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DOTr conducts strict PUV inspection, driver testing for Undas

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The Department of Transportation (DOTr) has announced that it will conduct strict inspections of public utility vehicle (PUV) drivers and operators in anticipation of the massive influx of travelers during the observance of All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day.

These inspections will include random

drug and alcohol testing of PUV drivers, vehicle roadworthiness check, and verification of valid franchises and licenses.

In an interview, DOTr Acting Secretary Giovanni Lopez said the initiative is part of its nationwide efforts to ensure that all transport operators comply with safety regulations and that drivers are in proper condition

to ferry thousands of Filipinos returning to their provinces for Undas.

"[Inspections] are on-going. A few days [before] Undas, what we will be checking are the drivers because we will be coordinating with PDEA. I am announcing this now, so that the drivers will stop doing what they are doing, don't live with drugs, it is forbid-

den," he said.

The DOTr, in coordination with the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), has intensified its campaign to eliminate the use of illegal drugs among PUV drivers. The joint operation aims to uphold road safety and protect commuters from the dangers of impaired driving.

Random testing and surprise inspections are being carried out at bus terminals, provincial routes, and transport hubs to ensure that all drivers are fit to operate their vehicles. Drivers found under the influence or using unregistered vehicles will then face immediate suspension, revo-

cation of licenses, or impoundment of units.

The Transportation department advised commuters to plan their trips early and remain patient amid the expected congestion in terminals and highways. Passengers are also encouraged to follow terminal pro-

(Turn to p. 2)

30K homebuyers to join Nat'l Housing Expo

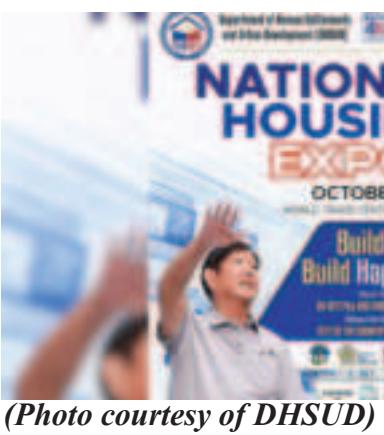
MANILA — Around 30,000 potential homebuyers are expected to attend the National Housing Expo from Oct. 23 and 24, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD) said on Wednesday.

The DHSUD and the Pag-IBIG Fund will showcase affordable housing options under the government's Expanded Pambansang

Pambahay para sa Pilipino (4PH) Program.

The event, to be held at the World Trade Center in Pasay City, will feature over 100,000 brand-new homes from the country's top 50 developers, available through the Pag-IBIG Housing Loan.

More than 30,000 Pag-IBIG Acquired Assets will also be offered at up to 40 percent discount, accord-



(Photo courtesy of DHSUD)

ing to the DHSUD. DHSUD Secretary and Pag-IBIG Fund Chairman Jose Ramon Aliling said the Expo

highlights the administration's whole-of-nation approach to address the country's

(Turn to p. 2)

PhilHealth clarifies coverage for ischemic heart disease patients

MANILA — The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) has clarified that patients diagnosed with ischemic heart disease and acute myocardial infarction (IHD-AMI) are qualified to avail of the corresponding benefit package under

PhilHealth Circular 2024-0032.

In an advisory issued Wednesday, PhilHealth said the policy guides all regional offices, accredited healthcare providers, and beneficiaries in filing, processing, and evaluating claims for IHD-AMI cases.

"All patients with acute myocardial infarction, including those with ST-elevation (STEMI) or non-ST elevation (Non-STEMI), may avail of the package," the state insurer said.

"A non-specific or non-diagnostic ECG

(Turn to p. 2)

786K villagers get medical care from SBDP-funded health stations

MANILA — The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) on Wednesday said 785,897 residents in 620 insurgency-cleared barangays nationwide are now benefiting from 478 completed barangay health stations funded under the "Support to Barangay Development Program" (SBDP) from 2021 to 2025.

Funding for the proj-

ect totaled PHP1.98 billion, the agency added.

"Beyond the figures lies a story of hope and transformation for communities once left behind," the DILG said.

These facilities bring health services closer to families who used to travel long distances for basic medical care.

The DILG reported

(Turn to p. 2)

DOTr... FR. P. 1

tocols, secure their belongings, and only take authorized public transport vehicles.

"What we can say is that we are ready for Oplan Undas, but aside from the preparation of government infrastructure, it is also important that the owners are prepared, check the tires, the brakes. Your vehicle must be in good condition and you must be in good condition to drive because no matter how beautiful our infrastructure is, the main reason is the driver himself," Lopez

786K... FR. P. 1

that 50 more barangay health stations are currently under construction, eight are in the procurement phase, and 82 are in pre-procurement.

Aside from health stations, the SBDP also funds key infrastructure projects such as farm-to-market roads, water supply and sanitation systems, rural electrification, agricultural facilities, housing and rehabilitation works, all identified by barangay residents through the DILG's

stated.

The government also encourages road users to adopt cashless toll transactions to reduce traffic congestion, promote faster travel time, and minimize physical contact in toll plazas.

DOTr assured the public that with its full coordination among transport agencies, law enforcement units, and local governments, it is 100 percent ready to handle the travel rush and ensure that Filipinos can observe Undas 2025 peacefully and safely. (AM/PIA 4A)

30K... FR. P. 1

housing needs.

"The National Housing Expo stands as a landmark initiative that unites the entire housing sector—government agencies and private institutions alike—in fulfilling President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.'s directive to ensure that every Filipino family has access to affordable and decent housing," Aliling said.

He added that the

Expo forms part of the DHSUD's National Shelter Month celebration this October, alongside regional housing fairs in Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Iloilo, Pangasinan, Bacolod, Batangas, and General Santos.

Visitors at the Expo may explore housing projects within Metro Manila and nearby provinces. A key feature of the event

PhilHealth... FR. P. 1

should not disqualify a patient from receiving the benefit."

The advisory also emphasized that accredited health facilities without the capability to perform percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) or fibrinolysis must coordinate and refer patients to hospitals capable of providing these services.

Referring facilities may still claim the "Emergency Medical Services with Coordinated Referral and Interfacility Transfer (IHD-AMI-C)" package.

They are also advised to refer patients for cardiac rehabilitation as part of their medical management, even if PCI or fibrinolysis is not performed.

Cardiac rehabilitation sessions may begin during hospital admission and continue on an outpatient basis.

Patients are required to complete at least six sessions provided on different dates, supervised by a cardiac rehabilitation specialist or, where unavailable, by a cardiologist in collaboration with a psychiatrist.

allows attendees to be assessed for their Pag-IBIG Housing Loan entitlement based on income, helping them identify properties they can afford through the agency's loan programs.

Pag-IBIG Fund Chief Executive Officer Marilene Acosta reaffirmed the agency's commitment to making homeownership easier and more affordable for Filipino workers.

"Pag-IBIG Fund remains the largest home financier in the country. We continue to make homeownership easier through our 3-percent interest rate for socialized housing under the Expanded 4PH Program," Acosta said.

She noted that Pag-IBIG recently reduced its interest rate to 4.5 percent per annum for

properties worth up to PHP1.8 million, available to the first 10,000 local workers and 1,000 overseas Filipino workers.

The Pag-IBIG Acquired Assets Super Sale, which offers ready-to-occupy homes at discounted prices, runs until December. Meanwhile, members seeking to upgrade their homes may avail of the Home Improvement Loan Program, which provides up to PHP300,000 for repairs or renovations.

Acosta said the fund's strong financial position allows it to support every Filipino worker in their journey to homeownership.

Registration for the National Housing Expo is ongoing at <https://events.pagibigfund.gov.ph>. (PNA)

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SAY NO TO DRUGS

**Just a little while longer, and
the wicked will be no more;
You will look at where they
were, And they will not be
there.**

**But the meek will possess the
earth, And they will
find exquisite delight in the
abundance of peace**

Psalm 37:10-11



PGC conducts Medical and Dental Mission in Sta. Cruz 2, City of Dasmariñas

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the office of the Provincial Governor in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), conducted a medical and dental mission on October 16, in Barangay Sta. Cruz 2, City of Dasmariñas, bringing essential healthcare services closer to the community.

More than 500 residents benefited from the health activity, which offered free medical and dental consultations, tooth extractions, ECG, X-ray, and distribution of prescribed medicines.

Medical professionals and staff from OPHO led the health checkups, extending their expertise and compassion in ensuring the health and well-being of the residents. Local officials of Barangay Sta. Cruz 2 expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the PGC under the leadership of Governor Abeng Remulla for continuously implementing programs that promote public health and wellness across the province.--- OPIO



Medical and Dental Mission in General Mariano Alvarez

Residents of Brgy. Nicolas Virata in General Mariano Alvarez were beneficiaries of the Provincial Government of Cavite's continuing health outreach programs as a well-organized medical and dental mission delivered vital services on October 17.

A total of 422 residents availed of the free services, which included 334 medical consultations, 43 dental procedures, 19 ECG examinations, and 26 X-ray services, complemented by the distribution of free medicines facilitated by the Office of the Provincial Governor (OPG) staff.

The medical teams from General Emilio Aguinaldo Memorial Hospital (GEAMH) and CARSIGMA District Hospital shared their expertise to provide medical services to the residents, while the GEAMH dental team extended their specialized care – bringing brighter smiles to the community through their dental services.

The initiative reflects the Provincial Government's steadfast commitment to bringing essential healthcare closer to Caviteños.

Provincial Government of Cavite strengthens health response amid fluseason

Amid the increase in cases of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) continues to strengthen its public health efforts. On October 17, the PGC, through the Office of the Provincial Governor's Medical Mission Team, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer and the Rotary Club of Cavite Uptown, conducted a medical mission in Barangay Pag-aso 2, Imus, Cavite.



Cavite students showcase cooperative knowledge in Provincial Koop Quiz Bee 2025

In celebration of Cooperative Month, the Office of the Provincial Cooperative Development Officer (OPCDO) successfully spearheaded the Provincial Koop Quiz Bee 2025 on October 18, at the Function Hall of the New Provincial Government Center, Trece Martires City.

The annual event brought together 15 Grade-10 students from various schools across Cavite, each showcasing their knowledge and understanding of cooperative principles, history, and practices.

The program formally opened with a warm welcome message delivered by Ms. Myrachel P. Cuadra, OIC - OPCDO, who commended the students for their enthusiasm and encouraged them to value the spirit of cooperation and teamwork – the essence of every successful cooperative. An overview of the activity was presented by Ms. Dianne April V. Matel, setting the tone for the exciting competition ahead.

Serving as quiz master, Ms. Kyla Joryz B. Ramos facilitated the quiz bee proper, which tested participants through several rounds of challenging questions designed to assess both speed and accuracy.

After an engaging competition, Maverick Janvier A. Añonuevo of St. Thomas Academy in Bacoor City emerged as Champion, earning 94 points. Following closely behind was Ulydycy Zhoey Shan L. Barzaga of Gov. DM Camerino Integrated School in Imus City, who secured the 1st Runner-Up title with 91 points, while Erna Marie M. Tanquion of Holy Family Academy of GMA Inc. in General Mariano Alvarez took the 2nd Runner-Up spot with 88 points.

To conclude the activity, Ms. Nelia Cotoner-Vidallion, Treasurer - Provincial Cooperative Development Council - Cavite delivered her closing remarks, congratulating all participants and expressing appreciation to the schools, teachers, and organizers for their support in promoting cooperative education among the youth.

The Provincial Koop Quiz Bee continues to serve as an engaging platform to promote cooperative awareness among the youth, nurturing future advocates of the cooperative movement in Cavite.--- OPIO



A total of 227 residents received free medical services, including consultations, basic health check-ups, and prescribed medicines.

This initiative reflects the government's continued commitment to promoting health and wellness among Caviteños, especially during the flu season.--- OPIO

BNS federation calls for stronger support for CALABARZON nutrition volunteers

LIPA CITY, Batangas (PIA) — The Federation of Barangay Nutrition Scholars in CALABARZON (FBNS IV-A) Inc. is urging the government to provide better benefits and job security for Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS), as over 5,000 volunteers from across the region gathered for the 3rd Regional BNS Congress held on October 17 at the Lipa Academy for Sports, Culture and Arts.

In partnership with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) CALABARZON, the event underscored the crucial role of BNS volunteers as frontliners in promoting community nutrition and implementing the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023–2028 at the grassroots level.

FBNS IV-A President Danilo S. Posion led the call to revisit and update Presidential Decree No. 1569, which mandates the appointment of at least one BNS per barangay. He emphasized that the decades-old law must be strengthened to ensure that BNS volunteers receive fair recognition, benefits, and protection from arbitrary replacement during local leadership transitions.

"We hope that the government will update PD 1569 to provide additional benefits and security of tenure for our BNS," said Posion. Many of our scholars are replaced whenever there are changes in barangay officials, despite years of dedicated service."

Posion added that the congress serves as an important venue for learning and capacity



building among BNS.

"This gathering allows us to enhance our knowledge and stay updated with new forms and guidelines from the national level," he said. "As BNS, it is our duty to ensure the accuracy of data collected during Operation Timbang Plus (OPT) and nutrition surveys, especially for pregnant and lactating women."

He encouraged fellow BNS to remain steadfast in their mission of service despite the challenges.

"Sa mga kapwa ko BNS wag po kayong susuko. Alam naman natin ang ating trabaho ay hindi lamang sa pagiging BNS kin-di lumalampas pa ng saklaw at maging ang pagbibigay natin ng oras minsan ay lampas pa hanggang sa mabigay natin ang tapat na serbisyo. Mahalaga po na magkaroon tayo lagi ng puso sa ating ginagawa".

Meanwhile, Regional Nutrition Program Coordinator Lourdes Bolante Orongan of NNC CALABARZON praised the volunteers' unwavering dedication, describing them as the "unsung heroes" of community health.

"Our BNS are our un-

sung heroes. Despite

receiving no regular pay and only minimal honorarium, their dedication and volunteerism keep our communities healthy and informed", Orongan said.

She underscored that the congress aims to equip BNS with the latest knowledge on nutrition programs, forms, and monitoring tools, ensuring that they remain well-informed as they guide families and vulnerable groups at the barangay level.

Under PD 1569, BNS volunteers work closely with the Barangay Nutrition Committees, Local Chief Executives, and the National Nutrition Council to plan and implement local nutrition programs and ensure funding support.

As the congress concluded, the participants renewed their pledge to continue serving their communities with dedication and compassion—proving that even without regular pay, true public service is driven by heart, commitment, and the shared goal of building a well-nourished and healthier CALABARZON. (C. Maloles/PIA4A)

Draw close to God and He will draw close to you
James 4:8

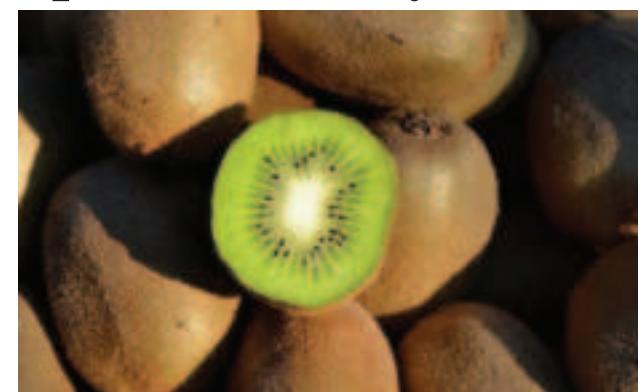
Kiwis might help ease chronic constipation – study

ISTANBUL — Kiwis, rye bread and mineral-rich water may help relieve chronic constipation, according to guidelines in a study published in the Journal of Human Nutrition and Dietetics and Neurogastroenterology & Motility.

Around one in every six to seven people worldwide experiences chronic constipation. In the US, between 9 percent and 20 percent of adults are affected by chronic idiopathic constipation — a type of constipation with no identifiable underlying cause.

The guidelines incorporate certain foods and beverages—such as kiwis, prunes, rye bread, and water high in minerals—and specific supplement interventions into clinical guidance, filling a long-standing gap between research and routine clinical advice," CNN cited lead study author Eirini Dimidi as saying in an email.

"That will help clinicians give clearer, more targeted, and evidence-informed



dietary advice, and will allow people to self-manage their symptoms more effectively," Dimidi added.

Symptoms of chronic constipation can include having fewer than three bowel movements per week, passing hard or lumpy stools, or experiencing pain or straining during bowel movements.

The guidance is intended for healthy adults with chronic idiopathic constipation and does not specifically address constipation caused by other conditions, such as neurological disorders or pregnancy.

While some recommendations might be relevant, they should be applied cautiously in these populations, as well as in children, Dimidi highlighted.

Kiwis can help in-

crease stool volume and water content, aid protein digestion, and promote smoother movement of food, fluids, and waste through the digestive system.

They also help speed up intestinal transit time and provide natural prebiotic benefits, supporting better digestion and reducing gut inflammation.

Kiwis are rich in dietary fiber, which can increase stool bulk, soften stools, and support regular bowel movements.

They also contain the enzyme actinidin, which helps break down proteins during digestion.

Eating kiwis also has the potential to improve bowel movement frequency and stool consistency in people with mild constipation. (Anadolu)

UP MANILA... FR. P. 5

UP Manila and the Philippine General Hospital, starting December 2024, to identify challenges in the field.

These included the shortage of plantilla positions, low pay, and the lack of standard qualifications for laboratory and simulation personnel.

UP Manila Chancellor Michael Tee welcomed the launch, noting that it fulfills the university's long-standing call to professionalize support

personnel in health sciences education.

"As the prime mover for simulation-based and technology-driven health sciences education, UP Manila will ensure that support staff in health sciences courses are properly trained and recognized in the academic community," Tee said.

UP Manila faculty members Dr. Rafael Bundoc of the Department of Anatomy and Dr. Maria Julieta Ger-

mar, a leader in simulation-based learning, led the development of the training modules for the new programs.

TESDA said the development of competency standards is expected to strengthen the backbone of medical education by aligning technical training with higher learning and ensuring that the health workforce behind every classroom and laboratory is properly equipped, visible, and valued. (PNA)

25th National PESO Congress strengthens employment network across the Philippines

The Public Employment Service Office Managers Association of the Philippines (PESOMAP) – CALABARZON in collaboration with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), successfully held the 25th National Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Congress from October 15 to 17, at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City. The event gathered more than a thousand PESO managers, local government leaders, and employment advocates nationwide.

With the theme “Dala-wampu’t Limang Taon ng Matatag at Maayos na Paglilingkod Tungo sa Bagong Pilipinas”, the congress served as a milestone gathering, highlighting the continuous evolution of the PESO network as a vital arm of government in ensuring accessible, inclusive, and responsive employment services for every Filipino.

In his keynote message delivered virtually, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. lauded the PESO network for its unwavering commitment to creating pathways for meaningful employment and local economic growth. He emphasized that through strengthened partnerships with LGUs, TESDA, and other government agencies, PESOs continue to play an indispensable role in reducing joblessness and poverty at the grassroots level.

Labor Secretary Bienvenido E. Lagunesma and PESOMAP



President Ms. Luningning Y. Vergara, and other DOLE officials, were present, delivering messages that underscored the importance of innovation, data-driven strategies, and continuous skills development to address the evolving needs of the labor market.

Throughout the congress, various plenary and breakout sessions tackled relevant topics such as: Strengthening PESO-LGU partnerships in local job generation and placement; Digital innovations in job matching, labor market information systems, and employment data management; Linkages with TESDA and private partners for enhanced training and re-skilling of jobseekers; and Empowering the youth and marginalized sectors through inclusive livelihood and entrepreneurship programs.

Delegates also had the opportunity to exchange best practices and success stories from their respective regions, showcasing how effective local employment facilitation can transform communities and uplift families.

One of the highlights of the congress was the PESO Awards Night, which honored

exemplary PESO offices, managers, and local government units that demonstrated outstanding performance in employment facilitation. PESO Bataan was notably recognized as a Hall of Famer, having consistently delivered exceptional employment programs and innovations in its province. Other awardees from various regions were also lauded for their dedication and efficiency in implementing job placement and livelihood initiatives.

The 25th National PESO Congress marked not only a significant milestone but also reaffirmed the network's steadfast mission to bridge employment opportunities and improve the quality of life for Filipino workers. Now on its 25th year, the PESO network continues to embody the government's vision of “matatag, maginhawa, at panatag na buhay” for every Filipino.

As the event concluded, participants renewed their commitment to advancing the goals of decent work, sustainable employment, and inclusive growth – a fitting celebration of 25 years of unwavering public service and collaboration. --- OPIO

UP Manila, TESDA launch standards for anatomy lab technicians

MANILA – The University of the Philippines Manila (UP Manila) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) on Monday launched new competency standards to strengthen the country's medical education system.

The two new qualifications are Cadaver Preservation Services Level III and Academic Simulation Services Level III, which aim to professionalize the technical staff who assist future healthcare workers in anatomy laboratories.

TESDA Secretary Jose Francisco Benitez said the initiative recognizes the indispensable contributions of anatomy and simulation laboratory technicians in shaping medical education.

“Before there's a doctor in the operating room, there's a technician in the anatomy lab. During every simulation, there's someone setting up the tools, fixing the systems and keeping things running when no one's watching,” Benitez was quoted in a news release as saying in his speech during the launch at UP Manila's Sports and Wellness Center.

“Today, TESDA and UP Manila stand together to say they are no longer invisible. Their work, their skills, their service – kita na, kilala na at kinikilala na natin ngayon (it is seen, it is known and it is recognized now),” he added.

The move marked the first time the government developed official competency standards for Anatomy Laboratory and General Laboratory Technician education, paving the way for standardized training and qualifications in support of medical and health sciences programs.

The Cadaver Preservation Services Level III program will train learners in the ethical handling, preservation



ANATOMY LAB TECHNICIANS. University of the Philippines Manila - Department of Anatomy faculty member Dr. Rafael Bundoc (left) demonstrates the proper care and preservation of a plastinated specimen to representatives from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority during a tour of the anatomy laboratory on Monday (Oct. 20, 2025). The tour followed the launch of new competency standards for anatomy and simulation laboratory technicians who assist medical students. (Photo courtesy of UPM)

and management of cadavers for academic and research use.

Graduates may serve as cadaver care technicians, anatomy laboratory technicians or anatomic embalmers.

Meanwhile, the Academic Simulation Services Level III program focuses on the operation and management of simulation-based learning facilities used in health sciences education.

Successful trainees may pursue careers as simulation technicians or simulation operations specialists.

Benitez noted that as the number of medical schools continues to grow under the Doctor Para sa Bayan Act, there is a parallel need to ensure the availability of qualified laboratory and simulation staff who help deliver quality education.

The law, Republic Act 11509, establishes a “medical scholarship and return service that will help deserving medical students pursue medical education and training in the field of health and medicine” and who shall eventually

“render services in government public health offices or government hospitals in their hometown

or in any municipality in their home province or in any underserved municipality in any province, as part of their integration into the public health and medical service system.”

TESDA's 2025 TVET (Technical-Vocational Education and Training) Skills Insights Report, titled “Behind the Scenes of Care: Labor Insights into the Auxiliary Health Workforce,” stated that each new medical school requires three to four laboratory technicians to operate effectively.

To respond to this need, TESDA and UP Manila identified six priority areas for TVET development: Anatomy Laboratory Technician, General Laboratory Technician, Cadaver Preservation, Cadaver Soft Embalming, Academic Simulation Assistant, and Simulation Technician.

The initiative forms part of the implementation of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by TESDA and UP Manila in September 2024, which outlined collaboration on standards development, skills training and enterprise-based learning.

Following the MOU, TESDA held consultations with officials from

(Back to p. 4)

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SMC Infrastructure, Metro Pacific Tollways, complete interoperability of Luzon expressways

The long-anticipated interoperability of expressways operated by SMC Infrastructure and Metro Pacific Tollways Corp. throughout Luzon is now complete, with both firms officially launching the One RFID program Tuesday in Calamba, in ceremonies attended by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr.

"We are proud to announce the successful completion of interoperability between our electronic toll collection (ETC) systems, Autosweep and Easytrip. This latest feature will directly benefit motorists who will register for a new ETC account, as they will only need one radio frequency identification (RFID) and account to travel seamlessly across the Luzon expressway network," both companies said in a joint statement.

The One RFID program covers all toll roads in Luzon such as Tarlac-Pangasinan-La Union Expressway (TPLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SC-TEX), North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), NLEX Connector,



Skyway System, NAIA Expressway, Manila-Cavite Expressway (CaviteX), CaviteX-C5 Link, Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX), Cavite-Laguna Expressway (CALAX), South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), and the STAR Tollway.

Registering for the One RFID program is optional. Motorists with existing, separate Autosweep and Easytrip RFIDs and accounts may choose to join the toll interoperability program, but those who choose to maintain two separate RFID accounts, may also do so, the companies said.

This project was initiated by government through the Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), in line with their mandate to improve the efficiency of the country's express-

way network.

The private operators had been working closely with government over the years, to make the vision of toll interoperability a reality.

"The road to One RFID was not easy, as it required extensive work on the part of all stakeholders. Both ETC providers made significant upgrades to their existing infrastructure to integrate their systems, while conducting rigorous testing to ensure smooth and seamless interoperability," the firms said.

With the completion of the interoperability project, the expressway operators said their focus will now be on roll-out—making registration to the One RFID program more convenient and accessible—as well as continuous improvements to the system, to ensure overall better

Ateneo pockets UAAP men's badminton title

MANILA — Ateneo de Manila University defeated University of the Philippines, 3-0, in the UAAP Season 88 men's badminton final at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall in Malate, Manila on Wednesday.

The Blue Eagles banked on rookie JR Pandi to sweep the season and claim their sixth title overall.

Pandi, who just returned from the World Junior Championships, won the first singles match over Jelo Albo, 21-15, 21-19.

After Season 86 co-MVP Lyrden Laborte prevailed over Kervin Llanes, 17-21, 21-15, 21-8, in the second singles match, the 18-year-old Pandi and Arthur Salvado Jr. downed Albo and Mark Anthony Bernal, 24-22, 21-11, to seal the win.

"I'm happy that in my first year with the team, we won again. Even though I wasn't able to play in the earlier ties, it's okay. At least, everyone contributed with the help of the coaches, we were able to get this win," said Pandi, a graduate of Ragayan National High School.

"Our mindset is really, we need to think about what our goal is this season, and with

experience at the expressways for motorists.

"We express our gratitude to the leadership of the DOTr led by Secretary Giovanni Z. Lopez and TRB Executive Director Jose Arturo M. Tugade for their steady hands in



STANDOUT. Ateneo de Manila University's Jamal Rahmat Pandi makes a backhand return to UP's Jelo Albo, 21-15, 21-19, in the UAAP Season 88 men's badminton tournament at the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall in Malate, Manila on Wednesday (Oct. 22, 2025). Ateneo won, 3-0. (Contributed photo)

the help of the coaches. Our sacrifices are waking up early, and after training we have classes. We are thankful that our sacrifices have paid off," added the Interdisciplinary Studies freshman.

Ateneo coach Kennie Asuncion-Robles said the team really wants to avenge last season's loss.

"Definitely, it was one of the factors in this win because the players took it to heart. They really said, 'that's what we're

gonna work for,'" said Asuncion-Robles.

"We never took anything for granted, even going into the Final Four, even if with the No. 1 position. We knew upsets could happen, and we were prepared for every challenge that came our way. So, I think our preparedness helped us get the gold this time," she added.

Meanwhile, National University downed De La Salle University, 3-1, to settle for third place. (PNA)

The wicked flee when no one pursues them, But the righteous are as confident as a lion.

Proverbs 28:1

steering this project towards the finish line.

Their valuable guidance helped us navigate the existing regulatory environment, which simplified settlement mechanisms, so that motorists can enjoy a smooth and secure experience," the

companies said.

The tollway operators expressed their continued commitment to support government initiatives, invest in world-class systems, and contribute towards a better Philippines for all.