector self-employed workers in Iloilo City and Roxas City for 12 months – local government units, religious groups, and others also registering as subsidy providers;

8. Accredited 25 Cooperatives as Coverage and Collection Partner to facilitate SSS registration, contributions collection, benefit and loan applications for more than 200,000 members of cooperatives;

9. Partnered with various government entities for social security coverage of Job Order/ Contract of Service (JO/COS) workers who are not covered by GSIS – more than 500,000 JOs registered and more than 200,000 JOs regularly paying SSS contributions; and

10. Implemented Run After Contribution Evaders (RACE) Programs nationwide to exact compliance from delinquent employers.

### Looking forward to 2026

“We also look forward to 2026 where we continue implementation of existing programs, develop new ones, strengthen member servicing, and expand footprint of SSS nationwide and abroad,” De Claro added.

The year 2026 brings with it Tranche 2 (of 3) of the Pension Reform Program for another round of pension increase for all pensioners in September. Also available for 2026 is the Emergency Loan Program up to 9 December 2026 or until the calamity declaration is lifted. Micro loan program

From 17 December 2025 approval by the Social Security Commission of the guidelines for micro loan program, we expect implementation of this loan program early in 2026.

“With guidance from Finance Secretary Frederick D. Go, SSS is looking to implement this micro loan program through partner institutions very soon as a safer and affordable option

to borrow cash for short-term needs with 15- to 90-day tenor and interest rate of 8% per annum or 0.67% per month,” De Claro said. Expanding footprint in the Philippines and overseas Toward ensuring that no Filipino worker is left behind, we shall pursue opening of local and overseas branches in 2026. SSS is looking to establish Foreign Representative Offices in Madrid, San Francisco, and Macau while looking to establish 10 new branches locally.

Massive recruitment of personnel

For 2026, SSS is looking to hire about 1,800 personnel toward completely providing manpower resources in the frontlines – be it physically or virtually through electronic means. This recruitment effort aims to address gaps in service delivery and handling of requests for assistance and various complaints.

### Other initiatives for 2026

Other programs being explored include potential partnership with the National Commission of Senior Citizens (NCSC) through Chairperson Ma. Merceditas N. Gutierrez for the Annual Confirmation of Pensioners (ACOP) Program, special programs for gig economy workers, and contribution subsidy program for 2,000 OFWs through P28.8-M commitment from Double Dragon Corporation.

“Looking back at 2025 and forward to 2026, we remain committed to our goal of making SSS relevant in the life of every Filipino at every point in their lives by providing quality social protection, continuous enhancement of member servicing platforms, and espousing the value of saving for the future,” De Claro emphasized.

For more information, inquiries, or feedback, members may contact the SSS through hotline 1455, email [ussaptayo@sss.gov.ph](mailto:ussaptayo@sss.gov.ph), and our branches. See us also through our website ([www.sss.gov.ph](http://www.sss.gov.ph)) or our social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, Spotify, Viber, X, and YouTube) under the MYSSSPH handle for latest announcements and instructional material on SSS programs. **(SSS)**

## DOE paves the way for 200 power projects with over 1GW installed

As part of the Department of Energy's (DOE) ongoing monitoring of the timely completion of 200 power generation projects, Stage 1 of the Terra Solar Project is advancing key grid interconnection milestones with the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines (NGCP), following the energization and cut-in of the Terra Solar 500-kilovolt (kV) substation on 21 December 2025 along the Nagsaag-San Jose 500 kV Line 2. Stage 1 represents 364 megawatts (MW) of the project's planned 2,500 MW solar capacity with battery energy storage systems (BESS), operated by Terra Solar Philippines, Inc. Commercial operation of Stage 1 is expected in the first quarter of 2026.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., in his 4th State of the Nation Address (SONA), directed the DOE to accelerate the construction of 200 power generation projects over the next three years to strengthen the country's energy security. In line with this directive, the DOE continues to track project progress and coordinate closely with stakeholders to ensure that committed capacity is delivered on schedule and in a manner consistent with safety and grid reliability requirements.

As of November 2025, about 956 MW of new power generation capacity have been added to the Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao grids, complemented by 160 MW of new energy storage capacity located in Luzon and Visayas. These additions form part of the DOE's broader efforts to ensure sufficient and reliable power supply in support of the country's growing economy and increasing electricity demand.

The 956 MW of new generation capacity comes from fourteen (14) power plants: twelve (12) facilities using renewable energy (RE) technologies, one (1) oil-based power plant, and one (1) natural gas-fired power plant, most of which entered commissioning in the second half of 2025. Collectively, these projects help strengthen the grid's ability to meet peak demand, reduce the risk of supply shortfalls, and improve operational flexibility in managing baseload requirements and variable demand.

To help ensure that committed capacity is delivered as scheduled, the DOE is implementing active project monitoring across generation and energy storage developments. This includes close coordination with project

proponents and NGCP on grid interconnection readiness, regular tracking of construction and commissioning milestones, and early identification of bottlenecks that may affect timelines, such as permitting constraints, right-of-way issues, equipment delivery risks, and site-level implementation challenges. Through these efforts, the DOE aims to strengthen accountability, address issues before they escalate into delays, and ensure that new capacity additions can reliably support the grid when they are needed most.

## PBBM backing pushes TESDA's success and key reforms in 2025

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) capped 2025 with major policy reforms, international recognition, and expanded access to skills training, reaffirming its commitment to deliver quality training that leads to decent jobs.

With strong backing from President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr., a consistent advocate of technical vocational education and training (TVET), TESDA strengthened the role of skills development as a pillar of the country's education and workforce agenda.

“Napatunayan na nating mabisa ang tech-voc. Kaya, unti-unti nang pinapasok sa senior high ang TVET ng TESDA. Diretso pagka-graduate, puwede na kaagad na maghanapbuhay kung gugustuhin, dahil para na rin siyang nakapag-aral sa TESDA at nakakuha ng NC II or NC III,” the President said during his State-of-the-Nation Address in July.

The Philippines achieved historic success in global skills competitions in 2025. As the host of WorldSkills ASEAN Manila 2025, the country delivered its best performance to date, winning 30 medals. The Philippine team also earned four medals at WorldSkills Asia 2025 in Taiwan, underscoring the world-class competence of Filipino skilled workers.

TESDA likewise intensified alignment with international standards. Secretary Kiko Benitez represented the Philippines at the Education World Forum 2025, where he shared strategies on aligning TVET with evolving labor markets and digital transformation.

At the national level, TESDA strengthened collaboration with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to ensure smoother transitions from education to employment. Key initiatives in 2025 included the integration of TechPro programs into basic

education, free assessment for senior high school tech-voc graduates, and the creation of a Tripartite Council with CHED and the Professional Regulation Commission to harmonize standards across learning pathways. TESDA also advanced lifelong learning through the expansion of micro-credentials, with 375 registered courses now offered by 190 training providers nationwide. Major policy milestones included the rollout of the Early Childhood Care and Development Services NC III following the passage of the ECCD Law. The implementation of the Enterprise-Based Education and Training (EBET) was also strengthened after the signing of its Implementing Rules and Regulations, with latest data showing 240 enterprises implementing 410 EBET programs nationwide.

To support innovation and regional development, TESDA broke ground on Regional TVET Innovation Centers in Tuguegarao City, Tacloban City, and General Santos City. Meanwhile, it can also be remembered that President Marcos visited TESDA headquarters on October 10, highlighting the administration's continued priority for skills development.

The President toured the facilities of TESDA Regional Training Center – National Capital Region (RTC-NCR), and the National Training Center for Women (NTCW), both located within the TESDA Complex in Taguig City.

“These gains reflect the collective efforts of TESDAs, industry partners, and stakeholders nationwide. By working together and breaking silos, we are building a stronger, more inclusive skills ecosystem for Filipinos,” TESDA Secretary Kiko Benitez said.

As TESDA moves into 2026, the agency aims to build on the momentum of 2025 to further expand access to quality, industry-aligned skills training. **(TESDA)**



## DSWD IV-A builds stronger pathways for 4Ps families through multi-sector partnerships

**CALAMBA CITY, Laguna** — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to reinforce its commitment to empowering Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) households by widening access to education, employment, and healthcare services through strategic partnerships across the CALABARZON region. On December 15, 2025, the regional office entered into new partnership agreements with five institutions from the education, training, and health sectors—National University (NU) Dasmariñas, University of Batangas, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc., Technovative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. Assistant Regional Director Mylah Gatchalian said the partnerships are aligned with the Department's thrust to equip 4Ps beneficiaries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and health support needed to achieve self-reliance as they prepare for transition or graduation from the program. "These collaborations strengthen our capacity to deliver more responsive and comprehensive services, particularly in education, skills development, and health, which are critical to improving the long-term outcomes of 4Ps households," Gatchalian noted. Through the partnership, NU Dasmariñas and the University of Batangas will extend scholarship opportunities, competency-building initiatives, and community-based programs that aim to enhance the academic performance and employability of 4Ps college students. Meanwhile, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. and Technovative Training Center, Inc. will provide enterprise-based training programs designed to link technical education with actual industry requirements, offering beneficiaries pathways toward certification and employment through partner companies. Dualtech Training Center President Engr. Jerry Web Muhi emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration, stating that the initiative seeks to develop learners who can contribute meaningfully to their communities and to national development. To further support the well-being of 4Ps families, San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. will deliver medical assistance and preventive

healthcare services, helping reduce health-related expenses that often hinder economic progress. Currently, DSWD Field Office IV-A maintains active partnerships with 49 external stakeholders from civil society organizations, private institutions, and higher education sectors in the region. The Department underscored that sustained collaboration with various sectors remains essential in advancing inclusive development, ensuring that 4Ps families are not only assisted but are fully equipped to build healthier, more productive, and self-sustaining lives. **(CCM/PIA4A)**

## PBBM shields Filipino families with sustained low inflation and strong economy in 2025

President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s administration has protected the poorest Filipino families by keeping inflation under control and maintaining a strong economic growth path in 2025. Inflation, or the rate at which prices of basic goods and services rise as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was cut by more than half from 3.4% in 2024 to just 1.6% from January to November 2025. This continues a downward trend since President Marcos, Jr. assumed office, from 5.8% in 2022 and 6.0% in 2023. The sustained slowdown reflects the Marcos, Jr. administration's decisive and coordinated actions to stabilize prices, secure food supply, and protect household purchasing power particularly for rice, which accounts for the largest share of spending of low-income families. "To put this in perspective, a 6% inflation rate means that your PHP 100 can buy only about PHP 94 worth of goods and services. But with inflation down to just 1.6% in 2025, that same PHP 100 can now buy about PHP 98.4 worth of goods and services," Executive Secretary Ralph G. Recto explained. "Kaya napakahalaga nito para sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino, lalo na ang mga mahihirap. Kapag mababa ang inflation, napapanatili natin na abot-kaya ang mga pangunahing bilihin, lalo na ang pagkain," he added. Rice prices continue to improve, with the Department of Agriculture (DA), upon President Marcos, Jr.'s directive, delivering on its commitment to bring rice

## DENR-EMB recognizes barangays for waterways cleanup through Gawad Taga-Ilog

**LAUREL, Batangas (PIA)** — In its continued effort to inspire local government-led initiatives, particularly among barangays to keep waterways and water bodies clean and trash-free, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources—Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A gave honors for cleanup efforts during the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Awarding Ceremony on December 19. According to DENR-EMB Regional Director Robert Angelo Metin, the program aims to enhance water quality and maintain the cleanliness of rivers in the Province of Cavite, demonstrating that the Gawad Taga-Ilog

(GTI) Program, which was successfully implemented in the National Capital Region, can also be adopted by nearby regions as part of collective efforts to protect the environment. "This is anchored on the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court Mandamus that calls for the cleaning and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Here in the Province of Cavite, we can see a portion of Manila Bay, which is why the Gawad Taga-Ilog Program was initially launched here," Director Metin said. Through the dedication of barangay officials and residents, these initiatives serve as inspiring models of sustainable environmental governance and shared responsibility for the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations. Barangay Daine 1 in Indang, Cavite, led by Barangay Chairperson Arnold Pegollo, was hailed as the winner in the Upland Category, with the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Award serving as a testament to the community's collective efforts in promoting cleaner waterways and a sustainable environment. "There were so many preparations from paperwork, weekly clean-up activities, and the maintenance of the river and the materials recovery facility (MRF), to Hapag ni PBBM, our community garden, vertical garden, and composting facility because everything required hard work and constant maintenance to ensure that all of these is in good condition for the Gawad Taga-Ilog," the chairperson explained. Pegollo added that even before receiving recognition from the DENR-EMB, the barangay had already been working with partner

agencies, organizations, and the community to protect the environment, especially their waterways, which he said is vital for sustainability and the well-being of future generations. "We continuously care for our rivers and conduct tree-planting activities along our easements, while maintaining our waterways to help increase water flow and preserve our water sources. With the prize money we received, we plan to upgrade our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) into a more efficient, organized, and user-friendly facility that promotes proper waste segregation in the community," Pegollo said in an interview

## HSAC in 2025: Strengthening housing justice through institutional reforms

In 2025, the Human Settlements Adjudication Commission (HSAC) made significant progress in strengthening housing justice by introducing key institutional reforms, improving its performance systems, and expanding support for communities seeking fair and timely resolution of housing and real estate disputes. The year's accomplishments showed how the Commission is continuously building a more accessible and dependable adjudicatory body for the public. The issuance of the 2025 Revised Rules of Procedure marked HSAC's most significant development this year. The updated rules simplify case processes, provide clearer guidance to litigants, and improve the overall pace of adjudication. The new rules emphasize that strengthening HSAC's procedural framework is central to ensuring that people can resolve their housing issues with confidence and fairness. Paired with its mission of resolving housing disputes is the Commission's goal of operational excellence through continual enhancement of internal performance and financial systems. HSAC earned an 'unmodified opinion' from the Commission on Audit for its 2024 financial statements, signifying trustworthy and reliable financial management. The Department of Budget and Management likewise gave the Commission a 'Very Satisfactory Rating' for its

with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon. As part of the first batch of the GTI Program in Cavite, Pegollo, along with other winners from the Upland and Lowland Categories, expressed their commitment to sustaining the program, particularly in maintaining, cleaning, and rehabilitating facilities to promote cleaner and sustainable waterways. Following the success of the GTI Program 1.0, the DENR-EMB is preparing to launch GTI Program 2.0, which aims to include local government units within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), such as General Mariano Alvarez, Silang, Carmona, and Tagaytay City. **(CO, AM/PIA4A)**

overall performance. HSAC's efforts toward strengthening its systems were further recognized through national awards. The Commission received its fourth 'Outstanding Accounting Office Award' for excellence in financial reporting. It also attained a 'Silver Award' in the Anti-Red Tape Authority Report Card Survey 2.0 for its service quality and remarkable compliance with public service standards. To reach a broader range of stakeholders, the Commission expanded its institutional linkages. Through agreements with the Local Government Unit of Bacoor City and the New Era University College of Law, HSAC strengthened collaboration with local governments and train future practitioners in dispute resolution. HSAC also began reaching out to Overseas Filipino Workers, starting in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Through the Serbisyo Caravan of the Department of Migrant Workers, HSAC provided legal information about property ownership and housing disputes that OFWs experience. These citations and accomplishments reflect the institution's sustained efforts to advance good governance and strengthen the adjudicatory process for its stakeholders. As HSAC moves forward, it remains committed to sustaining these reforms and ensuring that every Filipino has access to a fair, efficient, and transparent resolution of housing-related disputes. **(HSAC)**

(IMF) project expansion at 5.1% for 2025. This outperforms the 1.6% average growth projection of advanced economies this year, including the United States (2.0%), Japan (1.1%), and the Euro area (1.2%), according to the IMF. The Philippines' projected expansion is also higher compared to the 4.2% average growth for ASEAN-5 in 2025. In fact, it is second best among its peers, following Vietnam at 6.5% and higher than Indonesia at 4.9%, Malaysia at 4.5%, Singapore at 2.2%, and Thailand at 2%. By 2026, the IMF projects that the Philippines will be the fastest-growing economy in ASEAN, tied with Vietnam at a 5.6% growth rate. **(PCO)**





IIEE SIKAT CHESS TOURNAMENT WINNER

Ang mga nag sipag wagi sa katapos na IIEE SIKAT Chess tournament na ginanap sa IIEE Building sa Cubao. mula kaliwa hanggang kanan, sina Andrew Elpedes, Jason Rojo, Jose Villaceran Jr., Norman Madariaga, IM Jose Efrén Bagamasbad, 2021 IIEE National President na si Allan Alvarez, IM Idelfonso Datu, Freddie Talaboc, Jeffrey Vargas, at Randy Turreda.

## IM Datu wagi sa IIEE Chess SIKAT, Jeremy Marticio muling nanguna para sa ika-5 na mini-tournament

Matapos mahigit 10 taon na walang laro sa mesa, pinahayag ni IM Idelfonso Datu (2457 na pambansang rapid rating) ang kanyang husay sa ika-4 na IIEE Chess Single Individual Knockout Armageddon Tournament (SIKAT) na ginanap sa IIEE Building sa Cubao.

Tinalo ni IM Datu sina Jose Villaceran Jr. (1902), Andrew Elpedes (1894), at Freddie Talaboc (1985). Si Talaboc ang nakuha ang 1st runner up matapos talunin sina Jeffrey Vargas (2109) at IM Jose Efrén Bagamasbad (2091) sa upper bracket, at muling tinalo si Vargas na nakatalo kay Elpedes, IM Bagamasbad, at Norman Madariaga (2079).

Sa ika-5 na SIKAT muling nanalo si Jeremy Marticio (2139) matapos talunin sina AFM Marc Jenneth Lomio (2110), Andrew San Antonio (1962), Ricardo Jimenez (1906) sa upper bracket, at ang nanguna sa lower bracket na si John Andrew Garcia (2009).

Si Garcia bilang 1st runner up ay nakatalo kina Leonard Cabrerios (1591), Freddie Talaboc (1985), at Jersey Marticio (2100). Si Jersey

naman ang 2nd runner up matapos talunin ang upper bracket finalist na si Jimenez, Sherwin Gian Romero (1988), at AIM Francis Talaboc (2101).

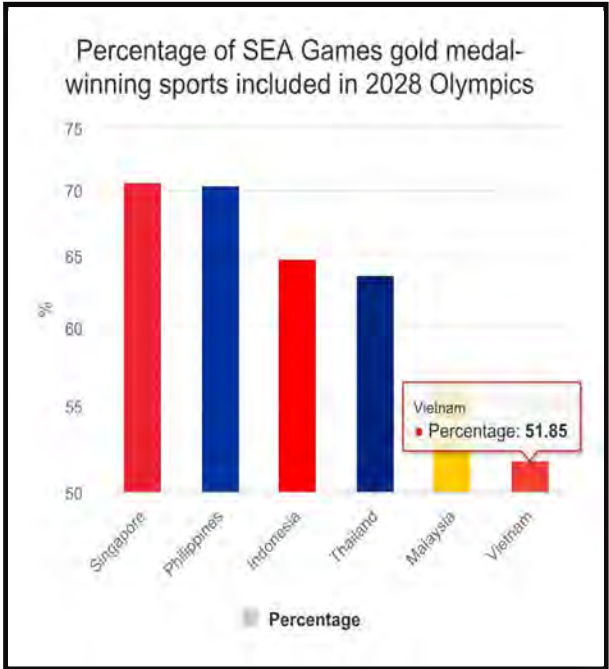
Ang tagumpay ni Jimenez ay kabilang ang pagtalo kay Fitz Jerald Lomio (1703), John Eric Menor (1932), at pagiging nanguna sa side event na Chess-alai (papalitan ang talunan at kailangang makakuha ng 5 panalo) matapos manalo ng anim na sunod-sunod na laro laban kina AFM Wayne Ruiz (1991), John Marcus Lomio (1836), San Antonio, Jeremy Marticio, Romero, at AIM Talaboc sa finals (ang labanan ng unang dalawang nakakuha ng 5 panalo).

Nakuha ni AIM Francis Talaboc ang karangalan na runner up matapos manalo sa sudden-death laban kay Sherwin Romero (4 panalo bawat isa). Ang magkapadit na Lomio ay nakakuha ng 2 panalo bawat isa. Ang may 1 panalo bawat isa ay sina Ruiz (ang tumigil kay AIM Talaboc) at Karl Anson Fratkín (1835) na tinalo ang kanyang ama na si Marcus (1977). **(Marlon Bernardino)**

## Pilipinas may lakas pa rin sa Olympics sa kampanya ng SEA Games 2025

Maaaring nagtapos ang Pilipinas sa ikaanim na pwesto sa kabuuan sa ika-33 na Southeast Asian Games, ngunit ang kanilang pagganap sa mga disiplina ng Olympics ay nagkuwento ng mas maliwanag na kuwento, na namumukod-tangi kumpara sa karamihan ng mga karatig-

bansa at kahit na nilampasan ang host na Thailand sa porsyento sa mga larong isinasagawa sa pandaigdigang entablado. Habang tinutukoy ng mga kritiko ang kabuuang bilang ng medalya bilang sukatan ng kabiguan, ang mas malalim na pagtingin ay nagpapakita ng ibang larawan.



WINNING SPORTS SEA GAMES 2025

## Positibong Atleta Filipino 2025 tungo sa 2026, POC

Ang Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) ay tinapos ang 2025 nang matagumpay at ngayong 2026 ay may mas malalaking ambisyon.

Sinabi ng pangulo ng POC na si Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino na nagbigay ng higit pa sa sapat na dahilan para maging positibo ang mga atletang Pilipino, na tinutukoy ang isang taon na hindi lamang puno ng medalya, kundi pati na rin ng mga panalo sa mga isport na talagang mahalaga sa pandaigdigang entablado.

"Magkakaroon pa ng mas maraming kompetisyon sa ibang bansa at mas marami pang makasaysayang tagumpay para sa Team Philippines ngayong 2026," sabi ni Tolentino, na bagong tapos sa isang kampanya na nagpakita ng lumalaking lakas ng bansa sa mga disiplina ng Olympics.

Ipinagmamalaki ni Tolentino ang ipinakita ng Team Philippines sa katatapos lamang na ika-33



POC PRESIDENT ABRAHAM BAMBOL TOLENTINO

na Southeast Asian Games sa Thailand.

Habang natapos ng bansa sa ika-anim na puwesto sa kabuuan na may 50 gintong medalya, binigyang-diin niya na ang mga medalya ay kalakhan mula sa mga atletikang Olimpiko, isang palatandaan, ayon sa kanya, ng pangmatagalang pandaigdigang kakayahang sa kompetisyon.

"Ilan iyon sa pinakamahalaga, ang gintong medalya mula sa mga isport sa Olympics," sabi ni Tolentino.

Ayon sa isang pagsusuri ng Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), na nagbabanggit sa Vietnamese outlet na vnexpress.net, ipinakita na ang Pilipinas ay katumbas ng Singapore sa pinakamataas na porsyento ng gintong medalya na napanalunan sa mga Olimpikong sports sa pagitan ng 11 bansang kalahok. Nakaagaw din ng gintong medalya ang mga Pilipinong atleta sa pambabaeng football, panlalaking baseball, tennis sa pamamagitan ni Alex Eala, beach volleyball, basketball (dalawa), judo (dalawa), skateboarding (dalawa), softball (dalawa), taekwondo (dalawa), rowing, sailing, short-track speed skating, weightlifting, at wrestling.

"At doon nakapaloob ang maraming puntos ang layunin ng Olimpiko," sabi ni Tolentino. Sa likod ng momentum, iniranggo ni Tolentino ang pinahusay na koordinasyon sa mga opisina ng pamahalaan sa larangan ng palakasan.

"Ngayon, nagtutulungan kami kasama ang PSC Philippine Sports Commission sa isang maayos na paraan," sabi niya.

Anyang niya, ang pataas na takbo ay hihigitan pa na lumalampas pa sa SEA Games.

Nakuha ng Team Philippines ang pitong gintong medalya sa Bahrain Asian Youth Games, dalawang pilak at dalawang tanso sa Chengdu World Games at gumawa ng kasaysayan sa Ninth Asian Winter Games sa Harbin sa pamamagitan ng gintong medalya sa men's curling.

"Iyan ang nagbunga sa amin," sabi ni Tolentino, tumutukoy sa tagumpay sa Harbin, "ang kauna-

skateboarding (2), softball (2), taekwondo (2), rowing (1), sailing (1), short-track speed skating (1), weightlifting (1), at wrestling (1).

Kung nabigyan ng pagkakataon na makipagkumpetensya sa lahat ng anim na aparatong pampalakasan ng mga kalalakihan at sa all-around event, maaaring nadagdagan pa ni Carlos Yulo ang apat hanggang limang ginto sa kabuuang bilang ng Pilipinas, kabilang na ang titulo para sa men's team.

Ang dalawang beses na Olympic gold medalist ng bansa ay hindi sumali sa SEA Games matapos na limitahan ng host ang mga gymnast sa isang aparato lamang. Sa porsyento, sinundan ng Indonesia ang Pilipinas at Singapore na may bahagyang mas mababa sa 65 porsyento ng kanilang mga ginto mula sa mga isport na Olimpiko, sinundan ng Thailand (64 porsyento), Malaysia (57 porsyento), at Vietnam (51.85 porsyento).

Ang Thailand, bilang host, ang nanguna sa kabuuang iskor na may 233 ginto, 154 pilak, at 113 tanso. Nanguna sa ikalawa ang Indonesia (91-112-130), ikatlo ang Vietnam (87-81-110), at ikaapat ang Malaysia (57-57-117).

Ngunit ang tagumpay ng Pilipinas na nakatuon sa Olympics ay nagpapakita ng potensyal nito na mas lalo pang tumanyag sa pandaigdigang entablado, lalo na habang papalapit ang 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

unahan sa isang internasyonal na paligsahan sa palakasan sa taglamig hindi lamang para sa Pilipinas kundi para sa Timog-silangang Asya." Sa hinaharap, kinilala ni Tolentino ang isang puno at mahigpit na iskedyl: ang Milano Cortina Winter Olympics mula Pebrero 6 hanggang 22, Sanya Asian Beach Games mula Abril 22 hanggang 30, at Aichi-Nagoya ika-20 Asian Games sa Japan mula Setyembre 19 hanggang Oktubre 4 sa susunod na taon.

"Magiging hamon ito sa pagkakataong ito dahil makikilahok tayo sa tatlong Asian multi-sports events at mayroon din tayong

## Unang numero 5 sa pag retiro sa ROS ni Gabi nasa proseso na

Sinabi ng tanyag na coach agad pagkatapos ng huling laro ng Quarterfinals na manlalaro sa PBA na plano ng koponan na i-retire ang jersey.

"Talagang iminungkahi namin na iretiro ang kanyang numero bilang tanda ng pagkilala at paggalang sa nagawa niya, kaya sa tingin ko ay magiging handang gawin iyon ng pamunuan," sabi ni Guiao. Kung sakali, ang numero 5 ni Norwood ang magiging unang jersey na i-retire ng koponan sa kasaysayan nito mula nang bilhin ang Shell franchise noong 2006.

Isang miyembro ng tanyag na George Mason squad na nakarating sa US NCAA Final Four, si Norwood ay pinili bilang unang overall sa 2008 PBA Draft.

Ang 6'6 na si Norwood ang nagpasimula ng tinatawag na "point forward" sa PBA habang ipinapakita niya ang kahanga-hangang kakayahang sa playmaking na bihira para sa isang small forward o shooting guard, lalo na noong kanyang kasikatan noong 2010s nang pinangunahan niya ang Elasto Painters sa kanilang dalawang kampeonato at naging mahalagang bahagi ng Gilas Pilipinas.

Ang nagpapa-espesyal sa karera ni Norwood, gayunpaman, ay ang katotohanang hindi siya umalis sa Welcoat franchise mula pa noong Unang Araw.

"Sa palagay ko dapat pa rin nating bigyan ng pagkilala ang ginawa niya para sa franchise sa huling 17 taon. Siya ang sagisag ng katapatan, disente, at pagiging tapat sa pagiging isang propesyonal. Madalas kong sabihin na wala kang mapiipintas sa kanya kahit sa anong bagay," dagdag pa ni Guiao.

Ipinahayag ni Norwood sa simula pa lang ng PBA Philippine Cup na magreretiro siya sa pagtatapos ng



RAIN OR SHINE GABI NORWOOD

Ang huling laro sa PBA ni Rain or Shine Elasto Painters para sa pag retiro ni Gabi Norwood makaraang ihayag sa isang panayam ni Coach Yeng Guiao sa pagtatapos ng laban na Do or Die match quarterfinals sa PBA Philippine Cup sa Araneta Coliseum. **(REY NILLAMA)**

Milano Winter Games at saka ang Youth Olympic Games," sabi niya. "Ang ating mga atleta at pambansang samahang pampalakasan ay patuloy na umuunlad bawat taon at ako'y labis na natutuwa na makita iyon." Kasama rin sa iskedyl ang Dakar Youth Olympic Games mula Oktubre 31 hanggang Nobyembre 13, ang unang Olympic Games na gaganapin sa Africa, at ang Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games sa Riyadh.

Para kay Tolentino, malinaw at matatag ang misyon. "Lahat para sa Pilipinong atleta, lahat para sa palakasan ng Pilipinas," sabi niya.



MERALCO - CHRIS NEWSOME VS CAELAN TIONGSON

**HINDI** nagpatinag si Chris Newsome ng Meralco Bolts sa patuloy nitong pag drive na todo naman sa mahigpit na depensa ni Caelan Tionsong ng Rain or Shine Elasto Painters sa huling hiritan ng PBA Philippine Cup quarterfinals do or die match sa Araneta Coliseum. kung saan ay nanaig ang Bolts kontra Elasto Painters sa puntos na 89 - 89 at tinanghal bilang best player of the game si Newsome. **(REY NILLAMA)**

kumpetisyon. Nagkaroon ng malaking pagkakataon ang Elasto Painters na bigyan si Norwood ng malalim na laro sa playoff sa kanyang huling laban bilang manlalaro nang makuha nila ang bentaha na kailangang manalo ng dalawang beses sa quarterfinals. Gayunpaman, nalampasan ng Meralco Bolts ang mga balakid at pinigilan ang Elasto Painters na magkaroon ng kanilang ikalimang sunod-sunod na semifinal appearance, na nagpadala kay Norwood sa pagreretiro sa isang mapait na pagtatapos sa pamamagitan ng 98-89 panalo sa Game 2 sa Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"Isang nakakadimayang resulta ito, pero ganun talaga ang basketball. Naiintindihan naman namin. Sa kabuuan, natapos namin ang elimination round sa pangalawang pwesto. Nagkaroon kami ng twice-to-beat advantage, pero hindi namin ito napanatili. Tinatanggap namin na maaring mangyari ang mga ganitong bagay. Medyo nadidimaya kami dahil gusto naming bigyan si Gabe ng isang magandang pag-alis," dagdag pa ni Guiao. Nakalistang na bilang isang playing assistant coach, dagdag ni Guiao na kasalukuyan nilang pinag-aaralan ang posibilidad na mapanatili si Norwood sa coaching staff, ngunit sa pagkakataong ito sa full-time na kapasidad.