

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXV NO. 15
ISSN: 2651-7450

JULY 25-31, 2024

P10.00

Entered as Second Class Mail at the Imus Post Office under
Permit No. 2003-11 dated August 29, 2003

DSWD chief orders immediate help for Carina-hit families

MANILA – In line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Secretary Rex Gatchalian on Wednesday ordered the Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) and DSWD Field Offices (OFs) to swiftly deliver aid to

those affected by Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon.

Gatchalian directed the DRMG and DSWD FOs officials to immediately send family food packs (FFPs) and other relief items to typhoon-hit communities.

In a situation briefing led by President

Marcos at the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Headquarters at Camp Emilio Aguinaldo on Wednesday morning, the President instructed the DSWD to adjust the distribution of relief items, especially in the areas with the most numbers of af-

(Turn to p. 3)

PBBM to gov't agencies: Focus relief operations in isolated areas

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed government agencies to focus providing assistance in areas that are isolated as Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat continue to batter parts of the country with heavy rains.

During a situation briefing at Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, Marcos expressed satisfaction over the government's response so far.

"I think the response is okay. We just have to keep it up," he said.

The President then directed the Department of Social Welfare and Development

(DSWD) and Office of the Civil Defense (OCD) to continue their relief operations especially those within "critical areas."

"You [DSWD] work with the OCD so that you can focus your attention on those areas that we will have to service that are presently isolated," Marcos said.

He also asked the OCD to immediately identify critical areas.

"Importante 'yun kasi 'yang mga 'yan hindi na kumain ng ilang araw. So as soon as possible, dapat naka-ready na 'yung ipapasok natin because we know that they are the priority —critical ang situation na 'yan

(Turn to p. 2)



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (RTVM Screenshot)

DepEd: Talks with 3 agencies underway for teachers' career growth

MANILA – Department of Education (DepEd) Secretary Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara on Wednesday confirmed talks with other government agencies to realize the career progression of public school teachers in line with the directives of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Marcos, during his third State of the Nation Address (SONA) last Monday, vowed that teachers no longer

need to retire as Teacher I due to lack of promotion opportunities.

In a hybrid post-SONA forum, Angara said the move is the administration's response to a long-term clamor in the education sector.

"So, he (President Marcos) has, I believe, approved some form, in principle at least, the career progression of our teachers because that has been a long-term complaint of our

(Turn to p. 2)

24 road sections closed, 20 others with limited access due to floods

MANILA – Twenty-four road sections in the country were closed not passable to all types of vehicles, while access to 20 others were limited due to floods brought by continuous heavy rains from the Southwest Monsoon and Typhoon Carina.

In an advisory, the Department of Public Works and Highways - National Capital Re-

gion (DPWH-NCR) said that as of 12 noon, the following road sections were flooded:

Manila/Pasay

España Boulevard, AM dela Fuente to AH Lacson; Bluementritt Road corner P. Margal, P. Florentino; Tayuman corner Jose Abad Santos Avenue, Taft Avenue, Pedro Gil Street (northbound or NB); UN Avenue (NB); and near Arellano Univer-

sity (NB), Manila and Pasay City; TM Kalaw Avenue (westbound or WB); P. Quirino Avenue, near Singalong Street (NB), and Pedro Gil St. (NB).

Quezon City
G. Araneta Avenue corner Maria Clara Street; Sto. Domingo Avenue corner Calamba Street; Maria Clara Street corner G. Araneta to Sto. Domingo Avenue; General Luis

Street corner Ambrosia Street; Mo. Ignacia Street near Samar Avenue; V. Luna Road, in front of Mercury Drug Store; E. Rod Sr. Avenue, in front of Delos Santos Hospital; G. Araneta Avenue near E. Rod. Sr.; Quezon Avenue corner Victory Avenue near Timog Avenue.

Boni Avenue, F. Ortigas and Maysilo Circle, Mandaluyong City;

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(That is very important because they have not eaten for days. So as soon as possible, our supplies should be ready when we come in because they are our priority. These are critical situations),” he added.

Marcos also reminded concerned government agencies to ensure that people “have everything that they need.”

Earlier, the President said some PHP2.88 billion prepositioned assistance is on standby.

Army assists flood victims

As this developed, the 525th Engineer “Fore-runner” Battalion of the Combat Engineer Regiment marshaled two light Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams composed of 52 personnel and rescue assets that will be deployed amid the massive flooding in Metro Manila.

According to the Philippine Army, the two USAR teams, as well as four military trucks and four rubber boats, were deployed under the military’s Joint Task Force National Capital Region, which will determine their area of assignment.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Army leadership assured the public of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response teams’ operational readiness in assisting typhoon-affected families in close cooperation with national government agencies, local government units, and other responders.

Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Gen. Rommel Francisco Marbil said the PNP is committed to reinforcing its humanitarian assistance, evacuation procedures, and overall emergency response efforts.

“Our personnel are actively deployed across Metro Manila and other impacted areas, working diligently to ensure the safety and well-being of all residents,” Marbil said in a statement.

“We urge the public to stay informed through official channels, adhere to safety advisories, and cooperate with local authorities,” he added.

A total of 5,820 personnel have been deployed as part of Search and Rescue Teams to ensure the safety and well-being of those in need while Metro Manila remains under a red rainfall warning, with moderate to heavy rains causing widespread disruptions.

“Our top priority is the safety and well-being of our fellow Filipinos. We are committed to delivering necessary support and assistance during this challenging period,” Marbil said.

He said the PNP is actively monitoring the typhoon’s impact and maintaining close coordination with local government units and other relevant agencies as all PNP units have been directed to monitor and report any incidents related to Typhoon Carina.

Marbil advised the public to remain vigilant, follow safety protocols, and cooperate with authorities to ensure their safety.

In Central Luzon region, a total of 528 families composed of 1,509 individuals are temporarily sheltered at 34 evacuation centers, particularly in Bataan, Bulacan, and Olongapo City.

Police Regional Office (PRO) 3 Regional Director Brig. Gen. Jose Hildalgo said all commanders in the region have been directed to observe all guidelines while implementing measures to help the affected families.

In southern part of Metro Manila, Southern Police District Director Brig. Gen. Leon Victor Rosete has activated its Search and Rescue Teams to assist residents in the cities of Makati, Pasay, Taguig, Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Muntinlupa as well as the municipality of Pateros.

Rosete said the SPD has identified 142 evacuation centers, with 36 currently occupied, affecting 929 families and 3,278 individuals as of 1 p.m. Wednesday. (With reports from Priam Nepomuceno/Lloyd Caliwang/PNA)

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teachers,” he said.

“We’re finalizing that document along with the three other agencies,” Angara added, referring to the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

For career progression, teachers can pursue either a teaching or an administration track.

24 ROAD.... FR P.1

F. Blumentritt, San Juan City; C-5 Road, Taguig City; Parañaque-Suc-at Road, San Dionisio, Parañaque City and EDSA/Guadalupe Cloverleaf Road, Chainage 00020 - Chainage 00040 Guadalupe, EDSA - North Bound, EDSA (NB) before Orense, Makati City.

Meanwhile, a road is closed to traffic in the Cordillera region – Kennon Road, K0228+800, Camp 4 and K0237+800, Millsite, Camp 6 in Tuba, Benguet; Central Luzon – the Layac-Balanga-Mariveles Port Road, in Hermosa, Bataan, and in Zamboanga Peninsula – the Zamboanga City Bypass Road, Malagytay Section Limited access

Meanwhile, 12 of 20 national road sections with limited access to only heavy vehicles due to flooding are also in Metro Manila.

These are España Boulevard, Antipolo - A. Maceda, Manila City; South Super Highway, corner Buendia Avenue and in front of SM Hypermarket, Makati City; Mac Arthur Highway, Barangay Marulas and Barangay Dalandanan, Valenzuela City; C-3 Road and A. Mabini Street, Caloocan City; Fairview Avenue corner Winston Street, Regalado Avenue (NB) corner Bristol Street, South Avenue (Timog Avenue), corner Sct. Tobias, Que-

zon City. “Sometimes our teachers get pirated for better opportunities because it takes some time for them to be promoted. So, this one gives them something to look forward to a career track,” Angara said.

The education chief also expressed optimism that the implementation of career progression may result in better quality performance among educators.

“It’s something which will encourage and incentivize our teachers, and we really expect a growth performance because of these innovations and development which the President has approved,” he said.

will encourage and incentivize our teachers, and we really expect a growth performance because of these innovations and development which the President has approved,” he said.

Teacher education council

Angara also vowed to maximize the Teacher Education Council (TEC) to capacitate teachers in public schools through necessary training.

“We are also trying to activate a teacher education council. This is a body created under the law that Congress passed two years ago which is meant to train our teachers,” he said.

Under the TEC, educators are expected to receive training for up-to-date quality teaching methods.

Earlier, the DepEd, under the helm of Vice President and former Education Secretary Sara Duterte, reported that it would conduct various discussions for the “creation, selection process, and appointment of qualified individuals” for the TEC Secretariat.

On June 11, the Office of the DepEd Undersecretary for Human Resource and Organizational Development (OUHROD) received the physical copy of the Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation Action (NOSCA) for the TEC, following the DBM’s approval of DepEd’s proposed organizational structure and staffing pattern for TEC on May 21. (PNA)

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER of PRIME ALLIANCE of
PUBLISHERS, EDITORS, &
REPORTERS of the Philippines Inc.

THIS NEWSPAPER IS EDITED, PUBLISHED AND
CIRCULATED IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE AT BLK. 8
LOT 19 SAINT FRANCIS ST. CARDINAL VILLAGE
SALITRAN 3 DASMARIÑAS CITY OF CAVITE

Commercial Advertising Rate: P200.00/col.cm
Legal Rate P160.00/col.cm.

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affected families. “Yung distribution ng stockpile ninyo, i-adjust na ninyo. Nakikita na naman natin yung trend kung saan dumadaan (Your distribution of stockpile, have it adjusted. We can see the trend where [typhoon] passes), where are the areas that are being hit hardest. As much as possible, doon na tayo mag start sa (we start at) prepositioning as a response to the need para hindi tayo mahirapan (to avoid much burden),” the President said.

During the situation briefing, Special Assistant to the Secretary (SAS) for Disaster Response and Management Group (DRMG) and concurrent officer-in-charge (OIC) of the National Resource and Logistics Management Bureau (NRLMB) Director Leo Quintilla reported the activities and response efforts of the DSWD.

“Mr. President, currently we have a total of around one million family food packs (FFPs) and with a total standby funds and stockpiles funds of PHP2.6 billion,” Quintilla said.

The DSWD also maintains more than PHP1.2 billion worth of other food and non-food items (FNIs), he added.

Quintilla said these stockpiles are stored in the agency’s disaster response centers, regional offices, and in the last mile warehouses in the LGUs, especially in the geo-

graphically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs).

The boxes of FFPs and other relief items have been prepositioned even before the typhoon entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR).

“We still have around 1.6 million available FFPs through our framework agreement with different suppliers that are ready to be drawn down anytime we need additional relief goods to augment the LGUs,” Quintilla said.

Based on the July 24, the 6 a.m. report of the DSWD-Disaster Response Operations Management, Information Center (DROMIC), some 45,328 families or 91,062 individuals in 225 barangays in the National Capital Region (NCR), Regions 1 (Ilocos), 2 (Cagayan Valley), 3 (Central Luzon), Calabarzon, Mimaropa, 5 (Bicol), 6 (Western Visayas), 7 (Central Visayas), and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) have been affected by the weather disturbance.

Some 1,702 families or 6,524 persons are now taking temporary shelter in 126 evacuation centers in the NCR, Regions 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and Calabarzon and Mimaropa.

The DSWD earlier set its Disaster Response Command Center on red alert status, meaning all human and material resources are available for duty and deployment. (PNA)

DOE: Transmission lines up by 10% in Marcos admin

MANILA – Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Raphael Lotilla said the Marcos administration was able to fast-track the completion of transmission line projects that will stabilize the power situation and reduce the electricity rates across the country.

During the 2024 Post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) Discussions in Pasay City Wednesday, Lotilla said the length of transmission lines following the completion of various projects in the past two years increased by 10 percent.

Lotilla noted the 10-percent increase in the length of transmission lines between 2022 and 2024 is higher than the 8-percent increase from 2009 to 2022, or in the past 13 years.

In his third SONA, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. boasted about the interconnectivity of the three major island grids that were envisioned 40 years ago.

“So for the first time, we’ve been able to connect the Visayas and Mindanao, and also therefore with Luzon, and we have one grid. What does this mean for the country? Right now, we have an excess power capacity in Mindanao of up to 800 megawatts a year. So the excess capacity can now be transported through the submarine cable to the Visayan islands where they are going to be used,” Lotilla said at the panel discussion. “So since 2016, this



(File photo)

excess power has, in effect, been stranded. And that’s why the President, when he came into office, concentrated on three major projects that would free up stranded power,” he added.

Last January, President Marcos led the energization of the Mindanao-Visayas Interconnection Project (MVIP) that would allow Mindanao to share some 450 megawatts of power with Visayas.

The Cebu-Negros-Panay backbone project that went online in April this year also allowed the transfer of power capacity up to Panay Island.

“In Luzon, would you believe that at the start, when the President’s term began, we had 600 MW of power in Bataan which could not be fully utilized in the metropolitan area because there was not enough transmission lines,” Lotilla noted.

The DOE chief said the administration’s “formula” to deliver these critical projects is “tutok at pukpok” (focus and political willpower).

“In the case of the Department of Energy, we do the tutok, but

for the pukpok, we had to depend on the President,” he added.

From lines to loops

Lotilla said that moving forward, the Philippine grid should build transmission loops that would further stabilize the power supply across the country.

“We still have much more to do. For example, the North Luzon Loop—this is to connect Ilocos to Cagayan. Right now, those two areas, it’s a one-way street, and that’s why the power is unstable. We’ve got to build the loop in the transmission so that in case something happened in the Ilocos side, we can use the Cagayan side and so on. Same with Panay, with Zamboanga Peninsula, and Mindoro that is needed to be interconnected with Luzon, these are things that we are going to work on,” he said.

For her part, Energy Regulatory

Commission (ERC) Chairperson Monalisa Dimalanta said the interconnectivity of the county’s grids will promote competition in the market that will push for lower power rates.

“The ability now of the system to export the excess power from Mindanao all they way to Panay is a unique experience that we are now enjoying. Because that excess supply will stabilize the supply situation in Visayas and all the way to Luzon. And additional supply definitely increases competition, and increased competition should be lowering electricity cost,” Dimalanta said.

She added that if power costs remain high despite the stable supply in the market, the ERC will monitor the competition behavior of the industry players and will impose penalties on those engaging in anti-competitive practices. (PNA)

**DRAW CLOSE TO GOD
AND HE WILL DRAW
CLOSE TO YOU**
James 4:8

**The one walking with the wise
will become wise, But the one
wh has dealings with the stupid
will fare badly.**
Proverbs 13:20

DOST 1 sets smart vision to reality with SSCP roadmaps launch

THE Department of Science and Technology - Region 1 (DOST 1) recently launched the roadmaps for its Smart and Sustainable Communities Program (SSCP), an initiative that marks a pivotal moment for six communities in the region to showcase their commitment to becoming smart, sustainable, and technology-driven.

The regional development milestone happened during the 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) held at the Plaza Del Norte Hotel & Convention in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte.

The SSCP is one of the four (4) major focus areas for the DOST's regional operations, which is led by DOST Undersecretary for Regional Operations Engr. Sancho A. Maborang. It aims to foster growth in communities by integrating smart procedures, and Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) interventions.

The program is a collaborative effort which involves extensive consultations and training with the beneficiaries. The goal is to address various community challenges, enhance living standards, and boost efficiency through innovative solutions and strategic planning.

Originally set to develop roadmaps only for four communities, the SSCP for DOST 1, under the visionary leadership of Regional Director Dr. Teresita



A. Tabaog, exceeded expectations and instead completed plans for six: the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte, the City of Batac, the City of Laoag, the City of Candon, the City of San Fernando, and the City of Alaminos.

Each community embraced the SSCP with enthusiasm, reflecting their commitment to the program's objectives.

For instance, the City of San Fernando in La Union, led by Mayor Hermenigildo Gualberto, presented its roadmap and best practices at the 2024 International Smart City and Communities Exposition & Net-

working Engagement (iSCENE) in Cauayan City, Isabela. The presentation received positive feedback, paving the way for potential international partnerships.

During the RSTW 2024, Mayor Gualberto highlighted that "our journey towards a smart and sustainable community requires the collective effort of every resident, sector, and institution. It is crucial that we continue to innovate, collaborate, and ensure that no one is left behind."

The spotlight, though, is not only on San Fernando City. The other five (5) communities — Batac, Laoag, Candon, Alaminos,

Japan sees biggest drop in population growth

ANKARA —Japan recorded its largest population decrease in history last year, with a significant drop of 861,000 residents, according to official data released on Wednesday.

This demographic shift observed across various provinces underscored the nation's ongoing challenges with an aging population and declining birth rates.

The population decreased from 122.42 million in 2022 to 121.56 million in 2023, Tokyo-based Kyodo News reported, citing data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

This marks the 15th consecutive year of decline and the largest drop since the survey began in 1968.

However, the capital Tokyo experienced a slight population increase, rising by 0.03

and Ilocos Norte — are equally integral to this journey. Each city has worked diligently to develop their roadmaps, ensuring that their plans are tailored to their unique needs and aspirations.

These roadmaps are not just documents; they represent the collective vision and efforts of each community to drive sustainable and inclusive growth.

Mayor Gualberto's call to action reflects "the core values of the SSCP and reinforces the commitment of all involved to drive prog-



POPULATION DROP. Japan posts its largest population decrease in history last year, with a significant drop of 861,000 residents, the report released on Tuesday (July 23, 2024). The population decreased from 122.42 million in 2022 to 121.56 million in 2023. (Anadolu)

ress and inclusivity in their communities. As these roadmaps are set in motion, they pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for the entire region."

The success of the SSCP lies in its ability to bring together diverse communities with a shared vision. As each city gears up with new knowledge and support from DOST 1 and its partners, they are united in their quest to become smart, sustainable, resilient, technology-driven, and inclusive.

People aged 65 and older accounted for 29.38% of the Japanese population, an

percent due to a high influx of people into the city, according to the report.

The number of foreign nationals in Japan also increased, surpassing 3.29 million for the first time.

increase of 0.23 percent, while the working-age population, those between 15 and 64, declined slightly to 59.02 percent.

Last year, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called for implementing "unprecedented" measures to address the issue. (Anadolu)

The launch of the roadmaps is a testament to the power of collaborative effort and innovation. It reflects a collective commitment to improving quality of life and ensuring that the benefits of science and technology reach every corner of the region.

As the journey continues, the six recipient communities are poised to set a benchmark for progress and sustainability, driving forward with a unified purpose and renewed enthusiasm. (Christian Dominic Casimiro)

As each city gears up with new knowledge and support from DOST 1 and its partners, they are united in their quest to become smart, sustainable, resilient, technology-driven, and inclusive.

As the journey continues, the six recipient communities are poised to set a benchmark for progress and sustainability, driving forward with a unified purpose and renewed enthusiasm. (Christian Dominic Casimiro)

**SAY NO
TO DRUGS**

GCF OKs project to empower PH green entrepreneurs

MANILA – The Green Climate Fund (GCF) Board approved USD1 billion worth of climate adaptation and mitigation projects, including a project that will empower Philippine green entrepreneurs to promote climate-resilient development.

In a statement on Wednesday, the Department of Finance (DOF) said the approval was made during the Board’s 39th meeting in Incheon, Korea held from July 13 to 18, 2024.

The GCF is the largest global fund created to support climate change mitigation and adaptation projects and programs in developing countries.

DOF Chief-of-Staff and Undersecretary Maria Luwalhati Dorotan Tiuseco serves as the GCF Alternate Board Member under the Asia-Pacific Group and represented the Philippine delegation during the meeting.

The DOF said among the approved projects was the Collaborative Research and Development Business Programme for Promoting the Innovation of Climate Technopreneurship, which aims to facilitate technological transfer and improve the local ecosystem for climate technology by empowering local entrepreneurs in the Philippines, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and Vietnam.

The program worth USD221.215 million will be divided among the recipient countries,



(File photo)

allowing Philippine green entrepreneurs to leverage global technological expertise, thus accelerating climate-resilient development in the country.

Some USD104.471 million of the total cost of the program will be financed by GCF through grants and equity, while the remaining USD116.744 million will come from the co-financer’s contributions.

The newly approved funding brings the GCF’s total grant to the Philippines to USD137.7 million for nine projects.

In addition, the Philippines is currently implementing four readiness activities with the GCF.

The Readiness and Preparatory Support Program (RPSP) 1 builds the capacity of the DOF as the National Designated Authority through the development of a monitoring, reporting and verification framework, country portfolio analysis, GCF Philippines website, launch of training modules, project development training, and conduct of national stakeholder conference.

RPSP 2, on the other hand, aims to strengthen the capacities of

the Landbank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines as direct access entities in developing high quality project concept notes.

During the meetings, Tiuseco expressed support for the mainstreaming approach of the “reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries” or REDD+ results-based payments, which will allow to integrate the funding modality into the regular project and program activity cycle of the Fund.

REDD+ is a process moderated by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that supports countries’ efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

“REDD+ Results Based Payment would help translate existing REDD+ strategies of developing countries into a financial incentive mechanism that could support the implementation of the Philippines’ Nationally Determined Contributions,” she said. (PNA)

Foreign missions offer aid as Super Typhoon Carina batters PH

MANILA – The United States, Australia, Chinese, and Canadian Embassies in Manila have offered assistance as the enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat) and Super Typhoon Carina pummel several parts of the Philippines, including Metro Manila.

In a statement on Wednesday, US Ambassador MaryKay Carlson said coordination between the embassy and the Philippine government is continuous.

“My thoughts and prayers are with all friends, partners, allies affected by the flooding and other severe effects caused by (Super Typhoon) Carina. The US Embassy team is working closely with (Philippine) government agencies and is already providing assistance,” she said in a post on X.

The US government has so far provided 700 emergency shelters in Maguindanao del Sur and the Bangsamoro region since July 21, through the US Agency for International Development and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in coordination with local authorities.

“We continue to coordinate closely with local partners to discuss additional ways for the United States to provide assistance to affected communities,” US Embassy spokesperson Kanishka Gangopadhyay said.

Australian Ambassador HK Yu said Can-

berra also prepared to respond if requested by the Philippines.

“Australia offers its sympathies to communities affected by (Typhoon) Carina. The Embassy continues to monitor the situation and is keeping contact with Philippine government and partners. Australia is prepared to respond if requested,” she posted on X.

In separate posts, Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian and Canadian Ambassador David Hartman conveyed readiness to extend assistance.

“My heart is with all our Filipino friends affected by Typhoon Carina. Our sincere sympathy goes to those who have lost their loved ones in the floods. Stand ready to provide help and get through this trying time together,” Huang said.

Hartman, for his part, said: “The Embassy of Canada expresses its concerns and sympathies to those individuals & communities impacted by (Typhoon) Carina. We are closely monitoring the situation & stand ready to

support as needed.”

Japanese Ambassador Kazuya Endo and European Union Ambassador Luc Veron, meanwhile, sent their thoughts to the families affected.

“Our hearts go out to everyone affected by (Super Typhoon) Carina. To the families who have lost loved ones and those enduring hardships, our thoughts are with you. Let us hold on together in these tough times and stay safe,” Endo said.

A total of 183,464 families or 882,861 persons have been affected as torrential rains and floods struck Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao, Soccsksargen, Caraga, and the Bangsamoro Region.

As of this posting, a total of eight dead, two injured and one missing persons were reported by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. (PNA)

ERRATUM

This is to correct the error made in the publication dated May 23, 30 & June 6, 2024 filed by Petitioner **VICTORIA UNTALAN BAROWEL**, versus **THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF TIAONG QUEZON, PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY, AND ALL PERSONS WHO MAY HAVE CLAIM OR INTEREST WHICH WOULD BE AFFECTED THEREBY**, Respondents, in the ninth line of Order it should be **BARUEL** not **BOROWEL**

Published at Cavite News Publishing
Date: July 25, 2024

CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER THAT'S NATIONAL IN SCOPE

VOL. XXV NO. 15

JULY 25-31, 2024

P10.00

Meralco to restore electricity once flooding subsides

MANILA – The Manila Electric Company (Meralco) assured its customers on Wednesday that power restoration will be immediately done once floodwaters subside in areas affected by Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon (habagat).

“We are also closely monitoring the flooded areas. Our teams will immediately be deployed to restore power service once floods subside in the affected areas,” Meralco vice president and head of corporate communications Joe Zaldarriaga said.

According to Meralco, as of 12 noon Wednesday, 124,679 customers in its franchise areas were affected by power outages amid the inclement weather.

A big chunk of the affected customers were in Metro Manila, with



MEGA MANILA FLOODS. Commuters wade through floodwater in Bacoor, Cavite on July 23, 2024. Meralco said over 124,000 customers in its franchise area were affected by power outage as of 12 noon of Wednesday (July 24, 2024) due to Typhoon Carina and the southwest monsoon. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

96,605 customers reported to have no electricity; 11,422 customers in Cavite; 9,320 customers in Rizal; and 6,501 customers in Bulacan.

Some 459 Meralco customers in Batangas still had no electricity at noontime, while Laguna and Quezon have 326 and 46 affected customers, respectively.

“Rest assured that we are closely monitor-

ing the situation and our crews are working non-stop to restore service as soon as possible. We urge everyone to prioritize safety and take necessary precautions during this time,” Zaldarriaga said.

Meanwhile, the National Grid Corporation of the Philippines said its transmission lines and facilities are under normal operations as of 2 p.m. (PNA)

Strong Group to continue supporting PH basketball

MANILA – Strong Group has pledged to continue its support to the national team following the country’s successful campaign at the 43rd William Jones Cup last Sunday.

Strong Group-Pilipinas won the title after beating host Chinese-Taipei A, 83-79, in overtime.

“This victory is just the beginning. Besides our team, we will continue to support the Samahang Basketball sa Pilipinas (SBP) and Gilas Pilipinas. We want our program to complement the national team’s efforts and offer help in any way we can,” Strong Group president Jacob Lao said on Wednesday.

The Jones Cup victory marked a significant milestone for Strong Group Athletics.

“We started Strong Group with a dream --to prove that the Filipino athlete can shine on the international stage. This victory is a testament to our relentless pursuit of excellence, done for the pride of our nation,” Strong Group-Pilipinas chairman Frank Lao said.

“Thank you to all our kababayans (countrymen) in the Philippines and our OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) -- this victory is for you! A heartfelt thanks to the SBP, Sir Al Panlilio (former PLDT president), and Ma’am Erika Dy (SBP executive director) for believing in our players and coaches,” he added.

Strong Group head coach Charles Tiu was



43rd WILLIAM JONES CUP WINNER. Kiefer Ravena reacts after Strong Group-Pilipinas beat host Chinese Taipei, 83-79, in overtime in the final of the 44th William Jones Cup on July 21, 2024. It was the seventh title for the Philippines. (Contributed photo)

happy with the team’s accomplishment.

“It is always an honor for me to represent the country in any way, and that was the mantra of the team throughout the tournament. We wanted to give glory to our country. And aside from that, I really wanted to win a championship for Boss Frank and Jacob (Lao). They’ve trusted me a lot, and I wanted to deliver for them,” said Tiu after the Philippines bagged its seventh Jones Cup title.

He commended Kiefer Ravena for scoring a triple in the final 13 seconds in regulation to give Strong Group a 73-71 lead.

“Kiefer showed once again what he is made of. There are times when I really wanted to strangle him in the games, but when it is crunch time or winning time, there’s no one I trust more to make big plays, and he delivered in our biggest games against Ukraine and in our championship game,” Tiu remarked.

RJ Abarrientos also played well throughout the tournament,

averaging 9.3 points, 5.1 assists, and 2.3 rebounds.

“RJ Abarrientos was phenomenal. It was my first time working with him, and he is such a great player. When we drew up a play for him in the first play of overtime and he hit the corner three off the glass, I thought that this might be our game after all,” Tiu said.

Jordan Heading, the only one left from the Strong Group’s Dubai International Basketball Championship team, also contributed.

“Jordan Heading was closely guarded, and we couldn’t get him any looks. I really wanted him to shoot those free throws, and I trusted that he would knock them down. He went up to me after and said he wasn’t going to miss again after that Dubai game,” Tiu said.

Strong Group is already planning its 2025 calendar, including the title defense of the Jones Cup title. (PNA)

Proverbs of Solomon.
A wise son makes his father rejoice,
But a foolish son is the grief
of the mother.
Provers 10:1

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