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SENATE STANDOFF

Cayetano-led majority continues with boycott

Plenary, priority bills, confirmation of 5 generals in limbo

By Ram Superable,
Joel E. Zurbano
and Charles Dantes

THE majority bloc led by Senate President Alan Cayetano continued with its “boycott” for a second consecutive day, leaving in limbo the Senate plenary days before Congress goes on recess this week.

With no resolution in sight to the Senate standoff, also left hanging were crucial bills as well as the confirmation of five generals of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Malacañang said ongoing tensions in the Senate could jeopardize the passage of several priority measures before Congress adjourns sine die on Friday, warning that the effects could extend beyond legislation and impact the broader economy.

Next page

House expels Barzaga; NBI seeks probe

By Maricel V. Cruz

IN ONE of the most consequential disciplinary actions in recent congressional history, the House of Representatives on Tuesday voted 265-14, with eight abstentions, to expel Cavite 4th District Rep. Francisco “Kiko” Barzaga after adopting the recommendation of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges, which found him guilty of disorderly behavior, conduct unbecoming of a lawmaker, and violations of the House Code of Conduct. *Next page*

Sara: Gov’t stifling dissent; Palace: Probe vs. corrupt

By Katrina Manubay,
Charles Dantes

VICE President Sara Duterte on Tuesday warned that democratic institutions are being weaponized against political opponents, but Malacañang, however, rejected Duterte’s allegations of political persecution, maintaining that government investigations are being conducted in accordance with the law.

In a video statement, Duterte said recent developments should alarm all Filipinos who believe in democracy, regardless of political affiliation. *Next page*

THE CARING EAGLE



AFP checking alleged China structure in Panatag Shoal

By Rex Espiritu

PHILIPPINE authorities are verifying reports that China may have installed a structure at Bajo de Masinloc, also known internationally as Scarborough Shoal, in

the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

The report emerged after maritime monitoring group SeaLight released Tuesday satellite images showing what it described as a small object located near the southern entrance of the shoal’s lagoon. *Next page*

Girlicie the Eagle: Unlikely poster bird

By Ratziel San Juan
and Rio N. Araja

GIRLIE is not a kid anymore. Practically all semblance of youth has escaped her, as she spends most of her time perched on her favorite branches. Moving less, staying longer.

When she’s not resting or sleeping, the senior remembers to tend to herself. On especially hot days, Girlicie descends to the ground to bathe and drink water to cool down. You might even catch her grooming and arranging her feathers. *Next page*

Blue Ribbon panel withdraws invite to 18 ‘ex-soldiers’

By Maricel V. Cruz

SENATE Blue Ribbon chairperson Senator Pia Cayetano withdrew the invitation to 18 individuals said to be former soldiers to attend the June 4 resumption of the hearing on anomalous flood control projects, their lawyer Levito Baligod said.

Baligod shared a screenshot of the letter from the Blue Ribbon Oversight Office Management on Facebook which read: “Please be informed that upon the directive of the Chairperson Senator Pia S. Cayetano, the said invitations are hereby withdrawn.”

Cayetano has yet to issue a statement on the withdrawal of the invitation. *Next page*

20 DEATHS IN BUILDING COLLAPSE

NEWS / A3



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A DIVIDED HOUSE. Empty chairs at the majority side of the session hall and filled seats on the minority side was the scene yesterday at the Senate mirroring that current political divide in the upper chamber. FB of Sen. Risa Hontiveros

PBBM, VP Sara show support for Brigada Eskwela

By Charles Dantes,
Katrina Manubay

PRESIDENT Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos Jr. on Tuesday inspected preparations for the upcoming school year in Navotas City, highlighting government efforts to improve school safety, learning facilities, and literacy programs as classes are set to resume later this month.

Speaking during a visit to Kapitbahayan Elementary School in Barangay Kaunlaran under the annual Brigada Eskwela campaign, Mr. Marcos said the government is working to ensure *Next page*



TEACHING THEM YOUNG. President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte did their own Brigada Eskwela sorties yesterday to support the cleanliness campaign aimed at preparing schools for the start of classes. PCO/OVP

Sandigan postpones arraignment of Jinggoy and Bonoan

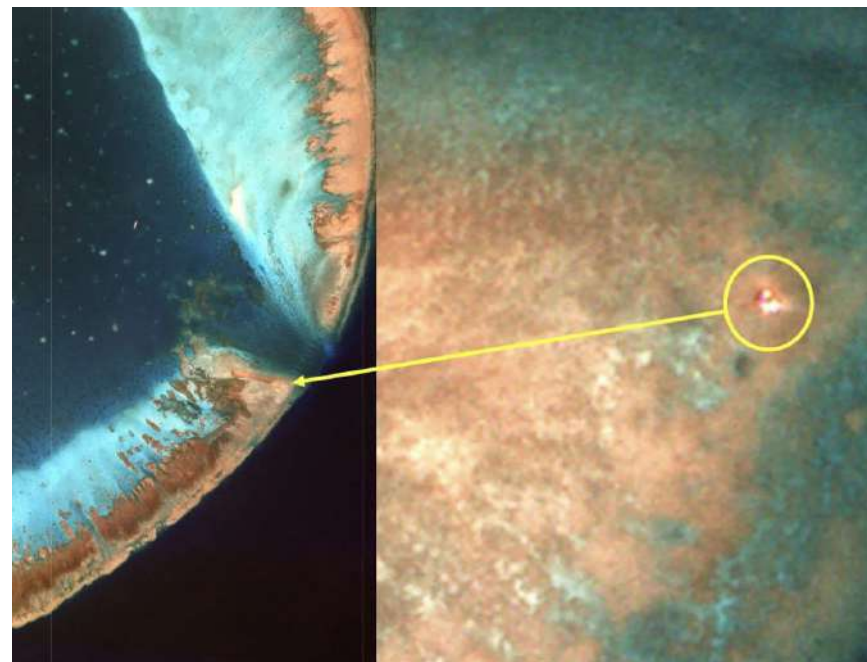
By Maricel V. Cruz
and Vince Lopez

THE Sandiganbayan postponed the arraignment and pre-trial proceedings of Senator Jinggoy Estrada and former Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Secretary Manuel Bonoan.

The anti-graft court reset the arraignment to Thursday, June 4, after the respondents raised legal motions and medical concerns. The hearing had been scheduled before the Sandiganbayan’s Second Division on Tuesday.

The court earlier ordered their detention in connection with a non-bailable plunder case involving an alleged P573-million flood-control kickback scheme.

Estrada’s lawyers filed several motions, including an omnibus motion to *Next page*



MYSTERY OBJECT. Photo posted by SeaLight taken from a commercial satellite imagery shows a reflective object measuring approximately 10 meters in diameter situated on the reef flat near the lagoon entrance of Scarborough (Bajo de Masinloc) shoal.

Cayetano-led...

From A1

“Right now, we know what the priority bills are — not just two, not just one, not just three, there are many... With what’s happening in the Senate, it will really be difficult not only for the President but also for the public,” Presidential Communications Office Usoc. Claire Castro said.

“The public is affected by this, and even the economy will be affected by the noise and chaos in the Senate,” she added.

‘Everyone not a puppet’

But for Cayetano, the boycott was necessary as part of the majority’s protest against what he described as a “puppet Senate.”

He said it was also a form of retaliation against the minority senators, who earlier walked out to reject an online voting push that would allow fugitive or arrested lawmakers to participate remotely.

"They used the parliamentary tool

House...

From A1

The expulsion stemmed from a complaint filed by Deputy Speaker Jannette Garin of Iloilo, who accused Barzaga of repeatedly disrupting House proceedings, displaying discourteous behavior toward fellow lawmakers, and posting social media content that undermined the dignity and integrity of the institution.

The committee found that Barzaga violated Sections 141(a) and (b) of the House Rules, which require members to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects creditably on the chamber. It also ruled that his actions fell short of the standards required under Republic Act 6713, or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

“The Committee approves the im-

of walking out so that the changing of the rules would not proceed. So now, the majority is also using the rules correctly, morally and legally, to ensure that the committees are not seized so that the hearing of the Blue Ribbon this Thursday, as well as the various other important hearings in each committee, can proceed," Cayetano said.

The standoff worsened as the two blocs faced a dead-even 11-11 power struggle following the arrest of Senator Jinggoy Estrada and the manhunt against Senator Ronald dela Rosa.

‘Everyone but Alan’

For his part, Senator Panfilo Lacson urged the members of the majority bloc to attend the final session day today (Wednesday, June 3).

"We appeal to the rest of the majority bloc to attend the Senate session Wednesday out of a sense of duty. We're not appealing to the Senate President (Cayetano) anymore since his situation has become untenable, as he discourages other senators from attending the session," Lacson said.

position of the most severe penalty of expulsion from office upon Representative Kiko Barzaga,” 4PS Party-list Rep. JC Abalos told the plenary as he presented the committee report.

The panel cited Barzaga’s disciplinary record, noting that he had already been penalized twice with 60-day suspensions but continued conduct that reflected negatively on the House.

“The Committee considers that another penalty of suspension will not likely deter the improper behavior which continuously reflects negatively on the image of the House of Representatives,” the report stated.

The controversy arose from incidents in September 2025, including social media videos featuring altered images of House leaders, livestreams from inside the session hall, sarcastic remarks directed at fellow lawmakers, and conduct deemed disruptive to parliamentary proceedings.

“The Senate Presidency is the only thing being protected – power, position. So, we appeal to our colleagues in the majority. What is the prize for you? We don't think there's any. And we believe the majority members are only going along with Senate President Cayetano," he added.

Senator Raffy Tulfo said all members of the majority bloc are welcome to join the 11-member minority, with the exception of Cayetano.

“Except Alan Peter. We invite everyone – join us. But Alan Peter, stay steady where you are,” Tulfo said.

“I challenge Alan Peter Cayetano, if you're brave, come here (today). Otherwise, you're a coward,” he added.

‘Isusumbong ko kayo kay Tulfo’

Cayetano, for his part, rejected Tulfo’s dare, noting that had the latter not been the brother of veteran host Ramon Tulfo, he would have raised a complaint against the minority senator before the television program “Isusumbong mo kay Tulfo.”

“If only you (Raffy) are not a Tulfo,

While Barzaga argued that his actions were protected political expression and occurred during suspended sessions, the committee rejected the defense, stressing that lawmakers are expected to uphold professionalism and decorum at all times.

“The session hall represents statesmanship; it is not a place for unruly or disorderly conduct,” the committee said.

The report also emphasized that the House has the constitutional authority to discipline its members, including through suspension or expulsion.

Adding to Barzaga’s troubles, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Tuesday asked the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges to investigate him over social media posts related to the recent shooting incident at the Senate.

NBI Director Melvin Matibag said Barzaga’s posts and livestreams falsely

and if your brother Erwin is not a Tulfo, I would complain against both of you with (Mon) Tulfo,” the Senate President said.

“But the reality is you are there, you have a strong voice, and you must use it for the good of the country,” Cayetano said.

But for Senator Erwin Tulfo, one cannot compare the walkout of the minority bloc with the ongoing boycott of the majority bloc.

"We walked out because they wanted to divide the Chamber and vote on a motion that is not covered by our rules. They wanted to railroad or have a quick fix that's why we protested," he said in a television interview.

"We are defending the institution we are defending the Senate rules. Their boycott, on the other hand, is to protest the arrest of Senator Jinggoy," Senator Erwin added.

In a joint statement Monday evening, the minority senators asked for the resignation of Cayetano, saying “he has shown that he cannot function as the leader of the Senate.”

suggested that NBI agents had entered the Senate to carry out an attack on lawmakers. The bureau said it validated nine posts from Barzaga’s account that allegedly linked NBI personnel to an assassination plot.

Matibag said the NBI is also preparing criminal complaints against Barzaga for possible violations of Article 154 of the Revised Penal Code on the publication of false information, as well as other offenses under review, including possible inciting to sedition charges.

“I’m filing it not in my personal capacity, but on behalf of the men and women of the NBI,” Matibag said.

The NBI chief said the bureau expects to complete its review and file criminal complaints within the next week.

As of press time, Barzaga had yet to issue a statement on either the House expulsion or the NBI complaint.

Sara:...

From A1

“I have always believed that the independence of our institutions must be protected. This includes not only the Senate and the House of Representatives as institutions, but every senator and member of the House must be free to perform his or her constitutional duty according to conscience, free from threats, pressure, or any form of intimidation,” she said.

Duterte issued the statement a day after Senator Jinggoy Estrada was arrested on the order of the Sandiganbayan in connection with a non-bailable plunder case involving an alleged

P573-million flood-control kickback scheme.

Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said authorities are pursuing individuals allegedly involved in corruption and that all cases undergo proper investigation and due process.

“Those being charged are individuals allegedly involved in anomalies or corruption. These cases undergo investigation with full respect for due process, and those accused are heard and given the opportunity to respond,” Castro said.

She added that the public expects authorities to hold accountable high-profile personalities allegedly linked to corruption.

“Our countrymen are looking for those who should be held accountable—the so-called ‘big fish.’ Whether an ally or not, anyone implicated must be investigated, and that is what is happening now,” Castro said.

Estrada claimed he had received multiple offers to have the charges dropped if he agreed to leave the 13-member Senate majority bloc led by Senate President Alan Peter Cayetano.

The Vice President said good governance does not require the absence of opposition, arguing that democracy functions best when an independent opposition can question those in power.

“A government that fears dissent is not demonstrating strength. It is revealing insecurity. And that insecurity

is reflected in the direction our country is taking today,” she said.

Duterte cited what she described as three disturbing trends: attempts to deflect scrutiny over the flood-control controversy, the sidelining of constitutional safeguards in what she called a politically motivated impeachment process, and the continued push for Charter Change.

She said these developments reflect a government more focused on preserving power than serving the public.

“The Filipino people deserve a government focused on solving problems, not silencing critics; on strengthening institutions, not bending them to political ends; and on serving the nation, not perpetuating power,” she added.

Sandigan...

From A1

quash the information and a motion for reinvestigation, urging the court to resolve the issues before proceeding with the arraignment.

Bonoan, meanwhile, filed a motion for hospital arrest.

The former DPWH chief told the Sandiganbayan he is suffering from hypertension, with his blood pressure reportedly reaching 160/90, prompting the court to defer his arraignment in consideration of his medical condition.

Earlier Tuesday, the Philippine National Police (PNP) announced that Bonoan had been released from the PNP General Hospital after being treated for hypertension following his surrender to authorities on Monday evening.

At a press briefing in Camp Crame, PNP General Hospital chief Col. Cleto

Manongas said Bonoan was now stable after experiencing elevated blood pressure.

“Last night, when he was brought here, the former secretary was complaining of a heavy head and a BP (blood pressure) of 170/100. So, after giving medication, his BP improved,” Manongas said.

Manongas also declared that Bonoan is fit to stand trial, although his blood pressure may still fluctuate depending on his stress level. He remains under close medical observation.

“We cannot predict the future. Our assessment is that, as of now, at this time, Bonoan is stable,” he added.

Bonoan left the hospital aboard a PNP ambulance at around 1:23 p.m. to attend legal proceedings before the Sandiganbayan.

He is facing plunder charges alongside four former DPWH engineers over the alleged flood-control fund anomaly.

Girlie...

From A1

Crest feathers that she sometimes raises, as she tilts her head, or bobs it — as something takes her notice. With her one good eye, she watches as the tiny world around her unfolds by the day.

Girlie's estimated birth year of 1979 or 1980 puts her at about 46 to 47 years old today. She is believed to be the oldest living Philippine Eagle in captivity worldwide.

One might assume her partial blindness is due to old age, but it's been that way since Girlie's early years. She was estimated to be only 2 or 3 years old when she was rescued in 1982, after losing her right eye to a slingshot wound. Her limited vision made a potential release back into the wild no longer an option.

Captivating in captivity

"With strong and stable eyesight as an important prerequisite for an apex predator to survive in the wild, releasing her at her state is a death sentence," Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) Director of Operations Dr. Jayson Ibañez told Manila Standard.

"Despite this, she has adapted well to life in captivity and is able to move around her enclosure, perch, and respond to her surroundings," he added.

A resident of Quezon City's Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center since 2009, Girlie has built a life of her own.

Her relationship with her animal keepers is respectful but distant, with direct interaction kept to a minimum to reduce stress and to help her retain natural eagle behaviors. Because Girlie was raised for natural pairing and breeding with another eagle, her care was designed to avoid strong human attachment. The role of her keepers is mainly to provide food, maintain her enclosure, and carefully observe her behavior and health from a distance.

She is known locally to be calm, observant, and highly territorial in familiar spaces, relying more on careful listening over her partial vision. A frequent tilting or turning of the head as she focuses on objects she detects.

Poster Girlie

But what makes Girlie truly special,

according to the PEF, is her role in Philippine Eagle conservation history.

In 1987, she became the first captive female Philippine Eagle to lay a fertile egg in captivity while paired with a rescued male eagle, Tsai. Although the egg did not hatch, it proved a major scientific breakthrough, showing that captive breeding and pair bonding in the Philippine Eagle was possible, even for a wide-ranging forest raptor.

"Although she did not breed again after that, Girlie became one of the most charismatic ambassador eagles of her species. She inspired conservation awareness and helped demonstrate that even injured and rescued eagles can still play an important role in saving their species," Ibañez said.

According to PEF Executive Director Dennis Salvador, Girlie emerged as the "poster bird" for Philippine Eagle conservation amid efforts led by the PEF and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, respectively.

"Years spent tracking eagle pairs, mapping their forest territories, and studying population trends in the field helps government use this data to create official protection zones and enforce environmental laws. The partnership succeeds because it connects our research directly to national enforcement. Saving our National Bird requires basing our joint actions on verified field data," Salvador said.

Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna likewise paid tribute to Girlie, acknowledging the irony in her role as a nonreleasable bird whose life was shaped by human intervention but nonetheless "has become a bridge between the remote, difficult work of field conservation and the urban public whose votes and attention can determine policy."

"Girlie is more than a resident of a city park; she is a living reminder of our shared responsibility," Cuna said.

"The DENR will continue to work with partners like the Philippine Eagle Foundation to protect habitat, support science-based recovery, and bring conservation into the daily lives of Filipinos," he concluded.

Blue...

From A1

But for Baligod, his clients became victims of the ongoing standoff at the Senate between members of the majority and minority blocs.

“This is where we see what the remaining institution that is trying hard to be independent—our Senate—is currently going through,” he said.

“Based on the information I obtained, some Senators are merely worried about the potential further harassment that the administration might inflict on the members of the Senate's majority bloc. For now, I have learned that the Blue Ribbon Committee's investigation into the biggest theft of the nation's coffers will proceed,” Baligod added.

The 18 individuals who identified themselves as former security staff of ex-Ako Bicol party-list Rep. Zaldy Co earlier claimed they distributed some P805 billion to several officials, including about P115 million to support the ongoing investigation of the International Criminal Court against former President Rodrigo Duterte.

Meanwhile, at least five contractors paid P10 million per project as commitment fee or kickback fee to former Department Public Works and Highway Bulacan 1st District Engineering Office district engineer Henry Alcantara, a DPWH engineer told the Sandiganbayan.

DPWH engineer John Carlo Rivera of DPWH Bulacan disclosed this during the hearing of the malversation case filed against former senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr. and six others over an alleged ghost P9.8 million flood control project in Pandi, Bulacan.

Rivera said he was instructed by Alcantara to come up with a list of flood control projects to be funded under the national budget.

The specifications have to include the project proponents or the public officials as well the contractors who pay a commitment fee after the awarding of the projects.

“Each of them (contractors) would give a commitment fee three to four times...worth around P10 million per project,” Rivera said.

Alcantara, who has already surrendered about P110 million in restitution, has since been named state witness in the government’s investigation into the flood control controversy.

PBBM,...

From A1

schools are fully prepared for the opening of classes despite the onset of the rainy season.

Meanwhile, Vice President Sara Duterte also participated in this year’s Brigada Eskwela activities at Diosdado P. Macapagal Elementary School in Quezon City on Tuesday

Duterte led the effort alongside OVP staff to ensure a safe, clean, and supportive learning environment for students, according to a press release from the Office of the Vice President (OVP).

Mr. Marcos toured several school facilities, including newly installed closed-circuit television cameras intended to enhance campus security.

"Nagkabit tayo ng CCTV (We installed CCTVs)," the President said, noting that the school now has 16 cameras to help monitor student safety and enable teachers and administrators to respond quickly to any incidents.

Mr. Marcos also inspected Brigada Eskwela activities, where volunteers were cleaning classrooms, painting school facilities and conducting repairs ahead of the school opening.

The president said volunteers participating in the program were enrolled under the Department of Labor and Employment's Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program, allowing them to receive compensation through the government's cash-for-work initiative.

According to President Marcos, the completed phase of the program benefited 147 schools and provided assistance to 3,658 TUPAD beneficiaries, with a total of P26.12 million released.

He said another 181 schools are currently being assisted under the initiative, benefiting 4,597 individuals and backed by P37.14 million in funding.

The chief executive also highlighted the government's literacy interventions, including the Tara, Basa! tutoring program, which taps college students to teach younger learners during the summer while providing financial assistance to the tutors.

The program complements the administration's broader efforts to address learning gaps through education initiatives such as the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) program.

‘Impeachment
will determine
VP Sara’s bid’

By Maricel V. Cruz

THE impeachment trial of Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte would help Filipinos determine whether she deserves their trust and confidence should she pursue a presidential bid in 2028.

Meanwhile, House prosecutor and Senior Deputy Majority Leader Lorenz Defensor of Iloilo said a conviction in the impeachment trial remains achievable, even amid political tensions in the Senate, provided that senator-judges are able to carefully evaluate the evidence presented in the articles of impeachment.

House lead prosecutor and Committee on Justice chairperson Rep. Gerville Luistro of Batangas made the remark when asked about the significance of the impeachment proceedings amid Duterte’s reported intention to run for president in the next national elections.

“That is why impeachment trial should happen because considering that she has pronounced already her intention to run for president in 2028, this impeachment trial will help the sovereign Filipino decide whether or not she deserves the faith and confidence of the electorate,” Luistro said at a news conference

The House earlier impeached Duterte and transmitted the Articles of Impeachment to the Senate, which has already convened as an impeachment court.

The impeachment complaint accused Duterte of misuse of confidential funds, unexplained wealth, bribery, and issuing threats against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., First Lady Liza Araneta-Marcos, and former Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez.

Asked whether the allegations themselves raise questions about Duterte’s fitness for higher office, Luistro declined to comment before hearing the Vice President’s defense.

IN BRIEF

PNP: Zero tolerance
for cops violating traffic

PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. on Tuesday issued a stern reminder to all personnel to strictly observe traffic laws and the regulations of other government agencies amid reports of police officers being flagged for violations.

Nartatez emphasized that law enforcers must be the first to obey the law, underscoring that discipline is non-negotiable within the organization.

“As law enforcers, it is incumbent upon all policemen to be role models in respecting even the simple rules and regulations. Our badge and uniform are symbols of the rule of law. Keep it that way,” Nartatez said.

The PNP chief stressed that accountability starts within the ranks, in line with the PNP Ethical Doctrine Manual. He also reminded personnel that their conduct in public reflects the integrity of the institution. **Vince Lopez**

NBI to probe fake
news on Bato petition

THE Department of Justice (DOJ) on Tuesday said it directed the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate vloggers involved in spreading fake news about the Supreme Court’s ruling on the petition of Senator Ronald dela Rosa.

“The DOJ confirms that it received on June 1, 2026 the referral from the PCO regarding alleged social media posts spreading misinformation concerning the Supreme Court’s ruling involving Sen. Dela Rosa,” Justice spokesperson Polo Martinez told reporters.

“The matter will be referred to the NBI for investigation and appropriate action, including possible case build-up for the filing of criminal charges, if warranted,” he added.

The move came after the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) endorsed to the DOJ the filing of appropriate charges against four Facebook accounts allegedly involved in spreading misinformation. **Pot Chavez**

CSC, UP sign pact
on Lingkod scholarships

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the University of the Philippines (UP) have signed an agreement granting scholarship opportunities to recipients of the Gawad Lingkod Bayani awards, expanding support for outstanding public servants and their professional development.

The memorandum of agreement was signed on June 1 at the CSC Central Office by CSC Chairperson Marilyn B. Yap and UP System President Angelo A. Jimenez, together with officials from both institutions.

Under the agreement, UP will provide scholarship grants to recipients of the Gawad Lingkod Bayan ng Pangulo, Gawad Dangal ng Bayan, and Gawad Pagasa from 2025 to 2030. Awardees may avail themselves of the scholarship within five years of receiving the award.

Individual and group awardees, or one qualified beneficiary, may enroll in degree programs and pursue graduate studies in any UP constituent university, subject to admission and academic requirements. **Jimbo Gulle**



FREE TO BE HUE. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte leads the unveiling of Araneta City’s “Free to be Hue” mural on June 2, launching Pride Month celebrations at Araneta City. The artwork symbolizes the city’s commitment to inclusivity, acceptance, and self-expression while honoring the LGBTQIA+ community. **Manny Palmero**

Death toll in building
collapse rises to 20

By Rex Espiritu

THREE more victims were recovered Tuesday afternoon from the site of the collapsed building in Barangay Balibago, Angeles City, bringing the death toll to 20, according to local authorities.

The recoveries were reported by the Unified Command to Angeles City Mayor Carmelo “Jon” Lazatin II as search, rescue, and retrieval operations continued at the collapse site.

Based on the latest report from the Incident Command Post, re-

sponders extricated Casualty No. 18 at 1:13 p.m., followed by Casualty No. 19 at 1:17 p.m., and Casualty No. 20 at 1:19 p.m.

The Angeles City Health Office immediately conducted retrieval, tagging, and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) procedures on the

recovered remains.

Angeles City Public Information Officer Jay Pelayo said the latest fatalities included a young girl, a man, and a woman.

“Responders are carefully removing debris while expanding access to other sections of the collapsed structure to locate and reach any remaining victims,” the local government said.

All members of the Unified Command remain on heightened alert as 24-hour operations continue despite challenges posed by unstable debris, difficult site conditions, and other hazards.



MANGROVES FOR RESILIENCE. Personnel of the La Union Provincial Government-Environment and Natural Resources Office undergo training on carbon stock assessment to strengthen technical capacity and support mangrove conservation and coastal resilience efforts. **Dave Leprozo**

Lawmakers hit return of ‘cheerful’
gambling billboard advertisements

By Maricel V. Cruz

LAWMAKERS on Tuesday criticized the return of online gambling billboard advertisements featuring cheerful imagery despite assurances from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) that gambling ads would carry strong cautionary messages.

Bukidnon Rep. Audrey Zubiri questioned PAGCOR’s memorandum of understanding with the Ad Standards Council (ASC), saying the advertisements still appeal to vulnerable sectors, particularly children.

“You said there would be very strong messages against gambling, yet these ads continue to use creative, happy-looking characters that attract young people,” Zubiri said during a House Committee on Games and Amusements hearing.

She said the arrangement with the ASC appears inconsistent with lawmakers’ efforts to shield children and communities from the harmful effects of gambling.

PAGCOR Gaming Licensing and Development Department Assistant Vice President Ma. Vina Claudette Oca said the agency is still finalizing implementing rules and guidelines (IRG) for online gambling advertisements, which are expected to be released in July.

Oca said PAGCOR is coordinating with the ASC to ensure the new rules do not overlap with existing penalties imposed by the advertising body.

Bukidnon Rep. Jonathan Keith Flores urged PAGCOR to speed up the process, noting that nearly a year has passed since lawmakers first raised concerns over gambling billboards.



CLOSED SEASON. Fisherfolk keep their boats docked at Sta. Ana Wharf in Davao City on Tuesday as the annual closed fishing season in the Davao Gulf begins. Some spend the downtime repairing and maintaining their boat engines.

Palace says
BI fee proposal
still under study

By Charles Dantes
and Vito Barcelo

MALACAÑANG on Tuesday said a proposal by the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to charge travelers an additional fee to modernize immigration systems remains under study and has not been approved.

Presidential Communications Office Undersecretary Claire Castro said the proposed fee of about P240 for travelers entering or leaving the country is still in the proposal stage.

“For now, this is only a proposal according to Commissioner Joel Anthony Viado. There is no decision yet, and it has not reached any conclusion. It is merely a proposal,” Castro said during a press briefing.

She urged the public not to be alarmed, saying discussions remain preliminary.

The BI has floated the proposal as a possible funding source for upgrades aimed at improving border control systems and strengthening security at ports of entry.

Asked if Malacañang supports the plan, Castro said the goal is to establish a safer and more modern border control system, but it must be implemented in a transparent, fair manner that enjoys public trust.

She added that President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. has not taken a position on the proposal because it is still under evaluation.

Meanwhile, the BI denied reports that it would begin collecting P480 from travelers, clarifying that the proposed Civil Aviation and Immigration Security Services (CAISS) Project has not been approved.

Viado said the project remains under review and has not been finalized. He stressed that no fee has been approved or implemented.

“The reports were based on a proposal that has not yet received final approvals,” he said.

Viado said the agency is conducting consultations on the proposed user fee, originally set at \$4 or about P247, while weighing its impact on travelers.

DSWD set to host ASEAN forum on ageing population

By Maricel V. Cruz

THE Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is set to host a multi-sector high level forum involving member states, international development partners, the academe, civil society and non-governmental organizations, and other Philippine government agencies to discuss innovative and sustainable approaches in responding to opportunities and challenges of an ageing population in the ASEAN.

This, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

“Our focus on the silver economy is not only about responding to the needs of older persons. It is also about recognizing their continued capacity to contribute to communities and economies when the proper support systems are in place,” DSWD Assistant Secretary and spokesperson Irene Dumlaog said.

Titled the ASEAN High-Level Forum on Unlocking the Silver Economy, the activity aims to advance policies and investments that will empower older persons and harness their contributions for economic growth and development.

The event will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on June 3-4.



POLICE MULTI-TASKING. Members of the Manila Police District undergo a five-day Disaster Preparedness, Search and Rescue, and Retrieval Operation seminar that includes firefighting in collaboration with the Paco Fire Sub-Station. The initiative aims to hone up the law enforcers’ capabilities to respond to all types of emergency situations. **Norman Cruz**

20 buses, trucks grounded amid mishaps

IN BRIEF

PVAO hails law making April ‘Veterans’ Month’

THE Philippine Veterans Affairs Office (PVAO) on Tuesday hailed the enactment of Republic Act No. 12320 officially declaring April of every year as Philippine Veterans’ Month.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed the measure into law on May 26, 2026, institutionalizing a month-long national observance dedicated to honoring the heroism, sacrifices, and contributions of Filipino veterans in defending the country’s freedom, sovereignty, and democratic ideals.

According to the PVAO, the new law reinforces the government’s commitment to immortalize and commemorate Filipino veterans, ensuring that their legacy is preserved for future generations.

The new law also seeks to educate the public, particularly the youth, about the role of veterans in shaping the nation’s history and to raise awareness of their welfare, benefits, and continuing contributions to nation-building. **Rex Espiritu**

Japan opens scholarship for 19 PH gov’t officials

JAPAN has committed ¥356 million (about P134 million) grant to fund graduate studies for 19 Filipino government officials in Japanese universities under its Human Resource Development Scholarship program.

In a press statement on Tuesday, the Embassy of Japan in Manila announced that, during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s State Visit to Japan on May 28, Foreign Affairs Secretary Theresa Lazaro and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines signed an Exchange of Notes for the Japan’s Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) project.

“The grant, amounting to JPY 356 million (approximately PHP 134 million*), will support the master’s degree and doctoral degree education of 19 young Filipino government officers for the 2027 to 2028 academic year at leading universities in Japan,” the statement read.

The JDS program exemplifies Japan’s ongoing commitment to supporting the Philippines’ human resource development initiatives. **Katrina Manubay**

Fugitive’s borrowed freedom ends in Tondo

MANILA police operatives have arrested a 23-year-old suspect allegedly wanted for two counts of rape in Nueva Ecija.

The suspect, identified as Justine, a vendor, was nabbed in front of his home on Lakandula Street in Tondo, Manila by virtue of an arrest warrant issued by the Regional Trial Court in Gapan City. No bail was recommended for the temporary release of the suspect.

The court reportedly issued the arrest warrant against the suspect on January 30, 2024, but the suspect went into hiding until his capture in Manila. **Itchie G. Cabayan**



DIGITAL LEARNING. Manila Mayor Francisco Moreno Domagoso and Vice Mayor Chi Atienza lead the distribution of smart televisions and laptops to Kindergarten and Grade I teachers. The activity, held at the San Andres Sports Complex, Manila, June 2, 2026, is part of the city government’s renewed push for digital instruction for young learners.

DAR delivers P202-m roads in Cagayan, Isabela

THE Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has completed farm-to-market roads worth P202 million to improve access to markets of thousands of agrarian reform beneficiaries in Cagayan and Isabela.

Covering a total of 11.76 kilometers, the newly completed rural roads are expected to help farmers transport their produce more efficiently, reduce hauling costs, and gain easier access to markets and essential services.

The infrastructure projects supported the rural development agenda of Agrarian Reform Secretary Conrado Estrella, focuses on strengthening farm productivity and connectivity in agrarian communities nationwide.

Among the completed projects are the P50-million farm-to-market roads in Pata West and Pata East,

Claveria, Cagayan, benefiting 127 farmer-beneficiaries.

In Cabagan, Isabela, the P15-million road project connecting Sitio Annaronan, San Antonio and Antangan is providin better access for 143 beneficiaries, particularly in transporting agricultural products and farm supplies.

Another road project worth P25 million linking Victoria and San Jose in Mallig, Isabela, has also improved mobility for 221 farmers and strengthened connections among nearby farming communities.

DAR in Region II also completed road networks in Burgos, Isabela, particularly those connecting San Miguel and Caliguian, as well as San Manuel and Catabban, benefiting 900 beneficiaries.

In Ilagan City, the Capellan CIS and Arusip-Siffu farm-to-market roads are now serving 1,300 farmer by improving access to markets and other essential services.

Moreover, 13 other farm-to-market roads are now being implemented across the Cagayan Valley region spanning 19,343 kilometers with a total investment of P252.5 million.

A P30-million slope protection project is underway to help protect road infrastructure and nearby communities from erosion and other environmental risks.

The agency also secured approval for two solar-powered irrigation system projects in Isabela worth P50 million, along with another P25-million farm-to-market project in Cagayan. **Rio N. Araja**

By Rio N. Araja

THE Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) has suspended the operations of at least 20 buses and trucks involved in recent road accidents.

The punitive move was meant to step up the agency’s road safety enforcement initiatives.

LTFRB chief Vigor Mendoza II said all the three cases of road crashes in Quezon and Nueva Ecija over the past days are currently being investigated not only to determine accountability, but also to analyze measures that could be implemented to protect the life and limb of road users.

“We want to identify a pattern of possible negligence, behavior and infrastructure problems that contribute to road crashes. And we want to establish measures out of these investigations to ensure the safety of all road users,” he said.

He directed the issuance of three separate show cause orders to Victory Liner Inc., Philtranco Service Enterprises Inc and a trucking company.

The road mishap involving a bus of Victory Liner and a wayward truck in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija two days ago left one passenger dead.

The 15 buses owned by the company were grounded for 30 days.

Earlier, 26 units owned by the same company were suspended for a road crash involving two of its buses in Tuba City, Benguet that resulted in the injury of nearly 100 passengers.

The LTFRB also suspended the operation of a unit of Philtranco for a traffic mishap in Plaridel, Quezon that resulted in the death of a passenger.

The operation of the four trucks owned by Melencio Magtalas was also suspended for the involvement of one of its units in multiple vehicle collisions in Lucena City, Quezon.

The active monitoring of the LTFRB has sent a strong message that the agency is firm in ensuring that road safety must always be prioritized by transport companies, Mendoza maintained.

“The franchise that the government gives through the LTFRB is a privilege that comes with an obligation to ensure the safety and welfare of not only the passengers but all road users,” he noted.

DSWD extends cash assistance to drought-hit Cagayan farmers

By Jessica M. Bacud

TUAO, Cagayan — Corn farmers affected by drought in this municipality received on May 29 financial assistance under the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s (DSWD) Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) program.

The ayuda distribution was held at the Leonardo N. Mamba Memorial Gymnasium and formed part of the national government’s efforts to provide relief to farmers and vulnerable sectors affected by the drought.

“This aid from the national government, led by President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos, proves that Cagayan farmers are not alone in their struggle. We are here to support you through these tough times. This is just the start of stronger support for our farmers,” Cagayan Gov. Edgar Aglipay said during the payout event.

Tuao Mayor William Mamba welcomed the assistance, describing the ECT program as a critical source of support for farmers who have suffered losses due to the dry spell.

“This support is timely and vital for our farmers. The Emergency Cash Transfer program is a lifeline for our farmers who have suffered significant losses due to the drought. We will continue to partner with agencies to expand programs that help our people,” Mamba said.

Aglipay said the provincial government would continue coordinating with local government units and national agencies to aid and strengthen the agricultural sector.

“The provincial government, together with the local government units, will continue to work hand in hand with national agencies to provide timely assistance and implement programs that will uplift the agricultural sector in Tuao and across Cagayan,” he said.



FARMERS’ AYUDA. Farmers in Tuao, Cagayan come out in droves to receive their Emergency Cash Transfer subsidy from the Department of Social Welfare and Development at the Leonardo N. Mamba Memorial Gymnasium. **Jessica Bacud**



About Town
Ernesto M. Hilario

The Enrique Manas case:
A test of DOJ credibility

THE Department of Justice has made its decision.

After nearly nine years of investigation, review, reinvestigation, motions, and legal scrutiny, the DOJ concluded that criminal charges should be filed in connection with the 2017 ambush that killed Enrique Manas Sr. in Sta. Margarita, Samar.

Last April 6, the DOJ announced that the criminal information against Emilio Zosa and his co-accused had been received by the court on March 19.

The filing implemented the January 16, 2025 resolution issued by then Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin Remulla directing that charges be brought against the accused.

Ordinarily, that should have marked the transition of the case from the executive branch to the judiciary.

The role of prosecutors is to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to justify prosecution. The role of the courts is to determine guilt or innocence.

According to reports, a motion for reconsideration has been filed challenging the DOJ's action.

That is not unusual. Every respondent in a criminal case has the right to avail himself of legal remedies provided by law. The issue is not whether such remedies should be allowed. They should.

The issue is what the DOJ will do next. This is where the real test of institutional credibility begins.

Only recently, the Supreme Court upheld DOJ Circular 20, which raised the evidentiary standard in preliminary investigations from probable cause to prima facie evidence with reasonable certainty of conviction.

The significance of that ruling cannot be overstated.

The SC effectively affirmed the DOJ's authority to require prosecutors to conduct a more rigorous assessment of evidence before filing criminal cases.

The standard demands more than suspicion. It requires prosecutors to determine whether available evidence reasonably supports a conviction should the case proceed to trial.

This is precisely why the recent developments in the Manas case carry significance beyond a single criminal proceeding.

The DOJ has already spoken through its resolution and through the filing of the Information. It concluded that the evidence satisfies the standard it adopted and that the SC has now upheld. It should be prepared to defend that position.

Government decisions derive their legitimacy from consistency, transparency, and adherence to established standards. Otherwise, public confidence inevitably suffers.

For the victim's family, the passage of time has meant years of waiting for the justice system to move forward.

For families who have lost a loved one to violence, justice delayed is not merely a legal concern—it is a burden carried every day.

The hardship is especially severe for

poor families who often lack the resources to sustain prolonged legal battles.

This is precisely why the DOJ must carefully protect the integrity of its own resolutions once they have been issued after thorough review.

When prosecutors have evaluated the evidence, applied the proper legal standards, and concluded that a case should proceed to court, the public is entitled to expect consistency from the institution.

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*Acting DOJ Secretary
Fredderick Vida now
has the opportunity
to demonstrate that
DOJ resolutions
are not mere
recommendations but
institutional decisions*

Otherwise, years of investigation and review risk being overshadowed by uncertainty, undermining confidence not only in a particular case but in the justice system itself.

Many criminal law practitioners maintain that when a life has been taken, the ultimate determination of guilt is best made by a trial court rather than during preliminary investigation.

The issue is not whether the accused should ultimately be convicted. That determination belongs exclusively to the courts.

The issue is whether the DOJ will stand by its own findings and allow the judicial process to proceed.

When an institution reaches a reasoned decision after applying the standards it has adopted, defending that decision becomes part of preserving its credibility and demonstrating that justice is guided by law rather than delay.

If no legal grounds exist to alter the Department's position, then the public is entitled to expect the agency to maintain the findings it has already reached based on its evaluation of the evidence.

The SC has affirmed the evidentiary framework. The DOJ has already acted under that framework. The courts stand ready to perform their role.

Acting DOJ Secretary Fredderick Vida now has the opportunity to demonstrate that DOJ resolutions are not mere recommendations but institutional decisions that deserve faithful implementation and defense.

At this stage, the issue is no longer whether the DOJ can make a decision. It already has.

The issue is whether the DOJ will stand by it. That is the test of DOJ credibility. (Email: ernhil@yahoo.com



The Fifth Gospel
Jude Avorque Acidre

Reframing General Education

WE are asking the wrong question.

The debate on General Education reform has become too heated because we often begin from worry instead of purpose. We ask, “Are GE subjects being removed?” Perhaps the better question is, “How can every stage of education do what it is meant to do, and do it well?”

I believe GE should stay. Its spirit should stay. Its purpose should stay. We need young Filipinos who can think clearly, speak well, write with confidence, understand history, appreciate culture, reason ethically, and participate responsibly in society.

At the same time, we need honesty. Many GE subjects in college now serve as remediation for competencies that should have been mastered in senior high school.

When college spends two more years repeating foundations, students lose precious time for deeper professional training, specialization, research, internship, innovation, and real preparation for work.

So the task before us is clear. Let us move from outrage to solutions. Let us reframe the discussion around three commitments.

First, we must strengthen senior high

school. We begin where the learner begins: senior high school.

The discussion on GE reform belongs within the larger reform of education, especially the strengthening of senior high school.

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*How can learning serve
the Filipino learner
better?*

If senior high school is truly meant to prepare learners for college, employment, entrepreneurship, or technical skills development, then foundational liberal arts education must be firmly built there.

Communication, critical thinking, ethics, culture, history, philosophy, mathematics, science, and social understanding should form the grounding of both academic and TVET learners.

Before K to 12, many of these subjects were already taught to students of the same age as today's senior high school students. The question, then, is how we make senior high school worthy of that responsibility.

EDITORIAL

Bad actors

FILIPINOS are not strangers to actors becoming politicians. There have been quite a number of them, with varying levels of executive and legislative performance. Some have evolved into genuine public servants; many have been stuck playing a role for which they have been grossly miscast.

In recent days, however, the opposite seems to have been true. At the sorry spectacle of the Senate, lawmakers have turned to putting their emotions, real or contrived, on full display. We remember, of course, how Senator Ronald Dela Rosa turned up after hiding for six months because he feared an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court, just to cast his vote for a new majority. After being chased up the stairs, he made it, panting, to the Senate floor, and told his sympathetic colleagues about having to “wrestle” authorities. He cried, of course, and pounded on the table, failing to comprehend why the press was asking him his reasons for showing up.

Two days later, gunshots were fired in the building. Majority senators held a press conference in darkness, Senator Alan Peter Cayetano casting his shadow on the Senate seal. We're under attack, he claimed. In the following days he also pounded on the podium when reporters grilled him about the supposed threat. And then his sister, Senator Pia Cayetano, delivered a heartfelt

manifestation that she was so terrified she had to say goodbye to her children. She also reproached her colleagues in the minority for not bothering to check up on them.

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Somebody yell ‘Cut!’

All these were belied by the fact that the majority was enjoying a catered meal all along, breaking bread with the fugitive, that the gunshots were fired by the Senate Sergeant-at-arms friendly to them, and that some minority members did check up on them.

The succeeding days did not lack for entertainment value, tragically. And on Monday, when the arrest warrant for majority Senator Jinggoy Estrada – for the non-bailable crime of plunder – was served in the premises of the Senate, Alan Cayetano blocked it with all his might, even engaging in a shouting match with the Secretary of the Interior and Local Government. Cayetano also

framed the arrest as another attack on the Senate and called on his colleagues to abandon their jobs for the day by not showing up at the plenary hall.

He was so petty he ordered that the air conditioning and Internet service be turned off as well. By this time, each side had 11 warm bodies.

Before he was whisked away for booking, the newly arrested Estrada, looking meek, held a press conference at the Senate, some of his tearful colleagues beside him showing solid support. He affected a valiant, principled tone in saying he would not seek refuge in the Senate, that he would not collect his salary, and that he would prove his innocence in due time. But there is nothing valiant in not seeking Senate protection or taking people's money – these are a given because of the crime he is accused of. As for proving his innocence, frankly, we've been familiar with such pronouncements aided by the first two times he had been jailed for plunder.

What unsympathetic characters, all.

Every working day for the Senate has now become a guessing game on whether it would outdo itself yet again. In the meantime, precious time is eaten up; there is less opportunity to do actual legislation, for which they are paid to do, in the first place.

We wish somebody could just yell “cut!” to spare the public from these antics. The next best thing is for the people to know better and not give these horrible actors any more parts in the next season.



EVERYMAN

PNP chief Nartatez's leadership

By Jose Antonio Goitia

NUMBERS don't lie, but they don't tell the whole story either.

When the latest nationwide governance survey ranked PNP Chief General Jose Melencio C. Nartatez Jr. among the country's top-rated government officials, with a 78.8 percent Index of Governance score backed by strong trust and performance ratings, the instinct was to treat it as a headline and move on. That would be a mistake.

The more important question is what the number actually means. The answer is this: Filipinos are paying attention, and what they're seeing in the PNP's current leadership is something they don't always get from government: follow-through.

Since taking the helm, Nartatez has focused on strengthening operational discipline, expanding community policing, and reinforcing accountability throughout the organization. These are not glamorous reforms. They don't generate headlines every day. But they are precisely the kind of sustained work that shapes institutions over time, and the public appears to be noticing.

The PNP has not always inspired this kind of confidence.

The institution bears the scars of past controversies that cost it goodwill and took years to begin to recover from. What Nartatez has done, quietly and me-

thodically, is rebuild that goodwill the only way it can truly be rebuilt: through performance. Not promises. Not press releases. Performance.

Culture flows from the top. Under Nartatez, the character being modeled is one of professionalism, seriousness of purpose, and genuine commitment to public service.

“

*A strong survey
score, however, is an
affirmation, not a finish
line*

When those values are set consistently at the top, they tend to filter down, and the survey suggests that is precisely what is happening inside the PNP today.

None of this exists in a vacuum. Peace and order are not background conditions; they are prerequisites. Communities don't grow, and investors don't come where people don't feel safe. As the Marcos administration presses toward stability and development, effective policing isn't just good governance. It's an economic argument.

A strong survey score, however, is an affirmation, not a finish line. Sustaining

public trust requires something harder than a good quarter: consistency, integrity, and a daily commitment to service that doesn't waver when the spotlight fades.

It also requires recognizing that Nartatez does not carry this alone.

Behind the numbers are thousands of officers doing difficult, often thankless work nationwide, officers whose daily choices either validate or undermine whatever direction leadership sets from the top. That they appear to be validating it speaks to how effectively Nartatez has communicated his priorities throughout the ranks.

The public judges institutions not by promises but by performance.

The survey suggests Filipinos are seeing results. In public service, that remains the only validation that truly counts, and the strongest case for what principled leadership can accomplish, even inside institutions that have given the public reason for doubt.

Nartatez appears to be making that case, one day at a time.

(The writer, who holds a Juris Doctor, PhD, and advanced degrees, including an MNSA, MPA, and MBA, is the Chairman Emeritus of Alyansa ng Bantay sa Kapayapaan at Demokrasya, People's Alliance for Democracy and Reforms, Liga Independencia Pilipinas, and the Filipinos Do Not Yield Movement.)

Think of the classical trivium: grammar, logic, and rhetoric. These are foundations. They teach a learner how to understand, how to reason, and how to express.

These belong naturally to the preparatory stage. Senior high school should become that stage with greater seriousness, quality, and confidence.

Second, we must streamline the learner's pathway. Once the foundation is stronger, college should build on what senior high school has already formed.

The academic track in senior high school should therefore become more genuinely college-preparatory, with clear outcomes and stronger pathways for students who are ready for advanced work.

Students who demonstrate the required competencies should have access to an accelerated equivalency pathway that can lead to an associate-level qualification, similar in spirit to competency assessments already available in the TVET pathway. This recognizes a simple truth: learners grow at different speeds.

Some need more support. Some are ready for more challenging work. A good system should have room for both.

This is where credit portability becomes essential. Foundational competencies earned in senior high school should be recognized for college credit where appropriate.

With a harmonized credit recognition system, students can avoid repeating what they have already learned and gain more time for specialization, practice, research, and deeper formation.

Third, we must support the people who carry the reform. As pathways become clearer, the teachers and institutions affected by the transition must also be supported with care, preparation, and dignity. GE reform will affect students, schools, universities, and especially faculty.

College GE can also become more meaningful. Instead of a rigid list of the same subjects for everyone, GE in higher education can be organized into broader domains such as humanities, philosophy, social sciences, communication, ethics, culture, and interdisciplinary studies.

Students can then choose electives or cognate courses that deepen their specialization or broaden their formation.

A future engineer may take ethics and

sustainability. A future teacher may take culture and child development. A future health professional may take communication, community, and human dignity. GE becomes more alive when it speaks to the learner's path.

Support must especially extend to faculty. Teachers who have carried GE for many years should be supported, re-trained, and empowered to teach higher-level, interdisciplinary, and future-facing courses.

Reform should bring our faculty forward. Their wisdom, experience, and formation remain essential to the university.

In the end, GE reform is about coherence. Senior high school, college, TVET, and lifelong learning should speak to one another.

Students should move through the system with clarity. Teachers should grow with dignity. Universities should spend more time forming advanced thinkers, professionals, citizens, and leaders.

So let us ask the better question. How can learning serve the Filipino learner better?

That is our task now.

Israel, Hezbollah exchange attacks after Trump announces agreement



HEAVY BOMBARDMENT. First responders gather at the site of an Israeli strike that hit near a hospital in the southern Lebanese city of Tyre on Monday. Lebanon said an Israeli strike hit near a hospital in a southern city of Tyre as the health ministry shared footage showing heavy damage to the facility. The state-run National News Agency said a strike targeting an intersection near the Jabal Amel hospital 'hit a building and the parking lot, resulting in a number of wounded.' AFP

BEIRUT – Israel conducted strikes on south Lebanon and Hezbollah fired into northern Israel on Tuesday, after US President Donald Trump announced an agreement to halt attacks that neither side has publicly accepted.

According to Lebanon's authorities, Hezbollah would no longer fire into Israel under the agreement, while the Israeli military would cease striking south Beirut, long a bastion of the Iran-backed militant group.

The developments followed a dramatic escalation in violence that saw Israeli troops stage their deepest incursion into Lebanon in two decades, conducting waves of heavy bombardment and threatening to strike the south Beirut suburbs.

As the violence threatened to scupper a ceasefire in the wider Middle East war between the US and Iran, 24-year-old south Beirut resident Hadi told AFP he had hoped for some stability, but "that feeling did not last long".

The Israeli military said air defenses intercepted two projectiles

that crossed from Lebanon into northern Israel, hours after Trump's announcement.

According to Lebanon's National News Agency, Israel conducted fresh air strikes on south Lebanon on Tuesday.

Lebanon's embassy in Washington had hours earlier said Hezbollah had accepted a US proposal for a "mutual cessation of attacks", though there has been no official confirmation by the militant group.


"Israel's strikes on Beirut's southern suburbs will cease, and in exchange Hezbollah will not attack Israel. And we will work to ensure the ceasefire expands to include all of Lebanon's territory," the Lebanese presidency said in a statement.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had told Trump "that if Hezbollah does not cease attacking our towns and our citizens, Israel will strike terrorist targets in Beirut".


But Trump doubled down on his ceasefire push, posting on Truth Social that "hopefully" Israel and Hezbollah would stop fighting "for ETERNITY!"

"There will be no Troops going to Beirut, and any Troops that are on their way, have already been turned back," Trump said after what he described as a "very productive" call with Netanyahu.

According to Axios, however, Trump called Netanyahu "fucking crazy" and accused him of putting Iran peace talks at risk. AFP



COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
827 Aurora Blvd., Service Road, Brgy. Immaculate Conception Cubes, 1111 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel: 02-8092-0000 | Email: info@cda.gov.ph | Website: www.cda.gov.ph



MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2026-08
SERIES OF 2026

TO : ALL CONCERNED

SUBJECT : REVISED GUIDELINES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CDA PROGRAM ON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COOPERATIVES OR THE PMAC

SECTION 1. RATIONALE

Access to essential healthcare services remains a significant challenge for many cooperative members, particularly those belonging to vulnerable and underserved sectors. In recognition of this, the provision of a Program of Medical Assistance for Cooperatives aims to support the health and well-being of cooperative members, thereby strengthening their productivity, resilience, and overall socio-economic condition.

In partnership with the Office of Senator Christopher "Bong" Go, this initiative seeks to complement existing government efforts to improve access to medical assistance, especially for cooperatives and their members who may have limited financial capacity to address healthcare needs. By leveraging available resources, the program will contribute to reducing the financial burden associated with medical expenses and promote inclusive social protection within the cooperative sector.

The program shall be administered and implemented by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) through its Regional Extension Offices, ensuring efficient coordination, accessibility, and proper monitoring of assistance provided. Funding support for the implementation of the program shall be sourced from Human Capacity Development Program of the Office of Senator Bong Go for the year 2026.

Through this initiative, the CDA reaffirms its commitment to advancing the welfare of cooperatives not only in economic terms but also in promoting the health and well-being of their members as a foundation for sustainable development.

In order to facilitate the medical assistance to cooperative members qualified for the assistance, this Guidelines is issued.

SECTION 2. LEGAL BASES

a) Section 4 (b) of RA 11364, the CDA has the power to formulate, adopt and implement integrated and comprehensive plans and programs on cooperative development consistent with the national policy on cooperatives and establish an integrated framework on cooperative development for all government agencies;

development, without prejudice to the right of cooperatives to directly receive such grants and donations upon agreement with the grantors and donors thereof.

SECTION 3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Beneficiaries of this Program must meet the following minimum qualifications:

- Must be member of a compliant micro or small cooperatives duly registered with the CDA; and
- Must belong to the indigent sector or low- or no-income earners.

SECTION 4. PURPOSE OF FUND ASSISTANCE:

The CDA shall provide medical and health assistance, as enumerated in Section 5 of this Guidelines, to qualified members of micro or small cooperatives with health-related conditions.

Through this Program, the CDA shall extend financial assistance to augment the cost of the medical needs of qualified cooperative members.

Medical needs may include, but not limited to, the following:

- Confinement
- Erythropoietin (dialysis injection)
- Chemo drugs
- Specialty Medicines
- Hemodialysis
- Laboratory and Diagnostic and Imaging procedures
- Implant and Medical Devices

SECTION 5. REQUIREMENTS

a) **PMAC COOPERATIVE-MEMBER APPLICANT:**

- Duly accomplished PMAC Form (Annex 1);
- Any valid government-issued identification card, such as Passport, Driver's License, GSIS UMID, SSS ID, PRC ID, NSO Authenticated Birth Certificate, Digitized Voter's ID, PhilHealth ID, Senior Citizen's ID, Government Issued Office ID, DSWD-4Ps ID, Student ID, Coop ID and Barangay Certification;
- Original or Certified True Copy of the Clinical Abstract (for inpatient & chemotherapy cases) or Medical Certificate for outpatient duly signed by the attending physician, indicating full name, signature and license number;
- In the absence of the cooperative member-applicant, an Authorization Letter executed by the patient authorizing an immediate family member to transact with and receive the assistance from the CDA;
- Letter request from the cooperative-member addressed to the CDA;
- Current hospital billing statement; and
- Certificate of Confinement.

b) **ENDORSING COOPERATIVE:**

The cooperative shall provide:

- Letter-endorsement duly signed by the Chairperson or the General Manager certifying that the applicant is a legitimate or bona fide member of the cooperative.

SECTION 6. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FUND

Financial assistance granted under the Program shall be equivalent to fifteen percent (15%) of the beneficiary's total medical costs, subject to a maximum amount not exceeding Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00).

The release of financial assistance shall be subject to the availability of funds and applicable government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. PROCEDURES

- The member-applicant shall secure a copy of the PMAC Form from the CDA Regional Extension Offices;
- The member-applicant shall submit the duly accomplished form, together with the requirements specified in Section 4(A), to their respective cooperative for endorsement;
- The cooperative shall submit the letter-endorsement, together with the complete document of member-applicant, to the CDA Regional Extension Office where the cooperative is registered;
- The designated CDA Regional Extension Office Focal Person shall evaluate the submitted documents in accordance with this Guidelines and recommend for approval by the Regional Director;
- The CDA Regional Directors shall request the release or transfer of funds from the CDA Head Office;
- The request for fund release shall be endorsed by the Institutional Development Service (IDS) for approval of the CDA Administrator thru Finance Division for appropriate action; and
- Upon availability and release of the fund, the CDA Regional Extension Office shall process and release the medical assistance to the member-applicant.

SECTION 8. REPORTING

The CDA Regional Extension Offices shall submit report to the Head Office a report of all disbursements made within thirty (30) days from the release of funds.

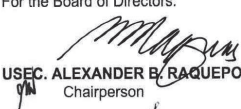
SECTION 9. EFFECTIVITY

This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation, and upon filing of a copy thereof with the Office of the National Administrative Register (ONAR).


Approved by the CDA Board of Directors on April 8, 2026 per BOD Resolution No. 136, Series of 2026.

Issued this 18th day of May, 2026.

For the Board of Directors:


USEC. ALEXANDER B. RAQUERO
Chairperson

Annex 1
PMAC Form



COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
PROGRAM ON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR COOPERATIVES
APPLICATION FORM

BUONG PANGALAN NG APLIKANTE (FULL NAME)	APELYIDO (SURNAME)	PANGALAN (NAME)	GITNANG PANGALAN (MIDDLE NAME)
PERMANENTENG TIRAHAN (PERMANENT ADDRESS)	NO., STREET	BARANGAY	MUNICIPALITY PROVINCE
KATAYUAN SIBIL (CIVIL STATUS)	<input type="checkbox"/> Walang asawa (single) <input type="checkbox"/> Kasal (married)	<input type="checkbox"/> Balo (widower) <input type="checkbox"/> Hiwalay (separated)	
KASARIAN (GENDER)	<input type="checkbox"/> Babae (female) <input type="checkbox"/> Lalaki (male)	Nationality: Relihiyon:	
NATAPOS NA ANTAS NG PAG-AARAL (EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-graduate <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational <input type="checkbox"/> College	<input type="checkbox"/> Highschool <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary <input type="checkbox"/> Walang Natapos	
HANAPBUHAY (EMPLOYMENT)	Buwanang Kita:		

MIYEMBRO NG PAMILYA NA KASAMA SA BAHAY: (HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS)

Pangalan	Edad	Katayuang Sibil	Relasyon sa Pasyente	Natapos na Pag-aaral	Hanap-buhay	Buwanang Kita

Diagnosis:

Hinihinging Tulong:	<input type="checkbox"/> In-patient <input type="checkbox"/> Out-patient	5 Page
<input type="checkbox"/> Pagpapa-ospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dialysis <input type="checkbox"/> Chemotherapy <input type="checkbox"/> Radiation therapy <input type="checkbox"/> Gamot <input type="checkbox"/> Kaugamitan sa Operasyon <input type="checkbox"/> Implant	<input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory/diagnostic Procedure (specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Device (pacemaker, stent, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Assistive Device (hearing aid, wheelchair, etc) <input type="checkbox"/> Transplant <input type="checkbox"/> Others	

Mga kaakulang papeles na isusumite sa CDA Regional Office:

- Duly accomplished PMAC Form completed by the applicant member;
- Any of the following government-issued ID of the patient such as Passport, Driver's License, GSIS UMID, SSS ID, PRC ID, NSO Authenticated Birth Certificate, Digitized Voter's ID, PhilHealth ID, Senior Citizen's ID, Government Issued Office ID, DSWD-4Ps ID, Student ID, Coop ID and Barangay Certificate;
- Original/Certified True Copy of the Clinical Abstract (for inpatient & chemotherapy) Medical Certificate for outpatient duly signed by the attending physician with printed full name, signature and license number;
- In the absence of the coop member-applicant, authorization Letter from the patient authorizing his/her immediate family member, to transact with and receive the assistance from the CDA;
- Current running bill from the hospital
- Certificate of Confinement
- Letter request from the cooperative-member addressed to CDA
- Letter-endorsement duly signed by the Chairman or the General Manager with certification that the applicant is a legitimate member/s

Pinatutanayan ko na ang lahat ng inilahad ko dito ay pawang totoo at tama ayon sa aking kaalaman at kakayahan. Nababatiit na nailintindihan ko na anumang maling impormasyon na aking sadyang ibinigay ay maaaring maging dahilan na hindi mapagbigyan ang aking kahilingan at maging dahilan sa paghabla ng kasong ligal laban sa akin.

Lagda o Thumbmark ng Aplikante sa Ilaang Pangalan
Signature or Thumbmark Above Applicant's Printed Name

ID na Ipinakita (Valid ID presented)
Kung walang ID, Sertipikasyon/Prubeba ng Pagkakakilanlan (In lieu of ID, Certification/Proof of Identity)

Kung kinatawan, Relasyon sa Pasyente (Relationship to Patient):
Numero ng Telepono (Contact No.):

VALIDATED BY:
CDA REPRESENTATIVE

NOTICE FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF IRMA DELA CRUZ PEÑAFUERTE

Notice is hereby given that the Extrajudicial Settlement of the Estate of the deceased Irma Dela Cruz Peñafrerte, who died on 21 May 2025, has been executed by her heirs on May 6, 2026. (Doc. No. 249, Page No. 51, Book No. II, series of 2026) before Notary Public Atty. Armin L. Roxas, declaring that the deceased ha no outstanding debts, obligation or liabilities at the time of her death.

(MS-JUNE 3/10/17, 2026)

Career Opportunity in MAX888 MOTORS, INC.

Position Title: CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER FOR DEALERSHIP

Vacancy: One (1)

Job Description:

- Overall brand management - protecting the company's marketplace identity and reputation
- Carry out the strategic plans, policies, and budgets approved by the Board.
- Ensures financial, operations and internal controls adequate and effective in maintaining the integrity of company operations and safeguard assets.
- Closely handling and directing the marketing department to set long-term marketing goals
- Communicating information throughout the organization to align different departments with corporate goals.
- Serving as the primary key officer collaborating with executives like the CEO, CFE and COO.

Qualification (Education, Experience, Professional License, Skills Certification, Specialized Training):

- Minimum two (2) years of experience as marketing manager or equivalent, with at least years in a leadership or management capacity.
- Proven experience managing technical teams, budgets, and retail, trade and services.
- Ability to interpret documents in English; Chinese language proficiency is a strong advantage.
- With degree in Marketing or Business Management or equivalent.
- Bilingual - English/Chinese preferred.

Applications may be sent to:

Name of Company HR: Jhona Lacao

Email address: max888motors@gmail.com

Company/Employer

Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position

Company Name:

MAX888 MOTORS, INC.

Company Address:

MAX888 MOTORS, 2724 Faraday Street San Isidro, Makati City

Address:

Point Tower, Park Terraces, West Street, San Lorenzo, Makati City

Nationality:

Chinese

Nature of business:


Adomestic corporation primarily engaged in the business of retail and trade of motorvehicles including dealership and providing services.

Intended period of employment:


Three (3) years

Max888 Motors, Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila after this publication Please inform Department of Labor and Employment - Region NCR, if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign national.



ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Dingras, Ilocos Norte
(0945) 452-4521 | (0945) 452-4522 | (0945) 452-4523 | (0945) 452-4524 | (0945) 452-4525 | (0945) 452-4526 | (0945) 452-4527 | (0945) 452-4528 | (0945) 452-4529 | (0945) 452-4530



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (INEC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting all interested manufacturers, and distributors of goods to apply for and bid for the following:

Bid No.	Name of Project (Brief Description)	ABC	Source of Fund	Completion Period	Accreditation Fee (valid for 1 year)	Non-Refundable Fees/Bid documents
BAC-09-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VEHICLE TRUCK 3 IN 1	P13,800,000.00	GF	30 DAYS Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	P25,000.00	P25,000.00
BAC-10-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VEHICLE BOOM TRUCK WITH DIGGER	P10,000,000.00	GF	30 DAYS Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	P25,000.00	P25,000.00
BAC-11-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VEHICLE BOOM TRUCK CRANE 5 TONS	P12,000,000.00	CAPEX	30 DAYS Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	P25,000.00	P25,000.00
BAC-12-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF VEHICLE MANLIFT	P7,300,000.00	GF	30 DAYS Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	P10,000.00	P10,000.00
BAC-13-2026	SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF MINI WHEELED EXCAVATOR W/ JACK HAMMER	P12,000,000.00	GF	30 DAYS Upon receipt of Notice to Proceed	P25,000.00	P25,000.00

Prospective Bidders should have completed a similar contract, and have key personnel and equipment available for the execution of the contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening, as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids, shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of the NEA Procurement Guidelines and Simplified Bidding Procedures for Electric Cooperatives.

To complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Procurement Activity	Date	Conditions/Remarks
Advertisement/Posting of Invitation to Bid	June 03, 2026	Start of Availability of Bidding Documents
Pre-Bid Conference	June 11, 2026	10:00 AM at INEC Training Room, Main Office, Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Deadline of Submission and Receipt of Bids, and Bid Opening	June 23, 2026	10:00 AM at INEC Main Office, Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Bid Evaluation & Post Qualification	June 24-26, 2026	INEC Main Office, Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Issuance of Notice of Award	To be announced	To be announced

Interested bidders may obtain further information from INEC through the BAC and its Secretariat located in INEC Main Office, Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

INEC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:
THE INEC BAC SECRETARIAT
Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (INEC)
Brgy. Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte
Email : bidsawardc@gmail.com (Lorena T. Burgcayao)
Contact Nos. : (077) 600-46-32 loc. 1101; 09608179844
(077) 600-46-32 loc. 1301; 09611003849

Noted by:
(Sgd.) **MR. CIPRIANO E. MARTINEZ III**
General Manager

(Sgd.) **ENGR. ALBERTO C. ACERET**
BAC Chairman



TENNIS CHAMPS. Christopher Papa (center) displays his medal and a replica of the top P300,000 check after winning the men's singles crown in the Palawan Open 2026. With him are Parañaque Rep. Eric Olivarez (right) and entrepreneur Hayb Anzueros of Gentry Timepieces. At left is women's singles champion Tennielle Madis.

Spotlight on Wemby in Spurs-Knicks finale

LOS ANGELES— Victor Wembanyama will aim to cement his status as the new face of basketball on Wednesday when he leads the San Antonio Spurs into game one of the NBA Finals against a New Yorks Knicks line-up bidding to end a 53-year title drought.

Just three years after landing in the NBA as the top pick in the 2023 draft, French superstar Wembanyama is now contemplating the first NBA Finals of his career and the realization of a childhood dream.

The 7-foot-4 (2,24m) Frenchman has inspired a startling transformation in the Spurs' fortunes in a remarkably short period of time.

After winning just 22 games in Wembanyama's first season, and 34 games last year, San Antonio roared into title contention this season with a dazzling 62-win campaign.

They have followed that up with a superb march through the playoffs, culminating in an against-the-odds defeat of the defending champion Oklahoma City Thunder, beaten in a game-seven thriller on Saturday.

It has left Wembanyama well ahead of schedule on a trajectory likely to place him among some of the greatest players ever to have graced the NBA.

Michael Jordan won the first of his six NBA championships at the age of 28. LeBron James won his first championship ring at the age of 27. Wembanyama, still only 22,



Victor Wembanyama

could slice years off those benchmarks.

James himself famously described Wembanyama as an "alien" before the 2023 draft, describing the Frenchman's combination of physical and defensive presence aligned with a deftness of touch and shooting prowess as virtually unprecedented.

Wembanyama has more than lived up to that billing with a string of other-worldly performances in the playoffs, where he is averaging 23.2 points per game, with 10.8 rebounds, 2.7 assists and 3.5 blocks.

'Meaning of my life'

Speaking after Saturday's series victory over Oklahoma City, Wembanyama underscored what reaching the finals meant to him.

"Winning the Larry O'Brien (NBA championship trophy) is a childhood dream, and having a real shot at it, having a tangible chance at winning it -- it's a lifetime chance,"

Wembanyama said.

"It's hard to put into words. It's almost like the meaning of my life."

Standing in the way of Wembanyama's date with destiny, though, is a Knicks team that have already demonstrated the ability to neutralize San Antonio's array of threats this season. AFP



BOARD OF INVESTMENTS



DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **AXEIA DEVELOPMENT CORP.** with office address at 5th & 6th Floor, Westar Building, 611 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City, is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as a New Developer of Economic Housing Project (**TIERRA VISTA AYANA PHASE 3**) with a capacity of 937 House & Lot units, under Tier 1 (Preferred Activities-Mass Housing) of the 2022 Strategic Investment Priority Plan (SIPP) of RA No. 11534 (CREATE Act), as amended by RA No. 12066, with project site located at Brgy. Langkaan I, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication .

(SGD.) **MARY ANN E. RAGANIT**
Director
Infrastructure and Services Industries Service

Career Opportunity in MT. LABO EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Position: Senior Technical Advisor

Vacant position: One (1)

Job Description:

- The Senior Technical Advisor will provide strategic, technical, and operational guidance to support the planning, development, and execution of operations

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Surveying, Mining, or related field (acceptable with extensive experience)
- Minimum of 15+ years of extensive experience in the mining industry, with a strong track record in mine planning, project development, and operational advisory roles
- Demonstrated experience serving in a senior technical or advisory capacity
- Proven expertise in strategic mine planning, including short-, medium-, and long-term planning and optimization
- Experience in reviewing and validating survey data, mine models, and reconciliation processes
- Experience in mentoring, coaching, and developing technical teams in a mining environment
- Proficiency in mine planning and scheduling software, as well as reporting and data analysis tools
- Experience working in international or remote mining environments is highly desirable

Applications may be sent to:
Amel M. Tamodra
Amel.Tamodra@tmd.com.ph

Company / Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company: Mt. Labo Exploration And Development Corp. Address: 22nd Floor, Equitable Bank Tower, 8751 Paseo de Roxas Makati City, 1226 Philippines	Name: Timothy David Thomas Address: JAL Commercial Building Brgy Kalamunding, Bautista Street Labo, Camarines Norte Nationality: Australian Intended period of employment: Three (3) years
Nature of Business: Mining Exploration	

Mt. Labo Exploration And Development Corp. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in TN TECH ELECTRONICS INC

Position Title : Managing Director

Job Vacancies : 1

Job Description:

- Directs and coordinates activities of industrial organization to obtain optimum efficiency and economic operations and maximize profit.
- Plans and develops organization policies and goals.
- Implement goals through subordinate administrative personnel.
- Coordinates activities of departments, such as manufacturing, maintenance, or research and development, to effect operational efficiency and economy

Qualification :

- Pertinent university degree graduate or equivalent to meet minimum requirements of the job.
- Proven experience as Managing Director or similar role, preferably within manufacturing industry.
- Preferably proficient in Korean Language and can understand English.
- Possess strong knowledge in establishing, implementing and strategies directing company's operation.

Applications may be sent to:
Name of Company HR: Ms. Jane Ramirez
Email address : tntechelectronics2019@gmail.com

Company/ Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: TN Tech Electronics Inc. Address: B1 L4A EDA St. Northwest Home Owners Association Complete address Lot 9, Block 24, Phase 4, Tejeros Convention, PEZA, Rosario, Cavite 4106	Name: HYUNSUK NOH Address: BF Homes Parañaque City Nationality: Korean
Nature of business: Manufacturing	Intended period of employment: Two (2) years

TN Tech Electronics Inc. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - Regional Office No. IV-A located at 3rd and 4th Floor, Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Laguna.

Any Filipino jobseeker who is competent, able and willing to perform the services for which the foreign national is intended to be hired for, may file an objection at DOLE Regional Office No. IV-A located at 3rd and 4th Floor, Andonson Bldg. II, Brgy. Parian, Calamba City, Lag una within 30 days after this publication.

Please Inform DOLE Regional Office No. IV-A if you have any information on criminal offenses committed by the foreign nationals.

Career Opportunity in 888 Tripacific Corporation

Chinese Product Trainer And Researcher

Nine (9) Vacancy

Job Description:

- CREATE TRAINING MATERIALS AND PERFORM INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATIONS ABOUT PRODUCTS OFFERED BY THE COMPANY & GATHERING INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRODUCT'S PURPOSE, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTION, AND WHICH SOLUTIONS SHOULD OFFER TO CREATE CUSTOMER DELIGHT.

Qualification:

- STRONG KNOWLEDGE IN ORGANIZING PHYSICAL TRAINING COURSES.
- GOOD COMMUNICATION SKILLS SPECIFICALLY IN PUBLIC SPEAKING.
- EXPERIENCE WITH SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS FOR PRODUCT RESEARCH.

Applications may be sent to:
tripacific.corp@gmail.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: 888 Tripacific Corporation	Name: 1. Xu Ziqin, 2. Wang Yunji, 3. Lin Yujie, 4. Lin Haojing, 5. Huang Tingting, 6. Chen Shaowei, 7. Wan Jiawei, 8. Li Quanzhou, 9. Chen Yuanyuan
Company Address: Unit 1001 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 154 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Bel-Air Makati City	Address: 1,5,7-8. Manila City 2,4. Valenzuela City 3. Sta. Cruz Manila 6. Makati City 9. Malabon City Nationality: 1-9. Chinese
Nature of Business: Manufacturing	Intended period of employment: 1-9 - Three 3(years)

888 Tripacific Corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in Yuda Construction Corp.

Chinese Machinery Operator

One (1) Vacancy

Job Description:

- The Chinese Machinery Operator is responsible for operating, monitoring, and maintaining heavy construction machinery and equipment used in construction projects.
- The position requires coordination with Chinese supervisors, engineers, and technical personnel to ensure safe and efficient project operations.

Qualification:

- Must be able to understand and operate machines with Chinese /english manual.
- With experience in operating heavy construction machinery.
- Knowledgeable in machine safety procedures and maintenance.
- Physically fit and able to work on-site.
- With valid operator certification/license is an advantage.
- Responsible, hardworking, and can work under pressure.

Applications may be sent to:
yudajianzhu789@163.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: Yuda Construction Corp.	Name: 1. Liu Qingyang
Company Address: Office 1 G/F Parkville Apartments, 7626 Guijo Cor. Sacred Hearts Sts., San Antonio Village Makati City	Address: 1. Las Piñas City Nationality: 1. Chinese
Nature of Business: Construction	Intended period of employment: 1 - Three 3(years)

Yuda Construction Corp. hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in 888 Tripacific Corporation

Chinese Product Ambassador Sales Representative

Ten (10) Vacancy

Job Description:

- Contribute to the marketing and promotion of a brand or product.
- Performs a variety of tasks, including in-store service, product promotions, or participating in marketing events.
- Brand ambassadors must have a strong online presence and a reputable public image.
- Will focus marketing to Chinese and Taiwanese customers.

Qualification:

- Excellent presentation skills.
- Excellent persuasive and marketing skills.
- Ability to generate creative marketing and promotion ideas.

Applications may be sent to:
tripacific.corp@gmail.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: 888 Tripacific Corporation	Name: 1. Zhang Zonglin, 2. Cai Hongjie, 3. Xu Guoying, 4. Li Aifen, 5. Wu Senliang, 6. Lan Xin, 7. Peng Min, 8. Lin Jiaron, 9. Hong Shaofang, 10. Wu Qingfang
Company Address: Unit 1001 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 154 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Bel-Air Makati City	Address: 1,4,9. Manila City 2. Las Piñas City 5. Manila 6,8. Taguig City 7. Parañaque City 10. Pasay City Nationality: 1-10. Chinese
Nature of Business: Manufacturing	Intended period of employment: 1-5,7-10 - Three 3(years), 6 - Two 2(years)

888 Tripacific Corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in 888 Tripacific Corporation

Quality Assurance Specialist

Ten (10) Vacancy

Job Description:

- ENSURE PRODUCTS MEET THE ESTABLISHED QUALITY STANDARDS AND INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS.
- MONITORS PROCESSES AND INSPECT PRODUCED GOODS AND SERVICES.

Qualification:

- OUTSTANDING PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS.
- EXCELLENT VERBAL AND WRITING SKILLS.
- STRONG ANALYTICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS.

Applications may be sent to:
tripacific.corp@gmail.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: 888 Tripacific Corporation	Name: 1. Zou Zhiming, 2. Wang Zhenyu, 3. Shi Chaorong, 4. Ye Jiancheng, 5. Siow Yi Key, 6. Chen Zhikai, 7. Wang Chun, 8. Wu Yang, 9. Lin Lianguo, 10. Mao Yuanqing
Company Address: Unit 1001 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 154 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Bel-Air Makati City	Address: 1-3. Malabon City 4. Makati City 5. Manila City 6-8,10. Pasay City 9. Quezon City Nationality: 1-4,6-10. Chinese 5. Malaysia
Nature of Business: Manufacturing	Intended period of employment: 1-10 - Three 3(years)

888 Tripacific Corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in 888 Tripacific Corporation

Quality Assurance Specialist

Ten (10) Vacancy

Job Description:

- ENSURE PRODUCTS MEET THE ESTABLISHED QUALITY STANDARDS AND INDUSTRY BENCHMARKS.
- MONITORS PROCESSES AND INSPECT PRODUCED GOODS AND SERVICES.

Qualification:

- OUTSTANDING PROBLEM-SOLVING AND DECISION-MAKING SKILLS.
- EXCELLENT VERBAL AND WRITING SKILLS.
- STRONG ANALYTICAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS.

Applications may be sent to:
tripacific.corp@gmail.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: 888 Tripacific Corporation	Name: 1. Zou Zhiming, 2. Wang Zhenyu, 3. Shi Chaorong, 4. Ye Jiancheng, 5. Siow Yi Key, 6. Chen Zhikai, 7. Wang Chun, 8. Wu Yang, 9. Lin Lianguo, 10. Mao Yuanqing
Company Address: Unit 1001 Cityland 10 Tower 1, 154 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Bel-Air Makati City	Address: 1-3. Malabon City 4. Makati City 5. Manila City 6-8,10. Pasay City 9. Quezon City Nationality: 1-4,6-10. Chinese 5. Malaysia
Nature of Business: Manufacturing	Intended period of employment: 1-10 - Three 3(years)

888 Tripacific Corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

Career Opportunity in Shanghai Shengkai Builders Co.ltd.corporation

Chinese Administrative Marketing Assistant

Two (2) Vacancy

Job Description:

- The Chinese Administrative Marketing Assistant is responsible for providing administrative and marketing support to the company's daily operations.
- The role involves coordinating with Chinese management and local clients, preparing reports and marketing materials, managing schedules and office documentation, and assisting in the implementation of online and offline marketing activities.
- The position requires strong organizational, communication, and multitasking skills to ensure smooth office operations and effective client relations in a fast-paced construction industry environment.

Qualification:

- With experience in administrative and marketing work is an advantage.
- Strong organizational and communication skills.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications and social media platforms.
- Ability to multitask and work in a fast-paced environment.
- Detail-oriented and capable of handling confidential documents.

Applications may be sent to:
shanghai shengkai.ph@gmail.com

Company/Employer	Name of foreign national intending to apply for the position
Company Name: Shanghai Shengkai Builders Co.ltd.corporation	Name: 1. Han Hong, 2. Ding Yuxiang
Company Address: Unit 601 Eastfield Center Diosdado Macapagal Blvd. Moa Complex. Barangay 76 Pasay City	Address: 1. Taguig City 2. Pasay Nationality: 1-2. Chinese
Nature of Business: Construction	Intended period of employment: 1-2 - Three 3(years)

Shanghai Shengkai Builders Co.ltd.corporation hereby declares that the above-named foreign national is able, willing, and qualified to perform the services and job description for this position. The company has the intention to employ the said foreign national and apply for an Alien Employment Permit with the Department of Labor and Employment - National Capital Region located at 967 Maligaya Street, Malate, Manila.

AIA Rock 'n' Roll Run Series celebrates OPM

MANILA is tuning its strings and lacing up its running shoes as it prepares to welcome the global stage for the fifth historic edition of the AIA Rock 'n' Roll Running Series Manila presented by ASICS. This year's landmark staging promises to be an unprecedented celebration, merging world-class athletic endurance with the rich, rhythmic soul of the capital city.

Under the new defining theme, "Ito ay atin, Sariling atin," the event is stepping away from standard global playlists to spotlight a masterpiece collaboration with revered National Artist for Music Ryan Cayabyab. Runners from across the globe will sprint, jog and rock through a course scored by original Pilipino music, immersed in the authentic culture and fierce, vibrant spirit that defines Manila.

"We are absolutely thrilled to host the fifth staging of the Rock 'n' Roll Running Series Manila, and we are delighted to once again shine a global spotlight on our beloved city and the beautiful landmarks we hold so dear," said the Manila Mayor Isko Moreno during the official launch of the blue-ribbon event at Bulwagang Villegas, Manila City Hall.

The launch gathered partners, members of the media, influencers, run clubs, and special guests, including Chief Marketing Officer of AIA Philippines Melissa Henson, Brand Director of ASICS for Sonak Philippines Ines Preysler, Sunrise Events President and General Manager Princess Galura, and Cayabyab himself.

"This year is profoundly special. With our new theme, "Ito ay atin, sariling atin," highlighting Original Pilipino Music (OPM), Filipino culture, and the vibrant spirit of Manila, we are inviting the world to experience the true heartbeat of the city," said Moreno. "Through an incredible collaboration with our National Artist, the course will come alive with original Pilipino music and cultural expressions unique to our heritage. We warmly welcome runners from every corner of the globe to join us in this latest edition, to run our streets, and to share in a vibrant spirit that belongs entirely to Manila."

The milestone fifth edition places Manila in an elite lineup of iconic global cities that have hosted the legendary series. From Las Vegas to San Diego, Nashville, Madrid, Mexico City, Santiago and Taipei, each host city has historically injected its own distinct culture and energy into the Rock 'n' Roll experience.

"Ito ay atin, Sariling atin" is a celebration of identity. By weaving the masterpieces of our National Artist into the fabric of the race, we are giving international and local runners a sensory experience they cannot get anywhere else in the world. Manila isn't just hosting a global race; we are inviting the world to run through our living culture," added Moreno.

ABARRIENTOS NAMED BEST PLAYER.

Ginebra's RJ Abarrientos, shown here challenging a triple-team by Rain or Shine, got another shot at his first-ever PBA title following an impressive performance during the 50th Season Commissioner's Cup semifinals. Abarrientos led the Gin Kings' local crew and closed out the semifinals against Rain or Shine after averaging 23 points, 6.0 assists, 4.2 rebounds, and 2.0 steals to clinch the PBA Press Corps Player of the Week honors for the period May 27-31.



Awatramani, Chiu win WR Bughouse tilt

DEPP Waters' Isaac Chiu and Janak Awatramani downed The Angry Birds' Andrew Tang and Richard Zheng in the deciding third match to rule the inaugural WR Bughouse Championship at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in BGC, Taguig on Tuesday. It was the second title together for Chiu and Awatramani after topping a tougher one last year—chess.com's World Championship last year.

"I've been in the bughouse longer than him (Chiu), but I convinced him to join me in 2020," said Awatramani.

For their feat, Deep Waters pocketed the top purse worth \$50,000, courtesy of organizing WR chess founder Wadim Rosenstein, while the Angry Birds got pacified by their \$20,000 runner up purse.

It was an impressive performance for the Chiu-Awatramani pair after emerging atop the 12-round eliminations by winning their first 11 matches before dropping their last.

World No. 34 Awonder Liang and Eilia Zomorrodian of Emmy as the goat trounced Alex Guo and Jimmy Lee of Mate in 2 to clinch third place and \$10,000 prize.

There were two Filipino teams that made it to the quarterfinals—Palaban's GM Darwin Laylo and FM David Elorta and Marc Nazario and Vince Angelo Medina—but both suffered heartbreaking defeats and settled for \$2,000 consolation purse each.



Deep Waters' Isaac Chiu (left) and Janak Awatramani

Retention or redemption: TNT vs. Ginebra for crown

By Jeremiah Sevilla

IT'S going to be retention or redemption as TNT and Barangay Ginebra renew their classic rivalry in the PBA Season 50 Commissioner's Cup finals starting in Game 1 on Wednesday at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Tipoff is at 7:30 p.m., with both the defending champions Tropang Giga and the vengeful Gin Kings raring to get the head start in the best-of-seven tussle.

Seeking to win a second consecutive Commissioner's Cup crown and become the first eighth-seed to lift a trophy, TNT looks to reassert its dominance over Ginebra after emerging victorious in their last three championship confrontations with versatile import Rondae Hollis-Jefferson at the helm.

Before taking a comeback 4-3 series victory in last year's Commissioner's Cup, the RHJ-led Tropa also denied the Kings in the Governors' Cup last Season 49 (4-2) and 47 (4-3).

But with Hollis-Jefferson out this conference due to an Achilles injury, head coach Chot Reyes sees his TNT crew as the underdogs against Tim Cone's Ginebra side.

"We're only defending champions in name. It's a very different series this time," said Reyes. "We have a

different team because of the import that we have. The key is our ability to continuously adjust and adapt to Ginebra's game."

"Whatever happened in the past, the history, the previous records, it doesn't really matter to me now," Reyes added.

Cone and his Kings, for their part, do not want to settle for another bridesmaid finish as they aim to snap a seven-conference title drought.

"I think both teams are deserving to be here but one's going to come out on top. It's not fun being the second-place team. So, you know, we're going to both battle for that first place."

Both squads went through grueling semifinals assignments, as the Kings dispatched the Rain or Shine Elasto Painters, 118-107, before the Tropa thwarted the Meralco Bolts, 97-94, in their Game 6 clinchers.

Veteran reinforcement Justin Brownlee is still expected to lead the offense for Ginebra as the three-time Best Import shoots for a seventh ring while Chris McCullough, who came in as replacement for the injured Bol Bol in the semis, looks to help TNT seize the Commissioner's Cup title just like what he did for San Miguel Beer back in 2019.

But the finals will not just be about the imports as Best Player of the Conference frontrunner RJ Abarrientos, who fired 30 and 31 points in the last two semis games, eyes to keep his stellar performance going for the Kings along with Scottie Thompson and Troy Rosario.

PH experts take action to prevent sports deaths

By Randy M. Caluag

MEDICAL experts and legal professionals are calling for mandatory cardiac screening and the installation of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) across all Philippine sports leagues, following a series of athlete deaths that exposed gaps in emergency preparedness.

At least four Filipino athletes died during competitions last year, according to Philippine Olympic Committee executive board member Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, who spoke at the Philippine Heart Association's 56th Annual Convention.

"Three of those could have been saved if automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were available," Canlas said, underscoring the need for life-saving equipment in sports venues.

An AED unit costs around P70,000, an amount Canlas described as manageable for private institutions



Precision Medicine advocates (from left) Dr. Jose Raul Canlas, Ma. Rosario Sevilla, Eva Cutiongco-De la Paz, Michael Zaragoza, Maria Teresa Abola, Dr. Jonas del Rosario, Atty. Andrei "Rebo" Saguisag Jr., Atty. Ignatius Michael Ingles, Dr. Lucky Cuenza, and Dr. Lauren Kay Evangelista-Galindez. **Philippine Heart Association**

but still a financial challenge for many public schools.

Doctors also stressed the importance of early cardiac screening to detect

hidden conditions such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a leading cause of sudden cardiac arrest among athletes.

Sports cardiologist Dr. Lucky

Cuenza said screening protocols should be tailored to the intensity of the sport. While low-intensity activities such as chess and billiards may not require testing, moderate- to high-intensity sports like basketball and football should include medical history assessments, physical examinations and electrocardiograms.

"However, for moderate to high-intensity sports, such as endurance sports, basketball, football, they recommend the questionnaire, history, and physical examination as validated by the American Heart Association, as well as a 12-link [lead] ECG [electrocardiogram]," Dr. Cuenza said.

Regarding the appropriate age to initiate testing, University of the Philippines–Philippine General Hospital Pediatric Cardiology Division Chief and Spokesperson Dr. Jonas del Rosario said that routine screenings generally begin as students transition into junior high school.

38 players eye breakthrough in PVL Draft Night

THIRTY-EIGHT prospects will hope to hear their names called on tonight (Wednesday) as the 2026 PVL Draft takes center stage at Novotel Manila Araneta City.

Leading this year's draft class are two-time UAAP Best Setter Camilla Lamina of National University and two-time UAAP Best Libero Bernadett Pepito of the University of Santo Tomas.

The draft ceremony, which will air on One Sports, One Sports+, and Pilipinas Live at 7 p.m., is supported by Buffalo's Wings and Things, Ibis Styles Manila, and Gameville.

Also looking to capitalize on impressive performances at the Draft Combine, which was done by Valor Performance Institute, are Adamson University's Barbie Jamili and University of the East's Khy Cepada.

Jamili excelled in several categories, topping the 10-meter sprint with a time of 1.759 seconds, the pro agility 5-10-5 test at 5.109 seconds, and the hop test reactive strength index with 3.36 meters per second.

Meanwhile, Cepada placed second in both the 10-meter sprint (1.776 seconds) and countermovement jump (44.7 centimeters), third in the pro agility 5-10-5 test (5.133 seconds), and fifth in both the hop test reactive strength index (2.28 meters per second) and approach jump (295 centimeters).

Far Eastern University's Tin Ubaldo will not attend the draft proper as she remains with the Alas Pilipinas Women pool preparing for the 2026 AVC Women's Cup in Candon City.

Edoc secures JPGT Finals slot; Cervantes stays in hunt

MEXICO, Pampanga—Zoji Edoc displayed nerves of steel in a wild frontside finish, holing out with three consecutive pars to rescue a one-over 72 and edge Andres Jeturian by one shot to capture the boys' 7-10 division title in the ICTSI Beverly Place Junior PGT Championship on Tuesday.

What began as an atmosphere of youthful fun quickly morphed into a furious four-way shootout across the back nine of the Beverly Place Golf Club. Alongside Edoc and Jeturian, Alexian Ching and Lee Sooreen were deeply entangled in the leadership scramble before the latter two faltered down the stretch.

Jeturian, tied with Ching for the first-round lead of the 36-hole tournament, matched Edoc's steady par-par-par finish. However, he was ultimately undone by Edoc's blistering mid-round charge, where a rally from a three-stroke deficit saw Edoc seize control by going two-under par through 10 holes.

The drama spiked late as Edoc dropped

shots on Nos. 2, 4, and 6, cutting his lead to just one. Yet, despite the sweltering humidity under overcast skies, Jeturian couldn't find the elusive birdie in the clutch and settled for a 76, handing Edoc the title with a 150 total to Jeturian's 151, while Lee (75) and Ching (77) tied for third at 152.

The gritty victory proved crucial for Edoc, securing him the coveted second automatic berth in the upcoming North vs South Finals with 42 points, tying first-qualifier Zach Guico. Kenzo Tan carded a 73 to place fifth at 158, keeping him at No. 3 in the standings, while Ching holds No. 4 and Asher Abad sits dangerously at fifth heading into the final Luzon Series leg at Eagle Ridge on June 17-19.

"I put in the practice right after the first round, adjusting my shots and polishing my putting. That extra work gave me the confidence I needed, especially on Nos. 17, 18, and 1," said Edoc, who relentless work ethic and three consecutive birdies fueled his come-from-behind victory.



Shown here are (from left) golf winners Zoji Edoc, Jaicee Cervantes, Georgina Handog and Ryuichi Tao. **Manny Marcelo**

"I felt so confident with my putting today, and it taught me that you truly have to train and practice if you want to build that kind of confidence," he added.

4.1%

Growth forecast for 2026

5.5%

Growth forecast for 2027

6.0%

Inflation forecast for 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE?



Megaworld's reservation sales up 10.4% in Q1

B3



SSS rolls out early pension hikes

B4

DA seeks fairer agricultural trade with Vietnam

By Othel V. Campos

THE Philippines is pushing for fairer agricultural trade arrangements with Vietnam as both nations work to expand bilateral trade to \$20 billion from \$15 billion, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said Tuesday.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is exploring ways to increase Philippine exports to Vietnam to narrow a longstanding trade imbalance that heavily favors Hanoi. The deficit, estimated at around \$2.7 billion, is led largely by the Philippines' dependence on Vietnamese rice imports.

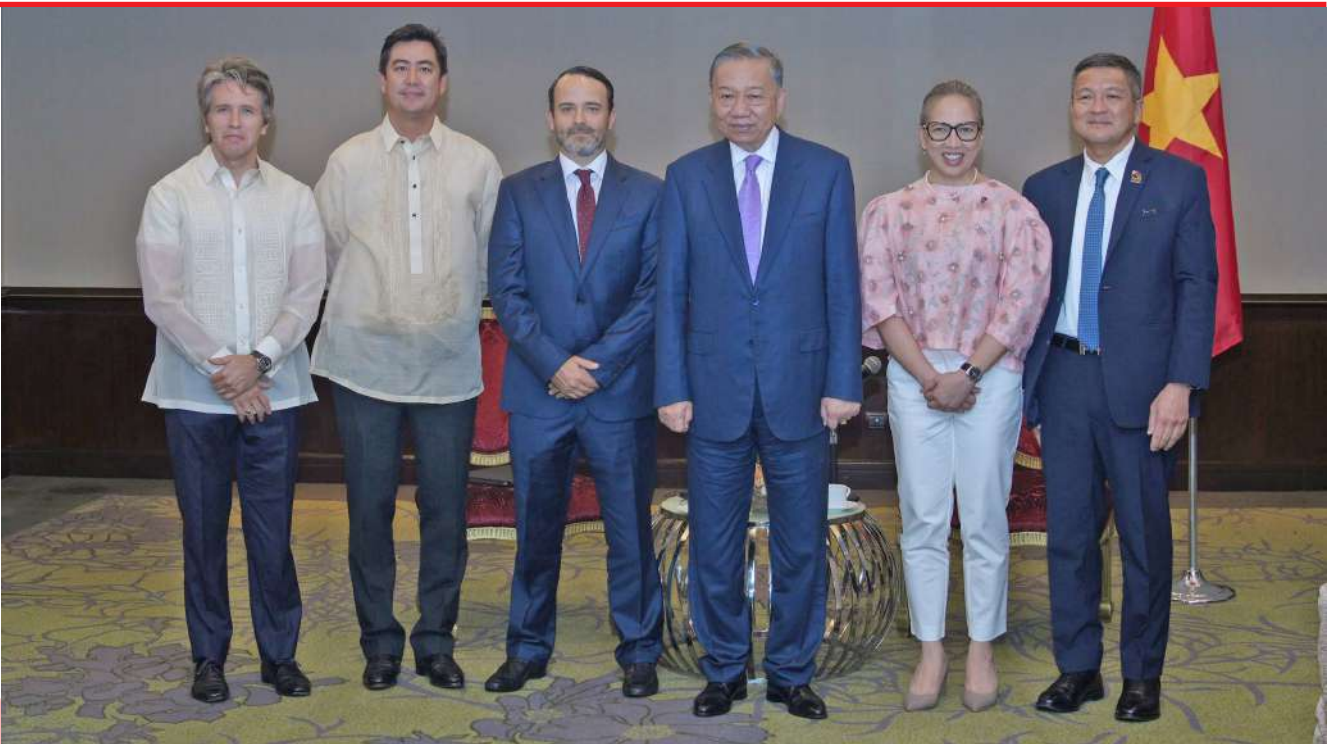
During recent discussions with Vietnamese officials, Tiu Laurel raised concerns over the implementation of agricultural trade agreements, particularly recurring issues involving rice supply contracts.

"One of the major issues is that when prices go up, the Vietnamese side normally rescinds the contract," Tiu Laurel said, citing concerns that have long been raised by Philippine importers and policymakers.

The agriculture chief said Manila will pursue stronger contract enforcement mechanisms to ensure greater predictability and reliability in agricultural transactions between the two countries, with the issue expected to be discussed further in future bilateral talks.

Meanwhile, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in both countries are expected to emerge as major beneficiaries of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA). Both nations are pushing for faster, more transparent digital business systems to unlock cross-border growth opportunities.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) president Ferdinand Ferrer said both the Philippines and Vietnam stand to gain significantly from DEFA implementation, citing strong entrepreneurial momentum among young business owners.



STRONGER COOPERATION. The Aboitiz Group meets with Vietnam President To Lam during his state visit to the Philippines, underscoring the strong alignment between Vietnam's development priorities and the group's investments in energy, food security and infrastructure. Shown are (from left) AboitizPower chief corporate services officer Carlos Aboitiz, AboitizPower chief financial officer Sandro Aboitiz, Aboitiz Foods president and chief executive Tristan Aboitiz, President Lam, Aboitiz InfraCapital president and chief executive Cosette Canilao and Aboitiz Equity Ventures chief corporate external affairs officer DJ Sta. Ana.

AMRO cuts PH growth forecasts

By Thony Rose Lesaca

A REGIONAL surveillance body slashed its economic growth forecasts for the Philippines for 2026 and 2027 while raising its inflation projections, warning that stronger price pressures will weigh heavily on domestic demand.

The ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) lowered its Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast to 4.1 percent for 2026 from 5.3 percent previously, according to its interim update of the ASEAN+3 Regional Economic Outlook released Tuesday.

The organization also trimmed the 2027 growth outlook to 5.5 percent from 5.8 percent.

AMRO raised its Philippine

inflation forecasts to 6.0 percent in 2026 and 4.1 percent in 2027 from earlier projections of 3.9 percent and 3.6 percent, respectively.

On a broader scale, AMRO kept its overall ASEAN+3 growth forecast unchanged at 4.0 percent for 2026 and 2027 despite escalating tensions in the Middle East.

"Regional growth forecast is unchanged from AREO 2026 as stronger than-expected [first-quarter]

outturn is expected to offset weaker momentum ahead," AMRO said.

The organization noted that growth could sharply moderate in the remaining months of the year as supply disruptions, rising energy and industrial input costs weigh on broader economic activity.

Growth revisions are uneven across the region. AMRO upgraded forecasts for most Plus-3 economies (China, Japan and South Korea) because of a robust artificial intelligence-driven technology cycle.

Meanwhile, it downgraded ASEAN growth in some economies, including the Philippines and Vietnam, where stronger inflation passthrough is expected to dent domestic demand.

AMRO also raised its regional inflation outlook for 2026 to 1.8

percent from 1.4 percent, while it maintained its 2027 projection at 1.5 percent.

The upward revision reflects higher global energy prices and their spillover effects on input costs, alongside additional price pressures from an expected increase in food costs driven by higher production and transport expenses.

The surveillance body warned that the ASEAN+3 region could face stagflationary pressures if the conflict in the Middle East intensifies further.

"In an adverse scenario in which Brent averages \$125 per barrel for 2026, alongside broader and more prolonged disruptions to key industrial inputs, regional growth could fall to 2.5 percent in 2026, while inflation would rise to 3.5 percent," AMRO said.



HERITAGE EXPERIENCE.

The Department of Tourism, the Department of Migrant Workers and the Intramuros Administration launch 'Pasyal Pamilya', a week-long heritage experience running from May 25 to 31 for overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and returning migrant workers. The initiative offers free guided tours and access to Fort Santiago and the Centro de Turismo Intramuros.

Gov't debt eased to P18.47t in April on local repayments

THE government's total outstanding debt eased 0.09 percent to P18.47 trillion in April 2026 from P18.49 trillion in March, led by domestic securities repayments, Bureau of the Treasury data showed Tuesday.

The Treasury said the government's repayment of domestic securities helped offset the impact of peso depreciation on foreign currency-denominated obligations.

Domestic debt made up 67.22 percent of the total debt stock at P12.41 trillion, dropping 0.95 percent from P12.53 trillion at the end of March.

The Treasury attributed the decline to a net redemption of P121.64 billion, as maturities amounting to P404.88 billion offset P283.24 billion in debt issuance.

A P2.46-billion valuation increase in the peso equivalent of foreign currency-denominated domestic securities due to peso depreciation partially tempered the decline in debt levels.

External debt rose 1.71 percent to P6.06 trillion in April from P5.59 trillion in the previous month because of a weaker local currency. These obligations represented 32.78 percent of the total debt stock.

"Revaluation of foreign currency-denominated obligations amounted to P101.72 billion due to the weaker peso against the US dollar and third-currency movements. Meanwhile, net redemption amounted to P0.08 billion," the agency said.

Thony Rose Lesaca

DTI imposes cement safeguard duties on China, Indonesia

THE Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines (CeMAP) welcomed a Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) decision to expand safeguard duties on imported cement to include shipments from China and Indonesia.

Department Administrative Order 26-03 follows a Tariff Commission recommendation and expands a safeguard measure imposed in October 2025. The original measure levied a duty of P349 per metric ton on imported cement but exempted developing countries that accounted for less than 3 percent of total imports.

Bureau of Customs data for the first quarter of 2026 showed a significant increase in cement imports from previously exempted countries. China accounted for 23 percent of total cement imports during the period and Indonesia captured 8 percent, pushing both countries well above the exemption threshold.

CeMAP said the earlier exclusion of China and Indonesia undermined the effectiveness of the safeguard measure and gave imported cement from these countries an unfair competitive advantage over locally manufactured products.

CeMAP executive-director Renato Baja said the local cement industry continues to operate below capacity despite substantial investments. The industry maintains a utilization rate of just 53 percent even though domestic producers have a combined installed capacity of 53 million metric tons annually.

In 2025, domestic cement demand reached an estimated 34 million metric tons. Imports supplied around 6 million metric tons of that total, which reduced local production to 28 million metric tons and weighed on plant utilization rates.

Othel V. Campos

April gold exports jumped 74% to \$380m

PHILIPPINE gold exports surged 73.7 percent year-on-year in April 2026 to reach \$380.76 million from \$219.25 million a year ago on strong demand from key international markets led by Hong Kong, official data showed on Tuesday.

The volume of gold shipments also increased 5.9 percent to 7.31 metric tons from 6.9 metric tons in April 2025, according to data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Hong Kong remained the dominant destination for Philippine gold exports, accounting for \$292.37 million or 76.8 percent of the total value shipped in April.

Switzerland followed with \$63.34 million or a 16.6 percent share, while India received \$15.36 million worth of

gold exports, equivalent to 4 percent of the total. Australia accounted for \$7.32 million or 1.9 percent of shipments, while other markets collectively represented \$2.38 million or 0.6 percent.

Gold exports outperformed the country's overall export sector, which grew 6.3 percent year-on-year to \$7.21 billion in April, making gold one of the strongest-performing export commodities during the month.

The Philippine Statistics Authority trade data identified gold among the country's major export gainers in April, alongside coconut oil and other mineral products, due to sustained investor demand for precious metals amid global economic uncertainty and elevated gold prices. Othel V. Campos

SERVICE CENTER.

Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP), in collaboration with Toyota Tacloban Leyte Inc., starts the development of a new service center in the municipality of Palo, Leyte. Attending the ground-breaking ceremony are (from left) TMP first vice-president for vehicle sales Elijah Sue Marcial; TMP first vice president for customer first value chain Mike Masamayor; TMP senior vice-president for marketing Ryo Yokoyama; TMP senior vice-president for marketing Sherwin Chua-Lim; Palo Mayor Remedios Loreto Petilla; Toyota Tacloban Leyte Inc. president Jimmy Yaokasin; Toyota Tacloban Leyte Inc. executive vice-president Henry Gosyco; and Toyota Bataan Inc. president Boldman Yulangco.



Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE
JOINT APPLICATION FOR
APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY
POWER SUPPLY
AGREEMENT BETWEEN
NUEVA VIZCAYA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE (NUVELCO)
AND SUAL POWER INC.
(SPI), WITH MOTION FOR
CONFIDENTIAL
TREATMENT OF
INFORMATION,

ERC CASE NO. 2026-069 RC

NUEVA VIZCAYA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE (NUVELCO)
AND SUAL POWER INC.
(SPI),

Promulgated:
May 26, 2026

Applicants.

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that on 11 May 2026, Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative (NUVELCO) and Sual Power Inc. (SPI) filed a *Joint Application* dated 24 October 2025, seeking the Commission's approval of their Emergency Power Supply Agreement (EPSA), with prayer for confidential treatment of information.

The docketed copy of the *Joint Application*, excluding its annexes, is attached as Annex "A" of the *Notice of Virtual Hearing*.

The Commission has set the instant *Joint Application* for hearing, pursuant to the pertinent rules of the Commission, as follows:

Date and Time	Platform	Activity
03 July 2026 (Friday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)	Microsoft Teams	Determination of compliance with jurisdictional requirements and Expository Presentation
10 July 2026 (Friday) at two o'clock in the afternoon (2:00 P.M.)		Pre-Trial Conference and Presentation of Evidence

Accordingly, Applicants are hereby directed to mirror the virtual hearings, to be hosted by the Commission, at **NUVELCO's principal office at Brgy. Gabut, Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya** as the designated venue for the conduct thereof and ensure that the same is open to the public. Moreover, Applicants shall guarantee that, during the conduct of the expository presentation, the participation of the public shall not be impaired.

Any interested stakeholder may submit its comments and/or clarifications at least **one (1) calendar day** prior to the scheduled initial virtual hearing, via e-mail at docket@erc.ph, copy furnish the Legal Service through legal@erc.ph. The Commission shall give priority to the stakeholders who have duly submitted their respective comments and/or clarifications, to discuss the same and propound questions during the course of the expository presentation.

Moreover, all persons who have an interest in the subject matter of the instant case may become a party by filing with the Commission via e-mail at docket@erc.ph, and copy furnishing the Legal Service through legal@erc.ph, a verified Petition to Intervene at least **five (5) calendar days** prior to the date of the initial virtual hearing. The verified Petition to Intervene must follow the requirements under Rule 9 of the ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure, indicating therein the docket number and title of the case, and state the following:

- The petitioner's name, mailing address, and e-mail address;
- The nature of petitioner's interest in the subject matter of the proceeding and the way and manner in which such interest is affected by the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- A statement of the relief desired.

Likewise, all other persons who may want their views known to the Commission with respect to the subject matter of the case may file through e-mail at docket@erc.ph, copy furnish the Legal Service through legal@erc.ph, their Opposition or Comment thereon at least five (5) calendar days prior to the initial virtual hearing and subject to the requirements under Rule 9 of the ERC Revised Rules of Practice and Procedure. No particular form of Opposition or Comment is required, but the document, letter, or writing should contain the following:

- The name, mailing address, and e-mail address of the person;
- A concise statement of the Opposition or Comment; and
- The grounds relied upon.

All interested parties filing their Petition to Intervene, Opposition or Comment are required to submit the hard copies thereof through personal service, registered mail, or ordinary mail/private courier, **within five (5) working days** from the date that the same were electronically submitted, as reflected in the acknowledgement receipt e-mail sent by the Commission.

Finally, all interested persons may be allowed to join the scheduled virtual hearings by providing the Commission, through legal.virtualhearings@erc.ph, their respective e-mail addresses, indicating therein the case number of the instant *Application*. The Commission will send the access link/s to the aforementioned hearing platform within five (5) working days prior to the scheduled hearings.

The Notice of Virtual Hearing issued herein supersedes the previously issued Notice of Virtual Hearing promulgated on 21 May 2026.

WITNESS, the Honorable Chairperson and Chairperson FRANCIS SATURNINO C. JUAN and the Honorable Commissioners FLORESINDA G. BALDO-DIGAL, MARKO ROMEO L. FUENTES, AMANTE A. LIBERATO and PARIS G. REAL, Energy Regulatory Commission, in Pasig City.

FOR AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE
COMMISSION:

Maria Corazon C. Gines
ATTY. MARIA CORAZON C. GINES'
Director III, Legal Service

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE
JOINT APPLICATION FOR
APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY
POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN NUEVA VIZCAYA
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
("NUVELCO") AND SUAL
POWER INC. ("SPI"), WITH
MOTION FOR
CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT
OF INFORMATION

2026-069 RC
ERC CASE NO. 2025-_____ RC

May 15, 2026

NUEVA VIZCAYA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE ("NUVELCO")
AND SUAL POWER INC.
("SPI"),

Applicants.

X-----X

JOINT APPLICATION

(With Prayer Confidential Treatment of Information)

Applicants NUEVA VIZCAYA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ("NUVELCO") and SUAL POWER INC. ("SPI"), through their respective undersigned counsels and unto this Honorable Commission, most respectfully state, that:

I. The Applicants

1.1 NUVELCO is an electric cooperative company duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with office address at Brgy. Gabut, Dupax del Sur, Nueva Vizcaya. It holds an exclusive franchise from the National Electrification Administration (NEA) to operate light and power services in the Municipalities of Ambaguio, Aritao, Bagabag, Bayombong, Bambang, Diadi, Dupax del Norte, Dupax del Sur, Kasibu, Kayapa, Quezon, Santa Fe, Solano and Villaverde, all in the province of Nueva Vizcaya ("Franchise Area").

1.2 SPI is a corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, with principal office address at 5th Floor, C5 Office Building Complex, #100 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., C5 Road, Bo. Ugong, Pasig City.

1.3 The Applicants may be served with the orders, notices and other processes of the Honorable Commission through their respective undersigned counsels at the addresses indicated herein.

II. Nature of the Application

2.1 The Joint Application for approval of the Emergency Power Supply Agreement ("EPSA") entered into by and between NUVELCO and SPI, is being submitted to the Honorable Commission for its review and approval pursuant to Sections 25¹ and 45(b)² of Republic Act No. 9136, otherwise known as the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (the "EPIRA"), Rules 5, Section 4(e)³ and 11, Section 5⁴ of its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Rule 20(B) of its Rules of Practice and Procedure, and other pertinent rules and regulations.

III. Statement of Facts

3.1 The current baseload requirement of NUVELCO is currently being supplied by San Miguel Energy Corporation (SMEC, now Sual Power, Inc. or SPI) through its Sual Coal-Fired Thermal Power Plant. Since NUVELCO is an indirect WESM member, this requirement is being arranged by NUVELCO through its existing supplier, which is SMEC.

3.2 However, on May 10, 2025, NUVELCO has confirmed the occurrence of a force majeure event due to a significant and unprecedented spike in power demand for the year 2024. The data revealed an abrupt increase of 5.961MW, equivalent to a 16.954% rise in peak demand. The sudden surge is beyond the normal growth projections and historical consumption patterns of the cooperative.

3.3 This extraordinary event is attributed to multiple unforeseen developments, including the rapid expansion of residential and commercial consumers, accelerated by the energization of new sitios, ongoing construction projects, and the operation of newly established hotels, resorts, and other business enterprises. Furthermore, Nueva Vizcaya's growing reputation as a tourism hub-highlighted by the cool climate of Sta. Fe, the Capisan cave system, and paragliding attractions-has intensified economic activity and, consequently, power requirements.

3.4 The abrupt increase in demand places NUVELCO in a precarious position. Without an immediate power supply agreement to cover this unforeseen growth, NUVELCO will be compelled to source electricity from the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), thereby exposing the cooperative to volatile and potentially excessive market prices. This exposure risks burdening member-consumers with significantly higher electricity costs, undermining the cooperative's mandate to provide affordable and reliable energy.

3.5 Given that this surge in demand was not foreseeable at the time of previous power contracting, NUVELCO invokes this circumstance as a Force Majeure event-a situation beyond the reasonable control of the cooperative. This justification supports the cooperative's move to seek emergency power supply procurement and appropriate regulatory relief to protect its financial stability and the welfare of its member-consumers.

3.6 Records will show that the reasons of a sudden spike in power demand are the following:

- Growing in number and increase in the demand of residential consumers;
- Growing in number and increase in the demand of commercial/industrial consumers;
- Opening of new subdivisions and housing projects;
- Entry of new big load consumers investing in the province;
- Recovery period due to the effect of the covid-19 pandemic; and
- The province of Nueva Vizcaya is a gateway to Region II.

3.7 Since SPI is already the existing supplier of NUVELCO for its baseload requirements, NUVELCO then entered into an EPSA with SPI for the additional power requirement needed to supply its existing demand. Thus, on June 5, 2025, an Emergency Power Supply Agreement was executed between NUVELCO and SPI for the supply of 20,000 kW of electric power. This EPSA already commenced last June 6, 2025.

IV. Salient Features of the EPSA

4.1 **Term:** This Agreement shall be binding and effective between the Parties on the date of signing ("Execution Date") and the supply duration shall be up to a maximum period of one (1) year, or twelve (12) Billing Periods from Supply Effective Date ("SED"), or until issuance of an approval by the ERC of the power supply agreement resulting from the BUYER's conduct of its Competitive Selection Process for the supply of the same Contract Capacity confirming the demand of the BUYER under this Agreement, whichever comes first.

4.2 **Security Deposit:** The BUYER shall not be required by the SELLER to post a Security Deposit upon the execution of this Agreement. In any case that the BUYER should fail to pay in full its current invoice on or before its Due Date, it shall be required to post a Security Deposit at the immediately succeeding Billing Period after the Due Date equivalent to one hundred percent (100%) of the average monthly invoice for the Billing Periods from Initial Delivery Date up to the current Billing Period.

4.2.1 **Form.** The Security Deposit shall be in the form of cash, cash bond, manager's or cashier's check, bank certified check, irrevocable stand-by letter of credit, performance bond or bank guarantee "callable on demand" issued by a financial institution, or any other forms of security, such as but not limited to escrow account to be administered by a bank acceptable to the SELLER, in such form and substance acceptable to the SELLER.

4.3 **Contract Capacity and Associated Energy:** Beginning SED, the SELLER shall make available to the BUYER, and the BUYER shall purchase from the SELLER the Contract Capacity as stated in Annex "I". The Contract Capacity specified in Annex "I" shall not be changed by either Party except in cases provided for this Agreement.

The Contract Capacity shall be delivered by the SELLER at the high voltage side of the main transformer of the Plant, as provided in Annex IV, or from plants owned and/or operated by any of its affiliates, other electricity generators, including the WESM. This will be used for purposes of declaration of BCQ, Title and risk of loss for the Contract Capacity and Associated Energy, such as but not limited to, Line Rental and other WESM Charges, shall be transferred to the BUYER at the high voltage side of the Plant's transformer.

4.4 **Outages:** During the term of this Agreement, the SELLER shall guarantee the supply of Contract Capacity to the BUYER, even during Scheduled and Unscheduled Outages of the Plant. For avoidance of doubt, an Event of Force Majeure as defined in Article 11 shall not be considered as an Outage.

4.5 Contract Charges and Adjustments:

4.5.1 **Generation Charges.** The BUYER shall pay Generation Charges comprising of the following:

4.5.2 **Fixed Energy Rate ("FER").** The SELLER shall bill the BUYER's energy consumption at the FER, expressed in PHP/kWh as provided in Annex II subject to the Monthly Billing Formula provided in Annex III.

Throughout the duration of the Agreement, except during Events of Force Majeure, the SELLER shall guarantee the supply of Contract Capacity to the BUYER, even during Scheduled and/or Unscheduled Outages of the Plant, to be paid by the BUYER at Contract Charges.

4.5.3 **Taxes.** All applicable existing taxes including Value Added Tax ("VAT"), as well as all other future taxes (except Corporate Income Tax), that may be imposed by the government and which may be legally passed on by the SELLER to the BUYER in connection with the SELLER's performance of its obligation under this Agreement, including any increase or adjustments thereon, shall be for the account of the BUYER.

4.5.4 **Other Associated Charges.** The BUYER shall bear all other costs and charges incurred after the Delivery Point, such as WESM Charges including Line Rental, transmission line losses, any interconnection charges and site specific loss adjustments, among others

4.5.5 **Prompt Payment Discount ("PPD").** The BUYER may avail of the PPD equivalent to three percent (3.0%) applied to the Fixed Energy Rate of the power bill invoice (excluding Associated Charges, Replacement Power cost, if any, and Value Added Tax) provided that:

- The BUYER has no arrears from previous power billings including the Security Deposit or any unpaid charges or penalties including Value-Added Tax ("VAT");
- The BUYER has submitted all necessary BIR Tax Certificates for all taxes withheld as well as for all zero-rated VAT end-consumers and;
- The BUYER pays the power bill invoice in full on or before the 10th Day of the calendar month following the current Billing Period.

The PPD shall take effect upon SED, provided that, the BUYER complies with the conditions set forth in Section 9.1.

The BUYER shall not automatically deduct the PPD from the payment of its current power bill invoice. The PPD for the current power bill invoice will be made available to the BUYER in the succeeding power bill invoice. The BUYER with an expiring Agreement who is qualified to avail the PPD under its power bill invoice, shall receive its discount upon final settlement and clearance of its Agreement with the SELLER.

V. Generation Rate Impact Analysis

5.1 An analysis was conducted to determine the impact of the implementation of the EPSA on Applicant NUVELCO's generation rate while taking into account Applicant NUVELCO's projected energy, available contracted supply, and supply from WESM for the forecasted energy requirement over the next twelve months from April 2025 to March 2026. Table 1 below, shows the combined generation rate without EPSA to the new proposed rate under EPSA.

Table 1:

Nueva Vizcaya Electric Cooperative EPSA 2025 RATE IMPACT CALCULATION (2025-2026)					
	Average Generation Rate Without EPSA 2025	Average Generation Rate With EPSA 2025	Rate Impact (+) decrease (-) increase	Data Used Year	
2025-2026					
April	11.2826	10.3723	0.9104	2025	
May	11.5300	11.1041	0.4259	2025	
June	12.3778	10.8912	1.4865	2025	
July	12.7345	11.0087	1.7258	2024	
August	11.4617	10.3556	1.1061	2024	
September	14.9536	13.0800	1.8736	2024	
October	10.8506	10.1588	0.6918	2024	
November	11.6216	11.0334	0.5881	2024	
December	9.0240	8.9317	0.0923	2024	
January	7.3383	7.4371	-0.0988	2025	
February	7.3054	7.4180	-0.1126	2025	
March	7.3451	7.5419	-0.1968	2025	
Average	10.65209669	9.944392533	0.707703555 (REDUCTION)		

*Simulated data were from actual power bills including tax and discounts.

Overall rate impact computation shows that the proposed offer from SEMC-EPSA 2025 decreased the Average Generation Rate by 0.707703555 Pph/kWh for the whole year.

5.2 The EPSA 2025 Rate Impact Calculation for NUVELCO covering the period April 2025 to March 2026 shows the effect of entering into an Emergency Power Supply Agreement (EPSA) on the cooperative's average generation rate.

5.3 Based on the data, the average generation rate without EPSA stands at P10.65/kWh, while the average generation rate with EPSA is reduced to P9.94/kWh. The EPSA results in an average generation rate reduction of P0.71/kWh for the period April 2025 - March 2026.

5.4 Monthly analysis shows that most months register a positive rate impact (decrease in rates), with the highest reductions recorded in September 2024 (P1.87/kWh) and July 2024 (P1.73/kWh). However, there are three months-January, February, and March 2025-where the rate impact turns slightly negative, meaning a minimal increase compared to the scenario without EPSA.

5.5 Overall, the analysis confirms that the EPSA provides a net benefit to consumers by lowering the average generation rate, demonstrating its value as a cost mitigation measure in NUVELCO's power supply portfolio.

Copies of the foregoing documents and/or information are attached to the Joint Application as annexes and made integral parts hereof:

Annex	Documents/Information
1	Duly signed Emergency EPSA
2	Technical requirements (Historical and forecasted average daily load curve, Contracted capacity and energy, Forecasted average peaking load curve, Historical and forecasted supply-demand scenario
3	Executive Summary of the EPSA
4-series	SPI Rate Derivation and Write-up explanation of calculations (<i>confidential</i>)
4D-1	Power Bill
4D-2	Rate Impact Calculation
5	Certification of documents previously submitted

VI. Allegations in Support of the Confidential Treatment of Annex 4 series

6.1 Rule 4 of the Honorable Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure provides that NUVELCO and SPI may request that information may not be disclosed.

6.2 The Joint Applicants pray for the confidential treatment of the information contained in Annex 4, and not disclosed except to the officers and staff of the Honorable Commission and its staff.

6.3 Annex 4 contains the details of SPI's BOI Terms and Conditions, power rate calculations and financial model as well as the manner by which these were derived, and the pertinent details of coal supply contracts. This information is proprietary in nature and should be protected as trade secrets as contemplated by law and jurisprudence. In the case of *Air Philippines Corporation vs. Pennswell, Inc.*¹, the Supreme Court defined a trade secret, as follows:

"A trade secret may consist of any formula, pattern, device, or compilation of information that: (1) is used in one's business; and (2) gives the employer an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not possess the information. Generally, a trade secret is a process or device intended for continuous use in the operation of the business, for example, a machine or formula, but can be a price list or catalogue or specialized customer list. It is indubitable that trade secrets constitute proprietary rights. The inventor, discoverer, or possessor of a trade secret or similar innovation has rights therein which may be treated as property, and ordinarily an injunction will be granted to prevent the disclosure of the trade secret by one who obtained the

information "in confidence" or through a "confidential relationship". American jurisprudence has utilized the following factors to determine if an information is a trade secret, to wit:

- (1) the extent to which the information is known outside of the employer's business;
- (2) the extent to which the information is known by employees and others involved in the business;
- (3) the extent of measures taken by the employer to guard the secrecy of the information;
- (4) the value of the information to the employer and to competitors;
- (5) the amount of effort or money expended by the company in developing the information; and
- (6) the extent to which the information could be easily or readily obtained through an independent source." (*citations omitted, emphasis supplied*)

6.4 The interest of the consuming public is sufficiently protected by the review and evaluation of the rates under the PSA by the Honorable Commission, without the need to disclose the contents of Annex 4. The reasonableness and transparency of the prices of electricity is to be assured by the Honorable Commission through its own review and verification of SPI's operating costs and expenses.

6.5 More importantly, SPI's competitors, should they obtain the information in Annex 4, will gain undue advantage thereon and have the opportunity to use the same in their operations. The negotiating power of MPCL with parties it plans to contract with or who it is currently doing business with, will clearly be thwarted if it is compelled to disclose such information;

- Accordingly, SPI submits one (1) copy of Annex 4, in a sealed envelope, with the said envelope and each page of the documents and/or information stamped with the word "*Confidential*".
- Lastly and corollary to the foregoing, SPI would like to implore the discerning wisdom of the Honorable Commission to include in its issuance for this purpose the "*procedures for the handling or returning the confidential information, as appropriate, upon the close of the proceedings or at the end of the period for which the information is to be treated as confidential*".
- This is guided by the fact that SPI will seek for the return of these sought to be declared confidential annexes after its utilization as evidence in this case and/or at the close of the proceedings hereof, so as to relieve the Honorable Commission of the burden of safeguarding the trade secrets of SPI enclosed in the subject annexes.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Applicants NUVELCO and SPI most respectfully pray that the Honorable Commission:

- ISSUE an Order treating Annex 4 and series as confidential in perpetuity, directing its non-disclosure to persons other than the officers and staff of the Honorable Commission, perpetually protecting the said information from public disclosure by maintaining the same separate and apart from the records of the case, ensuring that these are not divulged to unauthorized persons, and that these confidential documents are returned to SPI after the termination of this case pursuant to Rule 4 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure;
- After due notice and hearing, ISSUE a Decision approving the instant Joint Application *in toto* which will thereby allow/authorize NUVELCO to charge and collect the fees from its customers reckoned from the commencement of the supply to the latter by SPI.

Other reliefs, just and equitable under the premises, are likewise prayed for.

Pasig City, 24 October 2025.

(Signature page of counsels will follow)

NUEVA VIZCAYA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

By:

EDMON B. EVANGELISTA

Roll No. 59151

Lifetime IBP No. 012352 / 01-15-2014 / Isabela

PTR No. 3088725 / 01-14-2025 / Pasig City

MCLE Compliance No. VII-0018007 / May 13, 2022

MA. LOURDES A. RECILLA

Roll No. 87098

IBP No. 506947 / 01-14-2025 / RSM

PTR No. 3088728 / 01-14-2025 / Mandaluyong City

MCLE Compliant (For Issuance of Certificate)

mlar@serglawoffices.com

ALEX B. SOLACITO

Roll No. 87472

IBP No. 546048 / 04-28-2025 / Iloilo

PTR No. 3444782 / 05-13-2025 / Pasig City

MCLE Compliance No. VIII-0020609 / January 24, 2025

SUAL POWER INC.

by:

JUPITER M. CABAGUIO

5th Floor, C5 Office Building Complex

#100 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., C5 Road, Bo. Ugong,

Pasig City 1604, Metro Manila

Telephone No. (02) 5317 1000 /

jcabaguio@smcgmh.sanmiguel.com.ph

PTR No. 3006693 / 03 January 2025 / Pasig City

IBP Lifetime No. 06372 / Makati Chapter

MCLE Compliance No. VIII - 0032570 valid until 14 April 2028

Roll No. 47112

AVELINO G. CEDO III

5th Floor, C5 Office Building Complex

#100 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., C5 Road, Bo. Ugong,

Pasig City 1604, Metro Manila

Telephone No. (02) 5317 1000 / acedoi@smcgmh.sanmiguel.com.ph

PTR No. 3006695 / 03 January 2025 / Pasig City

IBP Lifetime No. 010380 / PPLM Chapter

MCLE Compliance No. VIII - 0029077 valid until 14 April 2028

Roll No. 54500

JULIETA B. ESTAMO

5th Floor, C5 Office Building Complex,

#100 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., C5 Road, Bo. Ugong,

Pasig City 1604, Metro Manila

Telephone No. (02) 5317 1000 / jestamo@smcgmh.sanmiguel.com.ph

PTR No. 3035762 / 07 January 2025 / Pasig City

IBP Invoice No. 514069 / 27 February 2025 /

Central Luzon Bulacan Chapter

MCLE Compliance No. VIII-0016943 valid until 14 April 2028

Roll No. 39024

¹ SEC. 25. Retail Rate. - The retail rates charged by distribution utilities for the supply of electricity to their captive market shall be subject to regulation by the ERC based on the principle of full recovery of prudent and reasonable economic costs incurred, or such other principles that will promote efficiency as may be determined by the ERC.

² Distribution utilities may enter into bilateral power supply contracts subject to review by the ERC.

³ Prior to the implementation of Open Access and Retail Competition, the prices charged by a Generation Company for the supply of electricity shall be subject to ERC regulation on the Retail Rates charged by Distribution Utilities and transmission supply contracts (TSCs) as specified in Section 67 of the Act.



Cathay Land president and CEO Jeffrey Ng, center, and Mary Ann Kocencio, vice president of corporate administration, second from left, seal an energy partnership with COREnergy executives: Teodorico Cortinas, senior sales manager, far left; Marko Sarmiento, vice president and head of operations, fourth from left; and Michael Lasam, head of commercial operations and strategy, far right.

Cathay Land taps COREnergy for retail electricity aggregation

By Alena Mae S. Flores

CATHAY Land Inc., the real estate development arm of the Cathay Group, has partnered with COREnergy to enroll 46 connection points across its industrial and residential property portfolio into the government’s retail aggregation program.

COREnergy is the retail electricity arm of Vivant Energy, the energy subsidiary of the publicly listed Vivant Corp.

The partnership allows Cathay Land to consolidate smaller electricity loads across multiple properties to meet market contestability requirements, enabling the developer to participate directly in the competitive retail electricity market.

“For businesses with multiple locations, the power of choice should not be limited by how their meters are structured,” said Marko Sarmiento, COREnergy vice president and operations head. “Our role is to help customers navigate the technical and regulatory requirements so they can access energy solutions that fit the way their business actually operates.”

Through the partnership, Cathay Land expects to gain more flexibility in managing power costs, electricity sourcing, reporting and long-term energy planning across its nationwide portfolio.

“Grouping these properties under the aggregation program is a practical step toward more efficient utility management,” said Mary Ann Kocencio, Cathay Land vice president of corporate administration. “This allows us to manage our diverse portfolio as one coordinated platform rather than as separate accounts, supporting our growth with a more responsible and organized energy strategy.”

The move highlights a growing trend among Philippine property developers to treat electricity procurement as a strategic component of asset and operational management.

As energy prices fluctuate, more companies are exploring ways to improve cost visibility and strengthen supply reliability through the Energy Regulatory Commission’s retail aggregation initiative, which allows multiple electricity consumers to pool their energy demand and source power directly from their preferred supplier.

Megaworld reservation sales rose 10.4% to P29.7b in Q1

By Jenniffer B. Austria

Megaworld Corp. said it booked P29.7 billion in reservation sales during the first quarter, up 10.4 percent from the same period last year on the back of continued demand for residential developments in Metro Manila and provincial areas.

Megaworld said the strong reservation sales during the January-to-March period were driven by sustained demand across its township developments nationwide and newly launched projects.

“Our residential business continues to show strong resilience, led by steady sales across our Metro Manila developments and growing demand for our provincial properties,” Megaworld president and Chief executive Lourdes Gutierrez-Alfonso said in a statement to the stock exchange Tuesday.

“Even amid a challenging business environment, we remain focused on accelerating growth across our portfolio and creating lasting value for our stakeholders,” she added.

The 54-story Uptown Modern in Uptown Bonifacio generated P3 billion in sales during the period.

Other strong-performing developments included Park McKinley West in Taguig City, One Crown Suites at Winford Resort Estate in Manila, and several provincial projects such as Ilocandia Beach Village in Laoag City, Maple Grove Park Village in Cavite, Santé Residences Palawan in San Vicente, Firenze at Iloilo Business Park, and La Victoria Global Residences in Cebu.

During the first quarter, Megaworld launched two major residential developments outside Metro Manila: Santé Residences Palawan and Ilocandia Beach Village.

The 14-story Santé Residences Palawan is the country’s first WELL-registered residential development and is projected to generate P6.5 billion in sales.

Meanwhile, the 19.4-hectare Ilocandia Beach Village in Ilocos Norte is expected to contribute around P4 billion in sales.

Earlier this year, Megaworld also announced plans to develop the 97-hectare The Sugartown in Talisay City, Negros Occidental, its 37th township project nationwide and third development in the Negros Island Region.

The company currently has 37 townships spanning over 7,000 hectares across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It also remains one



PSEi jumps nearly 2% to 5,900 level on fuel price rollback

PHILIPPINE shares reclaimed the 5,900 level Tuesday, surging nearly 2 percent as investors snapped up battered stocks amid improving market sentiment.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) jumped 1.96 percent, or 113.37 points, to close at 5,912.69, while the broader all shares index climbed 1.41 percent, or 46.32 points, to 3,331.88.

“The local market extended its rally as investors continued with their bargain hunting,” Philstocks Financial Inc. said. “The market also cheered the significant rollback in fuel prices as it could help the country’s inflation scenario.”

All sectoral indices ended in positive territory led by services, which rose 4.85 percent, and mining and oil, which advanced 2.78 percent. Industrial firms gained 1.09 percent, while holding firms added 0.69 percent. Property and financial sectors also closed higher.

The local bourse tracked Wall Street’s modest gains as investors remained focused on US-Iran peace talks.

Trading value amounted to P6.06 billion, lower than the year-to-date average of P6.38 billion, as investors remained cautious ahead of upcoming inflation data.

Foreigners were net buyers with inflows at P628.73 million.

Among the actively traded stocks, port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. climbed 6.41 percent to close at P830.

The peso strengthened to 61.675 against the US dollar Tuesday from 61.746 on Monday. **Jenniffer B. Austria with AFP**



NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

TO: ALL STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of **A BROWN COMPANY, INC.** will be held on June 25, 2026 (Thursday), at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be conducted virtually via remote communication and can be accessed at the link provided in the Company’s website at <https://abrown.ph/annual-stockholders-meeting-2026/>.

The agenda for the meeting shall be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting
3. Certification of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Annual Stockholders’ Meeting
5. Approval of 2025 Operations and Results
6. Ratification of All Acts of the Board of Directors and Officers
7. Election of Directors
8. Appointment of External Auditors
9. Other Matters



Scan QR Code
Definitive IS
(Including Management Report,
2025 Audited Consolidated FS,
and 1st Q 2026 Quarterly Report)

The close of business on **May 21, 2026** has been fixed as the record date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice of and vote at said meeting and any adjournment thereof.

The Annual Stockholders’ Meeting will be held virtually through an online webinar platform for stockholders to attend by remote communication. They can join by registering online at <https://www.abrown.ph/asmregister2026/> on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2026. The identities of those registering to participate online will be going through a process of verification, after which an email from the Company will be sent to them giving instructions as to how they will be able to watch the livestream of the annual stockholders’ meeting. Please see attached *Guidelines for Participating by Remote Communication and Voting in Absentia*.

The stockholders are likewise encouraged to participate in the meeting by either of the following:

- (i) by submitting duly accomplished proxies to the Office of the Corporate Secretary at 2704 East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or via electronic copy by emailing corporatesecretary@abrown.ph on or before 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2026. For corporate stockholders, the proxies should be accompanied by a Secretary’s Certification on the appointment of the corporation’s authorized signatory.
- (ii) by registering your votes on the matters to be taken up during the meeting through the e-voting platform set up for the purpose which can be accessed at <https://www.abrown.ph/asmvoting2026/>. The e-voting portal will be open until 12:00 noon of June 15, 2026.

Validation of proxies is set on June 16, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. The votes already cast using the e-voting platform by that time will also be verified on said date.

This Notice of Meeting will be published in the business section of two (2) newspapers of general circulation, in print and online format, in accordance with the SEC’s Guidelines on Alternative Mode of Distributing and Providing Copies of Notice of Meeting.

The following documents which are to be circulated in connection with the shareholders’ meeting may be accessed in the links indicated below:

- (i) Definitive Information Statement: https://abrown.ph/kooroast/2026/06/A-Brown-Company-Inc_SEC-Form-20-IS-Definitive_ASM-2026.pdf
- (ii) Annual Report on SEC Form 17-A: https://abrown.ph/kooroast/2026/04/04_15_2026_A-Brown-Company-Inc_2025-SEC-Form-17A_Annual-Report_15April2026_PSE.pdf
- (iii) Quarterly Report on SEC Form 17Q: https://abrown.ph/kooroast/2026/05/05_13_2026_A-Brown-Company-Inc_2026-1st-Quarter-SEC-Form-17Q_Quarter-Report_13May2026_PSE.pdf

City of Pasig, Metro Manila, May 18, 2026.

(SGD.) JASON C. NALUPTA
Corporate Secretary



Spirit of Communications Centre, 106 Carlos Palanca St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila 1229
(+632) 8726-8888 | inquiries@ptt.com.ph | ptt.com.ph

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Stockholders’ Meeting (ASM) of PT&T Corp. (“Company”) will be held on 26 June 2026 at 10:00 A.M. The Presiding Officer will be presiding over the meeting at Spirit of Communications Center, 106 C. Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The order of business will be as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of the existence of quorum
3. Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders’ Meeting held on 26 September 2025
4. Report of the President
5. Election of the members of the Board of Directors
6. Ratification of actions taken by the Board of Directors and Officers since 26 September 2025
7. Appointment of Reyes Tacandong & Co. as the Company’s external auditor for the current year
8. Approval of the Audited Financial Statements for the period ending 31 December 2025
9. Adjournment

For purposes of the meeting, the close of business on 23 April 2026 has been fixed as the Record Date for the determination of the stockholders entitled to notice and to vote during the meeting.

We are not soliciting your proxy. However, if you cannot personally participate in the meeting and you wish to be represented, you may coordinate by email to investors@ptt.com.ph so that we can assist you in the submission of proxy forms.

The proxy forms together with voting instructions and other documents required for stockholders submitting a proxy must be received by the Office of the Corporate Secretary on or before 5:00 P.M. of 22 June 2026 by email to investors@ptt.com.ph or by mail or personal delivery addressed to the Corporate Secretary at Spirit of Communications Center 106 C. Palanca Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. The proxies will be validated by the Office of the Corporate Secretary at the principal office of the Company beginning on 23 June 2026 at 10:00 A.M.

ATTY. KENNETH JOEY H. MACEREN
Corporate Secretary



TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please be informed that the Annual Stockholder Meeting of VITARICH CORPORATION (the “Corporation”) will be held on **Friday, 26 June 2026, 2:00 P.M., at The Pace, Ilang-Ilang, Sta. Rosa 2, Marilao, Bulacan**. The Annual Stockholders Meeting shall have the following agenda:

1. Call to Order;
2. Certification of Notice and the Existence of a Quorum;
3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Annual Stockholders Meeting;
4. Report of the President on the Results of the 2025 Operations and the 2025 Audited Financial Statements of the Corporation;
5. Ratification of the Acts of Directors and Officers;
6. Election of Directors;
7. Appointment of External Auditor;
8. Appointment of Stock Transfer Agent;
9. Other matters
 - a. Approval of the Amendment of Article VI of the Amended Articles of Incorporation to reflect the increase in the number of directors to ten (10);
 - b. Election of Director to Fill-In the Seat Created by and after the Securities and Exchange Commission’s Approval of the Increase in the Number of Directors;
 - c. Ratification and/or Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Vitarich Corporation and Precisione International Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc.; and
10. Adjournment.

A brief explanation of each item which requires the approval and/or ratification by the stockholders are provided in the Information Statement. Stockholders can get the electronic copies of the SEC-20-IS Definitive Information Statement, SEC 17-A Annual Report with 2025 Audited Financial Statement and other pertinent information from the PSE EDIS system and the Corporation website at <https://www.vitarich.com/investor-relations/publications/sec-filings>.

Only stockholders of record as of 26 May 2026, which is the record date fixed by the Board, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. Proxies must be submitted to the Special Committee of Election Inspectors of the Corporation located at Vitarich Corporation, Marilao-San Jose Road, Sta. Rosa I, Marilao, Bulacan, on or before 15 June 2026. Proxies shall be validated by the Special Committee on Election Inspectors at said office on 19 June 2026.

On the day of the meeting, you or your duly designated proxy are required to show this Notice together with your government-issued ID to facilitate registration. Registration shall start at 1:00 pm and shall close at 1:45 pm.

(SGD) ATTY. AISON BENEDICT C. VELASCO
Corporate Secretary

(SGD) ATTY. MARY CHRISTINE DABU-PEPITO
Asst. Corporate Secretary/Compliance Officer/
Corporate Information Officer

SSS rolls out early pension hikes

By Thony Rose Lesaca

THE Social Security System (SSS) began the early rollout of pension hikes on Monday under the second tranche of its Pension Reform Program (PRP), providing timely financial relief to 4.1 million pensioners amid rising prices and economic uncertainty.

The second tranche of the PRP provides a 10-percent pension increase for retirement and disability pensioners, while death and survivor pensioners will receive a 5-percent pension hike. SSS is releasing about P6 billion in

additional pension benefits from June to August 2026 to support pensioners in coping with inflationary pressures and high energy costs. Existing pensioners as of May 31, 2026, are eligible to receive the increased pension starting June 1, 2026.



SSS president and chief executive Robert Joseph de Claro

Meanwhile, new pensioners whose contingencies fall between June 1 and August 31, 2026, will be eligible for the pension hike beginning Sept. 1, 2026.

The PRP is the first multiyear pension increase in SSS history, providing annual pension increases every September from 2025 to 2027.

SSS president and chief executive Robert Joseph de Claro and Social Security Commission chair and Finance Secretary Frederick Go jointly announced the early implementation.

“We recognize that rising prices and economic uncertainty continue to place pressure on Filipino

families and businesses. Through the PRP, SSS ensures that our pensioners have access to timely, affordable and reliable financial support when they need it most,” de Claro said.

Officials originally scheduled the second tranche for later this year but accelerated the release to address immediate economic challenges.

“We are releasing the second tranche of pension increases ahead of schedule to support millions of pensioners and their families, helping them meet their daily needs and enjoy greater financial security sooner,” Go said.

IN BRIEF

Maynilad nears completion of Valenzuela water project

WEST zone concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc is nearing completion of its P955-million Parada Pumping Station and Reservoir in Valenzuela City to strengthen water pressure and enhance supply reliability in northern Metro Manila. The facility is now over 90-percent complete and is targeted for commissioning in the third quarter of 2026.

Once operational, the facility will add 40 million liters to the water storage capacity of Maynilad, helping stabilize supply during peak demand and support long-term service expansion.

The project is expected to benefit about 50,000 residents of Barangay Parada. It will also significantly improve water pressure in the area from an average of 7 pounds per square inch (psi) to 16 psi, which is enough to supply water up to the third floor of residential and commercial buildings.

The Parada project is part of Maynilad’s ongoing capital expenditure program to expand and modernize its water infrastructure network. The company operates 41 pumping stations and 40 reservoirs across its West Zone concession area, up from 8 pumping stations and 10 reservoirs in 2006 prior to its re-privatization. **Othel V. Campos**

PAL elects Chua, Ismail to board

PHILIPPINE Airlines (PAL) on Tuesday announced the election of corporate leader Edgar Chua and veteran aviation executive Datuk Captain Izham Ismail as independent directors, effective June 1, 2026, as part of its long-term growth and transformation strategy.

The addition of Chua and Ismail enhances the depth, diversity and expertise of the Lucio Tan-led flag carrier’s board.

PAL Holdings Inc. chairman and chief executive Dr. Lucio Tan welcomed the new board members. “We are delighted to welcome Edgar Chua and Datuk Captain Izham Ismail to the Philippine Airlines board of directors,” Tan said.

Chua has held senior leadership, independent directorship, and advisory roles across various sectors, including energy, technology, banking, industrial manufacturing, and education. He most notably served as Shell Companies in the Philippines country chairman, bringing decades of experience in corporate governance, strategy and sustainability to the airline.

Ismail is an aviation veteran with over 40 years of experience in airline operations and management. He previously served as Malaysia Aviation Group managing director, where he led major operational, commercial and organizational transformations. **Darwin G. Amojelar**

Rockwell unveils 10-year Alabang Town Center plan

ROCKWELL Land Corp. is planning a major long-term redevelopment of the 17.5-hectare Alabang Town Center property to transform the estate into a suburban lifestyle hub over the next decade.

Rockwell chairman and chief executive Nestor Padilla announced the 10-year vision during the company’s annual stockholders meeting.

The property firm tapped internationally-renowned architect and planner Carlos Ott to lead the redevelopment of the estate, known locally as ATC. Ott previously worked with Rockwell on its Proscenium development in Makati.

The redevelopment will initially focus on improving parking facilities and traffic circulation around the property within the first two years. At the same time, Rockwell plans to enhance the tenant mix to improve the overall shopping experience for visitors and residents in the area.

“We will work on improving the tenancy mix, so we can improve the shopping experience, but more importantly, we will bring back the old charm of the town, as the locals like to call ATC,” Padilla said.

“Over the next 10 years, our vision is to transform the town to become a suburban lifestyle center,” he said.

Jennifer B. Austria

Japan’s NKC taps First Gen for Cebu factory solar project

By Alena Mae S. Flores

NKC Manufacturing Philippines Corp. (NKC Phils) has tapped First Gen Group to construct and operate a rooftop solar power facility at its factory in Cebu.

The agreement, finalized on May 14, calls for First Gen to design and install a 1.84-megawatt peak rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) system at the NKC production facilities inside the Mactan Economic Zone in Cebu.

First Gen has started constructing the PV system and expects to complete the project before the end of the year.

The initiative is part of the NKC Group’s broader efforts to integrate sustainability practices into its core

business and operations. NKC Phils is the local auto and industrial parts-making subsidiary of Japanese multinational Nakanishi Metal Works Co. Ltd. (NKC Group).

First Gen Energy Solutions vice president for solar and commercial business development Mark Malabanan said the company shares NKC’s vision of offering high-quality products at reasonable costs made with the lowest carbon footprint.

“We appreciate partners like NKC that have sustainability and customer experience at heart,” Malabanan said.

“We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the NKC team as they continue to shift to renewable energy and rationalize their power

consumption,” he said.

NKC Phils president Norihiko Matsuda said rising labor costs, inflation and high energy consumption have had an impact on the company.

“The impetus for using solar power stems from our environmental concerns while ensuring a stable energy supply,” Matsuda said.

“By integrating solar power into our operation, we are choosing to power our growth with renewable energy,” he said.

Established in 1997, NKC Phils manufactures precision rubber seals, plastic and metal retainers, bearing-related products and sash rollers for windows and sliding doors. The NKC Group is headquartered in Osaka, Japan.

Ayala Land, AXON Group sign long-term Makati office lease

By Jennifer B. Austria

AYALA Land Inc. has secured a long-term lease agreement with workspace solutions provider AXON Group for a Makati office property, signaling sustained demand for premium office spaces.

AXON will occupy the building previously known as Teleperformance Center Ayala as the property transitions toward a more diversified tenant mix, Ayala Land said in a statement.

The deal highlights continued confidence in the Makati central business district, particularly among companies seeking high-quality office developments that can support evolving operational and workplace requirements.

“We continue to see strong demand

from firms that are evolving how they operate and invest in the workplace,” Ayala Land Offices president and chief executive Hamm Katipunan said.

“Companies today are looking beyond traditional office space. They are seeking environments that can support collaboration, flexibility, talent attraction, and long-term operational resilience,” Katipunan said.

Katipunan said companies increasingly look beyond conventional office setups as they adapt to changing workforce expectations and hybrid work arrangements.

AXON Group managing-director Sherwin Dela Cruz said businesses now prioritize speed, flexibility and operational efficiency when selecting office environments.



Executives from workspace delivery company AXON Group and Ayala Land Offices gather after the signing of a long-term lease agreement for an Ayala Avenue property in Makati. Shown are (from left) Hamm Katipunan, president and chief executive of Ayala Land Offices; Sherwin Dela Cruz, AXON Group managing-director; and Mike Garcia, Makati and South Luzon Offices GM, Ayala Land Offices.

PFI Group hits P100b in total claims paid

DIVERSIFIED financial and healthcare conglomerate Philippines First Insurance Group (PFI Group) has breached the P100-billion threshold in total claims paid, the company said on Tuesday.

The milestone comes as the group celebrates the 120th anniversary of its foundational non-life brand, PhilFirst, which began operations in 1906.

PFI Group, which protects more than 4.5 million policyholders, outpaced local industry benchmarks in fiscal year 2025 through aggressive growth across its healthcare, life insurance, pre-need and non-life subsidiaries.

“We stand with a legacy of promises kept, having paid out over P100 billion in claims to our fellow Filipinos in their times of greatest need,” PFI Group president and chief executive Jaeger Tanco said.

“That’s not just a figure on a balance sheet; that’s lives protected, businesses saved, families kept afloat. That is our purpose in action,” he said.

The group’s healthcare arm, PhilCare, led the expansion with a 48-percent revenue growth in 2025. Life insurance unit PhilLife grew 44 percent during the same period.

Pre-need provider PhilPlans recorded a 25-percent revenue increase in 2025, following a 31-percent rise in 2024. Foundational brand PhilFirst posted a 24-percent revenue increase in 2025, ahead of its 120th year of operations in 2026.

Company executives attributed the acceleration to a cross-selling strategy that links the group’s different insurance lines.

“Our strength as a group lies in our ability to operate as one while drawing from the distinct expertise of each of our companies across health, life, non-life, and pre-need insurance—creating a seamless, one-stop experience for our customers at every life stage,” Tanco said.

Mining industry cites reforestation work, environmental compliance



ILOILO HOUSING. More than 7,000 Iloilo residents, including informal settler families (ISFs) and low income earners, will benefit from two projects launched under President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.’s Expanded Pambansang Pabahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program. Leading the separate concrete pouring ceremonies for the Iloilo Residences and Us wag 4PH Condominium Complex are Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) Secretary Jose Ramon Aliling, Senior Undersecretary Eduardo Robles Jr., head of the Expanded 4PH Project Management Office and Iloilo City Mayor Raisa Trenas.

THE Chamber of Mines of the Philippines (COMP) said mining-related tree cutting is allowed only when companies comply with environmental laws and secure all required government permits and approvals, emphasizing that mining firms operate under strict regulatory oversight.

COMP chairman Michael Toledo said in a statement Philippine mining and environmental laws require companies to undertake progressive rehabilitation, reforestation and environmental protection measures throughout the life of a mining project.

“Philippine mining and environmental laws require mining companies to implement progressive rehabilitation, reforestation, and environmental protection programs, which are closely monitored by the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources and the Mines and Geosciences Bureau,” Toledo said.

“Companies must restore and enhance forest cover throughout the life of a mining project and beyond under some of the country’s most stringent environmental regulations,” he said.

Under existing regulations, mining companies are required to plant 50 seedlings for every planted tree affected by authorized mining activities and 100 seedlings for every naturally growing tree removed.

“Naturally growing trees must be replaced with indigenous species, and companies must fund the maintenance and protection of planted seedlings for at least three years to help ensure their survival,” Toledo said.

The mining industry is also contributing to national reforestation efforts through the Mining Forest Program, he said.

Finding wellness on two wheels

By Lyschelle Joy Armijo

AS the world observes World Bicycle Day on June 3, cycling enthusiasts are highlighting the many benefits of riding a bicycle—not only as a means of transportation but also as a way to stay healthy, enjoy nature, and build meaningful connections with others.

For many people, cycling has become more than just a hobby. It is an activity that promotes physical fitness, mental well-being, and an active lifestyle while offering opportunities to explore new places and create lasting memories with friends and fellow riders.

World Bicycle Day, recognized by the United Nations in 2018, aims to raise awareness about the bicycle as a simple, affordable, reliable, and environmentally friendly means of transportation. It also underscores the bicycle's role in promoting health and sustainable development.

For cyclist Xyrus Cadano, who has been riding for 12 years, cycling offers a unique combination of exercise and adventure.

“One of the best things about cycling is that you get to enjoy different places without spending a lot of money. It also helps with mental health because it reduces stress and allows you to temporarily forget your problems,” Cadano said.

Whether traversing mountain roads, coastal routes, or quiet countryside paths, cyclists can enjoy scenic landscapes while staying physically active. The activity provides an effective cardiovascular workout that strengthens the heart, lungs, and muscles while improving endurance and overall fitness.

Beyond its physical benefits, cycling also contributes

to better mental health. Spending time outdoors and focusing on the journey can help reduce anxiety, relieve stress, and provide a welcome break from the demands of daily life.

Cadano also pointed out that cycling fosters a strong sense of community among riders.

“Physically, cycling strengthens the heart, lungs, and muscles while improving overall fitness. Aside from that, it gives you the chance to meet new people and build strong friendships within the cycling community,” he added.

The social aspect of cycling has become one of the reasons why more people are taking up the activity. Group rides and cycling events bring together individuals from different backgrounds who share a common passion for the sport. These gatherings not only encourage a healthier lifestyle but also create opportunities for camaraderie and mutual support.

As World Bicycle Day is celebrated across the globe, cyclists continue to demonstrate how a simple bicycle can contribute to a healthier body, a happier mind, and a more fulfilling life. For many riders, every pedal stroke is not just a step toward better fitness but also a chance to enjoy the beauty of the world, strengthen friendships, and embrace the joy of living.



Cyclist Xyrus Cadano says riding offers more than just exercise, helping improve mental well-being, build friendships, and foster a deeper appreciation for the outdoors.

Couples for Christ Congress highlights service to the poor

THE Catholic lay renewal movement Couples for Christ (CFC) will host the annual Clergy-Lay Congress on June 18, 2026, at SPACE at One Ayala, Makati, with the theme: “One in Christ in His Heart for the Poor”.

The Catholic Church remains widely recognized as the largest non-governmental provider of healthcare, education, and social services in the world. Couples for Christ has long worked alongside the Church through its social action initiatives and programs executed by CFC ANCOP Global Foundation, Inc. (ANCOP), Give Kare Foundation (GKare), and Missio Amare.

CFC's Heart for the Poor ANCOP's main program, the Educational Sponsorship Program (ESP), supports poor yet deserving children in their education. It currently serves 12,000 scholars from elementary, junior and senior high school, technical-vocational, college, even seminarians.

Meanwhile, GKare focuses on medical and surgical mission partnering with local government units (LGUs) and dioceses.

Missio Amare (Send Out to Love) has programs focusing on environmental care, serving persons deprived of liberty (PDLs), offering reform and rehabilitation for individuals struggling with substance use disorders (SUDs), and empowering migrant workers and their families, among others.

Vatican Delegates and Church Leaders Lead Key Congress Sessions

Joined by bishops and priest spiritual advisers of CFC from different parts of the world, partners and volunteers of ANCOP and Missio Amare, and CFC leaders, the congress will serve as a venue for dialogue between clergy and laity.

Official delegates from the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life will be present in this year's congress. His Excellency Most Rev. Dario Gervasi, Adjunct Secretary of the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life, will deliver the inspirational message and Rev. Fr. Giovanni Bountempo, Responsible for Relations with Ecclesial Movements and Associations of the Faithful for the Dicastery, will deliver the second session.

The congress will also be graced by Most Rev. Sam Agcaracar, SVD, D.D., the newly-installed Bishop of San Jose (Nueva Ecija) and a former CFC Singles for Christ member who will give the first session.

CFC Chairman/ President Arnel Santos, and CFC International Council member George Campos will present the laity's response, highlighting Couples for Christ's commitment in its mission with the poor, as well as its milestones, future plans and partnerships with the Church.

To learn more about Couples for Christ and its work for the poor, visit:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CFChrist>

Website: www.couplesforchristglobal.org

Best Buddies Philippines hosts ‘Beyond Ability’ art workshop

By Robert Harland

BEST Buddies Philippines recently staged one of its collaborative “Beyond Ability” art workshops at The Podium, Ortigas City.

The CSR event led by Colliers Philippines in col-

laboration with Best Buddies Philippines, Vico's Artism Gallery, Missionary Families of Christ Singles and student organization UP Super, brought together some 50 students with special needs, supported by 50 Best Buddies volunteers and cheered on by friends and family members in faith.



Buddies had two hours to create their masterpieces. Robert Harland

With a theme of “Flowers”, Buddies matched in friendship for the day had two hours to create their masterpieces. They were assisted by volunteers and art teachers who provided encouragement and guidance.

Best Buddies Philippines frequently hosts workshops and socials in the community to foster creativity, inclusion and friendship.

The following day, the collaborative artworks were exhibited and offered for sale, through a partnership with Vico's Artism Gallery, which specializes in works by artists with autism.

Most were quickly snapped up by admiring parents, with proceeds going directly to the student artists and selected charities.

“Meaningful collaborations like this fill my cup,” said Michelle Aventajado, Executive Director of Best Buddies Philippines.

“When stakeholders come together with intention, barriers are broken, confidence is built and stereotypes are smashed. By bringing together businesses, organizations, students and families in faith we have provided a safe space where people belonged, were welcomed and included.”

Looking ahead, Best Buddies Philippines has partnered with lifestyle brand Banana Peel for an inclusive design workshop on June 7 at Robinsons Galleria. Selected designs from this event will be featured in an upcoming product collection, further showcasing the talents of Best Buddies Philippines participants.

Best Buddies is a global nonprofit organization dedicated to creating opportunities for friendship, leadership development, and employment for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Through program pillars and inclusive events, Best Buddies fosters belonging, breaks down social barriers and builds worldwide communities of support and inclusion.

Baragatan 2026 to put Palawan culture, tourism in spotlight

PALAWAN is set to stage one of its biggest tourism and cultural celebrations yet as the Baragatan Festival 2026 returns from June 5 to 23, bringing together all 23 municipalities of the province and Puerto Princesa City in a showcase of heritage, music, food, and local industries.

Provincial officials are positioning the annual festival as a key tourism driver, hoping to encourage longer visitor stays and sustain the province's tourism momentum.

Palawan welcomed around 2.1 million visitors in 2025 and generated an estimated ₱65.5 billion in tourism receipts, with foreign tourists accounting for more than half of the total spending.

Carrying the theme “Makukulay na Yaman, lisang Palawan,” this year's festival highlights the province's cultural diversity and shared identity.

Among the most anticipated events is the June 12 grand opening featuring the Parada ng mga Palawño and the Saraotan sa Dalan, a colorful street-dancing spectacle showcasing the traditions, music, and heritage of participating municipalities.

The celebration will also feature trade fairs, food festivals, tourism exhibits, sports competitions, and nightly entertainment throughout its three-week run. Major performers include Side A, South Border, Arthur Nery, Flow G, and

Parokya ni Edgar, while celebrity couple Coco Martin and Julia Montes are expected to headline the June 20 Kapamilya Night.

Several major events will be held at the Puerto Princesa City Sports Complex to accommodate larger crowds.

Beyond entertainment, organizers said Baragatan serves as a platform to showcase the depth of Palawño culture.

Derived from a Cuyunon term meaning “to gather” or “meeting point,” the festival celebrates the communities, traditions, and stories that make Palawan unique.

For tourism stakeholders, Baragatan 2026 is more than a festival—it is an opportunity to strengthen Palawan's position not only as a world-class nature destination, but also as a vibrant cultural destination.



Screengrab from Baragatan Festival's Music Video

Taylor Swift
announces
new song
for ‘Toy Story 5’

POP megastar **Taylor Swift** has written a new song, to be released Friday, for *Toy Story 5*, the megastar announced on social media.

“You knew it! My new original song ‘I Knew It, I Knew You’ for Disney and Pixar’s toystory 5 will be yours on June 5th,” she wrote on X on Monday.

The songwriter, winner of 14 Grammy awards, said she had “adored” the characters of the Toy Story franchise since the first movie came out in 1995.

Toy Story 5 will be released in theaters worldwide on June 17. It features Woody the cowboy, Buzz Lightyear, and their gang of toys fighting for survival against competition from technology, particularly a tablet.

Swift’s fans had been speculating for weeks about her involvement in the latest *Toy Story* film after a countdown timer appeared on her website against a background reminiscent of the wallpaper in the bedroom of the original film’s hero, Andy.

Late last week, billboards with that background and the initials TS, which the singer and the film share, began appearing in major cities in multiple countries. Swift, 36, is engaged to American football player **Travis Kelce**, who is also 36. Their wedding will take place in New York on July 3, according to celebrity media site People. **AFP**

Taylor Swift contributes ‘I Knew It, I Knew You’ to the fifth installment of the animated film ahead of its June 17 worldwide release



Alexa Ilacad takes on a more mature role as Marla Briones in the new mystery-thriller youth drama ‘Miss Behave’



Very Wang
Nickie Wang

The series follows students in a science high school whose lives unravel after private content is leaked across campus. What begins as humiliation and rumor spirals into a search for the person behind the breach, pushing the group toward confrontation, solidarity, and survival.

The newly released trailer teases the fallout while framing the series as a mix of mystery, dark comedy, and coming-of-age drama.

Alexa Ilacad, who takes on a more mature role as Marla Briones, described the production as handled with care, given its sensitive themes.

“If they’re not ready to speak up, they’re not ready to fight back, that’s what we’re trying to show,” Ilacad said. “We’re trying to fight for them through our dialogue and how we treat each scene. We handle everything delicately and with heart, and everything has a purpose and a goal.”

She added that lighter moments helped balance the intensity of the material.

“We’re having fun with our characters and their superpowers, but the series also tackles very serious issues,” she pointed out.

Director **Ivan Andrew Payawal** described the series as an exploration of abuse in different forms, including mental, emotional, verbal, physical, and sexual abuse. He framed the tone as dark comedy, with humor used to approach difficult subject matter.

“We don’t treat the topics lightly, but we also wanted to add humor,” Payawal said. “We want victims and survivors to have the last laugh, to see a form of winning and survival in that humor.”

He added that the series gives shape to internal thoughts often left unspoken by survivors, including anger, regret, and imagined confrontation.

In *Miss Behave*, Ilacad’s character is joined by those played by Manabat, Parani, Abaya, and Rifol, all affected by the leaks and drawn into uncovering who is responsible. The ensemble also includes **JC Alcantara**, **Akira Morishita**, **Raven Rigor**, **Zach Castañeda**, **LA Santos**, and **Zach Guerrero**.

SHOWBIZ

Coming-of-age series
‘Miss Behave’
tackles scandal, abuse
and survival

A GROUP of young women confronts scandal, pressure, and personal trauma in *Miss Behave*, iWant’s latest original series led by **Alexa Ilacad** with **Xyriel Manabat**, **Reign Parani**, **Andi Abaya**, and **Rans Rifol**.



From left: Zach Guerrero, Zach Castaneda, Akira Morishita, JC Alcantara, LA Santos, and Raven Rigor join the ensemble cast of a series built around mystery, abuse, and survival



From left: Rans Rifol, Reign Parani, Alexa Ilacad, Xyriel Manabat, and Andi Abaya lead a story about young women fighting to reclaim their agency

The series was presented at a recent Blue Carpet Premiere ahead of its launch, where Ilacad dedicated the project to viewers who have faced similar experiences.

“We made it with so much heart and pure intentions,” she said. “*Inaalay namin ito sa lahat ng kabataan at kababaihan na dumanas sa pinagdaanan ng mga karakter namin.*”

Beyond its mystery-driven

storyline, the series frames itself around women reclaiming agency amid public scrutiny and digital harm. Payawal said the show aims to resonate with real-world issues faced by young audiences.

The pilot episode streams for free on iWant starting today. New episodes are released weekly every Wednesday.

Today’s biggest names in music
lead **Puregold’s ‘OPM Con Generations’** at Araneta Coliseum

SOME of the biggest names in contemporary Original Pinoy Music come together this July as Puregold stages *OPM Con Generations*, a concert featuring leading acts shaping today’s local music scene across P-pop, rap, folk-pop, and rock.

Dubbed *OPM Con Generations*, the event is set for July 11 and features a lineup led by **SB19**, **Ben&Ben**, **Alamat**, **Flow G**, **Skusta Clee**, **SunKissed Lola**, **G22**, **KAIA**, and **Xonara**, bringing together pop, rap, rock and P-pop acts in a single arena show.

Puregold continues its push into what

it calls “retailtainment,” combining shopping rewards with live music experiences that have drawn large crowds and social media attention in recent years.

Since its launch in 2024, OPM Con has become one of the company’s flagship events, driven in part by ticket redemption tied to grocery purchases. The format has turned routine shopping into access to live entertainment for loyal customers.

“Music has a unique way of bringing people together, no matter the generation or genre,” **Ivy Hayagan-**



Ben&Ben represents the folk-pop side of the lineup as the Liwanag community joins other fan groups for a multi-genre celebration at Araneta Coliseum

Piedad, senior marketing manager of Puregold Price Club Inc., said. “Through OPM Con Generations, Puregold hopes to create a space where loyal Puregold customers and fans can gather and celebrate Philippine artistry and culture.”

This year’s edition also introduces Ben&Ben and Alamat as brand ambassadors, aligning with their fan bases known as “Liwanag” and “Magiliw.”

Ticket redemption begins June 12 at select Puregold branches nationwide, including stores



G22 adds an all-female P-pop voice to the concert, sharing the bill with artists from different generations and corners of the local music scene



SB19 brings P-pop star power to the July 11 arena show, which gathers acts from rap, folk-pop, rock, and idol music on one stage

in Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Valenzuela, and several locations in Quezon City and Metro Manila.

Aling Puring and Perks members may exchange qualifying single-receipt purchases for tickets, with tiers ranging from general admission at P2,500 to VIP standing at P8,500. Obstructed view sections are also available at lower thresholds.

Puregold is also offering a limited regional fan pass for customers outside Metro Manila, allowing provincial shoppers to sign up for access to tickets while supplies last.

Organizers added that the concert aims to reflect the evolving sound of Original Pinoy Music, bringing together fan communities across genres and generations in a single live event.

Kinetic art

Ivan Co's latest sculptures confront the shape of tomorrow

By Nickie Wang

CONRAD Manila is asking guests to look forward by watching things move.

The hotel has unveiled the 41st installment of its *Of Art and Wine* series, *Harbinger Metropolis* by visual artist **Ivan Co**, on view at Gallery C until July 25. The exhibition features 10 kinetic sculptures that explore acceleration, uncertainty, and the shifting edges of technological change.

Curated by **Nestor Jardin**, the works combine automaton, gravitram, and pendulum mechanisms, many accented with semi-precious stones. The result is a collection that feels part machine, part meditation, with pieces that shift, swing, and recalibrate in continuous motion.

"Ivan Co's works are a compelling centerpiece to the celebration of Conrad Manila's 10th anniversary this June," said **Rupert Hallam**, general manager of Conrad Manila. "Magnificent in form and profound in meaning, the collection invites guests to reflect on both the uncertainty and the boundless possibilities of what lies ahead."

Rather than present fixed conclusions, the exhibition leans into motion as metaphor. The sculptures suggest systems in flux, echoing how technology, cities, and human behavior are constantly being reconfigured.

Co described the works as "harbingers" of change, pointing to

Conrad Manila's 'Of Art and Wine series' presents 'Harbinger Metropolis' by Ivan Co, featuring 10 kinetic sculptures exploring technological change



From left: Art curator Nestor Jardin, SM Hotels & Conventions Corporation president Elizabeth Sy, featured artist Ivan Co, Conrad Manila general manager Rupert Hallam, and SM Hotels & Conventions Corporation executive vice president Peggy Angeles at the launching of Conrad Manila's 'Of Art and Wine'

vice president **Peggy Angeles**, alongside Hallam and Co.

The visual artist describes his practice as "Ancestral Futurism," a framework that brings together mechanical precision and material craftsmanship developed in his Manila atelier. His kinetic works have drawn international attention, including recognition in the Platinum Jubilee Edition publication marking **Queen Elizabeth II's** 70-year reign in 2022 and a feature in *Strive for Perfection: Celebrating 20 Years of Goodwood* in 2024.

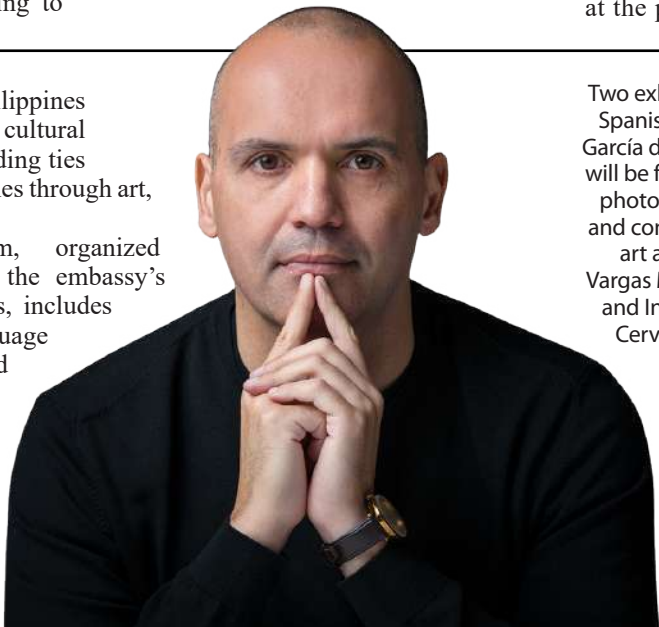
Author **Robert Jobson** has described Co's works as "bejeweled works of wonder" that move with "their own rhythm," shaped by pendulums, axles, and balancing points that give each sculpture a precise, living cadence.

All works in *Harbinger Metropolis* are available for acquisition. Inquiries may be directed to Conrad Manila at +632 8833 9999 or Conrad.Manila.info@conradhotels.com.

THE Embassy of Spain in the Philippines will mark June with a series of cultural events celebrating the longstanding ties between Spain and the Philippines through art, language, history, and diversity.

The month-long program, organized with Instituto Cervantes and the embassy's Cultural and Education Offices, includes exhibitions, lectures, language activities, and Pride-related events across Metro Manila and other parts of the country.

One of the key events is the 24th Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day on June 30 in Baler, Aurora. The occasion commemorates the reconciliation between



Two exhibits by Spanish artist García de Marina will be featuring photography and conceptual art at the Vargas Museum and Instituto Cervantes

Spain and Philippines celebrate ties through art and history

Filipinos and the last Spanish soldiers stationed in Baler during the Philippine Revolution.

As part of the activities, Instituto Cervantes will offer a beginner Spanish language class for students at a local high school in Baler, with lessons conducted by native Spanish teachers.

On June 26, Instituto Cervantes de Manila in Intramuros will host a Pride celebration featuring discussions on education and LGBTI rights, an open mic session, and DJ performances.

Visual arts will also take focus throughout the month. "Manila Calling," an exhibition featuring artists from Spain and the Philippines, opens June 6 and explores artistic exchange between the two countries.

Spanish artist **Cristina Mejias** will hold her solo exhibition "Embracing the wind, Cradling the water" from June to September at the Vargas Museum at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Two exhibits by Spanish artist **García de Marina** will also open in Manila. His works, which reinterpret everyday objects through photography and conceptual art, will be shown at the Vargas Museum beginning June 16 and at Instituto Cervantes in Intramuros. García de Marina is also scheduled



Cristina Mejias' solo exhibition, 'Embracing the wind, Cradling the water,' to will be at the Vargas Museum from June to September

to hold an artist talk on June 18.

Meanwhile, the exhibition *Buen Camino* opens June 17 at Museo San Agustin, highlighting the religious and cultural influence of Spain through the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route.

Instituto Cervantes will also present a webinar on June 17 titled *¿Dónde vas con mantón de Manila?* by **Anna Wieck**, exploring cultural connections between Spain and the Philippines through fashion, architecture, food, and language.

Public artworks by Madrid-based collective Boa Mistura remain accessible across Metro Manila, including the "UNYON" basketball court mural in Tejeros, Makati, and "TAGPUAN" at Fort Santiago.

Several ongoing exhibitions will continue through June, including "Four Centuries of Spanish Engineering Overseas" at the Centro de Turismo in Intramuros, "Mezcla: Interwoven Cultures and the Mantón de Manila" at Ayala Museum until June 14, and "Classics of Philippine Cartography from the 16th to the 20th Centuries" at the National Museum of the Philippines-Cebu.

The Embassy of Spain said the activities reflect the continuing cultural ties between Spain and the Philippines through dialogue, creativity and shared values

US-based Filipino musicians return for Manila homecoming concert

TWO US-based Filipino musicians will return to Manila this June for a homecoming concert featuring piano and violin works shaped by international training and Filipino heritage.

Pianist **Jenna Datumanong Salliman** and violinist **Adrian Nicolas Chio Ong** will perform *Espressivo: An Evening of Romantic Sonatas* on June 21 at the IBG-KAL Theatre at the University of the Philippines Diliman in Quezon City.

The concert is presented as a reunion of two artists whose musical paths developed in major institutions in the United States while maintaining ties to their roots in Manila and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Salliman, whose background spans both science and music, completed dual degrees in statistics and piano, graduating cum laude. She has performed in the Philippines and the United States and has been recognized in competitions including the Schubert Club, the Florida Young Artist International Piano Competition, the Round Top Chamber Competition, and the Lyric Chamber Competition.

She is currently pursuing doctoral studies in piano performance at the University of Houston under **Timothy Hester**. Her training has included mentorship from **Roberta Rust, Uriel Tsachor, Anthony Say, and Jennifer Dela Cruz**.

O n g began violin studies at the Philippine High School for the Arts before continuing as a scholar at Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan, where he served as concertmaster and graduated with high honors. He later studied at the Mannes School of Music in New York, the Glenn Gould School in Toronto and is currently pursuing a master's

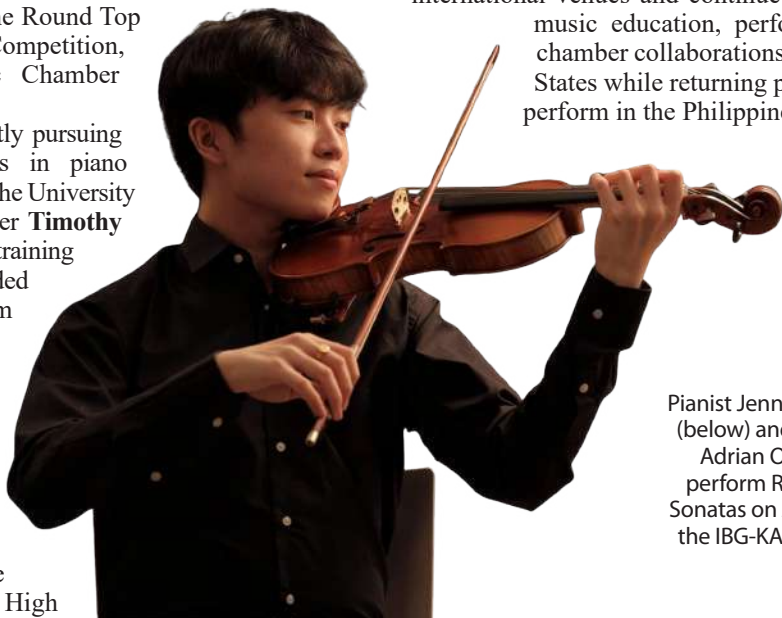
degree at Northwestern University in Chicago under **Jinjoo Cho**.

His performance background includes a debut with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra at age 17, appearances at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and a Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2023 at Weill Recital Hall under the FilAm Music Foundation. He has also performed with orchestras and chamber groups in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Salliman is the daughter of Basilan Vice-Governor **Hajiman "Jim" Salliman** and Merinissa Anisalam "Annie" De Guzman Datumanong-Salliman of Cotabato. Ong is the son of Dr. **Jeanne Chio-Ong** and **Dr. Allan Ong**, both dentists, with family ties to Cotabato City and Manila.

Organizers said the program will feature works selected to highlight technical range, interpretation, and collaboration between piano and violin.

Both artists have performed across international venues and continue to engage in music education, performance, and chamber collaborations in the United States while returning periodically to perform in the Philippines.



Pianist Jenna Salliman (below) and violinist Adrian Ong will perform Romantic Sonatas on June 21 at the IBG-KAL Theatre



Filipiniana couture as living canvas

By Nickie Wang

SM Mall of Asia transformed couture into a living gallery by hosting *Filipiniana x Obra*, an exhibition that presents Filipiniana as a continuing language of identity, shaped through textiles, form, and artistic interpretation.

Presented by SM Mall of Asia, Bench, and Cultural Center of the Philippines, the showcase runs until June 12 at the Central Atrium and features works from TernoCon designers presented in a public setting.

Traditional dress reborn through art-inspired designs at SM Mall of Asia



'Filipiniana x Obra' showcases contemporary interpretations of traditional Filipino dress through the works of TernoCon designers



The 'Filipiniana x Obra' presents fashion pieces that reinterpret visual artworks through embroidery, sculptural forms, and intricate handwork



From left: Cultural Center of the Philippines president Kaye Tinga, SM Supermalls president Steven Tan, and Suyen Corporation's vice president for finance Nenita Lim lead the opening of the fashion exhibit

Fresh from the TernoCon 2025 runway, the exhibition presents the Filipiniana as a living, evolving form shaped by heritage, craftsmanship, and contemporary design. The terno, balintawak, and kimona appear as connected expressions of Filipino dress, each carrying layers of history and cultural memory.

This year's designers reinterpreted works by National Artists and major Filipino creatives through fashion rooted in handcraft and textile work. Embroidery, fabric manipulation, sculptural shaping, and intricate surface techniques define many of

the pieces, echoing the textures and emotions of the original artworks.

Bryan Peralta drew inspiration from the abstract works of **José Joya**, translating zigzags and layered movement into tea-dyed jusi and canvas detailed with embroidery and 3D elements. **Geom Hernandez** worked with the vivid palette of **Hernando R. Ocampo**, shaping garments in bold reds and blues that echo national color symbolism.

Personal histories run through several collections. **Irene Subang** explored the emotional intensity



Each piece highlights the continuing evolution of the Filipiniana through bold silhouettes, innovative construction, and artistic interpretation



The exhibition features Filipiniana garments inspired by the abstract works of José Joya, the vivid palette of Hernando R. Ocampo, and the architectural forms of Leandro Locsin, among others

of **Benedicto Cabrera**'s "Sabel," turning memory and experience into layered textile work. **Jared Servano** engaged with the cosmic imagery of **Nena Saguil**, drawing parallels with T'boli dreamweaving traditions from Mindanao.

Peach Garde translated the architectural forms of **Leandro Locsin** into structured silhouettes defined by sharp lines and volume. **Nina Gatan** worked with fluid forms inspired by the sculptural works of **Impy Pilapil**, shaping garments that carry the movement of water and reflective surfaces.

The mentors of TernoCon also contributed creative direction across the exhibition. **Ezra Santos** paid tribute to **Abdulmari Asia Imao** through sarimanok-inspired forms and cultural motifs. **Lulu Tan-Gan** explored movement and fabric flow drawn from the expressive works of **Ang Kiukok**, using piña and silk. **Rhett Eala** focused on layered construction techniques influenced by the minimalist depth of **Lao Lianben**.



The exhibit demonstrate how the kimona continues to evolve through craftsmanship, textile innovation, and creative expression

Dancing with purpose

Philippine Ballet Theatre dances between heritage and classical tradition

THIS June, Philippine ballet unfolds across two stages with strikingly different yet equally compelling visions. The first is grounded in contemporary Filipino sensibility and social purpose, while the second is rooted in classical narrative and traditions.

Together, they reveal a dance landscape that is not only thriving but evolving in ways that resonate deeply with Filipino audiences today.

The **Philippine Ballet Theatre** (PBT), the country's National Performing Arts Company for Dance, brings its artistry to the south for the first time through *Passion and Purpose*, a special fundraising ballet production to be staged on Sept. 20, 6:00 p.m., at the Insular Life Theater. The program marks a significant cultural outreach to southern audiences, positioning dance not only as performance but as community engagement.

Anchoring the evening is *On the Wings of Song*, fondly called the "Jose Mari Chan Suite," which transforms the iconic music of the Filipino singer-songwriter into expressive movement.

Featuring beloved songs such as "Please Be Careful With My Heart," "Can We Just Stop and Talk Awhile," and "Beautiful Girl," the suite translates familial melodies into vignettes of Filipino life filled with romance, humor, nostalgia, and familial

warmth unfolding through ballet and contemporary dance.

The evening extends the spirit of



The Philippine Ballet Theatre continues to expand the reach of dance through productions that celebrate both classical traditions and contemporary Filipino artistry

Ballet Manila stages the Philippines' first full-length production of 'Paquita'

inclusivity through a special guest performance by **Hampton Court Ballet School**, representing the youth of Muntinlupa City. Their contemporary ballet suite, choreographed by **Fred Fernandez**, underscores the event's commitment to nurturing emerging talent.

More than a showcase, *Passion and Purpose* functions as a platform for opportunity, supporting educational initiatives, dancer development, and scholarship programs—an investment in the future of Philippine dance. Proceeds from the show will benefit Insular Life's Education Program for the Youth, PBT's Adopt-a-Dancer Program, and the Hampton Court Ballet School Scholarship Fund.

If PBT's production gestures outward toward community, education, and contemporary relevance, Ballet Manila turns inward to a bold and historic undertaking—the country's first full-length staging of *Paquita*. Long regarded as a cornerstone of classical ballet, *Paquita* is rarely performed in its entirety.

Under the direction of **Lisa Macuja Elizalde**, Ballet Manila reimagines the work for Filipino audiences, bringing its sweeping narrative and technical brilliance to the stage of the Aliw Theater, with shows on June 19 at



Glazing Life
Glaiza Lee

8:00 p.m. and matinee performances on June 20 and 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Set in Spain, the story follows a young Romani woman who saves the life of a French officer, Lucien, from a governor's assassination plot. Along the way, she discovers her own noble heritage, allowing the couple to overcome rigid social barriers and marry in a happy ending that many Filipinos love. It is a narrative arc that resonates strongly in a culture attuned to drama and emotional storytelling.

Macuja-Elizalde describes the narrative as "quite like a soap opera, with twists and turns that are amusing and entertaining, which is perfect for Filipinos who love a great story or telenovela."

Yet beyond its narrative appeal, this production represents a significant artistic milestone. Rather than relying on existing interpretations, Macuja-Elizalde approached the choreography with deliberate independence, constructing the ballet from the ground up in collaboration with her dancers. The result is both faithful to classical tradition and distinctly her own, a balance that reflects Ballet Manila's strong Russian training while asserting a uniquely Filipino creative voice.

The BM artistic director noted that the company's 40-member ensemble is the perfect size to handle the intricate, challenging choreography.

At the heart of this production, two luminous pairs alternate in the main characters' roles: **Joshua Enciso** with **Abigail Oliveira**, both principal dancers, and **Shamira Drapete** with **Jos David Andes**, both soloists. Together they embody the dual spirit of *Paquita* and Lucien, bringing fresh brilliance to one of classical ballet's most dazzling showcases.

With these two ballets on stage, one thing becomes clear: Philippine ballet is not standing still. It is, quite literally, in motion—driven by passion, sustained by purpose, and reaching toward an ever-widening audience.