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## Pag-IBIG offers lowest calamity loan interest

MANILA – The Pag-IBIG Fund is offering calamity loan assistance to members living or working in typhoon-hit areas with the lowest interest rate at 5.95 percent.

Pag-IBIG Fund Public Relations and Information Services Group vice president Karin-Lei Garcia said members for at least



two years and are active contributors for the past six months can borrow up to 80 percent of their savings (Turn to p. 2)

# Marcos: Gov't on high alert for 'Marce'

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed all government agencies to be on high alert as Tropical Storm Marce (international name: Yinxing) threatens northern Luzon.

In a statement, Marcos underscored the need for an efficient communication system to ensure that relevant information reaches communities

promptly and on-the-ground situations are reported accurately.

“Simulan natin sa pagkasa ng isang maayos na sistema ng komunikasyon na mabilis maghahatid ng abiso at impormasyon sa mga mamamayan (Let's start by establishing a proper communication system that will quickly deliver notification and information to the citi-

zens),” Marcos said.

“Tandaan na nakabatay ang kanilang pagkilos sa mga maagang warnings na inyong ipaaabot (Remember that their actions are based on the early warnings you provide). Knowledge saves lives.”

The President also instructed authorities to monitor water levels in waterways and reservoirs round-the-clock.



President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. (File photo/ RTVM Screenshot)

“Siguraduhin na lahat ng ilog, lawa, baybayin at anumang lagusan ng tubig ay nasa

ilalim ng 24-hour na pagmamatyag. Paulit-ulit ko ng sinasabayan. Hindi ako magsasawang ulit-ulitin yan (Make sure all rivers, lakes, shores and any waterways are under 24-hour surveillance. I have been saying that. And I won't get tired of repeating it),” he said.

“Sa mga dams na maapektuhan, ipinaubaya ko sa mga ekspertong kawani ng mga ito na sundin ang nararapat na hakbang batay sa existing protocols kung may nagbabadyang pag-apaw ng tubig

(For the dams that will be affected, I leave it to their expert staff to follow the appropriate steps based on existing protocols if there is an impending water overflow).”

Rescue units at all levels of government, including those that can reinforce rescue and relief operations, were directed to prepare their equipment and vehicles.

The Chief Executive also reminded authorities to preposition relief goods in safe warehouses, where (Turn to p. 2)

## Tulong pinansiyal, housing materials ipinamahagi ni PBBM sa mga naapektuhan ng Bagyong Kristine sa Batangas

TALISAY, Batangas (PIA) — Tulong at mensahe ng pagbangon ang inihatid ni Pangulong Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. sa

kanyang pagbisita sa mga bayan ng Talisay at Laurel sa Batangas nitong Lunes, ika-4 ng Nobyembre para sa mga nasalanta ng bagyong Kristine.

Kabilang sa mga ipinagkaloob ng Pangulo ang Presidential Assistance to Farmers, Fisherfolk, and

Families gayundin ang housing materials na donasyon ng Metrobank Foundation.

Para sa 89-taong gulang na si Lucina Mendoza Hernandez, malaking tulong ang home materials and essentials (HOME) ng Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) at iba pang tulong na ibinigay ng iba't ibang ahensya ng pamahalaan upang muling maipagawa



ang kanilang nasirang tahanan.

Para naman kay Jomie Lee Timbas, malaking tulong ang PAAFF at housing materials na ipinamahagi

ni Pangulong Marcos para sa tulad niyang lubos na naapektuhan ng trahedyang.

“Nagpapasalamat po ako sa lokal na pamahalaan (Turn to p. 2)

**MARCOS: .... FR P.1**

they can be accessed quickly and delivered promptly to areas to be affected.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation were told to be on standby for road-clearing operations.

As early as now, the President has extended his gratitude to the

medical personnel, whether in public or private facilities, who are waiting to apply a cure to those in need.

“Tandaan, ang bawat buhay ay mahalaga. Kaya dapat tayo ay laging handa, laging mag-iingat (Remember, every life is important. So we must always be ready, always be careful),” he said. (PNA)

## NEDA: Gov't to enhance job quality, improve Filipino workers' income

MANILA – Despite the continued improvement in the labor market, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) said enhancing job quality and improving the income of Filipino workers are still the government's top priorities.

“We are sustaining our efforts to enhance all dimensions of our labor market. The government is urgently addressing the constraints to high-quality job creation and collaborating with the private sector to capacitate our workers with the right skills and competencies simultaneously,” NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan said in a statement on Wednesday.

Data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority showed that the country's employment rate rose to 96.3 percent in September this year from 95.5 percent in the same month in 2023 and 96.0 percent in August.

The unemployment rate also recorded a significant decline, settling at 3.7 percent from 4.5 percent in

September last year and 4.0 percent in August this year.

Balisacan said the government will continue to implement supply- and demand-side interventions to achieve the quality employment targets set in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.

He added that fast-tracking the implementation of key infrastructure projects, particularly in energy, logistics, and physical and digital connectivity, remains critical to unlocking the country's growth potential.

“The passage of the Konektadong Pinoy Bill and expanding efforts to equip the workforce with emerging and in-demand skills are deemed necessary. We will strengthen collaboration with the private sector and academe to upskill the workforce, particularly in using digital technologies and other innovations,” said Balisacan.

He also said that the passage of the Lifelong Learning Bill and Enterprise Productivity Act will further  
(Turn to p. 4)

**TULONG PINANSIYAL...FSR. P. 1**

halaan, sa national government, kay Mayor Natanauan, kay President Bongbong Marcos at sa lahat po ng nasasakupan ng gobyerno sa kanilang pagmamalasakit, pagdamay, pagmamahal, at pagtulong po bayan ng Talisay lalo't higit na po sa aming mga nasalanta at namatayan ng kamag-anak at mahal sa buhay,” ani Jomie.

Hindi naman mapigilang maging emosyonal at maluha ni Delia Caguitla nang magpasalamat ito kay Pangulong Marcos para sa mga housing materials na kanyang natanggap.

“Maraming salamat po sa inyo, sa lahat ng tulong na ibinigay sa akin ni Pangulong Marcos. Maraming salamat po sa ibinigay nila sa akin para makabu ulit kami ng bahay. Nadala po lahat ang aking bahay at ang aking mga gamit,” pahayag ni Nanay Delia.

Ilan lamang sina Jomie at Nanay Delia sa daan-daang mga residente na matinding naapektuhan ng bagyong kristine.

Ayon sa DHSUD, tinatayang nasa mahigit 550 pamilya ang nawasak ng tirahan dulot ng bagyong Kristine

Nagpaabot din ng pasasalamat si Talisay Mayor Nestor Natanauan kay Pangulong Marcos at sa iba't ibang ahensiyang ng pamahalaan sa

agarang pagtugon ng mga ito matapos ang bagyong Kristine.

“Gusto kong ipaabot sa ating pangulo na marami pong salamat sa immediate na tulong na ipinadala. Gayundin sa Department of Public Works and Highways na kaagad ay rumesponde sa kasagsagan ng bagyo at sa mga kapulisan na akala natin ay patulog-tulog lamang pero gabi pa lamang sila ay nagre-rescue,” pahayag ng alkalde.

Nangako naman si Pangulong Marcos ng tuloy-tuloy na tulong para sa mga naapektuhan ng bagyo.

Bukod sa pamamahagi ng iba't ibang tulong, personal ding ininspeksyon ng pangulo ang mga lugar na lubhang napinsala ng bagyong Kristine.

Pinangunahan din ni Pangulong Marcos ang Day of National Mourning sa ground zero sa Barangay Sampaloc sa Talisay kung saan naganap ang landslide na kumitil ng 14 na buhay.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagtutulungan ng lokal na pamahalaan at iba't ibang ahensiyang ng gobyerno, tiwala at malaki ang pag-asa ng mga residente ng Talisay at Laurel na agad silang makakabangon mula sa hagupit ng bagyong Kristine. (Bhaby De Castro, PIA Batangas)

**Pag-IBIG...FR. P. 1**

ings. “Proud po kami na ang Pag-IBIG Fund ay ang may pinakamababang interes para sa calamity loan at 5.95 percent per annum po iyan ‘no (We are proud that Pag-IBIG has the lowest interest for calamity loan at 5.95 percent per annum) so per year, that's good for one year,” she said in a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview on Wednesday.

Calamity loan proceeds can be released in two to three business days as long as the borrower's records are complete and updated.

The proceeds are transferred to the Pag-IBIG Fund cash card.

Garcia said members who are not affected by calamity can avail

of the multi-purpose loan.

The loanable amount is also up to 80 percent of the member's savings.

Calamity loan and multi-purpose loan applicants need to present a government ID and proof of income, and accomplish an application form.

“As to how long, they can pay, may option po sila (they have options),” Garcia said.

“They can pay within full year or within three years. So, kapag three years po o 36 months, mas magaan po ang amortization sa bulsa (amortization is easier to pay if three years or 36 months).” (PNA)

**HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY**

## CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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*Do not withhold good from those to whom you should give it if it is within your power to help.*

*Proverbs 3:27*





**TUPAD program for Cavite City residents**

On October 30, 2024, the Department of Labor and Employment, in coordination with Palawan Express and the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPEM), under the supervision of Ms. Rizalie Pinpin Enero, spearheaded the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantage/Displaced Workers program payout for residents of Barangay 5 and Barangay 7 in Cavite City, benefiting 841 individuals.

The event received support from Board Member Abeng Remulla, BM Ram Revilla, BM Romel Enriquez, and Kawit Councilor Jygs Gandia, as well as Cong. Brian Revilla, who provided unwavering assistance to his constituents in the district.

Also in attendance were City Mayor Denver Chua, Vice Mayor Raleigh Grepo Rusit, and Team Unlad of Cavite City. Governor Athena Tolentino’s support was also instrumental in making the TUPAD payout successful.

DOLE’s TUPAD program is an essential step in helping displaced or disadvantaged workers in the community, providing them with opportunities for better livelihoods and improving their quality of life.--- OPIO



**PGC’s Panatang Makabata**

In observance of National Children’s Month, the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) reaffirmed its commitment to the rights and well-being of children by reciting the Panatang Makabata during the Monday Flag Raising Ceremony on November 4, 2024 at the Provincial Gymnasium in Trece Martires City.

Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Provincial Federation President Chelsea Jillian G. Sarno led the collective recitation of the pledge with PGC officials headed by Governor Athena Bryana Tolentino, and the employees, underscoring PGC’s dedication to promoting the welfare, protection, and empowerment of the youth and children, aligning with the core principles of National Children’s Month.-- OPIO

**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE**



**KOOParangal 2024 honors the solidarity of cooperative community.**

On October 30, 2024, the Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer, in partnership with the Provincial Cooperative Development Council (PCDC), successfully organized the crowning event of the Cooperative Month celebration in Cavite through the annual KOOParangal at Summit Ridge Hotel in Tagaytay City, recognizing outstanding performance of cooperative development councils and members that contributed in building more progressive communities.

Ms. Nelia C. Cotoner, Tagaytay City Cooperative Development Council Chairperson, delivered the invocation followed by Mr. Wilfredo Noel, PAMANA DCF Chairperson, who led the Cooperative Pledge.

PCDC Vice Chair, Ms. Ma. Teresa Daño, gladly greeted the awardees, congratulating them for all the efforts and services they have rendered to achieve various milestones. “Sana ay mas marami pang coop ang maka-kakuha ng parangal dito sa Cavite. Nawa ay maging matatag at malawak ang larangan ng Kooperatiba”, Ms. Daño imparted as she concluded her message.

Likewise, Dir. Lilibeth Chavez, OIC-Provincial Director of DTI-Cavite, encouraged everyone to remain committed in enhancing the projects and programs for the advancement of the cooperative sector. She then commended the successful conduct of the program.

**PBBM wants more ‘Kadiwa’ centers, asks LGUs to buy palay from farmers**

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has ordered the establishment of more Kadiwa ng Pangu-lo centers across the country, even as he urged local government units (LGUs) to buy palay directly from farmers.

In a social media post on Tuesday evening, Marcos said his directives were in line with his government’s thrust to support Filipino farmers and keep rice prices within reach for every Filipino family.

“The DA (Department of Agriculture) and DBM (Department of



*RICE PRICES. President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. meets with officials from the Department of Agriculture and National Irrigation Authority on Tuesday (Nov. 5, 2024) in Malacañang. During the meeting, the President issued fresh directives to support local farmers and ensure affordable rice prices for every Filipino. (Photo from Bongbong Marcos Facebook)*

Budget and Management) have been directed to expand the P29 Rice-for-All program and increase our

Kadiwa ng Pangulo centers from 21 to 300 by mid-2025,” Marcos said.

*(Turn to p. 5)*



## Chemical, food maker sees 2024 profit to surpass last year's

MANILA – Specialty food ingredients and oleochemicals producer D&L Industries Inc. expects to surpass last year's PHP2.3 billion profit in 2024, optimistic that its usually strong fourth-quarter performance will contribute to a robust overall year.

D&L Industries president and chief executive officer Alvin Lao said there still seems to be a lot of consumer activities in the fourth quarter despite higher prices.

"Fourth quarter should be better, especially for the food segment because it's the 'ber' months (Christmas season)... So we should see 2024 better than last year," he said.

In a disclosure to the local bourse Wednesday, D&L Industries reported its net income reached PHP1.8 billion in the first nine months of the year.

For the third quarter alone, the company booked PHP493 million in profit, down 11 percent compared to the same period last year, which was largely due to higher cost base resulting from newly commissioned lines inside the Batangas plant.

Lao said the firm needs to earn PHP520 million in the last quarter to at least match last year's profit.

"Strong export sales continue to drive overall business amidst the generally cautious consumer sentiment in the domestic market. So far this year, export is outpacing domestic

performance. Export sales are up 38% YoY (year-on-year) with gross profits up 24% YoY," he said.

"We expect exports to continue to increase its relevance to the overall business. From this perspective, our Batangas plant becomes more strategic as it allows us to go after exports more aggressively. We believe the near-term cost drag coming from the new plant masks its long-term potential. What we are witnessing is the very early stages of a long-term structural growth story of the company."

Exports continued positive momentum well into the first nine months of the year, booking a total sales of PHP9.2 billion, which is higher by 38 percent YoY.

Lao said they may hit their target of exports accounting for 50 percent of revenues in five years, although this is not definite since the domestic market is also expected to grow further on the back of easing inflation.

The company booked double-digit volume growth in both its High Margin Specialty Products (HMSP) and commodity segments. HMSP volumes were up 18 percent YoY while commodity volumes were up 44 percent YoY in the first nine months of the year.

HMSP volumes rose by 10 percent in the third quarter, up for the fifth consecutive quarter since the commercial operations of its Batangas plant. (PNA)

## PBBM wants high-quality, durable materials for infra projects

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Wednesday directed all concerned government agencies to prioritize the quality, safety, and durability of materials used for infrastructure projects.

Marcos gave the directive to the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and other relevant agencies, as he stressed the need to pursue climate and disaster resilient infrastructure that could withstand natural calamities.

"Alam nating palakas nang palakas ang mga bagyo at palaki nang palaki ang pinsalang iniwan nito. Kaya naman, ipinapatupad na natin ang mga makabagong disenyo para sa ating mga kalsada, para sa ating mga tulay (We know that typhoons are getting stronger and the damage they leave behind is getting bigger and bigger. That's why we are implementing modern designs for our roads and bridges)," Marcos said during his visit to Legazpi City in

### NEDA. .FR. P. 2

improve the employability of the Filipino workforce.

Balisacan said the government is now working to finalize the Trabaho Para sa Bayan (TPB) Plan.

Signed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos in September last year, the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Act mandates the creation of the Trabaho Para sa Bayan Plan for national em-



Albay.

"Sa DPWH, DOTr, DTI, at iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan, tiyakin ninyong de-kalidad, ligtas, at matibay ang mga materyales na gagamitin sa pagpapatayo ng mga imprastruktura natin. Sa gayon, magtatagal at maaasahan ito anuman ang panahon (To the DPWH, DOTr, DTI, and other government agencies, make sure that the materials that will be used in the construction of our infrastructures are of high quality, safe, and durable. Thus, it will last and will be durable regardless of the weather)," he added.

Considering the increasing frequency and intensity of typhoons, Marcos

sought the adoption of new designs for roads and bridges.

Marcos also reaffirmed his administration's preparedness for calamities, stressing its commitment to expanding and enhancing all measures to intensify efforts against the potential impacts of climate change.

"Sa bawat ahensya ng pamahalaan, paigtingin ninyo lalo ang inyong pagsusumikap nang sa gayon ay higit nating mapaghandaan ang mga posibleng epekto ng pagbabago ng klima (To every government agency, step up your efforts so that we can better prepare for the possible effects of climate change)," Marcos said.

"Hindi tayo magpapatnag sa mga trahedyang ito; bagkus, palalawigin pa natin ang ating paghahanda

hance labor market governance for the next decade.

The NEDA said the TPB Secretariat concluded its regional consultations in October this year and is set to begin drafting the plan, which is targeted to be finalized by the end of 2024. (PNA)

at bibilisan ang ating pagkilos upang mapigilan ang pag-ulit ng ganitong epekto ng mga kalamidad (We will not be swayed by these tragedies; rather, we will extend our preparations and speed up our action to prevent the recurrence of this effect of calamities)."

Marcos also reiterated his directive to the DPWH to revisit the Bicol River Basin Development Program, as the detailed engineering design for the program is expected to begin in 2025.

Marcos sought the public cooperation to make sure that no one is left behind.

"Kaya't sa pagkakataong ito, hinihikayat ko ang bawat ahensya ng pamahalaan at ang bawat Pilipino: Magtulongan tayo upang matiyak na walang maiiwan sa ating laban kontra sa mga hamong dulot ng pagbabago ng klima (So this time, I am encouraging every government agency and every Filipino: Let us work together to ensure that no one is left behind in our fight against the challenges caused by climate change)," he said. (PNA)



## Barangay Information Officers vital in disseminating information down to grassroots levels

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna (PIA) – The Barangay Information Officers (BIO) in San Pablo City, Laguna contributes to the effective dissemination of information and promotion of government programs at the grassroots level.

Enrico Galicia, Department Head of the San Pablo City Information Office (CIO) and the main proponent of the program, said that the initial objective of creating the BIO is to promote and introduce the best practices of each barangay.

“The main objective of this initiative is to promote the barangay because let’s face it, the scope of a barangay is very limited; it is limited to its own area. Only a few are catching and sharing their activities on social media. So, we decided to establish this, so they can promote their activities, and if other barangays find it beneficial, they can replicate it,” Galicia said.

However, over time, the BIOs have become an important channel for disseminating relevant information to the public and an effective tool in mobilizing the public through the timely and relevant local information.

For Ardion Louise Guia, Barangay Information Officer from San Roque in San Pablo, the creation of BIO has helped them streamline several transactions and processes commonly requested by residents, making barangay services faster and more efficient.



“Sometimes, even something as simple like requesting for a Barangay Clearance is now much easier, residents can send their requests via messenger, and we forward it to our Barangay Secretary. When they come to claim it, we only conduct a brief interview, and then they can pick it up,” Guia explained.

To ensure that selected BIOs from the 80 barangays of the city, the CIO conducts various seminars and trainings in cooperation with other government agencies to improve BIO’s work performance, and provide additional knowledge and skills.

Alvaro Herrera, Barangay Information Officer from Soledad, San Pablo City, adds that the seminars and trainings provided them with additional knowledge vital in equipping

themselves to be an effective communicator.

“We have learned a lot from that, and in addition, we continue our Purok Kumustahan program. Our way of disseminating information to our constituents has evolved. Every resolution or ordinance we pass is shared not only by posting in public places but also through on-line platforms.”

The grassroots-level of communication and information dissemination strategy is one of the key focuses of the Presidential Communications Office (PCO) for 2025.

While this initiative has been already operationalized in other barangays in Visayas, the PCO commits to further strengthen its implementation in collaboration with the local governments, other national government agencies, and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA). (CO/PIA-4A)

### PBBM...FR. P. 3

The move, according to Marcos, will bring affordable rice within reach for more communities across the country.

“I’m also calling on our LGUs to buy paddy directly from our farmers. This way, our

farmers receive fair prices for their hard work, and we can secure a steady supply of rice for everyone,” he added.

Meanwhile, the President also tasked the Department of Finance and the National Eco-

## Passage of Senate bill banning chemical weapons pushed

MANILA – Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada on Wednesday urged his colleagues to support his bill prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

Estrada, chairperson of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation, made this call as he sponsored Senate Bill (SB) 2871 under Committee Report 344 or the “Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act” at the plenary hall.

“Mr. President, esteemed colleagues, this representation respectfully seeks your support in moving this long overdue legislation forward,” Estrada said in his sponsorship speech.

“I look forward to the deliberations of this measure and welcome inputs from the honorable members of this chamber with the sincere hope that this Senate will not delay any further the passage of this bill that is almost three decades behind,” Estrada said.

He said the enactment of bill will make the Philippines fully com-

pliant with the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

He said the Senate concurred in the ratification of the Convention on Aug. 19, 1996 but since then, Congress has not enacted the national legislation needed to fully enforce the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



pliant with the United Nations Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction.

He said the Senate concurred in the ratification of the Convention on Aug. 19, 1996 but since then, Congress has not enacted the national legislation needed to fully enforce the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

“This is despite the fact that the Philippines was among the first countries to sign the Convention when it was opened for signature on January 13, 1993 - just 45 days after the UN General Assembly approved the same on November 30, 1992,” he said.

He said globally, out of the 193 States Parties to the Convention, 128 states already have comprehensive

national implementing legislation as of Dec. 31, 2023.

Estrada said SB 2871 establishes regulatory framework through declaration and verification mechanisms for toxic chemicals, particularly scheduled chemicals or those with legitimate pharmaceutical, agricultural and industrial purposes, but can be diverted for the production of chemical weapons.

The lawmaker said the bill also seeks “to effectively reduce the threat of chemical terrorism and ensure that advancements in chemistry will only be for peaceful purposes.”

He, however, clarified the bill does not seek to put additional burden to local chemical industry, particularly the manufacturing sub-sector that has 147,000 direct employees. (PNA)

recorded in September this year. Despite the slight uptick, the October inflation is still within the government’s 2 to 4 percent. (PNA)

**DRAW CLOSE TO GOD  
AND HE WILL DRAW CLOSE TO YOU**

*James 4:8*



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## San Beda nears semis berth

MANILA – Defending champion San Beda College demolished Emilio Aguinaldo College, 89-59, Wednesday in the NCAA Season 100 men's basketball tournament at the Filoil EcoOil Arena in San Juan City.

Emman Tagle scored 20 points, including five triples, while Bismarck Lina chipped in 18 points and four rebounds as the Red Lions secured their 10th win in 15 outings.

San Beda has three games left in the second round - against Letran, College of Saint Benilde and the San Sebastian College-Recoletos. Just one win will send the Red Lions to the Final Four in the company of CSB and Mapua University.

"This win is very important to our confidence," said San Beda coach Yuri Escueta.

Yukien Andrada scored three triples to finish with 14 points,



**RED CUBS NEAR SEMIS.** San Beda College's Bismarck Lina (No. 34) tries to score against JC Luciano (No. 8) in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Season 100 men's basketball tournament at the Filoil EcoOil Arena in San Juan on Wednesday (Nov. 6, 2024). The Red Cubs won, 89-59. (NCAA photo)

to go with five rebounds and five assists as San Beda avenged its 55-68 loss in the first round last Sept. 17.

AJ Rojo contributed nine points and five assists while Jomel Puno also had nine points to go with eight rebounds and three assists for the Red Lions, who posted their biggest lead at 89-56.

EAC slid to fourth place in a tie with Letran and Lyceum of the

Philippines University at 7-8. King Gurtiza and Harvey Pagsanjan paced the Generals with 10 points each.

Gurtiza also made four rebounds, two assists and two steals while Pagsanjan had two assists, one steal and one block.

Alex Doromal and Jethro Bacud added six points apiece for EAC, which remains in contention for the last semis berth. (PNA)

## 'Atletang Ayala' Delgado nurtures another Olympic dream

MANILA – The "Atletang Ayala" project of the Ayala Center for Excellence in Sports will support its roster of 19 athletes all the way, including those dreaming of making it to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

This year's batch is led by Paris Olympics rower Joanie Delgado and Paralympian Alain Ganapin of taekwondo.

Delgado, 26, was the first female rower of the Philippines to qualify for the Olympics.

She did not medal in Paris but landed No. 2 overall in the Division D finals.

The other Ayala athletes are Amparo Acuña and Franchette Quiroz, shooting; Kurt Barbosa (Tokyo Olympics 2021), Baby Canabal, Dave Cea, Laila Delo and Veronica Garces, taekwondo; Jason Baucas, wrestling; Abby Bidaure and Jonathan Reaport, archery; Janna Cattan, Allaine Cortey, Noelito Jose Jr., Samuel Tranquilan and Nathaniel Perez, fencing; and John Ferrer and Leah Jhane Lopez, judo.

The two-pronged program augments resources for training and competition while providing opportunities for career growth.

They are full-salaried employees with flexible work arrangements in various Ayala companies, covered by a health program, which includes physiotherapy, strength and conditioning, and sports psychology; have access to world-



Joanie Delgado, rower (Photo courtesy of Ayala Center for Excellence in Sports)

class sports and fitness facilities at Ayala Vermosa Sports Hub in Cavite; and will be granted fixed support for international training camps and competitions.

"Atletang Ayala will help me a lot in terms of extra support for my training here and abroad. It will also help me as a professional in the Ayala group, in terms of new skills and knowledge imparted by the program," Delgado, a native of Iriga City, Camarines Sur, said during the new batch's launch at Ayala Triangle Tower Two in Makati City on Wednesday morning.

Delgado said an athlete's life is never easy.

"We get tired but we don't stop," she said in a previous interview. "Self-discipline, love for the sport and prayers because yes, I am eyeing to join the Olympics again."

Delgado and her batchmates will also actively participate in sports-related and volunteer programs of various Ayala companies and Ayala Foundation for the next four years.

Without mentioning specific amounts, Atletang Ayala project head Jan Bengzon said their salaries are "very competitive."

"Think about being at par with incentives for gold medalists," Bengzon said.

He said the bemedalled athletes are ranked within the top 200 in their events and are, realistically, most likely to make it big in international competitions.

"Through the Atletang Ayala program, the Ayala group seeks to inspire more Filipinos to pursue their athletic dreams and bring the nation together through sports," AC Mobility chief executive officer Jaime Alfonso Zobel de Ayala said in a statement.

Atletang Ayala's first batch was formed in April 2022 when the Covid-19 pandemic was starting to calm down.

Bidaure and fellow archers, sister Pia and Andrea Robles; fencers Perez and Jose; swimmers Jasmine Alkhaldi and Xiandi Chua; and karateka Prince Alejo made up the initial batch.

"Atletang Ayala is the group's investment in the next generation of sports leaders who will influence and inspire others to excel in whatever field they choose," Ayala Foundation president Tony Lambino said. (PNA)

Cavite provincial government facilitated the last leg of distribution of the financial assistance to oil spill-affected fisher folk and families in the municipality of Rosario in the program held at SM City Rosario recently.

Vice Mayor Bamm Gonzales welcomed the team from the PGC and the other officials to their municipality on behalf of Mayor Voltaire Ricafrente. She expressed her appreciation for the support provided to their constituents who were affected by the oil spill.

Board Members Romel Enriquez and Ram Revilla graced the event and reiterated their commitment to the welfare of the people especially from the first district. BM Revilla also extended the gratitude to President Bongbong Marcos for the assistance being distributed to the beneficiaries. He remarked that it exemplifies the unity of the national and local government to respond to the needs of the people in times of crisis.--OPIO

