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PHLPost reiterates official requirements for postal ID applications

MANILA – The Philippine Postal Corporation (PHLPost) has issued a new circular reminding the public and its personnel of the official requirements for Postal ID applications to ensure uniformity in processing and prevent confusion among clients.

In a news release on Tuesday, Acting Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Maximo Sta. Maria III stressed that the directive, outlined under PHLPost Circular 25-48 dated March 20, 2025, seeks to streamline procedures across all post offices nation-

wide.

Under the guidelines, all new Postal ID applicants must personally appear and submit one duly accomplished application form, written in bold letters using black or blue ink.

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DA to study rice variety matched with PH consumers' preference

MANILA – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to conduct a study on the palay (unhusked rice) varieties that will match consumers' preferences.

This came after Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. ordered the DA to address the reported low farmgate prices of wet palay in some areas due to the shifting preference of the Filipino market.

In a press briefing Monday, DA spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said they will include the quality of imported rice varieties in the study, as it gains a growing demand in the Philippines.

“Pag-aralan mabuti kung paano. Una kung ano iyong pinakamagandang variety na itanim talaga to match iyong mga (We need to carefully study the way. First, on what is

the best variety to be planted to match the quality,” he said.

De Mesa cited some of the top inbred rice varieties in Vietnam, which both possess high-yielding and good eating qualities, including OM18, OM5451, and Dai Thôm 8 (DT8).

The agriculture official explained that the Philippines also has good-eating quality rice varieties, but not relatively high-yield-

ing, and vice versa.

“Iyong mga malalakas mag-ani pero hindi masyadong maganda iyong eating-quality, iyong 222 atsaka iyong RC10. Iyong 222, 35 percent ang tinaniman iyan. So iyon iyong pinakamarami (There are those which are high yielding but the eating quality is not that good, these are the 222 and RC10. The 222 has secured 35 percent of the total planting area. So that's

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government leaders, and the public.

She also announced the creation of a provincial task force that will include all LGUs, national government agencies, and multi-sectoral stakeholders to complement SMC's efforts.

According to Ang, Laguna rivers have narrowed over time due to the construction of protective walls. Soil excavated from these river walls is often dumped back into the waterways, worsening siltation and making rivers shallower, he said.

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DOTr chief seeks int'l partners for North-South Commuter Railway



MARKET SOUNDING. Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon speaks to several delegates from Singapore, Japan, France, South Korea, and other countries during a market sounding activity in Singapore on Monday (Aug. 18, 2025). Dizon said the Philippines is shifting from its car-centric approach to President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision of a commuter-centric transport system. (Photo courtesy of DOTr)

MANILA – Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon called for international private sector partners for the country's North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) during a market sounding activity in Singapore on Monday.

During the event, Dizon said the Philippines is shifting away from a car-centric approach as part of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s vision of a commuter-centric transport system.

“The President said: We have to give the Filipino people the public transport that

they not only need, but what they deserve. That speaks to where our President's heart is—that he understands the importance of mobility, the daily commute. He feels our people's pain on a daily basis,” he said.

He said the Philippines is capable of building a public transportation model similar to other progressive countries with the help of other countries and multilateral partners such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and InfraAsia.

“It will change the way families enjoy (Turn to p. 2)

On SMC's flood control program: 'Help has arrived' – Laguna Gov

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) – Help is on its way for Laguna's long-standing flooding problem after San Miguel Corp. (SMC) committed to implement flood control measures in the province at no cost to the government.

Laguna Governor Sol Aragonés met with SMC President and CEO Ramon Ang last week and discussed potential collaborations, including the signing of an agreement to dredge Laguna de Bay and widen its



connecting rivers and tributaries.

“This is not instant. There is a process to follow. But we are ready to wait because, finally, help has arrived,” Aragonés said in a media statement.

She expressed optimism that the partnership would finally deliver a lasting solution to the province's flood woes, emphasizing the importance of support from the House of Representatives, local

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the biggest volume),” De Mesa said.

“So, kailangang i-match iyon. Hindi natin pwe-deng i-sacrifice iyong (it needs to be matched. We cannot sacrifice the) quality and quantity and vice versa.”

Following the study on rice varieties, Tiu Laurel ordered the DA to educate farmers on planting high-yielding yet good-eating quality palay varieties.

The agency earlier said it targets to implement the measure in the next cropping season.

Increasing farmgate prices

De Mesa, meanwhile, reported that farmgate prices began increasing as the onset of harvest season nears alongside the impending rice import ban in September.

“May nakita rin ako na datos na dati mayroong 6 out of the 13 producing regions yung mayroong recorded na pagtaas, ngayon parang nadadagdagan pa ‘yung mga areas na nagre-report ng increases ng presyo ng palay (I saw a data that 6 out of 13 producing regions have recorded an increase, now it seems like more areas are reporting this upward trend in farmgate price of palay),” he said.

These include areas in Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Southern Min-

danao, and Eastern Visayas, among others.

The National Food Authority (NFA), meanwhile, said that the average traders’ price in the farmgate is set at PHP14.3 per kg. of wet palay and PHP17.07 per kg. for clean and dry, as of Aug. 12.

This is higher than the PHP13 per kg. palay production cost according to the DA, but is still lower than the NFA’s buying price set at PHP17 per kg. for wet palay and PHP23 per kg. for dry palay under the flexible Price Range Scheme (PRICERS).

The highest traders’ price for wet palay, meanwhile, was reported in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) at PHP17.67 per kg.; followed by Central Mindanao at PHP16.25 per kg.; and Northern Mindanao at PHP16.13 per kg.

Other regions surpassing the PHP13 per kg. production cost include the Ilocos region, Western, Central, and Eastern Visayas, as well as Western and Southern Mindanao.

De Mesa maintained optimism that more areas will soon report increasing farmgate prices, as import arriv-

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“After building the wall, the dumped soil is no longer removed. That’s what causes flooding in Laguna. It’s the same problem all over the country. We keep building walls along rivers, and contractors just keep dumping soil into them,” Ang explained.

To address this, Ang and Aragon committed to finalize a memorandum of agreement (MOA) covering river dredging and bed expansion which seeks to provide flood protection benefits for the next 50 years.

The project will be carried out at no cost to either the national or provincial government and without tax credits or incentives to the corporation.

“We will sign a MOA with Governor Sol Aragon to widen all the rivers in Laguna. Our goal is to provide a long-term solution to the province’s flooding problem for the next 50 years. All narrow rivers will be widened by 30 percent of their current

als are expected to be halted for 60 days.

“Marami talaga iyong palay, marami tayong ine-expect na darating. Tama iyong decision na ihinto muna pansamantala (The palay volume is high, we are expecting a huge har-

women using their spouse’s surname; a death certificate or annulment decree for widowed or annulled applicants; a divorce decree for divorced individuals; and a naturalization certificate for naturalized Filipinos.

“PHLPost would like to remind the public that these requirements are standardized and that no additional documents should

width,” Ang said.

The infrastructure giant also committed to conduct annual river maintenance and cleaning to ensure the sustainability of the project.

Since 2022, SMC has been working with the local governments of San Pedro and Biñan to clean and dredge rivers, citing the heavy buildup of silt as a major flood contributor.

As of July 2025, SMC’s river cleanup program, Better River PH showed that 87,899 metric tons of silt and solid wastes have been removed from Biñan’s river covering 3.2 kilometers of river channels while 53,774 metric tons of silt were dredged from San Pedro’s Tunasan River covering waterways of .830 km.

Based on the province’s hazard and risk maps, 18 cities and municipalities surrounding Laguna de Bay are among the most flood-prone areas, with some floodwaters taking three to six months to subside. (CH/PIA-Laguna)

vest. The decision to ban rice imports is just right),” he said.

The DA projects at least 11 million metric tons (MT) of harvest for the wet season, which is set to peak from October to November. (PNA)

be imposed outside of those enumerated in the official guidelines,” Sta. Maria said.

He added the Postal ID remains one of the country’s most widely accepted government-issued identification cards, recognized by both public and private institutions, and is frequently used for financial transactions, government services, and other official pur-

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their time with each other, their productivity. It will change the daily lives of every Filipino who wakes up every morning and goes to work, every student who goes to school, every senior citizen who had to endure a dilapidated public transport,” he said.

To help fulfill Marcos’ vision, he said the government has tapped the assistance of the private sector by privatizing operations and maintenance (O&M) of the NSCR project under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement.

The NSCR is targeted to be fully operational by 2032, with partial operations from Valenzuela to Malolos, Bulacan set in December 2027, while the Malolos to Clark International Airport (CRK) segment is expected to be operational by October 2028.

Once completed, the 147-km. railway system is expected to transport 750,000 passengers daily and cut travel time for communities in the National Capital Region (NCR), Bulacan, Pampanga, and Calamba, Laguna. (PNA)

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Applicants are also required to present one valid proof of identity, such as a Philippine Statistics Authority-issued birth certificate, national ID, UMID, driver’s license, passport, Professional Regulation Commission ID, voter’s ID, or any other government-issued ID bearing a photo and signature.

In addition, proof of

address must be presented. Acceptable documents include a barangay certificate of residency, utility bill, lease contract, land title, school billing statement, or other recognized proof of residence.

Additional supporting documents would only be necessary in specific cases: a marriage certificate for married

poses.

PHLPost called on area directors, postmasters, marketing specialists, and postal ID screeners to strictly follow the reiterated requirements to safeguard applicants’ convenience and ensure

an efficient, uniform process nationwide.

For more information, applicants are advised to visit the nearest post office or check the official PHLPost website and social media channels. (PNA)



Cavite Holds 2025 Civil Society Organization Conference to Strengthen Participatory Governance

Recently the Provincial Government of Cavite hosted the 2025 Civil Society Organization (CSO) Conference at the Cavite Government Center, gathering various stakeholders to promote participatory governance and strengthen partnerships between the government and civil society groups.

Held on the 2nd floor of the Function Hall, the event started with a welcome message from Hon. Kerby J. Salazar, Chairperson of the SP Committee on Rules and Good Government.

The conference focused on the relevance of participatory governance, highlighting key mechanisms such as Code-mandated avenues of participation and the establishment of Local People's Councils. DILG-Cavite's LGOO III Niña Norissa Maranga led the segment, followed by LGOO II Amiel Dela Rosa's orientation on Memorandum Circular No. 2025-060. The directive outlines the updated guidelines for CSO accreditation and the selection of representatives to Local Special Bodies (LSBs).

A critical session on the Requirements for CSO Accreditation was delivered by Mr. Jovani N. Cuadra, Board Secretary V of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, offering a practical guide to grassroots organizations on compliance and representation.

An open forum encouraged dialogue among attendees before Mr. Marcial A. Juangco, OIC-Provincial Director of DILG Cavite, delivered the closing remarks.

The event signifies Cavite's continued commitment to inclusive governance and active civic engagement, aligning with national efforts under the Bagong Pilipinas framework.--- OPIO



Free hearing aid services extended to 65 Caviteños.

In its continuous effort to provide inclusive healthcare services, the Office of the Provincial Persons with Disability Affairs Officer (OPPD-AO), in partnership with Manila Hearing Aid, conducted a Hearing Test for Adults with Hearing Loss recently, at the Residential Care Facility in Trece Martires City.

A total of 65 beneficiaries will receive free hearing aids, offering them a renewed opportunity to connect with their surroundings and enhance their quality of life.

The two-day event featured a comprehensive set



How to Facilitate Strategic Planning for Cooperatives: A two-day Capacity Development Seminar Empowering Cooperative Development Officers

The Office of the Provincial Cooperatives Development Officer (OPCDO) successfully conducted a two-day capacity development seminar titled "How to Facilitate Strategic Planning for Cooperatives" from July 31 to August 1, 2025 at the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The event aimed to equip Cooperative Development Officers with the necessary skills to guide cooperatives in their respective LGUs in creating effective strategic plans. The training focused on helping cooperatives achieve local development goals, set clear directions, prioritize actions, allocate resources, and anticipate challenges - all essential to fostering sustainable growth and strong foundations.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Rizalie Pinpin-Enero, Officer-in-Charge of OPCDO, welcomed the participants and emphasized the office's dedication to extending technical assistance and promoting lifelong learning to local cooperative officers. "We observed this [seminar] not just because we are mandated to do so, but because we are advocates of continuous learning," she stated.

On the first day, Ms. Remedios A. Capalad, PhD, General Manager of Cavite State University Multi-purpose Cooperative served as the resource speaker and discussed the importance of strategic planning, and setting the mission, vision, and goals for cooperative development. Participants then engaged in a group activity to develop their own sample strategic plans.

The second day featured the presentation of outputs, which showcased the participants' teamwork, creativity, and practical skills. Ms. Ma. Teresa O. Daño, President of LCDOP -Cavite, expressed her gratitude for the event, stating that it provided valuable insights and tools that will help cooperative development officers improve their support to local cooperatives.--- OPIO

of hearing care services including otoscopy, tympanometry, hearing tests, and hearing aid trials. These procedures were conducted by professionals from Manila Hearing Aid, ensuring quality service and accurate diagnosis for each participant.

The initiative is part of the Provincial Government of Cavite's ongoing programs to support persons with disabilities by addressing hearing loss which is one of the most overlooked conditions among adults. With early detection and the provision of appropriate devices, hearing-impaired individuals are empowered to live more comfortably and actively engage with their communities.--- OPIO



Hakab 'Ta 2025: Caviteño mothers unite to celebrate breastfeeding and baby health

More than 50 newly delivered mothers and their infants gathered at the OB Ward of General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital in Trece Martires City on August 8, 2025 for Hakab 'Ta 2025, a breastfeeding advocacy event spearheaded by the Philippine Pediatric Society - Southern Tagalog Chapter in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer.

Hakab 'Ta is part of the National Breastfeeding Awareness Month activities and follows a long-running tradition of simultaneous breastfeeding events and community promotions that encourage exclusive breastfeeding, strengthen mother-baby bonding, and raise public awareness about the health and nutritional benefits of breastmilk. These gatherings aim to create visible community support for breastfeeding and to remind the public that breastfeeding is the best start for infants.

The activity featured a lecture on breastfeeding by Dr. Jindra Tetangco of the Philippine Pediatric Society - Southern Tagalog Chapter. She delivered an informative and encouraging lecture covering breastfeeding techniques, proper latch, common concerns (sore nipples, low milk supply), and how family members can support a breastfeeding mother. Participating mothers took part in demonstrations and had the opportunity for one-on-one consultations with health staff. The event emphasized both the science and the everyday realities of breastfeeding, helping mothers gain confidence and practical skills.

To close the program, Dr. Laura Maria Soledad A. Aguinaldo, GEAMH Breastfeeding Coordinator, delivered an inspiring message, commending the mothers for their commitment to giving their children the best start in life and encouraging them to continue breastfeeding with the support of their families and community. She also encouraged attendees to continue accessing local maternal and child health services and to join peer-support activities to sustain breastfeeding beyond the hospital stay. --- OPIO

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qualified for other loans, such as the Multipurpose Loan, Calamity Loan and the Health and Education Loan Program (HELPS).

In its report, the Pag-IBIG Fund noted that housing loan disbursements in the CALA-BARZON region are pegged at Php 9.4 billion

or 16 percent of the loan takeouts in south Luzon.

Last July, the CALA-BARZON region was hit by a series tropical cyclones namely Crising, Dante, and Emong. In its July 27 report, the Office of Civil Defense noted some 6,984 damaged homes in all five provinces. (PB/PIA4A)

Rizal science week showcases local solutions to CALABARZON's challenges

Secretary Renato U. Solidum Jr. said on Thursday that 2025 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) celebration is a good opportunity for the public to learn the several local solutions offered by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to solve Rizal's existing challenges.

Among the points Secretary Solidum mentioned was the partnership with the Rizal Provincial Government, which highlighted efforts to combat malnutrition in Antipolo's public schools through locally developed nutrition and food processing technologies.

"Kamakailan nga lang po ay kasama natin si Governor (Rebecca) Ynares sa paglulunsad ng Expanded School-Based Feeding Program (SBFP) na ginanap din dito sa Antipolo," said Solidum.

Solidum explained that this program will provide hot and nutritious meals for 120 days and milk for 15 days. Among these initiatives are the development of nutritious food products, the promotion of food processing and packaging technologies to preserve quality, safety, and nutrition, and the conduct of in-depth research to determine the effects of feeding interventions.

The SBFP is a program of the Department of Education in the Philippines aimed at addressing undernutrition and hunger among public school learners. It is implemented in collaboration with other government agencies, including the



DOST, for food technology support.

Solidum also shared DOST programs that can help modernize Rizal's traditional industries — such as Angono's arts and crafts and Taytay's garment sector — by introducing technology upgrades to boost competitiveness.

"Through enterprise development programs like SETUP (Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program) and CEST (Community Empowerment through Science and Technology), we help MSMEs improve product quality, access training, and discover and uplift indigenous and grassroots innovations in crafts and the circular economy. In 2024, we supported 17 impactful initiatives across the region, with a total investment of over ₱6 million," said Sec. Solidum.

He also underscored the important roles of Taytay, Rizal in DOST's smart city roadmap initiative and how digital innovation could improve public services and infrastructure.

"Actually, we are working with Taytay to develop smart city roadmaps aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Local government units are

being assessed and recognized for their efforts to bridge the digital divide," said Sec. Solidum.

Sec. Solidum also mentioned that DOST scholars based in Rizal are being trained not only for careers in science but also to become entrepreneurs driving local innovation.

"Our scholarships are an investment in future scientists, complemented by programs such as the Scholars' Technopreneurship Training (STTP) and the 21st Century Learning Environment Model (CLEM), all aimed at cultivating young minds to be future-ready," said Sec. Solidum.

DOST pushes Integrated Flood Plan

Meanwhile, Sec. Solidum emphasized that events like the RSTW, along with other DOST activities nationwide, highlight Disaster and Climate Resilience as a key component in building smart and sustainable communities.

"As you know, DOST is a science and research-based organization. So, when it comes to flood control, what needs to be done is to develop an integrated flood management system for each river basin or sub-river basin. The

TESDA skills framework to boost semiconductor, electronics industries

MANILA — The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on Tuesday launched the Philippine Skills Framework (PSF) seen to boost the semiconductor and electronics industries.

The launching was done in partnership with the Industry TVET (technical and vocational education and training) Board for Semiconductor and Electronics and its convener, the Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI).

According to TESDA, the PSF aligns workforce develop-

ment strategies with global industry standards, and provides a comprehensive reference for job roles, skills requirements, and industry-aligned training programs.

It aims to equip Filipino talents with the competencies needed to excel in the rapidly evolving semiconductor sector, which is among nation's top export drivers, TESDA added.

"By defining clear career pathways, the PSF empowers workers to upskill and reskill while enabling enterprises to thrive with a future-ready workforce," TESDA Secretary Francisco Benitez

was quoted as saying in a news release on Tuesday.

SEIPI president Danilo Lachica, on the other hand, said the PSF "is a shared commitment to nurture Filipino talent and drive the industry forward."

TESDA said the PSF is expected to strengthen the country's global competitiveness, attract investments, and create more quality jobs for Filipinos.

About 300 representatives from government agencies, industry partners, and international stakeholders attended the PSF launch at the TESDA central office in Taguig City. (PNA)

amount of rain varies over time, especially with climate change," he said, noting that excessive rainfall can cause flooding, while low rainfall can lead to drought.

He explained that addressing flooding requires considering its different types. "As areas urbanize and more surfaces are covered with concrete or asphalt, less water seeps into the soil, and more flows on the surface. Consequently, the volume of water needing drainage increases over time. Drainage systems must adapt to this change," said Sec. Solidum.

In CALABARZON, flooding often occurs in the Marikina River Basin and is usually flash flooding caused by heavy rains. Coastal flooding, particularly in Laguna Lake, is worsened by siltation from soil erosion and

waste from fish pens and urban areas.

"This is why DOST promotes a circular economy—turning plastics and agricultural waste into products that generate income instead of discarding them. If people can earn from waste, they will be less likely to throw it away," he added.

To manage these risks, mapping river systems and infrastructure using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is crucial. "On DOST's side, we have launched the Spatial Analytics and Technology Solutions Program to digitize all data, enabling comprehensive planning efforts at the local level. Through the Smart and Sustainable Communities Program, we offer technologies to help local governments plan effectively," Sec. Solidum said.

The 2025 RSTW celebration in CALABARZON runs from August 14–16 at the Ynares Event Center in Antipolo City, Rizal. It features interactive exhibits from various DOST agencies and partner institutions, most of which showcased products and results of research and development (R&D) programs, initiatives, and other scientific services.

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) aims at providing science-based, innovative, and inclusive solutions across four strategic pillars: human well-being, wealth creation, wealth protection, and sustainability. These pillars embody the mantra OneDOST4U: Solutions, Opportunities for All. For more information, visit www.region4a.dost.gov.ph.

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY: MPCALA HOLDINGS INC. CELEBRATES DOUBLE GREEN AWARD WIN

Santa Rosa City, Laguna—MPCALA Holdings Inc., concessionaire of the Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX) and a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation, has been awarded two Green Awards this year, marking its third consecutive year of recognition in the esteemed program organized by the City Government of Santa Rosa last August 15, 2025. The Santa Rosa City Green Awards is a platform that acknowledges outstanding efforts and initiatives in promoting sustainability and environmental protection. In this year's Green Awards, MPCALA received two notable recognitions, one of which was a Plaque of Appreciation as a Sustainable Development Partner; this award is presented to organizations and individuals who have actively contributed to Santa Rosa City's environmental conservation efforts and have demonstrated meaningful participation in its green programs. MPCALA earned this recognition for its outstanding commitment to foster a culture of conservation and environmental awareness in the areas it serves through programs like clean-up drives, various tree planting activities, and its active participation in the annual International Coastal Clean-up.

The second award presented to MPCALA was the Earth Hour Advocate Award, recognizing its utmost support in the global Earth Hour movement, encouraging communities and industries along the expressway corridor to participate in the global movement to switch off non-essen-



tial lights, underscoring the importance of energy conservation in mitigating the effects of climate change. In addition to these, MPCALA continues to advance sustainable and eco-friendly practices in infrastruc-

ture development, living up to its vision of being a green expressway. Its design integrates renewable energy technologies and nature-inspired features that not only reduce its carbon footprint but also provide a

Pag-IBIG FUND grants 60-day moratorium to typhoon-affected borrowers



CALAMBA CITY (PIA) – Homeowners affected by recent typhoons will have more time to save up for their housing loan payments from the Pag-IBIG Fund following a moratorium granted by the shelter financing agency.

Marilene Acosta, President and chief executive officer, said the Pag-IBIG Fund has extended its loan payment period to another 30 days or a total of 60 days for borrowers to settle their amortizations.

more pleasant driving experience.

“These recognitions are more than just honors; they are responsibilities that we embrace wholeheartedly. These awards affirm the direction we’ve taken in ensuring that our expressways are built with the environment and the communities in mind. It fuels our motivation to further expand our sustainability efforts, to craft even more impactful programs that care for the environment while uplifting lives,” said Arlette V. Capistrano, Vice President for Communication and Stakeholder Management, MPCALA Holdings Inc.

“We recognize everyone’s vital contributions through the Gearing towards Robust, Engaging, and Eco-friendly Nature or “GREEN” Awards, spearheaded by our CENRO. These awards are not just accolades; they are a cel-

“We offered a one-month moratorium on housing loan payments for members affected by calamities, giving our borrowers more time to focus on recovery without the added worry of monthly amortization.”

The one-month payment moratorium applies to Pag-IBIG housing loan borrowers or buyers whose properties or workplaces were located in areas under state of calamity following the onslaught of tropical storms Crising, Dante,

bration of your commitment to sustainable development. As we mark the 21st year of Santa Rosa as a city, and the 14th anniversary of the enactment of our environment code, we also embrace this year’s green awards theme: Ending plastic pollution: #beatplasticpollution. Plastic pollution remains one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. It threatens not only our ecosystem, but also our health and future generations. As a city that values innovation and responsibility, we must lead by example, in reducing plastic waste through policy, practice, and personal action. Environmental protection is not a responsibility of a few. It is a shared duty. Every act of conservation, every step away from single-use plastics is a step towards a greener and healthier future.” said Hon. Arlene B. Arcillas, City May-

and Emong, and Habagat or the southwest monsoon.

The state home financing provider also eased their payment terms to help their borrowers recuperate, allowing loan payment to three months after the calamity. Members can even borrow up to 90 percent of their savings

“We have always been among the first to respond, ensuring that our members receive the help they need right after a calamity. We make our calamity fund available for members living or working in affected areas. They can borrow up to 90 percent of their savings with payments starting three months later, providing them time to recover.”

Moreover, newer members with 12 months of savings are also now

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or of the City of Santa Rosa, Laguna.

The awards received by MPCALA Holdings Inc. reflect its continued efforts to promote sustainability not only within its expressway but also in the communities it serves.

About MPCALA Holdings Inc.

MPCALA Holdings Inc. is a subsidiary of Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), the largest toll road developer and operator in the country. Aside from the CAVITE-LAGUNA Expressway (CALAX), MPTC’s domestic portfolio includes concessions for the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (CAVITEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector Road, Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SC-TEX), and Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX) on the Cebu-Cordova Link Expressway (CCLEX).

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DTI to e-commerce platforms: Remove illegal vapes or face penalties

MANILA – Online shops selling illegal vape products have been ordered to remove these from their platforms otherwise, their officials will be imprisoned for at least two years or penalized with at least PHP2 million.

During the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon program on Tuesday, Department of Trade and Industry Director Eryl Royce Nagtalon, officer-in-charge of DTI's E-commerce Bureau, said the move to remove all listings of illegal vaporized nicotine and non-nicotine products is being made to ensure consumer's safety and for the government to collect proper taxes.

He said selling unregistered vape products violates the Consumer Act of the Philippines, the Vape Law, and the rules and regulations of the Department of Health (DOH), which has been fighting to address smoking, and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).

Nagtalon said online selling platforms have been properly informed of the government's directive to remove all illegal listings in their shops, and an inter-agency monitoring for compliance is ongoing.

"Ongoing po ang ating monitoring niyan. Mayroon po tayong spot checking, mayroon po tayong mga teams na ready po diyan. And of course, if ever man



ILLEGAL VAPE PRODUCTS. Authorities seize illegal vape products at the Manila International Container Port on July 31, 2025. The Department of Trade and Industry on Tuesday (Aug. 19, 2025) warned online shopping sites to remove from their listings of illegal vape products or face consequences. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

na sa kasamaang-palad is hindi po sila maka-comply, naka-ready naman ang ating mga legal remedies under the Consumer Act, the Internet Transactions Act and other trade, industry laws (There is ongoing monitoring. We conduct spot checking and have teams for this. If they will still not comply, we are ready with the legal remedies under the Consumer Act, the Internet Transactions Act, and other trade, (and) industry law," he said.

Nagtalon said the government, under the Internet Transactions Act, has a database of online businesses, so even if the online sellers change sites, the government would still be able to track them.

Lawyer Frediswenda Benas, DTI's E-commerce Enforcement and Compliance Division chief, during the same briefing, said around 92,000 listings of ille-

gal vape products have been monitored by DTI's Office for the Special Mandate on Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products, their Devices, and Novel Tobacco Products (OSMV) in the past two years.

"Sa loob po ng dalawang taon marami na po tayong nahulihan na nagbibenta po ng illicit vape products, whether online or physical establishments po (In the past two years, we have caught many people selling illicit vape products, whether online or in physical establishments)," she said.

Benas said online platforms are deemed solidary liable for illegal items being sold through their sites, and their officials may be slapped with prison time of at least two years and fines of at least PHP2 million to as much as six years and PHP5 million. (PNA)



The Environmental Summit 2025 took place on August 12, 2025, at the Annex Event Center of SM City Dasmariñas. Organized by the Environmental Management Bureau-CALABARZON in partnership with SM Cares, the event showcased exhibits, interactive program sessions, and inspiring company success stories. It also highlighted innovative initiatives that champion best practices in solid waste management and compliance with the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Act of 2022.

Lady Falcons secure 3rd win in V-League Collegiate Challenge

MANILA – Adamson University prevailed over College of Saint Benilde, 25-22, 25-13, 25-20, Tuesday to stay perfect in the women's division of the 2025 V-League Collegiate Challenge.

The Lady Falcons banked on UAAP Season 87 Rookie of the Year Shaina Nitura to notch their third win at the Paco Arena in Manila.

Nitura scored 18 points off 16 attacks and two aces to go with eight receptions and seven digs.

"The kids' efforts were good on how they responded to situations, especially in the third set when we were down by seven points, but they responded well and regained their focus. They worked hard to still win this game," Adamson head coach JP Yude said.

"I'm very happy that they are all contributing. That's really what we want to see, not just Shaina playing and getting more points, but we're trying our best in training to push everyone to contribute," he added.

After Benilde took a

10-3 lead in the third set, Adamson rallied behind Nitura, Mary Ann Grace Del Moral and Kim Yra Rocha to wrap up the match in one hour and 25 minutes.

Abegail Segui contributed 11 points on eight attacks, two blocks, and one ace, alongside five excellent digs.

Del Moral chipped in six points, while Felicity Marie Sagaysay had five points to go with 16 sets.

Zamantha Nolasco scored 13 points on 10 attacks and three blocks, while Shahanna Lleses and Cristy Ondangan added seven and six points, respectively, for Benilde, which suffered its first loss after beating University of Perpetual Help, Letran, and Ateneo de Manila University.

In the other match, Far Eastern University downed Colegio de San Juan de Letran, 25-21, 25-18, 20-25, 25-20, to stay in third place with a 2-1 record.

Faida Bakanke scored 18 points built on 15 attacks, two blocks, and an ace for the Lady Tamaraws, who secured

the win in one hour and 51 minutes.

Jazlyn Anne Ellarina contributed 12 points on eight attacks and four blocks, while Clarisse Loresco chipped in nine points in her V-League return for FEU after her stint with the Nationals in the recently concluded 5th Southeast Asia V-League.

Gerzel Mary Petallo added eight points and nine excellent digs, while Alyssa Devosora and Kyle Pendon scored five apiece.

"In terms of skills, everyone is talented. What I said earlier in the huddle is this game is more on their attitude. How they want to do what they want to happen in the game. Most likely, what I'm looking for is for them to focus more on the mental [aspect]," FEU head coach Tina Salak said.

Judiel Nitura finished with 20 points on 16 attacks, two aces, and two blocks, while Gia Marcel Maquilang added 14 points on 11 attacks along with 13 excellent receptions for Letran, which remained winless after two matches. (PNA)