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4Ps enjoys overwhelming support from Filipinos, DSWD says

MANILA – The latest *Ulat ng Bayan* survey by Pulse Asia shows a large majority of Filipino adults are in favor of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps), the government's anti-poverty flagship program managed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

The Sept. 27-30 Pulse Asia survey showed

that 85 percent of Filipinos believe that the 4Ps program should be continued by the government.

The survey had 1,200 respondents, divided in four major geographical areas (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao and National Capital Region) with 300 respondents each.

“Kami po sa DSWD ay labis na natutuwa dahil sa resulta nitong

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survey. Malinaw na mataas ang tiwala ng mga Pilipino sa 4Ps at nakikita nila na may magandang epekto ito sa mga pamilya. Nag-papasalamat din tayo sa Pulse Asia para sa pag-undertake nitong survey at pag-initiate ng pagtatanong sa publiko hinggil sa ating programa (We at DSWD are very happy because of the sur-

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PH bans pork imports from Taiwan over ASF

MANILA – The Philippines has ordered a temporary ban on the importation of live pigs, pork meat, pig skin and other pork-based products from Taiwan following the confirmation of an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak there.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr., in a statement Monday, said the measure is necessary to shield the country's multibillion-peso hog industry

from the highly contagious disease.

Tiu Laurel directed the immediate suspension of all imports from Taiwan, including semen used for artificial insemination. The order takes effect at once and will remain in force until officially lifted.

“We have to be vigilant in preventing further ASF infections to protect jobs and investments in the swine industry and ensure food security and con-

sumers' health,” Tiu Laurel said, noting the potential economic impact should ASF re-enter and spread in local farms.

Taiwan's veterinary authorities notified the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) on Oct. 25 about an ASF outbreak in domesticated pigs in Taichung City.

Laboratory tests conducted by the Veterinary Research Institute confirmed the infection.

BOI OKs P817B worth of investment as of end-November 2025

MANILA – The Board of Investments (BOI) has approved around 261 projects worth PHP816.81 billion in the first 11 months of 2025, and trade officials are still assessing 10 more big-ticket items worth more than PHP1 trillion.

The BOI-approved projects as of end-November this year are lower than the year-ago's PHP1.58 trillion, but Trade and Industry Secretary (DTI) and BOI chair Cristina Roque expressed optimism for stronger results going forward.

“The PHP816.81 bil-

lion in approved investments to date sends a clear signal to local and foreign investors: the Philippines is an ideal, competitive, and future-ready business destination,” she said in a press release Monday.

These investments
(Turn to p. 2)



4PS GRADUATES. Graduates of the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* (4Ps) in Las Navas, Northern Samar attend an assessment seminar by the provincial government on Aug. 22, 2025. The latest *Ulat ng Bayan* survey by Pulse Asia conducted Sept. 27-30 showed that a large

majority of Filipino adults are in favor of the 4Ps. (Photo courtesy of Northern Samar provincial government)



TEMPORARY BAN. Pork products are on display for sale in Paco Public Market in Manila in this August 2024 photo. The Department of Agriculture on Monday (Dec. 8, 2025) said a temporary ban on the importation of live pigs, pork meat, pig skin and other pork-based products from Taiwan has been issued, following the confirmation of an African swine fever outbreak there. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

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vey result. It clearly showed that Filipinos highly trust the 4Ps, and they can see its positive impacts on the family-beneficiaries. We also thank Pusle Asia for talking the initiative to ask the public about our program," DSWD spokesperson Assistant Secretary Irene Dumla said in a statement on Tuesday.

In all the geographical areas covered by the survey, the support for the 4Ps was overwhelming — 81 percent in the National Capital Region; 83 percent in Balance Luzon; 85 percent in the Visayas; and 91 percent in Mindanao.

Across socioeconomic classes, the support for the 4Ps was 72 percent for class ABC; 87 percent for class D; and 93 percent for Class E, which is the target socioeconomic class of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

"The survey highlights that support for the program remains

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notice. The department also instructed veterinary quarantine officers at all ports to intercept and confiscate any prohibited shipments.

The swift action comes as the government continues to manage pockets of ASF in the country, following earlier outbreaks that led to heavy losses for hog raisers and contributed to higher pork prices.

Agriculture officials emphasized that preventing the entry of

strong nationwide and across all socio-economic classes," Dumla said.

She said the consistency in the survey responses nationwide suggests that many Filipino families continue to see the value in the assistance provided through 4Ps, especially in keeping their children in school and ensuring their health through monthly visits to the health centers.

Dumla said the results are in line with the ongoing efforts of the DSWD to strengthen the 4Ps implementation following the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. during his State of the Nation Address last July.

The DSWD spokesperson assured the public that the 4Ps' National Program Management Office (NPMO) will ensure that the program remains relevant and will really help poor families rise from poverty. (PNA)

new ASF strains is key to stabilizing hog production and restoring investor confidence.

Industry groups are expected to support the temporary ban, viewing it as a necessary step to safeguard producers and consumers.

Meanwhile, DA field offices are intensifying biosecurity measures and monitoring regional animal health developments to keep the local pork supply secure. (PNA)

DSWD: Humanitarian aid for Wilma-affected families reaches P7.8M

MANILA — The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) has provided PHP7.846 million worth of humanitarian aid to families affected by Tropical Depression Wilma, an official reported Tuesday.

Based on the DSWD's Disaster Response Operations Management, Information and Communication (DROMIC) report, a total of 4,157 families remain in evacuation centers due to the effects of Wilma.

Most of the internal-

ly displaced persons (IDPs) are in Romblon, Albay, Camarines Norte, Masbate, and several areas across Western, Central, and Eastern Visayas.

In a statement, Assistant Secretary Irene Dumla of the Disaster Response Management Group (DRMG) said DSWD's concerned field offices have been continuously coordinating with the affected local government units (LGUs) to assess the needs of the affected families and individuals.

BOI... FR. P. 1

mostly came from Singapore, Thailand and the U.S., and are intended for projects mainly in the Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon (Calabarzon), National Capital Region and Bicol Region.

These are expected to generate 32,864 direct jobs, DTI data show.

The DTI said the big-ticket items being assessed include three hydroelectric projects with a combined 2.4 gigawatt (GW) capacity; four Off-Shore Wind projects with 3.7GW combined capacity; two air transport service projects; and one transport infrastructure project.

Meanwhile, projects certified under the green lane initiative, or those with approvals that were fast-tracked for being strategic investments, numbered around 78, worth PHP1.92 trillion, as of

the end of November this year.

Bulk of the projects, worth PHP1.42 trillion, are into renewable energy (RE), followed by public-private partnership (PPP) on infrastructure and water, digital infrastructure, manufacturing, food security and pharmaceuticals.

"As we are a prudent administrator of incentives, we carefully evaluate these projects according to the requirements of the Strategic Investment Priorities Plan and its Guidelines. While we are working double-time, we are unsure if all of these can be approved for registration this year. But what this signifies is the pipeline of strategic investments remains to be strong," Roque said. (With a report from Joann Vilanueva/PNA)

The field offices have distributed family food packs (FFPs), ready-to-eat food (RTEFs) boxes, non-food items (NFIs), and other emergency relief services.

Despite nearing the year-end, Dumla assured the affected families that the DSWD is ready to respond to the request of LGUs for augmentation support.

"Ang DSWD po ay handang tumugon sa mga pangangailangan ng mga naapektuhan ni Wilma at ng mga nakaraang kalamidad. May sapat po tayong supplies. Patuloy po ang ating mga production hub sa pag produce ng family food packs kasi alam naman natin na ang ating ban-

sa ay nasa Pacific Ring of Fire at very prone sa mga hazards kaya naman tayo ay naghanda sa mga kalamidad (The DSWD is ready to answer the needs of those affected by Wilma and past calamities. We have enough supplies. Our production hub continues to produce family food packs because we know that our country is in the Pacific Ring of Fire and very prone to hazards, that's why we prepare for calamities)," the DSWD spokesperson said.

Dumla said the proactive preparations of the department are in line with the directive of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to ensure that families affected by disasters are immediately provided with food and other basic needs.

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CAVITE NEWS PUBLISHING WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

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PGC brings health outreach to Brgy. Pooc I, Silang

The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) extended its health outreach program to Brgy. Pooc I, Silang on November 21, delivering essential medical and dental services to 301 residents.

Organized through the partnership of the Office of the Provincial Governor, the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (OPHO), and the local government of Silang, the mission provided 200 medical consultations, 61 dental procedures, 26 ECGs, and 14 X-ray examinations, offering timely care to the community.

The activity was supported by 5th District Board Members Ivey Jayne Reyes and Aidel Paul Belamide, who commended the effort to bring healthcare closer to Silangeños. Silang Mayor Ted Carranza, along with municipal councilors and Barangay officials of Pooc I, also visited and expressed full support for the program.

Health workers and volunteers ensured the smooth delivery of services, reflecting the strong collaboration between provincial and local governments in strengthening community health initiatives.--- OPIO



Cavite launches joint tree-planting drive to boost youth involvement in environmental protection

The Office of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (OPENRO) Cavite, in partnership with the Department of Education (DepEd) Cavite, spearheaded a tree-planting program aimed at strengthening environmental stewardship among students and educators. Held at Francisco Osorio Integrated National High School on November 21, the event gathered school officials, government representatives, and community volunteers for a day of ecological action.

Speakers from both the provincial government and DepEd Cavite led by Principal April L. Macam, OPENRO Department Head Anabelle L. Cayabyab, and Project Development Officer Lito M. Camo Jr. of DepEd Cavite emphasized the urgency of youth participation in climate resilience. The program featured an orientation on proper tree-planting techniques, a commitment-signing ceremony, and a community song to cap the event.

The initiative forms part of the province's broader campaign to restore green spaces and promote sustainable practices in schools across Cavite.--- OPIO



Cavite's Ugnayan sa Barangay brings services to Silang

On November 25, the Office of the Provincial Governor brought Ugnayan sa Barangay at Paligawan Covered Court, marking the first leg of the program in Silang for the year and reaffirming the provincial government's commitment to responsive and inclusive public service.

Governor Abeng Remulla led the activity, where he engaged with Silangeños, enabling them to express their needs, and building meaningful connections with the people. Supporting the initiative were 5th District Board Members Aidel Belamide and Ivey Jayne A. Reyes, along with Silang councilors and the ABC President, who all joined in showing their solidarity with the community.

Silang Mayor Edward "GenTed" Carranza and Vice Mayor Crispin "Kidlat" Reyes also expressed their gratitude to Governor Abeng Remulla and Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista for their continuous support to the municipality and its residents.

The program remains a testament to the Provincial Government of Cavite's mission to bring public services closer to its citizens under the leadership of Governor Abeng Remulla.--- OPIO



Cavite extends educational assistance to PUP students Through Iskolar ng Lalawigan Program

Governor Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla led the distribution of educational assistance to 2,543 students of Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Maragondon on November 26, underscoring the provincial government's commitment to uplifting Caviteño youth through the Iskolar ng Lalawigan ng Cavite program.

The activity was further strengthened by the presence of Vice Governor Ram Revilla Bautista, 8th District Board Member Jasmin Maligaya-Bautista, Maragondon Mayor Umbe Arca, and members of the municipal council, who all expressed their support for the province's ongoing investment in education.

Iskolar ng Lalawigan program aims to empower students across Cavite by providing financial support essential for their academic journey.--- OPIO

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-650-25

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS,
Petitioner-Mortgagee-Creditor,

-versus-

ABBYGALE CORDOVA CIOCON,
Respondent/s-Mortgagor/s-Borrower/s,
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-Creditor, **BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS**, with business address at Bank of the Philippine Islands, 28/F, Ayala Triangle Gardens Tower 2, Paseo de Roxas cor Makati Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City, against the Respondents- Mortgagors-Borrowers-Debtors, **ABBYGALE CORDOVA CIOCON**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) #67 Saint Peregrine Street, Addas 2C, Molino 2 (C), Bacoor, Cavite and (2) Block 29, Lot 9, Phase 2, Amaia Scapes General Trias, Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of September 29, 2025 amounts to **FIVE MILLION THIRTY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY ONE PESOS and 39/100 (P5,039,551.39)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **December 22, 2025** at 10:00 o'clock in the morning until 12:00 o'clock 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 057-2023052163

Lot No. 9 Block No. 29 Plan No. Psd-04-236903

Portion of: Lot 5-C, Psd-042108-066707

Location: Barangay of Santiago, Municipality of Gen. Trias, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	SW	Road Lot 10, Psd-04-236903
2-3	NW	Lot 10, Block 29, Psd-04-236903
3-4	NE	Lot 27, Block 29, Psd-04-236903
4-1	SE	Lot 8, Block 29, Psd-04-236903

Area: ONE HUNDRED ONE SQUARE METERS (101), more or less

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said time and date, it shall be held on **January 05, 2026** 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, **November 25, 2025.**

RICARDO A. TOLEDO
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

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Counsel for the Petitioner-Mortgagee
BPI BUENDIA CENTER
27th Floor, BPI Buendia Center Bldg.
372 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Brgy. Bel-Air, Makati City

ABBYGALE CORDOVA CIOCON
(1) #67 Saint Peregrine Street, Addas 2C, Molino 2 (C),
Bacoor, Cavite
(2) Block 29, Lot 9, Phase 2, Amaia Scapes, General Trias,
Brgy. Santiago, Gen. Trias, Cavite

Published at : Cavite News Publishing
Dates: November 27- December 4, & 11, 2025

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

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

FORECLOSURE CASE NO. F-638-25

CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.
Mortgagee,

-versus-

SPS. JAN MICHAEL VINCENT G. CARPIO
And **CRISTINA F. CARPIO**,
Mortgagors/Borrowers,
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, **CHINA BANK SAVINGS, INC.**, with business address at CBS Building, No. 314 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City against the Mortgagors/Borrowers, **SPS JAN MICHAEL VINCENT G. CARPIO** and **CRISTINA F. CARPIO**, with residence and postal addresses at (1) Blk. 2, Lot 12, Odyssey St., Addas Villa 4, Mambo 4, Bacoor City, Cavite and (2) Blk. 67, Lot 96, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Phase 2A, Batch 1, Governor's Drive, Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite to satisfy the mortgage indebtedness which as of August 29, 2025 amounts to **ONE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT ESOS and 00/100 (P1,429,548.00)**, Philippine Currency, inclusive of interest, penalties and other charges as of said date but exclusive of all other charges incidental to this foreclosure and sale, the undersigned Sheriff will sell at public auction on **December 22, 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 057-2022022518

Lot No. 96 Block No. 67 Plan No. Psd-04-247444

Portion of: Lot 37, Block 70, Pcs-04-030746
Location: Barangay of Tanauan, Mun. of Tanza, Province of Cavite, Island of Luzon

Boundaries:

LINE	DIRECTION	ADJOINING LOT (S)
1-2	WEST	Lot 94, Block 67, Psd-04-247444
2-3	NORTH	Road Lot 85, Psd-04-247444
3-4	EAST	Lot 98, Block 67, Psd-04-247444
4-1	SOUTH	Lot 95, Block 67, Psd-04-247444

Area: FORTY FOUR (44) SQUARE METERS, more or less

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

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said time and date, it shall be held on **January 05,** 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, **November 25, 2025.**

JOANNAH AVIGAIL C. TIMKANG
Sheriff IV

Copy furnished:

BUENAVENTURA DANTING PAGTAKAHAN
CONSTANTINO MANGROBANG ROSELL AND
ASSOCIATES
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SPS. JAN VINCENT G. CARPIO & CRISTINA F. CARPIO
(1) Blk. 2, Lot 12, Odyssey St., Addas Villa 4, Mambo 4,
Bacoor City, Cavite
(2) Blk. 67, Lot 96, Phirst Park Homes Tanza, Phase 2A,
Batch 1, Governor's Drive, Brgy. Tanauan, Tanza, Cavite

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Inclusive healthcare a joint effort, PhilHealth exec says



CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Achieving inclusive and accessible healthcare for Filipinos is a concerted effort where government agencies, the academe, and even the media work together, an official from Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) noted on the implementation of the Universal Healthcare (UHC) Law and National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

Dr. Edwin Oriña, Acting Regional Vice President of PhilHealth Region IV-A, during the PhilHealth Gawad Parangal last December 3, 2025, acknowledged the contributions of various sectors in fulfilling the promise of the UHC Law—to make healthcare accessible for all Filipinos.

"PhilHealth will not be able to provide the right services without your help, that's why you are part of the PhilHealth team,"

In his message, Oriña extended his gratitude to the healthcare providers, particularly the private and public hospitals, in helping expand the region's health services.

"We need your help to expand health ser-

vices, and you need our help in fast-tracking the right reimbursements [for hospitals]."

Meanwhile, Arturo Ardiente, Field Operation Division chief for PhilHealth IV-A recognized the importance of various sectors—including the academe, the media, local government units, and national government agencies—in ensuring the inclusivity of quality healthcare services.

"Your efforts not only helped improve the healthcare system. Most importantly, you continue to give people hope that healthcare is a right, not a privilege."

PhilHealth also recognized members of the private and government media for their role in providing platforms toward a stronger information campaign on the UHC Law and the NHIP, and other government health services.

Among those recognized were the Philippine Information Agency and Radyo Pilipinas Lucena, whose platforms helped strengthen the information drive on the government's healthcare benefits. (PB-PIA4A)

Short-lived La Niña to bring above-normal rains until February

MANILA – The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on Monday warned that the short-lived La Niña now affecting the country will continue to bring above-normal rainfall in many regions until February, increasing the risk of flooding, landslides, and weather disruptions.

In a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview, PAGASA Climate Monitoring and Prediction Section (CLIMPS) chief Ana Liza Solis said the current La Niña episode is expected to last no more than six months, but will still have a strong influence on local weather conditions.

Solis explained that La Niña develops when sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific cool, strengthening weather systems that push more moisture toward the Philippines.

“So, nandyan pa rin po iyong banta ng mataas na dami ng pag-ulang, so magiging prevalent po at maraming beses na mararanasan iyong mga rain-bearing weather systems natin (So the threat of high rainfall still remains, and our rain-bearing weather systems will be prevalent and experienced many times),” Solis said.

“So, lalo na po iyong shear line, very prevalent po siya ngayon (So, especially the shear line, which is very prevalent now).”

PAGASA released a La Niña Watch in August and raised it to a La Niña Alert in Sep-

tember when conditions began to develop. Since then, several tropical cyclones have entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility, triggering heavy rains in Luzon, the Visayas, and parts of Mindanao.

Solis said rainfall risks remain elevated in Region II, the Cordillera Administrative Region, Central Luzon, Metro Manila, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, the Bicol Region, Western and Central Visayas, the Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, the Davao Region, Soccsksargen, Caraga, and the Bangsamoro region.

The eastern sections of Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao are expected to experience the heaviest rains until early February.

The agency also expects more tropical cyclones than usual during La Niña years.

“We have already recorded 23 tropical cyclones this year, above the annual average of 19 to 20. One more may still form before the year ends,” she said.

Solis noted that stronger easterlies are bringing warm, moisture-rich air toward the country, contributing to the development of

convective systems, low-pressure areas, and potential cyclones. Warmer waters near the Philippines also increase the likelihood of disturbances.

PAGASA urged local government units to continue coordinating with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and emergency response agencies to ensure communities are prepared.

The agency emphasized the need for early warning systems, localized evacuation plans, and close monitoring of high-risk areas.

Although La Niña is expected to weaken by February, Solis said there is still no indication of an imminent shift to El Niño.

“We are currently monitoring for an ENSO-neutral phase by early next year,” she said.

Officials urged the public to stay alert as persistent rains and frequent weather systems may continue to trigger hazards in already saturated communities nationwide. (PNA)

DSWD... FR. P. 2

Aside from the IDPs, the DSWD has also extended assistance to individuals and families who were stranded in various ports due to the weather disturbance.

Some 1,900 stranded passengers in Nasipit Port in Agusan Del Norte, Matnog Port in Albay, and Castilla, Pilar and Bulan ports

SEC improves service delivery via iMessage

MANILA – All services of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) can now be processed through its upgraded online ticketing system, which also allows the public to check in real-time the status of their inquiries or complaints.

SEC, in a press release Monday, said the public can access iMessage, launched last Dec. 4, through <https://imessage.sec.gov.ph/>.

Users can access it using their account under the Electronic SEC Universal Registration Environment, or eSECURE.

It said the upgraded online system allows users to, among others, track the status of their tickets in real-time and also allows them to directly check with the department or division processing their



request/s.

“Streamlining our requirements and processes has been one of our top priorities as part of our commitment to further improving the ease of doing business in the country and elevating the quality of the public services we deliver,” SEC Chairperson Francis Lim said.

Lim explained that iMessage helps the Commission “process requests, inquiries, reports and complaints in a more organized and efficient manner,

allowing us to deliver our services to our stakeholders without delays while promoting transparency and accountability in every step.”

“At the same time, iMessage allows the transacting public to track the status of their inquiries, requests or complaints in real time, and ensure that their transactions are processed within the prescribed periods and in accordance with the established procedures.” (Joann Villanueva/PNA)

DOE exec cites projection for lower fuel prices in Q1 2026

MANILA – Fuel prices are expected to decline in the coming weeks due to expected oversupply amidst geopolitical risks, an official of the Department of Energy (DOE) said Tuesday.

Citing reports of the International Energy Agency (IEA) on its 2026 outlook released last November and the US Energy Information Administration, DOE Oil Industry Management Bureau Director Rino Abad, in a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview, said the two agencies forecast an oversupply of oil by next year.

Abad said oil prices have been on a down-trend in the last two weeks, and there is a big chance this will continue vis-a vis the projection of oversup-

ply in the first quarter of 2026.

He, however, cited two major risks namely the geopolitical issues between Russia and Ukraine and the economic issues in Venezuela.

He said the Russia-Ukraine conflict has resulted in sanctions by the US and Europe, thus, the forecast of JPMorgan that around 1.4 million barrels of oil per day are not being released from Russia.

He said IEA earlier forecasted that around three to 4 million barrels of oil supply in the first quarter next year may be at risk due to the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Amidst this factor, Abad said there is a general forecast that the real changes is based on the movement of the crude oil prices. (PNA)

oil in the first three months of next year will persist.

He said speculations that the sanctions against Russia will be implemented result in an uptick in prices even with supply remaining high, but this is not sustained since the fundamentals are not affected.

This week, only gasoline prices were adjusted, up by PHP1.20 per liter, and Abad said they are still determining why this is happening.

“So, what we can do is really go to the trend of the crude oil saka natin ina-apply sa (before we can apply this on the) finished product,” he said, adding that the real changes is based on the movement of the crude oil prices. (PNA)

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Italy-based Filipino joins elite runners in Valencia Marathon

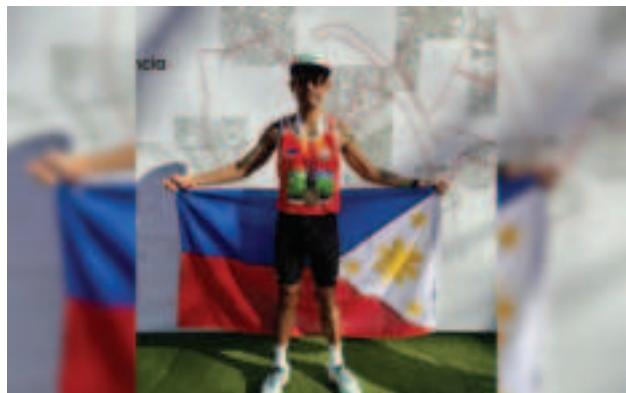
SPAIN — Marathon Valencia Trinidad Alfonso Zurich again lived up to its reputation as one of the world's fastest as thousands of runners, including Olympic champions, world-record holders, elite athletes, and passionate amateurs, competed in the 45th edition here on Dec. 7.

Among them was Florence-based Filipino marathoner Lorenzo Castro Jr., who returned to the international racing scene determined to prove that grit, experience, and heart can stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the best in the world.

For the 43-year-old Castro, it was the perfect stage to test himself again, as the Valencia Marathon offers ideal conditions for record-breaking performances with a flat and fast course that has only 70 meters of elevation.

Wearing his green start bib and joining more than 36,000 runners, Castro was all smiles, fully aware of the magnitude of racing alongside Olympic champions and global elites.

"The final kilometers are really about embracing the pain, 30 km nakaramdam na



ako ng pagod (at 30th kilometer, I'm already feeling tired), my body wants to stop, but my mind is keeping on pushing! Napakaganda ng course, flat. Siguro I just have enough time for training, di ako nahirapan (The course is very good, flat. Perhaps, it would have been easy for me had I just had enough time for training)," he said.

Castro said injuries limited his training, but he still felt fulfilled that he was able to finish the race in two hours, 31 minutes, and 45 seconds in 599th spot.

"If siguro complete ang training, pwede ko ulit balikan. Need talaga ng preparations dito sa Valencia (Maybe if the training is complete, I can come back again. I really need

preparations here in Valencia Marathon)," Castro said.

Before the Valencia Marathon, Castro had good races in Italy after defending his title at the Pistoia-Abetone 30K, placing third at the Mugello Magallo, and also claimed victories at Corri alla Romola, Pontassieve Half Marathon, Trofeo Questura Firenze and several other local races that cemented his status as one of the most consistent Filipino runners in Europe.

Kenyan runners dominated the Valencia Marathon, with John Korir winning the men's race in 2:02:24, his personal best, and Joyciline Jepkosgei setting a new course record (2:14:00) to win the women's division. (Alona Cochon/PNA)

PSC chief hopeful PH can crack SEAG top 4

PATTAYA, Thailand — Philippine Sports Commission Chair Patrick Gregorio is hoping that the delegation will crack into the top four in the medal tally in this year's Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.

The Philippines is coming off a 33-gold medal haul in the 2023 Cambodia SEA Games, good for fifth place.

Gregorio is optimistic that the team can surpass that ranking here.

"Sa akin, siyempre, (For me, of course) better than the last SEA Games ang performance natin. Mahirap humanap ng target kasi depende rin sa napanalunan ng iba. Ako, doon tayo sa ranking (It's hard to find a target because it also depends on what others have won. For me, let's base it on the ranking)," Gregorio said on Monday while watching the Philippines face Vietnam in the men's handball competitions Indoor Athletics Stadium Pattaya.

Gregorio said the 1,600-strong delegation is also composed of future stars who could represent the country in major competitions for years to come.

"But as I've said, right from the start when we sent a very, very good delegation, alam naman natin na (we know that) expo-



TOP FOUR. Philippine Sports Commission Chair Pato Gregorio answers questions from the media on the sidelines of the Philippines-Vietnam handball game in the 2025 Southeast Asian Games at Indoor Athletics Stadium in Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand on Monday (Dec. 8, 2025). Gregorio is hoping that the delegation will finish within the top four. (PCO Media Pool)

sure is also very important, aside from the medal haul," Gregorio said.

"Let's prepare for the SEA Games as we prepare for the Asian Games and as we prepare for the Los Angeles Olympics. 'Yan ang pinaka-importante sa akin. Minsan ang (That is important to me. Sometimes) sports, it's the opportunity to compete first."

Gregorio is looking forward to Tuesday's opening ceremony at Rajamangala National Stadium, where the Philippine team will be clad in uniforms designed by Avel Bacudio.

"Alam naman natin na talagang maraming humahangga sa bang (We know that many people admire the new) design ng Philippine Olympic Committee, so congratulations," he said.

Meanwhile, two-time Olympian pole vaulter EJ Obiena and the rest of the 61-member ath-

letes team will miss the opening parade, according to Philippine Olympic Committee president Abraham Tolentino after the SEA Games Federation Council meeting.

"Their king (King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua) will attend the opening ceremonies and the security is so tight that the military and police might not be able to handle it. The Royal Guards will handle the extremely tight security," Tolentino said, relaying information from a counterpart official from the National Olympic Committee of Thailand.

"There are lockdowns, including at airports. Our athletes will arrive in the afternoon and be in a kind of lockdown there for a few hours."

Obiena's fellow Olympian and six-time SEA Games 400-meter hurdles gold winner Eric Cray, 2019 200m dash gold medalist Kristina Knott, Lauren Hoffman, and John Tolentino will likewise miss the opening show. (PR)

*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*