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House to prioritize food, job, education, health in 20th Congress

MANILA — The House of Representatives will center its legislative work on the urgent needs of ordinary Filipinos as it opens the 20th Congress, with a focus on food, employment, education and public health.

"We will build an economy not just for the top 1 percent, but for the struggling 99 percent — an economy where ordinary people don't just survive, they succeed," Speaker Ferdinand Martin Romualdez said in a speech during

the resumption of session Tuesday.

He emphasized that the goal of the House is to bring the government closer to the people by aligning its agenda with the priorities laid out by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA).

For food security, he said the House would pass the proposed Rice Industry and Consumer Empowerment (RICE) Act to ensure a stable supply of affordable rice while protecting farmers from ex-

ploitation.

He said smuggling, hoarding and price manipulation must be eliminated through better law enforcement and agricultural reforms.

He also announced plans to expand irrigation and post-harvest infrastructure, alongside efforts to modernize farming to make agriculture more profitable.

The Speaker said the House would institutionalize the Walang Gutom Program in the 2026 national budget

SONA 2025: Construction all set for country's longest bridge connecting Bataan, Cavite

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. said construction of the 32 kilometer Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge — touted to be the country's longest bridge once

completed — will begin before 2025 ends.

"Bago matapos ang taon, magsisimula na ang Bataan-Cavite Interlink Bridge. Ang tulay na ito ay 32 kilometro ang haba at tumatawid sa Manila

Bay. Kung ang biyahe ngayon mula Mariveles hanggang Naic ay umaabot ng limang oras, balang araw ito ay magiging 45 minuto na lamang," the President said in his *(Turn to p. 3)*



(PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

through monthly electronic food credits for vulnerable families.

"Sa bayan ng masipag na magsasaka,

walang karapatang magutom ang mamaayan (In the land of hardworking farmers, the people have no

right to get hungry)," Romualdez said.

On employment, Speaker Romualdez *(Turn to p. 2)*

Price freeze enforced in Calabarzon areas under state of calamity

CALAMBA CITY (PIA) — A price freeze on basic goods is now in effect in Laguna after the province was placed under state of calamity, the Department of Trade and Industry-Laguna said.

"The DTI-Laguna informs all consumers and retailers that prices of basic necessities in the Province of Laguna shall be automatically frozen at their prevailing prices or placed under auto-



matic price control for a period of 60 days," the DTI said in a social media post late Friday.

It added, the price

control remains in effect until September 23, 2025 unless sooner lifted by the provincial

(Turn to p. 3)

Clean water, disaster prevention top priorities in disaster resilience

MANILA — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is intensifying efforts to address water security, flooding, and deforestation, amid President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s call for a climate-resilient future and sustainable development.

At the post-State of the Nation Address (SONA) conference on Tuesday, Environ-



Environment Secretary Raphael Lotilla. (Photo grabbed from RTVM Facebook page)

ment Secretary Raphael Lotilla cited government data stating that an estimated 40 million Filipinos nation-

wide still lack access to safe and clean water sources.

He admitted that this *(Turn to p. 2)*

QC, CAVITE . . . FR. P. 1

said legislation must generate dignified and sustainable work, particularly through support for small businesses, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) programs, and access to capital.

He also backed the President's push to develop industries like automotive, electronics, biotechnology and construction to create long-term jobs.

"Ang trabaho ay hindi lamang kabuhayan, kakambal nito ang dangan. Ito ang kinabukasan (Work is not just livelihood. It gives dignity. It is the future)," he said.

In education, Romualdez committed to bridging the gap for underserved learners by passing the Last Mile Schools Act and amending the Expanded Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (E-GASTPE) Law.

The Speaker also vowed to expand the Academic Recovery and Accessible Learning (ARAL) Program and strengthen mental health support in schools.

"Ang edukasyon ay hindi dapat premyo sa may kaya, kundi kapatagan ng bawat bata (Education should not be a prize for the elite, but a right of everyone)," he said.

On health care, Romualdez reiterated the House's goal to achieve zero billing and eliminate out-of-pocket costs in all government hospitals.

He said this would be matched by the deployment of more health workers in remote areas and improved access to es-

sential medicines.

He also identified peace and order as a central priority, saying that laws must guarantee not only the absence of conflict but also the presence of justice and opportunity.

He said this included support for local peace and order councils, law enforcement, and national electrification.

"Kapag may kapatayaan, may kinabukasan ang tiyak (When there is peace, the future is bright)," he said.

Meanwhile, Romualdez committed to fast-tracking defense modernization and disaster resilience, citing the need to protect lives, not just territory.

He also echoed the President's call for full household electrification by 2028 and promised the House would allocate the resources needed to meet that target.

On governance, the Speaker called for a shift toward a more responsive bureaucracy, and called on the House to pass laws to digitalize services, eliminate red tape and professionalize public service.

Romualdez ended his address with a call to action, urging his colleagues to legislate with compassion and to earn the public's trust through meaningful reforms.

"Let the 20th Congress be a turning point — not just in the laws we pass, but in the lives we changed," he said. "We are the House of the People. Let us be remembered for being worthy of that name." (PNA)

CLEAN WATER . . . FR. P. 1

is a challenge that the DENR, together with other concerned agencies, is working to address through various approaches, including the implementation of clean water systems, rainwater harvesting, reforestation, and even hazard mapping.

In his SONA, the President touted modern technology in water management, including a systemic process to produce clean water, especially in remote areas and islands.

Lotilla said that in 2024, six filtration and desalination systems were installed, while 28 more are expected to be operational by 2025.

All these aim to bring potable water infrastructure to isolated communities, he said.

"Ang gusto natin ay mapabuti ang water services kahit sa mga liblib na lugar. Through filtration and desalination, kahit dagat ang source, pwede nang gawing inumin ang tubig (What we want is to improve water services even in remote areas. Through filtration and desalination, even if the source is the sea, water can be made drinkable)," he said.

He even cited golf courses, which have the potential to hold water, adding that the country has so many potential areas to store water, even temporarily.

Lotilla added that the Marcos administration is pushing for a holistic strategy that aligns flood control with long-term water storage for agriculture, energy, and household use, citing dams, which he said, were not built for flood control but are used to store excess water for dry seasons.

He also noted that the Groundwater Atlas, which is accessible to the public, identifies available water sources nationwide, including surface and underground reserves.

On reforestation efforts, meanwhile, he noted an increase in forest cover, as DENR plans to double the

national tree-planting target from 5 million to 10 million trees by 2028 through partnerships with the private sector.

Meanwhile, on the recent flooding and landslides caused by typhoons and monsoon rains, Lotilla reminded local governments of the availability of accessible hazard maps like the HazardHunterPH, the geo-hazard mapping of the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB).

He said the MGB prepares two- to three-day forecasts of landslide- and flood-prone areas to help local government units prepare for climate-related disasters, based on PAGASA data.

"Hindi natin maiwasan lahat ng sakuna, pero makakapaghanda tayo. Kahit mga pamilya, dapat tingnan kung ang lugar nila

ay may hazard (We can't avoid disasters, but we can prepare. Even families should check hazards in their areas)," Lotilla added.

He urged property developers and buyers to avoid constructing in danger zones and to consult DENR data before acquiring land. **Waste management, flooding**

On the issue of solid waste, Lotilla said the flooding in Metro Manila was mainly due to clogged drainage systems caused by uncollected garbage.

Regular "spring cleaning" ahead of the rainy season is important, he said, calling for stronger collaboration with the Department of Local Government (DILG) and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Lotilla also urged households to segregate waste. (PNA)

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PRICE FREEZE...FR. P. 1

government.

Automatic price control was implemented in three Calabarzon provinces namely Cavite, Rizal and Laguna including parts of Batangas province following the onslaught of tropical cyclones Crising, Dante and Emong, combined with the effects of the southwest monsoon or Habagat.

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Rizal passed Resolution No. 408, formalizing the declaration after the province was battered with torrential rains and flooding.

"It is imperative that the Province of Rizal be declared under a state of calamity to give substantial leeway to all local government units in the province to utilize their Quick Response Funds and relief services and assistance to affected Rizaleños," the resolution read.

These declarations

SONA 2025...FR. P. 1

fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) yesterday.

The 32.15-kilometer, four-lane, inter-island bridge will connect Brgy. Alas-asin in Mariveles, Bataan, to Brgy. Timalan Concepcion in Naic, Cavite.

It is expected to shorten travel time and generate economic opportunities in Bataan, Cavite, and neighboring provinces by improving access and connectivity.

The project is primarily funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA) loans

are also necessary for local government units to access their Quick Response Fund (QRF) or 30% of its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) fund.

Furthermore, placing the entire province under a calamity state will also provide a legal basis for recovery programs as an aftermath of the typhoons.

The municipalities of Cainta, Rodriguez, and San Mateo have also passed separate resolutions as part of their localized declaration of State of Calamity.

Republic Act 7581 or the Price Act mandates a 60-day freeze at the prevailing prices of essential items such as canned sardines, processed milk, instant noodles, bottled water, bread, coffee, and detergent upon the official declaration of a state of calamity in an area. (PB-PIA4A)

from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), with co-financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

President Marcos also announced the partial opening next year of the South Luzon Expressway Toll Road 4 (SLEX TR4), which spans from Sto. Tomas City in Batangas to Tiaong, Quezon.

The President directed the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to ensure strict monitoring of the ongoing

DOH seeks help from LGU, community to hit vaccination targets

MANILA – The Department of Health (DOH) on Tuesday called for collaboration with local government units (LGUs), health workers, and civil society groups to help reach its annual immunization goal of vaccinating 95 percent of nearly two million Filipino children against preventable diseases.

During a post-SONA discussion, DOH Secretary Teodoro Herbosa emphasized the urgency of completing the vaccination schedule for children, which includes protection against measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis, diphtheria, and more.

"Ang hinihiling tu-long namin dito is the help of the local government and vaccine teams (The help we are asking for is from the local government and vaccine teams)," he said.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. directed the DOH to complete the immunization program as soon as possible to meet the

projects to guarantee high-quality construction and timely completion.

"Sa 2026, inaasahang magbubukas na sa motorista ang bahagi ng extension ng SLEX mula Sto. Tomas, Batangas hanggang Tiaong, Quezon. Kapag natapos itong buong proyekto ang dating apat na oras na biyahe, magiging isang oras na lang," President Marcos said.

country's vaccination target.

The government currently procures various vaccines, including pentavalent vaccines, polio vaccines, hepatitis B shots for newborns, and HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccines for nine-year-old girls.

A catch-up campaign for school-aged children will be launched in September and October, offering measles-rubella, tetanus-diphtheria, and HPV vaccines.

Herbosa said that Marcos has approved the full rollout of the HPV vaccine to all nine-year-old girls nationwide—a shift from the previous policy that limited the vaccine to the poorest communities.

To support the campaign, the DOH relies on barangay health workers who make up the vaccine teams. These teams help locate unvaccinated or under-vaccinated children through the Purok Kalusugan initiative, which aims to identify gaps in im-

"Kaya inatasan ko na ang DOTr at DPWH na bantayang mabuti ang mga proyekto sa kahabaan ng Quezon patulak ng Bicol at tiyaking tama ang kabilidad, matibay, at nasa takdang oras ang pagtatapos," the President added.

The SLEX TR4 is a 67-kilometer toll road that will connect the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, and Quezon, reducing current travel



VACCINATION TARGETS. Department of Health Secretary Teodoro Herbosa says a vaccination program will be launched in September or October for school-aged children during a post-State of the Nation Address discussion on Tuesday (July 29, 2025) in San Juan City. He noted 85 percent of the mothers who responded to a survey the DOH conducted want their children to be vaccinated. (Screenshot from PTV 4 video)

munization coverage and ensure children complete their vaccine schedules.

Herbosa disclosed that the agency conducted a survey, which showed that vaccine acceptance remains high among Filipino families, with 85 percent of the mothers saying they want their children to be vaccinated.

"The demand is there. We often hear noise on social media, but the reality is that most mothers want their

children protected," he said.

"Our job is to buy the vaccines, deliver them to LGUs, and make sure that when people go to their health centers, the vaccines are available," he added.

The DOH encouraged parents to bring their children to the nearest health center and cooperate with barangay health workers to ensure no child is left behind in the national immunization drive. (PNA)

nectivity, boost local economies, and improve the overall quality of life for Filipinos towards Bagong Pilipinas. (FC, PIA4A)

A TRUE FRIEND SHOWS LOVE AT ALL TIMES AND IS A BROTHER WHO IS BORN FOR TIMES OF DISTRESS

Prov. 17:17

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-416-25-A

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK,
Applicant-Mortgagee,
-versus-

SPOUSES CRISTINA SAN PEDRO DE VILLA
AND ELADIO D. DE VILLA
Debtors-Mortgagors,
JENELYN D. DE VILLA,
Co-Debtor,
X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Applicant-Mortgagee, **PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK ("PNB")**, with business address at PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado P. Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila against the Debtors-Mortgagors, **SPOUSES CRISTINA SAN PEDRO DE VILLA AND ELADIO D. DE VILLA AND JENELYN D. DE VILLA ("Co-Debtor")** with residence and postal addresses at (1) Block 32, Lot 20, Sec-1 Sunny Brooke II, General Trias, Cavite; (ii) Kaylaway, Nasugbu, Batangas; (iii) Lot 25, Block 30, Brgy. De Fuego, General Trias, Cavite; and (iv) Block 30, Lot 25, Asian Leaf Subdivision, Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of April 30, 2025 amounts to **FOUR MILLION NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY NINE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SEVEN PESOS AND 20/100 (Php 4,979,707.20)**, including penalties, charges, interest but exclusive of expenses of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on **AUGUST 12, 2025** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2018060256

A PARCEL OF LAND (LOT 25, BLK. 30 OF THE CONS. & SUBD. PLAN, PCS—04-0118 69, BEING A PORTION OF THE CONS. OF LOTS 2680-G-3 TO 8, ALL OF (LRC) PSD-2221 74, LOT 2680-J-2, (LRC) PSD-101732, LOTS 2680-H, I & K, ALL OF PSD-33619, L.R.C. REC. NO.), SITUATED IN THE BRGY. OF DE FUEGO, MUN. OF GEN. TRIAS, PROV. OF CAVITE, IS. OF LUZON. BOUNDED ON THE SW., ALONG LINE 1-2 BY LOT 27; ON THE NW., ALONG LINE 2-3 BY RD. LOT 27; ON THE NE., ALONG LINE 3-4 BY LOT 23; AND ON THE SE., ALONG LINE 4-1 BY LOT 26 ALL OF THE CONS. SUBD. PLAN. BEGINNING AT A PT. MARKED "1" ON PLAN X X X CONTAINING AN AREA OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE (121) SQUARE METERS. X X X

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

In the event the public auction shuld not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **August 16, 2025** without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, **July 11, 2025**.

JOSELITO L. ARANDA
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK ("PNB")
PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado P. Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila

CONSTANTINO AND ASSOCIATES LAW OFFICE
Counsel for the Applicant
CALO Bldg., No. 12, Mapagkumbaba St., Sikatuna, Quezon City
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SPOUSES CRISTINA SAN PEDRO DE VILLA AND ELADIO D. DE VILLA
AND JENELYN D. DE VILLA ("Co-Debtor")

Calabarzon governors hail PBBM's fourth SONA



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Calabarzon leaders praised President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. for assuring the broader number of Filipinos in his fourth State of the Nation Address (SONA) that basic government services like free health care and P20 per kilo-rice in Kadiwa stores nationwide will continue.

Quezon Governor Helen Tan thanked the President for his continued assurance that national programs and services will reach even the most vulnerable sectors.

"His message offers assurance to every Filipino on the kind of services they can expect from the national government, especially those who are facing difficulties in different aspects of life," Tan said.

She expressed full support for the continuation of the ze-

Citing the benefit of the policy to more Filipinos, Tan urged the *Turn to p. 59*

(i) Block 32, Lot 20, Sec-1 Sunny Brooke II, General Trias, Cavite;
(ii) Kaylaway, Nasugbu, Batangas;
(iii) Lot 25, Block 30, Brgy. De Fuego, General Trias, Cavite; and
(iv) Block 30, Lot 25, Asian Leaf Subdivision, Brgy. San Francisco, General Trias, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

Publication: Cavite News Publishing
Dates: July 17, 24, 31, 2025

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION
OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT
TRECE MARTIRES CITY

FORECLOSURE CASE NO.
F-423-25

EAST WEST BANKING CORPORATION,
Petitioner-Mortgagee,

-versus-

MARK GERON T. BELARDO,
Borrower/Mortgagor,
X-----X

NOTICE OF EXTRA-JUDICIAL SALE

Upon Extra-Judicial Petition for Sale under Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, filed by Petitioner/Mortgagee, **EAST WEST BANKING CORPORATION**, with business address at EastWest Corporate, Center, The Beaufort, 5th Ave. cor. 23rd St., Bonifacio Global City Taguig City, against the Borrower/Mortgagor, **MARK GERON T. BELARDO** with residence and postal address at 2235 Barrio Roxas Street, Batangas, Tondo, Manila and/or Kensington 16-Block No. 03 Lot No. 27, Barangay Navarro, General Trias, Cavite, to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness as of April 30, 2025 amounts to **NINE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED NINETY FIVE PESOS AND 81/100 (Php 967,495.81)** including interest, penalties, expenses and other charges of foreclosure, the undersigned Sheriff will set at public auction on **August 12, 2025** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 noon at the main entrance of the Government Center Building located at the Provincial Capitol Compound, Trece Martires City, to the highest bidder for CASH and in Philippine Currency the following described property with all the improvements thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE No. 057-2017059854

LOT NO: 27 BLOCK NO: 3 PLAN NO: PCS-04-029826
PORTION OF: THE CONS/SUBD OF LOTS 78 & 80 BLOCK 2, PCS-04-028598; BLOCK 11, PCS-04-028596 & LOT 1716 & 1717, SAN FRANCISCO DE MALABON ESTATE, DECREED NO. 4270; LRC REC. NO. 5964
LOCATION: BARANGAY OF NAVARRO, MUNICIPALITY OF GEN. TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE

BOUNDARIES:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	NE	LOT 25, BLOCK 3, PCS-04-029826
2-3	SE	ROAD LOT 2, PCS-04-029826
3-4	SW	LOT 29, BLOCK 3, PCS-04-029826
4-1	NW	LOT 28, BLOCK 3, PCS-04-029826

AREA: FIFTY SQUARE METERS (50), MORE OR LESS

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

In the even the public auction should not take place on the said date and time, it shall be held on **August 16, 2025** without further notice.

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

Trece Martires City, **July 11, 2025**.

JOSELITO L. ARANDA
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

EAST WEST CORPORATION, BANKING
EastWest Corporate Center, The Beaufort, 5th Ave. cor. 23rd St., Bonifacio Global City Taguig City

MARK GERON T. BELARDO

2235 Barrio Roxas Street, Batangas, Tondo, Manila and/or Kensington 16-Block No. 03 Lot No. 27, Barangay Navarro, General Trias, Cavite

WARNING: It is absolutely prohibited to remove, deface or destroy this Notice of Extra-Judicial Sale on or before the date of sale

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MPT South extends aid to Habagat, Typhoon-hit CAVITEX and CALAX Communities



July 25, 2025 – In the wake of the recent typhoon and intensified southwest monsoon (Habagat) that battered parts of Metro Manila, Cavite, and Laguna, Metro Pacific Tollways South (MPT South), a unit of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), has launched immediate relief operations to assist severely affected communities along the Manila-Cavite Expressway (CAVITEX) and Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX).

MPT South swiftly coordinated with local government units of its expressways' alignment communities to distribute a total of 3,000 relief packs to families temporarily displaced by the widespread flooding. The company also announced plans to extend support to public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators plying CAVITEX whose livelihood and mobility were disrupted by days of relentless rains.

“We’re more than just a tollway operator. We are part of these communities—committed partners and neighbors who show up, especially in times of crisis,” said Elnora D. Rumawak,

Officer-in-Charge of MPT South. “We understand the hardships that our communities are facing, and we are here to help ease their burden.”

The relief initiative forms part of MPT South’s broader commitment to corporate social responsibility and disaster response, reinforcing its role not only in infrastructure but also in community care.

About MPT South
MPT South is a subsidiary of Metro Pa-

lets in the province and coordinate with them to make this accessible to our constituents,” she said.

On education, the governor lauded the administration’s move to provide teachers with overtime pay, additional allowances, and the prioritization of filling plantilla positions.

Tan expressed hopes that teachers in remote island barangays will

CALABARZON... FR. P. 4

DOH and PhilHealth to conduct further reviews to ensure that the policy is strictly implemented in all government hospitals nationwide.

She added that the provincial government of Quezon has already been enforcing the No Balance Billing policy in its health facilities.

Tan also backed

the “Benteng Bigas Meron Na” program, which the President announced will be expanded nationwide.

“We’re happy to hear from the President that the P20-per-kilo rice will soon be available across the country. This means Quezon will benefit as well. We will begin mapping registered Kadiwa out-

DOLE to give flood victims emergency employment, livelihood aid

MANILA – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will implement two programs this week for workers who were affected by the severe weather disturbances experienced in several regions last week.

Secretary Bienvenido Lagunesma said the DOLE regional offices have conducted profiling of workers in some areas affected by flooding due to Tropical Storms Crising and Dante and Typhoon Emong, as well as the southwest monsoon.

“Last week, despite the bad weather, our frontliners began to communicate with those who were affected by the typhoon and the southwest monsoon,” he said in a statement.

“Profiling has already been done, and hopefully, with the improvement of the weather this week, the implementation of our program will begin,” the DOLE chief said.

Lagunesma said the affected workers will be

provided emergency employment and livelihood assistance.

“First, it concerns the provision of temporary emergency employment,” he said. “And, second, we will also look at how we can help them in terms of livelihood, so that our workers and fellow Filipinos who were affected by the previous weather disturbances can have some relief.”

Under the temporary emergency employment program, affected individuals are given 10 to 30 days of community work, particularly in times of disaster and calamities, enabling them to contribute to improving and rehabilitating their respective communities.

Inclement weather caused flooding and damaged infrastructure in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, National Capital Region, Calabarzon, and Zamboanga Peninsula. (PNA)

Better is a handful of rest than two handfuls of hard work and chasing after the wind.

Ecclesiastes 4:6

ment projects.

In his SONA, President Marcos announced plans to hold accountable both government officials and

private contractors involved in corrupt practices, particularly in flood control projects. (FC, PIA4A)

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JULY 31-AUGUST 6, 2025

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Government aid for West Philippine Sea fisherfolk continues

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna (PIA)—Fishing communities affected by the ongoing tension in the West Philippine Sea (WPS) continue to receive livelihood support from the government.

Sammy Malvas, Regional Director of the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) IV-A, said local fisherfolk are incurring higher production costs as they are forced to avoid areas in the West Philippine Sea where tensions remain high.

"Here in CALABARZON, although we are not facing the West Philippine Sea directly, we still have fishermen who go there. They are among those affected by the tension [in the area]."

In 2021, the DA-BFAR Fisherfolk Registration System (FishR) reported that an estimated 66,842 CALABARZON fisherfolk venture at the West Philippine Sea. They comprise 21 percent of the 318,297 Filipinos whose livelihoods rely on these waters. However, continuous tensions caused production from regional fisherfolk to dwindle by six to seven percent in 2024.

"We cannot blame them [the fisherfolk] if they choose to find other areas to fish and



have to go far. And because they had to fish farther, so did their operation costs."

Malvas said some fisherfolk reported shelling out up to Php 100,000 in operation costs, which previously could only reach Php 8,000.00.

In his 2024 State of the nation Address (SONA), President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. reaffirmed the government's commitment to safeguarding the country's sovereignty over the West Philippine Sea. Citing laws on Maritime Zones and Archipelagic Sea Lanes, the President outlined a strategy that focuses on ingraining the sense of ownership among Filipinos through education and information campaigns.

That same year, BFAR launched the LAYAG-WPS, or Livelihood Activities to Enhance Fisheries Yields and Economic Gains from the West Philippine Sea, to provide fishing commu-

nities facing the WPS with livelihood opportunities related to fisheries.

"Through this latest initiative [LAYAG-WPS], we provide livelihood assistance and fuel assistance. We also deploy vessels to collect our fisherfolk's catch, so they will not need to go to the port. Our food boat will go directly to these fishing vessels, saving their operation costs by almost half."

BFAR also provides the affected fisherfolk with fuel assistance to support their food boat initiative. While providing alternative livelihood and market access for local fisherfolk remains crucial, BFAR remains steadfast in reminding Filipino fisherfolk of their rightful claim to the West Philippine Sea.

"We always remind our fisherfolk, and our kababayans, that the West Philippine Sea is ours. Our presence should always be felt in this area." (PB/PIA 4A)

Larga Pilipinas cycling tilt moved to November

MANILA – The Larga Pilipinas cycling tournament has been rescheduled to a later date due to the severe effects of the inclement weather over the past weeks.

The six-day race, originally scheduled to start on Aug. 2, will kick off on Nov. 29.

"It's quite unfortunate because the teams prepared hard for this. But as we speak, there are areas in Northern Luzon especially in the Cordilleras that are currently isolated because of the heavy rains," Larga Pilipinas operations head Snow Badua said during Tuesday's Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the conference hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Tuesday (July 29, 2025). The race will kick off on Nov. 29. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)



RESCHEDULED. Larga Pilipinas operations chief Snow Badua announces the rescheduling of the six-day cycling tournament during the Philippine Sportswriters Association (PSA) forum at the conference hall of the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex on Tuesday (July 29, 2025). The race will kick off on Nov. 29. (PNA photo by Jean Malanum)

tion with the different LGUs (local government units), we needed to reset, also upon the advice by PhilCycling president Abraham Tolentino," he added.

Badua said the weather in November in Northern Luzon should be a lot better for the races to be conducted safely.

"Let the typhoon sea-

son pass first. Let's give the LGUs (local government units) all the time to focus on the situation and let's not add to their thoughts," he said.

All teams, particularly those from abroad that were supposed to arrive on Wednesday, have been informed of the rescheduling. (PNA)

DOLE to give flood victims emergency employment, livelihood aid

MANILA – The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) will implement two programs this week for workers who were affected by the severe weather disturbances experienced in several regions last week.

Secretary Bienvenido Lagunesma said the DOLE regional offices have conducted profiling of workers in some areas affected by flooding due to Tropical Storms Crising and Dante and Typhoon Emong, as well as the southwest monsoon.

"Last week, despite the bad weather, our frontliners began to communicate with those who were affected by the typhoon

and the southwest monsoon," he said in a statement.

"Profiling has already been done, and hopefully, with the improvement of the weather this week, the implementation of our program will begin," the DOLE chief said.

Lagunesma said the affected workers will be provided emergency employment and livelihood assistance.

"First, it concerns the provision of temporary emergency employment," he said. "And, second, we will also look at how we can help them in terms of livelihood, so that our workers and fellow Filipinos who were af-

fected by the previous weather disturbances can have some relief."

Under the temporary emergency employment program, affected individuals are given 10 to 30 days of community work, particularly in times of disaster and calamities, enabling them to contribute to improving and rehabilitating their respective communities.

Inclement weather caused flooding and damaged infrastructure in the Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, National Capital Region, Calabarzon, and Zamboanga Peninsula. (PNA)