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## 21 areas in Bataan, Cavite under state of calamity due to oil spill

MANILA – A total of 21 areas in the provinces of Bataan and Cavite have declared a state of calamity due to the impact of the oil spill caused by the sinking of the M/T Terranova, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) said Tuesday.

In its situation report,

the NDRRMC said the figure includes Bataan's 11 towns and capital city Balanga as well as Cavite's seven towns and two cities -- Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon, Ternate, Cavite City and Bacoor City.

The oil spill has so far affected 25,145 fisherfolk in Calabarzon, it

added.

Operations are now ongoing to contain the oil spill.

The M/T Terranova sank off Lamao Point in Limay, Bataan last July 25 at the height of bad weather due to Super Typhoon Carina and the enhanced southwest monsoon.

The ship was carrying  
*(Turn to p. 2)*

# DA: Cheaper rice in more Kadiwa sites to further influence rice prices

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) said on Tuesday that operations of PHP29 and Rice for All programs in more Kadiwa sites may help further drop rice retail prices in local markets.

“Kapag mas marami iyong area mo na nagka-Kadiwa, mas magiging malaki iy-

ong influence niyan sa market. Lalo na iyong mas malapit doon sa Kadiwa sites, mas malaki iyong chances na they will also offer prices regular na malapit doon sa (If you have more areas operating Kadiwa, there will be bigger influence in the market. Especially those near Kadiwa sites, there's

more chances that they will offer regular prices that's close to that of the) Kadiwa,” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa said in a phone interview.

The DA made the statement after rice inflation dropped to 20.9 percent in July from 22.5 percent in June, according to the latest report of the Philip-

pine Statistics Authority (PSA).

“Natutuwa kami na marami nang nagtitinda ng PHP45 sa mga pamilihan. Mayroon nga ngayong nagbebenta PHP42 na rin (We are delighted that more retailers are selling rice at PHP45/kg in local markets. There's even PHP42/kg being  
*(Turn to p. 2)*



**CHEAPER RICE.** Consumers buy affordable agricultural products and other food items at the Kadiwa Center located at the BPI Multipurpose Hall in San Andres, Malate, Manila on July 19, 2024. The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Tuesday (Aug. 6, 2024) said rice prices in the retail market may go lower with more Kadiwa sites offering cheap rice. (PNA file photo by Yancy Lim)

## BFAR conducts sensory testing in Cavite coastal areas

KAWIT, CAVITE (PIA) – The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is conducting sensory testing in municipalities of Cavite with coastal areas of Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, and Naic.

The testing was conducted after the degree of petrochemicals was reported in random fishes caught in the area.

After the testing, fish samples from Noveleta and Rosario were proven tainted with petrochemicals.

Meanwhile, samples gathered from Cavite City, Tanza, and Naic remain free from contamination.

“Nevertheless, the Bureau maintains that as a precautionary measure, fish harvested from areas where oil slicks are observed

be deemed unsafe for human consumption,” the BFAR announced in a bulletin.

Days ago, Cavite Governor Juanito Victor Remulla already signed Executive Order No. 38, series of 2024, where the provincial government declares Kawit, Noveleta, Rosario, Tanza, Naic, Maragondon, and Ternate, as well as the cities of Cavite and



Bacoor as no-catch and no-sell zones for shellfish.

“There is a need to declare a no-catch and no-sell zone in the

coastal areas in the province to ensure the health and well-being of Caviteños and the consuming public [from the effect of the oil spill],” the EO reads.

Fisherfolk who were affected by the ban, on the other hand, were given aid by the Cavite provincial government. (PIA-4A; with reports from Cavite PIO/BFAR)

**DA... FR P.1**

sold),” De Mesa said. “Epekto na rin ito una iyong mga interventions natin of course dito sa mga production data natin, Rice for All, P29, and then bumaba rin naman iyong sa international market (This is the effect of our interventions, of course in our production data. Rice for All, P29, and the declining prices in the international market),” he added.

As of Monday, the prices of local regular milled rice in Metro Manila range from PHP45 per kilogram to PHP50/kg., and PHP47/kg. to PHP55/kg. for local well-milled rice.

Meanwhile, imported regular-milled rice ranges from PHP46/kg. to PHP48/kg., and PHP51/kg. to PHP53/kg. for imported well-milled rice.

De Mesa said the prices of rice may still drop in the coming months with the effects of the lower tariffs on imported rice, which is at 15 percent.

The P29 program refers to the sale of PHP29 per kilogram of aging but good quality rice stocks from the National Food Authority (NFA) for the vulnerable sector, including members of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), senior citizens, persons with disability (PWD), and solo parents; while PHP45/kg of commercial well-milled rice is accessible in Kadiwa sites for the general public through the DA's Rice for All program.

To date, both programs are being oper-

ated in 17 Kadiwa sites in the Bureau of Animal Industry Dome and National Irrigation Administration in Quezon City; Bureau of Plant Industry in Malate, Manila; Food Terminal Inc. in Taguig City; Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority in Las Piñas; Bayani Fernando Central Terminal or BFCT and Barangay Fortune in Marikina; as well as sites in Llano, Caloocan; Valenzuela; Pantao Fisherfolks Consumer Cooperative in Malabon; Navotas Institute in Navotas; San Jose del Monte, Bulacan; Antipolo City; Bacoor, Cavite; and San Pedro City Hall and Santa Rosa, Laguna, every Thursday to Saturday.

The DA targets to expand the program in Cebu, Maguindanao, and Sulu within August.

**Masagana program**

The DA, meanwhile, said the review of the Masagana Rice Industry Development Program is underway to further boost local palay production and increase farmers' income.

“We're recalibrating the program to identify areas for enhancement, including the distribution of improved seeds, expansion of irrigation systems, and adjustments to rice cropping schedules,” DA Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. said in a separate statement.

The DA said rice yield could reach as high as 7.5 metric tons (MT) per hectare or 150 bags (50 kg/bag) using “right inputs and

**Dengue cases 33% higher, deaths lower**

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Wednesday reported 128,834 dengue cases as of July 27, a 33 percent increase from the same period in 2023.

In a news release, the DOH said there were 97,211 cases recorded for the same period last year.

However, dengue deaths recorded this year at 337 is lower compared to last year's 378 for the same time period.

“The lower number of deaths this year despite the higher number of cases is an indication of people seeking early consultation, and hospitals doing better case management,” the DOH said.

The DOH said dengue cases are still on an uptrend, showing an increase from 12,153 cases recorded from June 16 to 29, to 18,349 cases from June 30 to July 13.

The regions which showed continuous rise in cases in the past six weeks are Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Cagayan Val-

ley, and Calabarzon.

Meanwhile, two weeks after super typhoon Carina and an enhanced southwest monsoon (habagat), the DOH recorded only 67 cases of leptospirosis from July 14 to 27.

The DOH said there are most likely delayed reports.

The incubation period of leptospirosis may range from two to 30 days, usually showing symptoms around one to two weeks after exposure to floodwaters, it said.

From Jan. 1 to July 27, 1,444 cases with 162 deaths have been recorded or 42 percent lower compared to the 2,505 cases in the same period last year.

The DOH reminded the public to avoid floodwaters and to take available antibiotic prophylaxis by prescription after walking in floodwaters.

The price freeze for doxycycline, antibiotic prophylaxis for leptospirosis, remains until Sept. 23, it said. (PNA)

**21 AREAS ... FR P.1**

some 1.4 million liters of industrial fuel oil when it sank.

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. earlier created an inter-agency task force to quickly address the possible effects of the oil spill.

The task force is led by the Office of the Civil Defense with the

technologies.”

To date, the country's average yield per hectare is set at 4.51 MT in irrigated

departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Health (DOH), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Interior and Local Government (DILG), Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Coast Guard as members. (PNA)

areas and 3.34 MT in non-irrigated areas, or equivalent to 4.17 MT national average yield per hectare. (PNA)

**Senator vows to boost public info on El Niño, La Niña**

MANILA – Senator Robinhood Padilla on Tuesday assured that he will push for a budget allocation that will strengthen the public information campaign regarding El Niño and La Niña next year.

Padilla made the assurance during the public hearing of the Senate Subcommittee on Senate Resolution No. 987 which seeks to look into the effectiveness of the information and awareness campaign of the national government on the impact of El Niño phenomenon in the country.

During the hearing, Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Deputy

Director General Adolfo Ares Gutierrez also asked for additional budget in 2025 to effectively implement the campaign.

“Ito na po ang pagkakataon namin na hingin din po ang tulong ng Senado na mabigyan din po ng sapat na budget lalo na po ang PIA dahil ito pong pinag-uusapan natin, yung information campaign ng El Niño at La Niña, wala po sa programa ng PIA yun (This is our chance to ask the help of the Senate to be given a sufficient budget, because the information campaign on El Niño and La Niña is not in (Turn to p. 3)

**CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER**

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Republic of the Philippines  
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REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
AND EX-OFFICIO SHERIFF  
Dasmariñas City, Cavite

File No. FC-DC-1423-24  
For: Extra-Judicial Foreclosure of Real Estate Mortgage under Act No. 3135 as amended by Act No. 4118

HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND  
(PAG-IBIG FUND),

Petitioner/Mortgagee,  
-versus-

ROMEO S. MANALAYSAY,  
Respondent/Mortgagor,

X-----X

#### NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act No. 3135, as amended by Act No. 4118 filed by the petitioner/mortgagee, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (PAG-IBIG FUND), a government financial institution duly organized and existing under and by virtue of Republic Act. No. 9679, with postal address at The Petron Mega Plaza Building No. 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, against the respondent/mortgagor, ROMEO S. MANALAYSAY, with postal address at #32 J. Ramirez St., Dasmariñas City, Cavite; Lot 29 Blk. 11, Phase 2, Valle Verde Dasmariñas, Brgy. Langkaan 2, Dasmariñas City, Cavite 4114 and for the satisfaction of the mortgaged debt which as of 25 June 2024 amounts to NINE HUNDRED FIFTY SIX THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED SEVENTEEN PESOS & 99/100 (Php 956,917.99), exclusive of legal fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **September 20, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter in the Court Room of Branch 90, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor, Dasmariñas Community Affairs (DASCA) Building, Congressional Road, Buro I, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite to the highest bidder and for CASH or CERTIFIED CHECK, in the Philippine Currency, the following described real property together with all the buildings and other improvements existing thereon, to wit:

#### TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2017007858

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that certain land situated in Langkaan II, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, bounded and described as follows:

A parcel of land (Lot 29 Blk. 11 of the subd. plan, PSD-04-220138, being a portion of Lot 3823, Imus Estate, L.R.C. Rec. No. 8843), situated in Brgy. of Langkaan II, Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the E., along line 1-2 by Lot 28 Blk. 11; on the S., along line 2-3 by Road Lot 11 (8.00 m. wide); on the W., along line 3-4 by Lot 30; and on the N., along line 4-1 by Lot 19 both of Blk. 11, all of the subd. plan. Beginning at a point marked "1" on plan being S. 44-07 W., 1121.07m. from MON. No. 149, Imus Estate; Thence S. 00-07 W., 15.00 m. to point 2; thence N. 89-53W., 4.00 m. to point 3; thence N. 00-07 E., 15.00 m. to point 4; thence S. 89-53 E., 4.00 m. to the point of beginning; containing an area of **SIXTY (60) SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS**, All points referred to are indicated on the plan and are marked on the ground by P.S., CYL. CONC. MONS 15x40 cms; Bearings true; Date of original survey July 27, 1905-June 11, 1908 and that of the subd. survey: March 14-19, 2011 and was approved on June 13, 2011.

Prospective buyers and/or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the title of the said real property and the encumbrance thereon, if there be any.

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

In the event the publication auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **October 4, 2024** at the same time and place without further notice.

Dasmariñas City, Province of Cavite, July 26, 2024.

GERALD A. FARGAS  
Sheriff IV

ATTY. MARCELA L. BAYBAY  
Clerk of Court VI & Ex-Officio Sheriff

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Raffle Date of Judicial Notices: July 19, 2024

## DepEd: All schools open nationwide

MANILA – The Department of Education (DepEd) on Tuesday reported the full opening of public schools nationwide after an initial postponement due to the effects of the enhanced southwest monsoon and Super Typhoon Carina.

In a Viber message, DepEd Media Relations chief Dennis Legaspi said all schools are now in normal operations for school year 2024-2025.

“Open na po lahat ng schools (All schools are open) nationwide today. Wala na din pong schools ang ginagamit (No more schools are being used) as evacuation centers,” he said.

During the opening of classes on July 29, some 1,063 schools postponed their official start, with the highest number recorded in Central Luzon with 457 schools.

The Ilocos region followed with 310 affected schools, Metro Manila with 225 schools, Calabarzon with 67 schools, and four schools in Soccsargen.

The DepEd, meanwhile, logged 87.2 percent of its target enrollment on Tuesday, recording 24,178,797 out of 27,722,835 target enrollees from elementary to senior high school (SHS) in all public and private schools.

These include 290,461 enrollees in the Alternative Learning System (ALS).

To date, the highest number of learners was reported in Calabarzon with 3,516,873 enrollees; followed by Central Luzon with 2,557,435 enrollees, and Metro Manila with 2,489,979 enrollees.

**Free school kits for Manila kinder learners**

Some 1,000 kindergarten learners in the city of Manila received free school supplies.

Mayor Honey Lacuna led the distribution of the school kits for Kinder 1 and Kinder 2 at the Fugoso (Delpan) Sports Complex in Tondo and in Barangay 830 in Paco on Tuesday, ahead of the opening of pre-school classes in the city on Aug. 19.

### SENATOR.... FR P.2

the program of the (PIA),” he said.

He said the PIA can only amplify the information being disseminated by the Task Force El Niño through various information platforms, including face-to-face information forums through the agency’s regional offices.

But he said the role of public information officers in local government units should also be used to ensure that proper information will reach the grassroots level.

Padilla volunteered to attend the budget deliberations of the Presidential Communica-

tions Office, in which the PIA is under, to push for the allocation.

“Ipaglalaban natin ito, itong public information. Hindi tayo pwedeng isinasantabi dahil kapangyarihan tayo ng taumbayan. Hangga’t informed ang ating taumbayan, hindi sila mabobola kaya napakalaki po ng ating papel (We will fight for this, public information. We cannot set this aside because we are the power of the people. As long as our people are informed, they will not be misled, so our role is very big),” he said. (PNA)

*I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.*

*Ecclesiastes 9: 11*

These include school bags, a pair of rubber shoes, notebooks, pencils, raincoats, books, hygiene kits and shirts.

The lady mayor thanked the parents for enrolling their children early and for being patient with them.

“Alam nyo po, sa ibang bansa, lalo na sa Japan, disiplinado ang mga bata. Kasi hindi pa muna sila tinuturan ng Math at Science. Tinuturuan sila ng tamang asal. Kaya mga teachers, sana bigyan natin ng panahon ‘yung pagtuturo ng mga simpleng bagay na dapat ipaalam sa mga bata (You know

in other countries, especially in Japan, the children are disciplined. They are not yet taught with Math and Science. They are taught with values. To our teachers, let us give time in teaching these simple gestures to our children),” she added.

These include acts of courtesy such as “paggmamano” (honoring gesture) and the use of respectful words such as “po” and “opo”.

She called on the learners to study hard and listen to their parents and teachers at all times. (with Ferdinand Patinio/PNA)

#### Copy furnished

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Notice Posted at:

1. The Bulletin Board of Regional Trial Court Dasmariñas City, Cavite
2. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Hall
3. The bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Post Office
4. The Bulletin Board of Dasmariñas City Public Market

Republic of the Philippines  
fourth Judicial Region  
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT  
Branch 130, Trece Martires City  
[rtctmt130@judiciary.gov.ph](mailto:rtctmt130@judiciary.gov.ph)  
09198753023

LRC CASE NO. 6832-095-23

IN RE: PETITION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF NEW OWNER'S DUPLICATE COPY OF LOST TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 057-2020005138 OF THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE,

REX GAREATHO A. MAGHANAY,  
represented by MAE ANNE CAPACIO,  
Petitioner,  
-versus-

THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE, HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND & BORLAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.,  
Respondents,

x-----x

#### ORDER

Filed before this Court is a verified Petition for the Issuance of New Owner's Duplicate Copy of Transfer Certificate of Title No. 057-2020005138 in lieu of the said lost title, issued by the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite in the name of **REX GAREATHO ABIERA MAGHANAY**, the registered owner.

After being satisfied that the Petition is sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for initial hearing on **September 5, 2024 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning**, at which date, hour, and place, any and all interested persons are required to appear and show cause why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Notice of Hearing be published for three (3) consecutive weeks, at the expense of the petitioner, in a newspaper of general circulation and posted at the Tanza Municipal Public Market, Municipal and Barangay Hall where the property is situated as well as on the land itself located at Barangay Sanja Mayor, Tanza, Cavite, Office of the Solicitor General, petitioner and his counsel.

The sheriff of this Court is hereby directed to post copies of this Notice accordingly. The petitioner is likewise directed to submit a copy of the petition with its annexes to the Registry of Deeds for the Province of Cavite and the Office of the Solicitor General.

Send a copy of this Order to the Office of the Clerk of Court (OCC) for raffle of the publication.

**SO ORDERED.**

Trece Martires City, Cavite, March 15, 2024.

**GAYSOL C. LUNA**  
Presiding Judge

**ATTY. GODOFREDO T. MUNIEZA JR.,**  
MPA, DPA

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**REX GAREATHO A. MAGHANAY**  
*Petitioner*

Block 17, Lot 14 Sanja Mayor Subd,  
Brgy. Sanja Mayor, Tanza, Cavite

**MAE ANN CAPACIO**

*Petitioner's Attorney-in-Fact*  
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Brgy. Mabuhay, Carmona, Cavite

**REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE**  
Trece Martires City, Cavite

**OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL**  
134 Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village,  
Makati City

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT**  
Trece Martires City, Cavite

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## DA: Agri commodities supply stable despite -3.3% annual output drop

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) on Wednesday assured a stable supply of agricultural commodities in the country despite the -3.3 percent year-on-year drop in agriculture and fisheries production in the second quarter of 2024.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) earlier reported the agri-fishery output contraction at PHP413.91 billion, with a -8.6 percent production decline in crops worth PHP220.04 billion, and a -0.3 percent drop in livestock worth PHP63.33 billion.

Annual positive increments, however, were posted in the poultry and fisheries sectors, hitting 8.7 percent worth PHP70.15 billion, and 2.2 percent amounting to PHP60.40 billion, respectively.

“Sapat ang supply, lalo na ng bigas. Kung nagkaroon ng (There’s enough supply, especially of rice. If there’s a) reduction, this is still within the limit, year on year,” DA Assistant Secretary Arnel De Mesa said in an interview.

He said the country’s rice sector has a stable supply, considering the dry harvest season output alongside the continuous arrival of imported rice under the lower tariffs.

“Iyong huling report ng BPI (The latest report of the Bureau of Plant Industry), as of Aug. 1, 150,000 metric tons (MT) iyong

pumasok sa ating bansa (arrived in the country) for the whole of July,” De Mesa said.

Overall, he said, the BPI has recorded the arrival of about 2.49 million MT of rice imports since the start of the year.

#### Mitigation measures

For crops, which accounted for 53.2 percent of overall production value, De Mesa pointed to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon as the main driver of production decline.

These include a -42.3 percent annual drop in sugarcane, as well as a -20.3 percent and -9.5 percent annual decline in corn and palay production, respectively, according to the PSA.

De Mesa said these figures could have been worse without the resilience of the agriculture sector and the administration’s mitigating measures.

“Kung hindi nagawa iyong mga mitigating measures before, including itong mga support measures na naibigay during the El Niño, definitely mas malaki (If we were not able to institute mitigating measures, including these support measures distributed during the El Niño, the damage could have been bigger). It’s within the projected losses,” he said, citing the DA’s PHP14.54 billion worth of intervention to 333,195 affected farmers and fishers.

These include PHP8.59 billion in financial aid to 1,431,823 farmers na-

tionwide through the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance; PHP4.72 billion worth of production support and financial assistance to farmers, fishers, and farmers cooperatives and associations; and PHP659.17 million worth of agricultural inputs.

The DA has also indemnified 56,112 farmers through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corp., amounting to PHP452.56 million; while 66,039 native animals worth PHP18.08 million were distributed to 604 farmers nationwide.

About PHP99.38 million worth of Survival and Recovery (SURE) aid loan was also given through the Agricultural Credit Policy

Council.

On farmers’ affected employment, De Mesa noted an expected rebound, considering wider areas for land preparation, farm establishment, and harvesting during the wet season.

He, meanwhile, assured continuous preparations to prevent further agricultural production decline with the looming La Niña.

“Ongoing naman iyong mga interventions natin, especially doon sa mga water impounding projects natin na mabilis matapos (Our interventions are ongoing, especially the immediate completion of our water impounding projects),” he said. (PNA)

## DBM OKs release of P5B for 2023 4Ps grants in arrears

MANILA – The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved the release of PHP5 billion for the additional funding of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), the government’s flagship anti-poverty program under the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

In a statement Tuesday, the DBM said the additional funds will be sourced from the 2023 Continuing Appropriations and used to cover the 2023 4Ps grants in arrears resulting in the deactivation/suspension of 4Ps beneficiaries to around 703,888 households.

“Makakatulong po

ito para maibsan ang epekto ng inflation sa ating mga kababayan (This will help our countrymen cushion the impact of inflation). The DBM will do its part to streamline budget processes so that our citizens benefit from faster and more efficient delivery of essential services such as our 4Ps,” Budget Secretary Amenah Pangandaman said.

The allocation, according to Pangandaman, will allow the DSWD to continue its “critical work without interruption, providing much-needed assistance to our most vulnerable citizens.”

In his third State of the Nation Address

(Turn to p. 5)



## 76% of Filipinos want cellphones banned in schools – survey

MANILA – A Pulse Asia survey commissioned by Senator Sherwin Gatchalian showed that almost eight out of 10 Filipinos support the banning of cellphones in schools.

The results of the survey, conducted from June 17 to 24, showed that 76 percent of 1,200 adult respondents nationwide agree with having a cellphone ban inside schools. Thirteen percent said they disagree, while 11 percent said they cannot say whether they agree or disagree.

According to the survey, Filipinos across all socioeconomic classes also support the cellphone ban in schools, with the strongest support from Class ABC, with 80 percent; 76 percent from Class D; and 71 percent from Class E.

Eight out of 10 respondents in the National Capital Region, or 80 percent, support the proposal; with 79 percent in Balance Luzon; 61 percent in the Visayas; and 81 percent in Mindanao.

In a news release on Tuesday, Gatchalian said the results of the survey show that Filipinos see the benefits of imposing a ban on cellphone use in schools, especially because distraction from mobile phones in schools is linked to poorer learner performance.

“Malinaw na suportado ng ating mga kababayan ang ating panukala na ipagbawal ang paggamit ng mga cellphones sa mga



(File photo)

paaralan, lalo na’t ang paggamit nito sa oras ng klase ay maaaring makapinsala sa kanilang pag-aaral (Our countrymen clearly support our proposal to ban the use of cellphones in schools, especially because their use during class can harm their studies),” he said.

According to an analysis of the 2022 Program for International Student Assessment by the Senate Committee on Basic Education, eight out of 10 Filipino learners aged 15 reported being distracted in class by using their smartphones, while another eight out of 10 reported being distracted by other students’ smartphone use.

“Kaya naman patuloy nating isinusulong ang panukalang batas na magbabawal sa paggamit ng cellphone sa oras ng klase (That’s why we continue to push for the bill that will ban the use of cellphones during class),” he added.

Gatchalian recently filed Senate Bill 2706 or the Electronic Gadget-Free Schools Act, which seeks to prohibit learners’ use of mobile devices and electronic gadgets from kindergarten to senior high school within school

premises during school hours.

It mandates the Department of Education to establish guidelines for the prohibition, which covers learners from kindergarten to senior high school in both public and private institutions, including teachers.

The bill, however, provides some exceptions – learning related-exceptions, such as classroom presentation or class-based learning activities; health and well-being-related exceptions, such as learners with health conditions and requiring the use of mobile devices and electronic gadgets; and exceptions related to managing risks, such as emergencies, response to perceived threats or dangers, and during field trips or activities outside school premises.

All public and private basic education institutions, as well as learners, who will fail to comply, shall be subject to appropriate sanctions. (PNA)

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

## CSC offers special eligibility to senior office equipment technicians

MANILA – Senior Office Equipment Technicians interested in applying for government positions may take advantage of the special eligibility provided by the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

Under CSC Memorandum Circular (MC) No. 8 dated 7 September 2023, the Senior Office Equipment Technician A and Senior Office Equipment Technician B positions are now included in the list of positions for Equipment Technician eligibility under Category II of CSC MC No. 10, s. 2013.

“The special eligibility for Senior Office Equipment Technicians A and B represents a significant advancement in acknowledging the expertise of our building and office maintenance personnel in the public sector. Qualified individuals will no longer be required to take the Career Service Examination to gain eligibility and apply for plantilla positions,” said CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles in a press release.

Under CSC MC No. 11, s. 1996, Skills Eligibility is granted to individuals who meet the requirements for specific positions, qualifications for which are not measurable by written tests.

The special eligibility can be obtained only by completing one year of Very Satisfactory actual performance under temporary status of appointment.

The skills eligibility,

although appropriate for specific categories of positions outlined in CSC MC No. 11, s. 1996, as amended, is not equivalent to or comparable with Career Service Sub-Professional and Professional eligibilities.

To apply for the special eligibility, individuals holding Senior Office Equipment Technician A and Senior Office Equipment Technician B positions must submit the following requirements to the CSC Regional Office or Field Office having jurisdiction over the agency where they have completed one year of very satisfactory actual work performance:

Properly accomplished CS Form 101-G (Revised, Sept. 2013);

Original and photocopy of the Appointment Paper of the applicant, specifically indicating the status of appointment as “Temporary”;

Certification (using the prescribed CSC-ERPO Cat. II Form No. 1, Revised Oct. 2009) from the agency head/highest HRMO that the appointee obtained at least Very Satisfactory rating for the two rating periods during the one-year temporary

appointment as such; Statement of Actual Duties and Responsibilities (using the prescribed CSC-ERPO Cat. II Form No. 2, January 2011) of the applicant executed by the applicant’s immediate supervisor; and

Authenticated copy of the applicant’s Performance Rating Form, duly confirmed by the agency’s Performance Evaluation and Review Committee (PERC), for the two rating periods covered by the one-year temporary appointment.

Applicants are reminded that their applications must be submitted not earlier than one week before the expiration of the one-year temporary appointment.

However, filing of applications after the expiration of the one-year temporary appointment may be allowed provided the applicant is still in the service with the same position title.

The complete information and requirements on the Equipment Technician eligibility under Category II of CSC MC No. 10, s. 2013 are available on the CSC website at [csc.gov.ph/special-eligibilities/skills-eligibility-category-ii](http://csc.gov.ph/special-eligibilities/skills-eligibility-category-ii). (PR)

### DBM .... FR P.1

(SONA), President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. reported that over 420,000 households have graduated from the program or have been assessed as “self-sufficient” in just

a year.

The 4Ps offers conditional cash transfers to indigent households to improve health, nutrition, and education outcomes. (PNA)

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## Villegas settles for bronze after semis loss

MANILA – Aira Villegas' Cinderella run in the women's 50-kilogram boxing division of the Paris Olympics came to an end early Wednesday (Philippine Time) after losing in the semifinals to Turkiye's Buse Naz Cakiroglu as the entire boxing event shifted to the Roland Garros Stadium in downtown Paris.

Despite the defeat, Villegas is taking home the bronze medal.

Cakiroglu was just too much for Villegas, rightfully proving why she was the third seed in the competition.

Cakiroglu began her boxing clinic in the first round through more accurate shots, and a right straight at the 2:22 mark of the round wobbled Villegas, referee Wade Peterson stepped in to give her the standing eight-count.

Villegas thought she had her moment just before the final minute of Round 2 when she seemed like she knocked Cakiroglu down with a right hook.

However, Peterson, whose scorecards in bouts involving Filipino fighters as a judge have been criticized by



Aira Villegas (Photo from Aira Villegas Facebook)

some boxing fans, just ruled it a slip, and all five judges still gave the round to Cakiroglu.

Villegas could still not solve Cakiroglu's puzzle in Round 3 as the judges all scored perfect 30s to the latter, who will face top-seeded Chinese pugilist Wu Yu, a 4-1 split decision winner over Kazakhstan's Nazym Kyzaibay, for the gold early Saturday (Philippine Time).

Radoslav Simon and Manuel Vilarino both thought Villegas was overpowered as they credited one round each in the bout as

if she was knocked down.

Simon gave the 10-8 in Round 1, where Villegas was given a standing eight, while Vilarino did a similar score in Round 3. (PNA)

MANILA – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Tuesday reminded consumers anew not to purchase or use health products that have been submerged in floodwaters.

Massive flooding and prolonged power

## Yulo to get P5-M cash reward from ArenaPlus

MANILA – ArenaPlus will give a cash reward of PHP5 million to Paris Olympics double-gold medalist Carlos Yulo.

The 'Astig Sports Bonus' is in recognition of Yulo as the official brand ambassador of the country's leading sports entertainment gateway.

The 24-year-old pride of Manila ruled the men's floor exercise and vault to become the first Filipino to win gold medals in a single Olympics.

"Kasama mo kami sa laban ngayon. Parte ka na ng kasaysayan. At para sa patuloy nating paglalakbay sa ating magandang pinagsamahan, sa iyo rin ang Astig Sports Bonus of PHP5 million (We are with you in this fight. You are part of history. And for our continued journey in our beautiful partnership, the Astig Sports Bonus of



(Photo courtesy of ArenaPlus)

PHP5 million is also yours)," ArenaPlus said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Para sa iyong pagpursige sa hinaharap at sa larangan na iyong pinasikat, ito'y mag-sisilbing tulong para mas lalong mai-angat ang iba't ibang karrera sa sports (For your perseverance in the future and in the field that you have made famous, this will serve as a support to further elevate various sports careers)," it said.

Yulo stands to receive rewards both from the government and private sector for his

achievement.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) under RA 10699 (National Athletes and Coaches Benefits and Incentives Act) will award PHP20 million, or P10 million each, for the gold medals he won.

Yulo will also get PHP6 million as pledged by the House of Representatives, a house and lot in Tagaytay from the Philippine Olympic Committee, and a condominium unit worth PHP35 million from a property development firm. (PNA)

## FDA warns Pinoys vs. health products submerged in floodwaters

disruptions affected the National Capital Region and nearby regions due to Super Typhoon Carina and enhanced southwest monsoon or habagat.

These left several factories, warehouses, and establishments involved in the manufacturing, processing, packing, or storage of health products – including drugstores and retail outlets– submerged in floods.

In a public advisory, the FDA emphasized that the quality, safety, efficacy, and purity of such health prod-

ucts have already been compromised.

Hence, Department Circular 2012-014 or "Disposition of Flood-Affected Health Products" must be implemented.

"This warns establishment and the public about health products that were submerged or otherwise affected by floods and are now being offered for sale or resale," it said.

Individuals who may have consumed affected health products are advised to consult their healthcare pro-

viders immediately especially if they have become ill.

Drugstores, retail stores and distributors are advised not to offer affected health products for sale, to return them to their sources, and to submit a report to FDA not later than one week.

Concerned food-drug regulation officers are instructed to identify affected establishments and conduct monitoring, and to seize damaged or affected health products. (PNA)

*I have seen something further under the sun, that the swift do not always win the race, nor do the mighty win the battle, nor do the wise always have the food, nor do the intelligent always have the riches, nor do those with knowledge always have success, because time and unexpected events overtake them all.*

*Ecclesiastes 9: 11*