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CSC urges honor grads to apply for special eligibility, work in gov't

MANILA – The Civil Service Commission is encouraging college graduates who have earned Latin honors to apply for the Honor Graduate Eligibility (HGE) and pursue a career in the public sector.

“Summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude graduates no longer need to take

the Career Service Exam as they may avail of the special eligibility. We are eager to work with these bright and fresh minds to bolster the quality of public service,” CSC Chairperson Karlo Nograles said in a statement on Wednesday.

The HGE, granted under Presidential De-

creed No. 907 issued on March 11, 1976, may be availed of by bachelor's degree graduates either from the conventional mode of learning or Open Distance Learning (ODL), regardless of the number of years of completion.

The HGE for the conventional mode of completion. (Turn to p. 2)

DSWD insulates programs from politics, adheres to guidelines-spox

MANILA – The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on Wednesday said it would maintain the highest level of professionalism in delivering public services, free from politics and other ill motivations, the agency's spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Irene Dumlao, as-

sistant secretary for Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG), said the DSWD always adheres to the proper guidelines when it comes to implementation of the government programs.

“May mga guidelines kami na sinusunod, may verification system kami in the identification of ben-

eficiaries, may assessment na isinasagawa ang aming mga social workers sa ground, nagkakaroon din ng analysis or assessment ang ating butihing secretary (We have guidelines that we follow, we have verification system in the identification of our beneficiaries, our social workers con-

(Turn to p. 2)

VP Sara thanks PBBM for continued trust, support

MANILA – Vice President Sara Duterte expressed Wednesday her gratitude to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. for his continued trust and support in her function as education chief.

“Maraming salamat, Pangulong Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr., sa patuloy na pagtitiwala sa akin bilang Kalihim ng Kagawaran

ng Edukasyon (Thank you President Ferdinand ‘Bongbong’ Marcos Jr., for your unwavering trust in me as the Secretary of the Department of Education),” Duterte said in a statement.

She pledged to continue upholding the welfare of learners in the country.

“Makakaasa po kayo na ang DepEd, na

binubuo ng ating mga guro at non-teaching personnel, ay patuloy na maglilingkod nang tapat para sa kinabukasan ng bawat mag-aaral (You can count on the DepEd, together with our teachers and non-teaching personnel, to continuously serve faithfully for the future of each learner),” she added.

(Turn to p. 2)



DSWD's Emergency Cash Transfer distribution (DSWD photo)



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (right) and Vice President and Education Secretary Sara Duterte (left) (PNA file photo)

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duct assessment on the ground, and our Secretary also conducts analysis or assessment),” she said in a media release.

She said if there are politicians and local officials attending DSWD activities, “we respect their oversight functions as legislators.

“Pero ang ahensya parin ang nag-implement (but the DSWD is still the one implementing [the programs]),” she added.

Dumlao made the remarks after the alleged selective and delayed payout activities under the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program were raised in a Senate hearing on Tuesday.

She said DSWD regional directors always coordinate with the concerned local government units (LGUs) during the implementation of social protection programs such as cash aid payout activities under the AICS.

According to the DSWD website, AICS provides medical assistance, burial, transportation, education, food, or financial assistance for other support services or needs of a person or family while Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) is an adaptive strategy of the DSWD in bridging the gap between immediate disaster relief, humanitarian response and early recovery support in disasters and emergency by providing uncondi-

tional cash assistance to disaster-affected families.

“Our regional directors coordinate with local officials kasi nanghihiram tayo ng venue [we request for venue], we request for law enforcers to ensure the orderly conduct of payouts,” she said.

She said there is no delayed cash aid distribution contrary to such claims in some areas in Mindanao.

“I think the payout being referred to is for the ECT. Kapag po nagkaroon ng disaster (Whenever there is a disaster), DSWD would come to provide family food packs and non-food items. But there is also relief assistance that is being provided by the DSWD, ito yong ECT (this is ECT),” she said.

Under the ECT, an LGU declares a “state of calamity” and the DSWD will come in to distribute the additional relief assistance equivalent to 75 percent of the daily regional minimum wage rate multiplied by the number of days based on the assessment of the regional director or field workers.

The DSWD is continuously reviewing its guidelines to make it more responsive to the needs of its beneficiaries while emphasizing that program implementation will always be based on the provisions of these policies. (PNA)

VP SARA.... FR P.1

On Wednesday, the President said there is no reason to replace Duterte as education secretary, noting that Cabinet members are replaced based solely

on their performance.

The country’s two highest officials are set to talk in private to thresh out various issues. (PNA)

Marcos thumbs down illegal parking fine increase

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has revoked a provision in a Metro Manila Council (MMC) resolution seeking to increase the fine for illegal parking in the metropolis from PHP1,000 up to PHP4,000.

In a short video message posted on social media Wednesday, Marcos said his decision stemmed from his confidence in Filipinos’ discipline in obeying traffic rules.

“Para patuloy ang

CSC.... FR P.1

learning is applicable to honor graduates of Private Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in the Philippines with bachelor’s degrees recognized by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), State/Local Colleges or Universities with bachelor’s degrees included in their charters, or duly approved by their Board of Trustees or Board of Regents.

For honor graduates through ODL, the open university, college, or institution must be recognized by the CHED as a degree-granting HEI, and have at least Level III accreditation or CHED-equivalent in the programs offered in the conventional classroom or traditional mode of learning.

Meanwhile, Filipinos who graduated with honors from reputable foreign schools, with the corresponding certification on the status of operation issued by the foreign government, may also apply for Foreign School Honor Graduate Eligibility (FSHGE).

The CSC, however, clarified that the grant of HGE, HGE-ODL,

magandang serbisyo ng ating pamahalaan ay hindi ko pinayagan ang Joint Traffic Circular No. 01 ng Metro Manila Council tungkol sa probisyon na tataasan ang multa para sa mga illegal parking mula sa isang libong piso na hanggang apat na libong piso. Maiwan na sa isang libong piso lamang [ang multa] (In order to continue efficient government service, I rescinded Joint Traffic Circular No. 01 of the Metro

and FSHGE does not include other academic honors, distinctions or awards, such as Highest Academic Distinction, Dean’s List with Distinction, and Honorable Mention.

“These eligibilities for honor graduates are considered appropriate for first and second-level positions in the government that do not require the practice of a specific profession and are not covered by Bar, Board, or other laws. Graduates may file their application for HGE to the CSC Regional Office or Field Office that has jurisdiction over their academic institution or alma mater,” Nograles said.

Applicants for the FSHGE, on the other hand, may submit their application to the nearest CSC Regional or Field Office where they are currently based here in the Philippines.

The complete information and requirements on the HGE and FSHGE are available on the CSC website at www.csc.gov.ph/special-eligibilities. (PNA)



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (PNA File Photo)

Manila Council regarding the provision that will increase the fine for illegal parking from PHP1,000 to PHP4,000. The fine will stay at PHP1,000 only,” Marcos said.

“While I understand the intention behind the proposal, I’ve decided to prioritize discipline over penalties. Ang Bagong Pilipino ay disiplinado (The

New Filipinos are disciplined). By focusing on individual responsibility, we can create long-lasting solutions to our traffic challenge,” he added.

Composed of Metro Manila mayors, the MMC is the governing board and policy-making body of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. (PNA)

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BIZ I-Create's Graduation Ceremony at Philippine Christian University in Dasmariñas, Cavite, last April 17, 2023 marked the culmination of a 4-day training program to equip participants with the skills and mindset needed for entrepreneurial success. The event achieved remarkable success, thanks to the Office of the Provincial Cooperative Development Officer, led by its officer-in-charge, Atty. Khervy B. Reyes, CPA, JD, and Ms. Liza C. Gabatan, Entrepreneurial Division Head. Their unwavering commitment provided participants with the encouragement and guidance essential for their entrepreneurial journey.

Dr. Aldrin Antivola, the distinguished resource speaker, empowered business owners, with his mentorship and profound insights, igniting their passion and determination to succeed in their ventures. At the heart of the ceremony were fourteen (14) Cavite entrepreneurs who were recognized for completing the intensive training program. They showcased their acquired knowledge and skills by presenting their business plans to their coaches, reflecting the depth of their understanding.

Expressing gratitude, participants acknowledged Dr. Aldrin Antivola and OPCDO for their invaluable support, which fueled their determination to excel in their entrepreneurial pursuits. Armed with newfound knowledge and skills, they are now better equipped to pursue their business goals and contribute to the economic prosperity of Cavite.--- OPIO



Health outreach program benefits hundreds of Kawiteños. The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the initiative of the Office of the Provincial Governor in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), brought medical and dental services in Brgy. Magdalo Potol, Kawit, recently.

A total of 239 patients benefitted from the outreach program, 193 received medical services, 46 underwent dental extractions, and 3 took the X-ray examinations. Led by Barangay Chairperson Francis Fernandez, supported by barangay health workers, barangay nutrition scholars, and local coun-



Provincial Solo Parent Day Celebration: A Triumph of Support and Solidarity

The Provincial Government of Cavite through the Office of the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer (OPSWDO), led the Provincial Solo Parent Day Celebration recently, at the Municipal Covered Court in Naic, Cavite. Solo parent employees of the PGC and presidents of Solo Parent associations from various cities and municipalities converged to partake in this enriching event.

Themed “Solo Parent na Rehistrado sa Gobyerno Tiyak na Protekta-do”, this year’s celebration underscored the importance of recognizing and safeguarding the rights of solo parents within the community.

A caravan of services, ranging from free haircuts to legal consultations, vocational training opportunities, job placement assistance, agricultural support, and Wellness and Health services, including free pills and iron with folic acid, was generously offered to all solo parent members and participants.

Esteemed guests, including 8th district Board Member Irene Bencito and the President of PGC’s United Solo Parents Association (USPA), Ms. Analie Rodil, shared their heartfelt testimonies and struggles as solo parents, inspiring and empowering all in attendance.

The warm welcome was extended by Ms. Catherine Ilagan of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO) Naic, and Provincial Federation President Ms. Karen Bagtas, fostering a sense of camaraderie and support among participants.

Inspirational messages were delivered by Ms. Precyl T. Ramos, Officer-in-Charge of OPSWDO, while representatives such as Ms. Beverly Alvaran for 6th District Board Member Maurito Sison, and Ms. Maribeth Bautista for Board Member Rommel Enriquez, reaffirmed their commitment to the cause.

Raffle winners from different local government units were delighted as they received their prizes, adding an element of excitement to the festivities. The event also showcased the diverse talents of solo parent members from various LGUs through intermission dances and songs.

Closing the event with heartfelt remarks, Ms. Ekeiko Paola Haidah Sadang, Division Head of Promotive Services, reiterated the importance of continuous support and assistance for solo parents.

The Provincial Solo Parent Day Celebration in Naic, Cavite, stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment of the Provincial Government of Cavite to empower and uplift solo parents, providing them with the necessary resources and support for a brighter future.

cil members, the event received community-wide support. Maintenance medicines and mosquito repellent lotions were distributed, to enhance the community’s health and well-being. The medical and dental professionals from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital ensured thorough examinations and comprehensive care for all patients.

The collaborative effort emphasized a commitment to improving health-care accessibility and quality, leaving no community member behind in receiving essential medical and dental services.--- OPIO (Brgy. Magdalo Potol)

Coping with heat and preventing heat-related illnesses

MANILA – Jon Gary Venancio quickly piles up bamboo poles beside a small nipa hut he is building for a customer.

It is 5 p.m. and his work for the day is already done.

Venancio is a mountain farmer who moonlights as a carpenter, especially in the past two months when vegetables have been difficult to grow due to the extreme heat.

He usually plants bottle gourd, eggplant, and squash but the farm he has been working on has dried up due to lack of water as certain regions began experiencing extreme heat in March.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) said several areas nationwide are expected to experience up to 46°C of heat, falling under the “danger” classification (42°C to 46°C) of heat index in the coming days.

Heat index or apparent temperature consists of relative humidity and the actual temperature, providing individuals with an idea of what the heat feels like.

The heat index in Dagupan City, Pangasinan already hit 47°C on April 15.

Heat-related illnesses

The summer heat, which peaks between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., slows down Venancio’s work.

“Nagpapahinga po ako sa gitna ng trabaho kapag sobrang init. Sumisilong po ako sa

ilalim ng puno (I rest in the middle of work when it’s too hot. I take shelter under a tree),” he said in an interview on April 19.

Just a week ago, he said, he felt numbness in his hands and dizziness while cutting some grass in the field.

The Department of Health (DOH) warned against serious illnesses related to heat, among them heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

In a public advisory, the DOH said heat cramps and heat exhaustion are characterized by fatigue, dizziness, headache, vomiting, and light-headedness.

Meanwhile, heat stroke, which occurs after prolonged heat exposure, is characterized by loss of consciousness, confusion, or seizures, which can be deadly if left untreated.

First-aid, preventive measures

The DOH said first-aid measures could be applied to people experiencing heat cramps, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke.

First, the concerned individual must be moved to a shaded and cool area and must be provided ventilation.

The person’s outer clothing may be removed and cold compresses, ice packs, cold water, or cold wet cloth must be applied on the skin, especially the head, face, neck, armpits, wrists, ankles,

and groins.

Preventive measures must be undertaken to avoid heat-related illnesses – drinking plenty of water; avoiding consumption of iced tea, soda, coffee, or alcoholic drinks; limiting time spent outdoors between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; use of protection against sunburns, such as hats, umbrellas, and sunblock; and wearing of loose-fitting, lightweight clothing.

Before going out or planning outdoor activities, the DOH encourages everyone to regularly monitor temperature reports from PAGASA.

Venancio prefers drinking warm water or the traditional warm tea from boiled guava leaves when coming from the heat.

“Hindi po kami uminom ng malamig na tubig na may yelo kapag galing sa initan (We don’t drink cold water with ice when coming from the heat),” he said.

Heat-related deaths

Meanwhile, the DOH Event-based Surveillance and Response System has logged 34 cases of heat-related illnesses with six deaths from Jan. 1 to April 18 this year.

“The causes of death are still for verification,” the DOH said.

The reported cases were from Central Visayas, Ilocos Region, and Soccsksargen. (PNA)

NEDA hopeful on PH’s economic growth expansion in 2024

MANILA – National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Secretary Arsenio Balisacan is optimistic that despite risks, the growth of the Philippines will continue to be one of the fastest in the region this year.

“Let’s put it this way, all the major development observers are seeing a 6 percent at least for the Philippines this year. The IMF (International Monetary Fund), the ADB (Asian Development Bank), and the World Bank are seeing quite a good number,” Balisacan said on the sidelines of the 2024 National Innovation Day Celebration in Quezon City on Monday.

The IMF projects the Philippine economy to grow by 6.2 percent this year, while the ADB forecasts economic growth to settle at 6 percent.

The World Bank, meanwhile, expects the Philippine economy to grow by 5.9 percent in 2024.

“In the latest ADB report, in Southeast Asia they put us as the highest performer in 2024. So even though not as high as we targeted in the beginning of the

administration, the fact that while everybody was downgraded, or we were downgraded in terms of the absolute level of the growth... still we are expected to perform among the best in Asia,” Balisacan said.

For this year, the government targets a 6 to 7 percent economic growth.

Balisacan said the latest government target is already factored in the scenario of a higher-for-longer interest rate.

“When we looked at the 6-7 percent [target], that’s more or less already given because we know that the interest rates have quite at most five quarters of impact down the road so that’s already given that the interest rates... the result of the policy actions last year are expected to be felt this year,” he said.

Balisacan, meanwhile, said he is hoping that the April 2024 headline inflation data will settle close to March 2024’s 3.7 percent level.

“[Headline inflation] was 3.7 percent last time, right? So hopefully we get as close to that as possible. What we are watching is the 2 to 4 [percent] target

for the year because inflation can go up, go down but what we want is to keep that within the band so that there will not be much instability in the market,” he said.

He also assured the public that the government is closely watching the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and its possible effects on inflation.

“If the oil prices would be affected by that development, there will be some pressure for us,” he said.

“But in the second half of this year, we expect the pressure from food prices to diminish because a big part of that food inflation was imported in the sense that food prices particularly for staple have been rising in the world market but for rice that is expected to decline, to have reached its peak and start falling after June as the El Nino phenomenon is waning. So hopefully that’s a plus factor for us,” Balisacan added.

Official April 2024 headline inflation data is scheduled to be released on May 7, while the first quarter economic growth data will be out on May 9. (PNA)

Sinabi ng Dios: “Dahil mahal niya ako, ililigtas ko sya. Poprotektahan ko sya dahil alam niya ang pangalan ko. Tatawag siya sa akin, at sasagutin ko siya. Tutulungan ko siya sa panahon ng paghihirap. Ililigtas ko siya at luluwalhatiin.

Awit 91: 14-15

SAYNOTODRUGS

53.6% of Filipino families rate themselves as non-poor: SWS

MANILA – A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey showed that 53.6 percent of Filipino families rated themselves as "non-poor" for the first quarter of 2024.

According to the survey, conducted from March 21 to 25 and released on Thursday, self-rated non-poor families consist of 30 percent borderline and 23 percent not poor.

Compared to the December 2023 survey, the recent self-rated non-poor figures show that borderline families declined by 3 points from 33 percent, while not-poor families increased by 3 points from 20 percent.

Meanwhile, the March 2024 survey showed that 46 percent of families considered themselves poor, which hardly changed from the 47 percent recorded in the previous survey.

The estimated numbers of self-rated non-poor and poor families were 14.9 million and 12.9 million respectively.

The pollster noted that the 1-point decline in the nationwide self-rated poor figure between December 2023 and March 2024 was due to slight decreases in Mindanao and Metro Manila, combined with an increase in the Visayas and a steady score in Balance Luzon.

"As of March 2024, the percentage of Self-Rated Poor families was highest in the Visayas at 64 percent,



NON-POOR. A Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey shows 53.6 percent of Filipino families rated themselves as "non-poor" (not-poor + borderline) for the first quarter of 2024. The March 2024 survey, released on Thursday (April 25, 2024), also showed that 46 percent of families considered themselves poor. (SWS infographic)

followed by Mindanao at 56 percent, Balance Luzon at 38 percent, and Metro Manila at 33 percent," the SWS said.

The survey asked those who were self-rated non-poor if they had ever experienced being poor in the past.

According to the SWS study, the total percentage of non-poor families consisted of 15.6 percent who were poor one year to four years ago or labeled as the "newly non-poor", 10.1 percent who were poor five or more years ago or "usually non-poor", and 27.8 percent who never experienced being poor or "always non-poor."

Of the estimated 14.9 million self-rated non-poor families in March this year, 4.3 million were newly non-poor, 2.8 million were usually non-poor, and 7.7 million were always non-poor.

Among the 46 percent who identified as poor, 6 percent, or about 1.7 million families, were considered

"newly poor" or those who were non-poor one year to four years ago, while 5.3 percent, or about 1.5 million families, were usually poor, or classified themselves non-poor five or more years ago.

A total of 34.9 percent, or 9.7 million families, considered themselves "always poor" or never experienced being non-poor.

The SWS said the national median Self-Rated Poverty Threshold (SRP Threshold), or the minimum monthly budget self-rated poor families said they need not be considered as poor, remained at PHP15,000 in the past nine quarters.

Meanwhile, the national median Self-Rated Poverty Gap (SRP Gap) fell from PHP7,000 in December 2023 to PHP5,000 in March 2024.

This refers to how much self-rated poor respondents say they lack in home expenses relative to their stated SRP threshold.

In terms of self-rat-



Recently, Barangay Medina in Magallanes was the site of a successful health outreach event that brought essential medical services to around 300 beneficiaries. Organized by the Office of the Provincial Governor's medical and dental mission team in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), the initiative aimed to improve the well-being of the community by providing accessible healthcare services.

The mission offered a range of services, including thorough medical and dental check-ups, tooth extractions, electrocardiogram (ECG), and the provision of prescribed medicines. These services were crucial in addressing various health concerns and promoting preventive care among residents.

Magallanes Mayor Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, together with other local officials, played a pivotal role in ensuring the mission's success. Their presence and support reflected a shared commitment to improving healthcare accessibility for all constituents. During the event, Mayor Maligaya-Bautista and the officials expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the provincial government and the medical and dental team for their dedication in providing services for their constituents.--- OPIO

ed food poverty, the March 2024 survey found 33 percent of families rating themselves as food-poor, 36 percent rating themselves as food borderline, and 31 percent rating themselves as not food-poor.

Compared to December 2023, the percentage of food-poor fam-

ilies hardly changed from 32 percent, while food borderline families fell slightly from 41 percent, and not food-poor families rose slightly from 26 percent.

The estimated number of self-rated food-poor families was 9.3 million in March 2024.

The survey was con-

ducted using face-to-face interviews with 1,500 respondents nationwide.

It has sampling error margins of ± 2.5 percent for national percentages, ± 4 percent for Balance Luzon, and ± 5.7 percent each for Metro Manila, the Visayas, and Mindanao. (PNA)

The one walking with the wise will become wise, But the one who has dealings with the stupid will fare badly.

Proverbs 13:20

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9 Filipino volunteers in Paris Olympics to undergo training

MANILA – The Philippine Sports Commission, in partnership with the French Embassy and the France Volontaires-Philippines, will conduct a volunteer training course for nine Filipino volunteers that will be part of the backbone for achieving successful staging of the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympic Games.

The training course will be held on April 25 and 26 at the VIP Room of Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall, constituting lectures aimed to awaken the sense of pride and level the expectations of chosen volunteers.

Volunteers will also be taught about French culture as part of their preparation as Committee Assistants and Sports Facilitators in different sporting associations. They will be joining around 45,000 people who will welcome, direct, and guide spectators and athletes.

“We fully support the cause of this program, it reflects the country’s



determination of contributing to the exceptional experience for all delegates the Paris 2024 wants to give, and symbolizes our solidarity with the international sporting community,” said PSC Chairman Richard Bachmann in a news release on Wednesday.

Application for the volunteering program started in August 2022 with 112 applicants and trimmed down to nine as announced on July 14 last year, during the French National day hosted by its embassy in the country.

Selected volunteers were given prior immersions in major sporting and volunteering events including FIBA Draw Festival, Sports First-Aid Training, French

Language class, and French Volunteering Day.

The composition of Filipino volunteers came from various professions including youth leaders Jeneca Rombaon and John Vincent Balawen, para-athletes Daisy Jane Omega and Brylle Samgel Arombo, athlete-coach Monica Chavez, Romina Manahan, and Ezra Balingit.

Entrepreneur Isaac Jefferson Coloma and multimedia specialist Mari Gabrielle Faro will be completing the cast of the volunteer program.

The 2024 Paris Olympics Games will take place from July 26 to Aug. 11 while the Paralympics Games will be held from Aug. 28 to Sept. 8. (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

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Chery Tiggo eyes last semis berth in PVL All-Filipino

MANILA – Chery Tiggo will try to claim the last semis ticket when it battles Galleries Tower on Thursday in the Premier Volleyball League All-Filipino Conference at the Philsports Arena in Pasig.

The Crossovers, who are on a six-game roll, take on the Highrisers (3-7) at 4 p.m.

Choco Mucho (9-2), Petro Gazz (8-2) and Creamline (8-2) have already secured their seats in the next round.

Chery Tiggo coach Kungfu Reyes will rely on sisters Eya

and EJ Laure, Mylene Paat, Ara Galang, Aby Maraño and Cza Carandang to achieve their goal of making it to the semis but Galleries Tower is expected to put up a strong challenge behind Grace Bombita and Ysa Jimenez and playmakers Renee Mabilangan and Fhen Emnas.

The other match will pit Creamline against PLDT (7-3) at 6 p.m.

The Cool Smashers are coming off a 25-17, 25-22, 25-19 victory over the Choco Mucho Flying Titans where Diana Mae Car-

los delivered 18 attacks and three blocks while skipper Alyssa Valdez and Jeannette Panaga added 11 points each.

Games are telecast live on free-to-air on One Sports, in HD on One Sports+, as well as on the PVL's official website (www.pvl.ph) and the Pilipinas Live app. Global coverage includes the new free-to-air channel -- RPTV. (PNA)

DRAW CLOSE TO GOD AND HE WILL DRAW CLOSE TO YOU
JAMES 4:8